



Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Aquatic Bioscience
Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute
International

2nd year Doctoral Course

Towards a transformative fisheries improvement in Japan

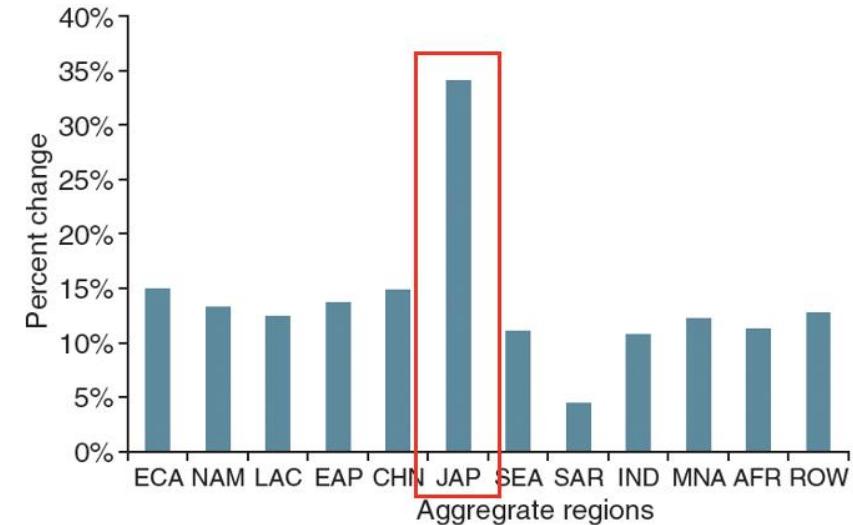
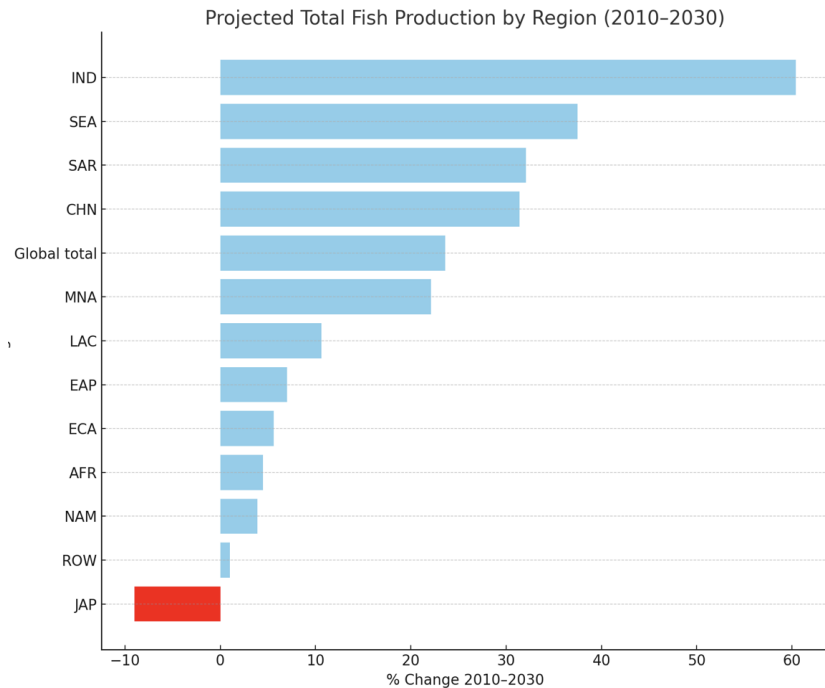
~ Insights from MSC
certification with multi-
stakeholder collaboration ~

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Crisis and Growth Potential in



Source: IMPACT model projections.

Note: ECA = Europe and Central Asia; NAM = North America; LAC = Latin America and Caribbean; CHN = China; JAP = Japan; EAP = other East Asia and the Pacific; SEA = Southeast Asia; IND = India; SAR = other South Asia; MNA = Middle East and North Africa; AFR = Sub-Saharan Africa; ROW = rest of the world.

(Both graphs: World Bank, Fish to 2030, Prospects for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2013.)

Fisheries Crisis: Projected with the worst negative growth in the world.

Growth Potential: Forecasted growth by 2030 if fishery management improves.

Legal Alignment: 2020 Fisheries' Law revision aligned with global standards.

→ **MSC Pre-assessment results to identify current critical gaps**

MSC Certified Fisheries in Japan

Source: MSC Japan website



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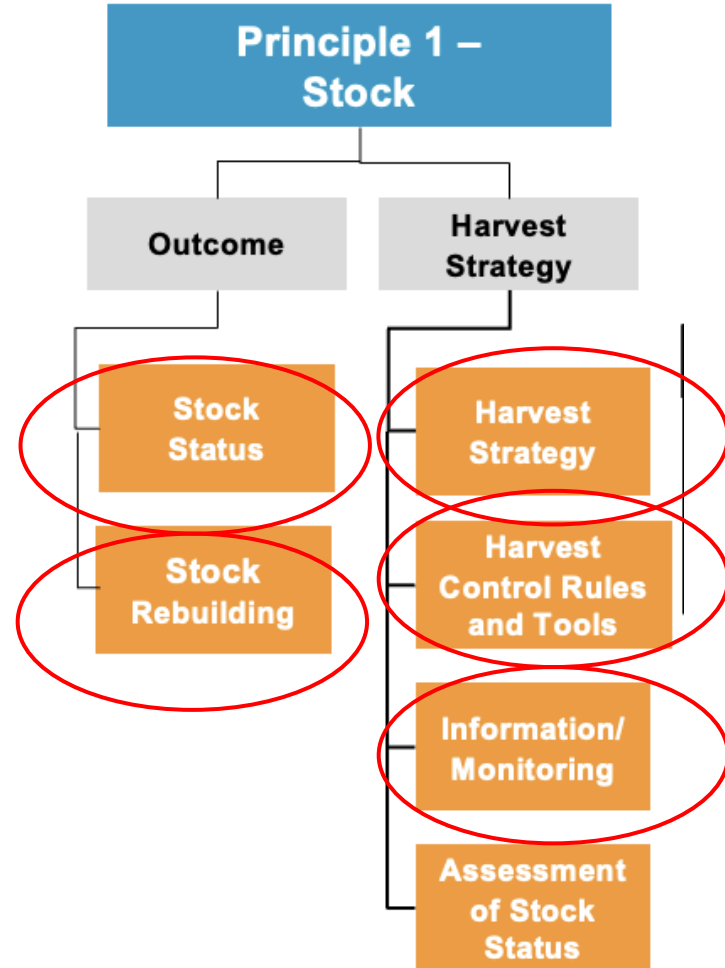


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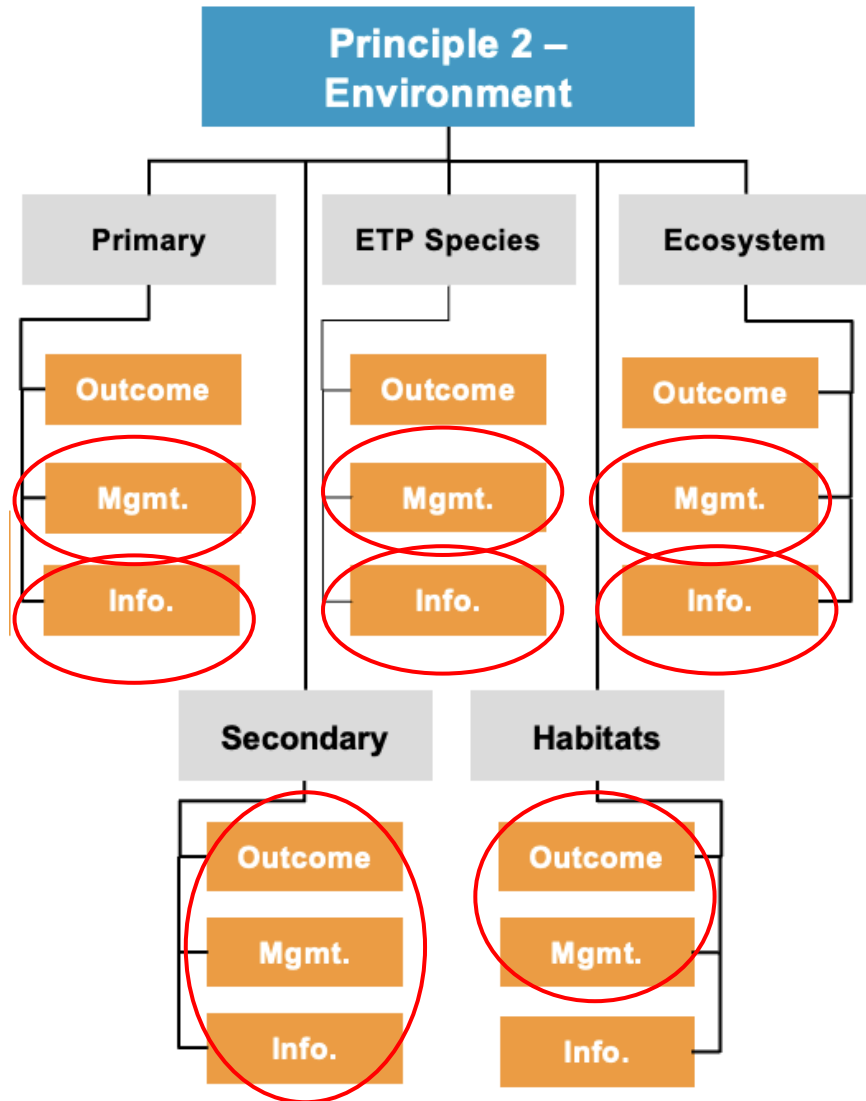
Since 2013, many pre-assessments have been conducted for coastal fisheries across Japan,
→ only 2 coastal fisheries certified. The author participated in a diverse range of 17 audits (66 fisheries)

Principle 1 (Stock assessment) improvement needs



- Logbook report implementation, and its monitoring by government (PI 1.1.1)
- Linking stock assessments to management strategies at equivalent level to MSY (PI 1.1.2, 1.2.1)
- Stock-based management of widely-distributed (transboundary) fishery resources

Principle 2 (Ecosystem management) improvement needs

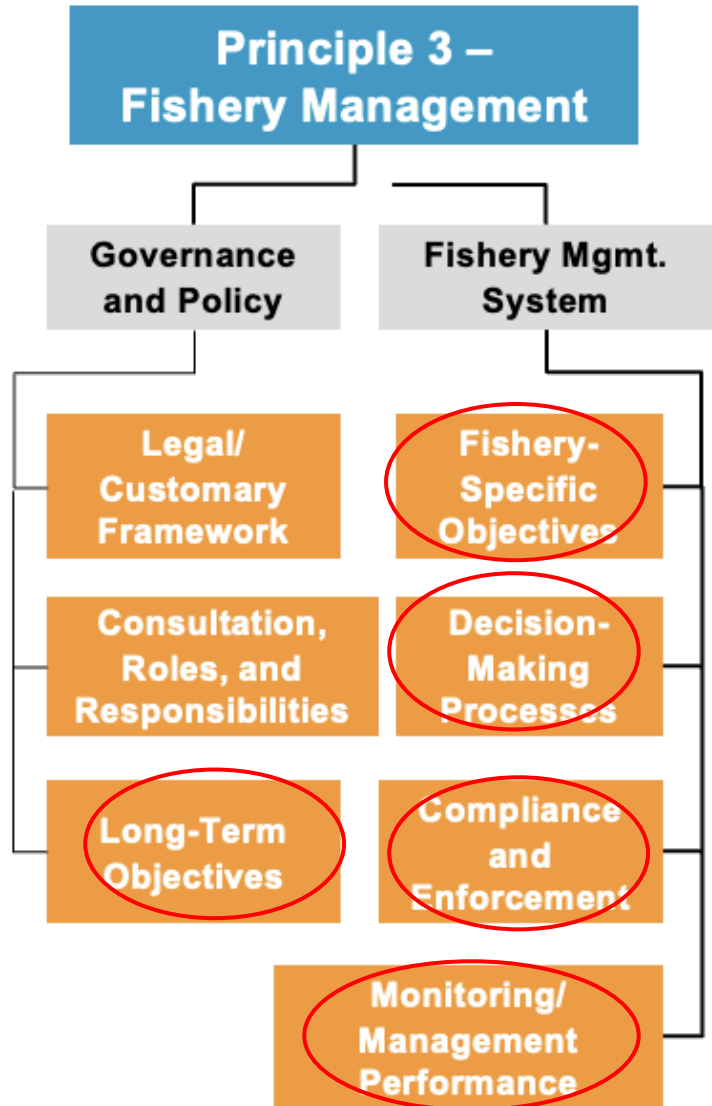


General lack in Ecosystem-based management

- Reporting bycatch and endangered species data.
- Carrying capacity of fishing grounds
- Over-reliance on artificial propagation (may fall outside of scope)
- Genetic impact on natural ecosystems
- Habitat modification (seabed plowing, large artificial reef installment, etc.).
- Proper gear disposal and plastic waste
- Bait fish sustainability

Principle 3 (Management)

improvement needs



- Fishery-specific long-term goal
- Decision-making process based on scientific evidences.
- Stakeholder participation mechanism
- Transparency (observer data and meeting records sharing upon requests)
- Compliance and penalties
- Management effectiveness evaluation (fishery management plans, management measures, subsidies).

Principle 1 & 2 are connected to Principle 3.

MSC pre-assessments identify critical issues

Stock management

- Reliance on self-governance for shared stock (Lack of science-based management and coordination)
- Data – poor


(Gap analysis)

Ecosystem

- Lack of ecosystem-based management
- Excessive reliance on artificial propagation

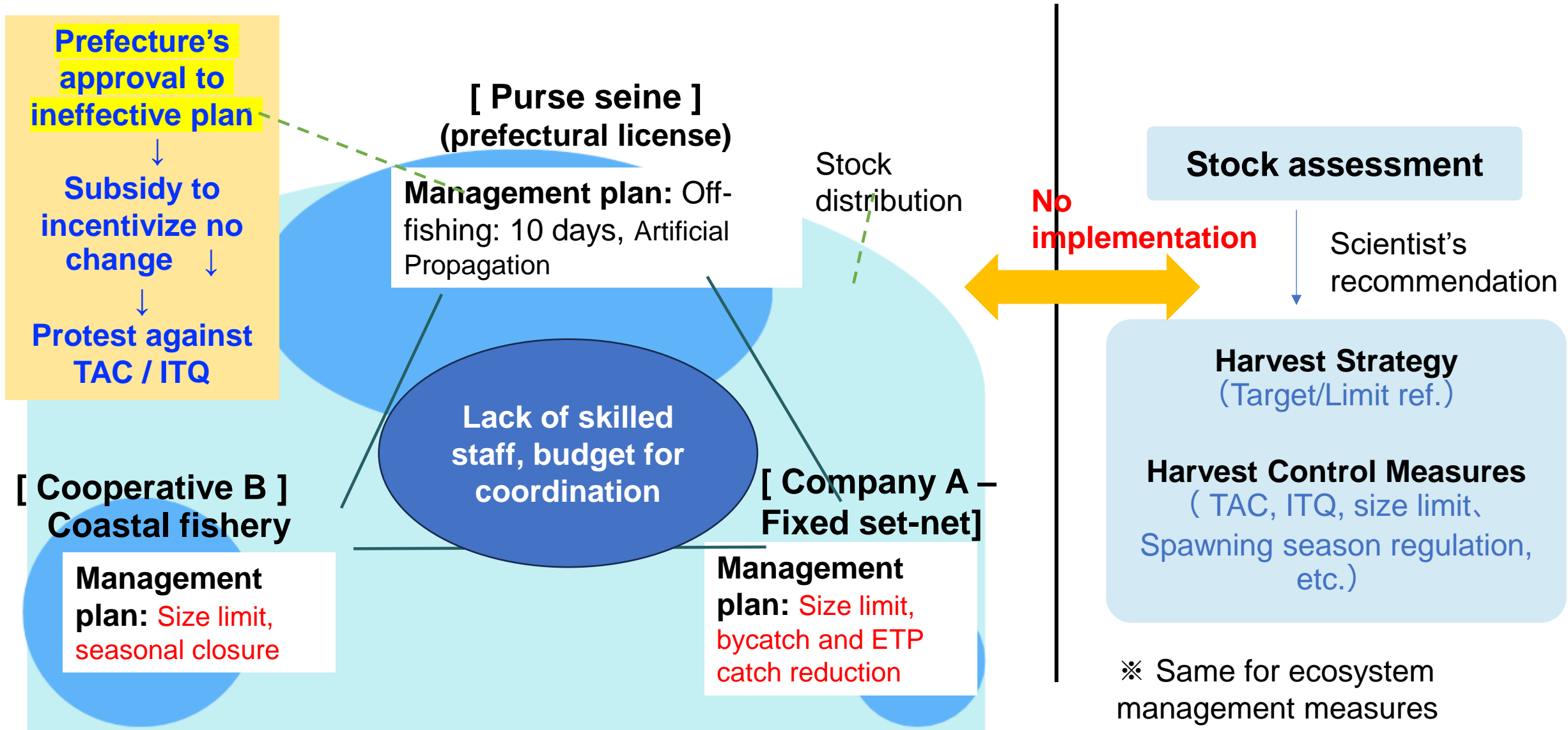
Governance

- Lack of transparent decision-making / stakeholders' participation
- Subsidies to lead to overfishing



KEY NEEDS : Regional, Step-based pathway toward Sustainability
Bioregional ecosystem data? / Consultation process? Data-poor fisheries management database? /

Current Co-management in coastal fisheries: Lack of science-based coordination





Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fisheries**

Guideline for stakeholder engagement on aquatic resource management-related processes



Government Of Western Australia, Department of Fisheries, 2016.
Bellchambers et al, 2016, Adopting MSC Certification of Western Australian fisheries at a jurisdictional level: The benefits and Challenges

Needs of Transformation on decision-making processes

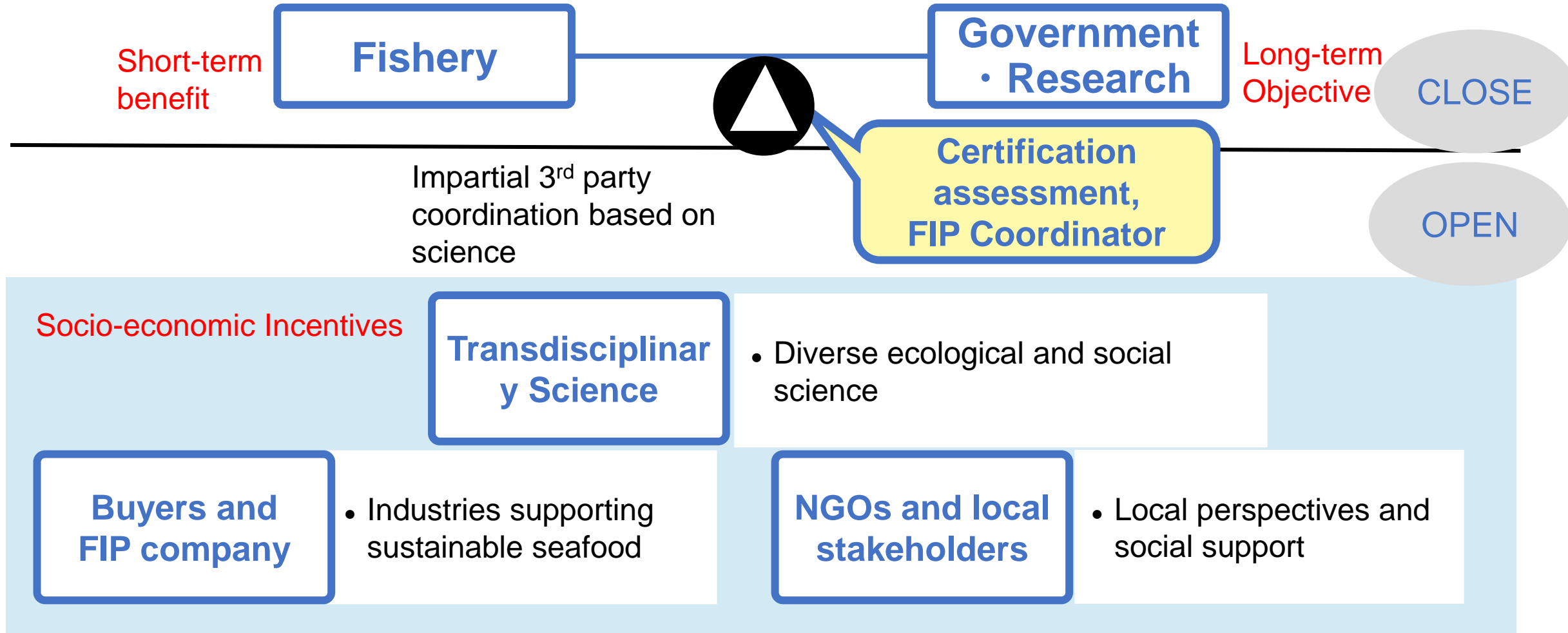
In Western Australia, the government funded MSC preassessment for all fisheries, revealing deficiencies in the stakeholder consultation processes.

→ **Re-created Co-management system from scratch → Government coordinates stakeholders for science-based stock management, with transparent process.**

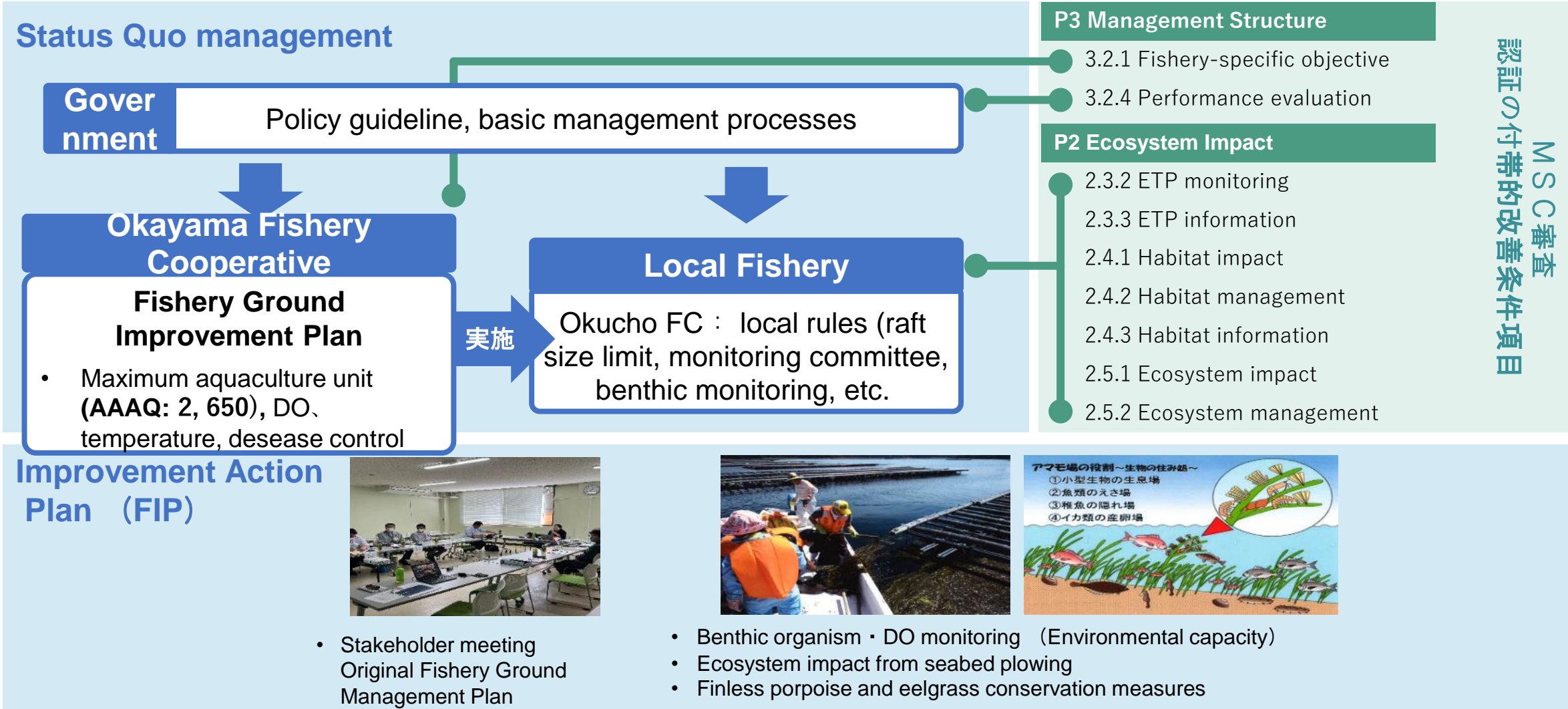
➤ **Japanese Co-management needs to be updated, to embrace current science and justice.**

Decision-making processes with transparency and inclusion

Establishing science-based “Resources Management Agreement”

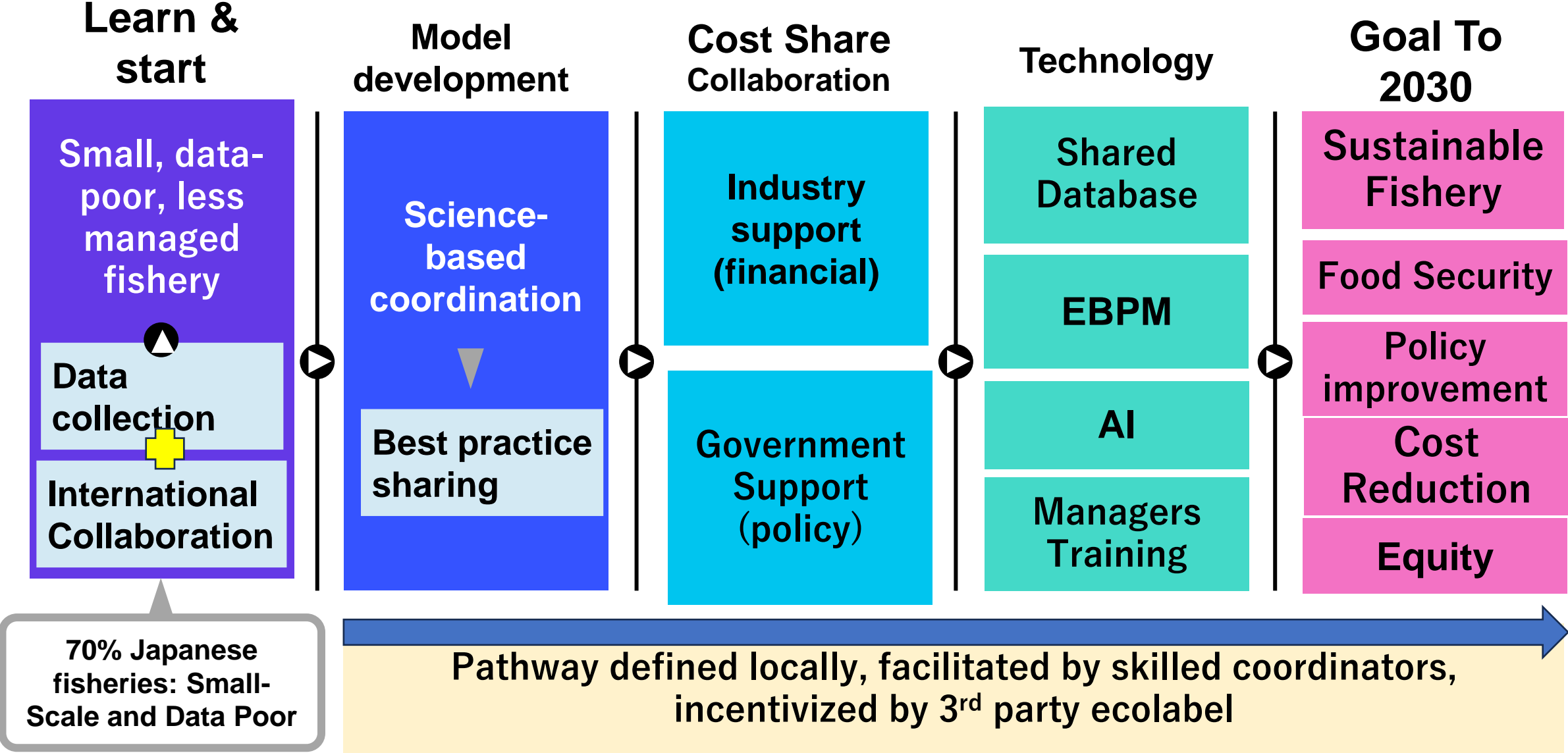


Okayama Oyster Fishery improvements with MSC Certification



(Proposed)

Improvement Pathway for Japanese fisheries



Summary & Policy recommendation:

- **Updating co-management system is key to promote sound “Resources Management Agreement” necessary for coastal fisheries.**
- **The lack of budget and skilled staff (and training) to coordinate is currently a significant impediment to implementing the sound co-management.**
- **Certification gap analysis informs where fisheries need to improve – each fishery & generally in Japan.**
- **Private-sector collaboration using certification scheme works to incentivize policy implementation at fishery scale.**