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Towards a framework for the co-production of social evidence for fisheries governance in the UK

Julie Urquhart, Hannah Chiswell, Paul Courtney, John Powell and Matt Reed - CCRI



ICES Annual Science Conference
9-12 September 2019, Gothenburg

Context – the need for social evidence

- **The problem**
 - Absence of social objectives in fisheries policy
 - Lack of data on social aspects of fisheries
- **Current situation**
 - Policy makers ill-informed
 - Low level of information on fishing communities
 - No understanding of fisher behaviour, attitudes
 - Difficult to know how to incentivise sustainable behaviour or to predict social impacts of new policies

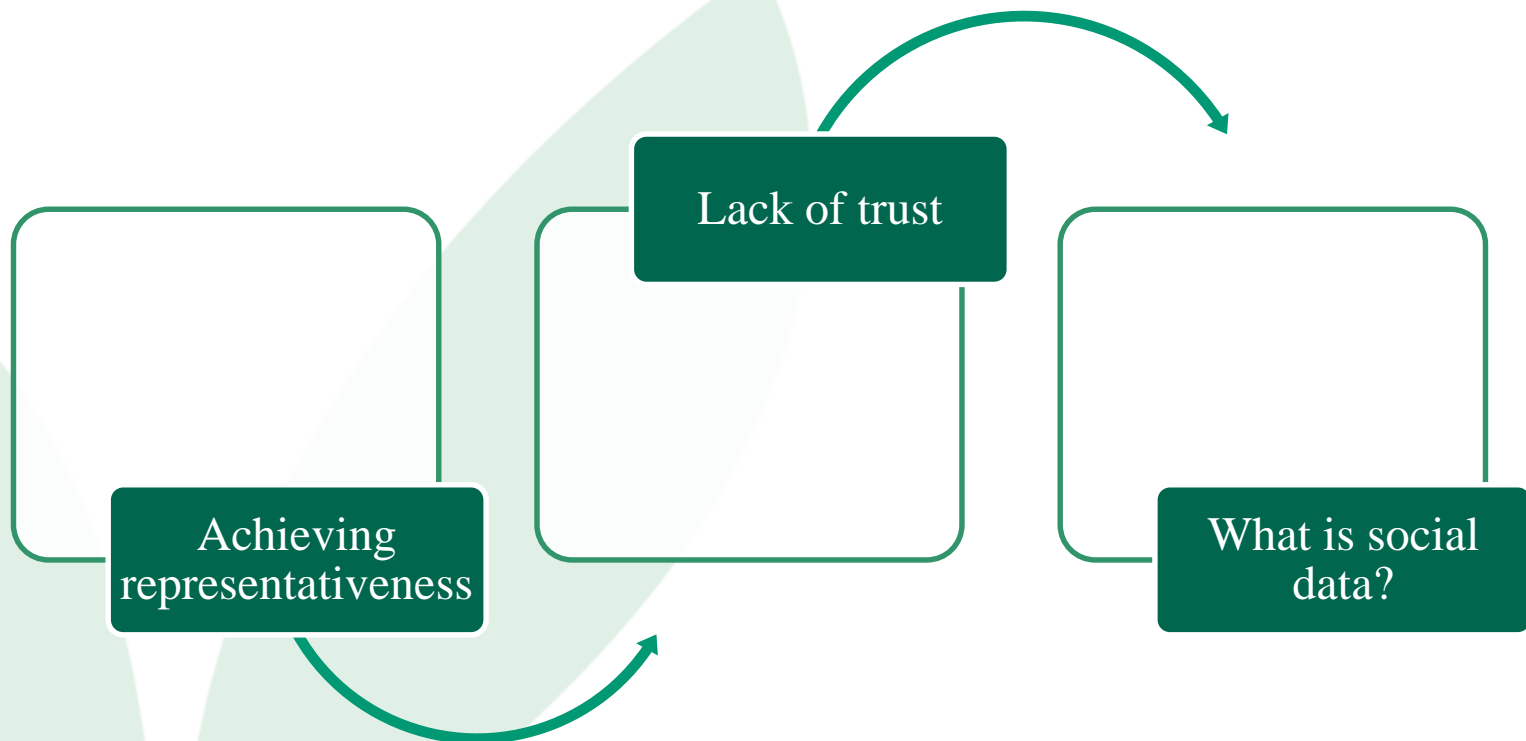
The research brief

- **Undertake a feasibility study for a new social survey of fishers**
 - Funded by Defra (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs in UK)
 - Provide evidence to inform new policies following EU exit
 - Take into account the huge diversity in fleet & fishing communities around UK
- **Survey data must have benefits for both policy and fisheries stakeholders**

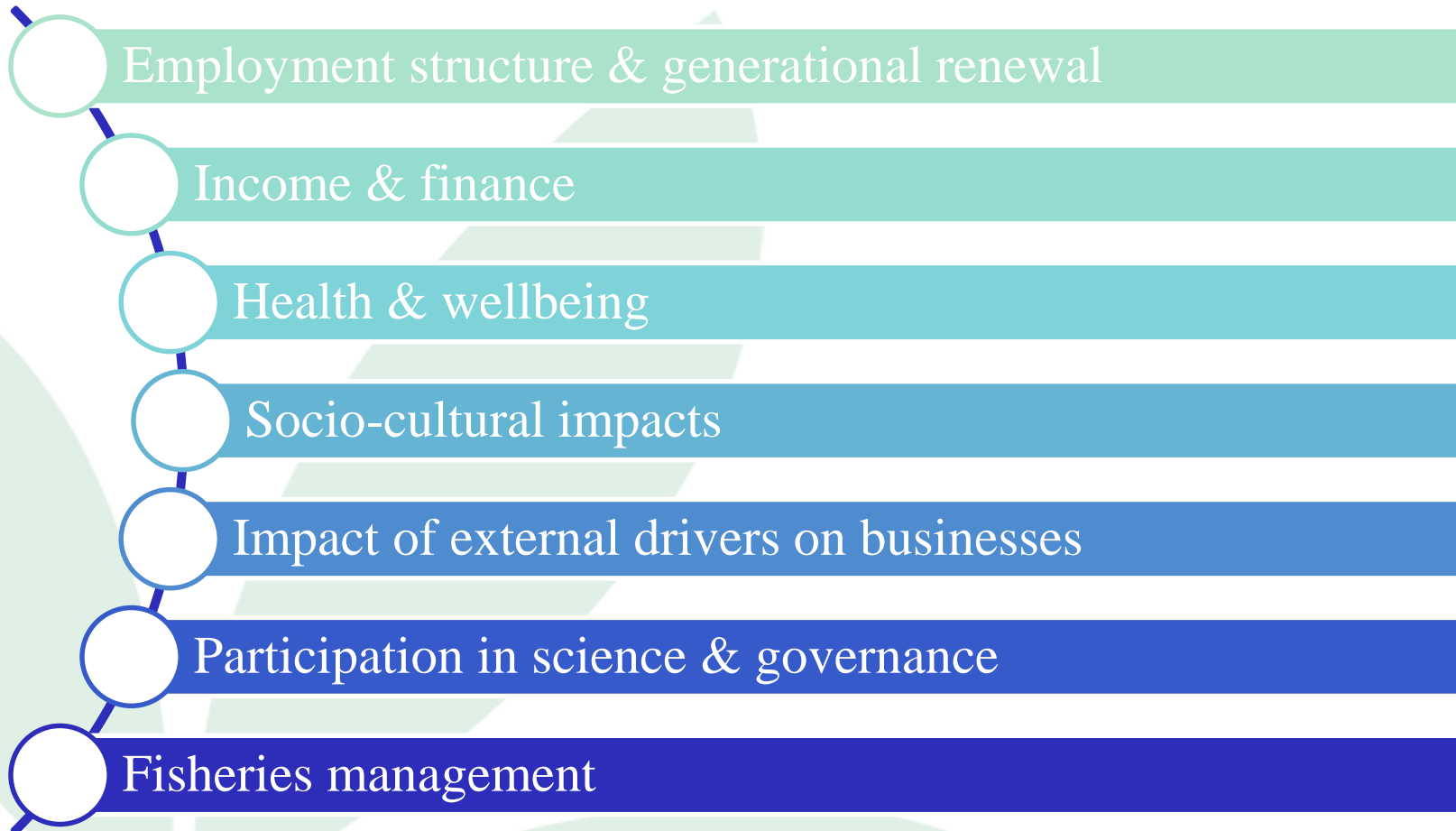
Approach

- Rapid literature review
- Interviews with key informants (n=11)
- Stakeholder workshops (24 participants)
- Policy focus groups (12 participants)

Challenges...

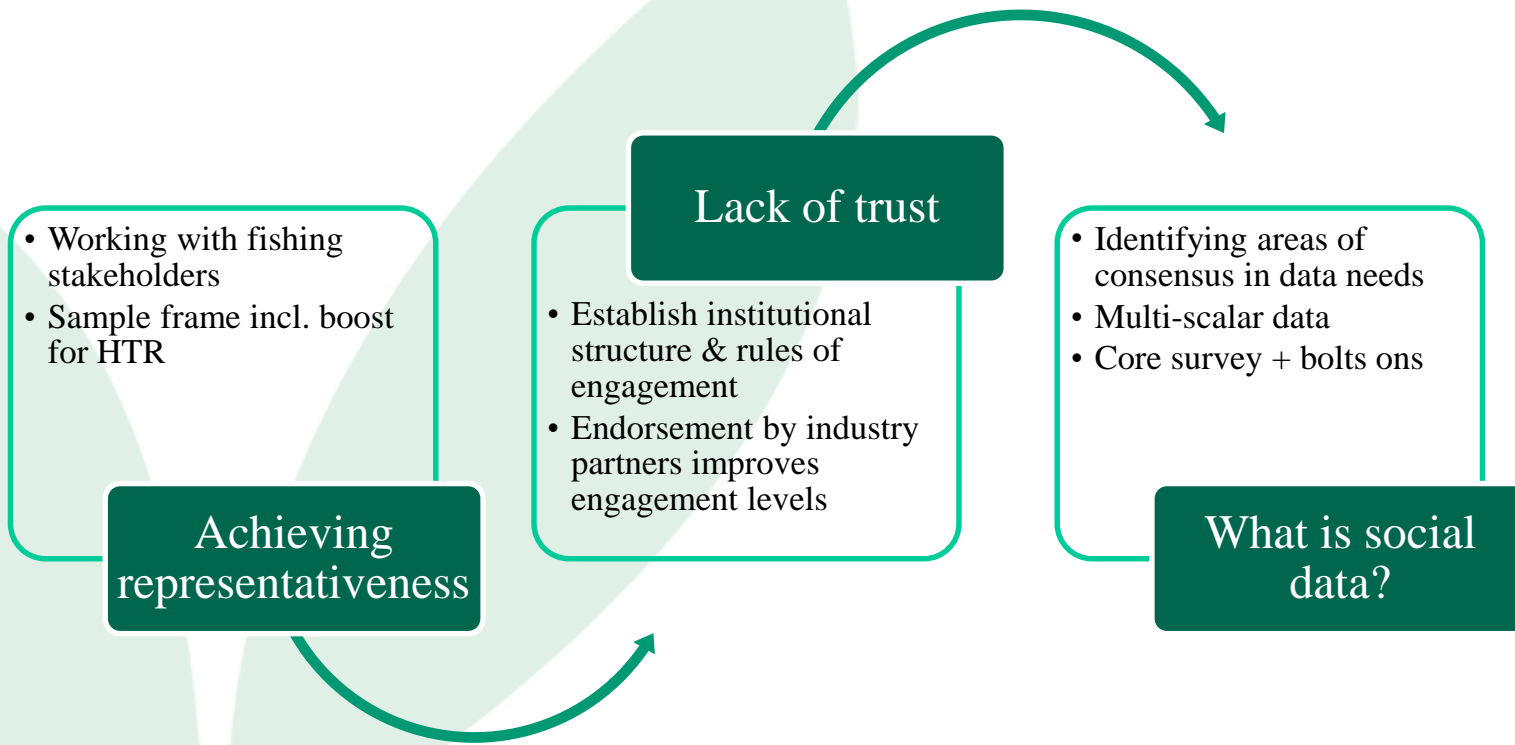


Social data needs

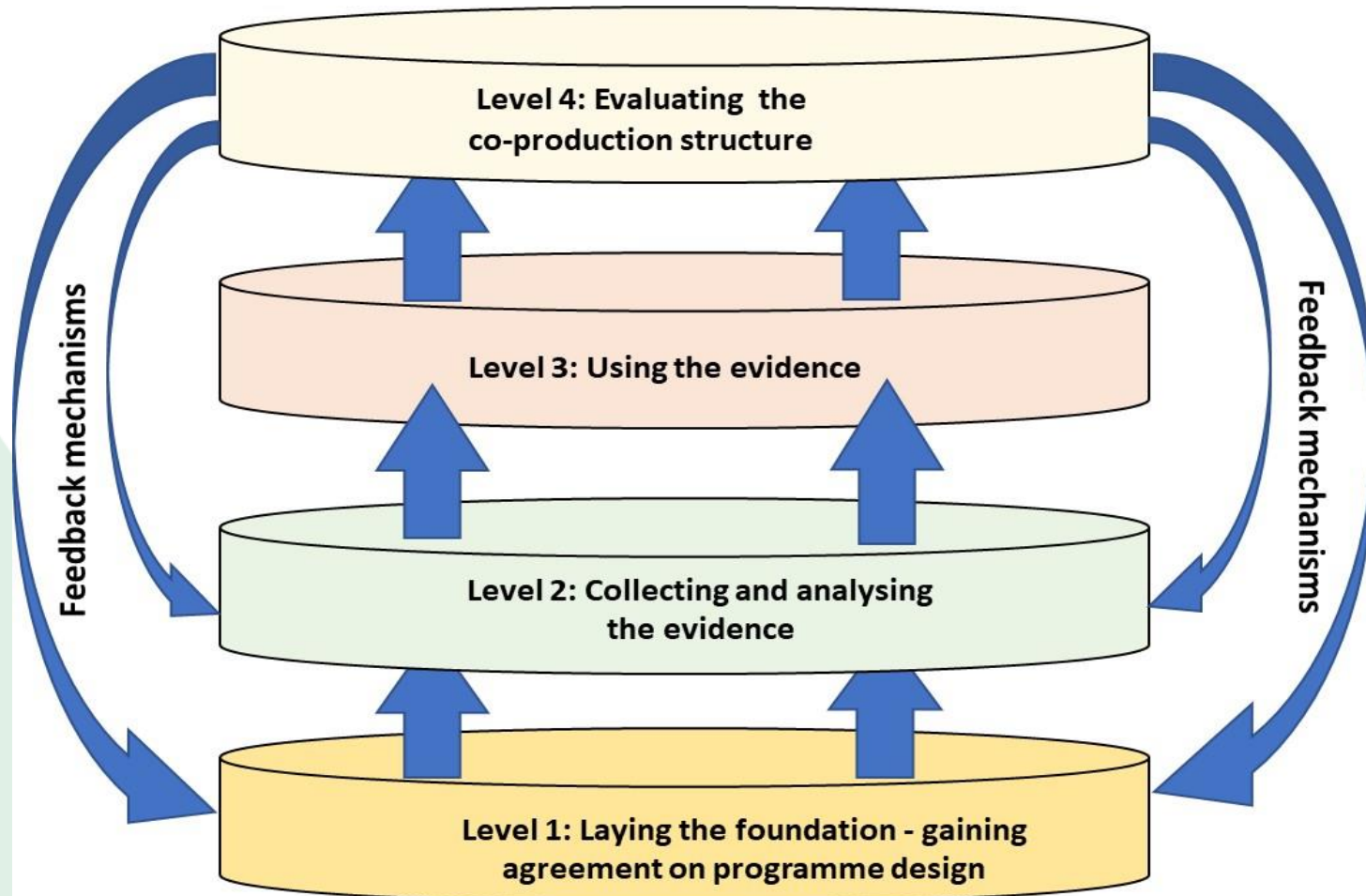


...Solution

Collaboration between policy makers, researchers and fishing stakeholders to **co-produce** survey



Stages in co-production



Principles for a co-produced survey

- Developing a **shared understanding** of ‘co-production’
- Recognising the need for **equality** across partners & shared decision-making
- Defining the ‘**rules of engagement**’ from the outset (e.g. MoU)
- Clear & well-defined **institutional arrangements** (incl. co-funding)
- Having a **shared definition** of ‘social issues’ & data gaps
- Having a **shared vision of the objectives**, scope (e.g. fishers only?) & regularity of the survey
- **Monitor & evaluate** effectiveness of co-production process & quality of data

Anticipated benefits

Policy makers:

- understanding fishers' perceptions, attitudes and values
- understanding causal mechanisms underlying behaviour
- assessing the context within which fishers operate (e.g. gendered roles, networks of influence);
- providing mechanisms for policy assessment through development of social indicators.

Fishery stakeholders:

- evidence to demonstrate the economic, social & administrative needs
- a tool to negotiate
- giving the fishing industry a stronger voice (and more responsibility) in policy and management
- improving relationships across the sector

Thank you

The full report can be downloaded here:

<http://www.ccri.ac.uk/fishersices/>

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Who should be involved in co-production?

