

Measuring good fisheries governance: What do stakeholders think?

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Abstract

This research tries to answer if fisheries governance can be measured in a simple and reliable way, by exploring the idea of developing a method to measure the quality of governance through stakeholders' perceptions. The method, "measures" stakeholder's perceptions on the different principles that "good governance" is characterised by. These were studied to observe their role in the fisheries system and the feasible relationships between them. Using the proposed United Nations 9 principles of Governance as a reference, this research creates a theoretical matrix robust enough to support the procedural principles developed on the TACIRIE system. The procedural principles and the governance principles were paired with a supporting index of indicators following the aim of analysing the metrics of governance. All indicator were selected assuming their relevance for stakeholders. From the created indicator index, and using a Likert type scale, the measurability of each indicator was studied. This analysis leads to the creation of the "governance units" as a method to quantify and place each indicator in a scale of values. These "units" work as a representation of the governance perception of stakeholders. The method therefore enables the evaluation of the actual design and functioning of governance systems and identifies gaps for enhancement. The aim of this work is therefore to stablish the theoretical frame needed for future works that will include interactions with stakeholders. The success will allow better governance and faster assessments with an inclusion of all the stakeholders of the system to be governed.