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Management of Tuna Fisheries in EEZs and ABNJ in the Western and Central Pacific

February 2015



Cooperative EEZ Management

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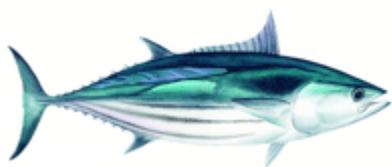
- FFA – (17 members) – Harmonised Minimum Terms and Conditions of Access, cooperative surveillance and enforcement, common positions to wider fora.
 - PNA – (8 members) – even further – specific management measures focused on range of economic and stock objectives – largest international RBM approach.
 - FFA drove creation of WCPFC – because nothing being done in ABNJ.
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ABNJ Management – WCPFC

- 25 members, 7 territories, 5-8 cooperating non-members
- “Stocks throughout their range” with particular focus on compatibility.
- Rapid initial progress – mainly where existing regional MCS tools could be built upon – VMS, Observers
- Range of stock measures agreed to, which do cover EEZs and ABNJ.
- So – all good???
- What is behaviour on the water like????





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PowerPoint presentation paused at this point

- Switched to FFA google earth “Regional Surveillance Picture” (RSP)
- The RSP fuses several feeds of satellite data and cross references to regional and national licensing databases to show a risk assessed picture of vessel activity throughout the region. It tracks up to 3,000 vessels and assists Pacific Island Countries to prioritise MCS activities and responses.
- But shown for the purposes of this presentation to demonstrate the spatial distribution of fishing effort – using the longline fishery as an example.
- There are 4 clearly identifiable “hotspots” of LL activity. And significantly they are all on the High Seas. Even more significantly, they are all concentrated on EEZ boundaries. And even more significantly, the EEZs next to these “hotspots” are generally devoid of significant fishing effort.
- This is not a picture of an integrated, seamless system of management between EEZs and ABNJ. Why?
- Coincidence – unlikely given the huge prevalence of EEZs compared to ABNJ in the region.
- Financial – certainly a motivation – human nature dictates that we don’t like to pay for something we could get for free. But would that drive such a stark trend by itself? Unlikely.
- “Operational convenience” – almost certainly - when a vessel fishes on the high seas it is subject to weaker standards of data reporting, observer reporting and VMS scrutiny. It’s activities are not monitored as closely as fishing inside EEZs. It is allowed to conduct transshipment on the HS, but not in EEZs. The four largest LL flag States do not report fine scale data on these operations to the WCPFC.
- So it is entirely possible that the disconnect between EEZ and HS management is incentivising the spatial distribution of effort.
- Implications of this include IUU risks due to weaker standards and, in the Pacific context, lost opportunities for Small Island Developing States to benefit from the fisheries resources they control.
- Switch back to ppt.



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Responses – new approaches

- PNA 3IA – vessels wishing to licence to any member must not fish in certain high seas areas.
- Mainly an IUU and economic measure
- Effort was transferred to EEZs, so not a direct stock conservation measure – although increased access revenue offset the costs of other stock measures, so certainly indirect contribution
- Initially reflected by WCPFC then rescinded – still applies to almost whole fishery by virtue of PNA importance.



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Lessons Learned

- Big difference between RFMOs agreeing things – States implementing them – vessels being held to account.
- Vastly different standards in EEZs compared to ABNJ – even for same vessels.
- Smaller groups of likeminded States stand better prospects of implementing measures.



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Ways forward

- ABNJ closures – when do you say “enough is enough”? Would an RFMO ever do this (again)?
- Rights Based Management – the big prospect.
 - Bulk literature and experience with RBM influencing behaviour in national fisheries – should hold true for RFMOs
 - Allocating long term rights provides avenues for sustainability
 - As importantly, can also deliver economic efficiency by removing Race to Fish
 - As importantly can deliver on other obligations such as increasing participation by Developing States in HS fisheries.
 - Vest rights in the adjacent coastal States, especially SIDS.