



Fisheries Changes and Implications

- Need for a Wider Approach to Address Socioeconomic Effects in Fisheries Management



Background

Comprehensive assessments are the basis for the sound management of fish stocks. Traditional fisheries management has been based on data from scientific surveys, port sampling and self-sampling contracts with fishermen. Biological information on catch composition, growth and maturity-at-age has been the basic input for fish stock assessments together with catch-per-unit of effort series.

Shifts in management regimes, fleet structure, new technology, globalization and demands from environmental organizations may have a larger impact than fluctuations in stock size and demographic changes. This implies that fisheries management needs to include a socioeconomic perspective in the future.

Premises and conditions for including socioeconomic effects in fisheries management:

- Sustainable fish stocks / stock assessment
- Management regimes
- Maintaining local culture and societies
- Public opinion / market preferences
- Environmental pressure groups
- Globalization
- Climatic variability



Resources



Exploitation



Industry



Export /market



Consumer

Socioeconomic implications / consequences of changing fisheries: Studies conducted in Møre and Romsdal, Norway, indicate that participants within the value chain are highly dependent on each other. In many communities, fishing is the economic cornerstone, and when fisheries change there are many implications. Fishermen may have to start exploiting other resources which means adjusting to other species, geographical areas, markets and pressure groups. This, in turn, leads to changes in the value chain that may have substantial consequences for local communities with respect to:

- Settlement, employment and community planning
- Logistics, transport and export
- Supporting industries, supply and technology development
- Investments (ship building, fishing vessels and equipment, fish plants, etc.)
- Effects on local services
- Tax revenue

Such changes can cause the collapse of traditional fisheries and their associated communities. This has important implications for infrastructure, community planning and global value chains. To improve fisheries management in the future, socioeconomic aspects need to be addressed. Development of proper analytical tools is crucial.