

What would it take for N.Z. to be a World Leader in Coastal and Marine Governance?

By Martin Cryer

Science Manager, Aquatic Environment
Ministry of Fisheries



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

Acknowledgments

- EDS / Raewyn Peart
- Stan Crothers (who sends his apologies)
- Caroline Hart



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

Where are we now?

- Not a World Leader
 - (but maybe not too far off the pace?)
- Having problems with access & allocation
- Having problems agreeing responsibilities
- Having problems dealing with cumulative or overlapping effects
- Having problems setting standards



Why should we care?

- Multiple use conflicts (uses, users, agencies)
- Inability to plan or manage sustainable development
- Degradation of resources
- Foregone economic and other opportunities
- International trends and our
Clean, Green Image



What should we be aiming for?

- Maximising long-term value
 - (NOT just \$ value)
- An ecosystem approach
- A precautionary approach
- Intergenerational equity
- Integrated management
- Inclusive processes and involvement



Things we've done well

- Target stock management (mostly)
 - This is not rocket science, it's much harder
- Resource Management Act (mostly)
 - For terrestrial effects, not so good on coastal impacts?
- We have the advantage of a huge EEZ with few local competitors for its resources



Things we've done less well

- Delayed dealing with the impacts of fishing on the environment
- Struggled to deal with the effects of land management on fisheries
- Struggled with allocation of resources between sectors, especially in coastal zone



What about the Ministry of Fisheries?

- Has focused for several years on dealing with stock issues, principally through QMS
- Time now to grapple with allocation between sectors and the issue of “value”
- Time now to deal with environmental issues more completely (SMEEF)
- Time to assess the incentive structure that has led to poor environmental performance



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
Te Tautiaki i nga tini a Tangaroa

What bits are missing?

- Societal consensus on what we're trying to achieve
- Participation
- A vision for the future
- Integration
- Clarity



So what would it take???

- Accept that we already do some things well and keep doing them
- Accept that we've done other things poorly and do them better
- Invest in focused science and information
- Commit to an adaptive, overarching framework that builds on our strengths (an Oceans Policy?)
- Just do it

