Title: Sustainability and Resilience in Fisheries: Policy Directions and Management Institutions

Author(s): Anthony Charles

Abstract:

This paper explores how the implementation of appropriate policy measures and underlying institutions can support sustainability and resilience in fishery systems. The policies discussed fall into three categories. First are those relating directly to fishery management, including the development of a management portfolio, application of the precautionary approach, and implementation of robust and adaptive management. Second are those focusing on the structure of the fishery and its interaction with the broader society - themes such as co-management and community-based management, planning approaches that promote efficiency, management of fishing capacity, and diversification of livelihoods. Third, policies relating to research, information and monitoring involve the development and utilization of the knowledge base, and approaches for monitoring sustainability in fisheries. In conjunction with suitable policy directions, equal attention must be paid to the functioning of management institutions in the pursuit of sustainability and resilience. The paper examines institutions from two perspectives: on the one hand, the characteristics of management institutions that contribute to the internal health of the institution, and on the other hand, the institutional arrangements that support sustainable, resilient fisheries more broadly - such as the capability for self-regulation, in which the fishery users participate in fishery management through community-based mechanisms and/or comanagement.