

Long-term Sustainability of Marine Resources

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SCOTIA HARVEST SEAFOODS



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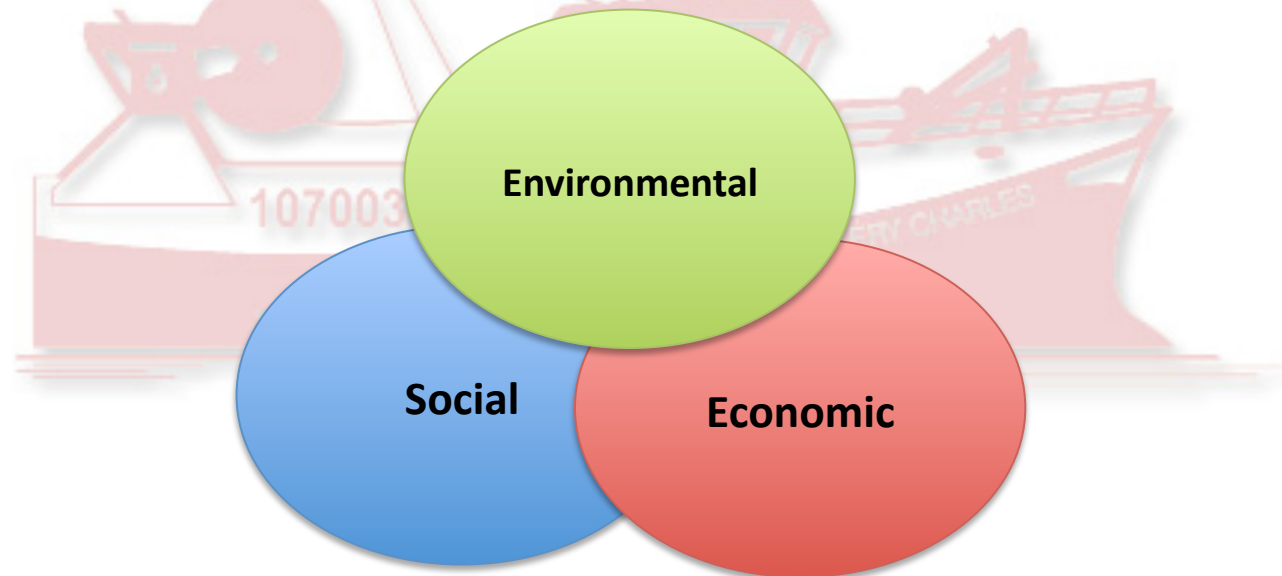
Scotia Harvest Seafoods Inc.

What do we want from our fishery?

- The discussion is long overdue
- Response could be different depending on species, gear-types, provinces, communities, etc...
- Options?
 - Jobs / Food / Economic returns / Lobster Bait / etc...
- Who makes the decision?
 - Fishermen / Government / General Public / Environmental Organizations
- Overwhelming response from all those should include “Sustainable” or “Sustainability”

How would I define Sustainability?

- Environmental sustainability is important, but often the only factor considered
- Socio-economic sustainability needed to achieve true sustainability



Environmental Sustainability

- Often the sole focus of Eco-labeling groups
- Fishermen are environmentalists by definition
 - Especially if they feel they have a “share” of the future of the resource
 - ITQs / EAs
- By-catch issues or bottom impact?
 - Gear-type issues receive too much focus
 - Fishermen harvest marine resources in many different manners, this is constantly evolving
- Eco-system based management?
 - Best science available
 - Often not good enough

Socio-economic Sustainability

- Important for the future of economic development of coastal communities and provinces
- Job creation
 - Should produce “good recruitment”
- Maximize economic opportunities without sacrificing the long-term health of the fishery
 - Quality initiatives
 - Who is responsible if we are not extracting the maximum value of the resource?
 - How do we increase the value?
 - Ocean to plate principle
 - Traceability
 - Buy local important, but we must ensure we are competitive on the global market
- Depending on the goals we set, we may be able to achieve the same return with less fish which makes the industry more robust

Current Experiences in the Marketplace

- Canadian management of fisheries considered woefully inadequate even in Canada
 - Cod moratorium always mentioned
 - Marine Stewardship Council Eco-label will be required especially in retail sector
- Internationally Canada's image as a seafood producer has been damaged by low quality products and the environmental lobby against the harvest of seals

Possible Roadblocks to achieving Long-term Sustainability

- Politics
 - Decisions made by politicians are not always for the good of the resource, the good of the fishermen or the good of the communities
 - Groups that have less of an attachment to the ocean and its resources than fishermen are much better organized and have more political clout
 - Looming Oil and Gas decisions are probably very short-sighted
 - Tough decisions that are sometimes needed can not be made due to votes
- Fishermen versus Fishermen versus DFO
 - Gear-types / Owner-operator or Enterprises / Species / Areas
 - Fishing industry needs to increase public awareness of the fishery and its value as a harvester of a renewable resource
- Science issues
 - Assumptions on top of assumptions on top of assumptions
 - Lack of current or up-to-date science
 - Lack of resources to produce science that can survive proper peer review
 - Failure to recognize the dynamic nature of the oceans

Summary

- The first step in plotting a course for the future of the fishery is defining what **Canada** wants from its marine resources
- Improve “Best available science” before we tackle full ecosystem based management
 - However, we should begin the long process of working towards it now
 - Current management regime struggles with this issue as well
- Sustainability goes beyond environmental sustainability
- How can we increase the return to fishermen so that our marine resources achieve their economic potential?