

Combining fisheries approaches with household utility models for improved resource management

E.J. Milner-Gulland,
Nils Bunnefeld, Charles Edwards,
Ana Nuno



Sustainable resource use – a mixed record



Pile of plains bison skulls, 19th Century, and fisheries bycatch, 20th Century



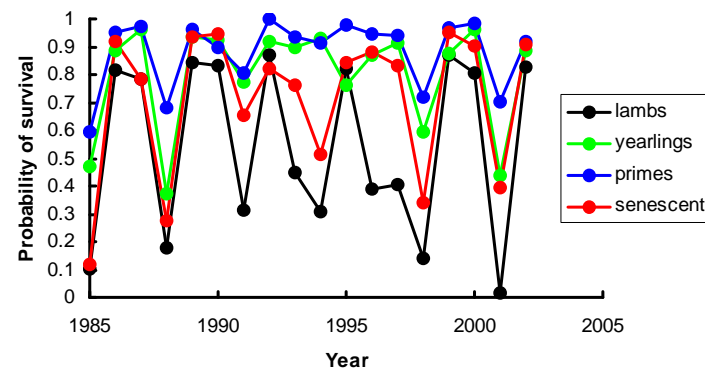
c Sharklife

Why the failures?

- Lack of understanding of the system (all components, biological, economic and social)
- Management rules ineffective due to inadequate implementation and lack of compliance
- Lack of learning and experimentation
- Different disciplines do not inform each other
- Research and practice do not inform each other

Researchers tend to...

- Develop models for sustainable use, and present them in the scientific literature
- But then move on, and don't participate in implementation of their recommendations
- So don't validate their assumptions or learn from the outcomes to improve models



Managers tend to...

- Base their management actions on their own experience at the site level, rather than experimenting or taking ideas from the literature
- Manage reactively rather than strategically

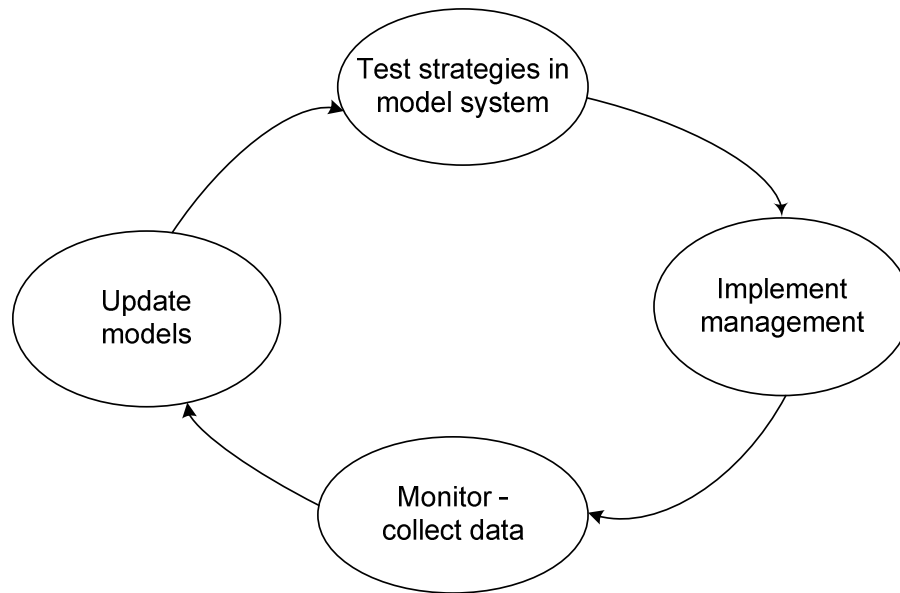


Neither tend to...

- Set clear objectives for management and measures of success that can be reported against
- Work through assumptions, trade-offs and multiple objectives before intervening
- Evaluate the success of interventions through baseline studies and comparison to counterfactuals
- Work together

Adaptive management - where science and action should, in theory, interact

Passive adaptive management – learning from outcomes of actions



Active adaptive management – experimental approach; setting out to learn

Active adaptive management

- Much liked by scientists, virtually never implemented in practice
- Too risky, short-term costs, not ideal for highly dynamic systems, stakeholders unconvinced



One example - adaptive learning for fish pond stocking in Lao PDR
Kai Lorenzen, www.aquaticresources.org

Fisheries science – where research and management do meet

- Management failures and highly uncertain biology, with large commercial value and government interest
- Leading to a far greater focus on scientific advice genuinely informing practice
- A new and potentially useful framework emerged – **management strategy evaluation**



c. David Csepp, NOAA

Management Strategy Evaluation

- First developed in 1980s by the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, to find robust and precautionary management strategy for whaling
- Never implemented, but idea caught on in fisheries (not in other field of resource management)
- Like Adaptive Management in a virtual world...

