



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Catch Shares – Australian experience.

David Galeano



Protecting **our** fishing future

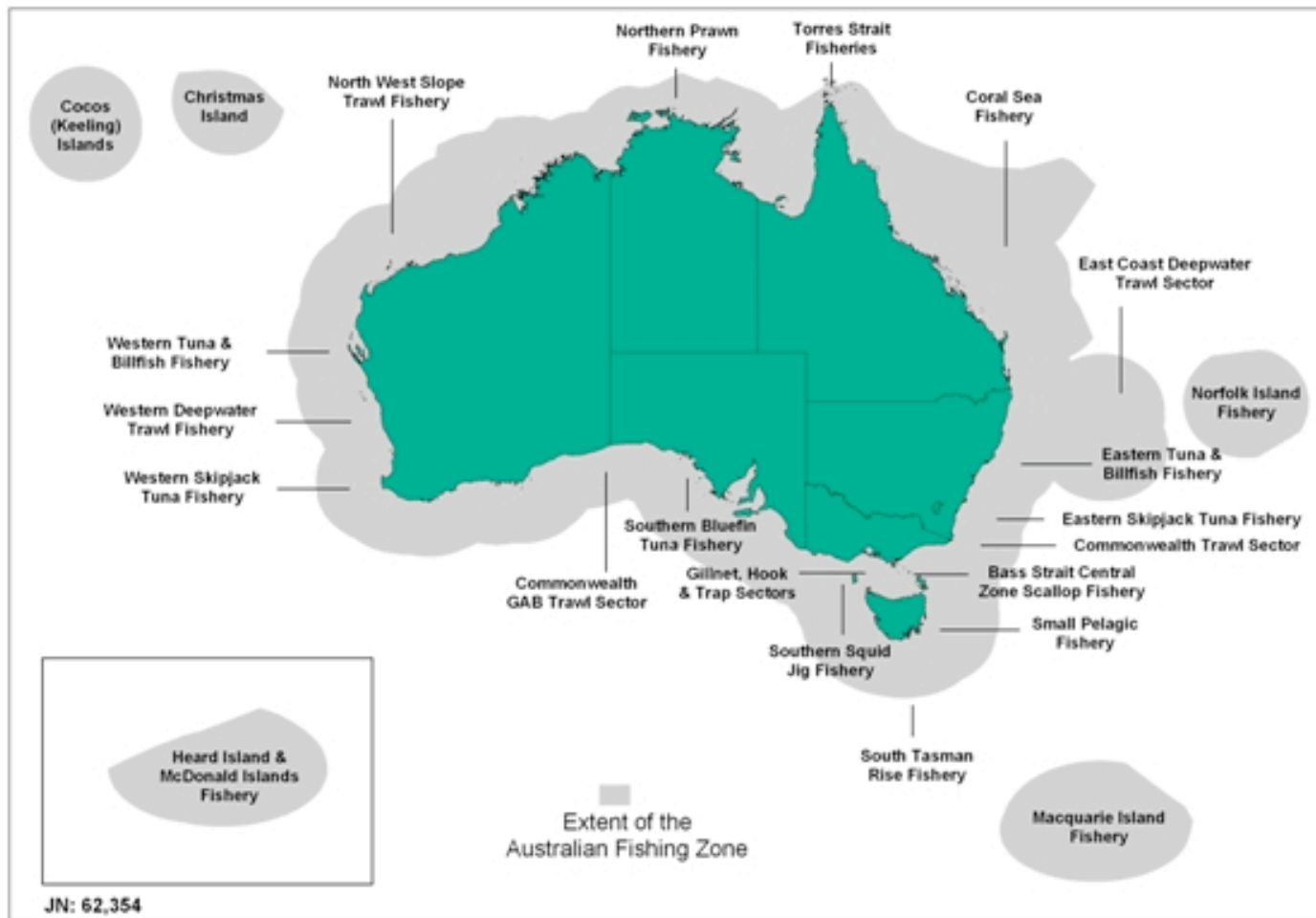
Australia's fisheries

- **State managed fisheries**
 - Wild catch fisheries
 - Aquaculture
 - Recreational fishing
- **Commonwealth managed fisheries**
 - Wild catch fisheries

Value of Australian fisheries (2007-08)

- **State managed fisheries**
 - Wild catch fisheries = \$1.1 billion
 - Aquaculture = \$0.9 billion
 - Recreational fishing
- **Commonwealth managed fisheries**
 - Wild catch fisheries = \$0.3 billion

Commonwealth fisheries



Legislation - objectives

- **Maximise net economic returns**
- **Meet targets relating to cost recovery**
- **Accountability to the public**
- **Efficient and cost effective management**
- **Sustainability**

Government policy

- **Individual transferable quota is preferred tool**
 - Policy Statement – New Directions for Fisheries Management
 - Policy Review in 2003 - Looking to the Future
 - Ministerial Direction in 2005

Individual transferable quota

- **Currently used**

- Southern and eastern scalefish and shark
- Southern bluefin tuna
- Heard and McDonald Island
- Macquarie Island
- Bass Strait central zone scallop

- **Being implemented**

- Eastern tuna and billfish
- Southern and western tuna and billfish
- Northern prawn
- Small pelagic

Southern and eastern scalefish and shark fishery (SESSF)

- **Harvest (2007-08)**
 - Approximately 24000 tonnes
 - Gross value of production \$86.7 million
- **Multispecies**
- **Multimethod**
 - Otter trawl
 - Gillnet
 - Demersal longline
 - Danish seine
 - Traps

SESSF

Area of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery



- Exclusive Economic Zone limit (200 nm)
- Territorial Sea limit (12 nm)
- Coastal Waters limit (3nm)
- State Border
- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery



Produced by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, December 2007 based on Geoscience Australia Data

NOTES

1. The area of the Fishery is sourced from the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003
2. Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Commonwealth and T.A.S., V.I.C. and S.A., whereby the Coastal Waters of these States are deemed to be part of the AFZ.
3. The maritime zone boundaries shown on this map are sourced from the "Australian Maritime Boundaries (AMB) v2.0"
4. The area of the fishery excludes waters within 25 nautical miles of the coastline of Lord Howe Island and Balls Pyramid at low water

Geographic Datum : WGS84 **JN: 62,362**

SESSF

- **ITQs for gemfish in 1989**
- **Further 15 species by 1992**
- **Now around 30 species**
- **Initial allocation grandfathered**
- **Shares are a proportion of total**
 - Not defined in kg

SESSF

- **Annual total allowable catch set**
- **Rights are fully tradeable**
 - Annual or permanent
 - Between sectors
- **Some input controls remain**

Did ITQs work?

- **Not really**
 - Total allowable catches set too high
 - Many restrictions on trade due to litigation surrounding the allocation
- **Buyouts**

Are they working now?

- **Much better (since 2007)**
 - Buyout in 2007
 - Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy
 - Maintain fish stocks at the biomass associated with maximum economic yield
 - Hard wired decisions rules
 - Many fish stocks have rebuilt
 - Significant trade in quota

Are they working now?

- Profitability improving
- Less concerns surrounding sustainability of target species
- Less arguments with industry

Challenges remaining

- **Determining MEY in a multispecies multimethod fishery**
- **Impact of fishing on the broader environment**
- **Review of quota management arrangements**

Lessons

- **ITQs not a panacea**
- **Need both a good management tool and stocks at healthy levels**
- **Some input controls still necessary**
- **Buyouts will not solve problems**





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Any Questions?

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