

From crisis to recovery – how can research support recovery of fisheries resources and livelihoods? Exploring the case of Senegal

Workshop

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At about half the actual extractions officially unaccounted for, fisheries statistics in Senegal and neighbouring countries are a poor guide to policy and investment decisions. What is visible though is the huge increase in the number of fishing boats and effort over the last decade in the dynamic small-scale sector, frequent incursions of industrial vessels mostly flying different foreign flags into the coastal waters reserved for small-scale fishers and significant disregard by most actors for regulations promulgated by the government with support by international aid projects. The loss of income to public budgets from IUU fishing and the threats to livelihoods and food security, particularly of coastal communities this state of affairs engenders can be considered a major obstacle to the development of the country. The workshop will benefit from three short impulse talks about (a) the potential for improvement in governance identified in a paper about the performance of the World Bank/IDA project intended to strengthen fisheries policy and management in the country, (b) the opportunities afforded by new stock assessment methodologies that work in data-poor conditions, and (c) the opportunities arising from critically engaged research and involvement of e.g. small-scale fishers in research to reduce conflicts among stakeholders and strengthen the governance capabilities. This resonates with the Voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication. The workshop will explore the most promising avenues for research to support recovery of fisheries resources and the communities depending on them. The workshop will be conducted in the format of a world café allowing the great diversity of experiences and knowledge formats to converge towards shared insights which can inform follow-up action.

Keywords: fisheries crisis, recovery, small-scale fisheries, Senegal, West Africa

Conference stream: Maritime Governance

Impulse papers:

- **Do World Bank projects live up to their participatory ambition? An example from Senegal** by Dyhia Belhabib, Aliou Sall and Cornelia E Nauen
- **Crisis of authority: Causes, processes and implications for artisanal fisheries regulation. A case study from Senegal** by Aliou Sall
- **The Voluntary Guidelines for Ensuring Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are an important part of meeting the expectations of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 “Life under Water”** by Nicole Franz

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