



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Providing legislative powers to the commercial fishing industry

FAO User Rights conference  
South Korea, September 2018

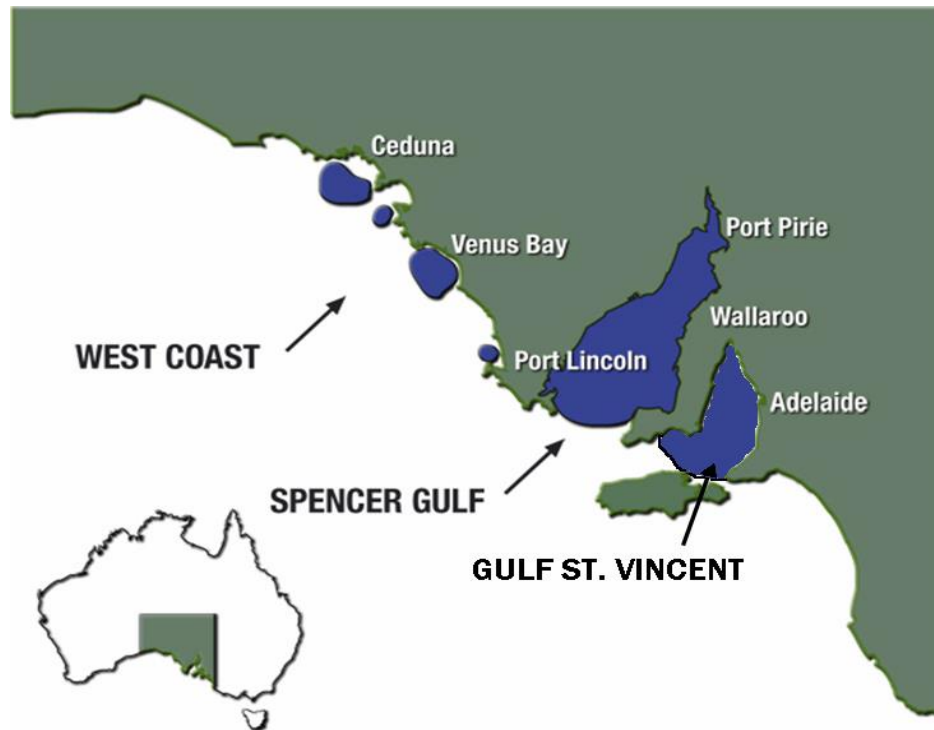
Steve Shanks

FISHERIES  
& AQUACULTURE  
**PIRSA**

**PREMIUM**  
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR  
**CLEAN**  
ENVIRONMENT



# Map of commercial prawn fisheries in SA



## The Fishery

- Prawn trawl.
- Commercial only.
- Fishing at night.
- Cannot fish in less than 10m of water.
- Fishing over dark of the moon (week either side – max 14 days).
- Season November to June.
- Trawl shots between 30-60 minutes.
- MSC certified in July 2011, recertified in 2016.
- Primarily domestic markets.

## Input controls

- Boat length restriction 22m.
- Engine brake horsepower 336kw.
- Minimum mesh size 4.5cm.
- Maximum headline length 29.26m.
- Single or double rig.
- Limited entry 39 vessels.

## Vessels in the Fishery



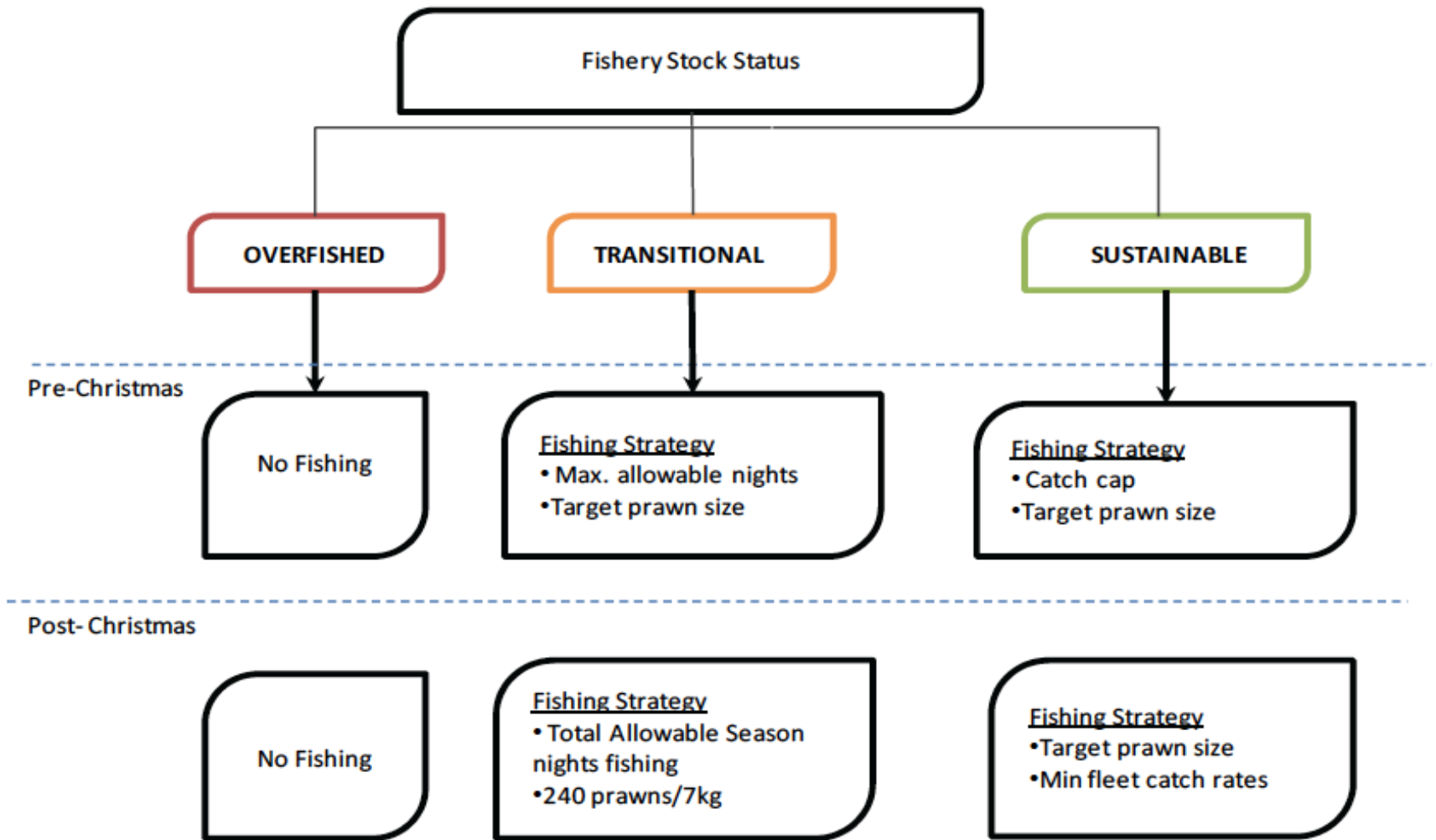
# Vessels in the Fishery



# Management of the Fishery

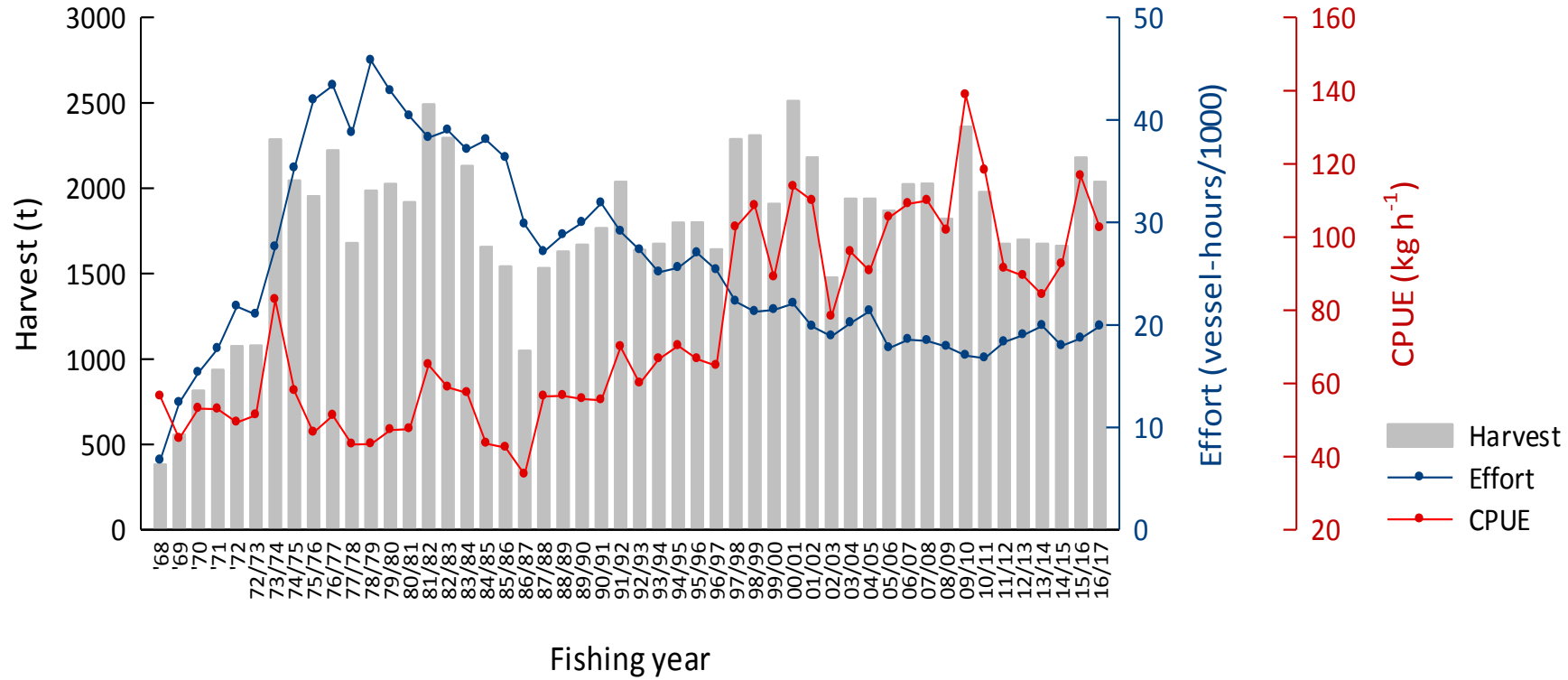
- Annual Stock Assessment Surveys in February, April and November to determine the fishery status.
- Annual management arrangements based on surveys
- Surveys gather data on the performance indicators Adult catch rate and Recruit catch rate.
- Season fishery status – sustainable, transitional or overfished based on survey information on performance indicators.
- Fishing is broken down into two periods – pre-Christmas and post-Christmas.

# Annual management arrangements





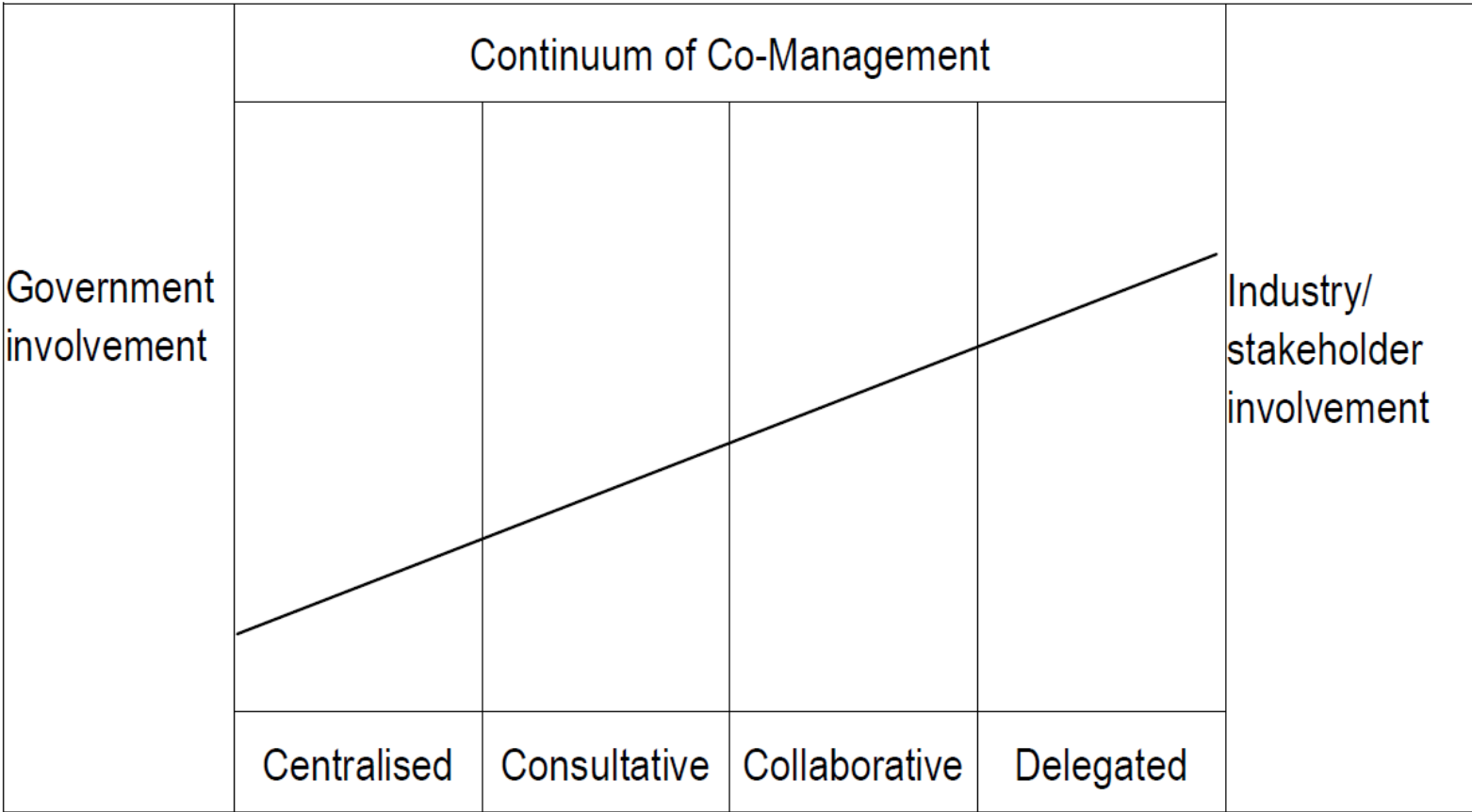
# Catch and Effort History



## Co-management key steps

- Co-management - collaboration between government and industry in managing fisheries.
- In 1995 the South Australian government implemented legislation to provide formal recognition on Management Committees of fishers.
- In October 2013 South Australia government released the document *Policy for the Co-management of Fisheries in South Australia*.

# Progression to co-management



# Fishing Association

- Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's Association (SGWCPFA).
- Association was formed in 1968 and became incorporated in 1984.
- All 39 licence holders are members of the Association.
- Success of the Association - Commitment of licence holders to build relationships with other stakeholders and the public for our future.

## Association progression to delegation

- In 1983-84 and 1984-85 a downturn in catches.
- In 1992 coordination of fishing strategies at sea – termed ‘real time management’.
- Committee at Sea – coordinating fleet movement.
- First management plan in 1998 recognised ‘real time management’ as a harvest strategy.
- In 2012 Coordinator at Sea position within Association was recognised in legislation.
- In 2017 Minister provided delegation to Association to set period and area of fishing runs.

## The delegation

- 12 month trial (20 Nov 2017 to 20 Nov 2018).
- Provided to officers of the Association – Executive Officer and Coordinator at Sea positions.
- Set area and period of fishing run over the dark of the moon (14 day period) .
- Review of the delegation, in consultation with the Association, prior to trial completion.
- Delegation provided based on strong working relationship over prolonged period of time.

# Delegation requirements

- Must comply with harvest strategy for the fishery.
- Harvest strategy sets within season decision making that must be complied with.
- Harvest strategy criteria:
  - Prawn size
  - Catch rate
- Government Prawn Fishery Manager reviews delegation prior to being issued.
- Copy of delegation must be provided to licence holders once issued.

## Lessons learnt

- Co-management Policy document has provided guidance to both industry and government on how to progress to delegated management.
- Strong history of collaboration between industry and government has provided the ability to progress to delegated management.
- Can only regulate and monitor fishing activities so far – need to trust those provided delegation.
- Common property resource strong accountability is required.



## Summary

- Following the completion of the government review of the delegation consideration will be given to future delegation arrangements.
- The Association are looking to have additional or enhanced management powers delegated beyond 20 November 2018.
- Industry technical understanding and capacity built over a long period make the fishery conducive to delegation
- First time delegation of powers to manage a fishery have been delegated to parties outside government.

# Acknowledgement

- A number of people have worked over the last 20 plus years to get to the stage where management can be delegated to industry:
  - Government – Sean Sloan, Craig Noel, Annabel Jones, Shane Gassner, Cameron Dixon.
  - Industry – Greg Palmer, Simon Clark, Barry Evans.
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.