



## Overview of Presentation

- Co-management in SA and the importance of shared perceptions in resource management
- Research questions and methodology
- Case Studies
- Key Findings
- Conclusions and Recommendations

## Introduction

*The sharing of power and responsibility between government, local fishers and other stakeholders to manage a fishery*

(Pomeroy & Williams 1994)

**Single Perspective Approach → Multi-perspective Approach**

### SA and Co-management?

Post Apartheid → Constitution (1996) → NEMA → MLRA

- Since early 1990s, co-management initiatives along the coast.
- However, successful operation of co-management projects differ between sites and provinces.

## Introduction

### SA and Co-management (cont)

- No national framework
- Government undergone major restructuring processes
- Many objectives/desired outcomes not collectively agreed upon.

Overall confusion, mixed interpretations and ultimately differing perceptions among stakeholder groups

## Introduction

### Perceptions and Resource Management

*'attitudes and understandings that reflect their habitual way of life, as well as their shared expectations'*

(Ala Uddin & Foisal 2005)

Literature suggests that shared perceptions among stakeholders can improve management by...

- Increasing community support (Broad & Sanchirico 2008)
- Increasing understandings of site-specific conditions (McClanahan *et al.* 2005; Hoehn 2009)
- Improve conflict resolution (Su & Cervantes 2008)

## Research Questions

How do perceptions of co-management differ among stakeholders and between case studies in South Africa?  
(Theory AND Practice)

**And...**

How have stakeholders' perceptions been influenced?

## Methodology

1. Literature Review
1. Site Selection and Stakeholder Analysis
1. 40 In-Depth Interviews with Government Officials, Fishers and Other Stakeholders
1. Data Analysis - coding

## Case Studies



## Case Studies (cont)

### KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)

- **Case Studies:** Mfazazana & Nonoti (2002)
- **Authority:** Provincial (EKZNW & SFIU)
- **Stakeholders:** government officials and fishers.
- **Current Status:** Functional

### Eastern & Western Cape (EC/WC)

- **Case Studies:** Swartkops (2003) & Ebenhaeser (1994)
- **Authority:** National (MCM – DAFF)
- **Stakeholders:** MCM officials, fishers & other stakeholders.
- **Current Status:** Collapsed



## Key Findings and Discussion

1. Majority of stakeholders had similar understanding of the term 'co-management'

*"working together", "partnership",  
"communication"*

**BUT** further findings suggest that there are different understandings of the co-management **process**...

## Key Findings and Discussion (cont)

2. There are differences in perceptions between government officials and fishers in both regions (KZN & EC/WC). However these differences are **more pronounced** in the **EC/WC**.

*For example...*



Figure 1. Fisher Benefits from Co-management  
(In Theory)

A comparison between the perceptions of KZN stakeholders

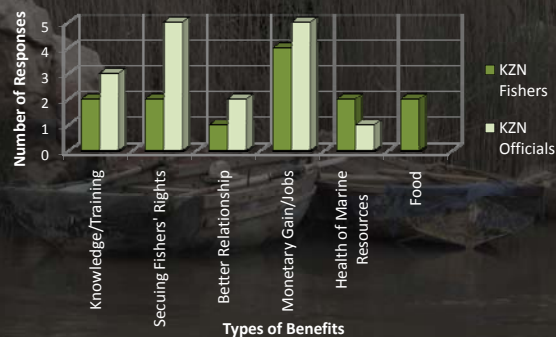


Figure 2. Fisher Benefits from Co-management  
(In Theory)

A comparison between the perceptions of EC/WC stakeholders

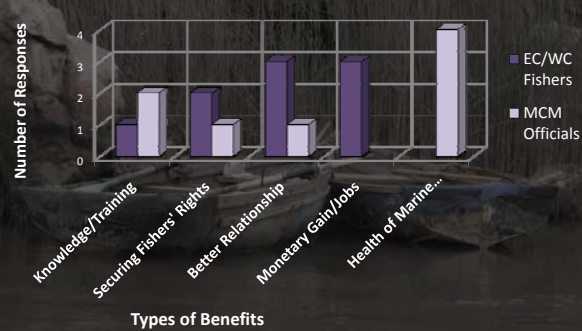


Figure 3. Co-management Objectives in Practice

A comparison between the understandings of KZN stakeholders

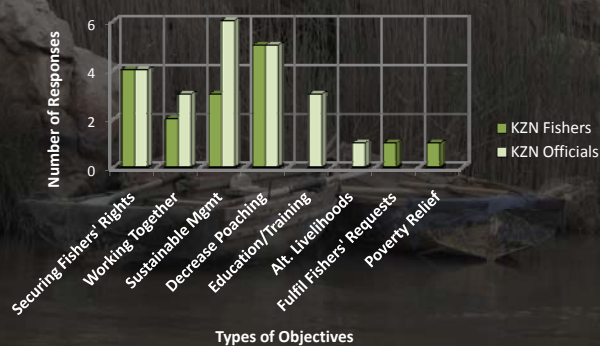
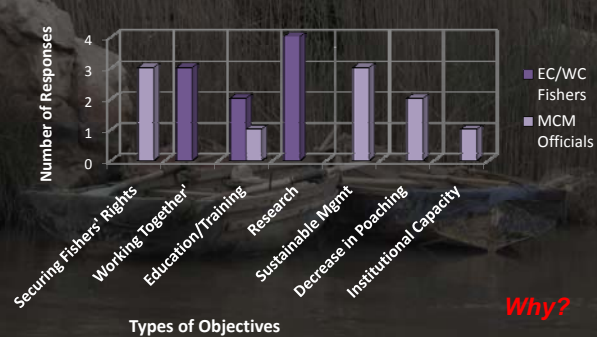


Figure 4. Co-management Objectives in Practice

A comparison between the understandings of EC/WC stakeholders



Why?

## Institutional Arrangements and the Influence on Stakeholders' Perceptions

### KZN Case Studies

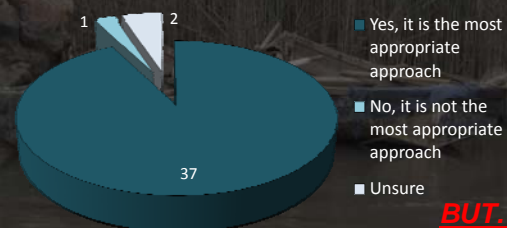
- **Institutional Approach:** Certain Devolved Powers
- **Champions of co-management:** long-term and affiliated with government
- Government supports community empowerment and participation

### EC/WC Case Studies

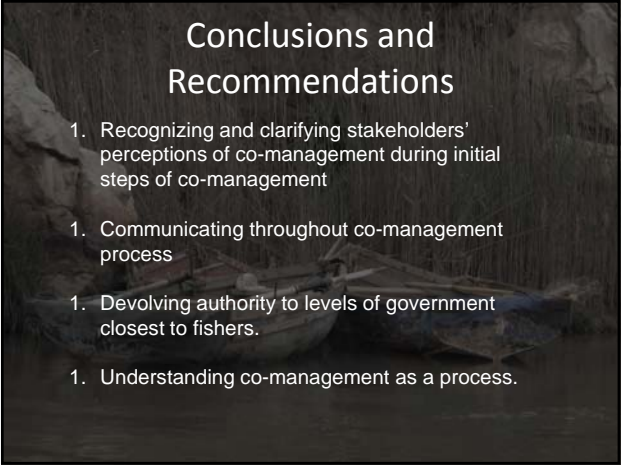
- **Institutional Approach:** Top-down
- **Champions of co-management:** short-term and external to government
- Limited government support of community empowerment/participation

## Findings and Discussion (cont)

3. Despite the collapse of two of the co-management arrangements, **almost all** of the stakeholders believe co-management to be the **most appropriate** approach for small-scale fisheries management in SA

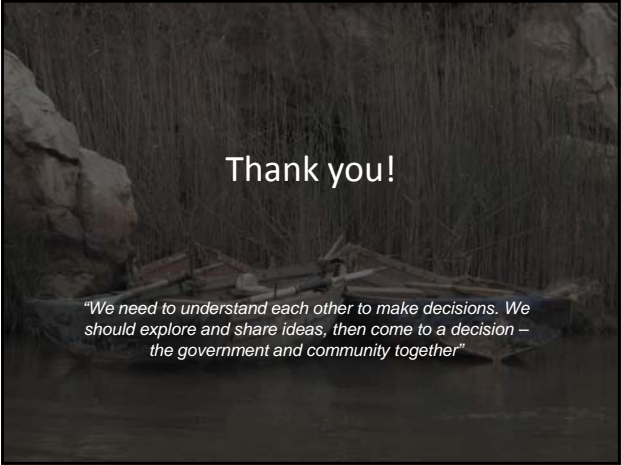


**BUT...**



## Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Recognizing and clarifying stakeholders' perceptions of co-management during initial steps of co-management
1. Communicating throughout co-management process
1. Devolving authority to levels of government closest to fishers.
1. Understanding co-management as a process.



Thank you!

*"We need to understand each other to make decisions. We should explore and share ideas, then come to a decision – the government and community together"*