

Economics in the Service of Fishery Policy and Practice

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Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

OSU

Coastal Oregon Marine
Experiment Station



IIFET Distinguished Service Award

Previous Recipients



Sutinen 2008



Anderson 2006



Munro 2004



Cunningham 2002



Hannesson 2000



Atkinson 1990



Johnston 1992



Yamamoto 1994



Copes 1996



Shriver 1998

Distinguished Service Award

DSA forms of service:

- exchange information, data, and perspectives
- service to profession
- application of economics to fisheries problems

Arenas: capture fisheries, aquaculture, markets, trade, development

My focus: education-outreach to fishery policy and practice: commissions, agencies, processes, stakeholders

Service

Service defined:

- work done for the benefit of another entity

Add self interest:

- work done for another entity that benefits ourselves

Education-outreach:

- engagement
- information provision
- research interpretation and application
- scientific advice

Fishery Policy and Practice

Policy

International agreements

National laws

Practice

Government agencies

Decision bodies

Management plans

Regulations

Enforcement

Premise

Service in the form of education-outreach is a value proposition for strengthening the role of economics in fishery policy and practice.

It is underused by fishery economists as an avenue of influence.

Economics as a world view

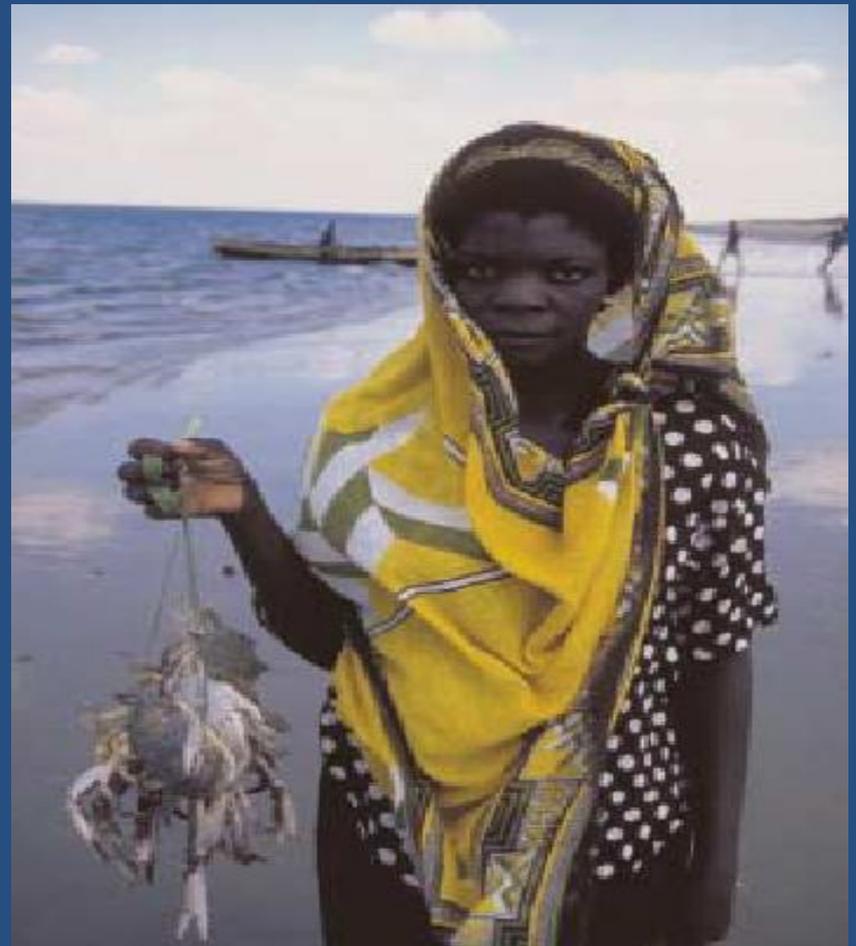
The simple beauty of
economics

Oikos - house

Nomos – principles

The principles governing the
house

A powerful explanatory body
of theory



Economics as a world view

The ocean: dynamism and complexity

The people: who work on it, live beside it and depend on it for livelihood and survival.

The danger: fishing is still the most dangerous occupation in the world.



Economics as a world view

We can see how many of the world's fishery problems could be mitigated or resolved through a more intelligent application of economics.

Overexploitation

Rebuilding

Management effectiveness

Food security

Protection of biodiversity

Adaptation to climate change

A Different Reality

Economics is rather weak in its influence of fishery policy and practice.

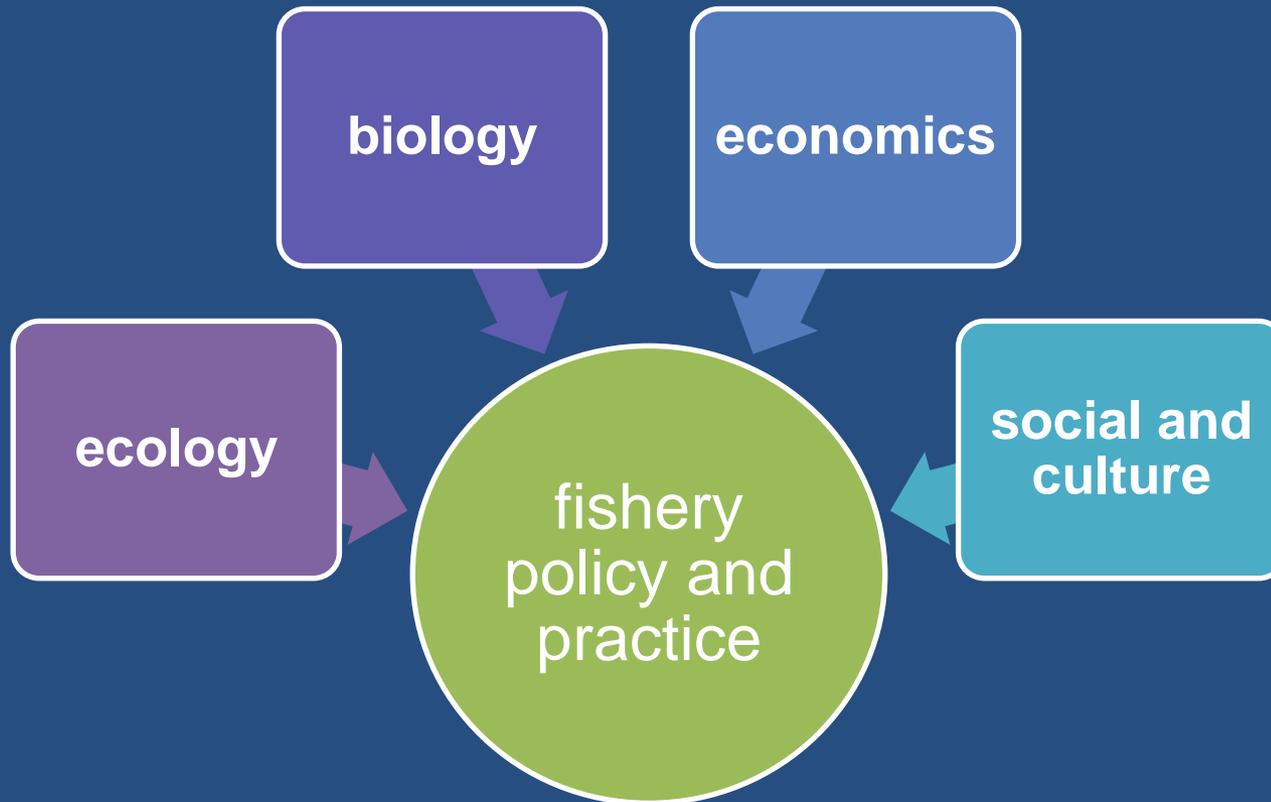
Despite “fishery management is about managing people not fish.”

The contribution of the social sciences has lagged behind.

The use of economics in management is relatively circumscribed.

The Competition for Influence

The competition of ideas in fisheries: jockeying among world views.



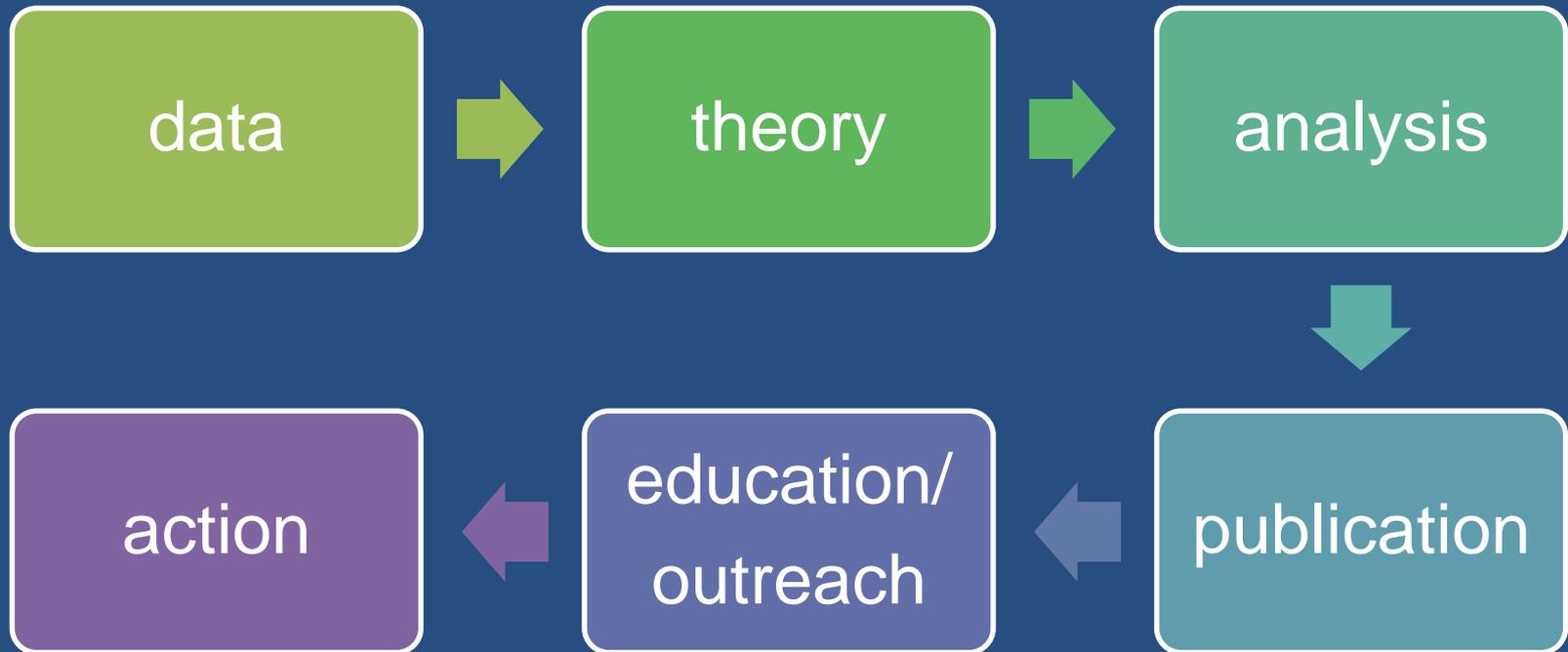
The Competition for Influence

The marketplace of ideas

- We are not the dominant players.
- We are outnumbered and often out-competed.
- We are not telling the best story.

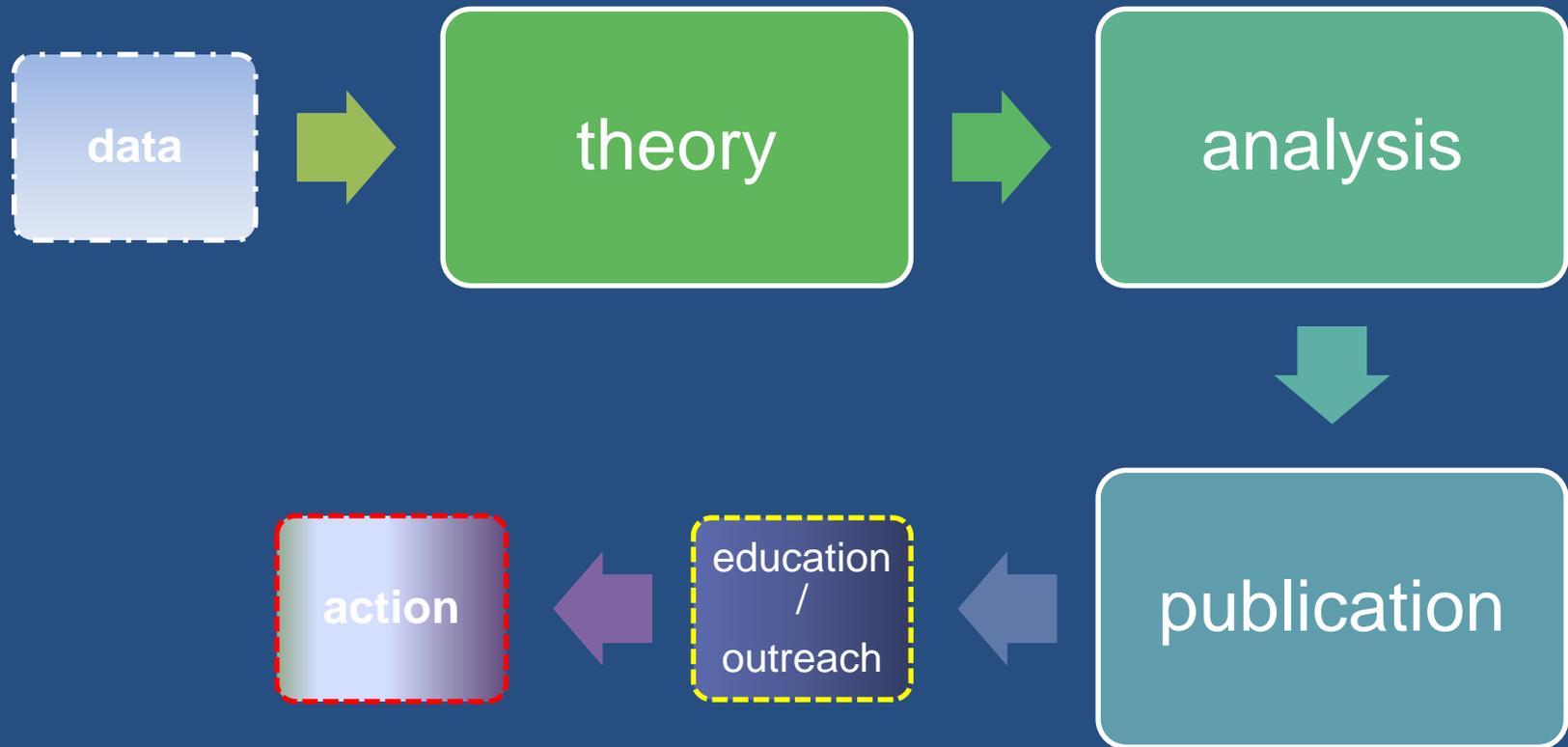
The Value Chain of Fishery Economics

The Ideal



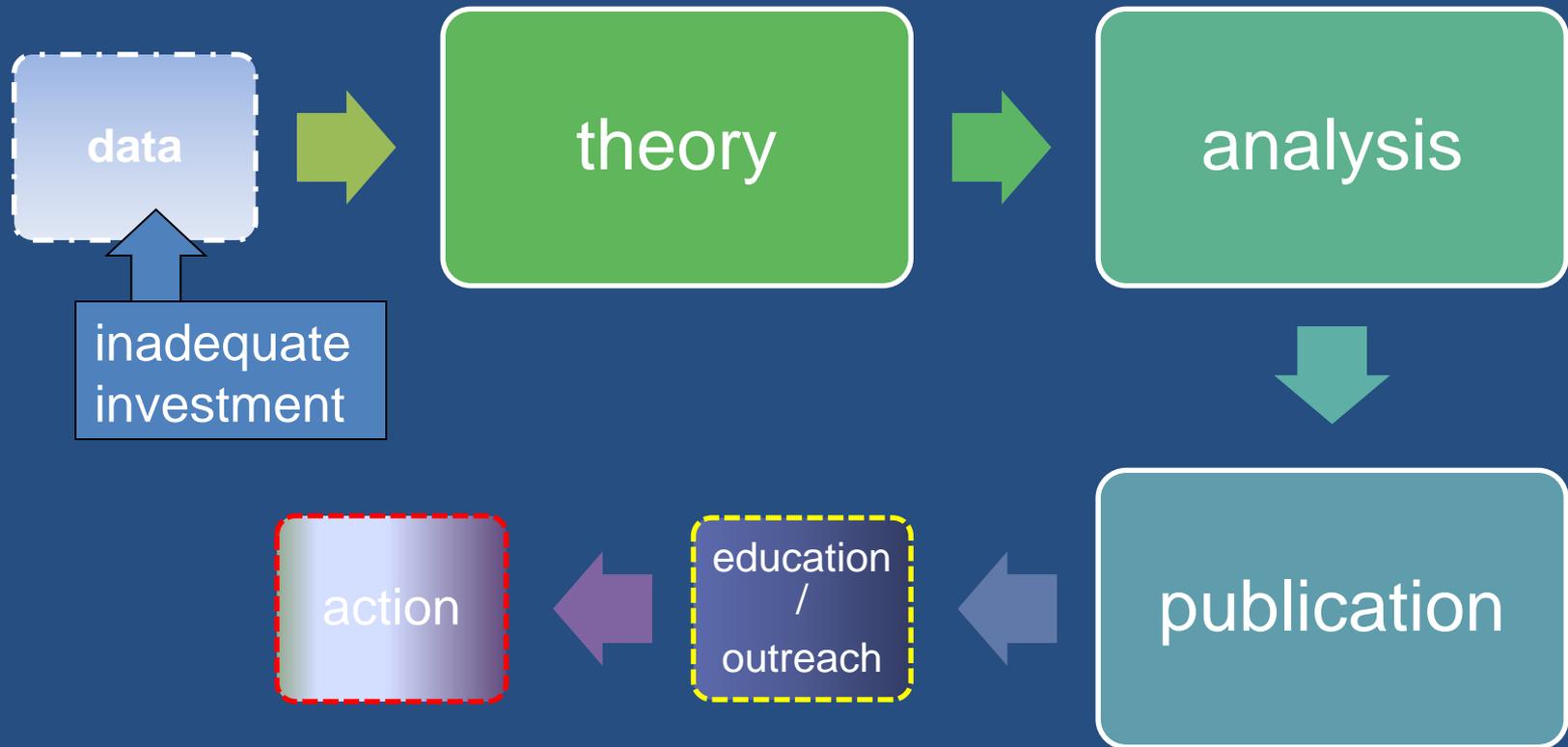
The Value Chain of Fishery Economics

The Actual



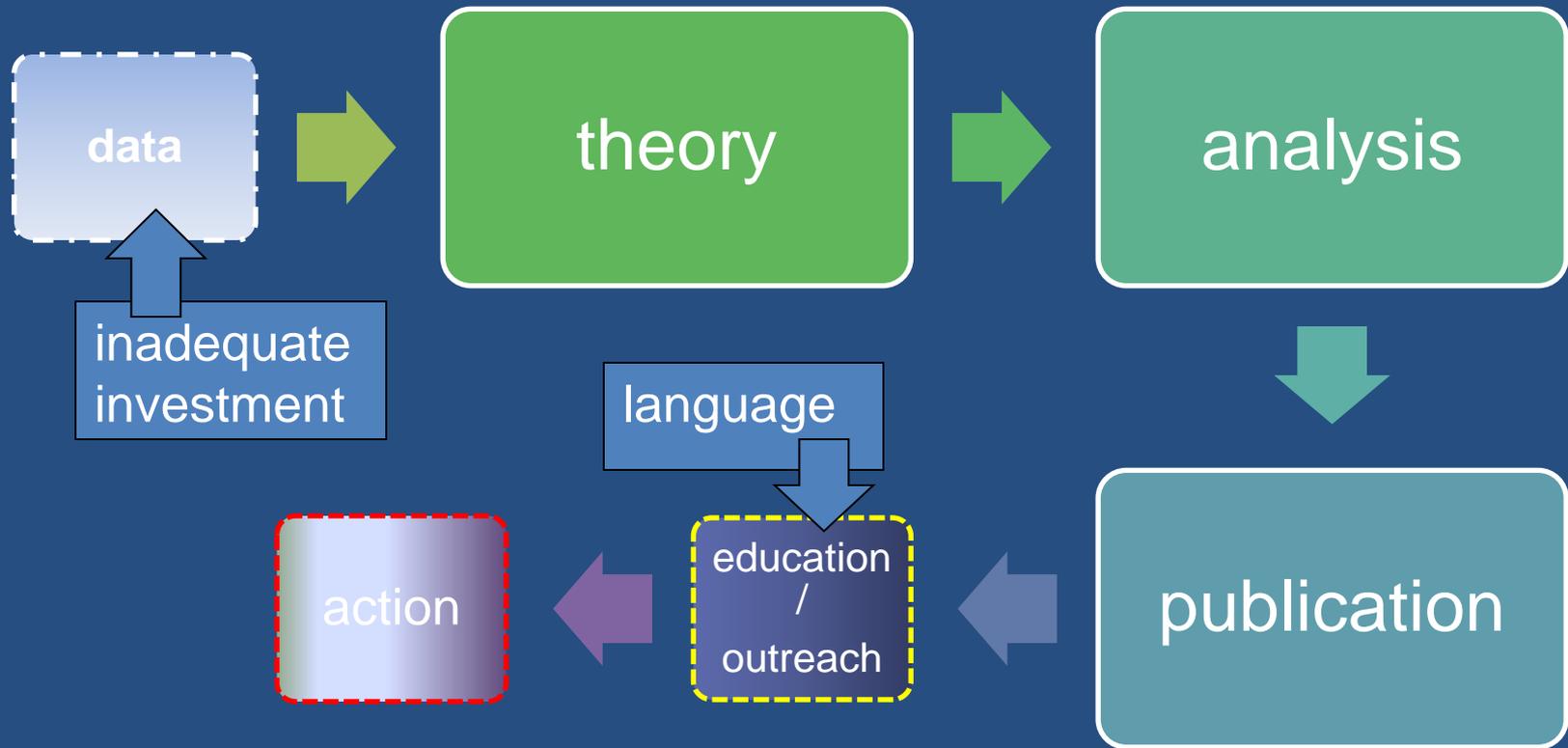
The Value Chain of Fishery Economics

What are the barriers?



The Value Chain of Fishery Economics

What are the barriers?



The language barrier

What do we evoke?

Ecology

food web

keystone species

critters

critical function

sustainability

The language barrier

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sustainability

Anthropology

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identity

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Anthropology

tradition

identity

family

community

equity

Economics

utility

agents

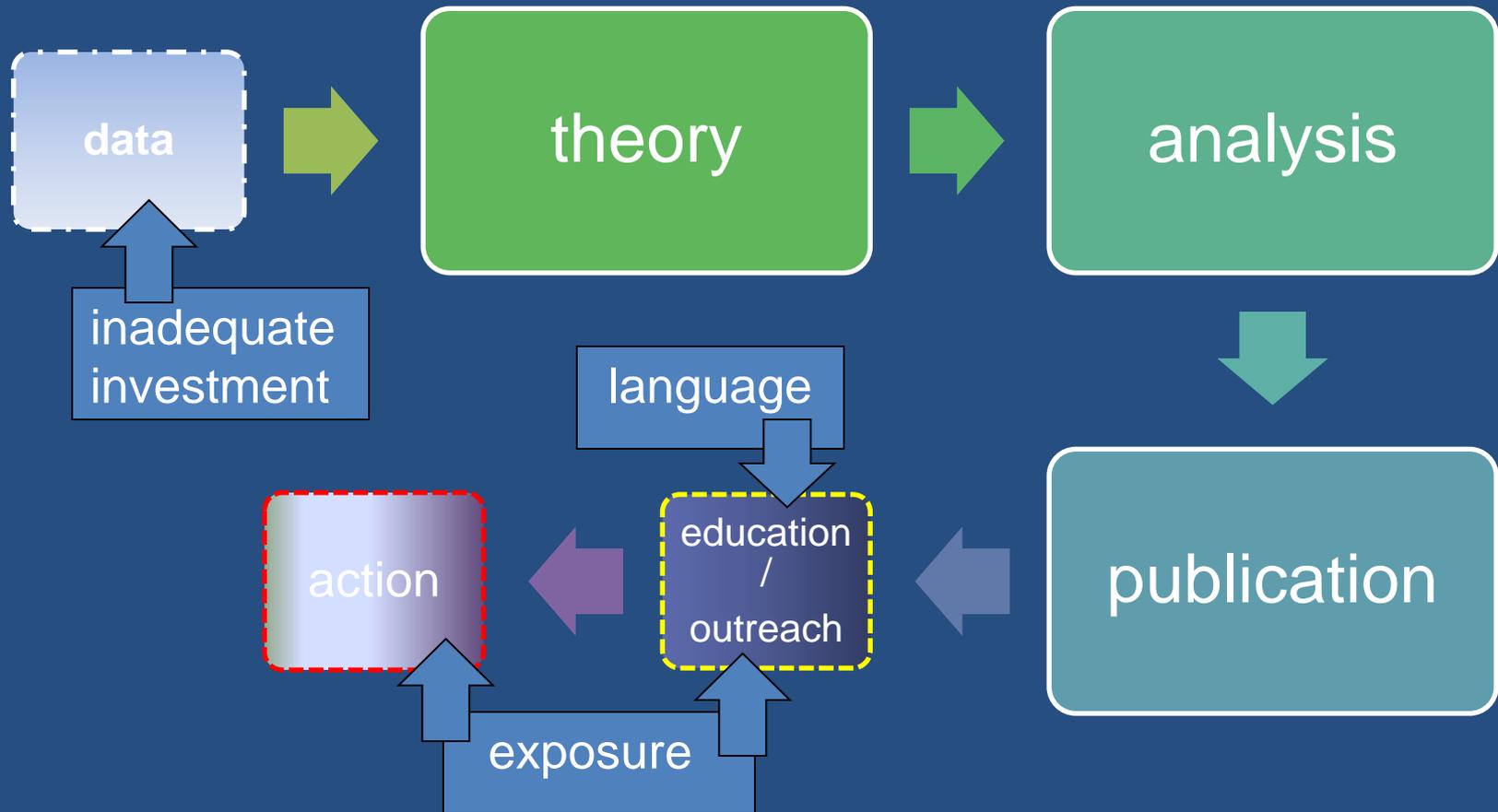
rent dissipation

producer surplus

efficiency

The Value Chain of Fishery Economics

What are the barriers?



Costs of Value Chain Barriers

There are costs to not being more engaged in representing economics in terms people can embrace.

Issues aren't framed in economic terms.

We don't generate enough demand for our product to be as influential as we could be

- investment in data
- choice of approach
- design of options

Current Issues - Opportunities

Three Policy Areas

Rebuilding fisheries

Rationalizing fisheries

Sustaining fishing communities

How the issues are framed and where economics can contribute

Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Rebuilding Fisheries

Policy framing: benefits of recovery

Policy issue: the path to recovery



Wa. Dept. Fish & Wildlife

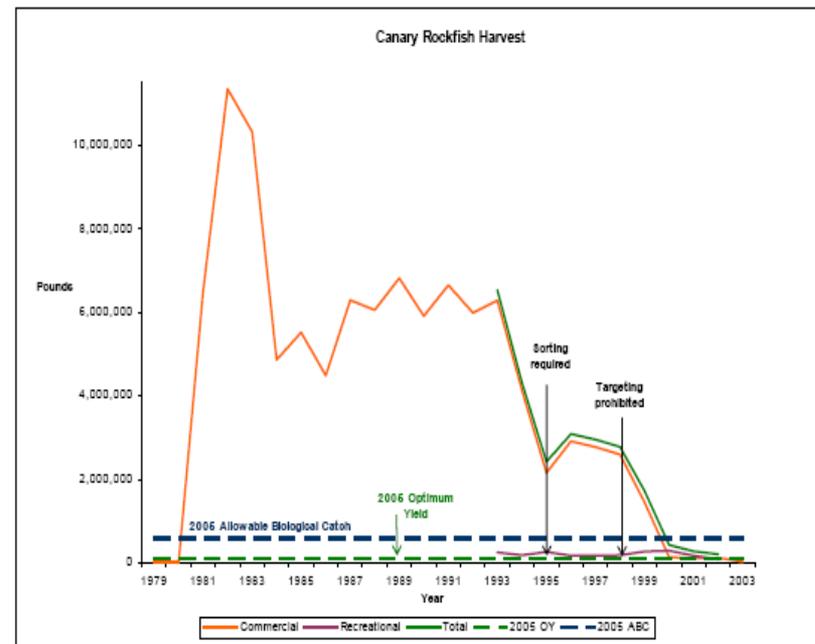


Figure 81. Recent commercial, recreational and total harvest of the canary rockfish, with reference to the current optimum yield and allowable biological catch (NOAA Fisheries 2005a; NOAA Fisheries 2005b; PFMC 2005a).

Swasey and Rosenberg 2006

Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Rebuilding Path

What people want to know:

- potential for economic value
- tradeoffs of different time paths
- winners and losers
- assurance options



Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Rationalizing Fisheries

Policy framing: fishery
stabilization and
sustainability

Policy issue: restructuring
incentives for improved
efficiency



Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Rationalizing Fisheries

What people want to know:

- distribution of C&B
- property rights function
- rights markets
- concentration potential
- cost-effectiveness



M. Preusch The Oregonian

Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Sustaining fishing communities

Policy framing: tradition;
culture; food security

Policy issue:
shore-side economic
viability



The Oregonian



R.F. Bukaty AP



P. Sakuma AP

Current Policy Issues and Opportunities

Sustaining fishing communities

What people want to know

- shore-side economic impacts of regulations
- property rights options
- infrastructure investments
- management futures
- market access



Outreach Benefits

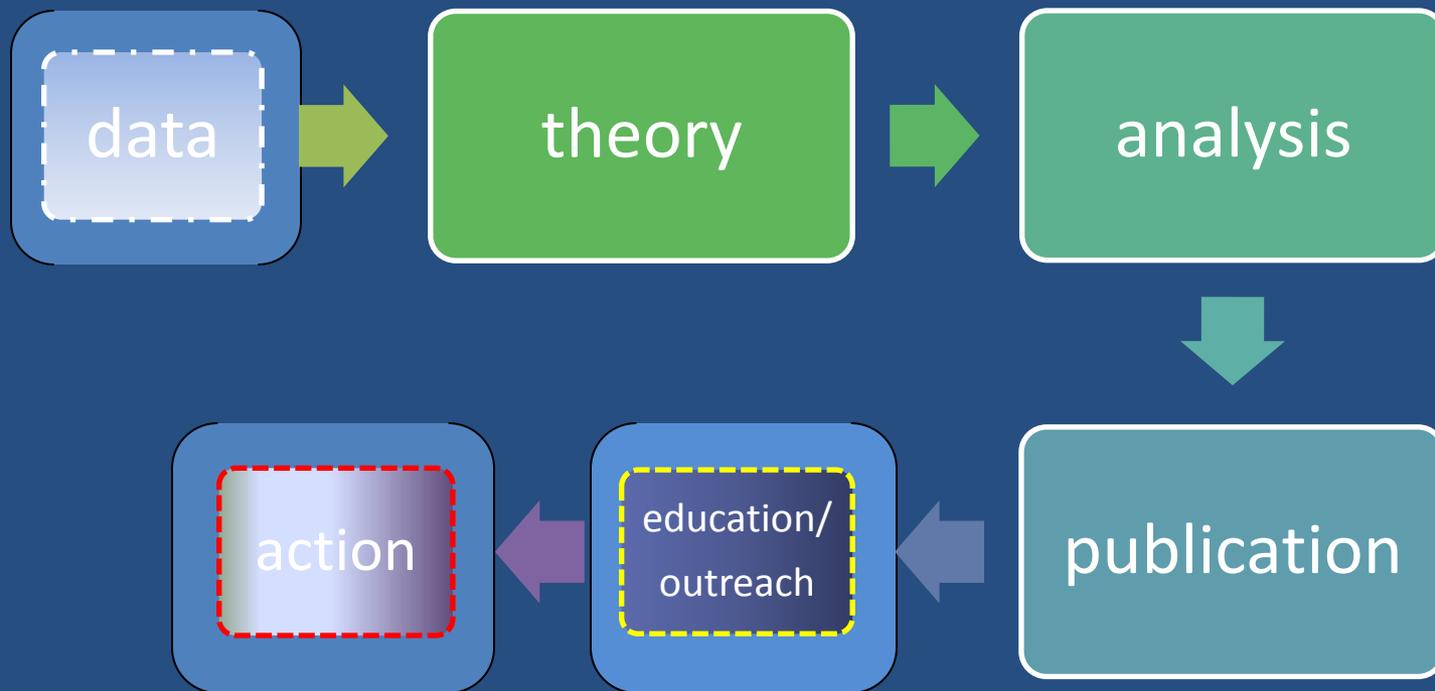
It's in our self-interest to be more engaged in the translation and application of economics.

We will increase:

- economic literacy of managers and stakeholders
- demand for economic data and information
- application of economic analysis
- influence over types of fishery management actions

Outreach Benefits

Engagement can lengthen the value chain of economics.



Outreach Costs

Education-outreach has costs as well as benefits.

Opportunity cost of time

Biological path dependence of management

History of accepting stories as a proxy for social science

Optimism

For the profession the benefit-cost ratio of education and outreach will be positive.

The policy context is becoming more favorable for economics.

In strengthening the value chain, we have an opportunity to demonstrate that fishery management is about managing people not fish.

Coda

