



### Policy Briefs

The purpose of these Policy Briefs is to ensure effective dissemination of information collected and generated as a result of the World Bank-funded Study of Good Management Practice in Sustainable Fisheries, the ACP Fish II Feasibility Study (EC), and a Workshop on Fiscal Reform in Fisheries (DFID and GTZ).

### World Bank Study

During 2003, the project 'Study of Good Management Practice in Sustainable Fisheries' was undertaken by SIFAR with funding from the World Bank. This resulted in an initial (brief) report followed by the substantive report which have contributed to a recent internal World Bank process aimed at justifying future investments in fisheries sector development.

### EC ACP Fish II Feasibility Study

During 2002/2003 SIFAR/FAO undertook a feasibility study on behalf of the European Commission (European Aid Cooperation Office - AIDCO). This comprised an extensive consultation process with fisheries sector participants from over 60 ACP countries, together with the preparation of a range of major project proposals covering capacity building for more effective fisheries management in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

## 8. Cooperation in fisheries management: The case of Senegal (Draft)

### Overview

Cooperation between stakeholders is a key to success: this cooperation may be horizontal with local fishers joining together to push for change or may be vertical with local groups working together with industry and government to develop and implement fisheries management plans. Co-management – one form of cooperative behaviour – may help to improve the chances of success in fisheries management. The cornerstone of cooperation is, of course, the sense of 'ownership' of the process of management which can often encourage greater compliance with new fishery regulations.

### Case study<sup>(1)</sup>

Senegalese fisheries are characterised by over-exploitation of demersal coastal resources and over capacity in the fishery. This has translated into reduced catches and a rise in fisheries conflicts between the different sections of the fleet competing for dwindling stocks. A reaction to this situation in the village of Kayar is instructive.

Kayar is on the northern coast of Senegal about 58 km from the capital Dakar. Like other villages, it was badly hit by the sharp devaluation in the national currency in 1994 which saw a rise in the cost of inputs but the only people benefiting from the increased competitiveness of Senegalese fish were the wholesalers. 80% of landings to the beach in Kayar were bought by the merchants from Dakar (usually represented by just one buyer), the remainder by the local wholesalers. Prices on the beach were fixed but did not change even after the currency devaluation. Fishermen were upset at this situation and, through various local meetings with village chiefs, resolved to take charge of the situation and turn it around to their benefit – and ultimately to the benefit of the resource.

The fishermen went on strike for three days, and when they called off the strike they set up their own distribution chain by renting freezer trucks to ship the fish to the central market in Dakar. After each sale, the profits were shared amongst the fishermen on a pro-rata basis. The determination of the fishermen to improve their lot forced the wholesalers (represented by the principal buyer from Dakar) to enter into negotiations with them. They agreed to raise the fixed price of a box of fish from 700 CFA to 8000 CFA. The agreement did not survive for long however, and the fishermen soon resorted to restricting their catch in order to protect prices by instituting an individual quota, with a set of fines to encourage compliance. The development of the individual quota system has led to increased fisher revenue, decreased fishing time and decreased fishing pressure. The knock-on effect of this on fishing costs has been positive with less intensive use of gear, reduced fuel bills etc.

This new and very successful system draws on local features. The village of Kayar is difficult to get to, and fishers have little choice but to land there. The village is dominated by one ethnic group with a long fishing history based on line fishing which is far more selective than other gears (especially monofilament nets). Less selective gears have now been banned by the fishers leading to some conflicts with other groups.

### Lessons learned

The Senegalese case shows how local management can be successful and is of particular interest

## DFID Fiscal Reform in Fisheries Workshop

In October 2003, SIFAR organised a Workshop and Exchange of Views on Fiscal Reform in Fisheries - to 'promote growth, poverty eradication and sustainable management'. This took place in the context of a wider OECD-DAC Initiative, promoted through the UK Department for International Development (DFID), examining issues related to environmental fiscal reform.

because it shows how fishers can develop new institutions through bottom-up activism to manage their activities, once pressure reaches a great enough level.

The national fisheries administration has supported the initiatives taken by the fishers in Kayar. This has been an important element of success. The authorities have been prepared to bend the law, which in principle does not allow groups of fishers to set catch limits. They have also helped the fishers design the detail of management measures. This demonstrates again the importance of all parties playing their roles correctly in co-management systems - such systems do not depend simply on the fishers, indeed in many ways it is the national authorities who determine whether local systems can succeed or not. A sense of ownership over the resource was also key to success - it was the sudden realisation that the resource was in a lamentable state which encouraged stakeholders to act together and quickly to protect their livelihoods.

## Key literature

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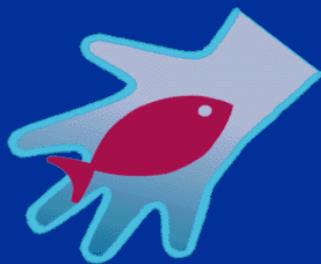
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(1) This account is based on the work of Alioune S.Y. and J. Catanzano (2003).

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