

## Group 3, Creative Financing and Enabling Mechanisms

1. What funding mechanisms would enable sustainable tourism, specifically whale-watching in the B2B region? Preferable based on 3 case studies.

Certified Whale Watching program: discussed a “limited entry” for whale watching operators, with a certification program including ethics and the ability to make money over the long term.

Three best sites for consideration:

BC: Victoria

Mexico: Loreto and Vizcaino

Alaska: SE, PWS, and Cook Inlet

2. How can fisheries become financially sustainable in the B2B region? Are there any successful examples?

Examples:

Lobster fishery in New England, where the fishing right is traditional and exclusive, as well as restrictive by gear and place. Biscayne was also given as an example.

Shrimp buyouts in Mexico for shrimp, and the trawl buyout in Oregon were given as examples to reduce effort.

Caution was expressed that buyouts need to be done in conjunction with other efforts to reduce the capacity, effort, and overall harvest pressure in order to achieve sustainability.

Eliminate the subsidies that encourage too much effort.

3. What are the best options and combination by which to capture financial benefits offered by MPAs? Please consider options beyond donations and voluntarism.

Visitor Fees: The daily fee or seasonal pass used in the US and Mexico doesn't take into account how often each person uses each park. Why not make it an incremental fee? Each time you visit the entry fee is reduced.

Vessel Fees: Collect a vessel fee for the personal vessel that transits a park but currently isn't subject to the same fee structure.

Fisherman participation fee: As an example, on the east coast, bonefish are worth about \$80,000 to the fishery, because of catch and release over a long life span. The fishermen should contribute to the value also.

We also discussed a variety of taxes and fees, such as head tax, bed tax, and hotel tax.

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Any case studies?

The idea would be to link sites in one country

Focus on the gray whale and the idea is that the gray whale generates income at the observation

And we want it to expand to whale watching in general

Is there any way of linking the sites in Mexico to Canada and the United States?  
With other species?

Is there any organization? Any funds?

Why limit to whale watching? Whale watching is seasonal? Needs to be diversification? What happens with El Nino, do the whales still come here? What do the tourists do when the whales are not here?

In recent years we have had more whales, between 3k and 5k, this year the number is higher and the birth rate is higher.

Derek – one idea is to use the gray whale migration route. School Groups with web real-time updates. Classes could adopt a whale as it migrates through B2B.

What other resources?

Orcas are in Mexico year round, also in other places. Migratory birds, other marine life can be looked at.

Fishing charters?

Whales should be identified by area and by season, whales are going to be in a specific place by season, so you can develop a plan, you can move people around and have alternatives.

There is so much else people can do – snorkeling, diving...

Can't just survive with whales, but can use it as an instrument to draw attention.

In Oregon, lots of fishing boats take out whale watchers in the winter.

In some areas, people really respect the whales, but this is not so. Need a code of conduct, standards for whale watching.

In order for something to be sustainable, you need a set number of participants, a closed system. No longer allow anyone else to become a whale-watching guide. A license

by the MPA wouldn't need to be a payment vehicle but would be a way to make the business sustainable.

Whale watching is season, not annual. And it is a mistake to link the 3 sites in 3 different countries. Instead of looking for a funding mechanism, what about looking for certification? Then you could guarantee quality. Certificate would represent a certain amount of training and an expected behavior.

Certification process / ??/ Could link the three countries.

Certification would not a permit that is paid for, but licensing could be a money-generating vehicle.

Regulation in the United States – coast guard,

Tourists are needed for this.

Huge demand in California. Tourists come and want something to do, but it might be a poor experience without certification.

Hotels benefit, could be a partner. Bed tax can go into promoting the region – Tourism Development Council. HI has this. Alaska cities have this, but the state does not.

Suite of revenue streams: licensing / certification /

Needs to be some sort of limited entry to avoid lowering standards during a bad year.

Why limit access? Can have fees, can sell business, all builds the systems. This is just like a fishery. Need to capture “rent.”

A tradable permit, a certified licensing system.

Would link to a specific code of conduct. A framework of what to do.

Great Barrier Reef licenses to take people diving now costs \$1,000,000 Australian.

HI - Aquarium example.

Derek – four weeks of year are whale migration period. If it is too expensive to get into for the limited window of opportunity people might not do it, might be overly restrictive. Thinks people would get really upset.

How important is this to them anyway if it is only a month of the year, they already have other things to do other times of the year

The time scale could be argued either way. But you have to maximize the resource; you have to limit the entry.

Bill – three recommendations

Bed Tax, 10 % Florida Keys example raises revenue to promote tourism, tax on car rentals

Head Tax – cruise ships example

Cruise ships transit area and companies argue that they don't have to pay because they did not stop. Should try to capture the people who aren't paying with the cruises.

Overnight camping fees. Visitor entry fees.

Create a fund for marine areas – global or regional fund, GEF (World Bank) model, but just for MPAs.

Italy example - just a city, with no whales, but receives tourists from all over, and

constructed an educational facility to teach people about the marine area.

Mexico example - 1998 - The Mexican government confiscated two Chinese ships. Ships were sent to a small island, and were used to create an artificial reef, which is now one of the 10 most important diving sites. We missed the opportunity to ask the service provider for \$1.00 (to be matched by the government) to fund \_\_\_\_

Is there is any way of creating a fund to link sites in the three country.

Take the best three sites. The best sites in Mexico are Vizcaino and Loreto.

The best sites in the US are HI, year-round, Johnstone Straits in Washington / BC

Also in BC, on the west side of Vancouver island for humpback whales.

No licensing required in BC. (I don't know about Alaska.) BC has a voluntary code for

separation distances. (I know Alaska has “whale watching guidelines”).

Coast of Oregon has many state parks. The system runs a program called “Whale watching spoken here” that teaches people about whale watching. Derek didn’t know about the money.

HI is not included in B2B.

2. How can fisheries become financially sustainable in the B2B region? Are there any successful examples?

Lobster fishery in New England, where the fishing right is traditional and exclusive, as well as restrictive by gear and place.

Biscayne also.

Mexico: The shrimp buyout.

Oregon: Trawl buyout.

Robert – buyouts need to be done with other consideration to reduce the capacity, effort, and harvest pressure.

Eliminate the subsidies that encourage too much effort.

Use fishermen to do research on fishery biology.

Robert – Work with fishermen to collect information on their areas of priority based on species. Information is used to help design an MPA – what makes a site good, based on its attributes.

Brian - Fisherman hired to do trawl surveys for Council research along the west coast.

They keep the proceeds from the sale of the fish.

Trophy fishery limited entry? Example lottery to go hunting for trophy game species. Perhaps marlin fisheries could do the same?

Fish stamps and Dusk stamps programs tend to underfund the programs. Lottery. Would a person be able ... would the lottery overall pay for the fishery...

Big game culling money in Serengeti goes right back into managing the range.

Think across the areas... worried about under pricing... why not auction off the fish?

What is the catch rate? Everyone comes back with something...

Auction each year – would build revenue into the system.

“ Auction off big trophy fish for recreational fishing for sustainable funding of MPAs”

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Commercial certified shrimp fishery in Mexico is an example

Eco-labeling, as for timber, is used for the shrimp from this fishery.

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Robert – Collect a vessel fee for the personal vessel that transits a park but currently isn't subject to the same fee structure.

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