



Has the LPA system been successful?

Small-scale aquaculture recruitment in Maine
through the limited-purpose aquaculture
("LPA") licensing system

(Focus Group Overview)

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What does success at the LPA level require?

Natural
Resources

Economic
Resources

Knowledge &
Skills

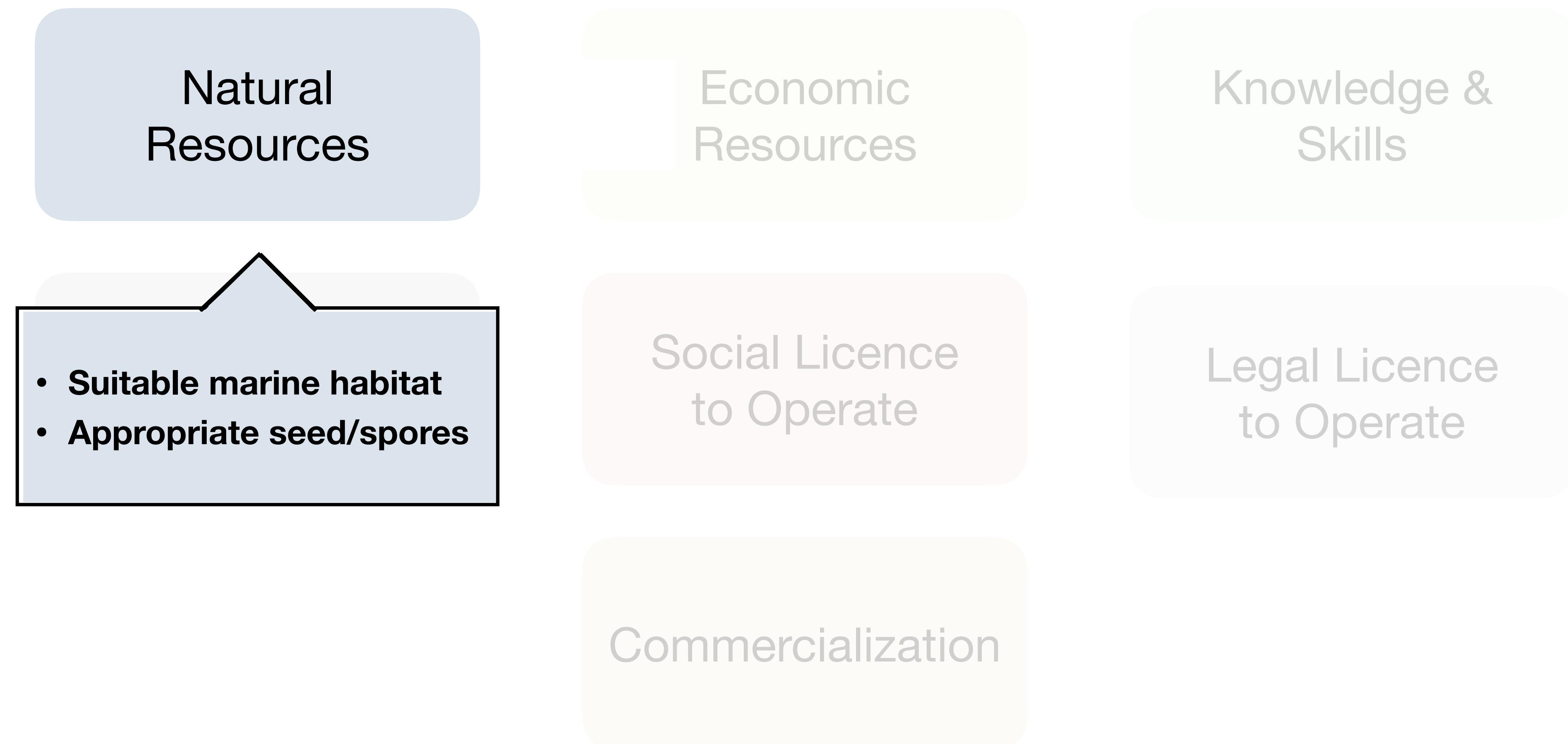
Physical
Resources

Social Licence
to Operate

Legal Licence
to Operate

Commercialization

Framework: What does success at the LPA level require?



Framework: What does success at the LPA level require?

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Physical
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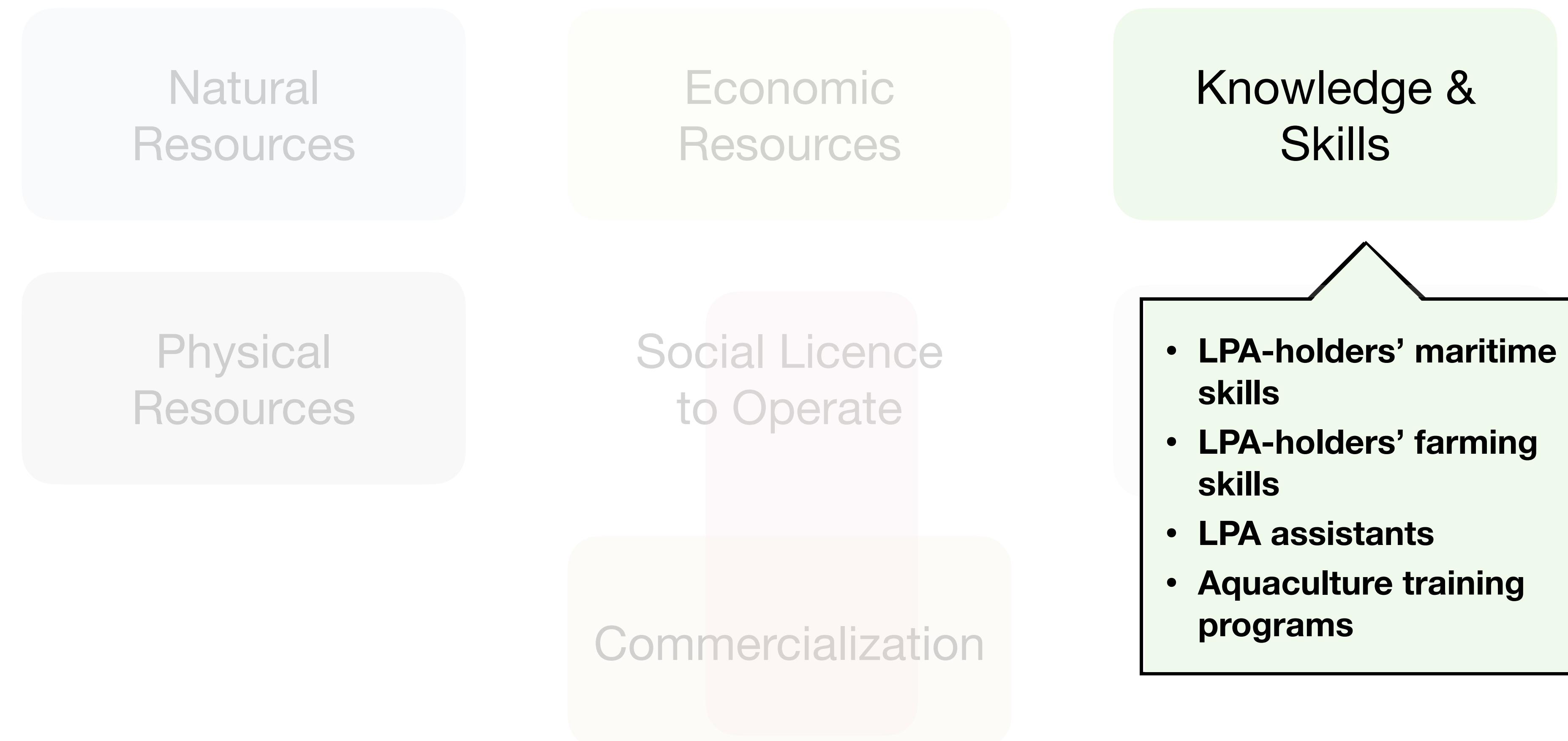
Economic
Resources

Knowledge &
Skills

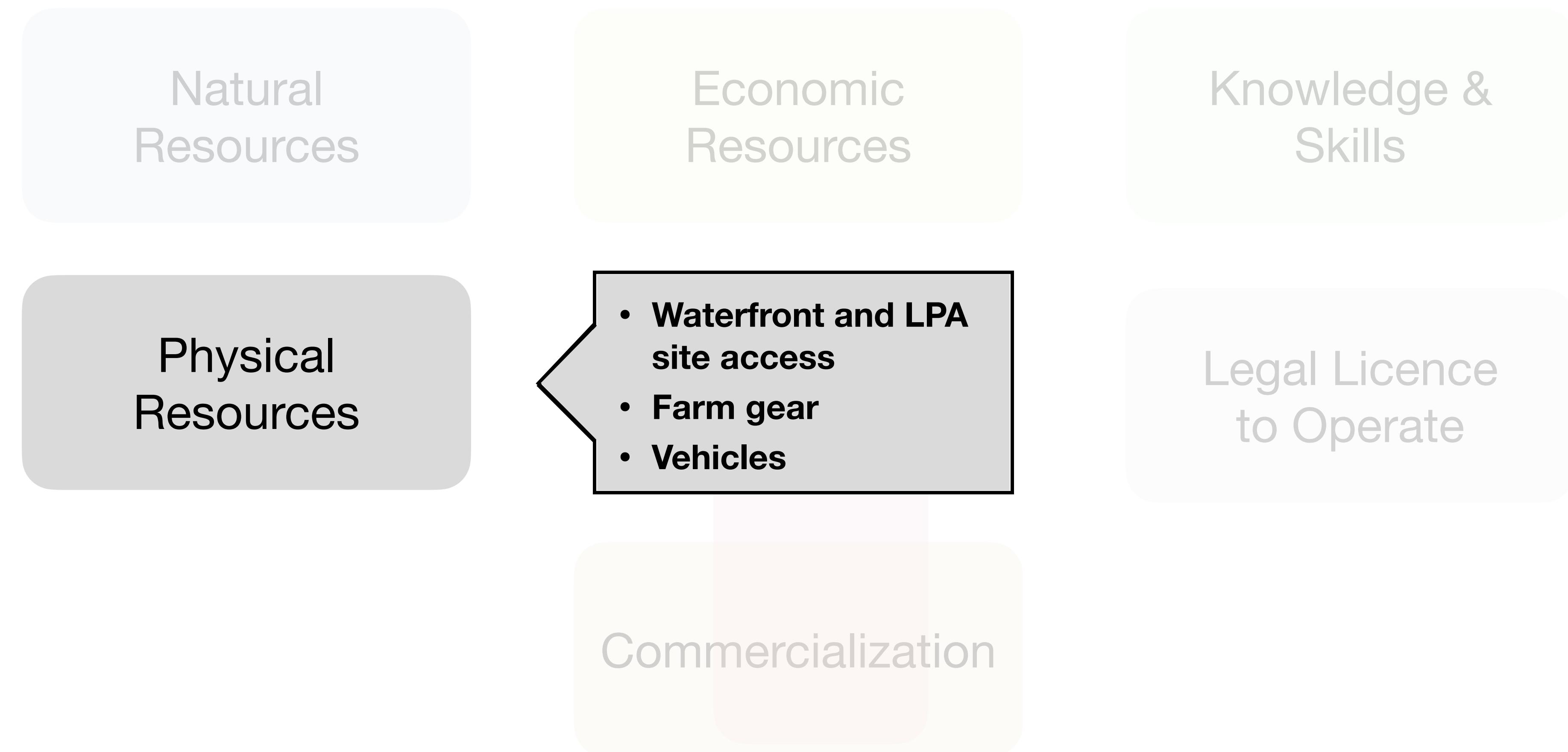
Legal Licence
to Operate

- **LPA-holders' financial resources**
- **LPA-holders' food security**
- **Accessibility of seed/ spores**
- **“FLUPSY”**

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- LPA-holders' relationships with:**
- Coastal neighbors
 - Neighboring fishers
 - Recreational-use neighbors
 - Fellow LPA-holder neighbors

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Physical
Resources

- **Maine DMR**
- **Army Corps of Engineers**
- **Harbormasters**
- **Municipal shellfish committees**

Legal Licence
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Commercialization

Focus Group Highlights

NATURAL RESOURCES

Participants indicated that:

- Obtaining seed/spores was difficult
- Obtaining seed/spores was not difficult
- Determining biological suitability for their LPA sites was challenging

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Participants indicated that their LPA required special expertise with:

- Assembling and managing their LPAs' rope lines
- Physical abilities to maintain their farms
- Maritime skills
- Operational experimentation

Participants indicated that they received help for their LPAs from:

- Local knowledgeable/Previously equipped fishers, ocean farmers, and aquaculture organizations

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

- “My wife likes to joke that I have a kelp farm to justify my ownership of a boat.”
- “I was even able to...borrow some stuff or get some hand-me-down stuff from people I knew, so that wasn't so much of a challenge.”
- “Transport [of my harvested products once on land] is a challenge on my end...I've got to get stuff in, load it, and then drive three-and-a-half hours to Portland where I can sell it.”

Focus Group Highlights

ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Participants indicated that:

- They often have different sources of income besides selling their LPA products; they needed exterior economic resources to sufficiently experiment on their LPAs
- Costs (time and money) of the LPA application were not onerous

LEGAL LICENCE TO OPERATE

Participants indicated that:

- The application process for larger leases is frustratingly slow
- It can be difficult to keep up with the DMR regulations
- They were frustrated by density limits

Focus Group Highlights

COMMERCIALIZATION

Participants indicated that:

- Their LPAs allow for experimentation toward scaling up their aquaculture
- Making enough money on their LPAs to increase production, hire assistants, purchase additional equipment, develop their marketing skills, and/or apply for larger leases is very challenging
- Their operations change frequently because of various circumstances that developing a formal business plan feels useless
- Accessing non-local markets independently is very challenging

SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE

Participants indicated that:

- Conflicts with riparian neighbors are their primary SLO concern, and sometimes their primary concern overall
- They have often received highly beneficial help from local fishers and fellow ocean farmers