

Rebuilding Fisheries: A Review of Issues and Policy Approaches in the OECD

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There are strong imperatives ...



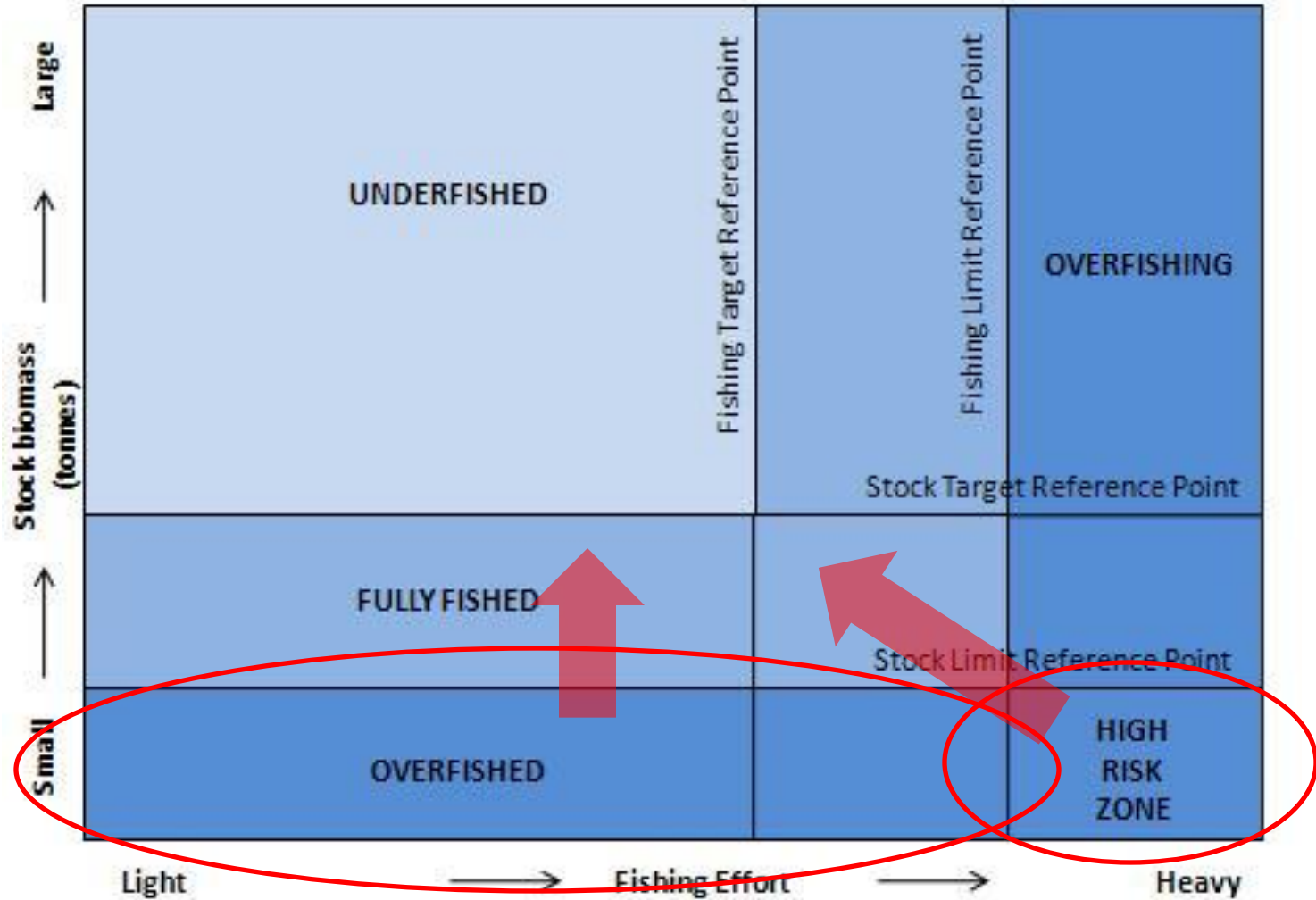
- International commitments
 - WSSD goal to “maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015”
- Legal requirements
 - UNCLOS, FAO Code of Conduct, national legislations
- Protecting biodiversity
 - Diverse ecosystems generally more resilient
 - Ecosystem services provide benefits
- Economic and social benefits
 - World Bank Rent Drain study - USD 50 billion a year
 - Viability of coastal communities, food security

... but the challenges are significant

- Fixing underlying fisheries management problems
 - Capacity, access rights, subsidies, enforcement
- Political will
- Evolving policy context
 - Shift towards ecosystem approach to fisheries management
 - Effects of climate change on rebuilding
- Making rebuilding cost-effective and efficient
- Requires integration of economic information into design and implementation of rebuilding plans
 - Successful recovery depends more on institutional structure and socio-economic context
 - OECD focus on economic, social and institutional aspects of fisheries rebuilding



What are we aiming for?





Managers face choices



- Choice of rebuilding targets
 - From a set of feasible options
 - Choice subject to a range of factors (institutional, socio-economic)
 - MSY, MEY, precautionary approach
- Choice of rebuilding paths
 - Speed of adjustment
 - Tradeoff of costs and benefits over time
- Choice of management instruments
 - Input/output controls, technical measures, area/time closures
 - Example of US, Canada approaches to sea scallop fishery
 - Influences costs, benefits and distributional effects



- Clear understanding of biological and economic risk central to making choices
 - Problem becomes one of choice of targets, paths and policies under uncertainty
- Types of uncertainty have different implications
 - Influences choice of management instruments
 - E.g. uncertainty surrounding growth function vs catch-effort relationships, risk of over/undershooting
- Central to communication with stakeholders and understanding of limits and options for rebuilding



Managing the transition



- Role of stakeholder involvement crucial
 - Facilitates acceptance of plans and can reduce enforcement costs
 - Transparency over rules, targets, options, costs
- Dealing with distributional effects
 - Short term costs, long term gain
 - Linked to type of management tools used during and following transition
- Integrated policy approach required
 - Coherence between social and management policies to address distributional effects
- Post-rebuilding management
 - Central to solidifying gains and preventing “back-sliding”



Comparing approaches across OECD countries



- Legislative basis
 - Directive legal requirements on targets and time paths (eg US)
 - Broader national objectives and flexible approaches (eg Australia, NZ)
 - Links to endangered species legislation (eg Canada)
- Stand-alone and integrated rebuilding programs
 - Stand-alone rebuilding programs (eg EU)
 - Integrated into fisheries management systems and harvest control strategies (eg Australia, NZ)
- Scope of rebuilding plans
 - Fishery by fishery (eg US,
 - Broad program of restoration (eg Japan, Korea)
- Approaches to information and transparency on stock status



Conclusion



- Political, ecological and economic imperatives clear
- Policy context is evolving rapidly
- Rebuilding efforts to date have had mixed results
- Integration of economic and social information into design and implementation of rebuilding plans is central
- Success of rebuilding depends on getting institutional structure right and incentives aligned



Fisheries Policies Division

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