

Economics and Social Sciences Lessons for Marine Policy Makers

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Overview

- ▶ Question: What are the key issues that we should focus upon educating marine policy makers?
- ▶ Demographics
- ▶ Key messages
- ▶ Means of educating people
- ▶ Conclusions and future directions

Survey Response Data

- ▶ Survey link sent to 68 NMFS economists and social scientists and 13 Council staff members
- ▶ Responses: 52/68 from NMFS list (76 percent) and 2/13 Council staff

What type of Social Scientist are you?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Economist	74%	37
Anthropologist	18%	9
Other	8%	4
	Total	50

Where are you located?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Headquarters		22.90%	11
Northeast		10.40%	5
Midatlantic		0%	0
Southeast		20.80%	10
Southwest		12.50%	6
Northwest		16.70%	8
Alaska		8.30%	4
Pacific Islands		6.20%	3
Great Lakes		0%	0
Other Location		2.10%	1
Total			48
(skipped this			6

At what type of NMFS facility do you work?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Headquarters		22.9%	11
Region		14.6%	7
Science Center		58.3%	28
Fisheries Management Council		2.1%	1
Other (please specify)		2.1%	1
Total			48
(skipped this question)			6

Q1: What is the most important economic idea that we should convey to marine policy makers?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Costs matter		14.8%	8
Taking away choices does not make people better off		9.3%	5
A sustainable fishery must be biologically and economically well managed		31.5%	17
Other (please specify)		44.4%	24

Q1: Expanded 'Key Message'

	Response Percent	Response Total
A sustainable fishery must be biologically and economically well managed	35.2%	19
Costs matter	14.8%	8
Other (please specify)	11.1%	6
Taking away choices does not make people better off	9.3%	5
Opportunity costs	9.3%	5
Net benefits are what matters	7.4%	4
Proper incentives lead to social optimum	5.6%	3
A sustainable fishery must be biologically and economically AND socially well managed	3.7%	2
Marine resources are a public good many beneficiaries other than fishermen	3.7%	2

Q2: What are the TOP THREE economic or social scientific topics that you have most frequently seen marine policy makers confuse or misinterpret?

Count	Response
27	Value vs. Impacts
10	Other
8	Economics confusion
7	What Econ can do
5	CBA vs CEA
5	Opportunity costs
5	Social vs. economic impacts
4	Efficiency
4	MSY vs. MEY
4	Output Multiplier
4	Lack of community attention/understanding
3	Discounting/Inflation
3	Non-market valuation
3	Incentives
3	Overvaluing local interests
2	Capacity
2	ITQs

Q3: How can we best convey key economic and social scientific concepts to marine policy makers?

	Not at all effective									Extremely effective	Response Average
Presentations to fisheries management councils	4% (2)	2% (1)	6% (3)	0% (0)	4% (2)	10% (5)	16% (8)	24% (12)	8% (4)	24% (12)	7.4
Presentations at non-economic fisheries science meetings	6% (3)	0% (0)	6% (3)	4% (2)	6% (3)	12% (6)	17% (8)	25% (12)	17% (8)	6% (3)	6.8
Papers in scientific journals	19% (9)	15% (7)	23% (11)	9% (4)	9% (4)	6% (3)	2% (1)	13% (6)	2% (1)	2% (1)	3.9
Articles in trade publications	6% (3)	4% (2)	17% (8)	6% (3)	9% (4)	21% (10)	19% (9)	9% (4)	6% (3)	2% (1)	5.4
Participating in interdisciplinary project	6% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (2)	6% (3)	28% (14)	26% (13)	8% (4)	22% (11)	7.6

Q4: Other suggested means to reach policy makers

- ▶ “Chatting” – informal interaction
- ▶ Non-technical talks
- ▶ Stakeholder presentations
- ▶ Short reference documents
- ▶ Formal trainings
- ▶ User-friendly simulation models that are game-like in nature and fun to use
- ▶ Internet outreach

Q5: Who should be the primary audience of an effort to better inform marine policy makers or scientists?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Fisheries management council members		35%	18
NOAA/NMFS leadership		12%	6
Science center/ regional leadership		12%	6
Natural scientists		10%	5
Industry		10%	5
Other (please specify)		23%	12
Total Respondents			52

Economists Q5

	Response Percent	Response Total
Fisheries management council members	41%	15
NOAA/NMFS leadership	14%	5
Science center/ regional leadership	11%	4
Natural scientists	5%	2
Industry	8%	3
Other (please specify)	22%	8
Total Respondents		37

Anthropologists Q5

	Response Percent	Response Total
Fisheries management council members	11%	1
NOAA/NMFS leadership	11%	1
Science center/ regional leadership	22%	2
Natural scientists	22%	2
Industry	11%	1
Other (please specify)	22%	2
Total Respondents		9

Non-economist comments

- ▶ Incorrect assumption: “Economic impacts are the same as social and cultural impacts.”
- ▶ “The notion of 'community' gets used, but not examined carefully.”

Non-economist comments

- ▶ “The survey appears to rest on an assumption that I'm not sure I share. The assumption appears to be that we need to find a way to educate/inform those who make marine policy so that they will stop missusing our concepts...”

Project/Survey Suggestions

- ▶ “We should develop short simple outreach materials on various social science topics as well as develop specific guidance pieces on how to analyze basic situations and management issues.”
- ▶ “Talk to other government agencies such as the EPA and Park Service that have a longer history of social science.”

Project/Survey Suggestions (2)

- ▶ “Spatial management... is another area in which scholarly publications are critical in demonstrating we have the models to be if not the lead, an important player in this arena.”
- ▶ “Economists should be challenging the fallacy that everything can be managed at MSY. Too often, we just take the management targets handed to us as given, without looking at alternative strategies and informing managers of the benefits and costs of each strategy.”

Project/Survey Suggestions (3)

- ▶ “Lessons for economists: The economic approach has a stigma attached to it. Undoing this stigma is possibly the most vital element current fisheries economists need to convey to non-economists:
 - Our work not be detached from 'the real world'.
 - Our work must go beyond using quantitative data and incorporate 'the facts on the ground'.
 - Our work is not primarily about 'money', 'profit', etc., but rather about 'benefit to society', 'reducing waste', 'sustainability'.
 - Humility: our results are but one way of looking at the problem and our suggestions don't always work”

Main Messages

- ▶ Main message can be summarized as the meaning of net benefits, with definitions of values, costs, and expenditures
 - Taking away choices is costly
 - Output multiplier & the nature/value of jobs
 - Opportunity costs
 - Quantifying non-market and diffuse benefits

Main Messages (2)

- ▶ The role of social scientists in policy making
 - Help assess the social and economic impacts of regulatory action
 - Identify proper incentives to achieve a desired regulatory goal

Main Messages (3)

- ▶ A sustainable fishery must be biologically and economically AND socially well managed
- ▶ MSY vs. MEY
- ▶ Cost data are often essential to determine the relative impacts of different policy actions.

Select Direct Policy Issues to Address

- ▶ MPAs and marine reserves
- ▶ Bycatch
- ▶ Rationalization
- ▶ Communities and regional economics
- ▶ Ecosystem management
- ▶ Capacity/overcapacity

How do we get input on the format from policy makers?

- ▶ Simple Survey/pre-test
- ▶ Presentation of 'Key Economic Messages' to select Science Center, Headquarters, or other audiences
- ▶ "Econ 101" approach
- ▶ On-line training
- ▶ Economics column in monthly NOAA or NMFS publication

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Questions?

Suggestions?