



ROCC
Resilience of Coastal Communities

Building social resilience for sustainable marine governance: Reflections on conceptual and methodological tensions

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RESILIENCE AS A POLICY IDEAL

Resilience is central to global policy agendas: climate action; disaster risk reduction, sustainable development...

Framed as a positive construct or normative goal

But resilience and vulnerability can co-exist in SES

UN Ocean Decade – Challenge 6: Increase community resilience to ocean hazards

“Enhance multi-hazard early warning services for all geophysical, ecological, biological, weather, climate and anthropogenic related ocean and coastal hazards, and mainstream community preparedness and resilience.”



RESILIENCE IN UK POLICY

Narrow application, mostly focusing on ecological resilience

UK National Adaptation Programme: ecological and social resilience to climate change.

25 Year Environmental Plan: resilience of homes, businesses, infrastructure and ecosystems.

Fisheries Bill: ecological resilience to climate change.



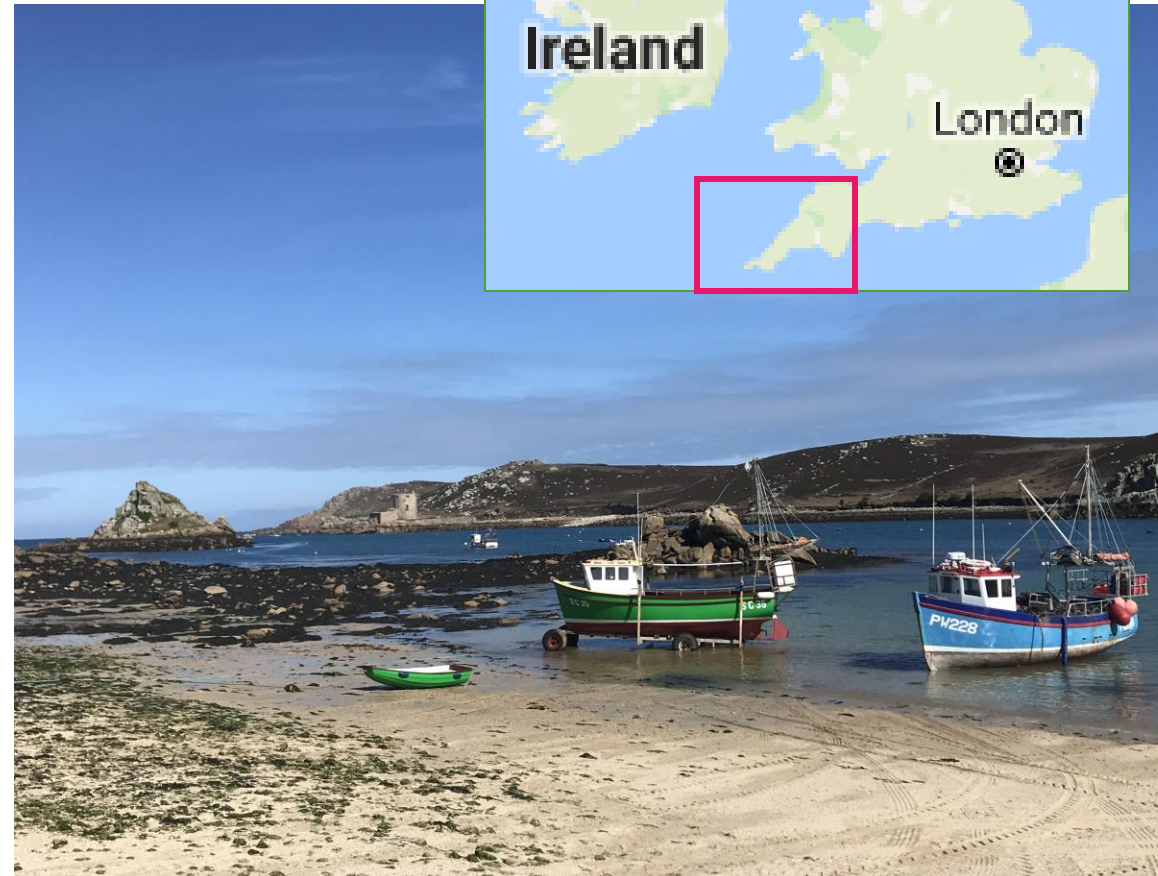
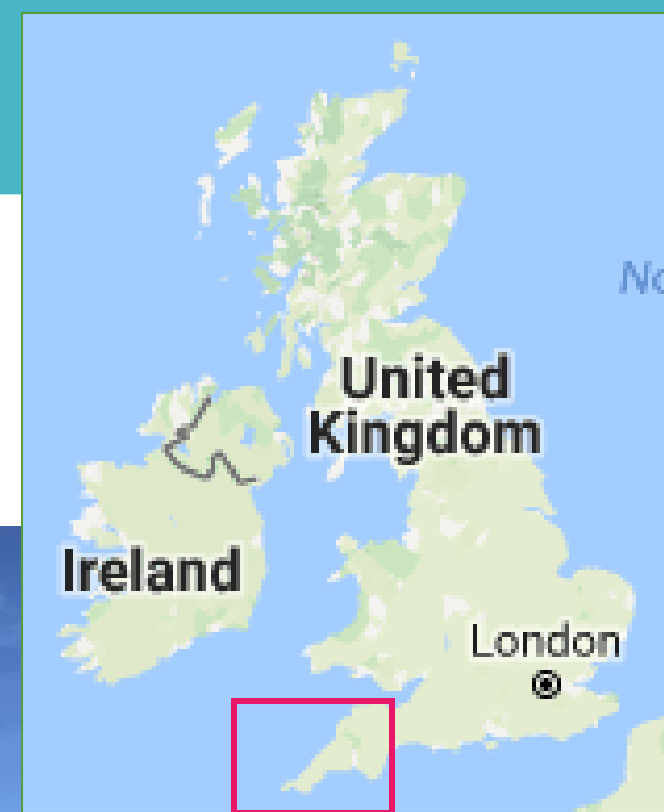
RESILIENCE IN LOCAL CLIMATE PLANS

Recognize the need to build community resilience to climate change

Isles of Scilly Climate Change Action Plan, 2022: promoting health, wellbeing and community resilience to enable responses to climate change.

Cornwall Climate Change Plan, 2019: focus on flood response, resilient housing, infrastructure, and businesses.

Devon Carbon Plan, 2022: creating a fairer, healthier, more resilient and more prosperous society.



SOCIAL RESILIENCE IN MARINE LIVELIHOOD SETTINGS

Social resilience increasingly applied as a lens, including in coastal settings

But more nuance needed in defining what constitutes social resilience

- Resilience to what?
- Resilience of whom?
- Resilience at what scale?

Complex interlinked social systems

- Potential conflicts or trade-offs between different social systems

Equitable social resilience – a social justice approach (Haynes et al. 2023)

The ability of a social unit (individual, family, community) to adapt in the face of external social, political or environmental stresses and disturbances.
(Adger, 2000)

“The council pretty much prevent you from doing anything...That can be incredibly frustrating because the reason why we have never made any big changes is because the council simply won't allow us to make any big changes.” (Tourism)

“That whole regulatory burden on you is actually making fishermen mentally unwell and ruining, I think to a certain extent, the fishing industry, particularly the small scale fishermen on the smaller boats.” (Fishing)

RESILIENCE TO WHAT?

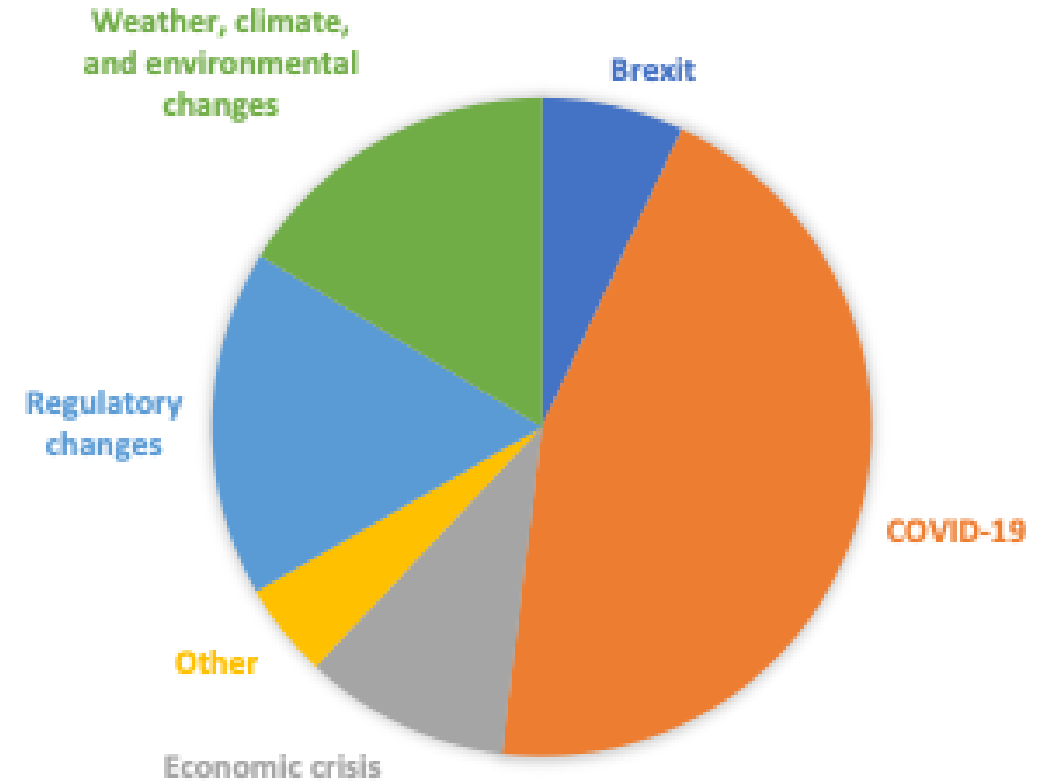
Multiple intersecting disruptions

- Slow gradual changes – e.g. regulatory shifts; declining species availability;
- Sudden changes and shocks – e.g. storms, COVID-19.

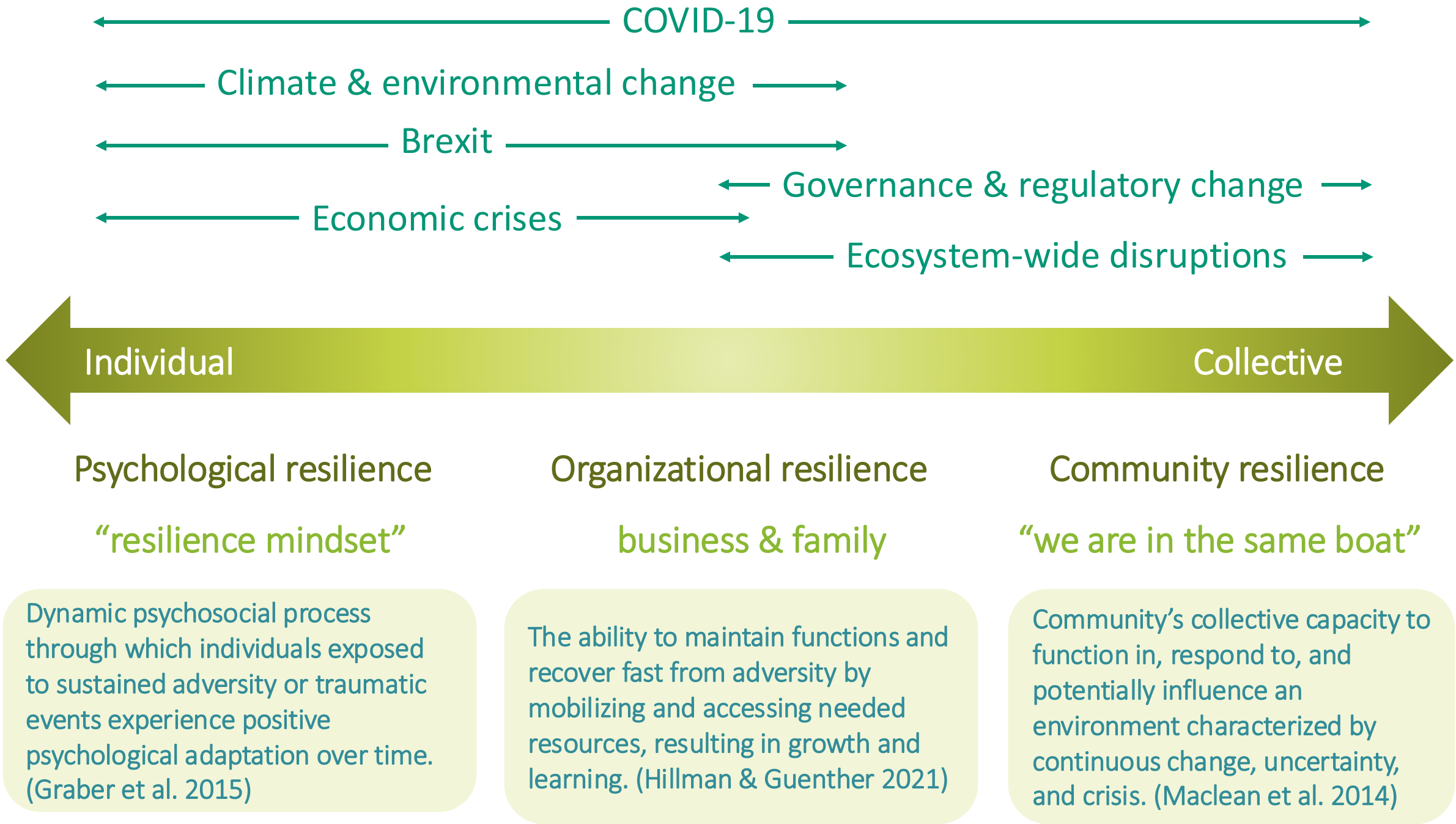
Differentiated impacts and capacity to respond

- Across different livelihoods
- Across different groups within the same industry sector
- Based on other characteristics

DISRUPTIONS WHICH HAD THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT



*"[I]t was the perfect storm this summer. We had the wind, then we had the rain, then we had the closure of the railway."
(Tourism)*



COVID-19

Climate & environmental change

Brexit

Governance & regulatory change

Economic crises

Ecosystem-wide disruptions

Individual

Collective

Psychological resilience

Organizational resilience

Community resilience

“resilience mindset”

business & family

“we are in the same boat”

Dynamic psychosocial process through which individuals exposed to sustained adversity or traumatic events experience positive psychological adaptation over time. (Graber et al. 2015)

The ability to maintain functions and recover fast from adversity by mobilizing and accessing needed resources, resulting in growth and learning. (Hillman & Guenther 2021)

Community’s collective capacity to function in, respond to, and potentially influence an environment characterized by continuous change, uncertainty, and crisis. (Maclean et al. 2014)

RESILIENCE FOR WHOM?

Strong resilience or “growth” mindset

- Positive attitude and focus on solutions and opportunities

“I'm a bit of an optimist, really, I suppose. I always see the best way of things or the best way forward or a completely different way forward.” (Fishing)

Strong relational aspect to social resilience

- Being resilient for others
- Being resilient with others
- Supporting the resilience of others

“When you've got a supportive owner who backs you and helps you out when times are bad and things like that. He's very supportive and if something was to happen that the boat couldn't go sea, which is no fault of our own he will then from that other portion of money help us out.” (Fishing)



RESILIENCE AT WHAT SCALE?

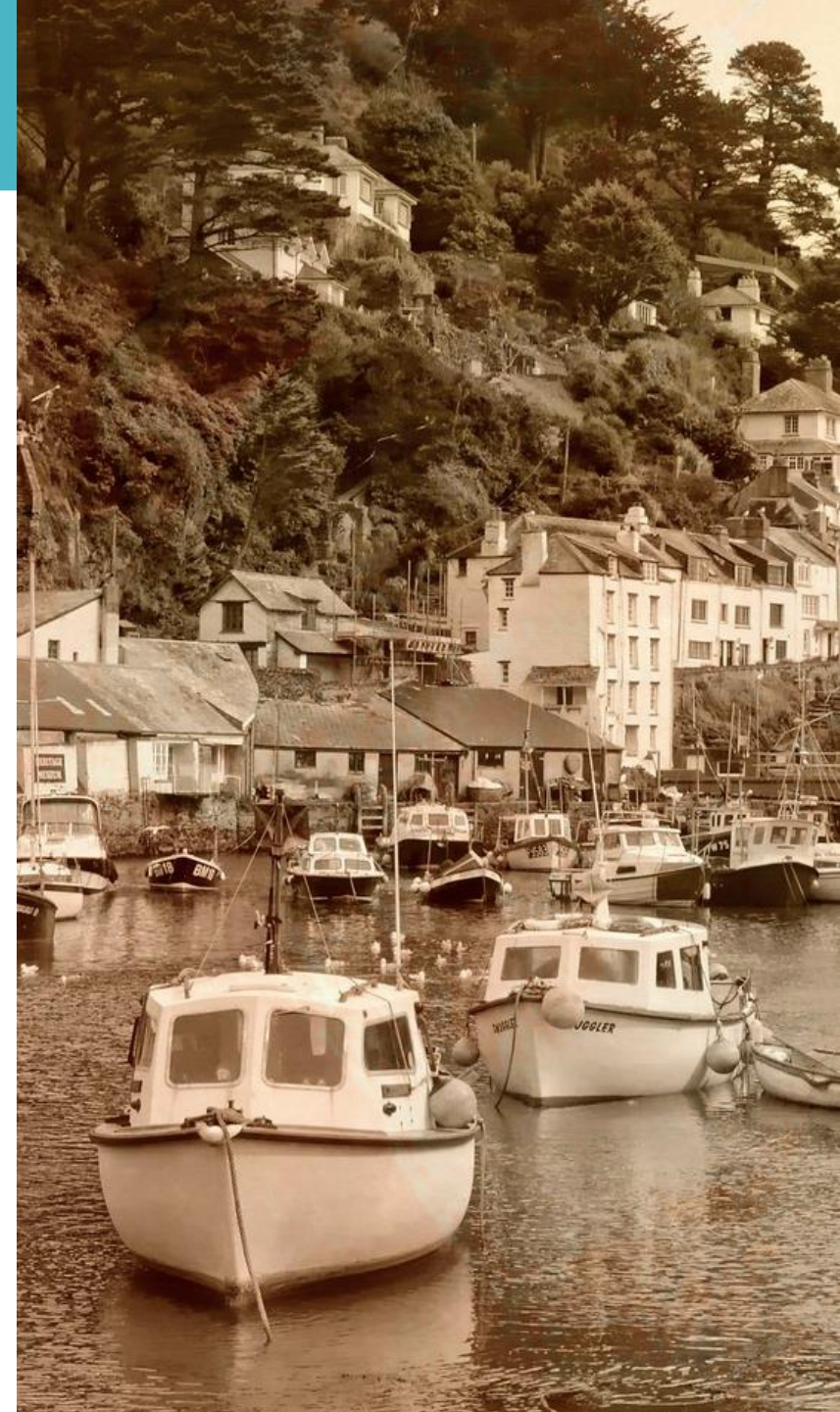
The resilience of one social system can undermine the resilience of another

Trade-offs between different components of a social system at the same level

- Small scale vs larger fishing fleets
- Women's resilience vs the resilience of fishing families and businesses (Szaboova, Gustavsson and Turner, 2022)

Macro level social processes and systems undermine micro level resilience

- Regulatory regimes undermine the resilience of a marine livelihood group, or an entire community



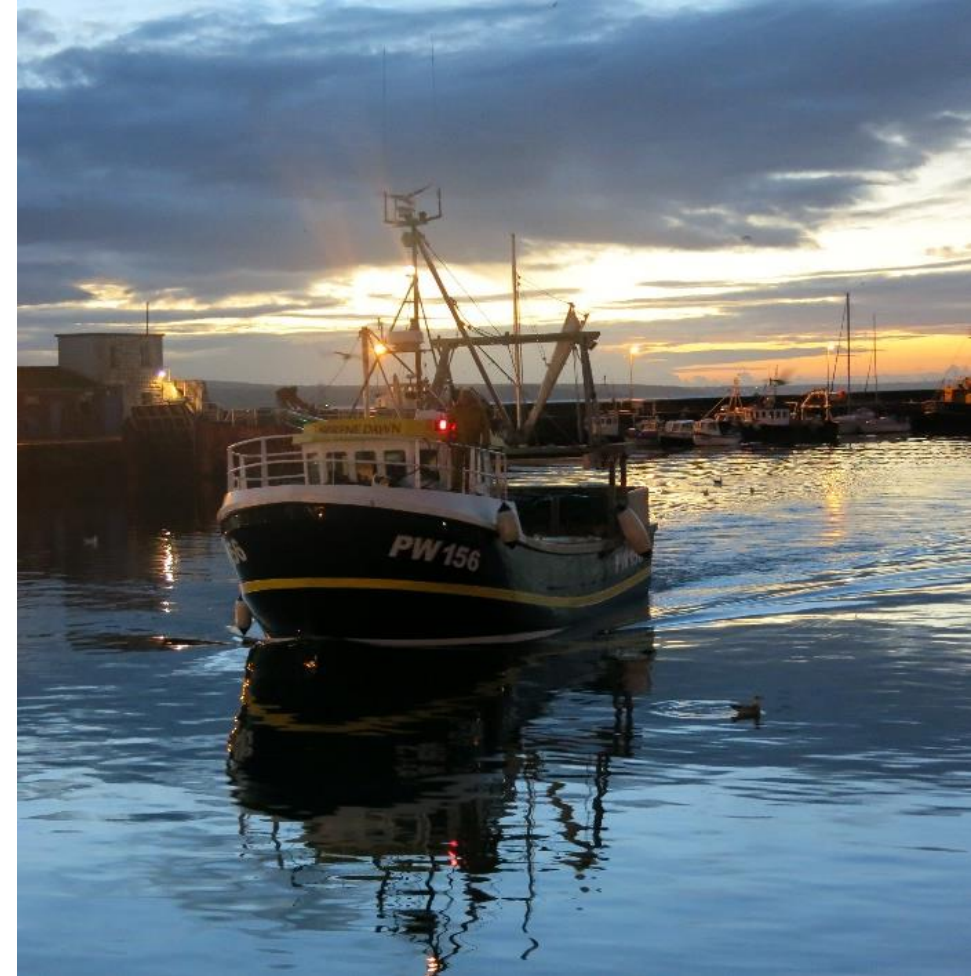
EVALUATING COASTAL SOCIAL RESILIENCE

What should be evaluated?

- Social resilience as a process
- Capacities, outcomes...
- Multiple intersecting changes, disruptions or shocks
- Involves multiple social scales
- Unit of measurement (household, business, individual...)

How it should be evaluated?

- Insights/approaches from research on psychological, organizational and community resilience
- Capability approach lens to marine livelihood resilience (see Szaboova 2023; Sheperd and Dissart, 2022).



THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?

Learn more about the ROCC Project:

<https://www.smmr.org.uk/funded-projects/resilience-of-coastal-communities/>

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