

Center for Community Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	CHAPTER 8 CO-MANAGEMENT AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR? PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE NEW ENGLAND GROUND FISH FISHERY		
Authors:	Hall-Arber, Madeleine		
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Country:	United States		
Ecosystem Type:	coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	remote community		
Scale of Study:	regional		
Resource Type:	fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	co-management, research-driven project		
Community Based Work:	resource management		
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Summary:	The process that led to the adoption of the latest amendment to the New England Fishery Management Council's		

(NEFMC) Multispecies (groundfish) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) provides an excellent case study of the movement from primarily top-down management to a variation on adaptive co-management. The contributions of a policy entrepreneur and institutional leader to this process are noted as critical. Factors constraining the participation of fishing industry members in the development of groundfish regulations, a brief history of groundfish regulations, and the various combinations of rules offered as options by the Council are reviewed. In response to the harsh criticism and controversy over the degree to which those options would restrict fishing and be likely to devastate communities, the Council offered fishing industry members a last chance to recommend a different combination of management tools- as long as they adhered to the tools that had been discussed at public hearings. Three fishing organizations offered plans that were considered. The Council ultimately selected a plan from the Northeast Seafood Coalition, a broad-based industry group, which emphasizes flexible or adaptive mechanisms and optimism for the future. This case suggest that the negotiation of power and authority is important in the context of management in a complex setting with a diverse constituency, and, equally important, communication and outreach are essential elements for change.