

Information and Influence in Fisheries Management: A Preliminary Study of the Shrimp and Groundfish Resources in the Brazil-Guianas Continental Shelf



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OUTLINE

1. Introduction

- Study area
- Internship

2. The Management Issue

- Flow Chart of Information Production & Usage



3. Methodology

- Surveys & Content Analysis

4. Results

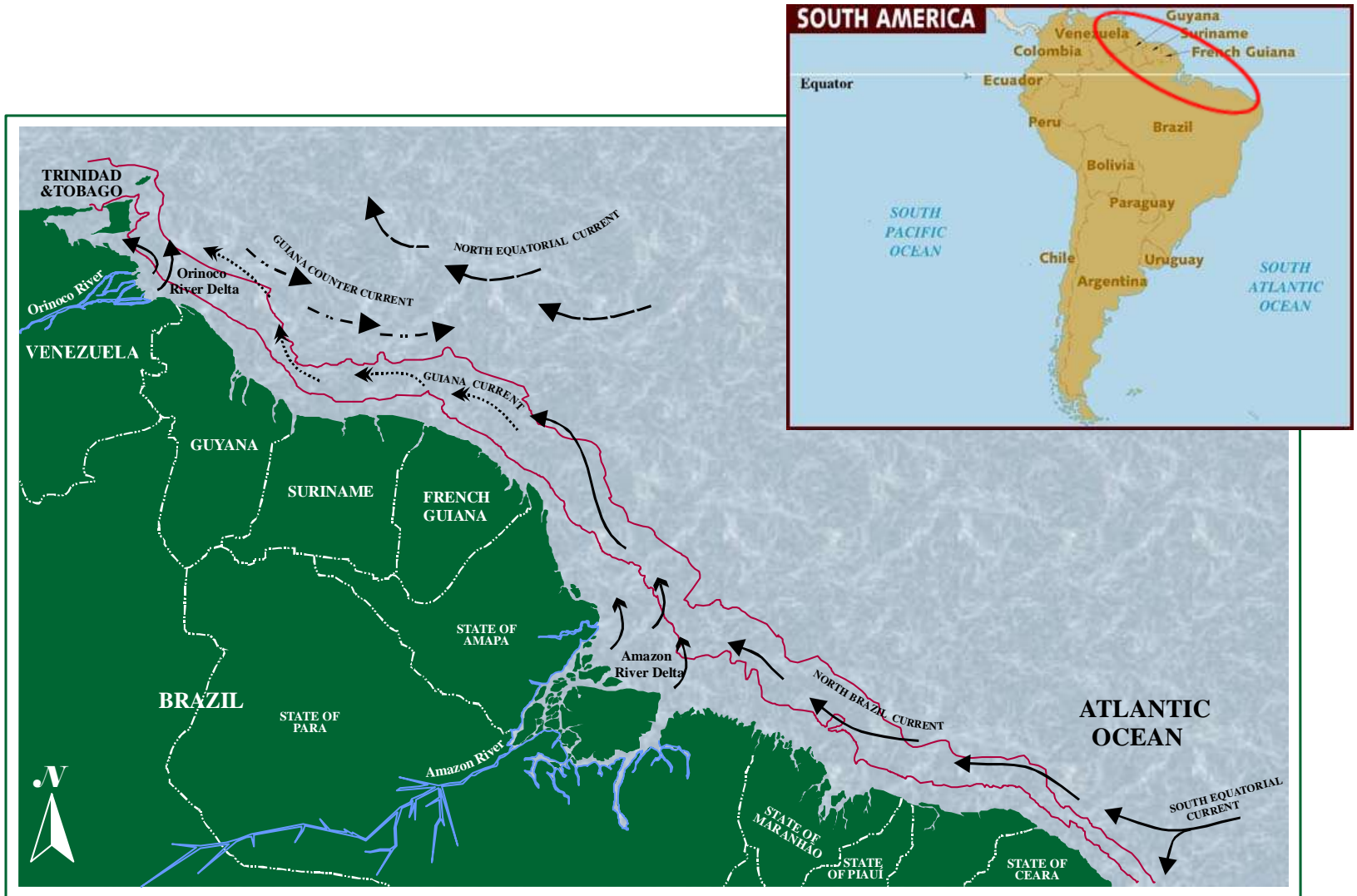
- Flow Chart of Information based on Survey Responses



5. Conclusions and Recommendations

- Improving use of information

SHRIMP & GROUNDFISH FISHERY



INTERNSHIP

School of Information Management (SIM), Dalhousie University

Project: Environmental Information: Use and Influence
(SSHRC funding)

Study on Grey Literature produced by:

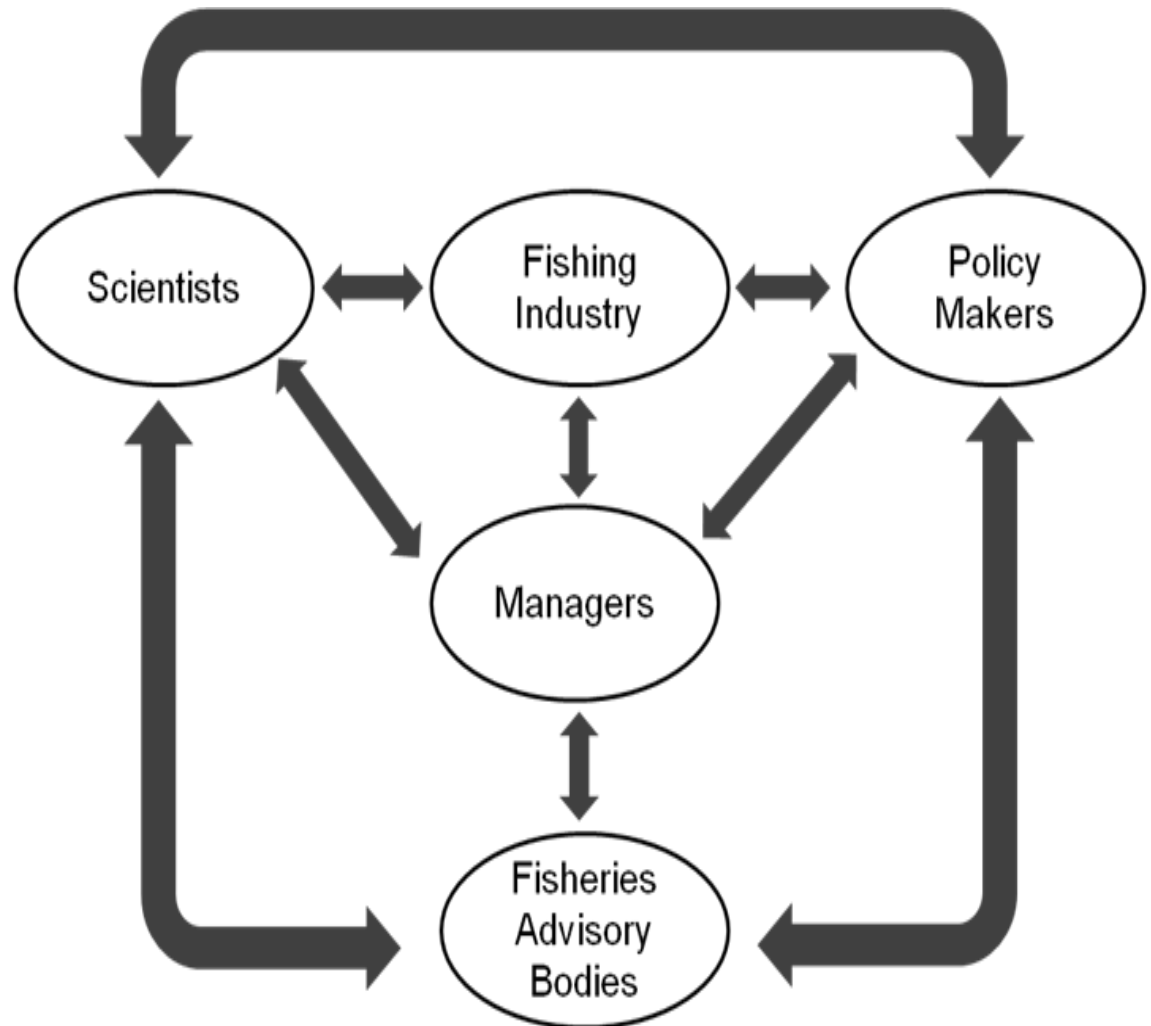
- Environment Canada
- Gulf of Maine Council
- GESAMP



THE MANAGEMENT ISSUE

“Hypothetical Information Flow”

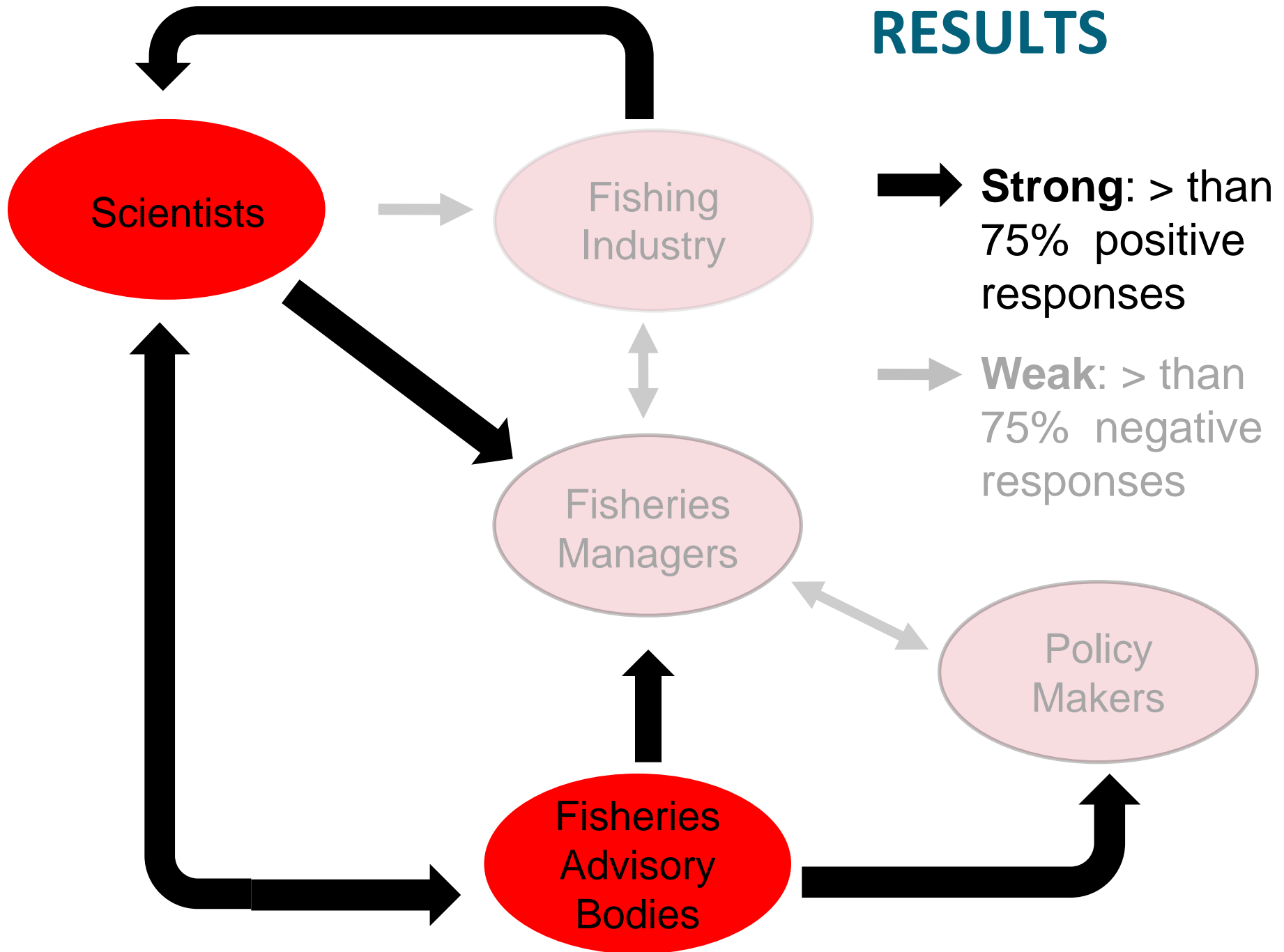
- Role in creation, distribution & use of scientific fisheries information
- Information use in decision making
- Opportunities and barriers for using information



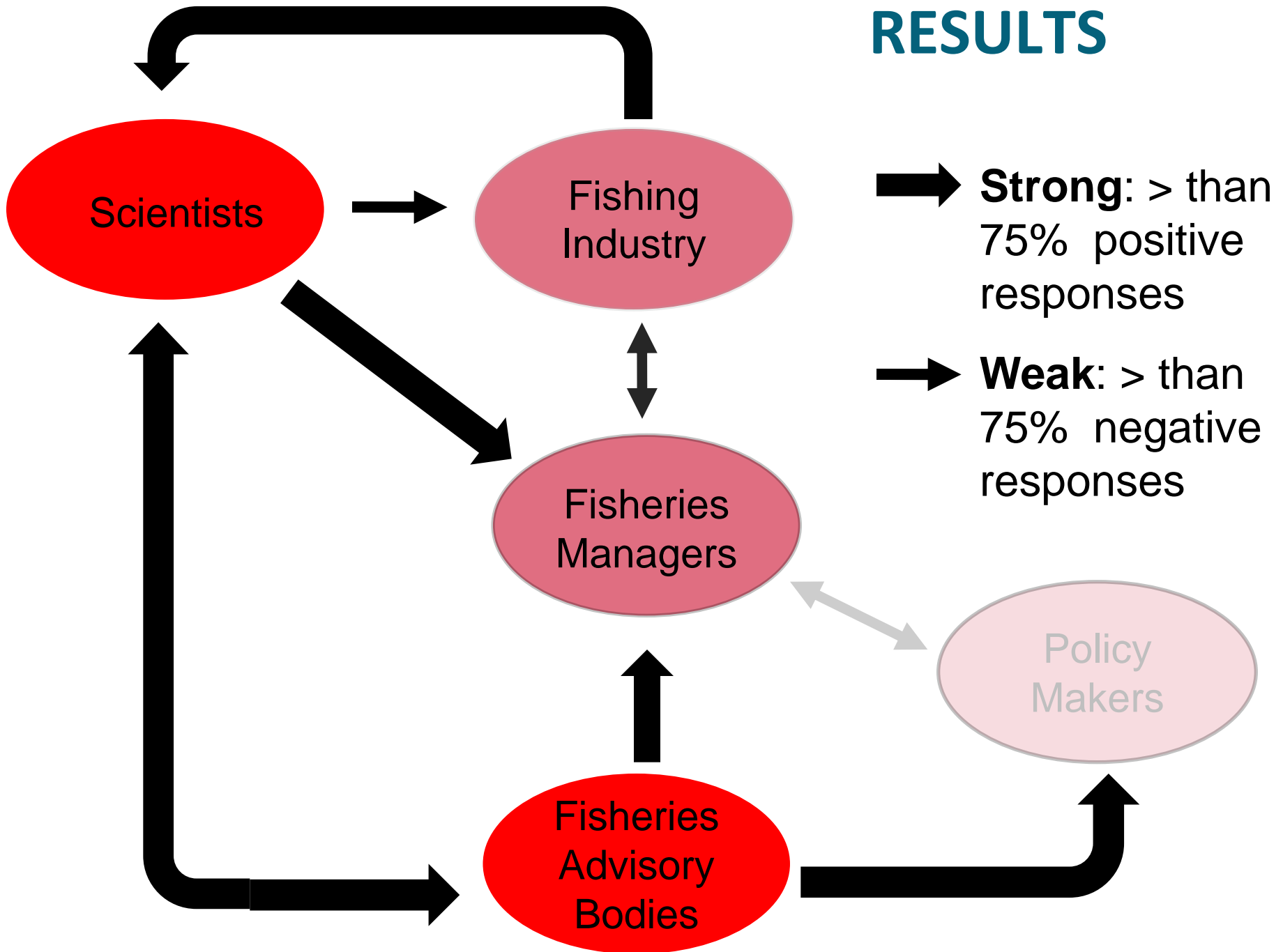
APPROACH: Survey & Content Analysis

Stakeholder Group	Organization	No.
Fisheries Advisory Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) •Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) 	6
Fishing Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Trawler fleet (artisanal, semi-industrial, industrial) 	6
Fisheries Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Marine Resources (MALMR) - TT •Ministry of Science & Technology (INSOPESCA) – (Venezuela) 	5
Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MALMR 	3
Scientists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •MALMR - TT • Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) -TT • National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) (Venezuela) 	3
	Total	23

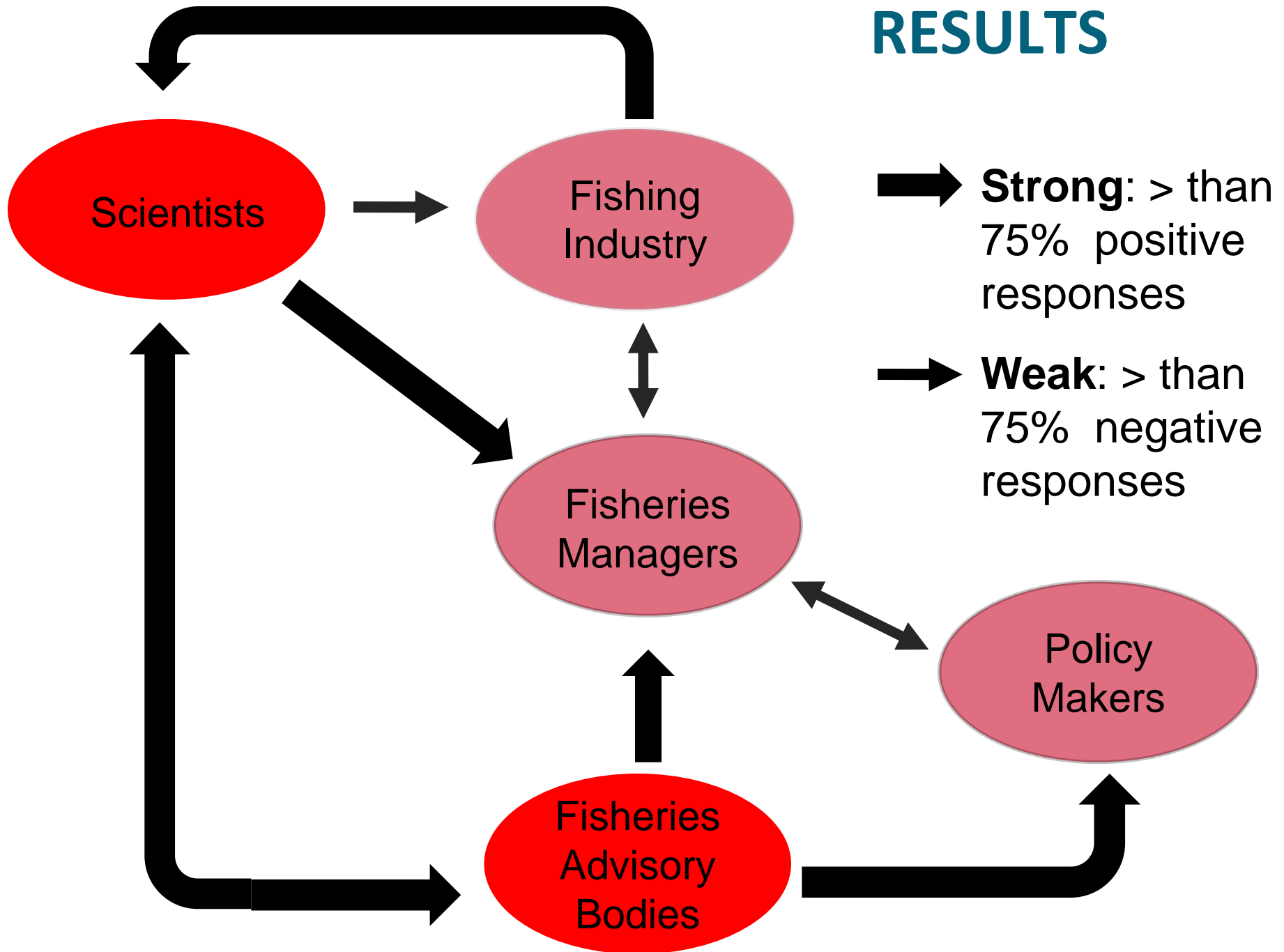
RESULTS



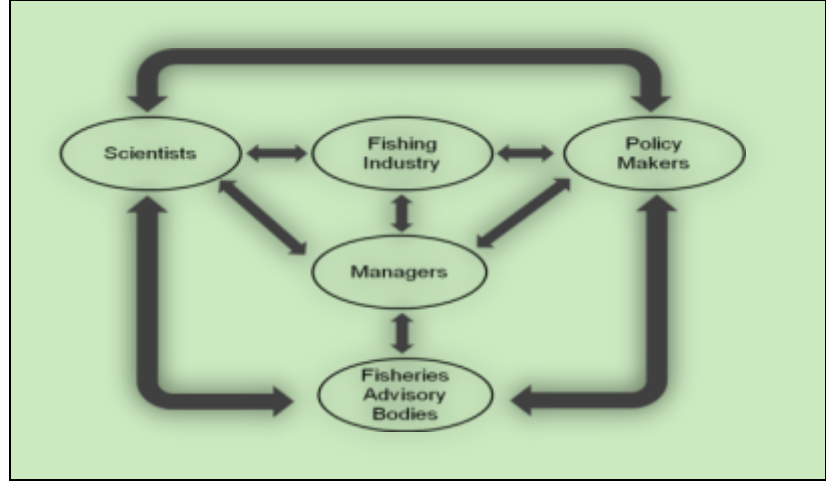
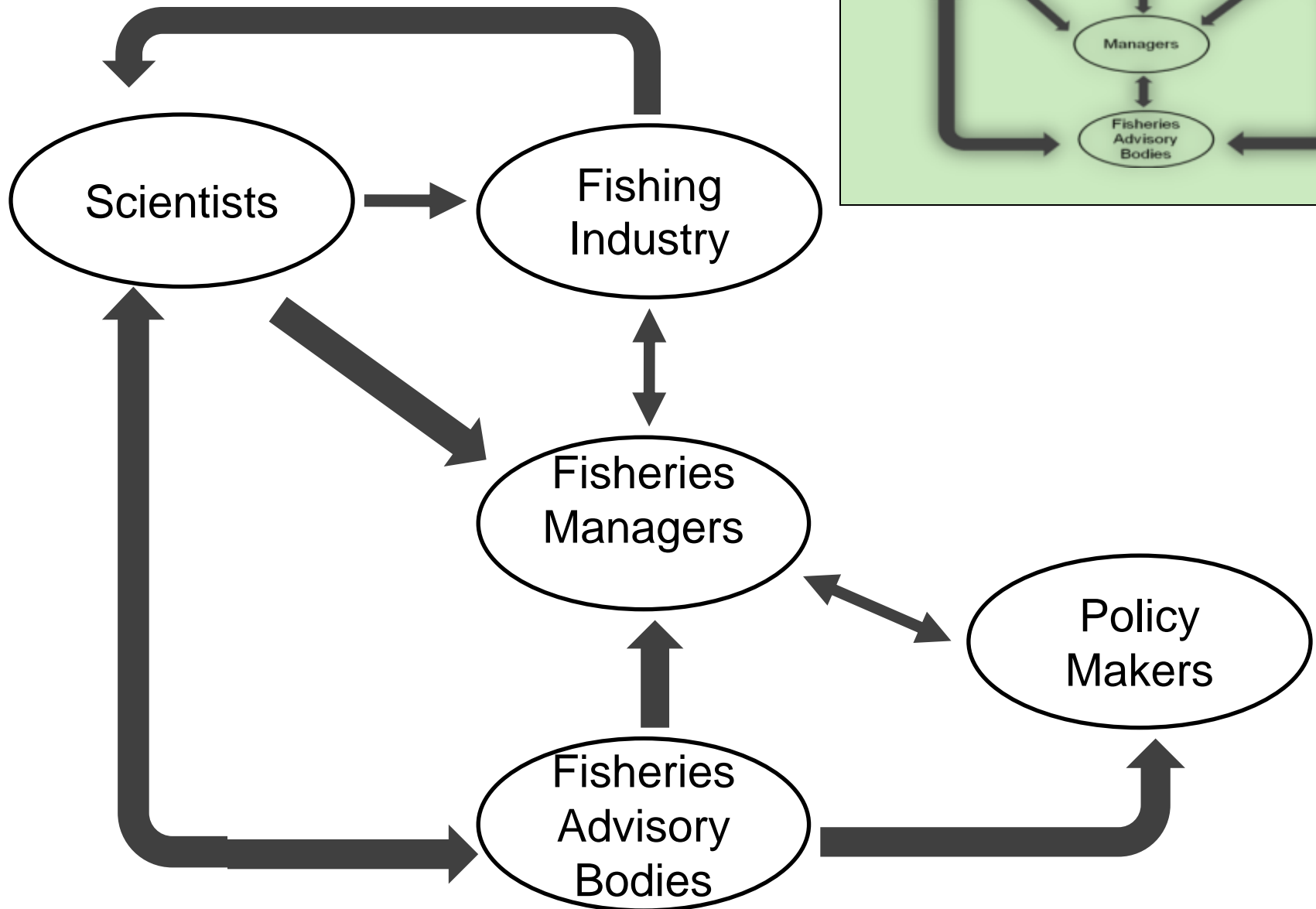
RESULTS



RESULTS



RESULTS



RESULTS

“...members of participating countries
were able to create and leave
with more information.”
(fisheries advisory body, F4)

RESULTS

Accessibility

“Most FAO and CFRM scientific reports are not designed for the Fishing Industry, or even Fisheries Managers or Policy Makers in the Caribbean. The reports are too full of jargon and too long. Usual stakeholders are fellow scientists.”
(fisheries manager, FM5)

RESULTS

Credibility

“Foreign organizations like the FAO and CRFM ... the local fisheries administration [Fisheries Division] absorbs this information and does not question it.”

(fishing industry, FI4)

RESULTS

“Too much information is being prepared but we only want to know the main points. Fishermen need the basics.....money at the end of the day. Only when they have these..... they will be prepared to listen to [and] accept scientific information.”

(fishing industry, F3)

RESULTS

“I have a lot of information from the meetings with fisheries staff but the information is in my head only. Even knowing this, I have not changed my way of fishing.”

(fishing industry, F11)

CONCLUSIONS

Scientific information can be more useful if it ...

- is presented in a less technical way
- is factored into or builds on existing government policy

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Change the focus of FAO & CRFM Working Groups to include communication of scientific information
- Scientist to communicate results more effectively to non-technical stakeholders
- Strengthen national fisheries extension services
- Fisheries advisory bodies can use their formal communication to policy makers to increase credibility of information

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Survey
Respondents

FAO

INSOPESCA

CRFM

INIA

MALMR

Fishermen