

Fishing for the future

social and societal aspects of sustainable fisheries

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Seas at Risk Conference 2009



Sustainability and the Dutch Fishing Sector

- Multi annual management plan 'Responsible Fishing'
- People Planet Profit - approach
- Responsible Fish committee at Dutch Fish Product Board
- Social responsibility reports 2007, 2009
- Signing partner in the societal contract 'Sustainable North Sea Fisheries'



Sustainable fisheries:

Linked to the idea of **sustainable development**, defined by Brundtland commission and approved by the Rio-conference of the UN. It defines fisheries management within the context of much larger project: *saving the natural environment for future generations.*

Sustainable fisheries

Planet -> concerns: ecosystem health: stocks, discards, impact of gear

Profit -> fishing is business –economic viability

People -> ...employment ...?

Triple P -> P -> People

- Important to differentiate between global north and south

South (for instance Ghana)

- fishing = livelihood to millions (Ghana: 10% of population)
- food security (Ghana: 60% of animal protein)
- contribution to the economy

Western Europe

- Eating fish is healthy; part of balanced diet
- Employment, alternatives ??
- Working conditions
- Fishing communities...
- ...
- PARTICIPATION

Participation: Co-management / interactive governance

- Arguments for co-management:
 - reality check of plans / ideas: improved measures
 - self control is often more (cost-) effective than government control (example Dutch ITQ system)
 - expected to improve the legitimacy of fisheries governance (compliance to rules)
- Yet: deliverance of this expectation of improved legitimacy depends on the design (Jentoft 2000)

Dilemma's of participation

Questions that need to be addressed:

1. Who are participants: external and internal legitimacy ->
 - include other stakeholders (e.g. NGO's) next to user groups (fishers)?
 - Do representatives represent their groups?
2. Will participants feel committed to the outcome as well as to the process of regulatory decision making?

The *sustainability discourses* and participation

Sustainable fisheries = an inspiring concept

Yet what does it mean?

Working that out, is not easy.

Fishermen and fishing communities are rarely involved in defining what sustainable fisheries could mean.

Neither their input nor their advice are part of the implementation process.

Causal element in the legitimation crisis.

So what does sustainability mean to Dutch fishermen?

- Economy – linked to social values
- Good management
- Healthy fish stocks

‘a sustainable fisher is someone who invests in the future of his family-company, vessel and crew’.

‘sustainable fishing is making sure that your son can also go to sea’.

‘sustainable fishing is complying with the rules’

(Hoefnagel, Visser and De Vos 2004: 68).

Some concerns of Dutch fishermen in the sustainability debate

1. Their (practical, technical, historical) knowledge is not valued enough and not made use of enough.
2. Standards as to what is 'sustainable' are unclear and differ; even amongst 'green' stakeholders
3. In the sustainability (including a topic as overfishing) debate, often comparisons are made with fisheries elsewhere – how relevant?
4. Effectiveness of measures taken (example plaice box) -> PLEASE EVALUATE TAKEN MEASURES
5. The role of the different NGO's in the sustainability debate. There is always 1 that does not agree...

A socially sustainable fleet = ?

Some thoughts...

Defining that means incorporating the ideas and knowledge of those affected:

Participation of the users!

- Make use of existing institutions: Enlarge the influence of the RAC
- Consultation is not enough, change the top-down reflex

A socially sustainable fleet = ?

Some thoughts...

Europe: over-fished stocks / over-capacity -> restructuring / reducing

-The image is strong, yet suggesting what to do is complicated.

-Why: - Defining over-capacity is difficult!

- Europe = regional differences

-Interactive governance means working at a lower level of scale

-As fishing is a livelihood – the drive to stay in business is strong.

-When assessing fisheries management, do not forget the market.

Thank you for your attention!

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