

SES LIBRARY QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

HOW TO REVIEW CASE STUDIES

This Quick Reference Guide is intended to familiarize the reader with the information contained within individual case studies listed on the **CASES** tab of the *SES Library Cases* page.

Before getting started, please first make sure that you are logged in to the SES Library by signing in under the appropriate login link in the top right corner of any of the SES Library's web pages, otherwise website functionality may be limited.

To **REVIEW** a case study, simply click on the case name, e.g., case number 2: Lobster fishing, Mount Desert Island, Maine. This will bring up the case study's main screen. The section immediately under the case study title contains general information on the case study:

The screenshot shows the SES Library website interface. At the top is a yellow header with the ASU School of Human Evolution & Social Change logo and navigation links. Below the header is a banner image of a landscape with the text 'center for the study of institutional diversity'. The main content area is titled 'Lobsterfishing, Mount Desert Island, Maine'. It features a table with case details, a map of Mount Desert Island, and a brief case summary. Two callout boxes highlight specific information: one points to the map and location details, and the other points to the case summary text.

View Case	
Resource:	lobster
Location:	Mount Desert Island, Maine, USA
Latitude (N>0):	44.342827
Longitude (E>0):	-68.307138
Map Zoom:	11

The lobster grounds of Mount Desert Island are located within Hancock County, Maine, some 250 miles northeast of Boston and 150 miles southwest of the U.S. - Canada border. The original case spans from 1969 to 1974 and catalogues an action situation involving approximately 75 lobster fishermen; lobster is the stationary resource unit.

This case study is part of the original Common-Pool Resource (CPR) database. A summary of the original CPR coding conducted in the 1980s by Edella Schlager and Shui Yan Tang at Indiana University may be found [here](#).

An update to the Mount Desert Island Lobsterfishery case was made in 2013 by Michael Bernstein at Arizona State University. The update extrapolates from research on changes in the greater Gulf of Maine (GOM) lobsterfishery. The original reviewers deemed the case a successful instance of common-pool resource management. Based on a 2013 case update, a narrow definition of success remains valid: favorable biophysical conditions have contributed to greater resource productivity, offsetting effects of increased appropriation. When assessed against broader evaluative criteria, however, the case is not as successful as it appears (please see institutional analysis for detail).

Below the general information section area are the following links and information:

The diagram illustrates the navigation options available below the general information section. It features a list of links: [Bibliography \(#\)](#), [Institutional Analysis \(#\)](#), [System Representations \(#\)](#), [Quantitative Models](#), and [Experiments](#). A large blue arrow points from these links to a text box stating: "Click on these links to obtain more details on the main literature cited, to download an institutional analysis, to review system representations, and to review information/data on quantitative models and/or experiments related to this case study." Below the links is a link to [View institutional analysis from the CPR database \(/seslibrary/case/2/cpr\)](#). Further down, contact information is provided: "For more details about the case please email original case author [Edella Schlager](mailto:schlager@email.arizona.edu) at schlager@email.arizona.edu ([javascript:Drupal.seslibrary.createEmail\('ude.anozira.liame@regalics','Lobsterfishing, Mount Desert Island, Maine'\)](#)), or last case editor [Michael Bernstein](mailto:mjbernst@asu.edu) at mjbernst@asu.edu ([javascript:Drupal.seslibrary.createEmail\('ude.usa@tsnrehjm','Lobsterfishing, Mount Desert Island, Maine'\)](#))." A second blue arrow points from this contact information to a text box stating: "Contact information for researchers involved in the case analysis."

In general, users of the SES Library can glean information about individual case studies via three mechanisms:

1. **Original case study:** The primary case study by the original author, as well as any follow up analyses will be listed, and are accessible for review and download, under the bibliography link.
2. **Institutional analysis:** A more in-depth written analysis of the static and dynamic elements within the SES.
3. **System representation:** A general visual overview of the elements and interactions within the SES.

When clicked, the **Bibliography** link opens up to display the literature most cited within the SES analysis of the selected case study. Clicking on the number next to the cited literature will take you to the citations page for this reference.

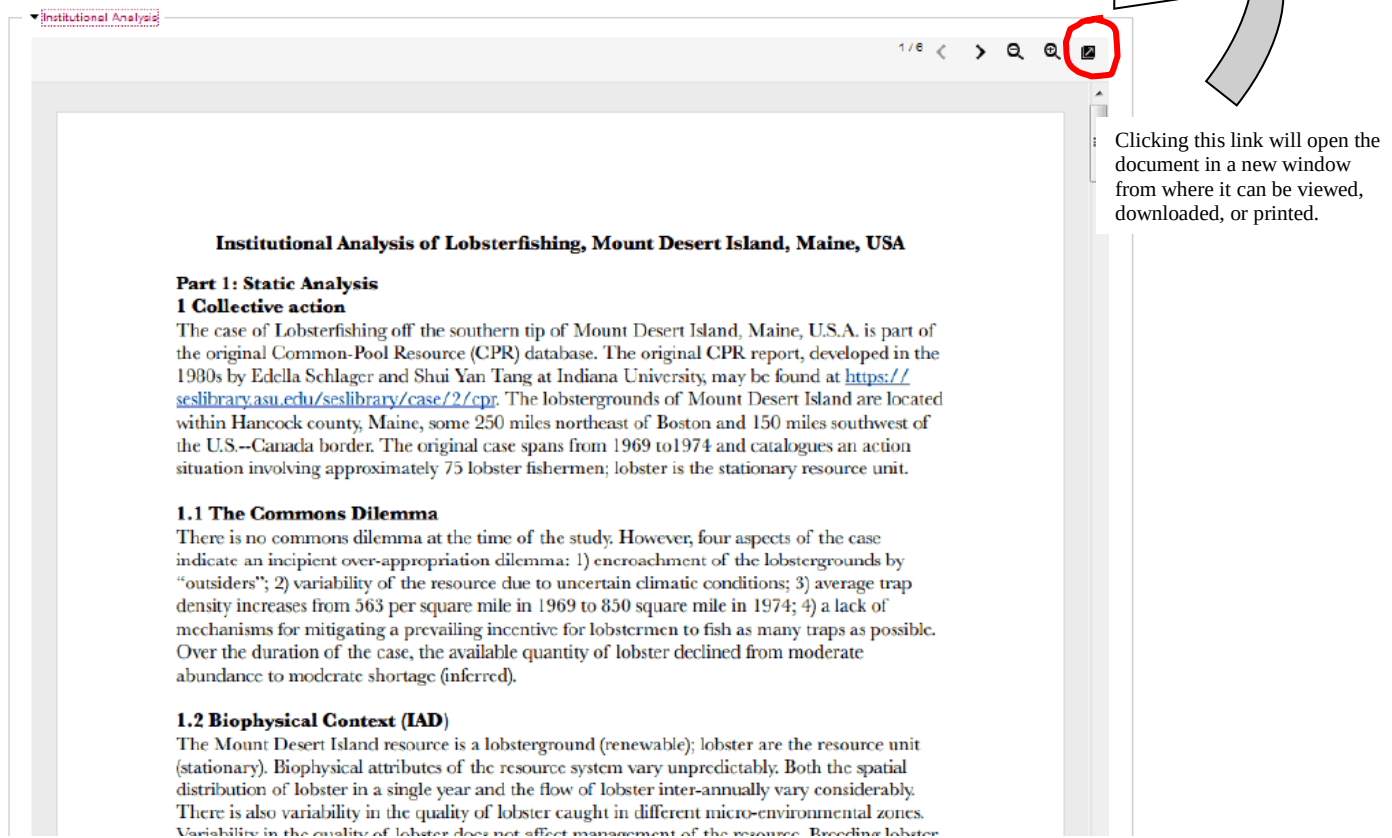


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▼ **Bibliography**

- [1] Grossinger, R. S. 1975. The Strategy and Ideology of Lobsterfishing on the Back Side of Mt. Desert Island, Hancock County, Maine. PhD dissertation, University of Michigan. [PDF protected]
- [2] Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2009. American Lobster Stock Assessment Report for Peer Review. Stock Assessment Report No. 09-01. Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission: Washington, DC. 316 pp. [PDF protected]
- [3] Brewer, J. 2012. Revisiting Maine's Lobster Commons: Rescaling Political Subjects. *International Journal of the Commons*. 6: 319–340. [PDF protected]
- [4] Brewer, J. 2012. Don't Fence Me In: Boundaries, Policy, and Deliberation in Maine's Lobster Commons. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. 102:383–402. [PDF protected]
- [5] Mills, K. E. et al. 2013. Fisheries management in a changing climate: Lessons from the 2012 ocean heat wave in the Northwest Atlantic. *Oceanography*. 28(2). [PDF protected]

Clicking on the **Institutional Analysis** link opens a pdf-file containing a detailed written analysis of the static and dynamic conditions within the SES based on the IAD and Robustness frameworks:

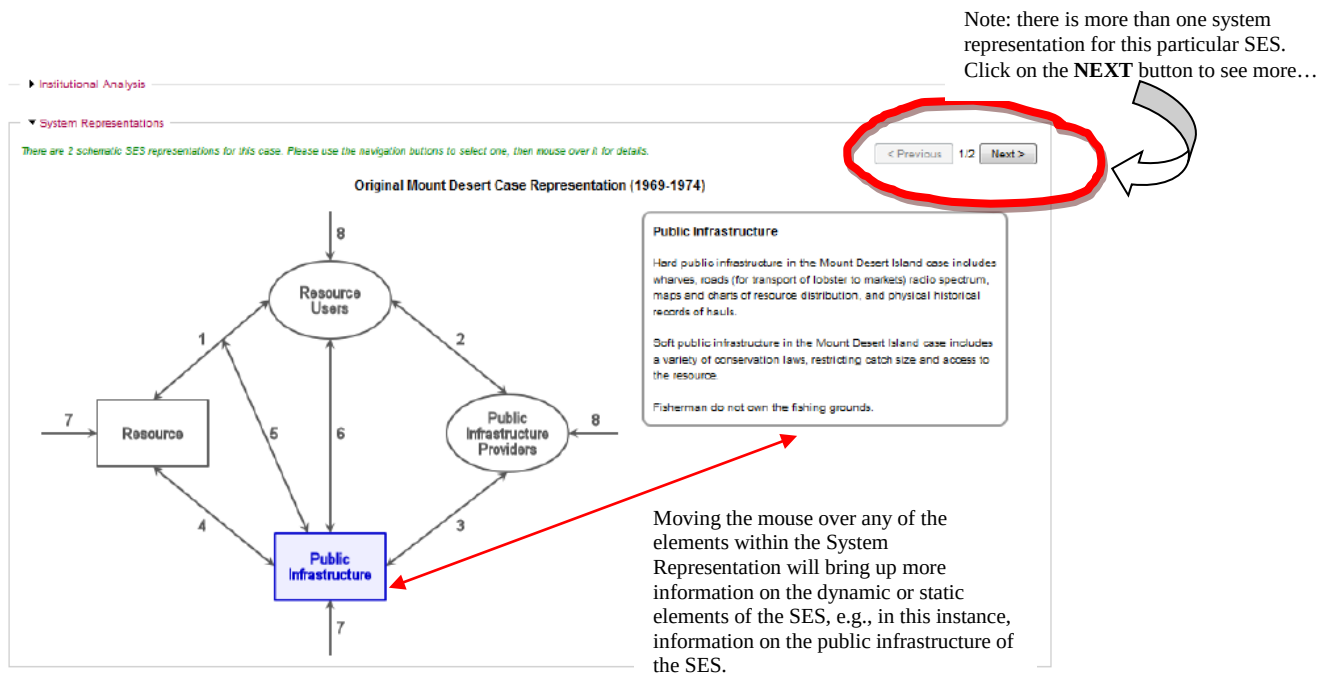


Part 1 of the **Institutional Analysis** describes the static condition of the resource following the more general Coupled Infrastructure Systems framework detailed in Anderies (2014). Utilizing the IAD Framework and elements of the Robustness Framework (Anderies, Janssen, & Ostrom, 2004; Ostrom, 2005), Part 1 also discusses the key static features of the system that generate the commons dilemma, the biophysical context (natural and hard human-made infrastructures) within the SES, as well as the attributes of the community consisting of the “web of relationships among agents that allow them to connect to each other and exchange material and information” (social infrastructure) and the “capacity of individual agents to process information and make effort allocation decisions” (human infrastructure) (Anderies, 2014). Part I also unpacks the rules-in-use (soft human infrastructure) (Ostrom, 2005, 2011) and interactions in the SES. This is accomplished by examining in detail links 1 through 8 and the given relationships and impacts to the individual elements within the Robustness framework, i.e., the resource, the resource users, the public infrastructure providers, and the public infrastructure (hard/physical and soft/rules/regulations/norms).

The dynamic elements of the Robustness Framework (Anderies, 2014; Anderies & Janssen, 2013) are further utilized in Part 2 of the **Institutional Analysis** which focuses on the capacities and vulnerabilities of the SES by examining exogenous shocks to the system and the impacts of those on the individual SES

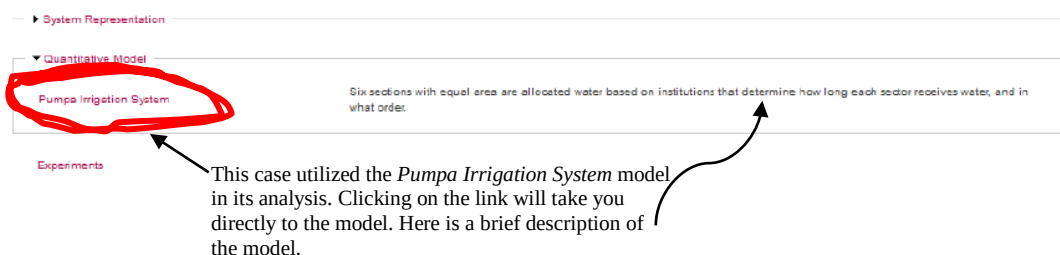
elements (i.e., resource, resource users, public infrastructure providers, and public infrastructure) and the relationships among those elements. In cases with a more longitudinal analysis, such as the Mount Desert Island Lobster Fishery, Part 2 is also the area in which an update on the contemporary commons dilemma is provided.

The **System Representations** link shows the schematic SES representation(s) for a given case which consists of a visual analysis of the static and dynamic conditions within the SES based on the IAD and Robustness frameworks:

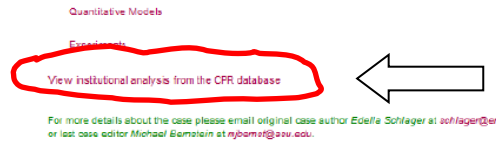


Here, a visual depiction of the positions (ovals) and infrastructure (boxes) within the SES is provided. The arrows represent actions/relationships between the individual elements, as well as exogenous shocks to the SES (arrows 7 and 8). The **system representation** is a simplified visual depiction of the static and dynamic interactions with the SES. More detailed information on these connections and relationships can be found in the **institutional analysis**.

Clicking on the **Quantitative Models** link will allow you to connect with any quantitative models utilized in the SES analysis of the selected case study:



The first 86 cases listed in the SES Library were coded by Schlager and Tan in the 1980s under the guidance of Elinor Ostrom. These case studies also contain a link to the “Institutional Analysis from the CPR database” which will direct the user to the original coding database:



Clicking on this link will take you directly to the original CPR case and access to the 1980s coding data/CPR analysis. (For more information on the CPR database, please review the related Quick Reference Guide and video tutorial).

References

- Anderies, J. M. (2014). Understanding the Dynamics of Sustainable Social-Ecological Systems: Human Behavior, Institutions, and Regulatory Feedback Networks. *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*. doi: 10.1007/s11538-014-0030-z
- Anderies, J. M., & Janssen, M. A. (2013). Robustness of Social-Ecological Systems: Implications for Public Policy. *Policy Studies Journal*, 41(3), 513-536.
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