

Broadening the Scope in Fisheries Governance with a Wellbeing Lens

Ratana Chuenpagdee*, Anthony Charles**, Derek Johnson***

*Memorial University

**Saint Mary's University

***University of Manitoba

Abstract

Decades of social science research has shown that fisheries, particularly small-scale, are integral to community wellbeing. They contribute to food security, men's, women's, and children's livelihoods, health, community identity, and social cohesion. These contributions need to be well-defined and contextualized, as well as differentiated between fishing sectors, for better fisheries governance. By applying a broad, multi-dimensional perspective of wellbeing to evaluating the overall societal importance of fisheries, we can inform fisheries management decisions, especially with respect to choices and trade-offs that need to be made in implementing fisheries instruments. The paper offers a simple evaluation scheme to assess fisheries management options using a set of attributes informed by wellbeing literature such as material wealth, job satisfaction, social relational success, principled governance, and ecological sustainability.