

LINKING RESEARCH AND POLICY: WFC PERSPECTIVE – DR DOUG BEARE



Linking research and policy in fisheries and aquaculture: recommendations from WorldFish Center

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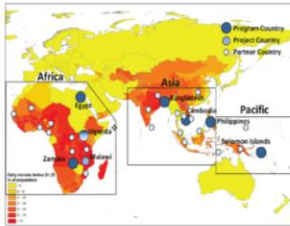
The WorldFish Center's Mission and Vision



Mission: to reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture

Vision: to be the research partner of choice for delivering fisheries and aquaculture solutions in developing countries

WorldFish Center Geographic Focus



Aim of talk

1. Describe the pathways that link fisheries and aquaculture with poverty and food security;
2. Summarize impacts of recent policy reform in fisheries and development investment in aquaculture;
3. Make some policy recommendations



Photo: Dominyk Lever

Link between fisheries, aquaculture poverty and food security

- Nutritional benefits from fish;
- Employment, knock-on and spillover effects;
- Revenues from trade, taxation, and fishery resource access payments.



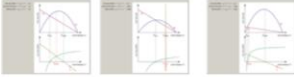


Photo: Eric Baran



Photo: Jamie Oliver

Impacts of recent policy reform in fisheries and development investment in aquaculture

1. Rights based fisheries
2. Food security impact of trade;
3. Aquaculture development pathways
4. Fishmeal and food security relationships

Policy recommendations

- Strive for policy coherence
 - I. Avoid narrow fishery-sector perspective;
 - II. Make food security explicit in sector policy
 - III. Ensure coherence between major cross-sectoral policies and programs (e.g. OECD Policy Coherence framework for guidance)
- Avoid blueprints. Poverty reduction might be served by:
 - I. Maximising resource rents and export revenues
 - II. Policy that supports open or flexible access allowing the poor to gain from seasonal or temporary aquatic resource exploitation.
- Invest in evidence-based political economy analysis
 - I. Paucity of impact assessments of fishery-sector investments
 - II. Limited assessment of causal relationships between fish production, trade and development outcomes.
 - III. Fragmented case study research on poverty that fails to address benefits derived from the sector at aggregate levels.
- Engage stakeholders in dialogue over reform goals
 - I. Over half world's fisheries lack management goals
 - II. Link with fisheries and aqua with those shaping development agenda.

Policy recommendations

- Build on what already works
 - I. Support the continued operation and development of SSF in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct.
 - II. Promote rights-based fishing (many options);
 - III. Ensure compensations schemes when trying to reduce fishing capacity;
 - IV. Support growth of SME aquaculture, and its role in producing nutritious, affordable food.
 - V. In countries with nascent aquaculture (Africa) support innovation systems that contribute to growth.
 - VI. Address nutrition, equity and environmental dimensions of aquaculture development to ensure sustainability and poverty reduction benefits of aquaculture development are maximised.