

Title: **Co-Management interventions in Developing Countries: Findings From A Global Meta-Analysis**

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Abstract: Considerable financial and political investments in fisheries co-management in the past 20 years have disseminated the concept across the developed and developing world. Co-management is now established as a mainstream approach to small-scale fisheries governance. This paper reports on a meta-analysis to assess the overall impact of fisheries co-management in the developing world. A comprehensive review of co-management studies reveals a lack of ex post impact assessments despite the large number of co-management applications in developing countries. To deal with the diversity of indicators measured and the different ways that data are collected, analysed and reported in existing assessments, we applied a coding system to capture change over time. We grouped all findings into one of the following five categories: significantly positive, positive, no change, negative, significantly negative. The findings of the meta-analysis suggest that, overall, co-management delivers some benefits to end-users through improvements in key process and outcome indicators. However, we discuss a number of factors that could have biased our results. Limitations in the existing studies and the lack of comparative and ex post impact assessment data reiterates calls in other fields for more comprehensive frameworks and systematic approaches for understanding and evaluating collective action.