

Appendix 1. The comanagement performance index

The following table describes the seven variables that composed the co-management performance index. All these variables are closely related to cooperation among members of a fishers' union. The index ranges from 0 to 1. It corresponds to the simple average of the seven variables.

Performance domain	Variable	Survey question or statistical indicator	Scale	Justification for inclusion	Source
Internal enforcement and compliance with the union norms, as assessed by the president of the union.	Internal enforcement of the union norms.	Is there internal enforcement of the union norms?	1 = 24 hour a day enforcement; 0.66 = Day or night enforcement; 0.33 = Enforcement only in good sea conditions; 0 = No enforcement.	Enforcement incentivizes compliance with norms, including those that deal with cooperative behaviors.	Adapted from Gelcich et al. (2009).
	Compliance with the union norms.	Do the union members comply with the norms?	5 point Likert scale: Highly agree = 1; Highly disagree = 0.	Many norms mandate cooperative behaviors, such as not overharvesting.	Adapted from Marin et al. (2012) and Gelcich (2009).
Co-management performance as assessed by the National Fisheries Service.	Compliance with the MEABR norms.	How closely does the union follow the rules and procedures to exploit and maintain its MEABR?	5 point Likert scale: 1 = To the letter; 0 = Not at all.	Compliance is largely a result of cooperation between union members.	Adapted from Marin et al. (2012).
	Quality of the institutions and social practices.	Is the union a model case of co-management?	1 = Yes; 0 = No.	Better institutions and practices promote cooperation.	Adapted from Main et al. (2012); Unpublished survey
	Overall performance in the co-management of the MEABR.	Which of these words best describes the overall performance of the MEABR?	1 = Success; 0.75 = Stability; 0.5 = Improvement; 0.25 = Stagnation; 0 = Failure.	Performance depends largely on the cooperation between union members	Adapted from Marin et al. (2012). Unpublished survey
Ecological performance.	Trend in the annual TAC.	Official annual TAC.	1 = Increased 0 = Decreased 0.5 = Maintained	TAC falls if the community overexploits the resource.	SUBPESCA 2012.
	Biodiversity response as compared to adjacent open-access areas.	Biodiversity measured as overall species richness	Log response ratios between adjacent open access areas and MEABR. 0 = 0; >0.1 = 1	Preservation of biodiversity is a cooperative endeavor.	Gelcich et al. (2012), and Centre for Marine Conservation surveys (available from the authors).