

The real cost of diminishing fishing effort in the EU

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Fishing is more than just a job; it is a way of life

- Challenge to the foundations on which the culture of fishing is built
- Fleets, processing capacity and community structure changing
- Positive changes and negative changes
- Communities are resilient

The Challenge for Communities

- Ongoing dependence on fisheries
- Reductions in fishing quotas, effort limitation and decommissioning
- A wish to pursue sustainable development and to maintain traditions
- Is the CFP an 'economic or sectoral policy largely unconcerned with, and relatively insensitive to its social impacts?'

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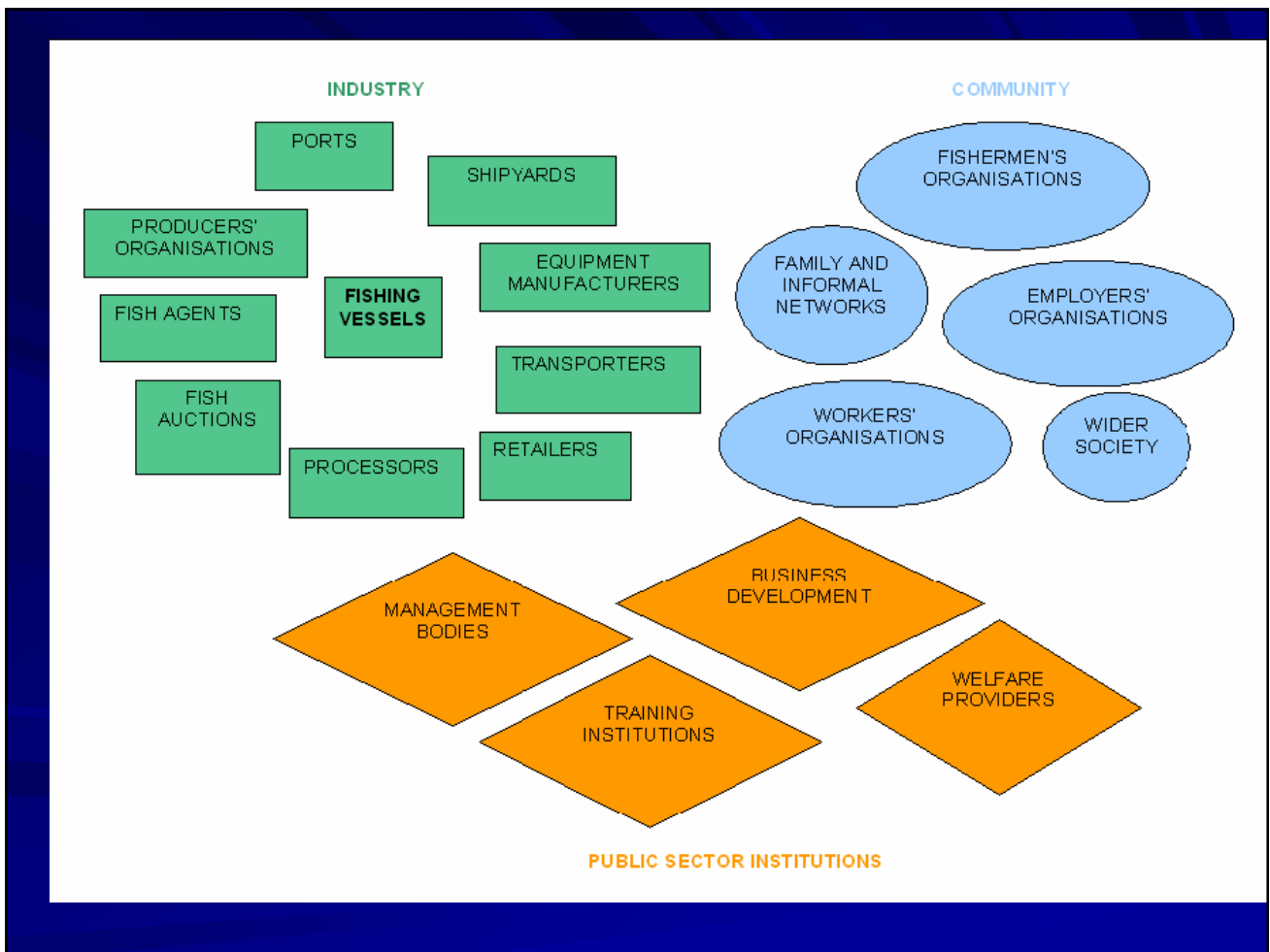
- Set up in response to the social inadequacies of European fisheries policy
- Provides a voice for fishing communities at EU and regional levels
- Works to ensure the social impacts of fishing policy are taken into account by the Commission along with biological, technical and environmental considerations

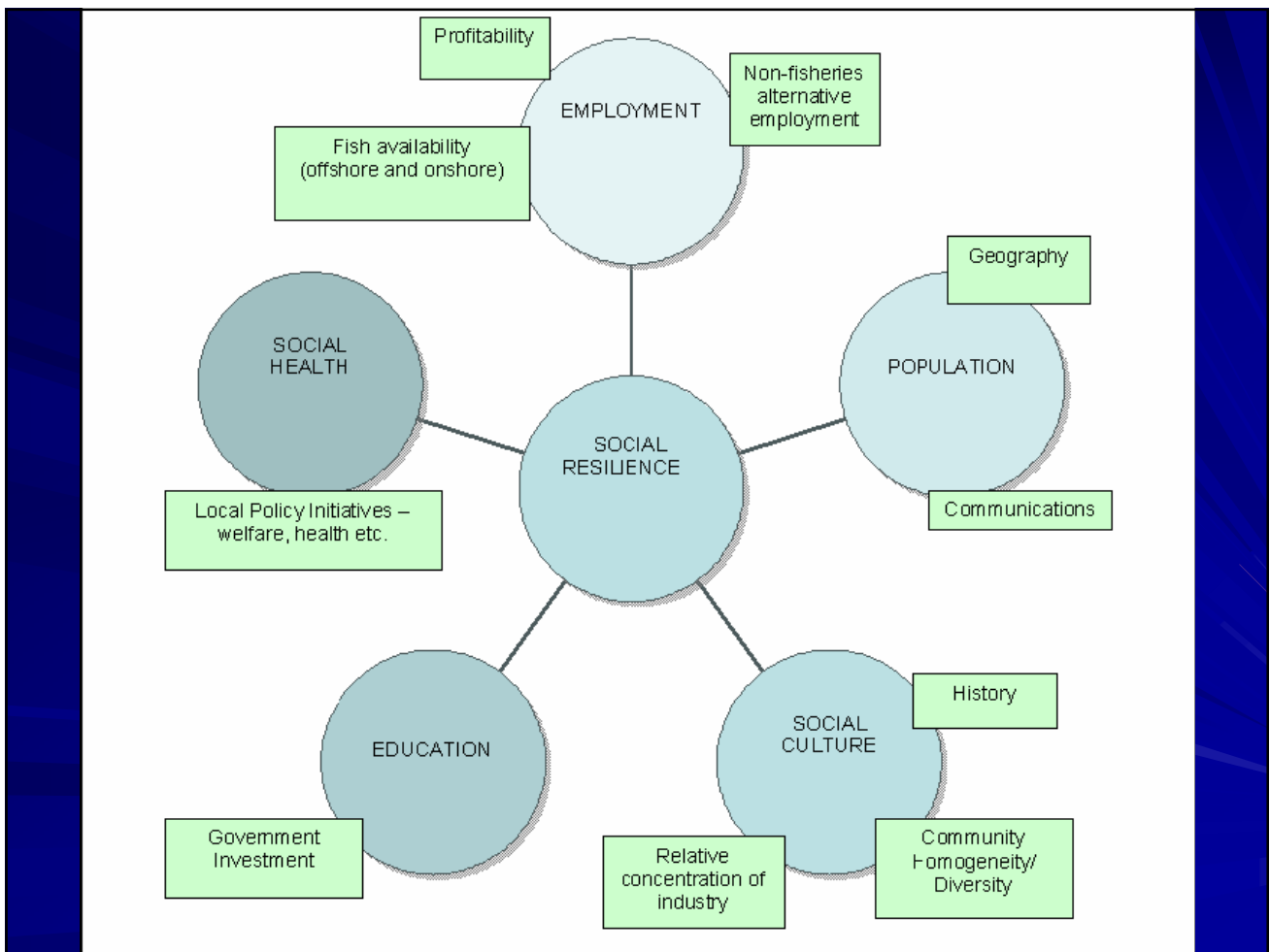
Role within NSRAC

- Inclusion of social and economic considerations in advice to the Commission and own initiatives
- Voice of fishing communities, enabling them to influence future fisheries policy by focusing on solutions, rather than problems
- Identification of research needs

Wider EU Role

- Links with the new EU Economic Analysis Unit
- Provision of data, reports and experts to the EU
- Scoping study of Socio-Economic Aspects of North Sea Fisheries and Fishing Communities
- Identify vulnerabilities of the fishing industry to changes in short and long-term fishing policy
- Examine factors that contribute to reliance on fisheries and resilience to changes in fisheries.





Chicken and Egg

- Fishing communities need healthy stocks
- Viable fish stocks need viable fisheries communities
- To achieve successful fisheries management and sustainable development, greater account must be taken of the social and cultural functions of the fishery

Restructuring

- Scottish industry heavily impacted by the deepening resource crisis and ongoing restructuring of the sector
- NE Scotland leading region by weight and value of landings of demersal species
- Restrictions in quota between 1994 and 2004 saw North Sea cod and whiting quotas fall by almost 82%, plaice by 55% and haddock by 50%
- Scottish demersal fleet subject to further cuts in line with the Commission's Cod Recovery Plan

Combined UK quota for key demersal and pelagic stocks

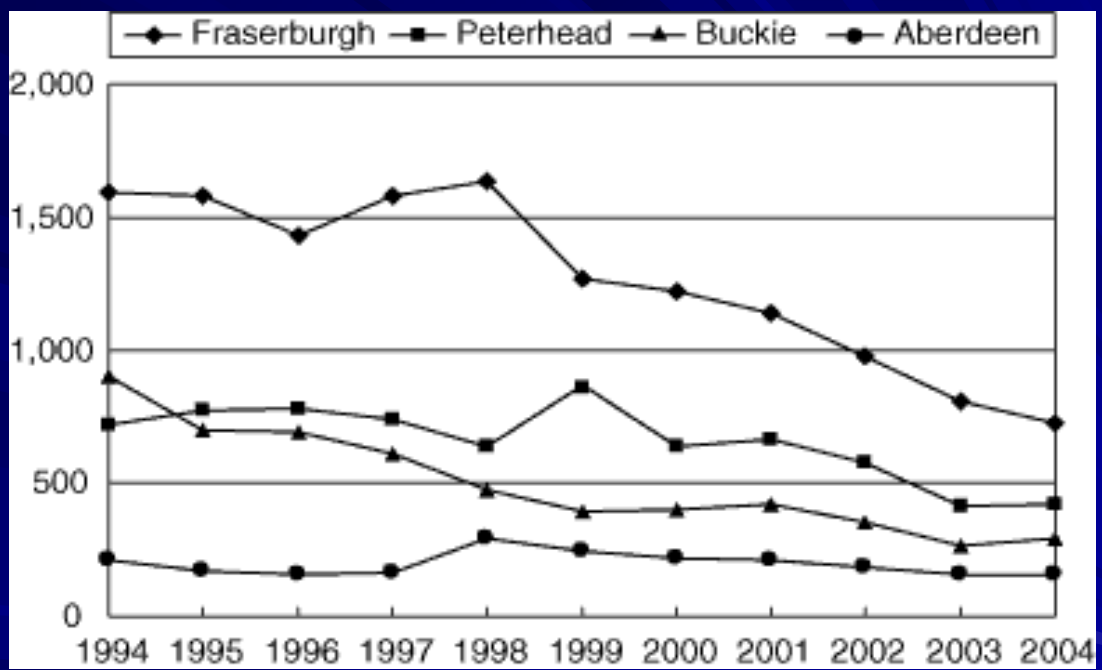
Quota '000 tonnes	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	%change 2000/2004
Combined key demersal stocks	210	159	186	128	141	-33%
Combined key pelagic stocks	285	290	282	276	277	-3%

Scottish fishing vessels 1994 – 2004

	<10m vessels	>10m vessels	<10m kW	>10m kW
1994	1,704	1,291	68,879	406,100
2004	1,662	732	85,343	342,889
Change '94 - 04	-42	-559	+16464	-63211

Employment Effects

- 39% decline in onboard employment in Scotland between 1994 and 2004
- Reduction of 54% in employment in Northeast Scotland
- Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report suggesting removal of a further 13% of the UK whitefish fleet capacity



Employment Alternatives

- Jobs 'mopped up' by oil and gas industries
- Migration to find alternative employment
- However:
- Socio-cultural characteristics, identities and dependencies remain when the industry changes or leaves

Processing Sector

- 10.4% fall in FTE jobs in Scotland 2000/04
- NE = 6.5% fall in FTE jobs 2000/04
- NE = second largest UK contributor to full-time fish processing employment
- Weakening links between processing sector and fleet – fish increasingly imported
- Employees increasingly immigrants
- Young people not interested

Failing Initiatives



Maintaining Industry

- Lack of trained personnel
- In NE Scotland, recruitment fallen from 50-60 per year to single figures and struggling
- Young not interested in long hours, tough conditions and danger – key challenge
- Existing crew tempted by better pay etc elsewhere
- Foreign labour fails to integrate

Reasons Not to Fish

- Lack of quota
- Too many restrictions and regulations
- Anxiety, mental health problems
- Cost of fishing – few incentives to invest
- Poor returns
- Result = low morale and disinterest in industry

The Wider Coastal Picture

- Unemployment, social instability, deprivation and economic competition
- Not all bad news
- “Industry may be down but it is not out!”
- Remaining fishermen making a reasonable living

EU Parliament



Den Oeuvver Market



Moray Makes Waves



French Initiative



Mariscadoras in Galicia



Ancona Fish Market 2.30am



Conclusions

- Decline slowing
- Core optimism in fishing communities
- NSWN seeking funding baseline study of the 'real cost of diminishing fishing effort in the EU'
- Changes will require
 - government policy to be sympathetic
 - national and regional plans to include suitable provision
 - funding assistance