



Which communities have standing and how? Developing regional marine resource management and assessment frameworks in Western Australia

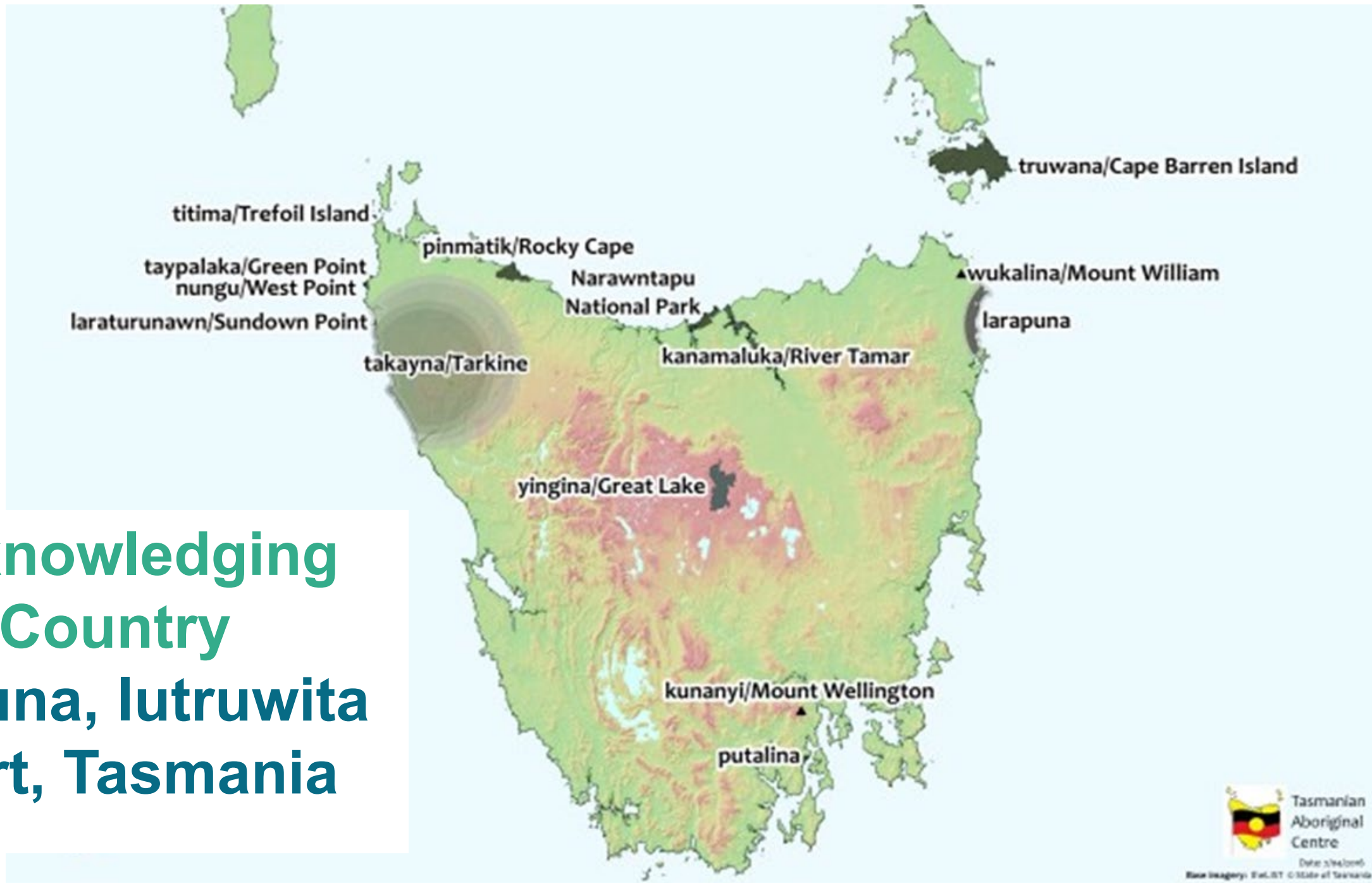
Emily M. Ogier^{1,2}, Sarah Jennings^{1,2}, Klaas Hartmann^{1,2},
Jenny Shaw³, Caleb Gardner¹

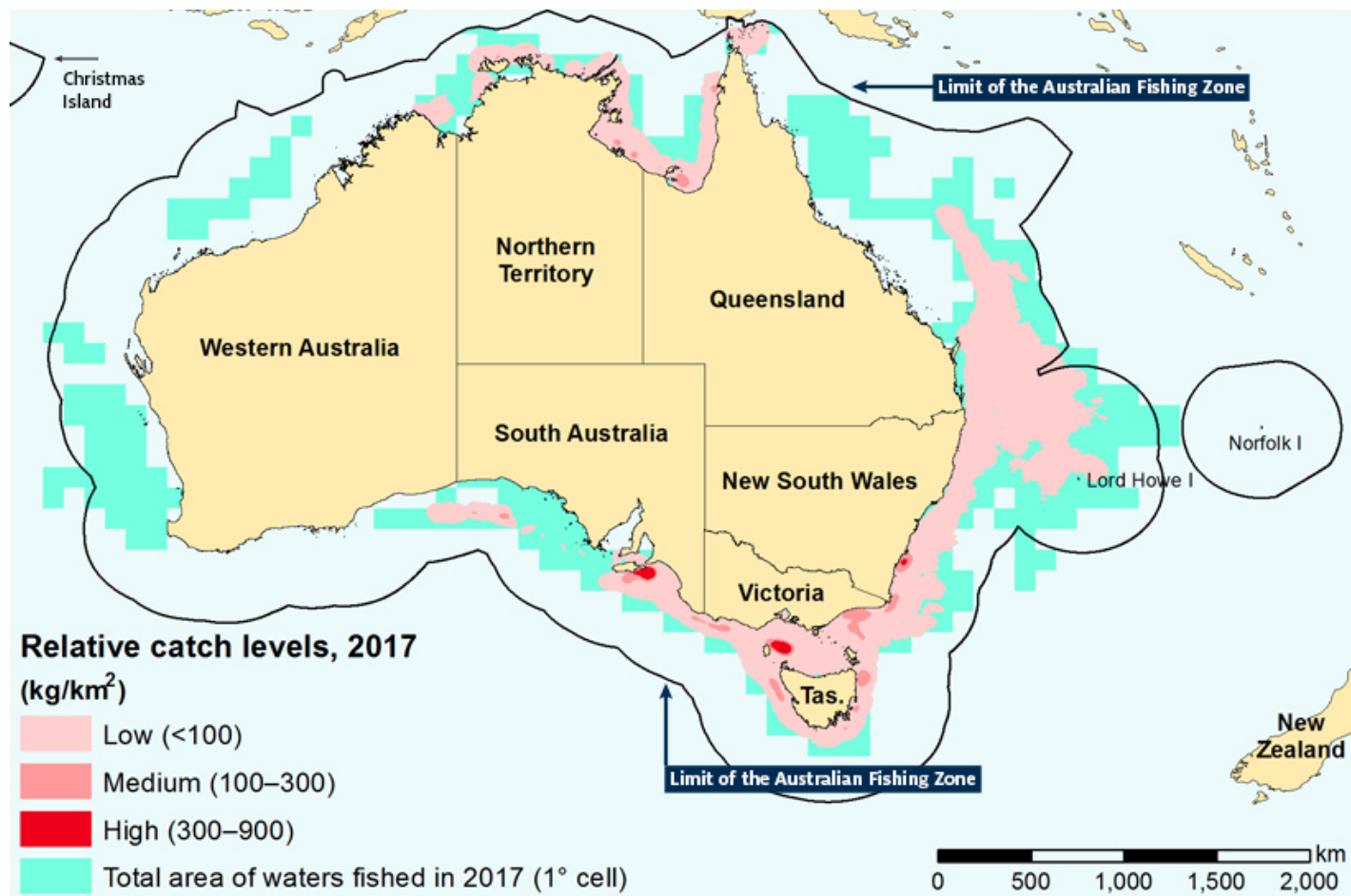
¹ Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

² Centre for Marine Socioecology, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

³ Western Australian Marine Science Institute, Perth, Australia

Acknowledging Country nipaluna, lutruwita Hobart, Tasmania







FISHING GUIDE TO

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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Study design

Methods:

- Legal and policy document analysis to identify the legal and policy scope
- Structured interviews of key-informants (fishers, fishing representatives, seafood retailers, tackle shop traders, fisheries managers)
- Structured discussions held as part of the proceedings of annual Management Meetings and Advisory group



Fish Resources Management Act 1994

The objects of this Act are —

(b) to share and conserve the State's fish and other aquatic resources and their habitats for **the benefit of present and future generations.**

Those objects will be achieved by these means in particular —

(d) fostering the sustainable development of commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture, including the establishment and management of aquaculture facilities
for community or commercial purposes;

(e) achieving the **optimum economic, social and other benefits** from the use of fish resources;



Customary fishing policy

“Customary fishing applies to an Aboriginal person who has a traditional connection with the area being fished, or has the permission of Traditional Owners to fish the area, and is fishing for personal, domestic, ceremonial, educational or non-commercial needs.”

Traditional Owners currently have no legally-recognised primacy in rights beyond customary fishing policy.

At the time, a new statutorily recognised entity is being proposed – the Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council.



Growing Aboriginal fishing opportunities in WA's north

The Cook Government is collaborating with Aboriginal Traditional Owners to unlock fishing opportunities in the Kimberley.

- Cook Government joins with Kimberley Indigenous Salt Water Advisory Group to coordinate fishing priorities in the State's north
- Two-year initiative to explore marine research, customary fishing and economic development opportunities for mud crab, sea cucumber and black lip oyster

The Cook Government is collaborating with Aboriginal Traditional Owners to unlock fishing opportunities in the Kimberley.

The Indigenous Salt Water Advisory Group (ISWAG), comprised of nine Kimberley Traditional Owner groups based on saltwater country, will join with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to drive key Aboriginal fishing initiatives.

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Ministers



Hon. Don Punch

Minister for Regional Development

Policy direction – What types of benefits? (inferred)

Economic returns
from commercial
activity

Livelihoods from
commercial
activity

Food flow to
consumers and
food sectors
(regional/state)

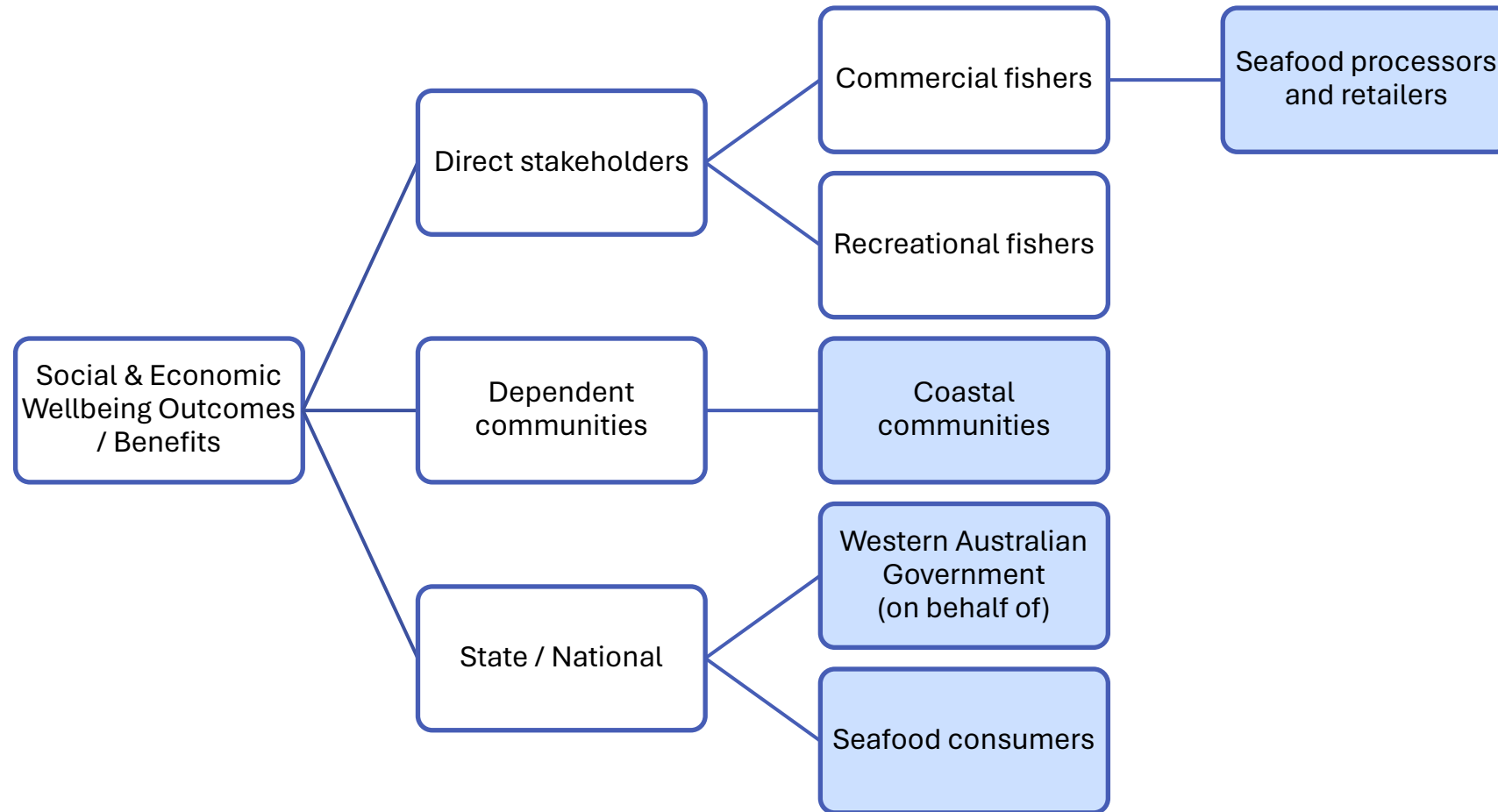
Recreational
opportunity and
amenity

Recreational
experience and
satisfaction

Increased
economic
contribution to
region/state

Heritage and
visual amenity of
fleets and fishing
activity

Policy direction – Who has standing / benefits? (inferred)

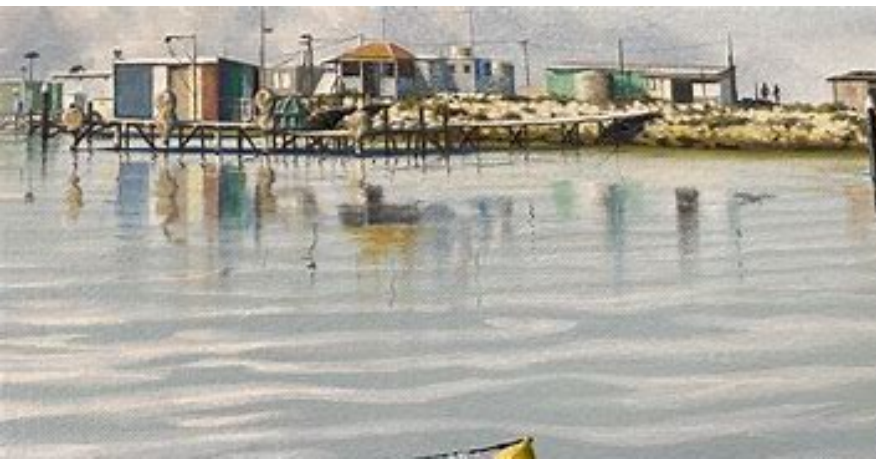


The image features a close-up of a Western Rock Lobster, showing its dark green carapace and reddish-brown legs. The lobster is positioned on the right side of the frame. In the top left corner, there is a white rectangular box containing the text 'Western ROCK LOBSTER' and 'World leading sustainable fishery'. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a boat's deck or a similar outdoor setting.

Western
**ROCK
LOBSTER**

World leading sustainable fishery

Western Rock Lobster fishery



Current primary objective (implicit, not yet verified)

1. Maximise economic yield to fishing licence and quota unit holders
2. Food flow to regional consumers

Who has standing? (note – inferred, not yet verified)

1. Fishing rights holders (ITQ units and fishing entitlements)
 - 1.1 Dependent communities (Kalbarri, Abrolhos Islands, Geraldton, Jurien, Cervantes, Lancelin)
2. Regional seafood consumers

Inferred ‘community’ benefit pathways (note – not yet verified)

1. MEY target and ITQ system enables economic efficiency and maximising economic yield flowing to and retained by licence and quota holders
 - 1.1 Spending economic yield and reinvestment within the local economy by locally-based owners of fishing rights as a mechanism to more widely distribute economic yield, and/or through economic contribution to Gross Regional Product (GVA), indirect FTE etc.)
2. Back-of-boat program in which fishers sell lobster caught from a dedicated allocation (<1%) direct from boat to consumer



South Coast Nearshore and Estuarine fishery



Current primary objective (implicit, not yet verified)

1. Maintain fisher livelihoods, and through this fishing heritage
2. Food flow to regional consumers
3. Recreational amenity through participation



Who has standing? (note – inferred only, not yet verified)

1. Fishing rights holders (fishing entitlements)
2. Regional seafood consumers
3. Recreational fishers

Inferred ‘community’ benefit pathways (note – not yet verified)

1. Low level of input and output controls on fishers permits flexible fishing operations. Fishers are able to maintain fishing operations and local informal collection actions agreed between fishers regarding fishing grounds, timing, shared access etc.
2. Fishers sell part of their catches to local consumers directly at local markets and to local seafood wholesalers and retailers
2. Low level of input and output controls on fishers permits flexible/year-round recreational fishing opportunities. Recreational fishers from all over WA are able to travel in holiday periods to participate.



What next?

Q1. Verification with stakeholders of initial findings, and subsequent revision

.... Further development of method for objective elicitation to ensuring salience, credibility and legitimacy

.....Develop benefit flow (conceptual) models for each objective/ beneficiary bundle and test these with stakeholders and use these in Q2.

Q2. What are legally-based, equitable and transparent processes for selecting and justifying the primary objective for fishery management?

Seeking constructive dialogue!

Emily.Ogier@utas.edu.au