

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Piscari Fisheries Ltd.

Co-management - our key to ensuring renewable food security from our oceans

Oceans and aquatic ecosystems naturally produce around 15%-16% of all animal meat protein consumed globally, combined with aquaculture which relies on healthy oceans and waterways this figure jumps to over 30% which is the largest animal meat protein group and is of critical importance to world food security. Given the oceans and their contents are essentially a public resource how best do we manage their sustainable utilization and conservation?

The answer is Co-Management but what exactly does that mean?

Co-Management is essentially a multi stakeholder approach of strategic partnerships between local, regional and international fisheries management authorities, the private sector, governments, academic and research institutions and constructive civil society organizations.

One of the primary pillars of co-management is in the ownership and transferability of scientifically assessed fishing rights or quotas. This critical element gives the private sector a stake in the resource and a measurable interest in ensuring its longevity for all generations to come.

Using Australia as a case study we can now gladly say that out of 96 Commonwealth managed fish stocks, none are currently being overfished. This has only been possible through the ongoing participation of the private sector in managing those fisheries. It's a model I've been proud to part of and a model that can and should be exported to the rest of the world.