



From 'fishing communities' to 'coastal communities'

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Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Gadigal and Cammeraygal peoples upon whose lands I live and work.

I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, and any Indigenous people here today, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for land and sea Country.

From fishing communities to coastal communities

Lessons from Japan and Australia on science and policy as commercial fisheries activity declines



Image: Yinji Li

Conceptual approaches for the problem - **community based** is key

Two existing bodies of research -
SSF in southeastern Australia
SSF in eastern Japan

A potential project to share lessons learned, to promote community revitalisation

Policy ideas
Community-based action research

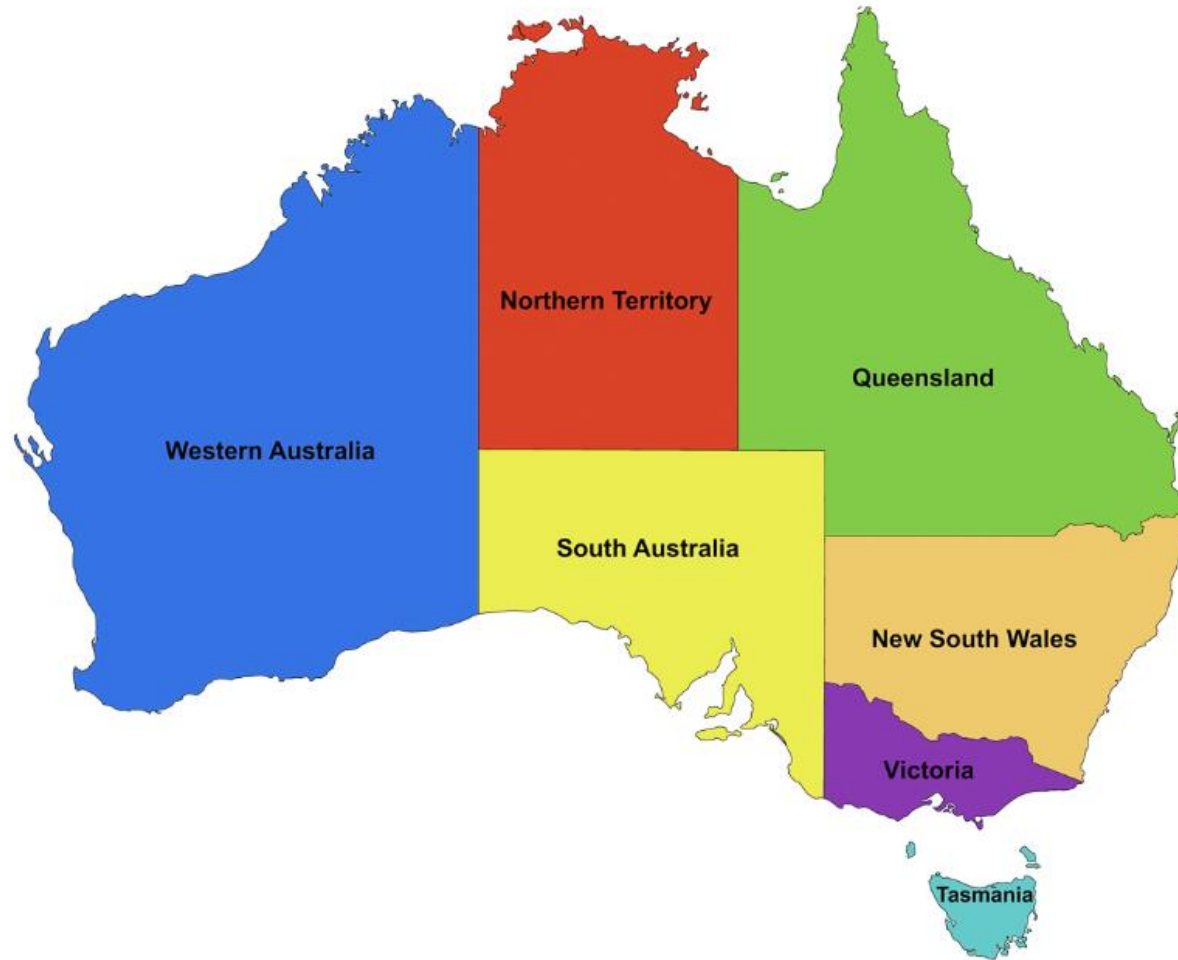


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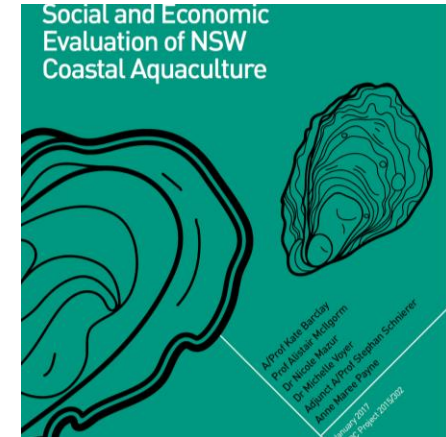
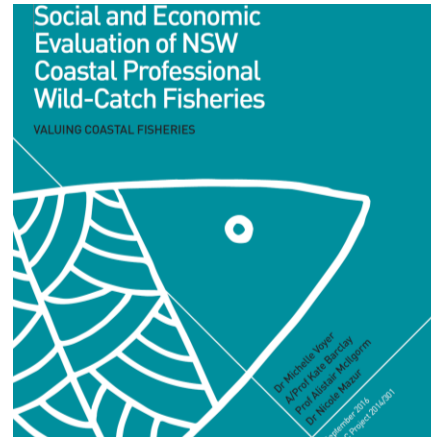
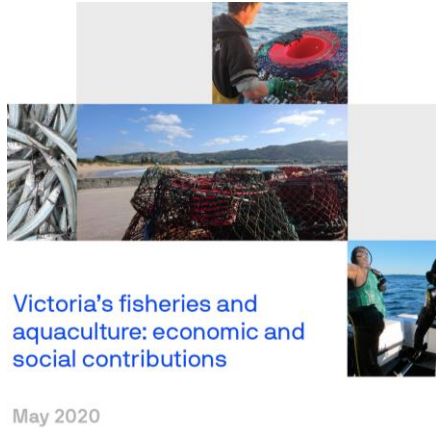
Context

Problems faced by SSF in Australia and Japan

Map of States in Australia



Research on SSF in southeastern Australia



Economic surveys of fishing and aquaculture businesses: n=52

Semi-structured interviews with fishers, aquaculturists and other stakeholders: n=140

Phone surveys Victorian public n=1,154, seafood processors, traders, hospitality, tourism: n=150

Economic surveys of fishing businesses: n=57

Semi-structured interviews with fishers and other stakeholders: n=164

Phone surveys NSW n=1,423, seafood processors, traders, hospitality, tourism: n=77

Economic surveys of aquaculture businesses: n=27

Semi-structured interviews with aquaculturists and other stakeholders: n=34

Phone surveys aquaculture was covered with fisheries in the Wild-Catch project

SSF in southeastern Australia



Problems faced by SSF in southeastern Australia

- High production costs relative to imported seafood
- General lack of public support for professional fishing – ‘overfishing’ discourse
- Recreational fishing lobby (big) opposes professional fishing
- Lack of public support translates to lack of political support
- Regulatory shifts towards quota management and industry consolidation over SSF
- Banning of professional fishing in favour of recreational fishing
- Restriction of professional fishing in marine protected areas

Unfavourable policy environment

King, T.J., & O'Meara, D. (2019). 'The people have spoken': how cultural narratives politically trumped the best available science (BAS) in managing the Port Phillip Bay fishery in Australia. *Maritime Studies*, 18(1), 17–29. doi:10.1007/s40152-018-0097-5.

The removal of netting in Port Phillip Bay is a key component of the Andrews Government's 'Target One Million' plan for recreational fishing.
– Jaala Pulford,
Victorian Minister of Agriculture, 2016

Problems faced by SSF in Australia - references

Barclay, K., Davila, F., Kim, Y., McClean, N., McIlgorm, A. (2020). Economic analysis and social and economic monitoring following the NSW Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program. Sydney: Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1256128/Economic-analysis-and-Social-and-Economic-monitoring-following-the-NSW-Commercial-Fisheries-Business-Adjustment-Program.pdf.

King, T.J. (2018, 19 October). Project regard. Youtube video of Australian fishers and family members talking about mental health struggles. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-QQqx3qGck>.

King, T.J., Abernethy, K., Brumby, S., Hatherell, T., Kilpatrick, S., Munksgaard, K., Turner, R. (2019). Sustainable fishing families: developing industry human capital through health, wellbeing, safety and resilience. Research project. FRDC 2016-400. Canberra: Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Deakin University, Western District Health Service, University of Tasmania, and University of Exeter.

Minnegal, M., & Dwyer, P.D. (2008). Managing risk, resisting management: stability and diversity in a Southern Australian fishing fleet. *Human Organization*, 67(1), 97–108. doi:10.17730/humo.67.1.x38g60k463p26855.

Coastal fisheries in Japan: 80% small-scale, 90% family businesses

Project sites in Japan

Miyagi Prefecture

- Higashimatsushima (Ishinomaki Bay)



Futoshi Aizawa
Partner
Aizawa Fishery
Japan

Futoshi Aizawa is the Head of Aizawa Omagarihama, Higashi-Matsushima (3rd generation of nori fishers, whose life-time). He is also the vice president of Fisheries Cooperative Association. A Imperial Family Award in 2009, which



Shizuoka Prefecture

- Inatori (East Coast)
- Yui (Suruga Bay)
- Mochimune (Suruga Bay)



Masakazu Saito
Partner
Mochimune Branch of Shimizu Association
Japan
Masakazu Saito has been the President of the Mochimune Branch of Shimizu Association since 2011. He is also the President of the Shimizu Prefecture Fisheries Association.



Junichi Miyahara
Partner
Yui Fisheries Cooperative Association
Japan
Junichi Miyahara has been the President of the Yui Fisheries Cooperative Association since 2007. He is also the President of the Yui Fisheries Cooperative Association.



Miki Jitsuishi
Partner
Yui Fisheries Cooperative Association, Women Group
Japan
Miki Jitsuishi was born in 1955 and graduated from the Department of Marine Science and Technology, Tokai University. She is currently a member of the Yui Fisheries Cooperative Women's Group. She is also the president of the Shizuoka Prefecture Sakura Shrimp Fisheries Association. From 2019 to 2021, she served as the chairman of the Shizuoka Prefecture Fisheries Cooperative Federation. Currently, she is participating in activities related to gender issues in fisheries, such as Girls Who Fish Japan. Miki Jitsuishi is a member of the Japanese International Fisheries Association.



Kuwashi Suzuki
Partner
Inatori Branch of Izu Fisheries Association
Japan
Kuwashi Suzuki is the President of the Inatori Branch of Izu Fisheries Association. He is also the Chairman and the committee member of the Adjustment Commission. He has been active in fisheries in 2020.

Japan research

Methods

Literature research

Statistical survey

National, prefectural, municipal statistics

Qualitative interviews with fishers

Quantitative questionnaires with fishers



Image: Yinji Li

Despite their roles and importance in securing fisheries sustainability, Japanese small-scale fisheries face various challenges today.



Economic problems faced by SSF in eastern Japan

How to increase fishing household income?

- From fishing
- From non-fishing businesses

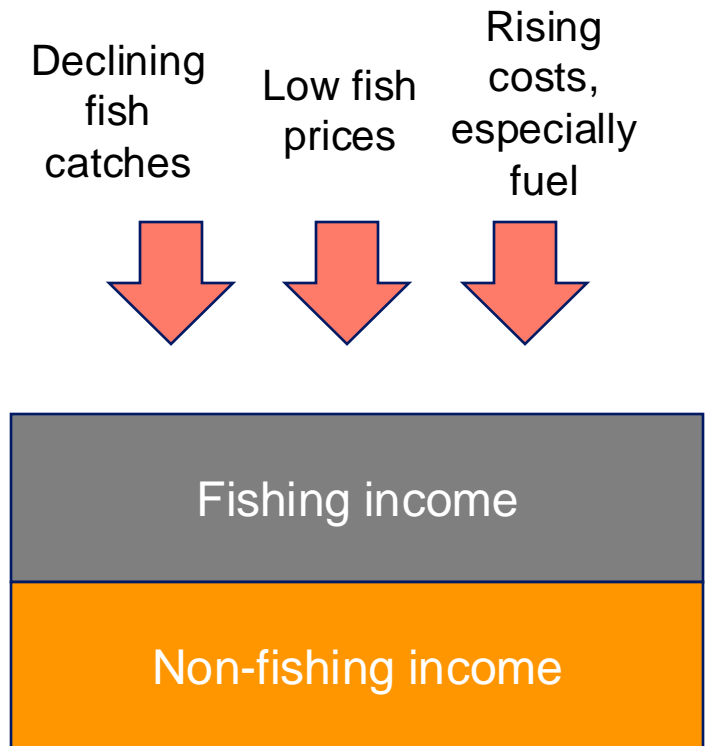
How to increase non-fishing income?

- Processing?
- Recreational fishing?
- Fishing culture/traditions tourism?
- Fishing guest house accommodation?
- Fisher restaurant?
- Environmental education?

Who and how to develop new income streams?

- Fisher organisations?
- Cooperation with others?

‘Triple whammy’



Previous policy landscape for coastal fisheries in Japan

Iso wa jitsuki, oki wa irai

For several hundred years the policy principle for coastal fisheries was that nearshore resources were for coastal community use, and offshore areas were accessible by outsiders and larger businesses

- Fishery rights held in local fishery groups (became Cooperatives)
- Entry limits
- Informal, local rules
- Voluntary management groups



Image Yinji Li

A recent policy change that enables private capital to enter coastal fisheries has caused great concerns about the situation.

◆ What's happening in Japan?



New Fishery Act was enacted in December 2018 for the first time in about 70 years.

Growth industrialization
成長産業化
Sei cho san gyo ka

Japan to revise decadesold fishery system in attempt to bring in newcomers

KYODO

The Cabinet on Tuesday approved bills that would rewrite the country's fishery laws for the first time in about 70 years as it seeks to encourage more people to start fish farming and revive the shrinking industry.

Under the envisioned system, prefectural governments will no longer prioritize local fishery operators and cooperatives in granting fishing rights, enabling new firms and others to enter the industry more easily.

The clause will not apply if the existing fishery operators are making full use of their fishing grounds.

"We need to secure highly motivated fishing operators and have them fully

NOV 6, 2018

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02

Conceptual approaches

Ways we can think about coastal
community revitalisation

Blue growth and blue justice: Ten risks and solutions for the ocean economy

Nathan James Bennett ^{a, b}, Jessica Blythe ^c, Carole Sandrine White ^{d, e}, Cecilia Campero ^f

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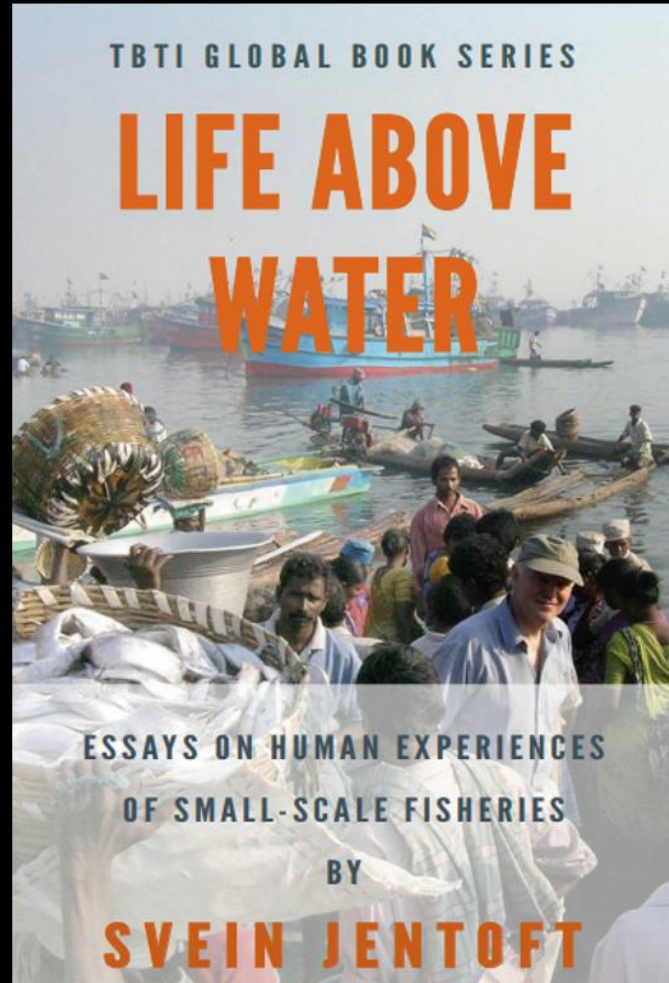
Securing a Just Space for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Blue Economy

Philippa J. Cohen^{1,2*}, Edward H. Allison^{1,3}, Neil L. Andrew⁴,
Joshua Cinner², Louisa S. Evans^{2,5}, Michael Fabinyi⁶, Len R. Garces¹



3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (Oct 2018 Chiangmai, Thailand. Image: Yinji Li

Life Above Water for Life Below Water



MARE 基調講演
Svein Jentoft 教授



アムステルダム
June 25, 2019

*Life above water
is essential for
securing the life
below water,
and must be
nurtured
structurally...*



There is no reason to believe that bureaucrats and politicians, no matter how well meaning, are better at solving problems than the people on the spot, who have the strongest incentive to get the solution right.

— Elinor Ostrom —

AZ QUOTES

エリノア・オストロム (Elinor Ostrom, 1933年-2012年)

日高 健

Satoumi

2016



・里海をマネジメントする・
里海と沿岸域管理

地域の
再生

19

夏
小説

海業の時代

漁村活性化に向けた地域の挑戦

Umigyo

2013

農文協

漁業
Gyogyo
(Fishery)



漁
Fishing



業
Source
of living

Fishery resources

海業
Umigyō



海
Marine



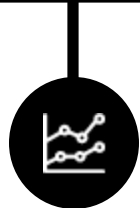
業
Source
of living

Community resources

	Gyogyo (漁業)	Umigyō (海業)
Object	Aquatic animals and plants	All aquatic animals and plants, marine and coastal areas, and amenity resources
Area of economic activities	Production to distribution	Production to consumption, recreation/leisure
Nature of targeting market	Food market	Food market, leisure market, education and culture market, etc

Key conceptual points

Subheading



Blue Economy needs a **justice lens**



That means Blue Economy activities for rural revitalisation should be **by and for community members** (not outsiders, not experts, not politicians)



Focus shift from fisheries as a sector, to **place and community focus**

Shift to whole seafood value chains, other marine activities



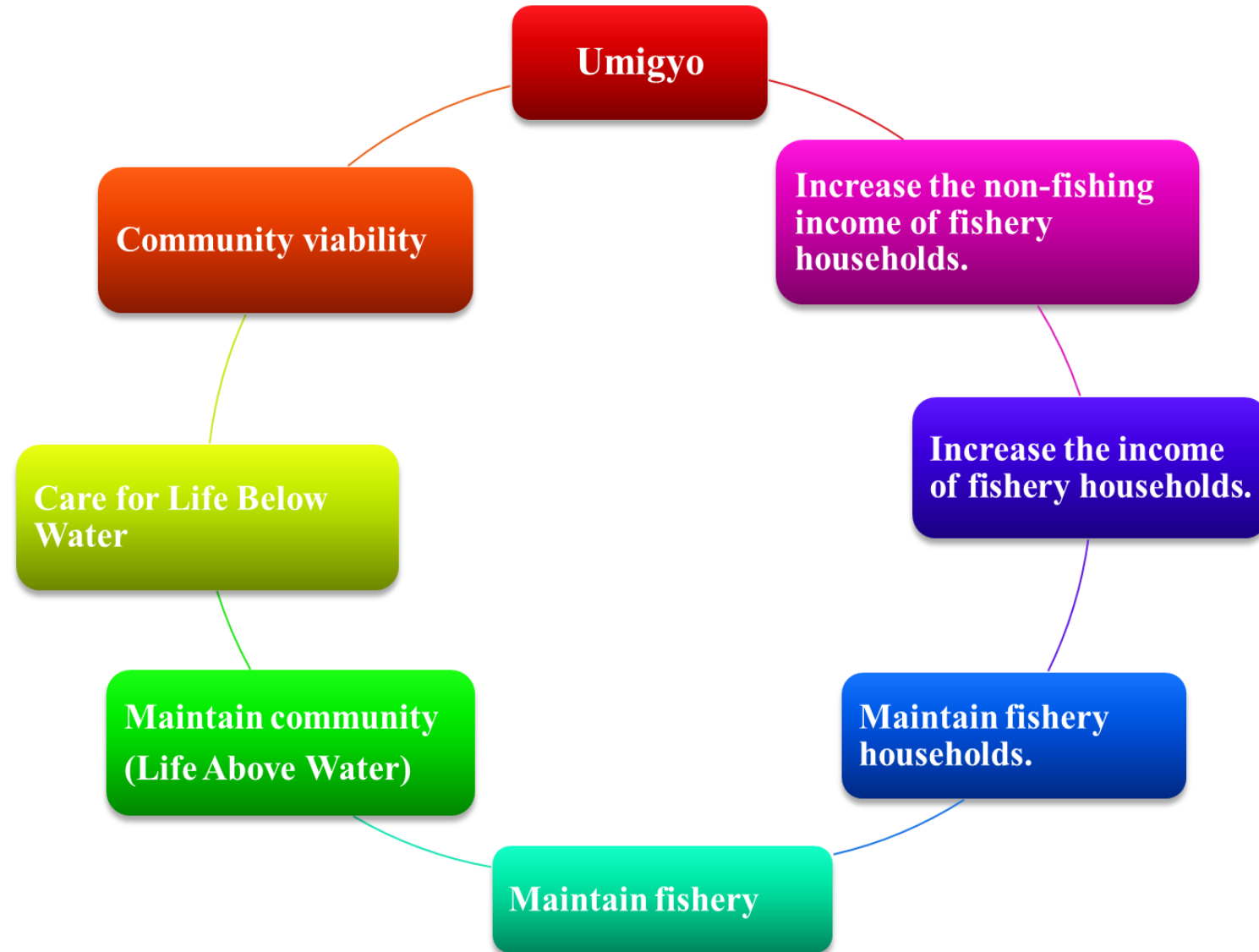


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Solutions so far

Ideas emerging from the research and participants

Umigyo solution

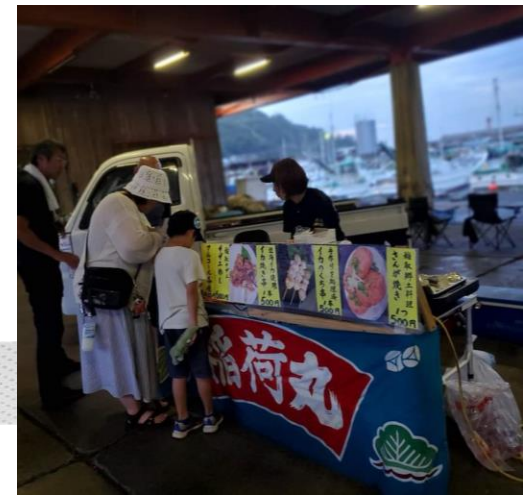


Fostering new goals and challenges

Fish processing, port-side seafood bar, stall, etc



Images: Yinji Li



Solutions in Australia

<p>Seafood Industry Australia NSW Professional Fishermen's Association Seafood Industry Victoria</p>	<p>Individual operators upgrade in value chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shorten supply chain• Processing (value add)	<p>Relationship building other sectors to solve problems together, and gain allies for policy decisions</p>
<p>Relationships with tourism organisations</p>	<p>Relationships with the food service & food retail sector</p>	<p>Relationships with the general public Especially recreational fishers</p>

Strengthen relationships with tourism organisations



Fresh is best

Shop for fresh local produce at the Candelo Markets, on the first Sunday of every month. In Eden, take a picnic hamper and pack it with award-winning products from [Eden Smokehouse](#), fresh Twofold Bay mussels from [Snug Cove](#), and local farm produce from [Sprout Eden](#) grocer and cafe.

For a catch-and-eat fishing tour, [Bermagui Bait and Tackle](#) can arrange everything from game fishing off Montague Island to a half-day reef fishing trip. And for a combination of all the wonderful produce of the area, visit [Eat Merimbula](#), the premium food festival of the Sapphire Coast.

Local Produce and Seafood Highlights



Feedback

Strengthen relationships with the food service and food retail sectors

Logistics & supply chains re-orient to local outlets

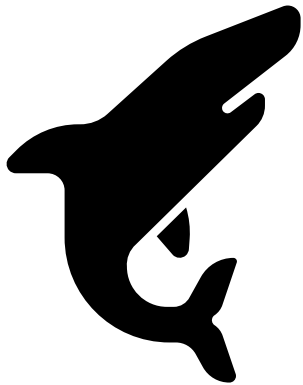
Expanding the use of local seafood in restaurants

Increasing access to underutilised species

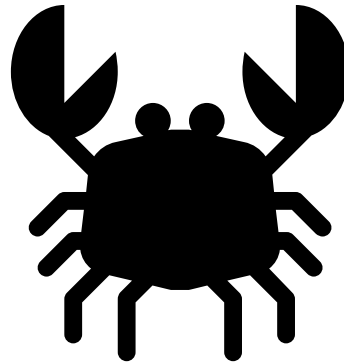


Image credit: Apollo Bay Co-op

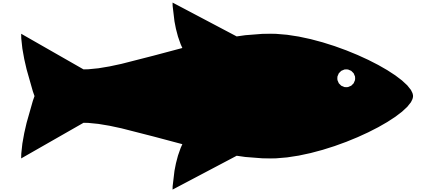
Strengthen relationships with the general public, especially recreational fishers



Address
misperception that all
professional fishing is
unsustainable



Show the sector's
environmental
credentials



Highlight
contribution to food
supply

Takeaways

“Community based” is key.

Think outside fisheries & aquaculture sector, think place, think relationships.

Revitalisation by and for local people.

- *Umigyo, Satoumi*, Blue Economy with a Blue Justice lens, Life Above Water
- Deep co-design, co-production
- Start with collaborative workshops in communities
- Generate ideas from within communities, support communities to undertake them
- Public communication, policy advocacy



Image: Yinji Li



ありがとうございます

Thank you!

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Fishing for sardines in Port Phillip Bay
Credit: Kirsten Abernethy

