

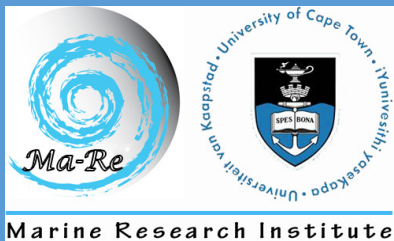
CONSIDERING ONE'S OPTIONS WHEN THE FISH LEAVE

A case study of the commercial handline fishery of South Africa's southern cape coast

Louise C. Gammage

Marine Research (MA-RE) Institute and Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape
Town, South Africa

louisegammage@gmail.com



Introduction

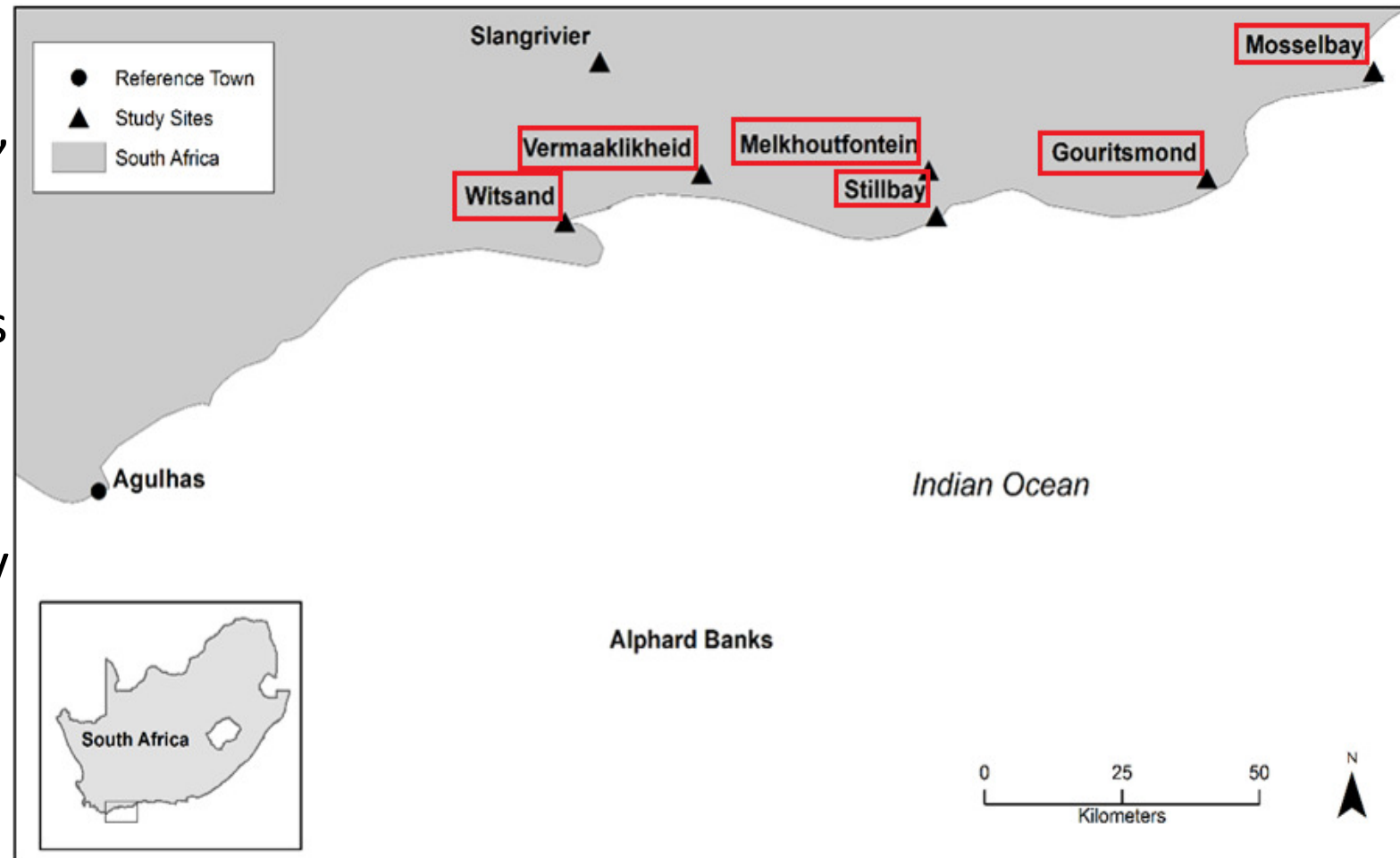
- Small-scale fishers and their communities vulnerable to range of social and ecological processes.
- Research contributes to our understanding of the vulnerability of small scale fishers through a detailed study of the Western Cape's small-scale commercial handline fishery.
- Part of interdisciplinary project – SCIFR
- **“How do fishers cope and adapt to the changes brought about by stressors in the system?”**

(Gammage, M.Sc; 2015; Gammage et al, 2015 (submitted), Gammage et al 2015 (in prep))



Case Study

- 50 participants consisting of skippers, boat owners, crew, members from associated industry and spouses/partners
- Provided information on alternative activities they employ in order to cope or adapt to changes brought about by stressors

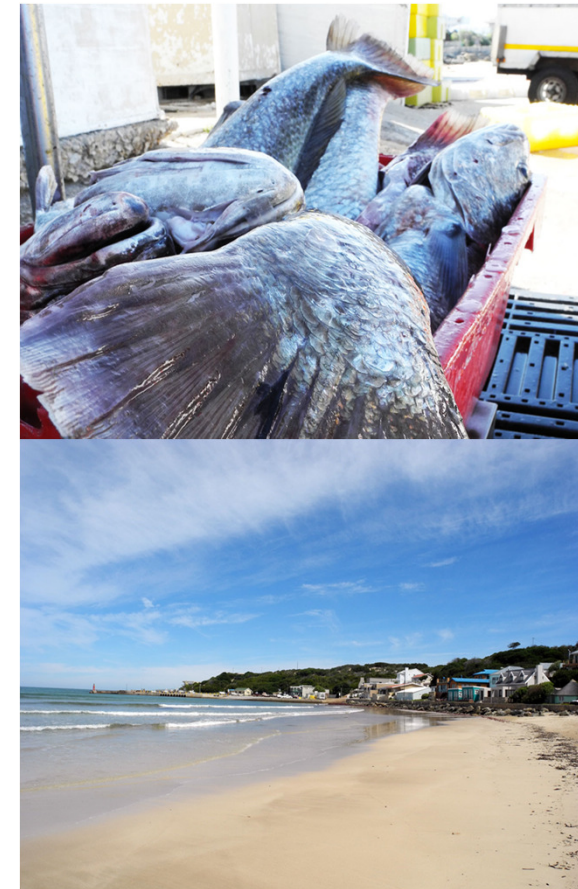


(Gammage, M.Sc; 2015; Gammage et al, 2015 (submitted), Gammage et al 2015 (in prep))

Three Groups

- **Group 1:** Business-orientated fishers:
Adaptation within fishery.
- **Group 2:** Coping fishers:
Diversify outside fishery
- **Group 3:** Reacting fishers:
Stuck in poverty cycle.

(Gammage, M.Sc; 2015; Gammage et al, 2015 (submitted), Gammage et al 2015 (in prep))



COMPLEXITY OF RESPONDING TO CHANGE

Decision-making (cognitive and & reflexive):

- shaped by the past experience and present environments of individuals & communities.
- cannot be understood by direct impacts of stressors alone
- Highlights importance of culture and belief systems in decision-making.
- practical implications of actions not always the overriding concern

Group 2 – too much resilience leading to future vulnerability?

Place-base variation seen needs further understanding of indirect effects and feedback loops that exist on multiple scales.