Control of Foreign Fishing

Promotion of models to maximise national economic benefits from foreign fishing

This flyer describes a project being undertaken by MRAG on behalf of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) under the Fisheries Management Science Programme (FMSP). It covers the reasons why Control of Fishing (CFF) is required, describes the model under development and where it will be tested, and details the outputs of the project.
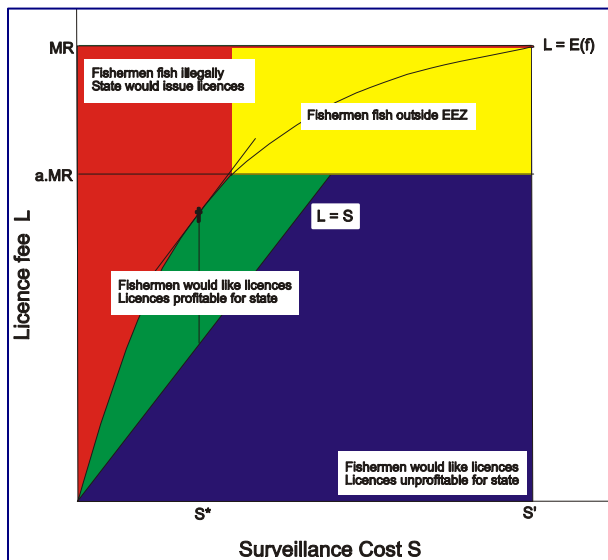
What is the scope of the project?

This project will promote economic models, previously developed by Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG), to increase local capacity within national agencies and increase national, regional and international awareness for maximising benefits from foreign access and developing efficient MCS strategies for the control of foreign fisheries in East Africa. The project is currently working with the Fisheries Departments of Tanzania and Kenya.

Purse seine vessels landing tuna catch

Why is Control of Foreign Fishing Required?

Coastal states that do not have the capacity to harvest all the available resources in their national waters are obliged under UNCLOS to provide the opportunity for foreign access to this "surplus allowable catch". A number of questions arise in terms of what control measures are needed, how much the coastal state needs to spend on surveillance, and how much revenue can be raised by selling access (e.g. by issuing licences). The FAO Code of Conduct suggests that "where appropriate, and when possible" a minimum target revenue should be to cover the incremental cost to the coastal State. In fact, there may be scope for generating considerably more revenue from licensing than is needed to cover the cost of fishery management. The Control of Foreign Fishing project explores the options open to the coastal state and seeks to find the optimal combination of fee level, surveillance expenditure and magnitude of legal penalties to minimize the risk of illegal fishing and maximize the benefits accruing to the coastal state. The results of previous case studies indicate the importance of maintaining an effective deterrent to illegal fishing within the budget of the coastal State. This is achieved through efficient surveillance and the imposition of large penalties for illegal fishing.

The CFF Model

CFF economic models have been developed to synthesise a range of information on foreign fishing characteristics including license fees, surveillance expenditure and the level of fines. The model facilitates integration of a range of complex issues so that the costs and benefits of different MCS strategies can be assessed. A spreadsheet game of the economic model has been developed to assist both national and regional awareness of the benefits of maximising licence fee revenues.

Figure to left: Model output showing trade-off between Surveillance Cost and Licence Fee

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When and where will the CFF model be tested?

CFF economic models have previously been used in a number of case studies throughout the world, including British Indian Ocean Territory, South Georgia and Seychelles. This project is now looking to develop new case studies for Tanzania and Kenya. Development of the new case studies will occur in close collaboration with the respective departments of fisheries between May and July 2005, and will involve national consultations, data collection and analysis, and generation of national recommendations. A regional workshop is planned for November 2005 to disseminate general lessons learned from a synthesis of all CFF case studies, and use the spreadsheet model game that can be used to develop national and regional MCS strategies.

FPV monitoring foreign fishing vessel activity

What are the planned outputs of the project?

- An MS Excel spreadsheet game of the CFF economic model to increase national, regional and international *awareness* for maximising economic benefits through licensing foreign fishing activities.
- Confidential national reports generated from each case study, providing recommendations to Tanzania and Kenya for improving economic benefits derived from licensing foreign fishing activity.
- Policy briefs to target key national stakeholders with specific recommendations from CFF case studies.
- Increased local capacity within Tanzania and Kenya to develop alternative, more effective MSC strategies to maximise the benefits and regulate foreign fishing activities.
- Review of economic models used to maximise benefits from the control of foreign fishing.
- Synthesis document of the generic lessons learned from all case studies developed using the CFF economic model.

Next Steps

1. Confidential national reports will be generated and recommendations disseminated to key stakeholders

2. A regional level workshop on the Control of Foreign Fishing will be held to run and disseminate the following outputs:
   - Spreadsheet game of CFF model
   - Review of economic models
   - Generic lessons learned from the synthesis of case studies and previous research

   (Dates and times of the workshop will be confirmed.)

Contacts and Further information

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