



RBM in Support of Socially Sustainable Fishing Practice?

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Is RBM the Right Tool for the Right Job?

What are the opportunities to support social objectives through RBM systems, such as employment, small-scale sector, geographical allocation, distribution of profits etc?



Kinds of Rights Regimes

- Open Access – Effectively no jurisdiction or management
- State Rights – the State has sole jurisdiction over resources (as per UNCLOS)
- Individual Rights – conferred by the State to individual companies, vessel owners or vessels;
- Community or Communal Rights – rights assigned to cooperatives, fishing groups, or communities



Individual Rights vs Collective Rights

Individual Rights: perverse effects on achieving social objectives.

- concentration of fishing rights into fewer hands (ITQs in Iceland, Chile, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand);
- discrimination against small-scale sector (Iceland, Chile, South Africa)
- quota leasing and price fixing, leading to poorer working conditions and lower income for workers (Iceland, Canada)



Individual Rights vs Collective Rights

Collective rights around TURFS (Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries) show some positive, if as yet unproven, effects:

- Brazil: Extractivist Reserves (Reservas Extractivistas), and Sustainable Use Marine protected Areas;
- Chile: Management Areas (Areas de Manejo – AMERBS), - for the management and exploitation of benthic (i.e. shellfish) resources.



Individual Rights vs Collective Rights

Individual Rights: quotas, effort allocation etc granted to individual vessels, vessel owners, etc

Collective Rights - Community or Communal Rights: rights assigned to cooperatives, fishing groups, or communities



What Do We Want from the CFP?

- What benefits or objectives do we want to obtain from our fisheries?
 - What purpose will fisheries management serve in helping us to obtain these benefits/objectives? And
 - Will RBM, or a “rights based approach” to fisheries such an approach help us to achieve our fishery management objectives, and if so how?
- “What purpose will RBM serve as a fishery management tool towards achieving “socially sustainable fishing practices” and to support the achievement of social objectives.



Fishery Management Objectives

For Environment and Development NGOs:

“Environmentally Sustainable and Economically and Socially Healthy Fisheries”

Environmentally Sustainable: No fish = no fishery enterprise/commerce = no fishermen + no fishing communities + no fish consumption

Economically and Socially Healthy Fisheries:



- minimum management costs, optimal revenues/benefits equitably distributed;
- vibrant and dynamic coastal communities;
- safe and decent working conditions in the sector;
- equal opportunities for women, respect for women and non-discriminatory practices in the work place;
- attractive opportunities for current and future generations to engage in fishery activities;

Economically and Socially Healthy Fisheries:



- healthy and accessible (price/availability) fish products for consumers;
- profitable but competitive commercial activities (“fair trade and commerce” in fish products);
- maintenance of healthy cultural activities connected with seafaring, fishing livelihoods, and the marine environment;



Individual vs Collective Interests

RBM must not pit the interests of the individual against the collective interests; that profits are not taken by individuals and large companies at the expense of wider society...

No to “privatizing the benefits, socializing the costs”.



Thank you





