



What does Ecosystem-Based Management mean to me?

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Growing and Protecting New Zealand



An impossible task in 3–4 minutes?

- What does Ecosystem Based Management mean to you and what does it offer future management of the marine environment in NZ?
- As Ecosystem Based Management gains importance how might current and emerging interest groups have to change how they work together?
- What opportunities and constraints do you see for advancing Ecosystem Based Management in the next 5 years?

Who would dare define a civilised society?

But there seem to be common themes...

Agreed attributes

- Agriculture
- Living in cities
- Effective government
- Specialised roles
- Education
- Arts, culture, science
- Safety and defence
- Basic rights, freedoms
- Organised religion (?)

Disqualifiers?

- Greengrocers' apostrophe's
- Adverts between overs
- Bullying and intimidation
- Corporal punishment
- Incomplete suffrage
- Capital punishment
- Lawful persecution
- Slavery
- Destabilising other states
- Warmongering
- Genocide

So can we define Ecosystem-Based Management in terms of common themes?

Themes / attributes

- Holistic view
- All values considered
- Effective stock mgmt
- Impacts managed
- Interactions considered
- Precautionary approach
- Participation facilitated
- Effective governance
 - Rules of engagement
 - Tackling trade-offs
 - Institutions & processes

Thoughts

- Defining EAF tightly is a trap!
- More useful to define common themes
- Systems lie on a continuum
- “*Are we there yet?*” isn’t a helpful question
- Better questions are:
 - “*Have we made useful progress?*”
 - “*How are we doing against expectation?*”

What does Ecosystem Based Management offer?

- Better understanding of all values and objectives affected by decisions
- Better understanding of the trade-offs inherent in those decisions
- → More informed decisions
- → Better aggregate value obtained
- → Lower risks and fewer surprises (?)

How should stakeholders work together?

- Work with one another rather than always focussing on agencies
- Work with more stakeholders and interest groups than ever before
- Be explicit about their values and objectives (rather than advocating for particular regulatory outcomes)
- Understand and acknowledge other values and objectives
- Deal with higher-level objectives and reference points than ever before
- Use a variety of decision support tools to identify and “optimise” key trade-offs

Opportunities and constraints (5-year horizon)

- Plenty of flexibility within (e.g.) Fisheries Act and QMS to implement ecosystem approaches:
 - *“having regard to the interdependence of stocks”*
 - *“avoid remedy or mitigate any adverse effects”*
 - *“above a level that ensures ... long-term viability”*
 - *“any effects of fishing on any stock & the aquatic environment”*
 - *“cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable, inadequate”*
- Plenty of constraints too:
 - some old dogs will have to learn new tricks (or move on)
 - that includes institutions as well as people
 - money is always short
 - information is always thin