



Fisheries management planning and the role of stakeholders

August 01, 2023
Can Tho, Vietnam



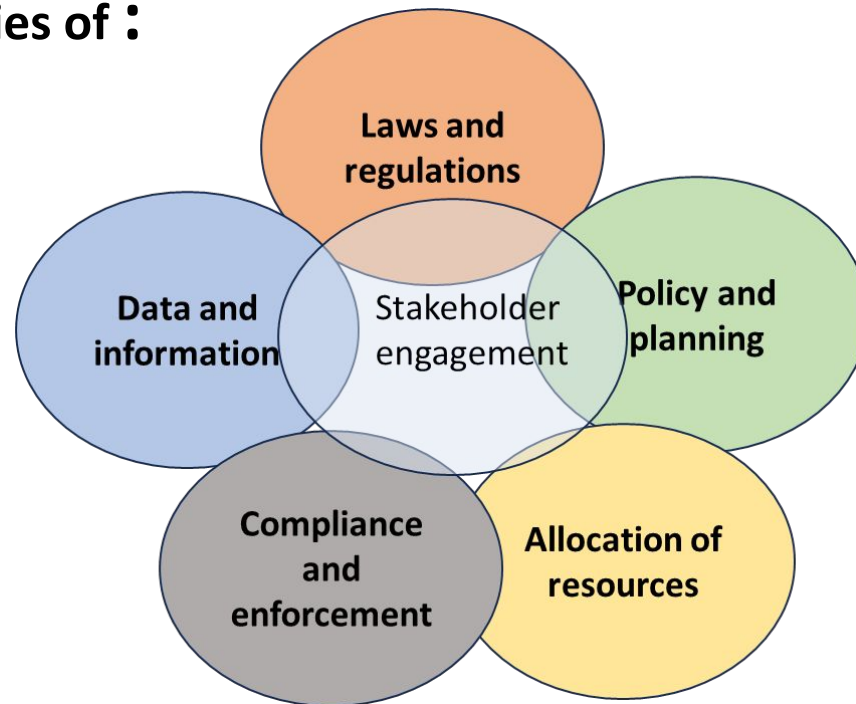
Contents

- **What and why of fisheries management**
- **What and why of a fisheries management plan (FMP)**
- **What a FMP looks like**
- **How to develop a FMP**



What is fisheries management?

- A process to **maximize the socio-economic benefits of fishing** while **minimizing impacts** on the fishery resources and their supporting ecosystem integrity, structure and function
- Includes the activities of :

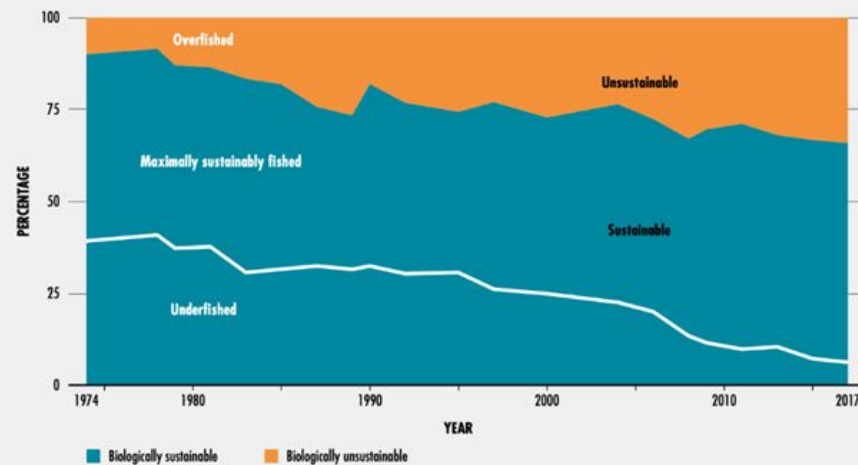


Note: Stakeholder engagement is central to fisheries management

Why fisheries management?

- **Maximizing socio-economic benefits – global experience**
 - An open access fishery, without any controls, always results in fish stocks depleted to a point where the cost of fishing is equal to the revenue
 - This results in little or no profits, decreased food security and poverty for community fishers

FIGURE 19 GLOBAL TRENDS IN THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MARINE FISH STOCKS, 1974–2017



SOURCE: FAO.

Why fisheries management?

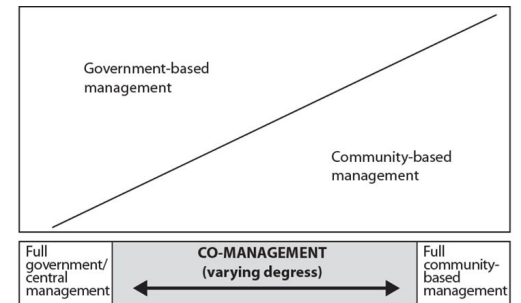
- **Environmental considerations— global experience**
 - **Degradation of critical habitats**
 - **Pollution**
 - **Biodiversity degradation**
 - **Ecosystem structure and function changes (fishing down the food web)**



Who manages the fishery?

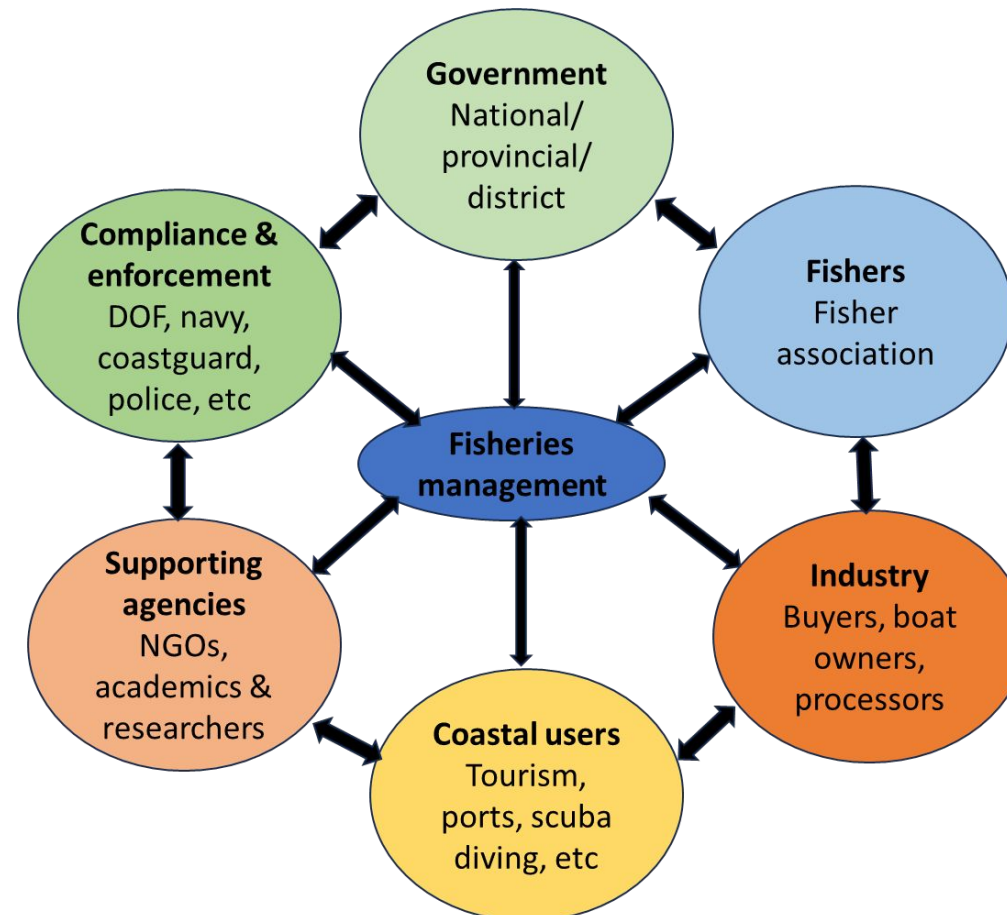
- Traditionally governments
- Increasingly > co-management with key stakeholders

Co-management
Partnership arrangements in which stakeholders share the responsibility and authority for the fisheries management



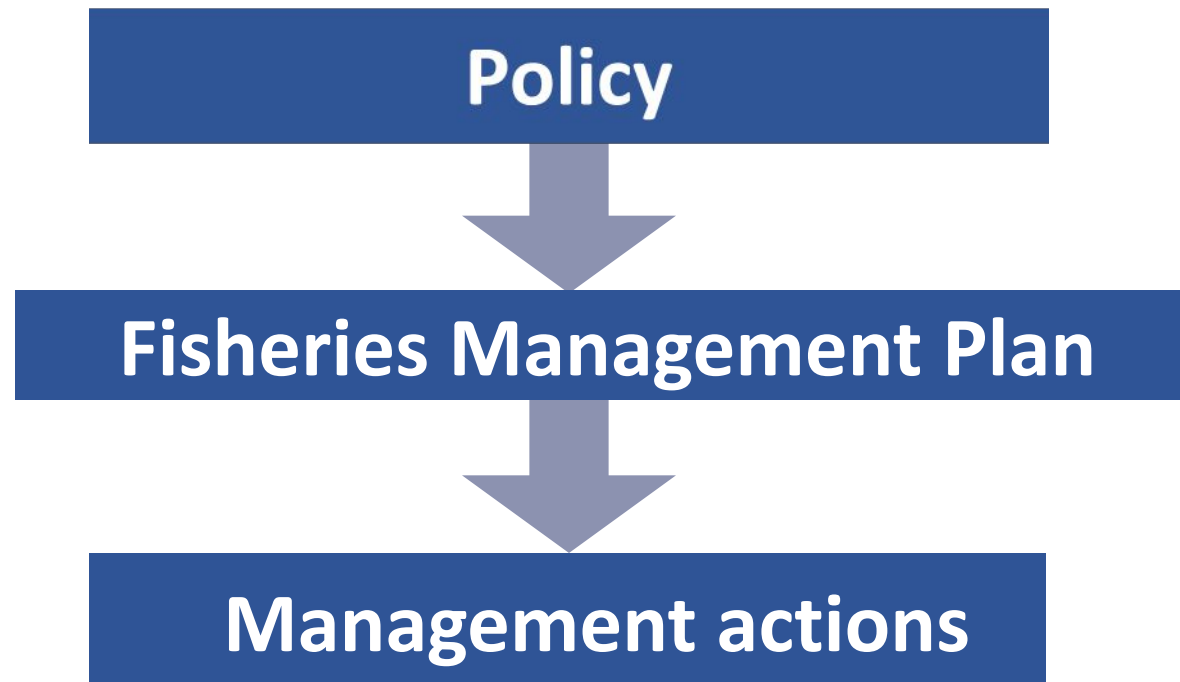
Who are the stakeholders?

A stakeholder is any individual, group or organization which has an interest in or which can affect or is affected, positively or negatively, by the MFMP process.



Why a fisheries management plan (FMP)?

- A FMP translates the high level principles/policies and strategies (e.g. Vietnam Fisheries Master Plan) into action
 - Policy states what is to be achieved
 - Does not state how it is to be achieved.



Example FMP

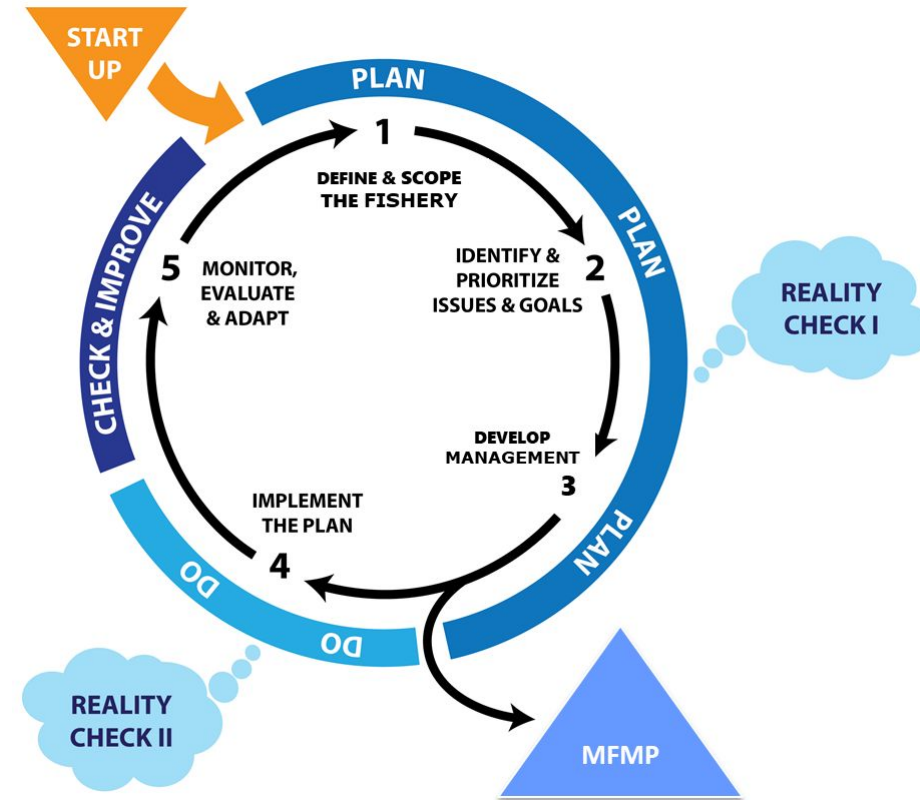
- Fisheries Law/policies sets out important elements that need to be included
- Based on that, the following template is suggested:

Fisheries Management Plan Ba Ria _ Vung Tau Trawl Fishery 20xxx -20yy

1. BACKGROUND
2. FISHERY MANAGEMENT UNITS (FMU)¹
3. VISION
4. MAJOR THREATS AND ISSUES
5. GOALS OF MANAGEMENT
6. OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS AND BENCHMARKS
7. MANAGEMENT MEASURES
8. COMPLIANCE
9. DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS
10. FINANCING
11. REVIEW OF THE PLAN

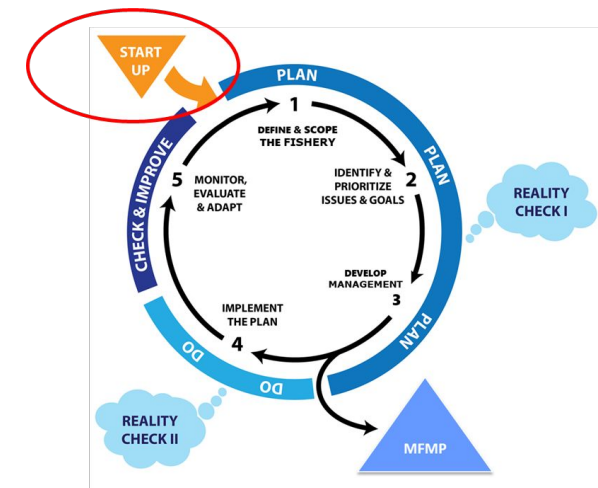
How do you develop a FMP?

Contents for each heading in the template are developed during a 3-step planning process (plus startup) (= first 3 steps of a 5-step management cycle)



Startup

- Before starting the planning process
 - Startup: Prepare for the FMP
 - Six tasks
 1. Form a co-management team
 2. Identify area covered by the FMP
 3. Check legal obstacles
 4. Develop a workplan for the FMP team
 5. Identify and prioritize stakeholders
 6. Communicate to get support from related agencies



Prepare for the MFMP: 6 tasks



Step 1

• Step 1: Define and scope the fishery

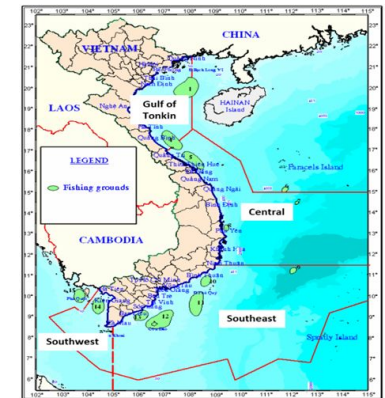
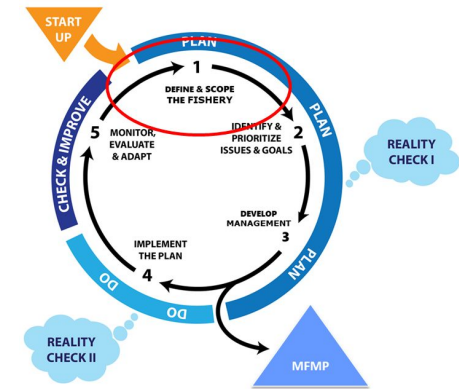
- 1.1. Provide background to the fishery
 - Maps, information about the fishery – status and trends etc
- Note: Most of this material is available

- 1.2 Agree on the **vision** with stakeholders

Note: Vision is the long-term outcome from management and will be informed by Vietnamese policy

Vision - Socio-economic benefits

- Many different outcomes of management
- Outcomes depends on fishing effort (e.g. number of vessels)

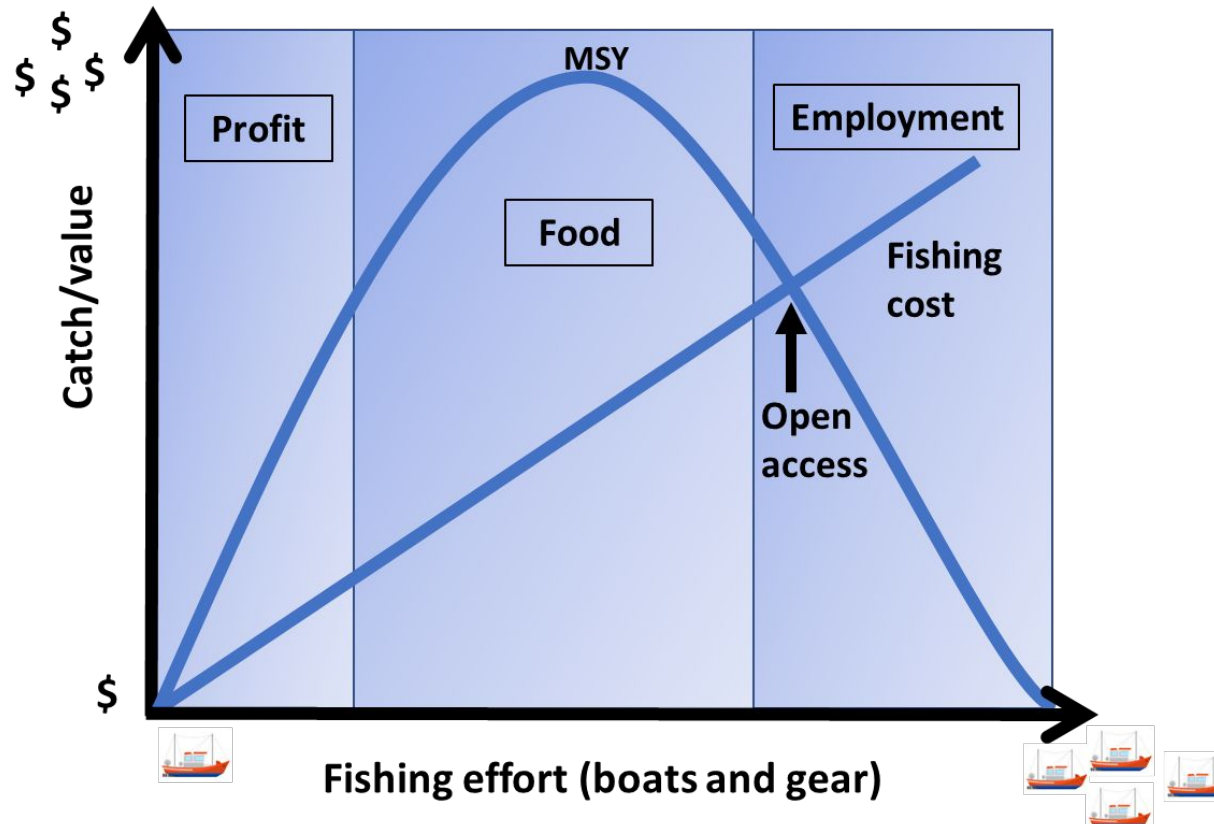


Vision- socio-economic benefits

- Small number of winners
- High profits/poverty alleviation
- Government revenue (safety net for poor)
- Less conflict



- Large number of losers
- Low profit/poverty
- Little government revenue
- IUU fishing
- Conflicts among users



Vision - environmental considerations

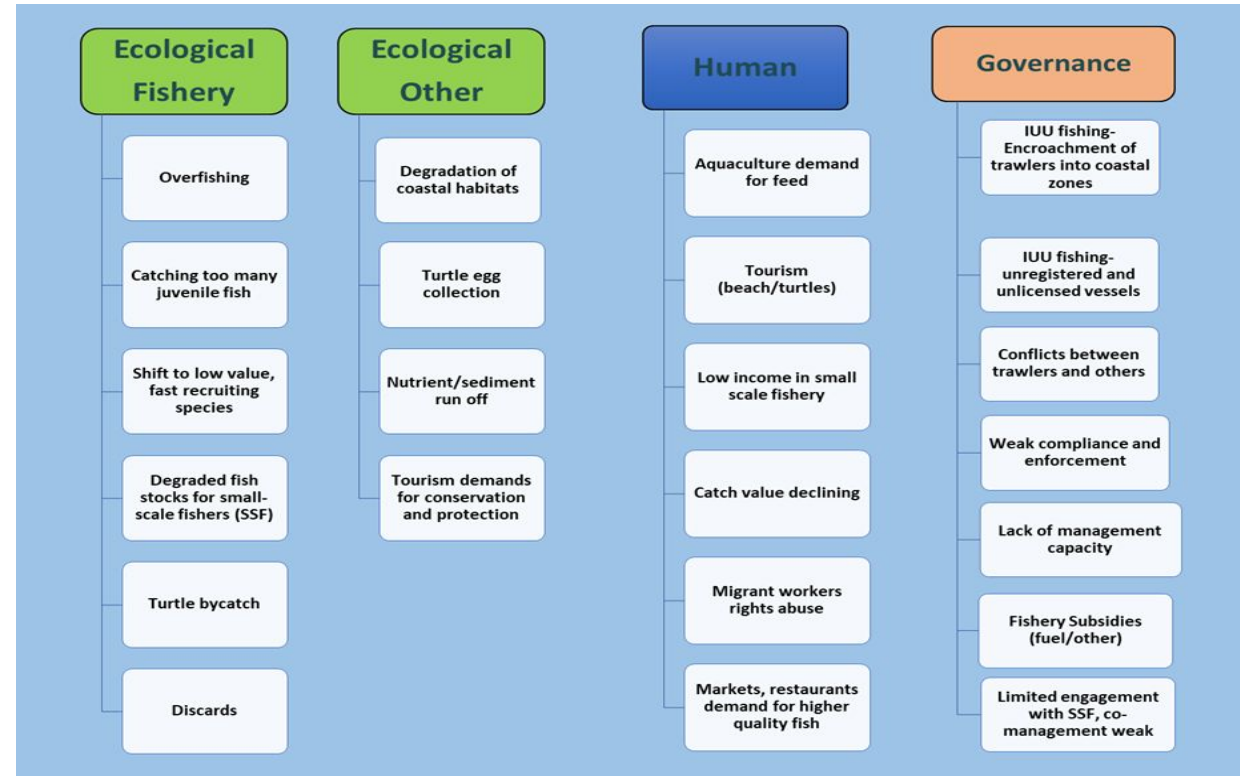
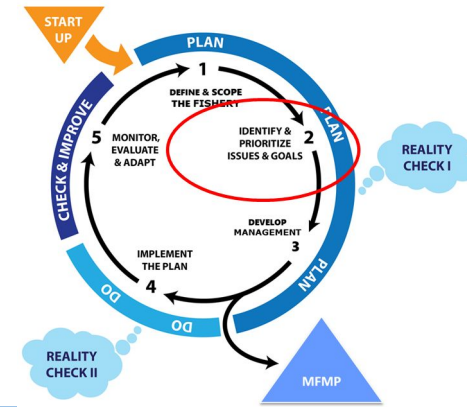
- Again, many different outcomes of management
 - Critical habitats – restored to pristine state or degradation slowed down
 - Ecosystem structure and function – restored to pristine state or reduced to an acceptable level
 - Endangered, threatened and protected species (ETPs) – all incidental deaths stopped or deaths minimized



Step 2

• Identify and prioritize issues and goals

- 2.1. Identify threats and issues
 - Stakeholders to develop a list of threats and issues
- 2.2 Prioritize the issues



• 2.3 Define goals

- Stakeholders develop broad goals for different issue themes (e.g. fishery resources)

Step 3

• Develop management arrangements

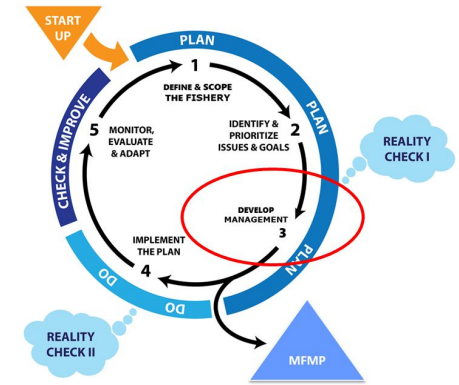
• Step 3a: Objectives, indicators and benchmarks

• 3.1. Develop management objectives

- Stakeholders to develop objectives based on the priority issues identified in step 2

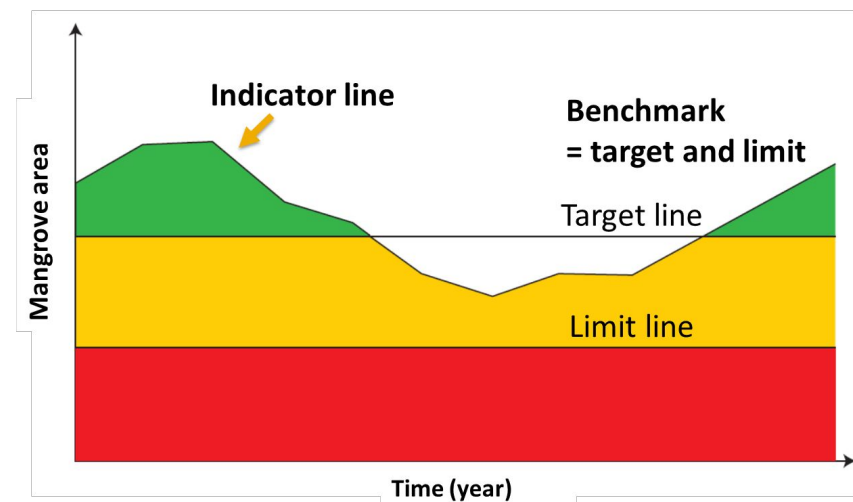
• 3.2 Develop indicators and benchmarks (target or limit) to measure performance

- Indicators, when compared with the benchmarks (performance measure) can show how well the objectives are being achieved



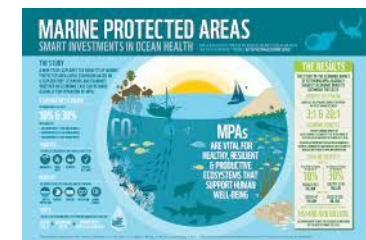
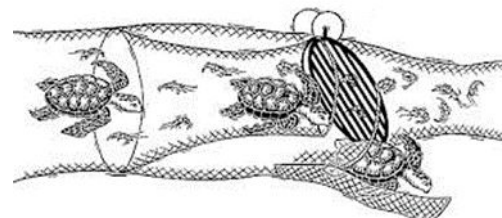
Indicators and benchmarks

Mangrove area example



Step 3 - continued

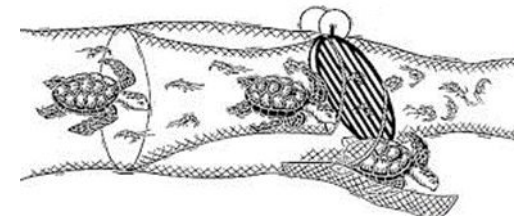
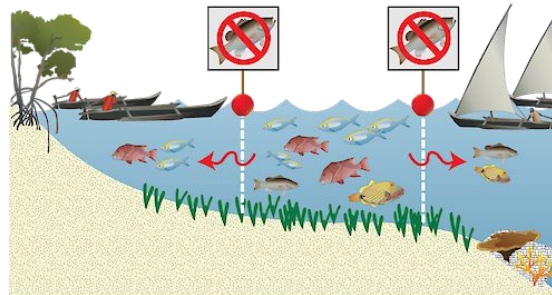
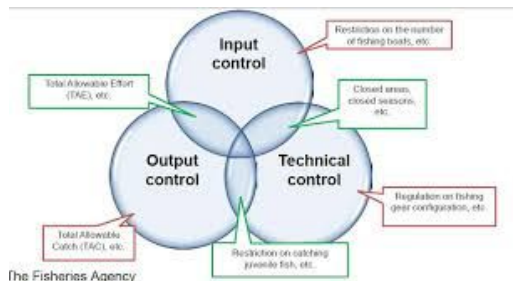
- **Develop management arrangements**
 - **Step 3b: Management measures, compliance, finance and finalize the MFMP**
 - **3.3. Management measures and compliance**
 - Stakeholders agree on the management measures that will achieve the objectives
 - Agree on arrangements for ensuring compliance and enforcement
 - **3.4 Describe the data and information needs**
 - Based on the indicators defined in Step 3a
 - **3.5 Identify sustainable financing**
 - Define the budget needed and source of funds
 - **3.6 Review of the plan**
 - Agree on frequency of review (e.g. annual reviews and a 5-year review to assess progress)



Some management measures

• Wide range of measures are available. Some examples:

- Fishery resources
 - Input controls (e.g. limiting number of boats and gears)
 - Technical measures (e.g. fishing gear controls, temporal and spatial closures)
- Broader environmental issues
 - Marine protected areas (MPAs)
 - Bycatch reduction devices (e.g. juvenile and trash exclusion devices (JTEDs))
- Socio-economic issues
 - Community-based development (e.g. alternative livelihoods)
- Governance issues
 - Strengthening institutions and their capacity (e.g. strengthening MCS)



Step 4 (after planning)

- **Formalize, communicate and engage**

- **4.1. Formalize the plan**
 - RGC endorsement and adoption
- **4.2 Develop an implementation plan**
 - What, Who, When How?
- **4.3 Develop a communication strategy**
 - Define audiences and messages



Communication Strategy

Target audience	Communication method (how & where)	Key messages	Timing

Step 5 (after planning)

• Monitor, evaluate and adapt

- 5.1. Monitor and evaluate (M&E) performance
 - Report to Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- 5.2 Review and adapt the plan
 - Revise the MFMP based on the M&E report

Goal and objective	Assessment
Goal: Reform Thailand's marine fisheries to a limited access regime where the fishing effort is commensurate with the MSY	
Objective: Reduce fishing capacity and fishing effort	Green
Objective: Rebuild fish resources through artificial reefs and restocking programs	Green
Objective: Reduce the catch of juveniles of the larger commercial species	Yellow
Goal: Prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing	
Objective: Minimize IUU fishing through effective MCS	Green
Goal: Increase benefits for and reduce conflicts among major stake holders	
Objective: Resolve conflicts between small-scale and large-scale fishers	Yellow
Goal: Improve the marine environment	
Objective: Restore and maintain critical habitats	Yellow
Goal: Strengthen capacity to sustainably manage fisheries	
Objective: Improve fisheries data and information	Yellow
Objective: Strengthen fisheries management capacity	Yellow



Conclusions

- Fisheries management is a way of maximizing socio-economic benefits while minimizing impacts
- A fishery management plan (FMP) bridges the gap between policy and action
- A FMP provides the background, vision, goals, objectives and measures to achieve these objectives,
- Developing a FMP is 3-step process that involves stakeholders





Thank you

