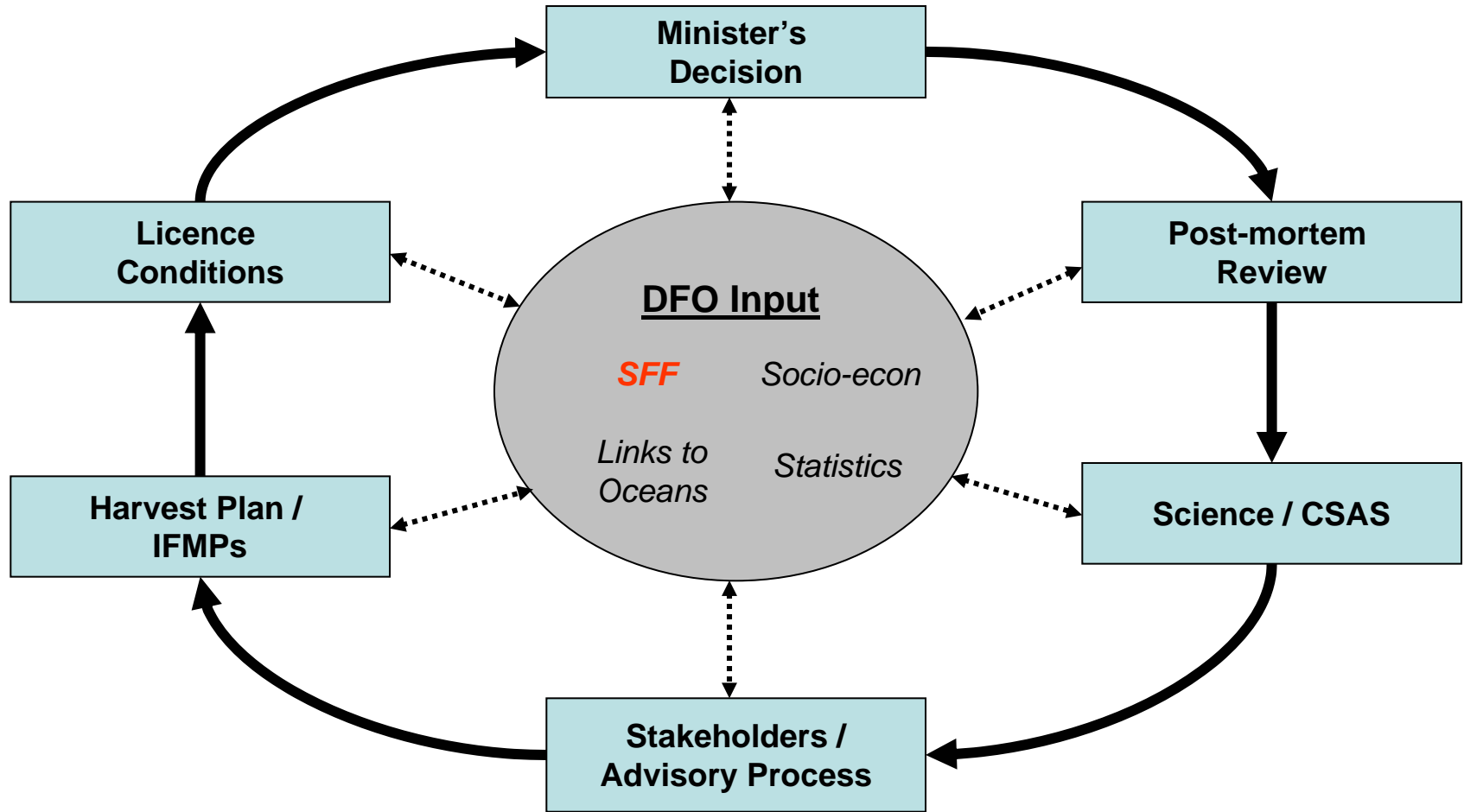




# Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF)

Presented to the  
Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (FRCC)

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February 17/10, Montreal, QC



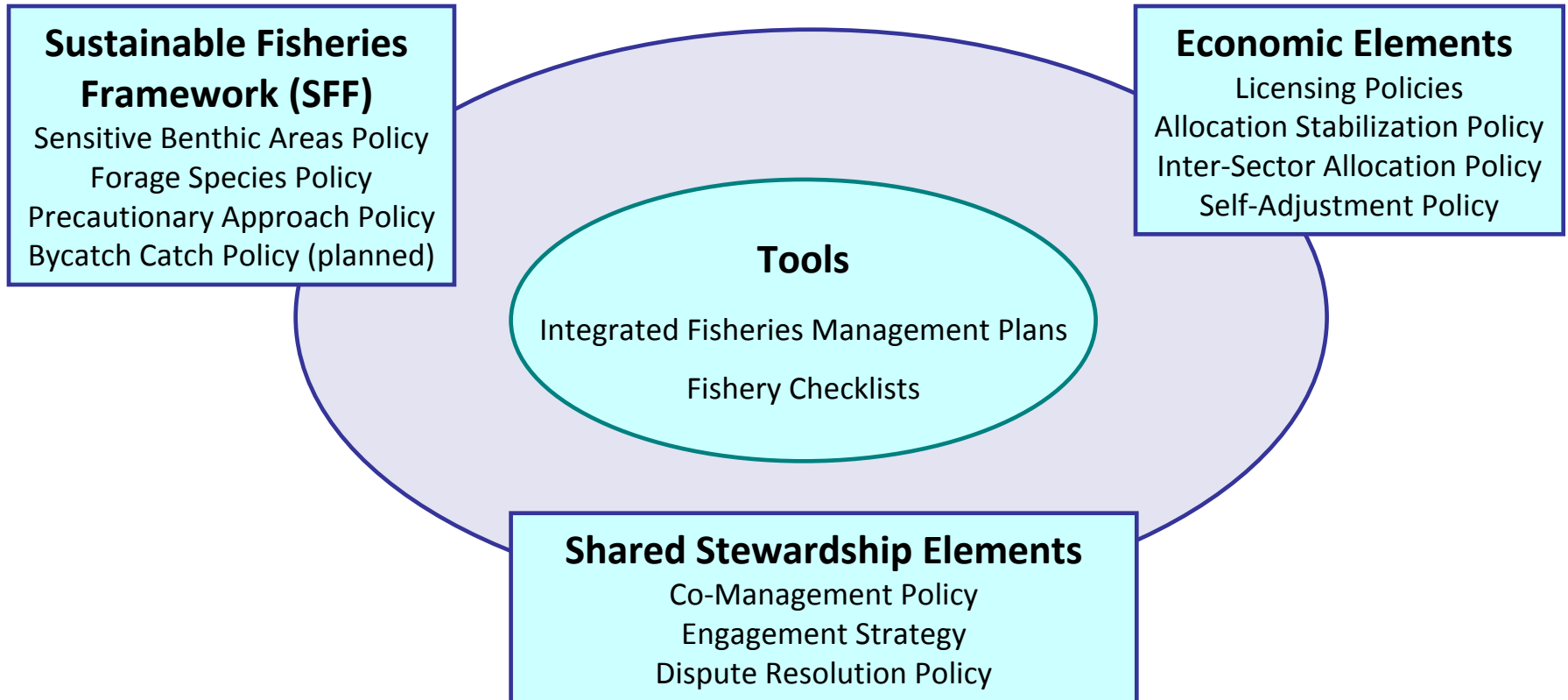


## Background

- SFF Goal:
  - Ensure that Canada's fisheries are environmentally sustainable, while supporting economic prosperity
  - This means maintaining a balance between healthy fish stocks and marine environments, while allowing for prosperous fisheries
- Overall drivers:
  - Domestic and international commitments for ecosystem and precautionary approaches in managing fisheries resources
  - Demands from Canadians for transparency and accountability
  - Market demands for sustainable seafood products
  - Various domestic initiatives

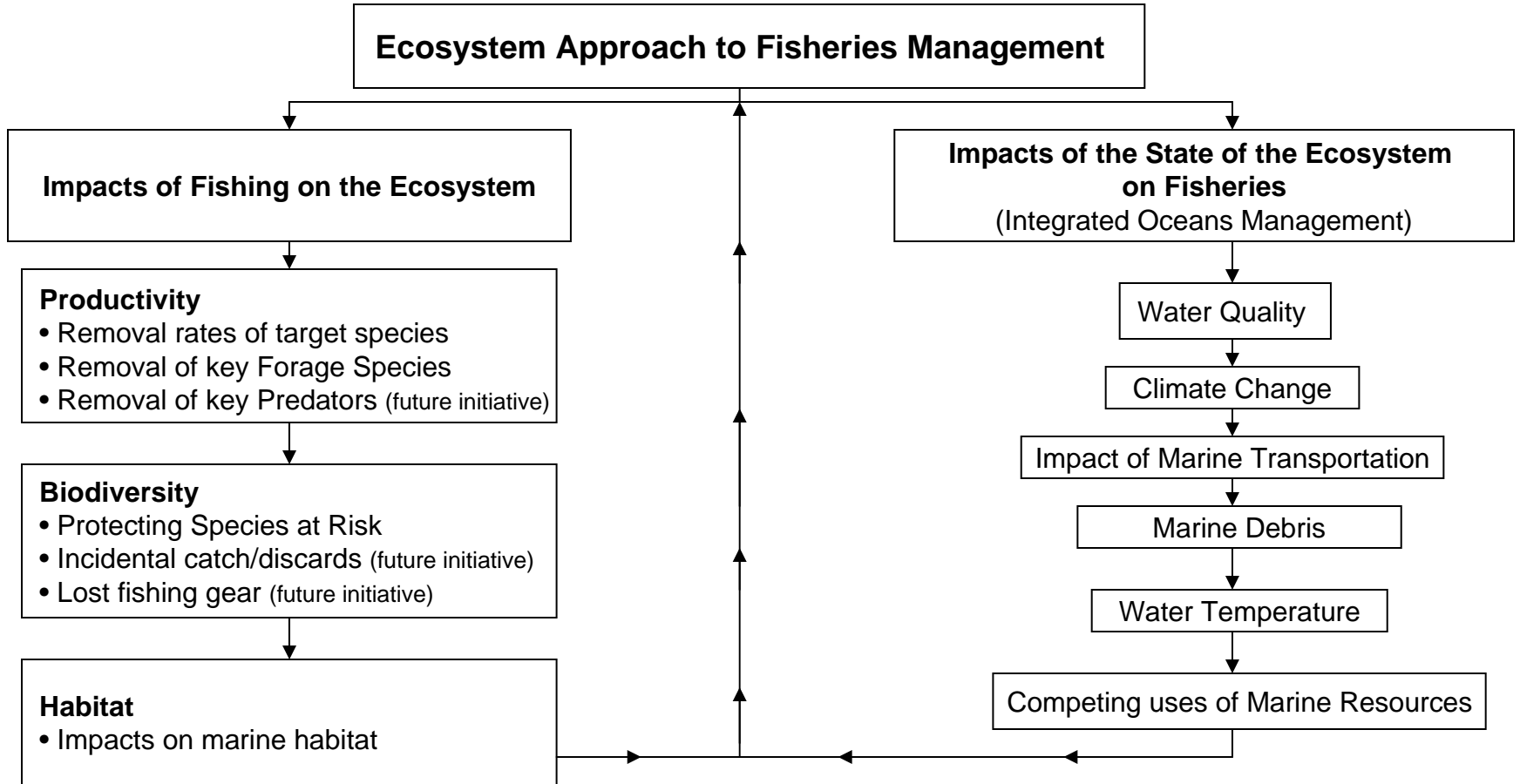


# Fisheries Renewal





# SFF links to EAFM





## SFF links to Science

- The SFF takes a science-based approach, and requires significant engagement of the Science sector.
- Recent and pending science peer-review (i.e. CSAS) processes in support of the SFF include:
  - Impacts of Trawl Gears and Scallop Dredges on Benthic Habitats, Populations and Communities (completed 2006)
  - Potential Impacts of Fishing Gears on Marine Habitat and Communities (completed January, 2010)
  - Advisory Process on Corals, Sponges and Hydrothermal Vents (*pending, March 9-12, 2010*)



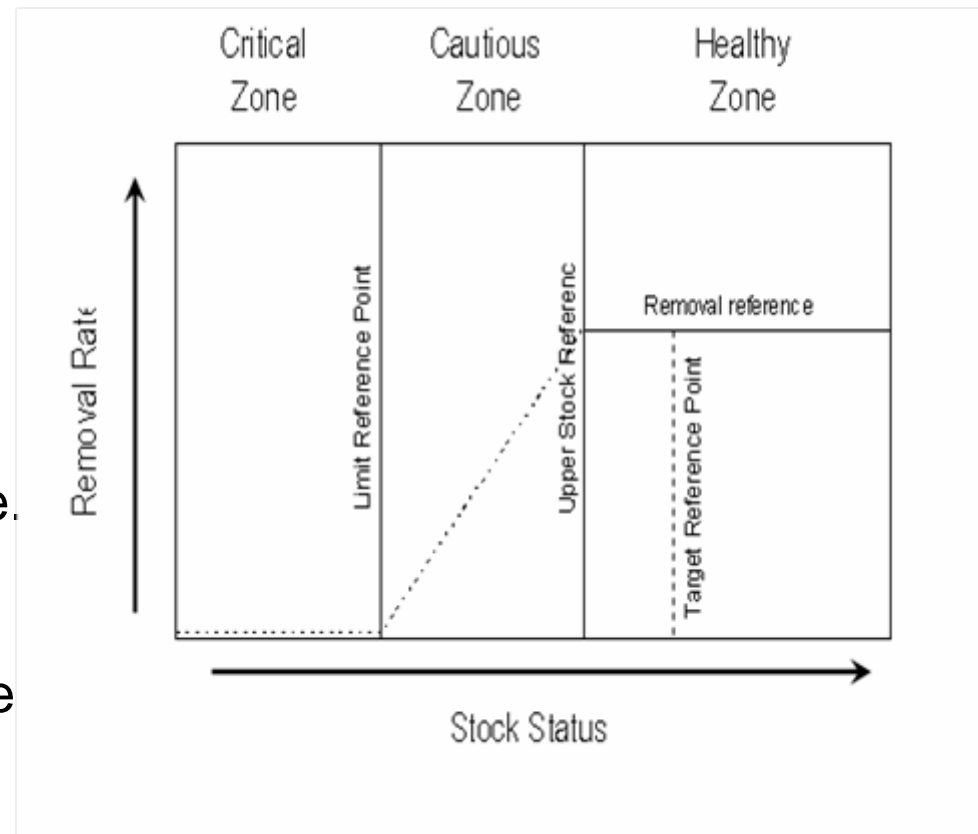
## Precautionary Approach Framework

*"In resource management, the PA is, in general, about being cautious when scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and not using the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or fail to take action to avoid serious harm to the resource."*



## Components of the PA Framework

- Identifies three stock status zones.
- Reference points to delineate zones.
- Removal reference define the maximum removal rate in each zone.
- Harvest decision rules developed for each zone linked to the reference points:
  - pre-agreed management actions





## Application of the PA Framework

- Applies at a minimum to key harvested stocks that are the intended targets of a fishery (commercial, recreational or aboriginal).
- Must take into account all removals from all types of fishing (monitoring).
- Framework includes requirements for development of rebuilding plans:
  - Develop plans when stock is low in Cautious Zone, implement in Critical Zone
  - In Critical Zone, removals kept to the lowest possible with an aim to rebuild within a reasonable timeframe
- Future implementation of the PA Framework:
  - Incorporation of PA activities into regional/sector work planning
  - Guidelines for development and implementation of rebuilding plans (*in development*)
  - Potential application for COSEWIC designated species/stocks not listed under SARA



## Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas

*“To help DFO manage fisheries to mitigate impacts of fishing on sensitive benthic areas or avoid impacts of fishing that are likely to cause serious or irreversible harm to sensitive marine habitat, communities and species”*



## Application of the Benthic Areas Policy

- Applies to all commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries managed by Canada both inside and outside of the EEZ.
- Separate processes for *Historically Fished Areas* vs. *Frontier Areas*:
  - Exploratory fisheries may be used in data-poor frontier areas to collect information required for decision making
- Policy to take a phased-in approach.



## Implementation

- Requires the Identification of key benthic areas and attributes:
  - Current focus on coral, sponges, hydrothermal vents and seamounts
  - CSAS Workshop (March 9-12/10) on corals, sponges and hydrothermal vents
- Ecological Risk Analysis Framework (ERAF):
  - Determines the “ecological” risk of serious or irreversible harm resulting from fishing activity
- ERAF results considered along with socio-economic factors to determine appropriate management and mitigation actions.



## Policy on New Fisheries for Forage Species

Provides a policy framework to ensure the application of the Precautionary Approach (PA) and ecosystem approach in the management of forage species fisheries.



## Application of the Forage Species Policy

- Sets out both biological and management pre-requisites that must be met before new commercial forage fisheries are permitted.
- Development of new forage species fisheries also have to be consistent with the *New Emerging Fisheries Policy*.
- Existing forage fisheries being examined against the policy principles through a phased-in approach:
  - Shortfalls to be addressed through SFF work planning and IFMPs in a phased-in manner.



## Bycatch Policy (*proposed*)

Bycatch has not been clearly and consistently defined either in Canada or internationally. However, it generally refers to species that fishers in a given fishery were not intending or wanting to catch and/or keep.



## The Need for a Bycatch Policy

- DFO manages bycatch issues in various fisheries throughout the country:
  - e.g. integrated groundfish management plans in the Pacific
- Effective bycatch management is a requirement for eco-certification:
  - Demonstrates that the fishery is not causing irreversible harm to non-target species
- Need for a nationally consistent and systematic approach to bycatch.
- Preliminary work is currently underway for Policy development:
  - Diagnostic of issues and tools
- Draft Policy anticipated by the end of 2010-11.



## Anticipated Components of a Bycatch Policy

- Provide principles and objectives for bycatch management
- Provide a suite of tools to manage bycatch:
  - No one size fits all
  - Consideration for bycatch which may be commercially valuable
- Appropriate monitoring required to account for and effectively manage a fishery's impact on non-target species:
  - Adequate data is essential in determination of impact



# Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP)

A revised planning framework for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, and a process by which a given fishery will be managed for a period of time



## Components of the renewed IFMP Process

- Outlines short-term and long-term objectives of the fishery.
- Provide a means for implementing various SFF policies and tools:
  - Including PA framework, impacts to benthic areas, predator-prey relationships, bycatch/non-target species, etc.
- Includes economic considerations.
- Considers the impacts of environmental conditions on fisheries (e.g. climate change).
- Provides for an annual review of performance



## Implementation of the revised IFMP Process

- Within each region, several IFMPs will be developed under the revised process each year:
  - Immediate focus is on major fisheries
  - New IFMPs for 2009/10 include 2J3KLPs herring and Maritimes lobster
  - Other IFMPs to be completed over the coming year(s)
- Will gradually incorporate SFF objectives as they are developed, and according to priorities specific to each fishery.

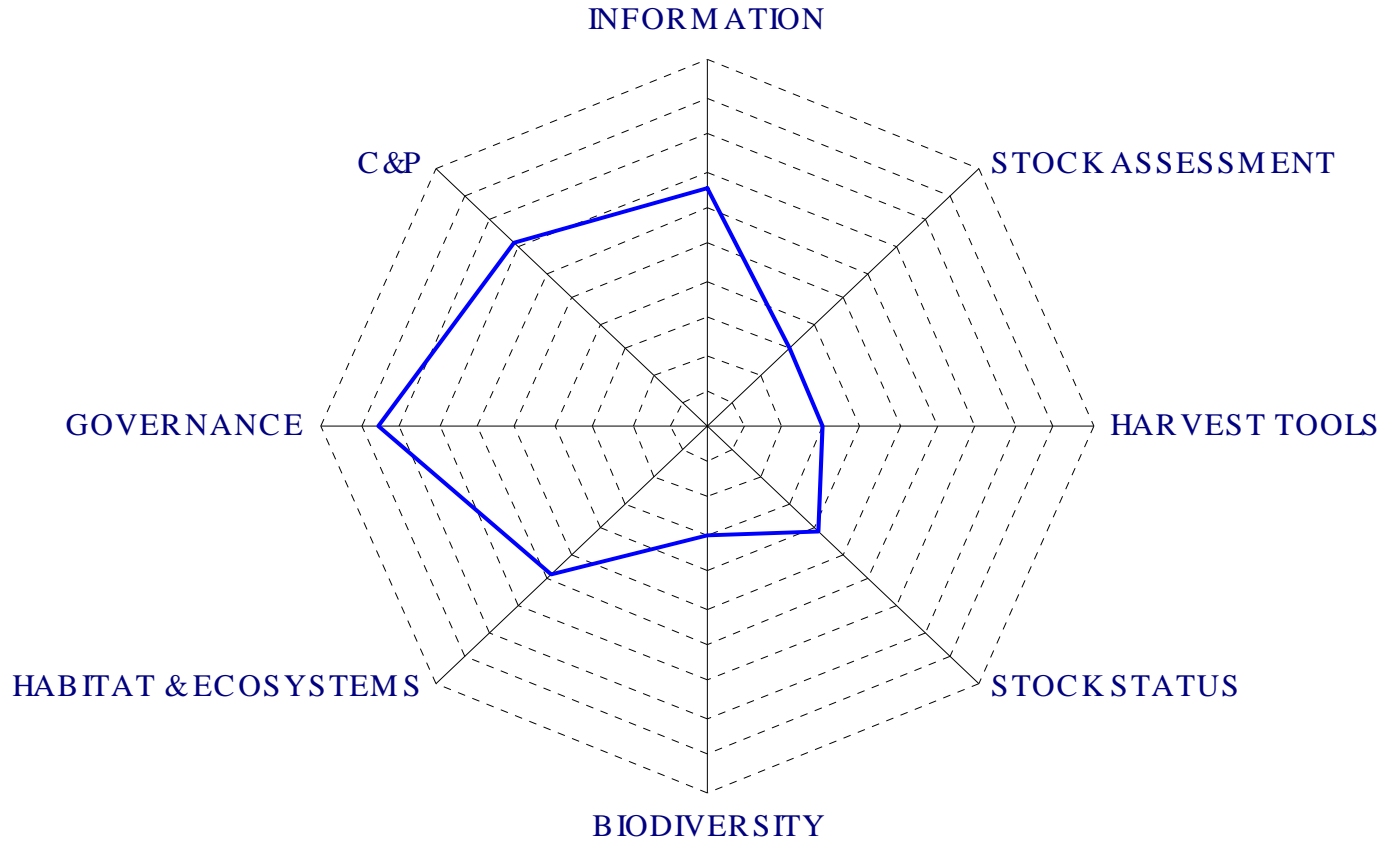


## Fisheries Checklist

An internal, self-diagnostic tool applied to an individual stock or fishery which provides a systematic review of progress on conservation and sustainable use objectives



## Sustainability Profile - Stock A





# Checklist Use in SFF Planning and Reporting

