



Recreational Angling and MPA's

Mike Kelly – Sport Fishing Advisory
Board



Introduction – Mike Kelly , Port Hardy BC

- Academic background in Environmental Science. Renewable Resource Mgmt.**
- Lifelong recreational angler.**
- Former “At Sea” fisheries observer (Groundfish Trawl, Hook and Line, Salmon Gillnet, Troll and Shrimp Trawl).**
- Retired commercial fisherman.**
- SFAB Main board appointee. Chair of the SFAB Rockfish and Tuna Committee’s.**
- Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area – Steering Committee .**
- MPA Network – North Vancouver Island Ocean Advisory Committee (NVI OAC).**
- MaPP – Marine Area Planning Partnership. Northern Vancouver Island Committee.**



B.C Recreational Fisheries Vision 2009-2013

9 Guiding Principals

1-Conservation of naturally reproducing fish and their habitat is the highest priority.

2-Shared responsibility for conservation, stewardship and careful harvesting of the fisheries resource is essential

3-Fish are a common property resource and fisheries are managed for the benefit of all Canadians.



9 Guiding Principals cont...

4- After conservation, First Nations fishing for food, social and ceremonial purposes has priority.

5- Recreational fishing is a socially and economically valuable use of fishery resources and is the means by which many Canadians access and experience these resources.

6- The needs of the recreational fishery, such as for stable and predictable fishing opportunities, will be explicitly considered and clearly reflected in integrated fishery management plans.



9 Guiding Principals cont...

7- Prior to making decisions on recreational fishery management issues, governments will seek advice through appropriate inclusive, transparent and accountable consultation processes.

8- Stock enhancement and habitat restoration may be used to rebuild fish stocks and create fishing opportunities.

9-The recreational fishery will be managed to foster its current and future potential.



Recreational angling is inclusive

- The means by which the Canadian public access's their common property fishery resource.
- Approximately 300,000 participants in BC Tidal waters.
- Enjoyable activity available to all walks of life.
- Family oriented.
- Affordable.
- Creates a connection between the public and our ocean resources.



The Recreational Fishery is Sustainable

- Recreational Angling Community is a leader in regards to Conservation and Sustainability.
- Sector voluntarily imposes conservation measures or management constraints on itself to ensure sustainability.
- i.e.. Catch monitoring, Biosampling, RCA's, Southern Resident Killer Whales, Non retention of Yelloweye Rockfish, SFAB recommendation of mandatory descending device usage.



Socio Economic Benefits

- High economic value / Low impact on resources
- 15% Halibut TAC , < 20% of all salmon harvested leads to...
- approximately 50% of all fishery related GDP *.
- Approximately 33% of all tidal waters fishery related jobs*.
- Vast majority of these jobs take place in small coastal communities.
- Recent trend in increased First Nations business involvement.(i.e. St Jeans, Haico (West Coast Resorts), Cluxewe Resort, Walters Cove etc...)

(*From BC Stats : British Columbia's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector 2012 Edition)



Recreational Fisheries and MPA's

-Recreational anglers recognize MPA's as a means to provide long term sustainability if applied properly.

Resource managers must recognize:

- the low impact of recreational fisheries.
- High number of participants.
- Diverse nature of fishery.
- High Socioeconomic value.



Recommendations

Standards should reflect:

- Recognition of First Nations traditional use and knowledge.
- Implementation of the recreational Fisheries “Vision Document”.
- A reasonable balance between environmental protection and socioeconomic benefits.
- Consideration of coastal communities.
- Measurable scientifically based results.
- An ecosystem management based approach.

