



The New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd

The EAF - EBM Continuum

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Content & scope of presentation



- (1) Three potential approaches to implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) or Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)
 - (2) Advantages and disadvantages of each approach
 - (3) Industry perspective
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- § *EAF/EBM in context of current operation of NZ's fisheries management regime*
 - § *Preliminary analysis only*

3 Potential approaches



- (1) EAF built on the QMS
 - (2) EAF cognizant of existing rights
 - (3) EBM as overarching approach
- § *Devolved à Centralised*
 - § *Rights holder responsibility à Government responsibility*
 - § *Inclusive à Exclusive*
 - § *Economic instruments à Regulatory tools*
 - § *Simple, discrete objectives à Multiple, complex objectives*

EAF built on QMS



Pros

- § Locks in QMS benefits
- § Consistent with general direction of fisheries policy
- § Realistic – builds from what we know & can do well
- § Aligns economic and environmental objectives
- § Costs of meeting environmental objectives internalised by rights holders
- § Encourages efficiency and innovation

Cons

- § Incomplete rights framework, so of limited effectiveness in shared fisheries & difficult to apply to other marine users
- § Policy gaps: governance & effective tools for rights holders
- § Political acceptability of devolved management approaches not always assured

EAF cognizant of existing rights



Pros

- § Can be applied regardless of level of specification of rights
- § Generally retains QMS benefits
- § Realistic – builds from what we know & can do well
- § Flexible & pragmatic in terms of implementation

- § *But – depends on implementation...*

Cons

- § Does not align economic & environmental incentives
- § Not consistent with general direction of fisheries policy
- § No framework for making trade-offs between multiple objectives
- § Discretion in implementation leads to uncertainty for rights holders
- § Requires cost recovery or costs borne by government

EBM in place of existing regime



Pros

- § Appears to provide an integrated approach to all uses of the marine environment

Cons

- § Overstates our ability to manage complex systems
- § Requires more precaution in setting objectives or standards
- § Significant foregone opportunities for sustainable utilisation – value of ITQ...
- § Abandons significant progress already made through QMS
- § Poor incentives for individual or collective responsibility
- § High research costs & difficult cost attribution

Industry perspective



§ Approach 1: EAF built on the QMS

- Build from what works well now
- Build an interest in environmental quality into ITQ rights (integrate economic & environmental objectives)
- Acknowledge that further work is required to secure the success of this approach: completion of rights framework; strong industry governance structures; demonstration of industry performance to secure political acceptability...