THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE FISH RESOURCES IN CAMEROON: A BIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE TRAWL FISH ERY

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Abstract

Cameroon is a country of Central Africa, with 402 km coastline where occur intense industrial and small scale marine, multispecies/gears fishing activities. Fishing accounts for 5.2% of GDP in the primary sector and 1.7% of GDP. The Ministry of Livestock's, Fisheries and Animal Industries is responsible of the fisheries policy and management with several other administrations. Free open-access is the prevailing regime since 1912. The country imports on average 100 000t per year, leading to a deficit of nearly $ 40 billion in the trade balance, while Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing combined with self suspension for shrimp since 2004 has led to the fraudulent exports, contributing to heavy losses estimated at 30 billion CFAF per year. The objective of the study is to examine some of theoretical economic concepts that are central to the sustainable management of fishery resources in the case of Cameroon marine trawl fishing industry. Using catch and effort, prices and costs data, both for the private and government, a bioeconomic analysis with Gordon-Schaefer model is conducted to estimate the sustainable resource rent for the period between 1990-2010. The fishery experienced negative rents between 1997 and 1999; 2003 and 2009 and management regimes don't meet government objectives (economic efficiency, resource conservation...).MSY of 7563 tonnes and 61 vessels was reached during the 1990's, while MEY of 6500 tonnes is achieved with 38 vessels, which confirms the theory. The main recommendation is to implement the FAO precautionary approach.