

A Fisheries Management System, Importance for the Demersal value chain of the Icelandic Fish Industry

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Abstract

The Icelandic fisheries management system has always been controversial in Iceland. In the wake of the force of the financial crisis that hit Iceland the political debate has become increasingly emotional and heated. In this debate a rational understanding of the fisheries management system, aims and efficiency has lacked. Previous studies by the authors on the demersal value chain of the Icelandic fish industry have indicated that the two of the external factors having the greatest influence on the efficiency of the value chain are the impact of the fisheries management system and the establishment of the Icelandic fish markets. The objectives of this research are to gain a better understanding of the view of the industry itself on the role that the fisheries management system plays for this value chain. The research emphasises their consensus on the importance of technical and product development as well as the importance of changes in the structure of the marketing activity for the efficiency the value chain. Comparison is also made from secondary data on other fisheries management systems. The research is mainly based on primary data from both formerly and specially conducted semi-structured and in-depth interviews with managers of a number of Icelandic fishing, fish processing and marketing companies. This research is a part of an ongoing research by the authors on the value chain structure and organisational- and productivity changes in the Icelandic fisheries sector.