

FISHERIES ECONOMIC VALUE BASELINE

At a glance

Project title

Great Australian Bight fisheries benchmark study and potential impacts of development

Project summary

To develop a broad understanding of the social and economic status of fisheries and aquaculture sectors in areas that may be affected by development in the Great Australian Bight, and how these sectors might be affected by development.

Project investigators

CSIRO

Program partners

CSIRO, BP, SARDI, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University are working on a \$20 million research program to better understand the environmental, economic and social value of the Great Australian Bight.

Project contacts

Dr Sean Pascoe
CSIRO
E: sean.pascoe@csiro.au

Overview

South Australia is the second largest Australian producer of both wild caught and farm grown fish, and these industries form a major component of many regional economies.

Increased use of the marine environment has the potential to affect fishing activities, either directly, through displacement, or indirectly, through unintended consequences such as accidental release of hydrocarbons.

Methods for assessing such social and economic impacts on fisheries and aquaculture, however, are generally poorly developed in Australia.

This fisheries benchmark project will develop a baseline of social and economic conditions relating to commercial fishing in the Great Australian Bight, and, where possible, recreational fishing and aquaculture.

An understanding of how these conditions vary across the region is important to the assessment of changes following any potential development.

The Challenge

Fisheries in the Bight are subject to three different jurisdictions – South Australia, Western Australia and the Commonwealth. The South Australian component dominates in terms of value, and is made up of multiple fisheries with varying economic and social value.

This project will consider how best to assess any potential changes in these fisheries as a result of oil and/or gas exploration and development. It will also highlight key areas for consideration when developing industry engagement strategies.

Major challenges will be to:

- outline the economic status and contributions of fisheries in the Bight, and current social indicators of satisfaction where available;
- provide a qualitative assessment of the potential impacts of development in the Bight on the fisheries sectors; and
- review approaches for assessing the social and economic impact of potential hydrocarbon releases on the fisheries in the region.



Above : South Australia is Australia's second largest producer of wild caught and farm grown fish.

The Research

Social and economic benchmarking

Social factors that may be affected by development in the Bight include levels of satisfaction with fishing, attachment to the industry, and relative income measures.

Previous social and economic surveys of the relevant fisheries will be used to assess the performance of the fishing fleets and the potential resilience of segments of the fleet to changes in catch, prices and costs.

The flow-on effects of these fisheries to the local economy in terms of income and employment will also be examined.

Similar analyses in terms of regional benefits of aquaculture and recreational fishing will also be undertaken.

Qualitative assessment of the potential impacts of the development of an oil industry

The qualitative assessment will draw on experiences elsewhere, where large mining or oil and gas developments have had an impact on fishing (or other similar) industries.

Key issues to be considered are the potential changes in local market conditions (which may benefit fisheries), as well as increased competition for key inputs (such as labour) through the



Above: The fisheries benchmark study will develop a baseline of social and economic conditions relating to the commercial fishing industry, and, where possible, recreational fishing and aquaculture.

additional demand created by the new developments.

Review of methods for assessing fisheries impacts of oil spills

A review of existing literature of assessing impacts of oil spills (mainly from tanker accidents) will focus on the methods used to assess them.

The potential for pro-active management responses to mitigate some of these impacts will be considered.

The Impact

Developing an understanding of how social and economic conditions vary across the region is important to assessing, on local scale, any impacts of potential development.

A better understanding of the spatial structure of the fisheries will ultimately have benefits for the wider communities that interact with these fisheries.

The People

Dr Sean Pascoe is a CSIRO marine resource economist with more than 25 years' experience in the economic analysis of marine and coastal resources management. He has helped to incorporate economic analyses into a range of multidisciplinary projects aimed at improving fisheries and marine conservation management, both in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Dr James Innes, a marine resource economist with CSIRO, has specialised in conservation incentives and fisheries economics in Australia and Europe. He has worked on incentive-based measures for by catch management, modelling of fishing behaviour, and offsets for marine biodiversity conservation.



Above: The project aims to outline the economic status and contributions of fisheries in the Bight.

For more information

Dr Steven Lapidge
Great Australian Bight Research Director
steven.lapidge@sa.gov.au

www.misa.net.au/GAB

