



Measuring Social Capital in the New England Groundfish Fishery Background & Methods

National Catch Shares Workshop
La Jolla, CA

Patricia Pinto da Silva, NOAA Fisheries , NEFSC

Daniel Holland, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Andrew Kitts, NOAA Fisheries, NEFSC

Josh Werisma, Northeast Seafood Coalition

November 17, 2009

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**





sector management

- Self selecting groups of fishermen that are allocated a portion of the quota (based on their fishing history/landings) to manage collectively.
 - Attractive as it extricates them largely from the existing management process and enables them to craft rules that fit their needs.
 - But - creates new responsibilities and costs for industry



new opportunities, challenges & institutions

- Building fishermen's organizations
- Working collaboratively
- Financing sectors
- Constructing management plans and structures for sectors
- Collective liability
- New relationship with Council & NOAA Fisheries



purpose and need

- Sectors will require an entirely new set of skills, relationships and type of business acumen. Some sectors are based on strong bonding ties and other are not. Theory suggests those with high levels of social capital will be better able to collaborate.
- Capture baseline of sector and non-sector participants to evaluate the role of social capital in creating and sustaining effective sectors.



groundfish sectors

- Two groundfish sectors in operation since 2005/2006
- Groundfish Amendment 16 approved in 2009; new sectors established by May 1, 2010
- 17 new sectors likely to be created
- Total of 650 vessels/80% of landings in sectors (possibly more as rosters have reopened).
- Similar initiatives underway in other fisheries
- Potential for vast transformation in governance



background: groundfish fishery

- Groundfish has greatest number of participants of all Northeast fisheries – 1500 permit holders, 500 active
- Strict lawsuit-driven rebuilding requirements
- Micro-managed/one-size-fits-all
- Tough times for fishermen who are also faced with increasing fuel costs, etc...



sector diversity

- **Place based communities**
 - **Slow food, added value, relatively small vessels, hook and line, fixed gear, small trawl**
- **Regionally based communities**
 - **Larger scale, larger vessels, communities of interest, efficiency gains central**
- **Unknown – groups yet unformed – who will come together and what will sectors be based on?**



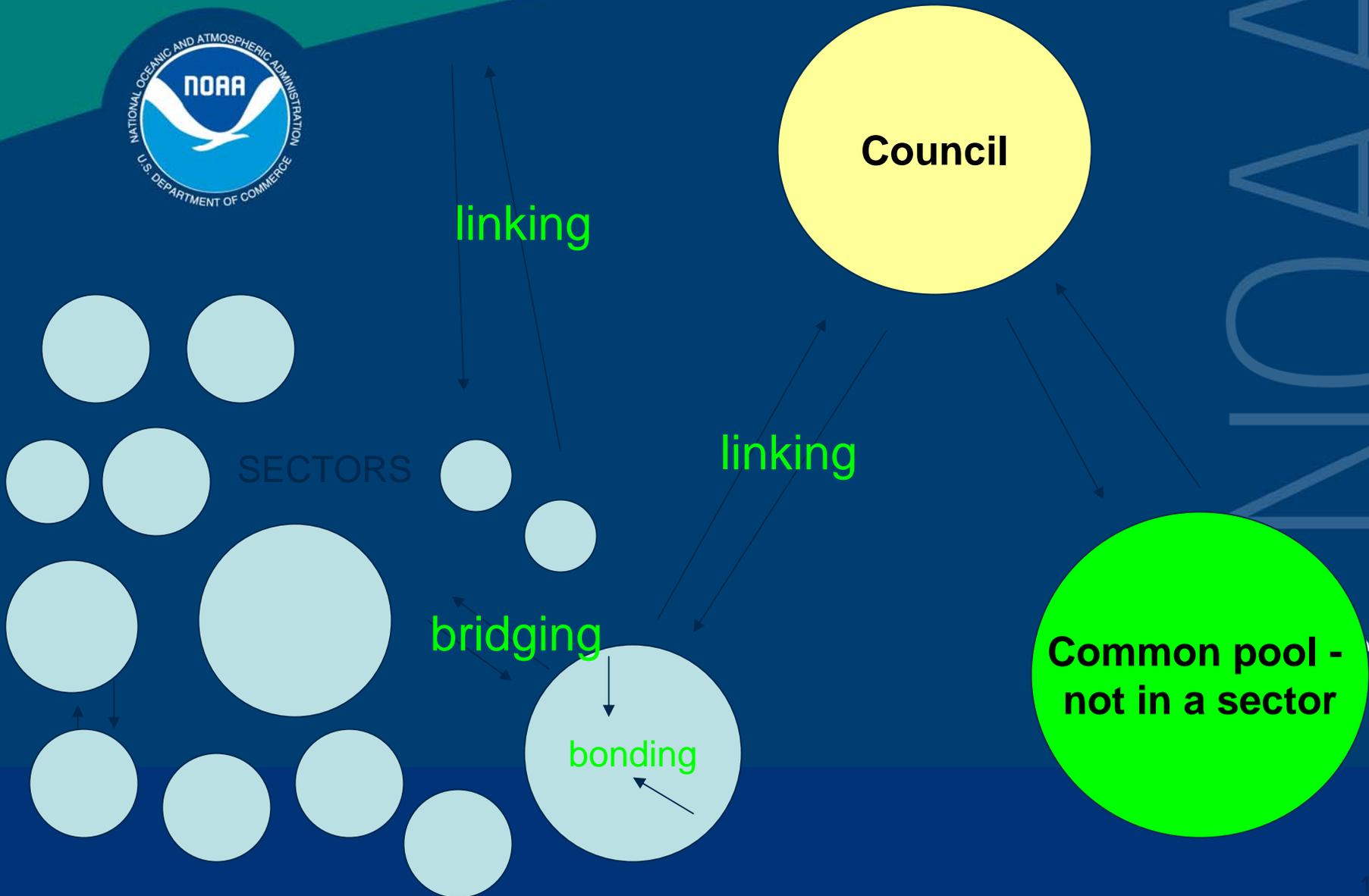
research question

- Will social capital be a key determinant of the success and survival of sectors?
- How do we measure social capital?
 - What levels of social capital exist in the groundfish fishery?
 - Are sectors forming around these networks?
 - What sector activities will build social capital?
 - How do sector characteristics affect initial stock and building of social capital (e.g., place vs. regionally based, large vs. small)?



theory

- Common property theory
 - Design principles
- Collaborative management
 - balance of power
- Ecosystem based management
 - Scale
 - Subsidiarity/decentralization/devolution
- Social capital – the ‘glue’ that holds this all together





sample indicators

- Relationship with other sector members
 - Weak or strong ties
 - Trust
 - Information sharing
- Participation in fishing organizations
- Participation in management process
- History of collective action
- Sense of community



measuring social capital

- **Three standard surveys have emerged as key guiding works for those interested in measuring social capital and have been conducted broadly in the United States and internationally:**
 - **Social Capital Assessment Tool**
 - **Social Capital Integrated Questionnaire**
 - **Social Capital Community Study**
- **Key - Finding context-appropriate measures while maintaining comparative elements**



methods

- **Participant observation**
- **Semi-structured interviews with industry leaders/organizers (some have been completed)**
- **Census/Survey of active groundfish permit holders before and after sector implementation and operation**
- **Analysis of objective data on performance (e.g., percent of TACs caught, sector operations costs)**
- **Document review – Commercial Fishermen, Council notes/tapes, etc...**



status of evaluation

- **Survey of social capital in final design stage**
- **Implementation in January 2010 (after final rosters are in place and before sector implementation).**
- **Analysis in Spring 2010**
- **Report by Summer 2010**



'add on' survey re. new fishery performance measures under development

- **3 or 4 questions per performance measure**
 - **Financial viability**
 - **Management costs & complexity**
 - **Distributional outcomes**
 - **Well-being**
 - **Governance**
 - **Stewardship**
- **Rapid assessment**
- **to be made generic and integrated where possible to reach broader range of respondents**



Comments?
Questions?
Suggestions?