

Measuring good fisheries governance: Indicators, tools and stakeholders

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In an attempt to answer if fisheries governance can be measured in a simple and reliable way, this paper explores the idea of developing a method for measure the quality of governance in fisheries systems, through a direct communication with stakeholders. That tool will enable the evaluation of the actual design and functioning of governance systems and identify gaps for enhancement. The tool suggested here draws on the different principles that good governance is characterised by. The principles were studied to observe their role in the fisheries system and the feasible relationships between them. Being the aim to analyse the metrics of governance, existing indicators for each principle were selected assuming their relevance for stakeholders. The measurability of each indicator was studied taking into account different metrics and dimensions. This analysis leads to the creation of the “governance units” as a method to quantify and place each indicator in a scale of values. The measuring process starts with each indicator in a two-dimensional scale and produces a one- dimensional final result. Hypothetically this last value represents the governance level of the fishery. The aim of this work is therefore to stablish the theoretical frame needed to develop the tool. Future works will include interactions with stakeholders to observe and compare different aspects of the tool and to validate the measuring process. The success will allow better governance performance and faster governance assessments with an easy inclusion of all the stakeholders of the system to be governed.

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