Part 2 Empirical Challenges to Measuring Value

The Supply Curve Slopes Up

Start with some data from oyster growers:



Why Is The Supply Curve Upward Sloping?

- On the margin (the next additional unit), it's more expensive to produce more
 - Everyone's already producing at their lowest cost (economies of scale have already been attained)
 - To produce more, need to bring more costly inputs into production (e.g., less productive growing areas)
 - This is true at the individual farm level as well as the industry as a whole

Under Competitive Market Conditions, The Producer Gets One Price For All Units of Production



Add Up The Marginal Revenues: TOTAL REVENUE = PRICE * QUANTITY





Add Up Marginal Costs: The Total Cost of Production





What's Left? The Producer Surplus



Producer Surplus

- Money Measure of the Net Economic Benefit to Producers From a Given Level of Production Taking All Costs Into Account
 - Private Costs (Does Not Include Externalities
 - Social Costs (Accounts for Externalities)

What About the Consumers?

Demand Curve:



Consumer Surplus = Total WTP-Cost



Add Up the Marginal Willingness-To-Pay = Total WTP





Add up the Marginal Costs to Consumers = Total Cost





Consumer Surplus





Calculating Producer Surplus



Calculating Producer Surplus

- Base of the triangle = \$20-\$2 = \$18
- Height of the triangle = 100
- Area = ½ base X height
- Producer Surplus = \$900

Taking Into Account the Cost of an Externality Shifts the Supply Curve Up



What's The Change in Producer Surplus?

- New Producer Surplus
 - New Base =\$24-\$3.20 = \$20.80
 - New Height = 80 bushels
 - Note less produced at a higher cost
 - New PS = \$832
- Change in PS = \$832-\$900 = -\$68

What's the Change in Consumer Surplus?



Consumer Surplus & Total Calculations

- Without the pollution
 1/2 (\$40-\$20) X 100 = \$1,000
- With the pollution □ ½ (\$40-\$24) X 80 = \$640
- Change in Consumer Surplus
 □ \$640 \$1000 = -\$360

TOTAL SOCIETAL IMPACT = -\$360-\$68 = -\$428

What Do We Value Related to the Environment and Natural Resources?

Ecosystem Services: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



Supporting			
Soil Formation	Nutrient Cycling	 Primary Production 	

Types of Values Will Influence How We Measure Them

- Use Value can observe behavior or choices made under different scenarios
 - Market value
 - Price and quantity data available to measure demand curve (e.g. commercial fishing)
 - Non-market value
 - Can observe choice behavior, but not prices (e.g., recreational fishing)
- Non-Use or Passive Use Value by definition nothing to observe directly related to what is being valued

Passive Use Values

- Existence Value
 - Person's willingness to pay to preserve a resource for which he has no current or future plans for personal use
- Altruistic Value
 - Willingness-to-pay to preserve someone else's use value
- Bequest Value
 - Willingness-to-pay for use value for future generations
- Option Value
 - Willingness-to-pay for **opportunity** to use resource in the future.