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Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility

WHAT IS THE SOCIAL LICENCE?
HOW DO WE MAINTAIN IT?
AND WHAT HAPPENS OF WE DON'T?

Dr Leeora Black

2015 Recreational Fishing Conference

25 July, Gold Coast



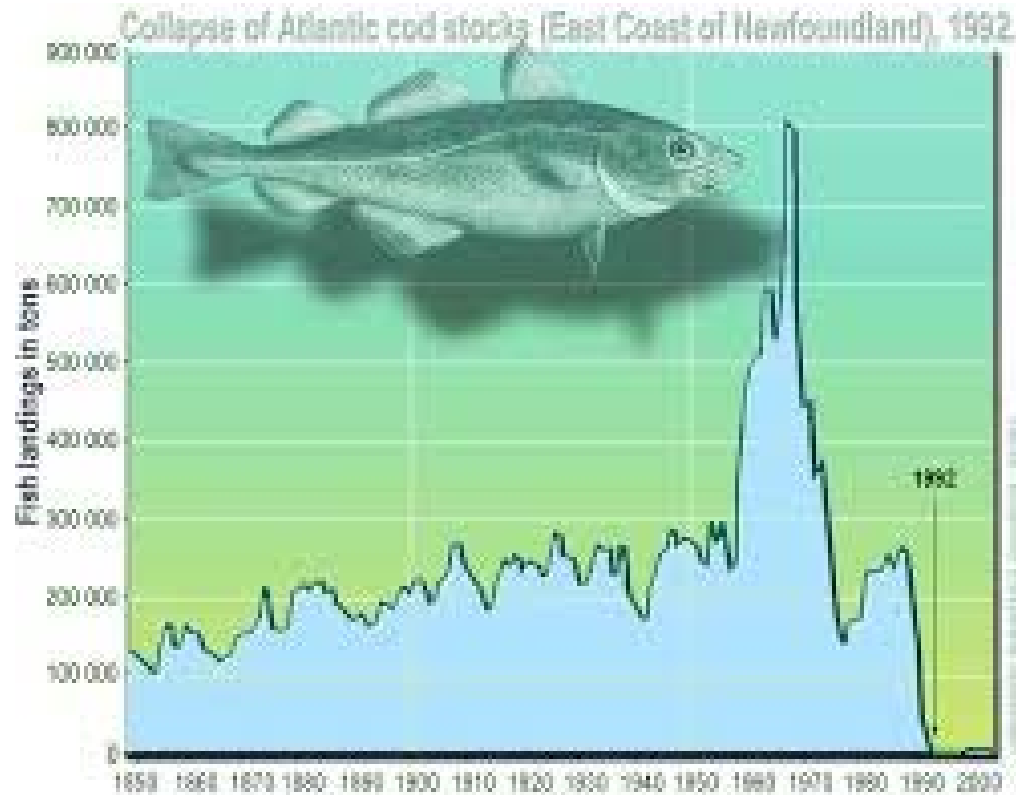


Everybody loves fishing!

There are over 5 million recreational fishers in Australia!



WORST SCENARIO



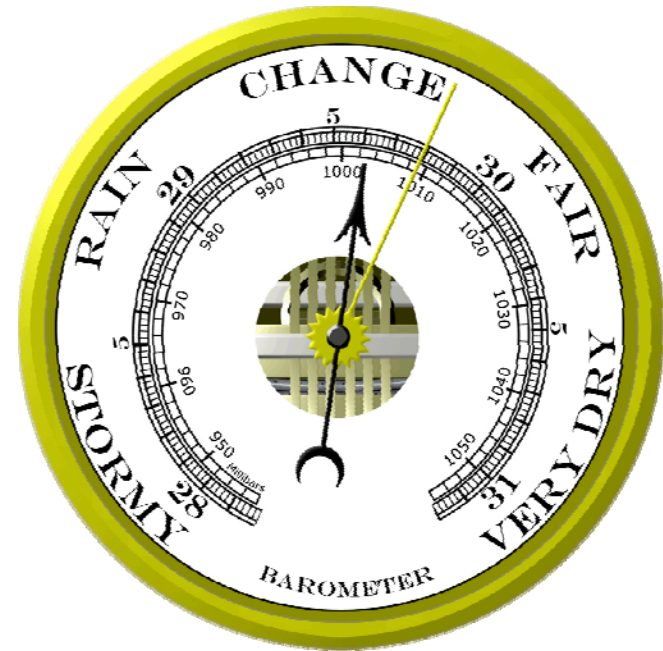
“But it’s the commercial fishers to blame, **not us**, right??”



DEFINITION: SOCIAL LICENCE

The social licence is:

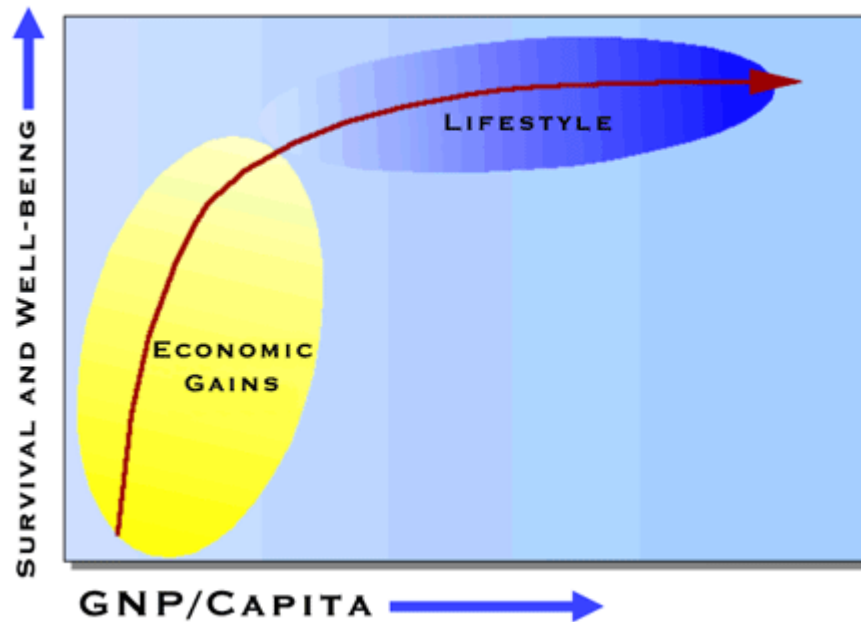
- the level of acceptance or approval
- continually granted
- to an organisation's or industry's operations or project
- by the local community and other stakeholders





WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The rise of post-materialist values, a component of broad cultural change



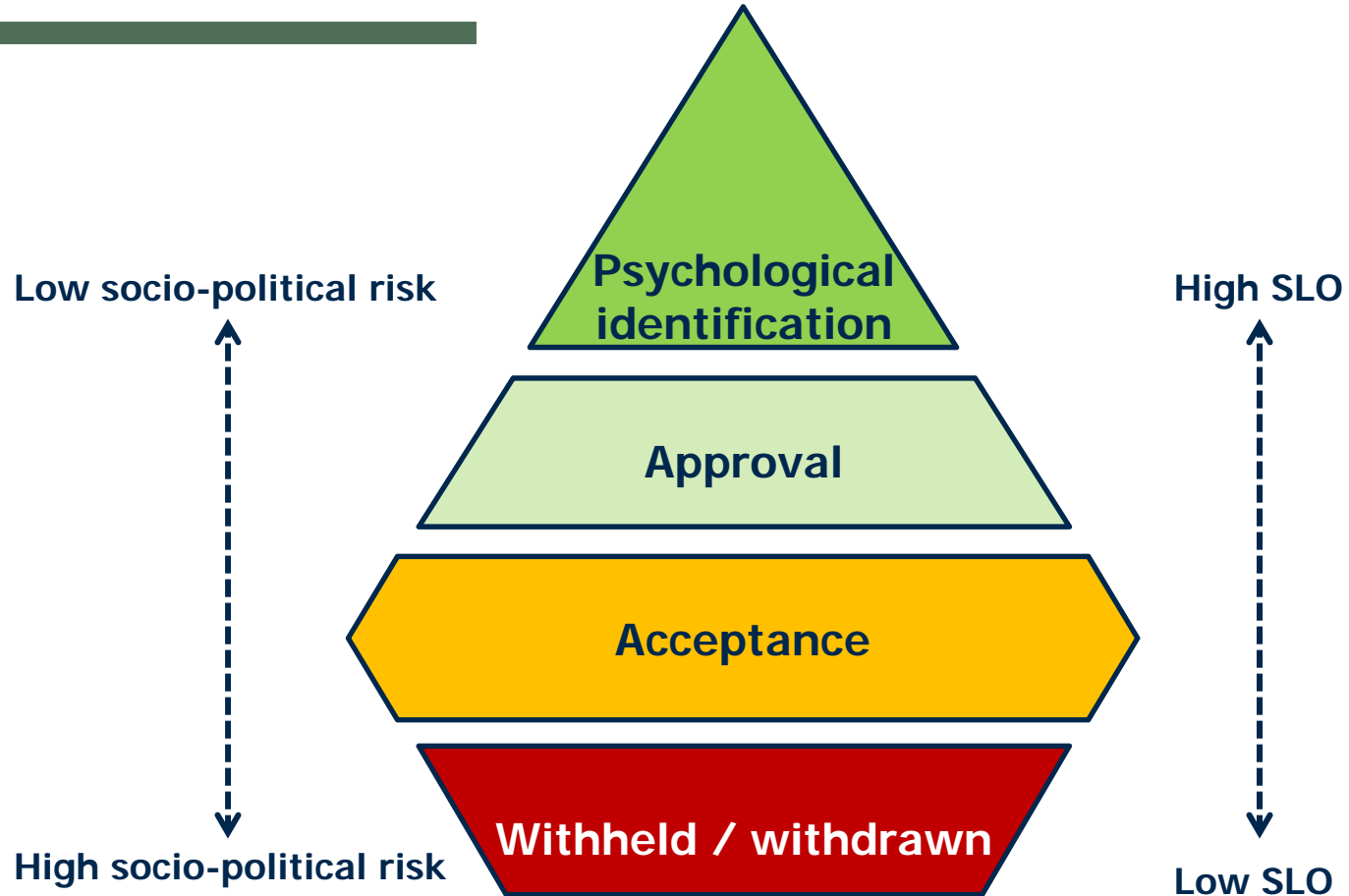
Source: R. Inglehart, 1997

- 1960s civil rights
- 1970s consumer and women's rights
- 1980s environment
- 1990s sustainability
- 2000s responsibility
- 2010s accountability & transparency

Societal expectations are constantly evolving



MODEL OF THE SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE



Boutilier & Thomson, 2010



Demonstration at Manly Beach, Sydney, February 2014

Organised by the Wilderness Society in response to the Government granting an amnesty on shore fishing bans in marine sanctuary zones.



SOCIAL LICENCE IS CONNECTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

Ecological impacts of recreational fishing

- Technology is helping fishers go farther to best spots and remote areas, catch more
- Direct impacts on fish stocks
 - In some areas recreational catch is far bigger than commercial catch
- Direct impacts on non-target species
 - Discard rates, retention of juvenile fish, turtles, mammals, seabirds
- General ecosystem effects
 - Harvesting of 'bait' species, pollution, fishery enhancement, roads





HOW DO WE MAINTAIN OUR SOCIAL LICENCE?

Organised groups

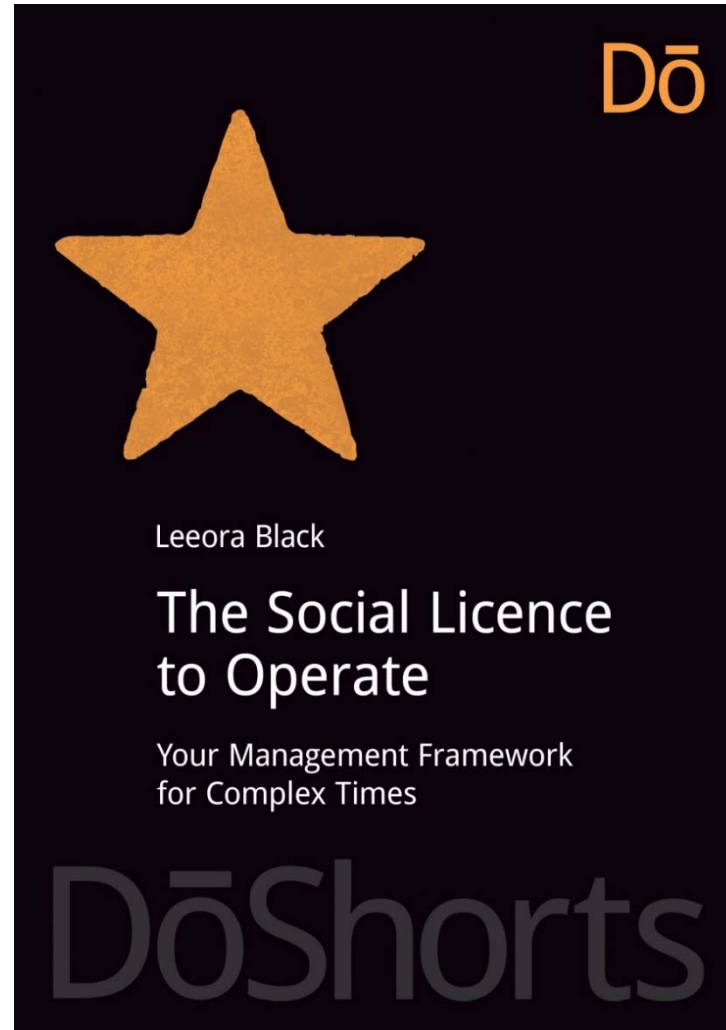
- Support better data collection and fisheries management
- Support national standards for the management of recreational fishing
- Support responsible environmental standards for fishing competitions
- Support conservation programs
- Support licencing, which enables data collection and provides income for activities
- Improve consultation within recreational fishing sector

Individual fishers

- Abide by recreational fishing laws for bag and size limits
- Seek information on best-practice recreational fishing methods
- Lobby governments to ensure sustainable recreational fishing measures
- Support recreational licensing
- Get involved in conservation efforts
- Go slow in coastal waters - avoid turtles and dolphins
- Don't leave rubbish or lines



FURTHER READING





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