

How to bridge the gap between the scientific community and indigenous knowledge bearers: Opportunities for marine policy and practice

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What are we talking about?

1. The distance between marine research on technical, ecological and economic aspects of fisheries and marine environments on the one hand and what practitioners know about the sea and its resources on the other.
2. How does this gap between different forms and representations affects policy and management in the face of uncertainty?
3. Explore avenues for collaboration between researchers, policy makers and practitioners, holders of endogenous knowledge – und which conditions can it work? Allow enough time... to rebuild trust.

Different representations don't see eye to eye

Artisanal fishers and women and men in the postharvest sector – estimated as around 600,000 people don't have access to and don't understand research results in scientific presentation formats;

They experience the negative trends in different ways, but can not connect to and get help from the science; they just see the resource and their earnings go down;

Lack of communication triggers suspicion that research serves foremost to create restrictions for operators in SSF, while industrial vessels, both domestic and foreign continue taking a huge part of unrecorded catches (IUU fishing)

The national marine research centre (CRODT) has fewer local researchers than in the past.

The consequences of different perceptions

Artisanal fishers and women and men in the postharvest sector – are becoming more skeptical about conventional research (e.g. when good octopus harvests contrasted with research estimates);

Lack of communication undermines trust, especially when research results are being seen in conjunction with restraining measures for SSF, such as boat registration and introduction of fishing licences;

The implementation of necessary reforms are hampered by lack of transition support and alternatives (including outside the fishing sector or in higher value segments of the value chain).

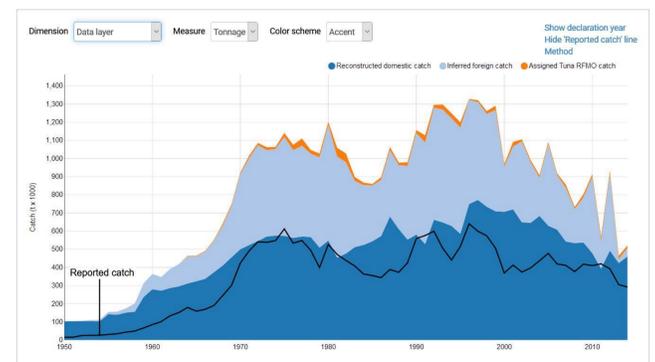
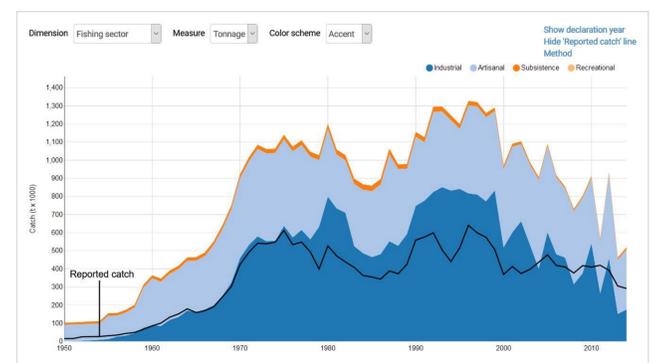
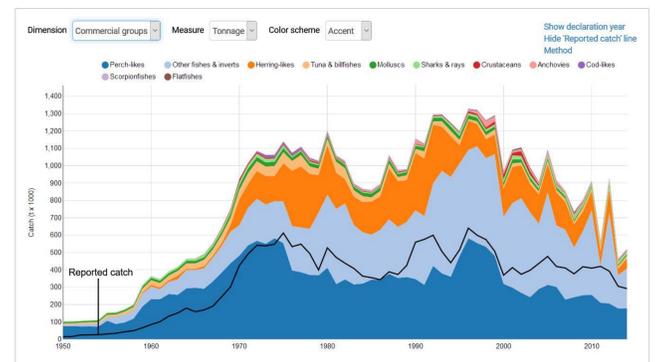
Greater variability of catches e.g. of small pelagics under the combined conditions of overfishing and climate change;

Inconsistent policy: SSF refuse to reduce capacity and effort so long as especially foreign industrial vessels get fishing opportunities or surveillance is insufficient; low enforcement;

Despite recognised need to reduce fishing capacity overall, including in SSF sector, subsidies are granted, incl. Recent distribution of 5000 subsidised outboard engines in SN; Crisis of authority.



Catch reconstructions by commercial group for Senegal, SAU:



Framework for success

Open platform for co-production of knowledge

Respectful multi-stakeholder platform (celebrate diversity)

Suspend judgement – accept participants as they are

Listen, seek solutions together Promote local leadership, trust

Empower, build capacities, ♀

Excellent frame conditions

National SSF Action plans and favourable policies for implementation of SSF Guidelines and SDG14 globally

Stop subsidies to industrial fishing and make IUU fishing unprofitable – promote Blue Commons



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