

Fisheries co-management: experiences from FMSP projects

A synthesis study:

November 2005

Over the eleven years of the Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP) has commissioned projects that have considered aspects of fisheries co-management. While these projects have, for the most part, been implemented separately, current interest in co-management provides an opportunity to synthesise and draw together the information generated by these projects.

This has led to the production of the co-management synthesis (<http://www.fmsp.org.uk/r8470.htm>). As the picture on the right illustrates, the synthesis brings together and highlights some of the key experiences, lessons learned and tools developed that relate to co-management, in particular drawing on the recent experiences with adaptive learning, ParFish and the development of data collection and information sharing systems.

The synthesis is designed to provide an entry point into the knowledge, tools and experience amassed by the FMSP. It is not presented as a definitive set of recommendations. Instead it is a collection of experiences and lessons learned for you to consider, together with tools and criteria relevant to various stages of the management process, that have resulted from the FMSP projects. Informative and illustrative examples from the experiences of FMSP projects are highlighted throughout the synthesis.

The synthesis is aimed at anyone interested in fisheries management in a developing country context. In particular we feel that it will be of use to those individuals and organisations that are already involved, or who intend to be involved, in developing co-management arrangements and/or the co-management planning processes.



The Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP): A DFID funded research programme to benefit developing countries

The Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP) is one of ten research programmes funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through the Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy (RNRRS). The FMSP has been in existence for eleven years and during this time it has commissioned over 50 individual research projects addressing issues in the management of marine and inland as well as capture and enhancement fisheries in developing countries. These projects have provided a wide range of approaches, tools and information relevant and accessible to policy makers and managers in these countries. For more information, please visit www.fmsp.org.uk.

Co-management: three key resources available from the FMSP



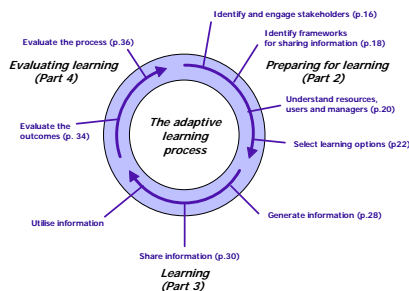
Information Systems for Co-management



The FMSP research in this area has led to a tested framework for implementing adaptive co-management.

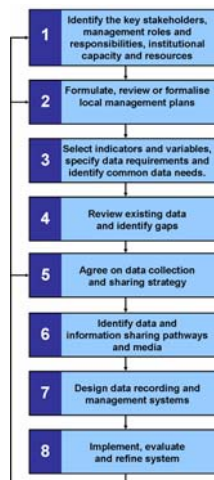


It is a process orientated approach that makes learning about the socio-ecological fishery system and its dynamics an important function of management. The approach seeks to involve stakeholders in collaborative research and management that will provide benefits and, at the same time, generate information and build capacity that will allow them to adapt management to better meet their needs in the future.



The guidelines and field guides arising from the research provide tools and advice for developing data collection systems.

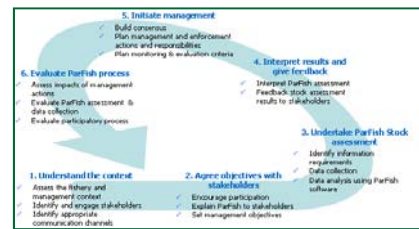
There is an emphasis on promoting sharing between stakeholders and ensuring the relevance of data to fisheries management or policy formation.



The guidelines provide examples of the issues that need to be considered when collecting data (indicators, data types, data sources, accuracy) and identify an eight-stage process for increasing stakeholder involvement and creating effective communications channels for sharing data and information.

ParFish is an approach to fisheries stock assessment that can incorporate local knowledge and fisher objectives the assessment and involve them in data collection and management planning.

The approach emphasises feed-



back of the assessment results so that stakeholders to provide the basis for collective management decisions.



The ParFish approach is particularly appropriate for data poor situations and can provide a relatively rapid assessment with buy-in from stakeholders for future management and data collection.

CONTACT DETAILS

This project has been implemented by MRAG Ltd with funding from the UK Department for International Development through their Fisheries Management Science Programme.

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