

Recently published books

Poverty mosaics: Realities and prospects in small-scale fisheries

Jentoft, Svein and Eide, Arne (eds). 2011. Published in Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London and New York by Springer Verlag. ISBN 978-94-007-1581-3. 541 pages, 77 figs. Hard cover. Prices: EUR 128.95; USD 179.00; GBP 117.00.

This book attempts to provide a global perspective by situating small-scale fisheries within the broad academic discourse on poverty, fisheries management and development, based on case studies from 15 countries in Latin America, Europe, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa south of the Sahara. Millions of small-scale fishers work in conditions that are neither safe nor secure, and often they are socially and politically marginalised. Macro-economic and institutional mechanisms are essential to address these poverty and vulnerability problems, along with interventions at the local community level. This requires a profound understanding of what poverty means to fishers, their families and communities, how they cope with it and the challenges they face to improve their lives. Conclusions for policy-making argue that fisheries development, poverty alleviation, and resource management must be integrated within a comprehensive governmental approach that looks beyond fisheries.

The book is divided into five parts: 1) Positioning, 2) Understanding, 3) Coping, 4) Changing, and 5) Imagining.

Part One consists of three chapters: Chapter 2) "Avoiding poverty: Distributing wealth in fisheries" by Eide A. et al; Chapter 3) "Situating poverty: A chain analysis of small-scale fisheries", by Chuenpagdee, R. and Jentoft S.; and Chapter 4) "The meaning of poverty: Conceptual issues in small-scale fisheries research" by Jentoft S. and Midré G. This first section provides a global overview and background for the following parts and chapters.

Five chapters comprise Part Two, which aims to provide a sense of the context of small-scale fisheries and characterises the nature of poverty and vulnerability around world. These are: Chapter 5) "Living on the margin: Poverty-vulnerability nexus in the small-scale fisheries of Bangladesh", by Islam M.M.; Chapter 6) "Occupation of last resort? Small-scale fishing in Lake Victoria, Tanzania", by Onyango P.O.; Chapter 7) "Vanished prosperity: Poverty and marginalization in a small Polish fishing community", by Marciniak B.; Chapter 8) "More than income alone: The Anlo-Ewa Beach seine fishery in Ghana", by Kraan M.; and Chapter 9) "Wealth, poverty, and immigration: The role of institutions in the fisheries of Tamil Nadu, India", by Bavinck M.

Part Three focuses on strategies that people employ to sustain their livelihood. It consists of the following five chapters: Chapter 10) "Addressing vulnerability: Coping strategies of fishing communities in Yucatán, Mexico", by Salas S. et al.; Chapter 11) "Through boom and bust: Coping with poverty in sea snail fisheries on the Turkish Black Sea coast", by Knusen S. and Koçak H.; Chapter 12) "Community response: Decline of the chambo in Lake Malawi's Southeast Arm", by Hara M.; Chapter 13) "To make a fishing life: Community empowerment in small-scale fisheries in the Pearl Lagoon, Nicaragua", by González M.; and Chapter 14) "Learning from the expert: Attaining sufficiency in small-scale fishing communities in Thailand", by Chuenpagdee R. and Juntarashote K.

Part Four deals with factors that might either improve or worsen poverty and with policy reforms required to improve conditions in small-scale fishing communities. It comprises five chapters: Chapter 15) "Facilitating change: A Mekong Vietnamese small-scale fishing community", by Nguyen K.H.Y and Flaaten O.; Chapter 16) "Creating action space: Small-scale fisheries policy reform in South Africa", by Isaacs M.; Chapter 17) "Building resilience: Fisheries cooperatives in southern Sri Lanka", by Amarasinghe O. and Bavinck M.; Chapter 18) "Moving out of poverty: Conditions for wealth creation in small-scale fisheries in Mozambique", by Menezes A. et al.; and Chapter 19) "The merits of consensus: Small-scale fisheries as a livelihood buffer in Livingston, Guatemala", by Andrade H. and Midré G.

Part Five consists of a single chapter, "A better future: Prospects for small-scale fishing people", by Jentoft S. et al. This chapter is envisaged as a joint statement by all of the contributing authors, and summarises the main findings of the book and the authors' views of the lessons learned from it.

Managing coastal and inland waters: Pre-existing aquatic management systems in Southeast Asia

Ruddle, Kenneth and Satria, Arif (eds). 2010. Published in Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London and New York by Springer Verlag. ISBN 978-90-481-9554-1, e-ISBN 978-90-481-9555-8. Pages 188, Figs. 10, Photos 18, Tables 15. Hard cover.

This book consists of seven chapters: Chapter 1) "An introduction to pre-existing local management systems in Southeast Asia", by Ruddle K. and Satria A.; Chapter 2) "Pre-existing fisheries local management systems in Indonesia, focusing on Lombok and Maluku", by Satria A. and Adhuri D.S.; Chapter 3) "Open to all?: Reassessing capture fisheries tenure systems in Southern Laos", by Baird I.G.; Chapter 4) "Seasonal ritual and the regulation of fishing in Batanes Province, Philippines", by Mangahas M.F.; Chapter 5) "Pre-existing inland fisheries management in Thailand: The case of the lower Songkhram River basin", by Khumsri M.; Chapter 6) "Vietnam: The *van chai* system of social organization and fisheries community management", by Nguyen D.T. and Ruddle K.; and Chapter 7) "Conclusion: Errors and insights", by Ruddle K. and Satria A.

In their introductory chapter Ruddle and Satria examine the role of pre-existing systems of fisheries management in tropical nations, which have not usually been used as an alternative to introduced Western scientific approaches. During the colonial era, non-Western models were disparaged openly, whereas nowadays, commonly they are dismissively labelled as "traditional" or "special" cases. Often predicated on misguided theories, during the 1950s and 1960s a massive and experimental packaged transfer of social, economic, financial, educational, and legal systems, together with their underlying cultural values and aspirations regarded pre-existing economies, management systems, and often social and cultural systems as obstacles to modernisation. Modernisation provided the justification for foreign designers of fisheries management schemes to claim that pre-existing systems were either primitive or unsustainable or often "non-existent". This was reinforced by a general ignorance of the tropics and prejudice on the part of scientists and educators, whose careers were enhanced by work in temperate regions. The generic "design principles" and functioning of pre-existing systems are summarised, together with the status of knowledge on Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

As demonstrated by the chapters on Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, pre-existing systems were long established in inland waters. In Chapter 3, using case studies of three pre-existing tenure systems for fisheries management from Champasak Province, Ian Baird debunks the myth that all fisheries resources in southern Laos were historically "open access". In all three of these ecologically and socially very different examples, private resource ownership is socially and culturally sanctioned as part of a common property management system, based on first claims to fishing sites and labor inputs. "Open access" rarely exists in southern Laos, which may not become evident without sustained observations of different fisheries. Field research, in the lower Songkhram River basin (LSRB) of northeastern Thailand by Malasri Khumsri revealed that fisheries resources are managed concurrently by local communities, based on pre-existing or *de facto* rights, and *de jure* by the Department of Fishery, according to the Fisheries Law of 1947. Further, according to the Thai Civil and Commercial Law of 1925, natural resources used in common, such as shores, streams and lakes are state property. However, concurrently, local communities recognise that individuals have ownership of fishing rights in such areas, and that they also have the right to exclude others from fishing within them. The result is a complex and multiple set of overlapping, complementary and conflicting individual, common and state property rights within a single, small geographical area used as a fishing ground. However, as Khumsri demonstrates in Chapter 5, the performance and sustainability of the present joint system of management is constrained both by a lack of clearly defined property rights and rules aimed specifically at sustainable resource use, and a mismatch between local and state institutional arrangements for fisheries management.

As examined in Chapter 6, by Nguyen and Ruddle, in Vietnam the pre-existing fisheries management system known as the *van chai* emerged from the administrative structure of farming villages in the northern provinces of the country, so their administration and social management reflected traditional Vietnamese agrarian culture. Originally, the *van chai* administered inland fisheries. However, with the gradual settlement of ethnic Vietnamese along the coast of the central region, where inland fisheries were insignificant

but marine fisheries became of major importance, the *van chai* was adapted to the needs of marine fishing communities, where it became the focus for spiritual activities related to fishing. Each new fishing community along the south-central coast established a *van chai* to worship the Whale God.

The recent disappearance of pre-existing systems is one reason why they have not been documented. In the case of Indonesia, pre-existing systems of fisheries management were delegitimised during the “New Order Era” (1966–1998), before their importance was recognised. They were revived after a 30-year hiatus, when the “Reform Era” began in 1998. One such system is the *awig-awig* and *sawen* of north Lombok, and another is the *petuanan* and *sasi* of Maluku. These are examined in Chapter 2. Local people revived *awig-awig* and adapted them to the contemporary need of overcoming destructive fishing practices and implementing a system for sustainable fisheries management.

Another common reason for the failure to document pre-existing systems is the absence of recent field research, particularly in remote areas, combined with the common assumption that such systems either do not exist in a given area or that they have little or no relevance to modern fisheries management. Such is the case examined in Chapter 4 of the *mataw* fishers of Batanes — the 10 small and northernmost islands of the Philippine archipelago — who engage in the seasonal capture of flying fish and dorado.

As a group, these cases highlight some important and generally overlooked aspects of the characteristics and context of pre-existing systems. These are: their fundamental role in the management of fishing communities; the existence of multiple, overlapping, flexible and adaptable rights; pre-existing systems often involve a set of human ecosystems and their resources, and not just fisheries, which are managed in a coordinated manner; and pre-existing systems are greatly affected by a constellation of interacting external pressures for change. In overlooking these, policy makers and planners commit a serious error of judgment.

Fisheries management in Japan: Its institutional features and case studies

Makino, Mitsutaku. 2011. Published in Dordrecht, Heidelberg, London and New York by Springer Verlag. ISBN 978-94-007-1776-3. 215 pages, 28 figs., Hard cover. Prices: EUR 99.95; USD 129.00; GBP 90.00.

Dr Makino has written a comprehensive book that is both a detailed reference and a study of fisheries management. The book consists of 10 chapters, the final one of which is a concluding discussion.

Chapter 1, “Introduction”, provides an outline of Japan and its fisheries, together with general information on the country, including geography, ocean currents, population, national economic structure, and food culture, among other topics. It contains an overview of the Japanese fisheries sector, and covers aspects of the legal system, administration, insurance structure, and social institutions. The national fisheries infrastructure is examined via fishing grounds, ports and communications, education, scientific information, and the statistical system. Chapter 2 provides a brief institutional history of fisheries management that includes sub-sections on the pre-feudal era, the modernisation of Japan, current fishery laws, fisheries management systems, and major laws and systems.

Japanese fisheries today are examined in Chapter 3. Based on up-to-date statistics, current conditions of the problems facing Japanese coastal fisheries are examined and the major capture fisheries sectors and their management profiled. Aquaculture is examined in a similar manner. Chapter 4, which deals with fisheries management in coastal areas, is based on a description of three cases: the sea cucumber fishery in Mutsu Bay, the sand eel fishery in Ise Bay, and the sandfish fishery in Akita Prefecture. Chapter 5 is devoted to fisheries management in offshore areas, and based on two case studies. The first is of snow crab management in waters off Kyoto Prefecture, and the second is of industrial fishing in the northwestern Pacific that targets sardines, anchovies and mackerel.

In Chapter 6, the institutional relationship between Japanese fisheries management and the ecosystem approach is examined. Emphasis is placed on measures required to adapt Japanese fisheries management to ecosystem-based management. The author asserts that the Japanese system needs to adopt an ecosystem perspective, expand stakeholder involvement, and adopt an ecosystem monitoring system and appropriate use of indicators and protected areas. Next, in Chapter 7, marine protected areas (MPAs) are discussed. In Japan two types exist. Legal MPAs are established based on law and set up by government. In contrast, autonomous MPAs are established on local initiatives, and mostly planned and implemented by fishers. In Chapter 8, the UNESCO World Heritage List is examined, based mostly on the example of the Shiratoko Peninsula, in Hokkaido. Fishing is one of the main industries in the peninsular area, such that they form

an integral component local ecosystem. Given that the participation of the fisheries sector has been integral to the local ecosystem planning from the very beginning of the process, the experiences of the Shiritoko Peninsular are potentially useful for informing ecosystem-based management elsewhere in the world, particularly where large numbers of small-scale fishers are involved. Finally, Chapter 9 examines comprehensive management in terms of the “Grand Plan” for Japanese fisheries during the next two decades, and also future theoretical scenarios for Japanese fisheries — a global competition scenario, a national food security scenario, and an ecological mosaic scenario.

Explaining human actions and environmental changes

Vayda, Andrew P. 2009. Altamira Press (A division of Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.), Lanham (MD, USA), New York, Toronto, and Plymouth, UK. ISBN 978-0-7591-0323-8; eISBN 978-0-7591-1900-0.

It is with pleasure that I introduce to you the book “Explaining human actions and environmental changes” by Andrew P. Vayda who, in some hundred articles and several books, specialised mostly in methodology and explanation at the interface between social and ecological science. His research, often crossing disciplinary boundaries, has focused both on philosophical issues and on subjects ranging from warfare and migration to forest fires and insect pest management. He has directed and participated in numerous research projects on people’s interactions with forests in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Still very actively involved in research on fire in Indonesian wetlands, “Pete” Vayda, now professor emeritus of anthropology and ecology at Rutgers University, was formerly a professor at Columbia University, in New York City. He founded the journal *Human Ecology*, and for five years was its editor.

The essays re-published in this volume all examine aspects of explanation, and the methods of explanation-oriented research. Some were stimulated by the author’s desire to understand the causes of particular phenomena, such as extensive fires in the humid tropical forests of Indonesia, whereas others arose from dissatisfaction with assumptions, explanations, or research methods used in political ecology, Darwinian human behavioural ecology, and local knowledge studies.

The first chapter examines causal explanation and research, and includes invaluable “dos and don’ts” in explanation and explanation-oriented research. The following chapters expand on the illustrations, points or arguments. Among the topics examined are confirmation bias, naïve functionalism and adaptationism, the misdirection of interdisciplinary research, the practical defects of holistic approaches, the reification of processes or systems, and the importance of clarity about our objects of explanation.

The chapters contents are: 1) “Causal explanation as a research goal: Dos and don’ts”; 2) “Both ends of the firestick: Causal explanation of Indonesian forest fires”; 3) “On knowing what not to know about knowing: A critical view of local knowledge studies” (with Bradley B. Walters and Indah Setyawati); 4) “Do we need an anthropological perspective on tropical deforestation?”; 5) “Seeing nature’s complexity but not people’s”; 6) “Against political ecology” (with Bradley B. Walters); 7) “Failures of explanation in Darwinian ecological anthropology”; 8) “Concepts of process in social science explanations” (with Bonnie J. McCay and Cristina Eghenter); 9) “Explaining why Marings fought: Different questions, different answers”; and 10) “The anthropology of war: Polemics and confusion”.

© Copyright Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 2011

All rights for commercial / for profit reproduction or translation, in any form, reserved. SPC authorises the partial reproduction or translation of this material for scientific, educational or research purposes, provided that SPC and the source document are properly acknowledged. Permission to reproduce the document and/or translate in whole, in any form, whether for commercial / for profit or non-profit purposes, must be requested in writing. Original SPC artwork may not be altered or separately published without permission. The views expressed in this Bulletin are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Original text: English

Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Fisheries Information Unit
BP D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Telephone: +687 262000; Fax: +687 263818; cfpinfo@spc.int; <http://www.spc.int/coastfish>