THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE TO THE ECONOMY

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Introduction

- Human behavior, key in fisheries sustainability and responsible practices.
- Attention to the socio-economic impact of management reforms.

Social issues for decision-making and policy formulation

1) Ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture.
2) State policies and Government policies.
3) Employment and social responsibility.
4) Women in the sector.
5) Training and awareness: fisherfolk, communities.
6) Buyers and markets: responsible consumption.
1) Ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture

- **Management requires interdisciplinary approach**: biology, ecology, technology, legal, economics and social sciences.

**Social info**: value chain actors, social security systems, employment, gender equity, diversification opportunities, support services, community association, entrepreneurial capacity, other barriers for development.

- **Intersectoral participation**: governments, productive sector, academy, NGO's, civil society, regional fisheries organizations.
2) State policies and Government policies

- **State policies**: addresses strategic issues that require medium and long-term objectives.

- **Government policies**: reflects objectives of a president / prime minister / governor or political party.

- **Fisheries sustainability**: based on national rules, adaptable State policies, international agreements and guidelines.
3) Employment and social responsibility

- **Socio-economic importance of the sector**: authorities, investors, financial institutions, among other key stakeholders.

- **Main indicators**: GDP, trade balance, employment, consumption.

- **Employment**: decent work, safety at sea, fair income and gender equity as top goals.

  Community association, entrepreneurship, money management skills to alleviate poverty and increase welfare of fisher’s and crew’s families.

- **Social responsibility**: implementation of national rules, international instruments, commitment of private sector and community associations.
4) Participation of women in the sector

- Significant contribution although seldom fully recognized.
- Usually under-represented in decision-making processes. Loss or underuse of their knowledge and experiences.
- More involved in processing, marketing than production, administration and direction of the value chain. More active at institutional level.
- Needed to improve their participation, vocational / professional training; support services and productive projects (women, mixed, family).
- Considering the local context, culture, specificities and needs.
5) Training, awareness of fisherfolk, crews, communities

- **Fisheries sustainability**: regulations, monitoring, surveillance and *responsible behavior*.

- **Strategies**: technical training, capacity building, dialogue and awareness on their role in order to improve commitment and governance results.

- **Intervention to fisherfolk, crews and communities**: more focused on technical matters but insufficient social work tools.

  Crews not always included; with similar profile as fisherfolk but with different patterns.

- **Technical assistance** with interdisciplinary specialists aimed to associated and *independent* fisherfolk.
6) Buyers, markets: promoters of responsible consumption

- Consumers awareness on their role on fisheries sustainability motivate them to be informed about products.
- Demanding consumers (developed countries) make excellent producers (developing countries).
- **Main impacts**: better rules and controls, infrastructure, procedures and commitment with traceability, quality and sustainability.
In conclusion

- There have been significant advances, but efforts must be reinforced.
- Joining efforts between stakeholders are essential.
- Protection of rights and fulfillment of duties: human decisions. Increase the participation of professionals in social sciences to achieve commitment and goodwill of actors. Culture and traditions.
- Regulations and controls are needed, but with social intervention, results could be more effective and satisfactory.
Thank you for your kind attention
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