

The Role of the Social Sciences
in U.S. Federal Marine Fisheries
Management: The Origins

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East Coast Forum | May 2012
Beaufort, NC

The Three Marine Fisheries Conservation Systems

The Biophysical System

The Human Use/Benefit System

The Institutional/Governance System

The Nature of Marine Fisheries Policy and Management

All marine fishery policy and management decisions have biophysical, social and economic OBJECTIVES

and

Biophysical, social and economic
IMPACTS

The Nature of Marine Fisheries Policy and Management (continued)

All marine fishery policy and management
decisions involve

TRADEOFFS

Among these three objective and impact
variables:

That is the process of GOVERNANCE

The Nature of Marine Fisheries Policy and Management (continued)

If we do not have full data and information on all three of the systems, we will not know how to judge these necessary tradeoffs

The Role of Human Values

All policy and management decisions are based
on

HUMAN VALUES

informed

by science, but not

determined

by science

And those human values should be explicit

In the policy-making process

Social Science Disciplines

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Action-based Disciplines

- Environmental Education
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Mediation and Consensus-building
- Planning

The Social Science “Enterprise”

- Theory and method
- Academicians and “practitioners”
- For public policy (such as marine fisheries):
 - Law and policy mandates
- Funding
- Receptive “clients”
- Useful, and used, products

The NMFS Social Science “Enterprise” History

- Pre-M-SFCMA
- Early M-SFCMA (to 1990)
- Towards more full development (1990-present)
- The current situation
- Future challenges

The Legal and Policy Framework

-The M-SFCMA

- National Standards

- Optimum Yield

- Limited Access

-Regulations and guidelines pursuant to the M-SFCMA

- Contents of Fishery Management Plans

- Social Impact Analysis

-Other relevant law and policy

- NEPA

- Lawsuits

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The M-SFCMA Policy and Management Structure

- NMFS Washington, D.C. Office
- NMFS Regions and Research Centers
- Regional Fishery Management Councils
 - Council members
 - Council staff
 - Council committees and advisory groups
- Non-NMFS social science entities
 - Universities
 - Consulting firms
 - Other government agencies, state and federal

Problems in Incorporating Social Scientific Data and Information into Ocean Policy and Management

- Lack of trained social scientists in the marine field
- Lack of social science professionals in the marine resource management structure
- Lack of funding for social science research and application
- Lack of understanding of the need for, and use of, social scientific data and information

In Summary.....

- By law and policy, Social science and Human and Institutional systems must be a part of all policy-making processes
- Adequate resources must be identified to support social science
- Trained professionals must administer the social science program

