

Crisis of authority: Causes, processes and implications for artisanal fisheries regulation. A case study from Senegal

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For decades, public policies are being implemented to alleviate a trend towards overfishing, which does not spare artisanal fisheries. The effectiveness of such policies is increasingly questioned in the light of widespread transgression of measures of the fisheries code, such as open use of prohibited monofilament gears, non-respect of protected areas or minimum size of species or construction of new pirogues without permit. The difficulty of the fisheries administration to enforce the new fisheries legislation, including the obligation to hold a fishing license and register the boats as essential measures for the monitoring and regulation of fishing effort, is apparent. This paper focuses the analysis on the loss of authority of public and traditional bodies in Senegal under conditions of overcapitalisation, globalised markets and erosion of traditional social relationships. After discussing the causes, the processes by which this loss of authority occurs are presented and concrete examples are given that serve to demonstrate how this situation may improve. Finally, locally adapted alternatives are explored to restore sufficient authority and legitimacy among stakeholders for dialogue that can lead to "truly concerted" management in view of guaranteeing the sustainability of resources and thus livelihoods in the artisanal fisheries.

Keywords: traditional institutions, modern institutions, artisanal fisheries, governance, legitimacy, authority, Senegal

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