

7th Global Fisheries
Enforcement Training
Workshop
31 July to 4 August 2023
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

An Examination of the Role and Key
Success Criteria for Community
Officers Ensuring Compliance with
Fisheries Rules and Regulations.

Damian Johnson



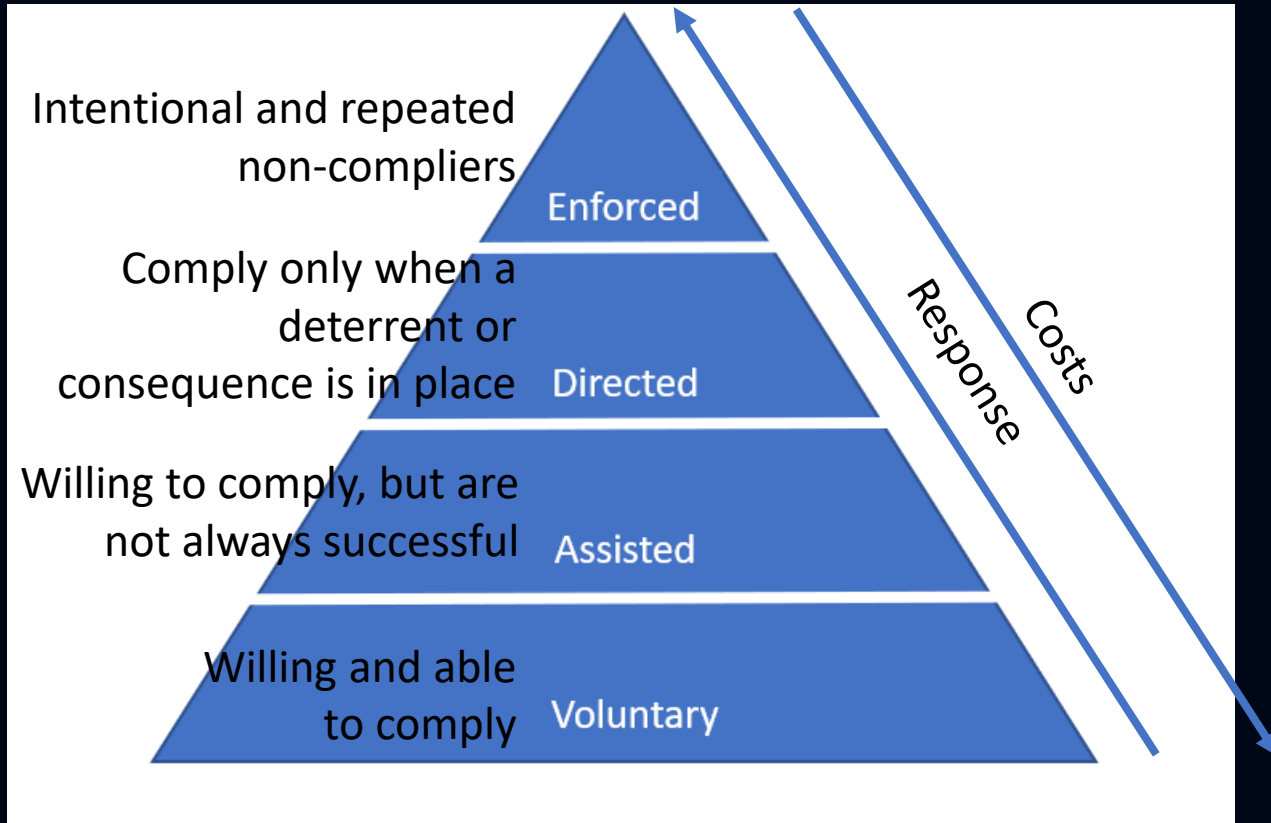
What was the issue?

- *The performance of community fishery management depends, like any other form of management, on the effectiveness and efficiency with which it conducts basic management functions. These basic functions are the control of extraction, the coordination of users, the collection of information and the enforcement of rules.*

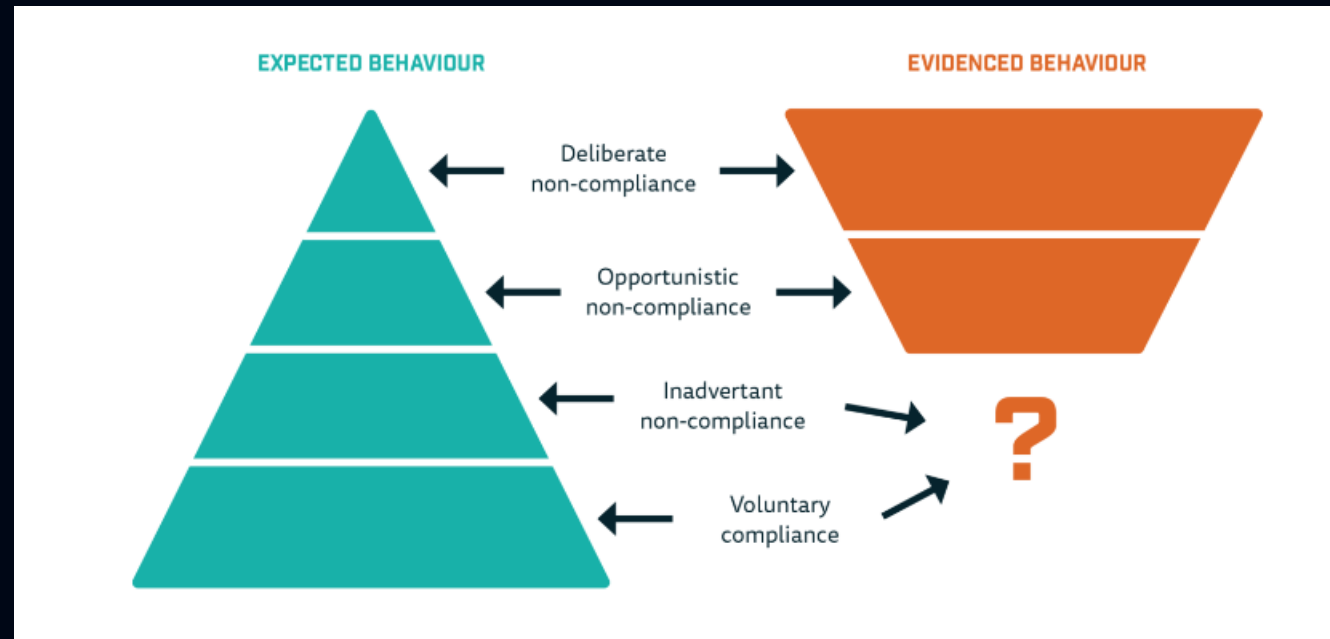
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – Vol. V – Community Fisheries Management - Susan Hanna



The Compliance Pyramid



The Compliance Pyramid



Intentional and repeated non-compliers

Comply only when a deterrent or consequence is in place

Willing to comply, but are not always successful

Willing and able to comply

Source: [FISH-i Africa: Our future – Stop Illegal Fishing](#)

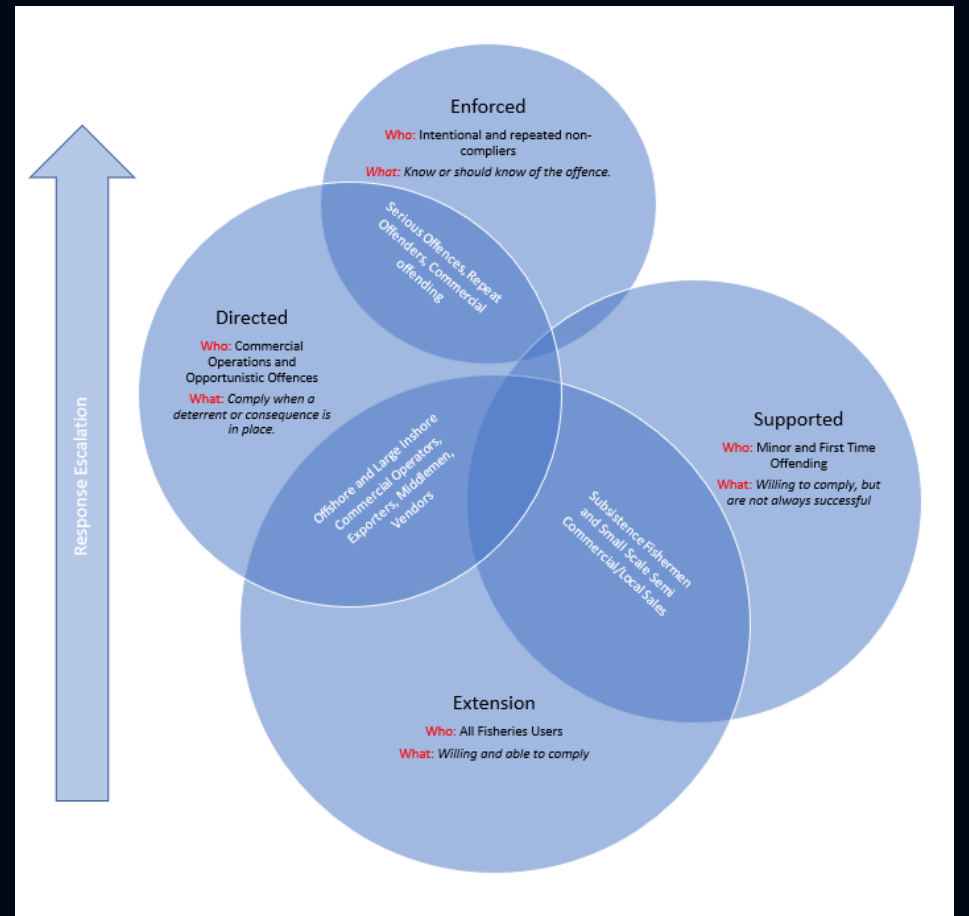
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Source: Johnson; Fiji Ministry of Fisheries Compliance Strategy

Community fisheries volunteers

- What:
 - There are many different types of community fisheries volunteers across the world.
 - Some support fishing education programs with no enforcement powers but deliver voluntary compliance outcomes
 - Some have enforcement powers – usually limited
- Why:
 - Supporting community-based fisheries management
 - Recognising customary or indigenous rights
 - Monitoring capacity to support the limited resources of a Fisheries Administration



What was the issue?

Honorary fisheries officer Chris Venmore, 75, was initially stood down in December last year then stripped of his warrant by MPI for not immediately backing out of an inspection while being threatened with a knife at Taiharuru.

Northern Advocate,
13 December 2018

1. Anticipated changes are not occurring in some older SMA communities. As detailed above, some FHRs and almost all SMAs are not having an effect. This is likely due to community issues with enforcement and management. Recovery is a slow process, and in order for changes to occur communities must consistently follow the rules of their management areas.

Kingdom of Tonga - Special Management
Area Report, SPREP, 2020

FBC News 26 July 2023

The effectiveness of the role played by fish wardens in communities and coastal villages has been raised during the National Resources Owners Committee talanoa session.

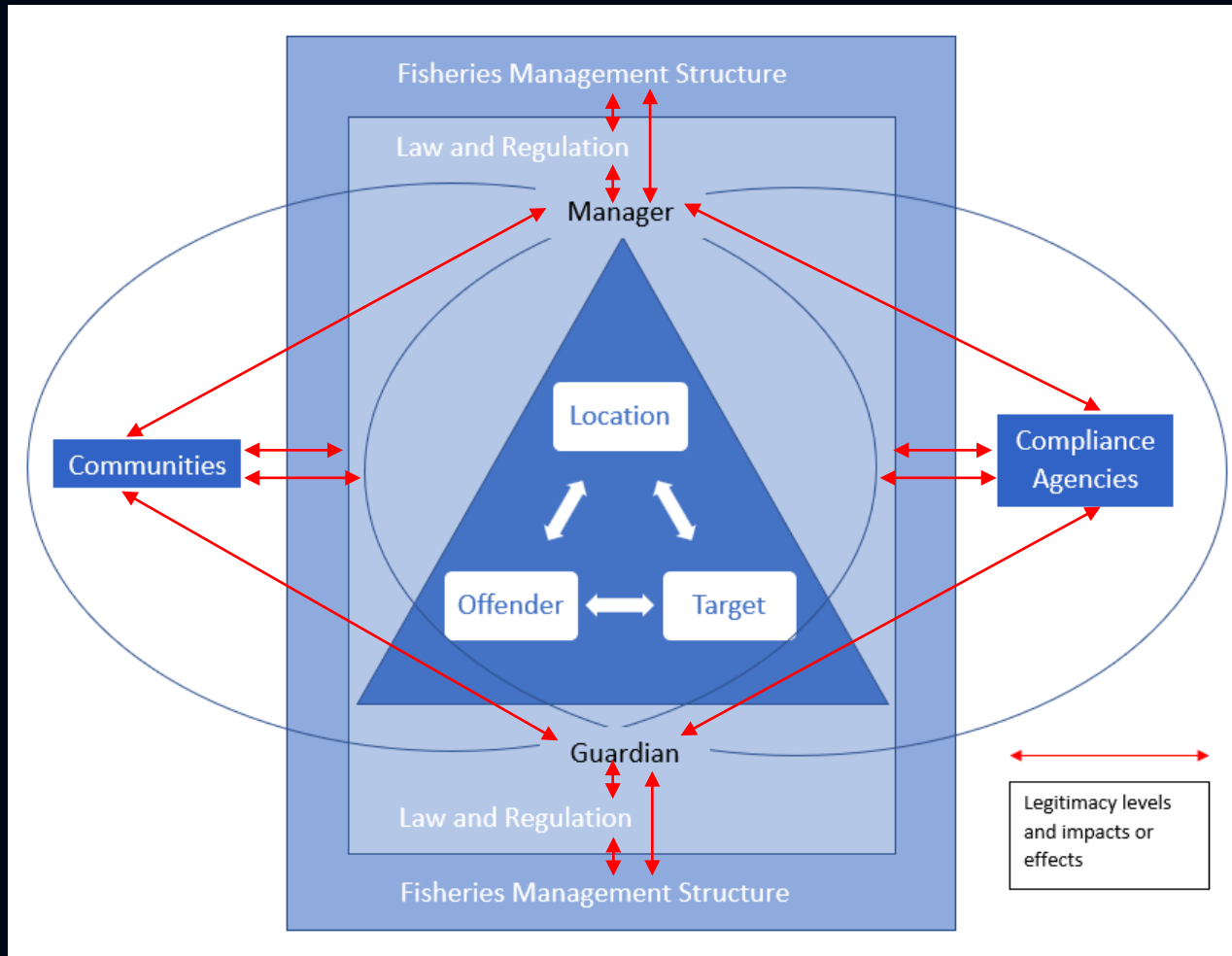


What do we want to do?

- Examine areas where community fisheries volunteers with enforcement duties has been effective in increasing compliance.
- Understand what contributed to making that successful.
- Identify the key elements that are required to maintain an effective program.



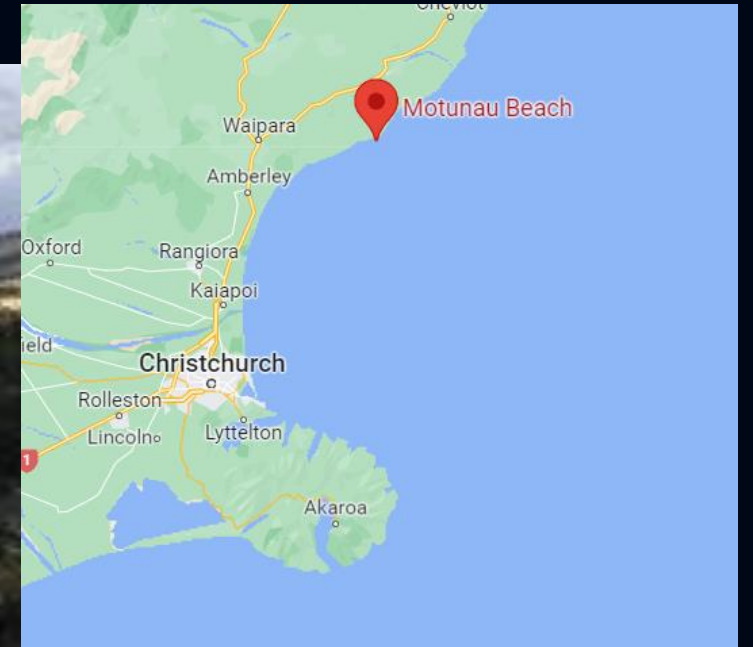
The Research Model



Where did it seem to be working?

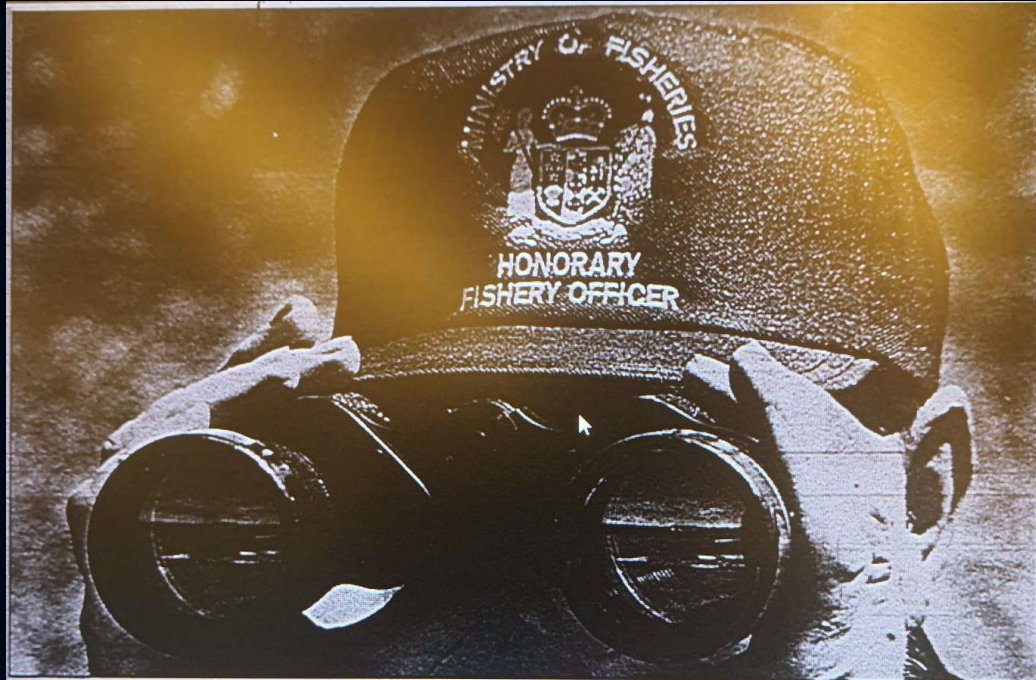


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Where did it seem to be working?



Murray Daniels is keeping an eye on fishermen for the benefit of his grandchildren.

PHOTO: JOHN KIRK-ANDERSON

Conservation drives honorary fishery officers

Margaret and Murray Daniels, of Motunau, want to make sure the fishing remains good for their grandchildren, so they have trained as honorary fishery officers.

They are two of 15 new honorary officers appointed over the last few weeks to patrol the Canterbury coastline.

After training courses, in which they were instructed on the regulations, and on how to deal with people, including reading body language, the Danielses started checking boats landing at Motunau three weeks ago.

"Part of the reason for doing this is to make sure there are fish for the future," Mr Daniels said. "Conservation is our biggest reason for doing it."

He said the local fishery was not in decline, but was being "worked hard".

Honorary officers were encouraged to be educators rather than policemen, he said, but they did have the power to enforce the regulations. The local community was very supportive.

Honorary fishery officer co-ordinator at

the Ministry of Fisheries Brian Giles said 27 honorary officers were operating in Canterbury. Together with full-time officers, they were patrolling popular fishing spots over the holiday period, he said.

The honorary officers were trained to administer all aspects of the amateur and customary-fishing regulations, he said.

Officers could be identified by their dark blue shirts, which have the words "Honorary Fisheries Officer" in white lettering across the front.



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What has informed the initial findings?

Experience living and working in the region

Collectively:

- 164 years in the community
- fishing at Motunau for 227 years
- 46 years' experience as an HFO
- 29 years' experience as an HFO Coordinator in Canterbury
- 109 years' experience as a Fishery Officer in Canterbury



Initial findings

- Strong community identification with the fishery.
- High levels of legitimacy:
 - fisheries rules.
 - the Ministry for Primary Industries and its role in enforcing fisheries rules.
 - the honorary fishery officer and their role in enforcing fisheries rules.
- Recognition of the HFO's as community members but performing an official role on behalf of the community.



Initial findings

- The uniform has been important to support legitimacy.
- The HFO coordinator role is essential.
 - Value, acknowledgement, support.
 - Regular training.
 - Support to take action in relation to identified offences.
- Identification of the right people has been key.
- Understand the context.
 - What is needed is not the same everywhere.



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