Marine Fisheries
Social Science Research Priorities

Samuel G. Pooley*

Fisheries management, as codified by the MFCMA and various Federal rules, is a political process dominated by strategic bargaining on the part of its participating interest groups. As such, it is a classic example of political pluralism at the margin within tightly structured political boundaries and loosely structured economic and social systems. This political process contrasts strongly with three important presumptions in the MFCMA process:

1) regulatory legalism;
2) scientific rationalism, and
3) laissez-faire economic ideology.

Clearly, in addition, there is a strong natural science presumption to issues of fisheries management, even though it is now common place to acknowledge that it is people who are managed, not fish. Although participants in the fisheries management process know parts of this regulatory landscape, there is very little systematic knowledge of these basic contradictions.

What does social science research contribute to fisheries management? I would judge its contribution to be have been limited to:

1) reconceptualizing fisheries management (e.g., the introduction of limited entry and ITQs; drawing the implications of the economics of enforcement; and, allowing scope for non-commercial values to enter the fishery management decision matrix);

2) describing the basic economic processes involved in fisheries; and

3) ex post justification of particular policy positions or decisions.

What *else* can social science research contribute? The answer to this question lies in the nature of the regulatory process. The most important potential contribution of social science research would be toward understanding the behavior of individuals and groups in the fishing community, particularly in terms of understanding changes in human behavior due to regulation (ex ante and contrapositive) and exogenous events. This requires a fact-based micro approach to social science research, not a continued academicism based on abstract models of fishing behavior.

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* These comments are the personal professional opinions of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Unfortunately, although this kind of research promises important contributions to fisheries management decisions, neither its time frame nor its research resource requirements correspond to the short-term agendas of fisheries management bodies.

I suggest exploration of three approaches toward implementing behavioral** research:

1) a long-term corporatist integration of NMFS, Sea Grant, and university research directly with the fishery communities being studied;

2) a medium-term social science research task force concentrating on simulation-based approaches to fisheries management issues; and

3) an annual workshop/conference of social science researchers in fisheries, with an emphasis on applied research and ongoing education, with representation from all fishery management regions and participation from social science researchers in associated fields.

These approaches would take substantial new resources; they are not a replacement for existing social science research and applied policy-oriented work. However, the incremental cost of these approaches would still be trivial compared to the overall cost of natural science research in fisheries.

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November 13, 1991

** I use the term "behavioral" with some trepidation, wanting to avoid the individualistic positivism of sociology and psychology. I am also aware that some "behavioral" research with direct management implications has been conducted in fisheries, but I believe this continues to be the exception, rather than the rule, and is likely to be decreasing as research resources and personnel migrate out of fisheries management research.

Social Science Research panel

1/10/92
SGP

ECON/non-econ

particular problems of econ as discipline
abstraction vs. applied/historical
perverse example of social scientists
failure to organize socially * Mark Holliday

Manager | council → limited entry
| NMFS → fishery monitoring - liaison with council

Researcher | spectrum of applied, simple studies [8 yrs]
| coordinator of UH contracts

SWFC | socio-econ research plan
| SSC, PMTs - social scientists, not SSR

fish econ - dying field

this proposal
not just research priorities, but
research sponsorship process

inc. swordfish NIR { 8 year investment in research
2 weeks

⊙ not predictive, but explicative

Abstract for:

Social Science Research in Fisheries Workshop
Jan 9-10, 1992 University of Rhode Island

Samuel G. Pooley

Sam Pooley is industry economist with the Honolulu Laboratory, NMFS, and chief of its Fishery Management and Performance Investigation. He has been with the Honolulu Laboratory for 10 years, following 2 years with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. He has a doctorate in Political Science (with a dissertation on macroeconomic policy) and a masters in Economics (with a thesis on international trade).

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IN FISHERIES
WORKSHOP, JAN. 9-10, 1991
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Dec. 5 Due W.Alton Jones
Executive Summaries of panelists
Priority ideas of participants
Room & meal reservations W.Alton Jones

Wed., Jan.8

5:00 P.M. Registration Open for Panelists & Chairs
5:30 P.M. Organizational Session
Panel Chairs & Rapporteurs meet with Facilitator

6:30 P.M. Dinner

8:00-9:00 Panelists meet with Chairs to organize presentations
Group Discussion Leaders meet with Facilitators to organize small group sessions.

Thurs., Jan. 9(Day One)

7:30-8:30 A.M. Registration, Breakfast

8:30-9:30 A.M. Opening Session
L. Mortenson, Workshop Facilitator
Workshop expectations, profile of preconference thoughts on priority areas.

9:30-10:15 A.M. Invited Speaker

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 INDUSTRY PANEL

12:00-1:30 P.M. Luncheon & Speaker

1:30-2:15 Facilitated Session
Group Meetings
2:15-2:24 Group Discussion Leaders Report/Summary

2:45-4:00 AGENCIES PANEL
Information needs for Public Policy
Development & Implementation

4:15-5:00 Facilitated Session

6:00 Dinner

7:30 Informal session(s) tba

Friday, Jan. 10 (Day Two)

7:30-8:30 A.M.	Breakfast
8:30-9:00	Summary of Day One-Facilitator
9:00-10:30	MANAGERS/ADMINISTRATORS PANEL
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Facilitated Session Group Meetings
12:00-1:30	Lunch Group Discussion Leaders Report/Summary
1:30-3:00 P.M.	SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER PANELS: Panel 1-Laurel 2-Spruce
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:00	Facilitated Session Prioritizing as SSR Agenda
4:00-4:30	Closing Remarks -Next Steps Discussant: Dr. A. Scott, Univ. of British Columbia
4:30	Adjournment

November 6, 1991

Dr. Sam Pooley
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Pooley:

The University of Rhode Island and the Atlantic Offshore Fishermen's Association, with the support of Sea Grant and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, are planning a two day Workshop on Social Sciences Research(SSR) in Fisheries. The time and place for the Workshop is Wednesday through Friday, January 8-10, 1992 at the Whispering Pines Conference Center, W. Alton Jones Campus of the University of Rhode Island. This campus in the Western part of the State, 20 miles from Kingston, contains 2300 acres of woods, streams and ponds and is the site of environmental education, research, and conference facilities.

It has become increasingly clear that the situation in fisheries requires greater communication between the fishing industries, researchers and research administrators to encourage broader, more integrated approaches in defining researchable issues and encouraging more integrated approaches. This workshop will identify important SSR issues in fisheries and explore ways to enhance research on them. The workshop will achieve this by bringing together representatives from industry, the SSR community, fishery managers/administrators and research administrators. With respect to SSR and fisheries, we hypothesize that (1) there is not enough being done, (2) what is done is not used very effectively and (3) the small number of SSR personnel in fisheries are not used effectively.

We are writing to you to tell you of these plans and to ask you if you will serve as a panelist on the Social Science Researchers-I panel. As a panelist, we would like you to include your assessment and suggestions re: the three hypotheses stated above, as well as such other points as you see fit. We ask that you focus your remarks as much as possible on issues for which SSR could be helpful, since other types of research, while important, are not the focus of this workshop. It is our objective to produce a concise document stating priority areas and suggestions for increasing the amount or SSR and improving its usefulness.

We are asking panelists and chairpersons to arrive on Wednesday, Jan. 8, so that we can coordinate some procedural aspects of the workshop beginning at 5:30 P.M.

We are giving priority to panelists for the limited lodgings at Whispering Pines Conference Center. For the same reason, we are asking panelists to share a room with another panelist. If you will be travelling with family or friends and wish to stay at the West Greenwich Inn(Best Western (401) 397-5494), please indicate so on the enclosed Room & Meal Reservation Form. If you wish to specify a panelist to share a room with, please indicate the person's name on the same form in the "comments" section. If you wish to make your own arrangements for lodgings, that is fine. It would be helpful if you would indicate, in the "comments" section of the Room & Meal Reservation Form, how you can be reached in the event of an emergency.

We are asking each panelist to prepare a 1-2 page "executive summary" of their comments and to return these with their Room & Meal Reservation Form. The summaries will be used in the Wed., Jan. 8 coordinating session. and made available to participants.

Would you also please enclose with your Room & Meal Reservation Form, your title and a brief bio sketch for our program and for the Chairperson of your panel to use in introducing you.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Allen

Richard Allen, John Gates
/Workshop Coordinating Committee

models + ideologies

FCMA - political process
self-interest / inter-groups
→ classic pluralism
vs. regulat c/b] + [scientific rationalism]
regulation

→ what does SSR contribute?
1) reconceptual < ITQs, distribution effects, efficiency)
enforcement
2) justify

→ what can it do? = f(regulatory process)
1) behavioral effects = f(behavior. research!)

→ corporatist research model
-- not abstract / alienates academia
→ note
→ liaison with interest groups
→ data, feed-back, discussion
→ reward structure
continuity / Sea Grant extension ??
re-training.

economics ≠ counting fish revenue!
but econ data is important (eg PACFIN research
data base)

do we need as complete a physical model?
→ simulation approaches ←
major effort → / ⇒ importance of coord for new technique
linkage to similar fields