

Governance of small-scale fisheries

What are the key elements of policies, institutions, and management options?

Key Elements of Good Governance

- Good governance:
 - recognizes
 - the rights of fishing communities to restore, protect and manage their fisheries;
 - preferential rights of ssf to traditional grounds.
 - does not come just from the state but from the power of civil society institutions
 - is not the same as management.
 - clarifies jurisdictions, ensures rules are fair, provides sanctions induce compliance, establishes management authority
- It is vital that the global mandate for SSF reflect the regions in which governance is taking place
- Political participation is essential for good governance

Key Elements of Policy

- Creates an enabling environment for the participants, for devolution
- Needs to be owned by people
- Explicitly recognizes small-scale, inshore, local fishers and fisheries and that small-scale fisheries are important to the government in terms of people, contribution to GDP
- Recognizes the way that governance occurs in reality
- Needs to be harmonized with policies locally, sub-regionally, regionally
- Legislation needs to clearly define shared objectives, roles and responsibilities in decision making process
- Policy defines access to fisheries, allocation, & participation

Key Elements of Institutions

- Valorise and build capacity of traditional institutions to ensure responsible fisheries
- Equip fishers with the ability to participate, not only in fisheries governance but also in other aspects of governance

Key Elements of Management

- Is affordable to implement
- Contains / based on shared, clear objectives
- Links with law(s) and legal entities
- Builds on pre-existing structures, ways of doing things / fisheries management
- Protects traditional fishing grounds from pollution, destructive fishing gear and practices from IUU fishing.
- Conventional management makes ssf difficult to be involved due to persistent views and management by scientific work.
- Creates a network amongst fishers, NGOs, CSOs, and governments
- Generates and includes information that describes the contribution of small-scale fisheries to the economy and to the politicians.