

Stakeholders' perceptions of Governance in Iceland and Spain (Galicia)

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Abstract

Trying to answer if fisheries governance can be evaluated in a simple and reliable way, this research developed a method to measure the quality of governance through stakeholders' perceptions. The method, "measures" stakeholder's perceptions on the different principles of the "good governance" with a theoretical matrix robust enough to support the procedural principles implemented on the TACIRIE system. Procedural principles were paired with a supporting index of indicators, assuming their relevance for stakeholders, following the aim of analysing the metrics of governance. From the created indicator index, an analysis leads to the creation of the so called "governance units" as a method to quantify and place each indicator in a scale of values. These "units" work as a representation of the governance perception of stakeholders. The method therefore enables the evaluation of the actual design and functioning of governance systems and identifies gaps for enhancement. Once the theoretical frame needed for interacting with stakeholders was created, the method was used to observe the perceptions of governance in different environments. For that, the Small Scale and Industrial Scale fishery of Galicia (Spain) and Iceland were analysed. In the Galician case, we focused on the Hake fishery (*Merluccius merluccius*) while for Iceland, the selected species was Cod (*Gadus morhua*). The two selected sites differ in the management system used providing good enough samples to observe the method in different regimes. The study leads to better governance and faster assessments with an inclusion of all the stakeholders of the system to be governed.

Keywords: Fisheries, Governance, Indicators, Stakeholders, Galicia, Iceland, Perceptions

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