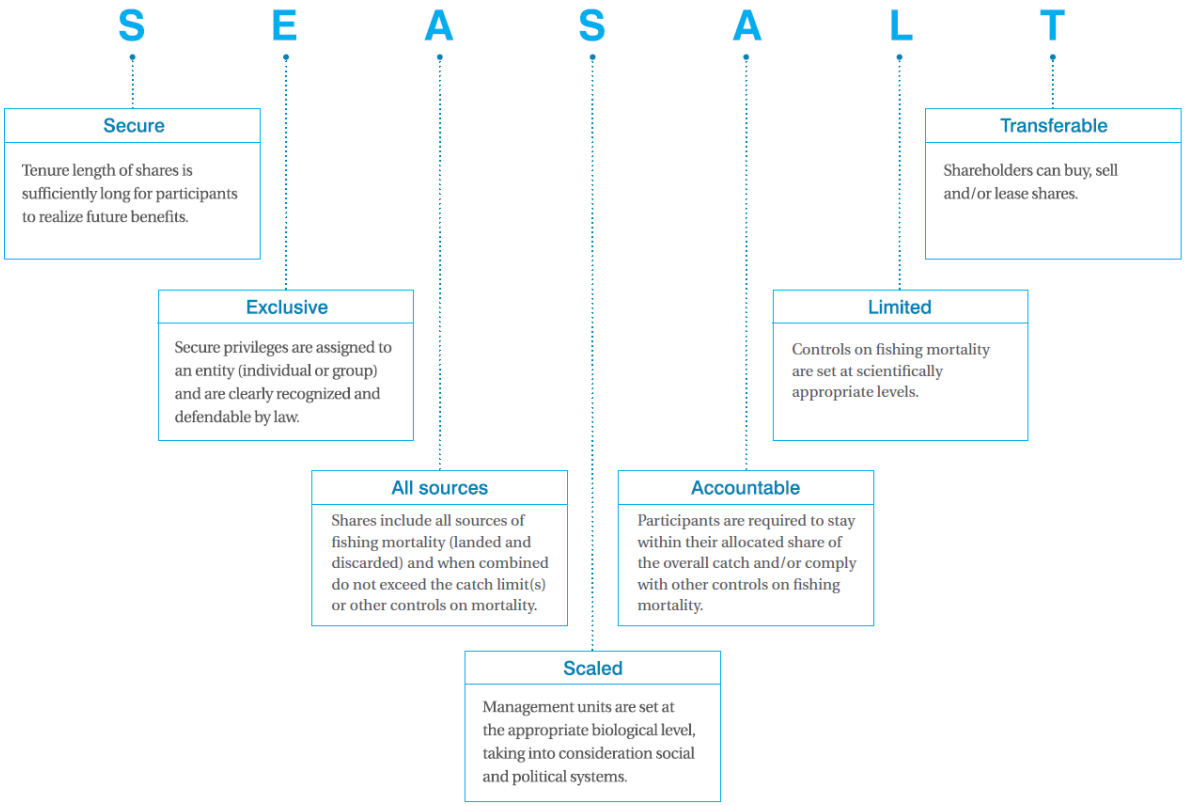
SEASALT Evaluation User Guide

Beta version – May 2018



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VERSION

This tool is being released as a beta version that will be updated as we receive feedback from fishery practitioners. The beta designation is a recognition of the value of stakeholder input, which we know will make this tool even more successful in supporting sustainable fisheries management around the world. We invite you to share your feedback on the Sustainable Fisheries Toolkit website.

TOOL COMPONENTS

User Guide
Excel Tool

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BACKGROUND

The SEASALT Evaluation allows users to assess if the design and/or operation of a secure fishing rights program includes specific attributes that have been linked to successful fisheries management. These seven attributes (referred to using the mnemonic SEASALT), and the associated indicators, are the result of years of research on secure fishing rights programs in fisheries around the world. The attributes that are assessed with the Tool have been compared across fisheries and regions, and evidence suggests that the presence and strength of these attributes is associated with well-functioning secure fishing rights programs. With the SEASALT Evaluation, users create a quick, visual assessment of the design or operation of a secure fishing rights program.

Intended audience

The intended audience for the SEASALT Evaluation is fishery managers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in assessing and/or improving a secure fishing rights program. Fishery practitioners can use the Tool to understand areas of strength or attributes that can be improved to enhance the fisheries management.

When to use this tool

The SEASALT Evaluation can be used at various times during the diagnosis, design and evaluation of a secure fishing rights program. For example, the Tool can be used to diagnose the presence and status of attributes in a fishery during the Assessment and Engagement Phase. During the Design phase, the Tool can be used to improve program design and understand the potential impact that proposed design measures have on specific attributes. Finally, the Tool can be used during the Evaluation phase to assess the performance of a secure fishing rights program and understand attributes that are high performing, as well others that require attention and improvement. See the Sustainable Fisheries Toolkit website for more information on the phases of a fishery reform process.

The SEASALT Evaluation is designed to be completed in a half day or less. The Tool can be completed through desk research or by interviewing experts. The Tool has been used with fishery practitioners in both academic and practical workshop settings.

Limitations

It is important to note that this tool does not measure fishery performance. Fishery performance indicators are unique to a particular fishery and depend on the enabling conditions, species' biology, ecosystem impacts, as well as the economic and socio-political goals for the fishery. Therefore, in order to answer the question of how well the fishery is performing in response to a management system, different evaluation processes and instruments will need to be pursued.

INSTRUCTIONS

Getting started

This User Guide is designed to walk you through the SEASALT Evaluation Tool. The Tool is divided into multiple tabs, including: (1) Overview, (2) Instructions, (3) Current State, (4) Perceived Trend, (5) SEASALT Scorecard, (6) Reflection and References, and (7) Resources. This User Guide will help you sequentially fill out the information in each of these tabs. To begin, **open the SEASALT Evaluation Excel file**, which will open on the Overview tab.

When using the Tool, you can refer to the SEASALT Attributes, Indicators and Importance section of this User Guide, as well as the Glossary section for more information on the terminology and definitions. These definitions can also be found in the Resources tab of the Excel tool.

Before you begin

Navigate to the Current State tab. This tab lists all 7 SEASALT attributes (Secure, Exclusive, All sources, Scaled, Accountable, Limited, and Transferable) in Column B. Each SEASALT attribute is comprised of multiple Indicators, seen in Column C. This User Guide will walk you through scoring the current state of each Indicator, followed by the perceived trend of each Indicator. Your answers and the scores they produce will be summarized in the SEASALT Scorecard and then finally you will be asked to reflect on the meaning of the results.

Step 1: Define scope of analysis

a. Open the Current State tab. Define the scope of the fishery you are diagnosing in cells D3 through D5. Specify the target species, fleet type and the management body and system for which the analysis is being conducted.

Step 2: Score current state

You will score several SEASALT indicators on a scale of 0-5, based on current state of the fishery. For the Transferable attributes, you will score the indicators based on a qualitative scale.

a. Click on the Current State tab.
b. Read the Current State Instructions for scoring “Tenure length of fishing privilege” which are found in Column C.
c. To begin, give the first indicator listed, “Tenure length of fishing privilege”, a score of 0-5, based on the instructions for scoring that indicator. Record the score in Column F.
d. After giving the Indicator a numerical score, it is recommended that you elaborate on your scoring decision or include any important notes/caveats in Column G. The Comment column is also a space to identify strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats to the attribute's performance.
e. You have now completed scoring and commenting on the Current State of “Tenure length of fishing privilege”. Now complete the Score and Comments for each Indicator listed in Column C.

Note: Scoring the Current State of the attribute Transferable, is assessed qualitatively, rather than numerically. Instructions for qualitative scoring are provided in Column E.

Step 3: Score perceived trend

You will now score the Perceived Trend for each Indicator. Consider the timeframe of the current administration or governance cycle.

a. On the Perceived Trend tab, navigate to Column D, "Perceived Trend Instructions" and read the directions for how to score the perceived trend for the first Indicator, "Tenure length of fishing privilege".
b. Indicate the score (0-5) for that Indicator in Column E.
c. Once you have indicated a numerical score, list the actions that have been taken or are foreseen to be taken for "Tenure length of fishing privilege", which have led to the perceived trend in Column F.

    For example: Official legislation has been proposed that would entitle fishers to secure rights for 5 years.

d. You have now completed scoring and commenting on the Perceived Trend of "Tenure length of fishing privilege". Now score and add comments on the perceived trend of each Indicator listed in Column C.

Note: For the Transferable attribute, you will not enter any scoring for Perceived Trend, but you can enter "Actions that have been taken or are foreseen to be taken" in Column F.

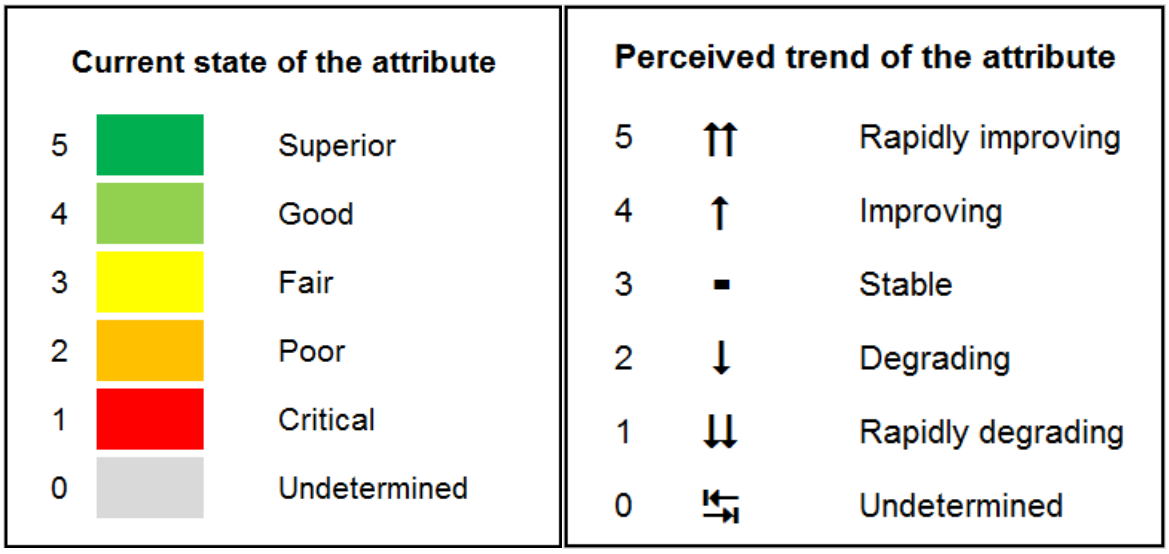
Step 4: View scorecard results

The SEASALT Scorecard summarizes the answers you provided in the Current State and Perceived Trend tabs—all scores and comments you entered on those tabs will automatically transfer to the SEASALT Scorecard.

The purpose of the Scorecard is to concisely display the information you have entered.

a. Navigate to the SEASALT Scorecard tab.
b. On the far right of this worksheet, you will see two legends that explain what the colors and symbols on the Scorecard represent. These legends are represented in Figure 1 below.
c. Once you have finished viewing the SEASALT Scorecard, proceed to Step 4: Reflection and references.

Figure 1 | SEASALT Scorecard Legend



Step 5: Reflection and references

This worksheet is designed to help users think about how to improve the strength and presence of each SEASALT attribute based on the indicators.

The tab "Reflection and References" will automatically transfer the scores from the Current State and Perceived Trend tabs. You will then answer two questions for each Indicator.

a. In Column G, answer the question: How might the state of this attribute be affecting fishery performance?
b. Next, in Column I, answer the question: What could be done to improve the state of this attribute?

Note: To help answer these questions, you can explore the Catch Share Design Manuals and Case Studies to gain further insight. On the far right of the worksheet, you will find hyperlinks to the Catch Share Design Manuals and Case Studies, which provide more information on how to improve the attribute in terms of design. These resources are useful for understanding how each attribute can relate to fishery performance, citing examples from diverse fisheries across the globe.

SEASALT ATTRIBUTES, INDICATORS AND IMPORTANCE

Attributes	Indicators	Importance
Secure – Tenure length of fishing privilege that grants right to participate in a fishing activity (e.g., fishing permit)	Tenure length of fishing privilege that grants right to participate in a fishing activity (e.g., fishing permit).	Tenure length ties participants' current behavior to future outcomes and provides a stewardship incentive.
	Renewal of the fishing privilege.	Renewal allows participants to feel certain in their access to fishing activities and provides stability and predictability.
	Fishing privileges are protected and defensible by law.	Legal protection increases confidence that the privilege is secure
Exclusive – Secure privileges are assigned to an entity (individual or group) and are clearly recognized and defendable by law.	The privilege is clearly defined by allocation of shares/quota/area and/or access to an entity.	Allocation of shares or access to clearly defined individuals or groups helps end the "race to fish" by reducing competition among fishermen and ensuring that privilege-holders are the main beneficiaries of a sustainable fishery.
	Clearly defined and transparent process for allocation of privileges.	Transparent processes increase buy-in and a sense of fairness in the allocation system.
	Penalties for non-privilege holders exist, preventing outsiders from entering the system illegally.	Appropriate penalties give confidence to fishermen that their privileges are sufficiently protected from encroachment by fishermen outside the system.
	Effect of new entrants on existing allocation of shares/quota/area and/or access.	Appropriate measures for accommodating new entrants to the fishery ensure that new entrants will not be unduly disruptive or have negative impacts on the fishery.
All sources – Shares include all sources of fishing mortality (landed and discarded) and when combined do not exceed the catch limit(s) or other controls on mortality.	Allocation for landings and bycatch/discards.	Specific allocations for both landings and bycatch/discards ensure that total harvest complies with appropriate limits on fishing mortality.
	Controls on fishing mortality incorporate data from other fleets or recreational users that fish for same the target stocks in an accurate and adequate manner.	Allows for the management program to be effective in preventing overfishing by accounting for all sources of mortality of the species.
Scaled –	The stock is under a single or coordinated accountable management unit (such as with other fleets).	Management is optimized if coordinated at the biological and socio-political scales.

Management units are set at the appropriate biological level, taking into consideration social and political systems.	Political, cultural, social, and economic differences among fishing groups within the program are integrated into the design.	Recognizing the differences across groups ensures that management meets the needs and goals of various stakeholders across the range of the stock(s).
Accountable – Participants are required to stay within their allocated share of the overall catch and /or comply with other controls on fishing mortality.	Participatory management of the resource.	Participation in management decisions, especially by fishermen, increases buy-in to the management system.
	There are adequate mechanisms to enforce regulations, rules and/or community agreements for participants.	Compliance and enforcement mechanisms ensure that all participants follow the rules to achieve the goals of the system.
	Monitoring systems are in place.	Monitoring systems track and account for catches and help ensure that rules of the program are being adhered to.
Limited – Controls on fishing mortality are set at scientifically appropriate levels.	Best available science is used to limit fishing mortality.	Requiring science-based management increases likelihood of sustainable management and the ability to adjust under changing circumstances.
	Fishing mortality is limited.	Limiting fishing mortality using harvest control measures ensures the long-term sustainability of the stock.
Transferable – Shareholders can buy, sell and/or lease shares.	Mechanisms to lease, buy or sell the privilege and/or individual allocations (shares/quota/area).	The ability to transfer shares or privilege increases the flexibility of the system and allows the fishery to be economically efficient.
	Regulations or limitations on leasing, buying or selling of the privilege and/or allocations (shares/quota/area).	Regulations or limitations help control for consolidation of shares or privileges as appropriate for supporting social goals of the program.
	Informal or non-market transferability.	Informal or non-market transferability allows for flexibility in the system in cases where formal markets may not be appropriate.

GLOSSARY

Accountable – Participants are required to stay within their allocated share of the overall catch and /or comply with other controls on fishing mortality.

Allocation – Distribution of a secure share of the catch to individuals or groups.

All sources – Shares include all sources of fishing mortality (landed and discarded) and when combined do not exceed the catch limit(s) or other controls on mortality.

Bycatch (syns.: Incidental catch, Non-target catch/species) – Fish other than the primary target species that are caught incidental to the harvest of those species.

Catch (syn.: Harvest) – The total number (or weight) of fish caught by fishing operations. Catch includes all fish killed by the act of fishing, not just those landed.

Catch limit – The scientifically determined, acceptable level of fishing mortality.

Co-management – A process of management in which government shares power with resource users and/or other fishery stakeholders, with each given specific rights and responsibilities relating to information and decision making.

Community – The populations that live and interact physically and temporally in the same area.

Concentration – A measurement of the percent of privileges held by one entity.

Controls on fishing morality – Management measures such as catch limits, gear restrictions and seasonal and spatial closures that limit the total amount harvested each year. When set at appropriate levels, they ensure long-term sustainability of stock.

Discard (syns.: Regulatory discard, Economic discard) – To release or return a portion of the catch, dead or alive, before offloading, often due to regulatory constraints or a lack of economic value.

Dockside monitoring – The monitoring of activities taking place upon a vessel's landing, including weighing or counting offloaded catch, biological sampling and identifying species composition.

Electronic monitoring – A technique employed to monitor at-sea fishing activities, often consisting of cameras, sensors and Global Positioning System (GPS) units that record vessel and fishing location, fishing activity, catch (retained and discarded) and compliance with fishing rules.

Enforcement – Measures to ensure compliance with fishery regulations, including catch limits, gear use and fishing behavior.

Exclusive – Secure privileges are assigned to an entity (individual or group) and are clearly recognized and defendable by law.

Fish stock – The living resources in the community or population from which catches are taken in a fishery. Use of the term fish stock usually implies that the particular population is more or less isolated from other stocks of the same species and hence self-sustaining. In a particular fishery, the fish stock may be one or several species of fish but here is also intended to include commercial invertebrates and plants.

Fishery – The combination of fish and fishermen in a region, the latter fishing for similar or the same species with similar or the same gear types.

Fishery group – A group of fishermen targeting the same species showing similar characteristics including by vessel sizes, gear types, geography, socio-cultural characteristics).

Fishing mortality – A measurement of the rate of fish removal from a population by fishing.

Harvest control measures – Mechanisms by which catch is either directly or indirectly limited. Includes both output controls (types of harvest control methods that are direct limits on the number or weight of fish caught by a fishery, e.g., catch limits, bag limits, size limits) and input controls (types of harvest control methods that restrict elements of the fishing operation and activities as opposed to constraining catch e.g., temporal limits, gear/vessel restrictions).

Landings – The number or weight of fish offloaded at a dock by fishermen. Landings are reported at the locations where fish are brought to shore.

Limited – Controls on fishing mortality are set at scientifically appropriate levels.

Monitoring – The collection of fishery information for the purposes of science, including setting catch limits and assessing stocks, and ensuring accountability, including catch accounting and enforcing fishery regulations.

New entrants – Any person or vessel that enters the RBM program but did not receive a share(s) during the initial allocation.

Non-target species (syns.: Bycatch, Incidental catch) – Species not specifically targeted as a component of the catch but which may be incidentally captured.

Onboard observers – A certified person onboard fishing vessels who collects scientific and technical information on the fishing operations and the catch. Observer programs can be used for monitoring fishing operations (e.g., areas fished, fishing effort deployed, gear characteristics, catches and species caught, discards, collecting tag returns, etc.).

Participant – An individual, or group that receives a privilege or share.

Penalties – A fine, punishment, or other consequence for violating fishery regulations or rules.

Privilege – The right to harvest species, or access a defined fishing area.

Quota – The maximum number of fish that can be legally landed in a time period. Quota can apply to the total fishery or an individual fisherman's share under a catch share program.

Scaled – Management units are set at the appropriate biological level, taking into consideration social and political systems.

Secure – Tenure length of shares is sufficiently long for participants to realize future benefits.

Secure fishing rights – (syns.: Rights-based management, catch share) – a fishery management system that allocates a secure area or privilege to harvest a specific allocation of a fishery's total catch to an individual or group.

Share – The annual amount of harvest (quota or effort), including within a specific area (in the case of a TURF) that a participant is entitled to.

Stock – A part of a fish population usually with a particular migration pattern, specific spawning grounds, and subject to a distinct fishery.

Target Species – Those species primarily sought by fishermen in a particular fishery. There may be primary as well as secondary target species.

Tenure – The duration for which an individual's or group's privilege or share is allocated.

Transferable –Shareholders can buy, sell and/or lease shares.

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