

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN LATIN AMERICA: MANAGEMENT MODELS AND CHALLENGES

SUMMARY

The analysis of the background of management in Latin America, and its current practices of co-management, are important in order to understand the particularities of the small-scale Amazonian riverine fisheries, and of the coastal Atlantic Forest fisheries. Associated with the knowledge on co-management, information on the fishery impacts and conflicts are important aspects to be considered in and human-ecological focus, comprising social-cultural and economical variables.

A glance at Latin America, and its management processes in the fishery context, followed by specific examples in the Brazilian Amazon and in its coast will help in comprehend the multi-task and multi-scale context of management for those regions. Differences between tropical and temperate fisheries embody, in particular, the multi-gear characteristics of tropical fisheries, which include arpoons, gillnets, and a variety of different hooks, attending thus the multispecies demands. Local fisheries in tropical areas are dispersed, formed by small local villages, most of them following local rules in the use of the natural environment and in the use of the aquatic space. Kin ties are important aspects, at the household and community levels, comprehending local rules that apply to fishing activities.

Diverse models of co-management exist in order to tackle the overfishing concerns, and the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. Small scale fisheries are often squeezed in between the large-boats, industrial fisheries, and the restrictions to their activities that come from governmental enforcing laws regarding adjacent protected areas. The context of some co-management models to Latin America will be shown, regarding those protected areas, but also including the applications of local knowledge and adaptive management towards local management. How the dialogue between fishers and researchers, and between local and scientific knowledge, can improve co-management procedures and can be helpful to local fishers when dealing with governmental agencies. How historical contexts cause differences in the legitimacy of local organizations and in co-management processes.

Methods used in order to access the human-ecological, cultural and economic context of the fisheries are shown, together with the four methodological pieces that follows, and carrying examples from riverine and coastal fisheries. Such pieces include: 1) the opportunity of getting knowledge on the use of aquatic and terrestrial natural resources by the local families within the fishery (such as fish, plants and terrestrial animals); 2) the use of the aquatic space, accessing information about kin ties and existing rules; 3) increasing knowledge about the behavioral dynamics of fishers concerning their mains targets, and relative to their decision-making processes; and 4) information on the local knowledge that exist in the context of the

fishery regarding fish species, their reproduction, and diet, among others. The historical context tangents those four aspects, and should be taken into account in order to understand the processes of management in the Amazon and in the Atlantic Forest Coast. The facets mentioned permit analysis of the resources and of the fishery, touching into aspects of the resilience and of the sustainability of those fisheries.

Practical examples will be drawn through co-management processes that are going on in the Amazon and in the Atlantic Forest, such as Development Sustainable Reserves and Fishing Agreements. A general appraisal of co-management processes and their applications to Latin America will be highlighted.

BIOGRAPHY

Alpina Begossi is Executive-Director of the Fisheries and Food Institute (www.fisheriesandfood.org) and a researcher in Fisheries and in Human Ecology at the CAPESCA-PREAC-UNICAMP, Campinas and Paraty, Brazil. She has served as President of the Society for Human Ecology (2006-2007), and organized in Rio, Brazil, the XV International Meeting of this Society. Her background includes a Bs. in Biology (Ecology) (UFRJ, 1981), a Ms. in Biological Sciences (Ecology) (Unicamp, 1984), and a PhD in Ecology (UCDavis, 1989). She has been publishing articles in journals such as *Current Anthropology*, *Ecology and Society*, *Economic Botany*, *Ecological Applications*, *Environment, Development, and Sustainability*, *Fisheries Research*, *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, *Journal of Ethnobiology*, and *Human Ecology*, among others.