



# Sustainable Development: Social outcomes of structural adjustments in a South Australian fishery


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Dr. Kate J. Brooks on behalf of the  
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)  
in relation to the “Establishment of a coordination program for social sciences in  
the fishing industry”.

[kate@kalanalysis.com.au](mailto:kate@kalanalysis.com.au)



## Key Points

- Social aspects of triple bottom line assessments can provide valuable dimensions to industry assessment, strategic directions and policy program development.
  - Economic and ecological aspects of industry(s) can be facilitated or eroded by the social dimensions.
  - Benchmarking is required for effective and informative assessments.
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# Industry Structural Adjustment Assessments

This project:

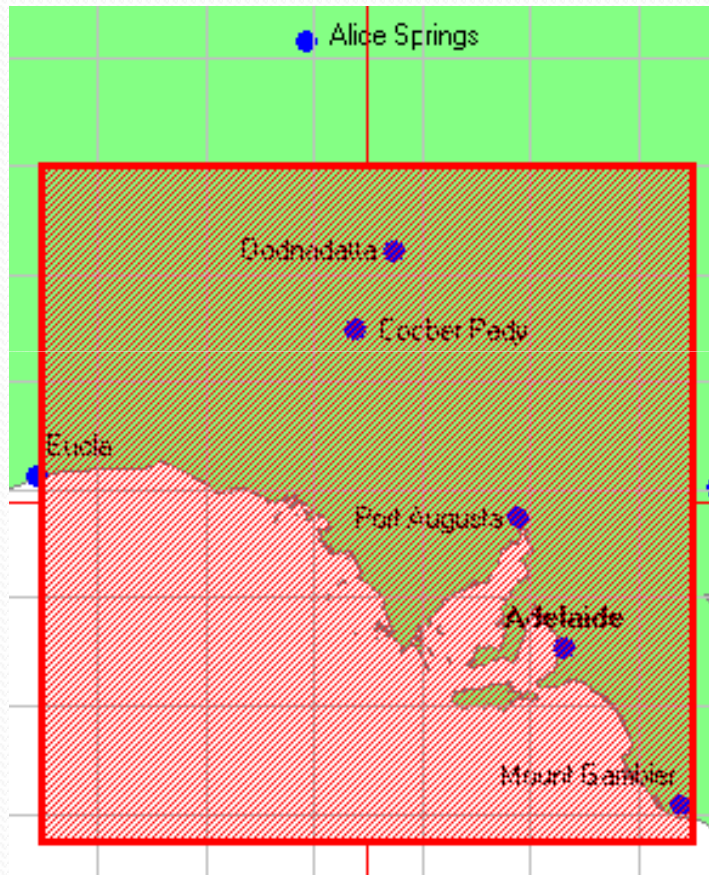
- Follow up to 2004 Assessment
- Project funded by FRDC
- Project Objective: identify the comprehensive impacts of structural adjustments compared to the objective.
- Aims: to inform future structural adjustment strategies.



## SA Marinescale Fishery 2004

- Need to reduce effort to increase the profitability of the industry ensure its survival.
- Also needed to reduce effort to reduce ecological impact on the fishery.
- Buyout of licenses
- Industry of 120 net licenses was reduced to 55 (reduction of 54%)

# Region of the Marinescale Fishery




- Effort shifts temporarily and spatially between species, depending on their relative abundance and value.
- Very geographically spread fishery
- Generally small single operators.





## 2007 Assessment

- Revisited the assessment undertaken in 2004;
  - Understandings of the social framework used – social capital – was increased;
  - Combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection;
  - Thirty seven (37) or 67% of the licences were taken into the sample. These were the active fishermen;
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# Economic & Ecological Findings

## '07 compared to '04

- Gross value of production decreased by 22% since 2004
- Average gross economic income per boat increased 79% compared to 2004, while cash costs per boat only increased by 48%.
- Cost of management for the net sector fell by 38%
- Net fishing effort and impact on stocks has been reduced by 35.7%

# Social implications

- 42.8% more respondents were satisfied that they received a fair income from their work.
- Satisfaction with job security had decreased by 7.8%.
- Fishing and community organisation membership dropped on average by 23.6%
- Satisfaction with level of control over significant decisions had decreased by 16.8%

## Bridging and linking social capital


- Increased percentage of friends and family worked in the industry (19.2%)
- Only 16.2% of respondents felt they had any power to effect change in the industry.








# Key Social Findings

- Bonding social capital has increased in the industry due to:
    - More focused social identity with industry
    - Increased effort required to catch up from decreased grounds.
  - Previous bonding networks have been embedded, decreasing flexibility and adaptability.
  - Minimal industry co-ordination (i.e. bridging to different geographic areas of the industry) and collaboration with government agencies.
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# Possible predictions

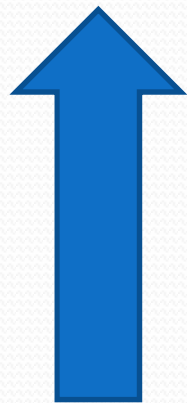
- Lack of new entrants to the industry will contribute to industry contraction and decline over the long term.
  - Adaptability of the industry has reduced and is likely to continue to do so
  - Despite increased economic returns, due to social dynamics, the industry continues to be under threat of non sustainability.
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# Outcomes

## Social Factors

- ↓ time to interact
- ↓ diversity in networks
- ↓ opportunity for new entrants

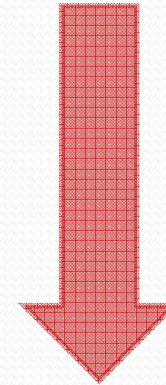
*Overall industry sustainability*



Economic Outcomes



Ecological Outcomes





# Summary

- Social research *can* be combined with economic and ecological assessments to provide a holistic assessment of an industry's status.
  - Benchmarking prior to adjustments is required for intelligent data analysis of impacts.
  - Focus on the economic and/or ecological factors of an industry alone, will not ensure its sustainability.
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