



CELTIC SEAS PARTNERSHIP

# Resolving conflict through mediation

The **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)** aims to achieve **Good Environmental Status (GES)** in our seas by 2020. For this to happen, it's vital that people whose **livelihoods** and well-being depend on the ocean are involved in the **implementation** of marine policy and management. It is one thing to create legislation but another to get the **buy-in and support** of all those that will be expected to follow it.

The Celtic Seas Partnership developed a **fisheries mediation project** as a result of frustrations from around Scotland - from **fishermen, communities, eNGOs and government** - about the state of **relations** between various stakeholder groups, and how these relationships were creating a **barrier** to achieving Good Environmental Status.

## What's the problem?

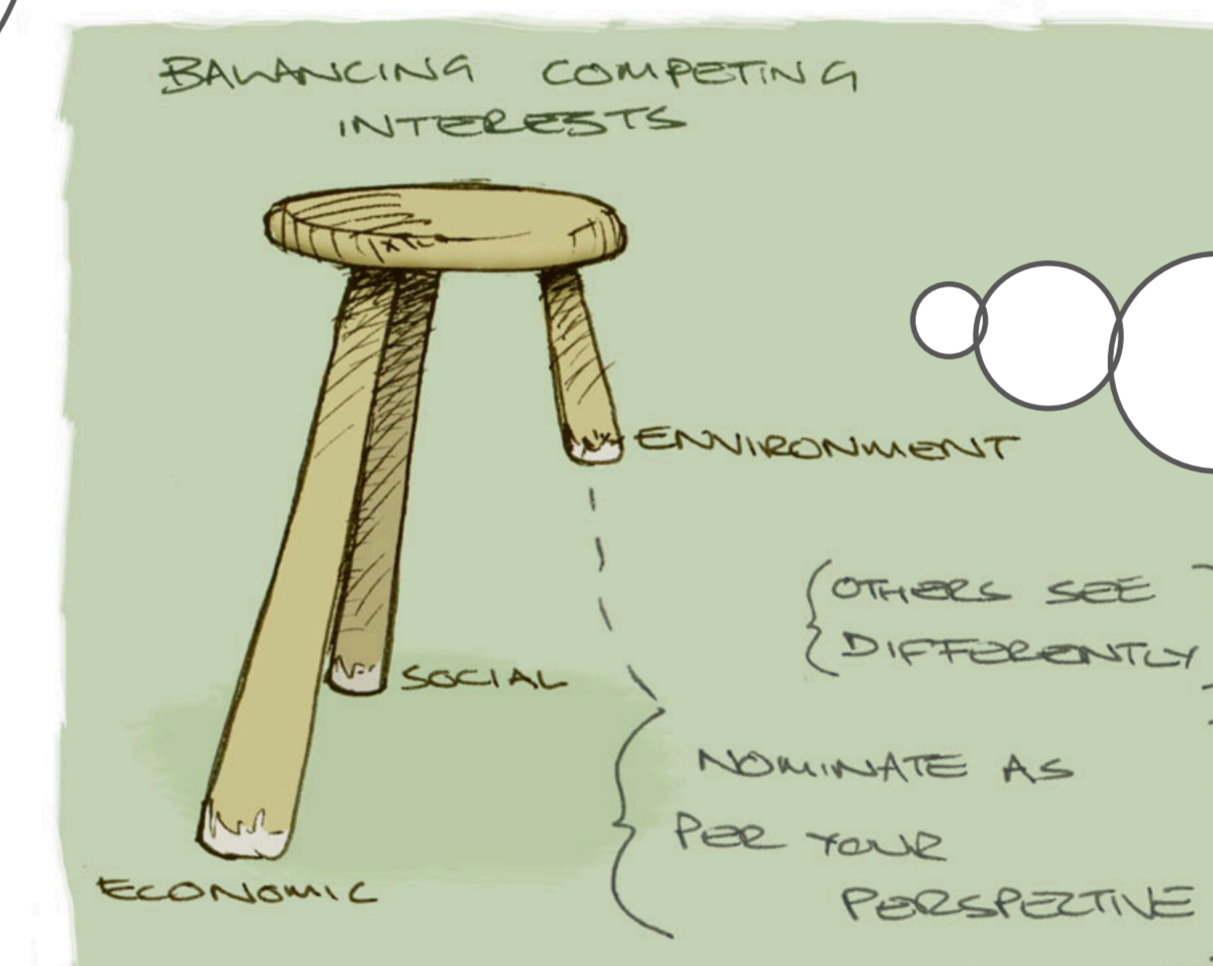


**Government** – the fishing industry is “committing commercial suicide” by being so resistant to change.



**Fishermen** – powerful eNGOs lobby in Europe without understanding the consequences for the industry.

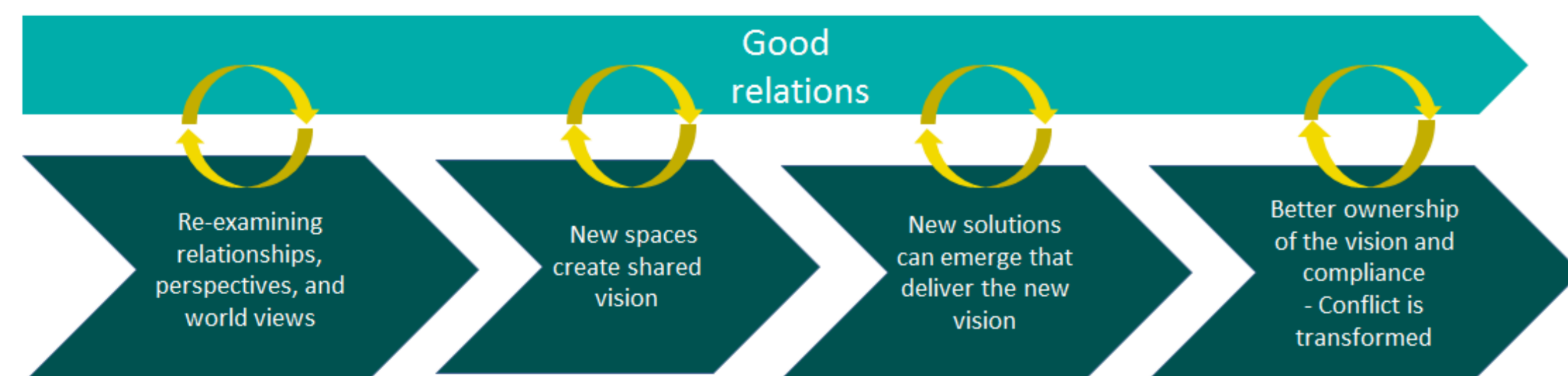
Frictions between different parts of the fishing industry



**eNGOs**- fishing practices are not sufficiently controlled and the marine environment is reaching a point of no return.

## What we did:

Meditation for conflict transformation (approach taken by Celtic Seas Partnership)



Mediation for spatial management (conventional planning approach)



- The current management system focuses on understanding issues and developing policy to address the issues. It is assumed that relationships will develop themselves.
- The Celtic Seas Partnership focused on **building relationships** between stakeholders allowing them to better understand the issues from all **perspectives**, and resulting in more **confidence in the policy** developed – as well as more confidence in the policy makers themselves, this therefore brings about a more rapid and effective changes that people are bought into
- We engaged over **100 stakeholders** in a **dialogue process** including the Scottish Government, fishing industry, environmental organisations and local community groups.
- Purpose: to improve understandings of the challenges involved in keeping Scottish waters healthy and productive.
- The **objectives**:
  - Facilitate reflection among participants regarding their respective roles
  - Acknowledge positive efforts towards healthy and productive waters
  - Identify key challenges facing Scottish waters
  - To explore the strategic options for Scottish waters.

