SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

The Uneven Road from Recognition to Governance

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Outline

- Who are the small-scale fishers in SA
- Historic overview
- Management measures
- Protests and policy redraft
- Challenges in complex playfield
- Conclusion
Who?
Prior to 1994: informal

Commercial sector

Crew

Small-scale fishers continuum

Recreational fishers
Recognition

- Democracy
- Marine Living Resources Act (1998)
  - State control of a public good
  - Objective: Balance economic stability, ecological sustainability, and social equity
    - Equity:
      - Redistribution of access rights
      - Internal transformation
      - Recognition of subsistence fishers
      - Co-management
1994 – 2005: transformation & access

Small-scale fishers continuum

HDI

Community quota's 1992-2000
WC subsistence exemptions 2000-2001
KZN exemptions 2001 -
EC exemptions 2001 -

Big companies Full comm.

Limited Commercial: CC’s

BEE

Local elite

Crew

Med-term Commercial allocation 2002-2005

Recreational fishers
2005/06 – 2013/18: Long term commercial rights

Small-scale fishers continuum

- New entrants
- Crew
- Transformed Commercial sector
- CCs

KZN exemptions 200x -
EC exemptions 2001 -

Recreational fishers

- Hake Deep Sea Trawl
- Hake Inshore Trawl
- Horse Mackerel
- Small pelagics
- Patagonian Toothfish
- SCRL
- KZN Prawn Trawl
- Hake Longline
- WCRL (off shore)
- Squid
- Tuna Pole
- Demersal Shark
- Seaweed
- WCRL (near shore)
- Hake handline
- Oyster
- White mussel
- Netfishing
- Abalone (2003/08)
- Traditional line-fish
- SCRL KZN Prawn Trawl
- Hake Longline
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Management measures
1st draft policy

- Policy: Nov 2006
  - Subsistence and small-scale commercial
  - “Co-management”
- E.g. Eastern Cape exemptions
  - Lack of legitimacy
  - Mismatches
  - Commercialisation
Regulating the Transkei lobster fishery

Number of crayfish caught

Size classes

- < 50 mm: 2%
- 51-65 mm: 17%
- 66-80 mm: 41%
- > 81 mm: 40%
Protests & policy redraft
WE WANT EQUAL RIGHTS NOW
Court order

- Long-term allocation + Nov 2006: 1st draft
  - Protests
  - Flawed public participation
  - Many comments from CBO, NGO & academics

- Litigation
  - May 2007: Equality Court Order
Court order: interim relief

Small-scale fishers continuum

WC Interim relief 2007-8

KZN exemptions 200x -

EC exemptions 2001 -

Recreational fishers

Transformed Commercial sector

Crew

Hake Deep Sea Trawl
Hake Inshore Trawl
Horse Mackerel
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WCRL (near shore)
Hake handline
Oyster
White mussel
Netfishing
Abalone (2003/08)
Traditional line-fish
Court order: a small-scale fisheries policy

- Participation
  - Series of provincial and national workshops
    - Aspirations
  - Joint statement
  - Multi-stakeholder Task team
Fishers’ wish list

- And NGO’s and other stakeholders (incl. donors)
- People centred approach
- Right to fish for a livelihood
- Basket system
- TURF and register managed by group/community
- Co-management – active participation in management
- Integrated coastal and small-scale fisheries management and development
Challenges in complex playfield
Challenges

- Define given added complexity
  - Continuum
  - Socio-economic changes made by management interventions
    - Long-term rights holders
    - Crew
    - Unsuccessful
- TURF zones
  - Displaced fishermen
  - Commercial fishing areas
  - Economic viability of basket system
- Lack of local & Nat. Govt. capacity
Conclusion
Fisheries management change

- Paradigm shift
  - Quota based management
    - Resource focus
    - Individual rights
  - Developmental TURF policy?
    - Human rights emphasis
    - Very complex playfield
    - Adaptive co-management
-Thank you-

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