

Adaptive Co-Management for Resilient Marine Systems

Anthony Charles

Management Science/Environment Studies
Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S. Canada. B3H 3C3

tony.charles@SMU.CA

Adaptive co-management is an approach to environmental and resource management that unifies two key aspects – adaptive management (the capability to learn and adapt under uncertain conditions and in the face of changing circumstances) and co-management (the sharing of management responsibilities among governments, resource users and resource-based communities).

Challenges to Resilience

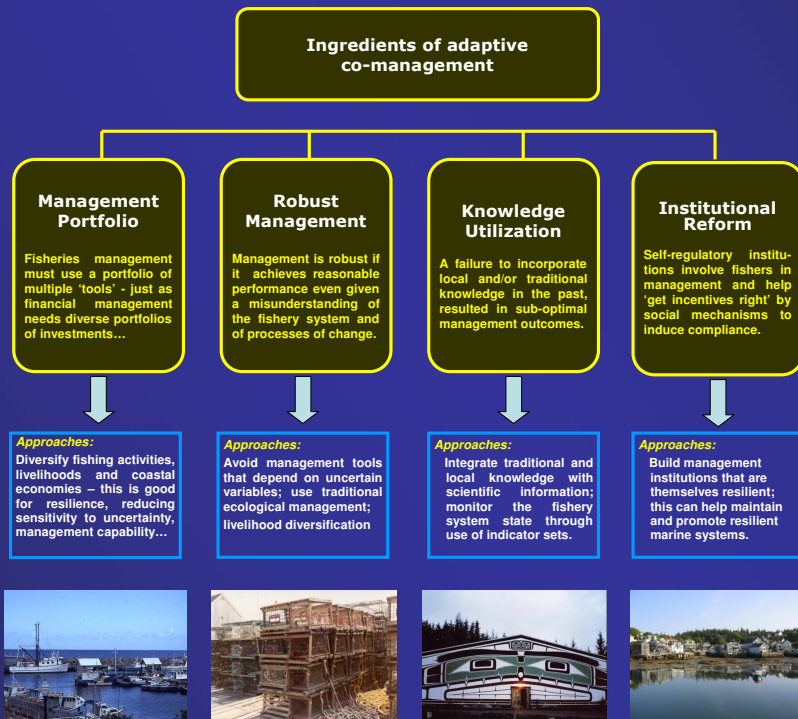
Illusion of Certainty

Management institutions for coastal and ocean resources are prone to an 'illusion of certainty' in which management takes place as if the world is certain and predictable (or as if major uncertainty can be ignored). This prevents management from recognizing and working within the bounds of the uncertainty.

Fallacy of Controllability

Resource management is intrinsically imperfect, with at best partial and imperfect 'controllability'. Unfortunately, this is not universally recognized: a 'fallacy of controllability' is often in place, reflecting a perception that more can be known, and more controlled, than can be realistically expected.

Moving toward Adaptive Co-Management



Building Capacity for Adaptive Co-Management... The Coastal CURA

The Coastal CURA is a "Community University Research Alliance" of First Nations communities, fishery-related groups and university participants, seeking to study and enhance community participation and governance of coastal resources.

Learning from Past Experience

REFLECTION & EVALUATION

- New Methodologies
- Ongoing Evaluation
- Reflection on the Past

Learning In the Present

CASE STUDIES AND COMPARISON

- Community Participation in Local Coastal Management
- Comparative Analysis

Planning for the Future

POLICY BUILDING

- Local Capacity
- Policy Overview
- Building Networks

Selected citations: A.T. Charles, "Adaptive Co-Management for Resilient Resource Systems: Some Ingredients and the Implications of their Absence". In: *Adaptive Co-Management* (D. Armitage, F. Berkes and N. Doubleday (editors). UBC Press, Vancouver, Canada, (2007); A.T. Charles, Sustainability and Resilience in Natural Resource Systems: Policy Directions and Management Institutions. Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems. Eds Publishers [www.eolss.net] (2004); D. Armitage, R. Plummer, F. Berkes, R. Arthur, A. Charles, I. Davidson-Hunt, A. Diduck, N. Doubleday, D. Johnson, M. Marschke, P. McConney, E. Pinkerton, and L. Wollenberg. "Adaptive co-management for social-ecological complexity", *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* (in press, 2008).

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