

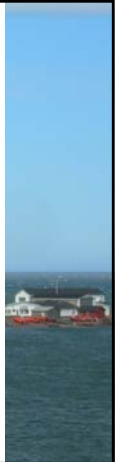
Voluntary Closures in Fisheries Management: avoiding 'quick fix' solutions

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1

Fishery Closures

- Implemented across the globe to protect:
 - Sensitive habitats
 - By-catch species
 - Difficult to protect by other means
 - Reproductive capacity
 - Stock protection



2



Types of Closure

- Variety of forms:
 - Specific to an area, species, or gear
 - Vary temporally
- Implementation (process and initiator)
 - Implemented by fisheries managers, etc.
 - Implemented by harvesters outside the targeted fishery
 - Implemented by harvesters inside the targeted fishery (voluntary)


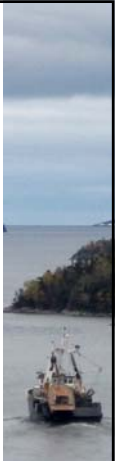
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Voluntary Fishery Closures

- Increasing popularity in Newfoundland
 - St. Brendan's
 - East Port
 - Trout River
 - Bonne Bay
 - Bay of Islands

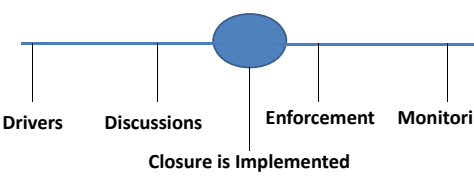
} Lobster: place based

} Snow crab: species based

4

Objective




- Pre-implementation (Step Zero) of voluntary closures
 - Drivers, factors, conditions, interactions
 - Path dependency

5

Research Question

- What are the drivers, factors, and conditions that are conducive to and motivate voluntary closures?
- Step Zero Questions:
 - Where did the idea originate (how was it conceived)?
 - How was the idea perceived (support, opposition, issues raised)?
 - Who participated in initial discussions?
 - What were the expectations of the closure?




6

Methodology

- Semi-structured interviews
- Key informant meetings
 - Fish harvesters
 - Processors/processing workers
 - Community members
 - Scientists
 - Fisheries managers
 - Key community groups



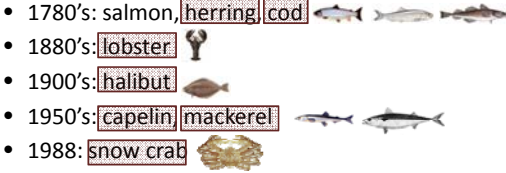

Bay of Islands Study Site



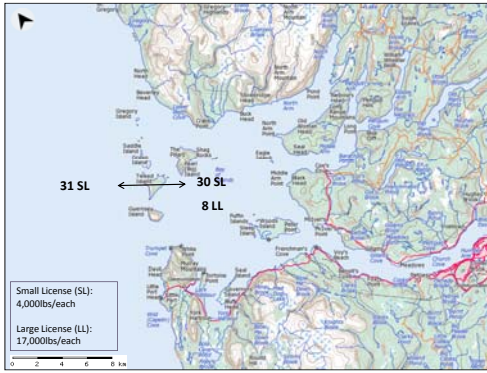
Google Maps

Fisheries in the Bay of Islands

- 1780's: salmon, herring, cod
- 1880's: lobster
- 1900's: halibut
- 1950's: capelin, mackerel
- 1988: snow crab



Bay of Islands Crab Fishery



Small License (SL):
4,000lbs/each

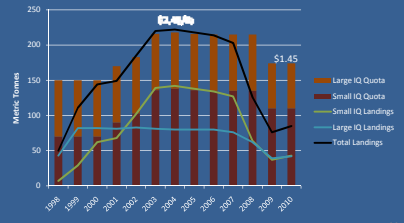
Large License (LL):
17,000lbs/each

Natural Resource Canada

Conception

- Spring 2009/2010 (discussions/vote)
 - Declining Stocks
 - Bonne Bay Closure
 - Declining Prices

"There was no crab. We seemed to think they were depleted pretty good"
- Crab Harvester



Department of Fisheries and Oceans

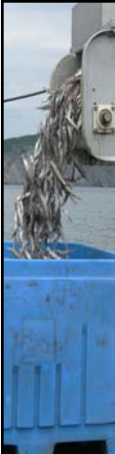
Perception

<p>Favourable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small quota crab harvesters • South shore 	<p>Unfavourable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large quota crab harvesters • North shore 	<p>Neutral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-crab harvesters • Processors • Community members
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"Yes I am aware of snow crab closure discussions. It should have closed. There was scarcity, and a lot of soft shelled crabs. I appreciate the extra few dollars, but next year I think the stocks would have increased. Last year they were depleted pretty bad" - Small license crab harvester

"We (large licenses holders) didn't want to have it closed. They were saying that you are going to keep damaging the stocks if you keep on going" - Large license crab harvester

"If you were in support of it, you would be supporting half the crowd, and seeing the other crowd starving to death. So rather than seeing people go hungry, no I wouldn't" - Non-crab harvester




Expectations

- Stocks time to re-build
- Increased harvester control
 - Reduce the possibility of quota cuts
 - Control over lifting of closure

"I would say it would revive the stocks" – Fish Harvester


"If we closed it ourselves we could control when it would open again" – Fish Harvester




13

Perceived Impacts

- Crab harvesters
 - Those with greater economic reliance
- Community
 - Less money spent
 - Very small local market for crab
- Processors
 - Less than 4% crab processed from BOI



14




Perceived Benefits

- Marine environment
 - Allow time for stocks to recover
- Crab harvesters
 - Increased control in fisheries management
 - Improve sustainability of the crab fishery
- Fisheries management
 - Cost effective
 - Increased compliance
 - Decreased implementation period


15

Prospective Closures

- Three meetings
 - No consensus, no vote
 - Closure was not implemented
- Varying impacts
 - Strong support
 - Declining stocks
 - Interest in pursuing discussions



16




Conclusion

- Many benefits to voluntary closures
 - Localized solutions
 - Increased compliance
 - If measure is implemented for and by harvesters, for their benefit
 - Decreased cost
 - Strong stakeholder involvement
- Not a quick-fix
 - Perceived differently
 - Varying support and expectations
 - Outcomes are uncertain

17

Conclusion

- Important to understand the process
- Step Zero will unveil fish chain impacts
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Economic



18

Thank You

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Questions/Comments

