

How Rights based Fisheries Management in Namibia can provide greater benefits to inland local communities

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Abstract

Rights-based fisheries management has been a management tool in Namibian fisheries since 1991 with the objective of improving the economic performance of the fisheries. The aim is to address the common property problem of fisheries by the creation of private property rights, limiting the quantity of exploitation of fish stocks and increase the flow of net economic gains from the resource. The absence of an artisanal fisheries sector helps to simplify monitoring of landings, and therefore almost every catch is accounted for. The limited human settlement along the coast has however limited the extent to which fisheries benefits the local communities, something that needs to be addressed. This work discusses the current initiatives for benefiting local communities and suggests possible responsive policy reforms in order to increase the benefits that can be derived from rights based fisheries management to the needy local communities.