

THE VIEW FROM ATLANTIC AVENUE

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Artificial Thought??

While attending a recent industry meeting, a discussion on the pros and cons of a lobster gauge increase was going around a small group of fishermen during a meeting break. Whilst great points for consideration were raised, many factual, cultural and economic; in jest a final comment was made, "Let's just put it all in a computer and let AI (Artificial Intelligence) figure it out!"

Ummm, I thought, would it be possible to get data, both science and observation based from a far reaching, unbiased survey with agreed upon questions and output a management application from AI? What would it take to get data and an output that was accepted? Who would undertake such an exercise? Would AI replace current practice and agency that has evolved to manage the Law of the Commons? Whoaa! The term Artificial Intelligence slapped me back to reality. Afterall, why do we have anything artificial? Mainly because there is scarcity of a commodity or, it is cheaper to produce a substitute or, we are lazy and do not want to put the effort into utilizing and sustaining the real thing. Examples coming to mind, artificial turf, artificial sweeteners, artificial seawater -all convenient but not as good as the real thing. I sincerely hope Intelligence hasn't completely fallen into any of those categories. Furthermore I believe that when it comes to human existence, culture, and the pursuit of happiness that we do not take it for granted that a machine code can, or should have the final say.

In many applications AI can save us small units of precious time but, to let it supplant debate, fact finding, and replicable research seems like a belief that we as humans are somehow incapable to control ourselves. I vote for Real Intelligence and all that it entails to implement. Don't write off Real quite yet.

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