Theme: Development
Session: WeD2 - Fishing communities and fishery management: economics and property rights 1

Title: Integrating Fishing Communities into Fishery Management: The Influential Economics of Organization

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Abstract: Fishing communities have always had an obvious economic interest in fishery management as it affects their short-run and long-run prosperity. Many fishing communities are now interested in a more active role in the form of co-management, community-based management, or community property rights. The primary research focus in communities and fishery management has been on developing small-scale fisheries. But there is growing interest on the part of fishing communities in developing large-scale fisheries in being better integrated into management. How will this work? What is the economic role of community in fully developed fisheries? The design question centers on how to integrate fishing communities into fishery management in ways that address structural inertia, avoid incentive problems and minimize transactions costs. This paper addressed the design question within the framework of the economics of organization. It described institutional origins of the community role in management and the changes in community interests over time. Focusing on the U.S. context, it discusses management objectives specific to fishing communities and some of the challenges facing better integration of communities in management. It identifies design issues arising from incentives and transactions costs. These transactions costs are tied to scale, management capital, power ambiguity, failure to make credible commitments, low-intensive incentives, opportunism, and bounded rationality.