

Crisis of Governance:

Can traditional forms of regulation in artisanal fisheries survive under conditions of global markets and shifting baselines between legal operations and organised crime?
A case study from Senegal

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Senegal – Guet Ndar fisheries



Methodology

Administration of **semi-structured interviews** in seven traditional fishing communities in Senegal in 2014 and 2015 with focus on the obstacles to fisheries policy reform in Senegal. 234 questionnaires were detailed enough for further analysis.

Follow-up with three sessions of **focus group discussions** in 2015 involving 625 boat owners/fishermen, 340 women fish processors and retail vendors, and 263 fish mongers in seven major landing sites of the small-scale fisheries (by total landings and gear types): Guet Ndar in Saint Louis, Kayar, Yoff, Hann, Mbour, Joal, and Ngaparou.



Social regulation vs state power

Two examples illustrating the mutually beneficial relationship between traditional (social) regulation through the community elders and dignitaries and the public fisheries administration:

- MCS by pirogues in Yoff capturing captains of industrial vessels infringing rules and handing them over to the coast guard for fining
- Prohibition of certain gear and under-sized sardinellas in catches could not always be enforced by under-resourced administrative services, but was enforced by several fishing communities and tacitly sanctioned by attendance of fishing inspectors at the community meetings.



Breakdown of a tacit alliance

World Bank West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (US\$ 28 mio. for Senegal): 80% for management, but **only 12% for research**, after the start

Supported introduction of **new institutions**: local committee for artisanal fisheries (CLPA) with far-reaching prerogatives trespassing those of the traditional leaders – headed by relatively young people nominated by the prefect – legality vs. legitimacy – fishers are openly defiant to many new rules and restrictions.

Global market demand for Octopus and Largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*) absorbs much local fishing capacity and curtails women's access to raw material, undermining their traditional family business.



Options for a way forward

Recognition and restoration of the symbiosis between conventional legal institutions and informal instances of social regulation – the latter are spaces for producing alternative law;

Development of a small-scale fisheries academy as a collective meeting and learning space blending existing and newly co-produced knowledge from different spheres;

Specific support to women to evolve in their roles according to their aspirations;

Developing learning modules on demand for fishers, e.g. on ecosystem approach to fisheries.



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