UNDERSTANDING POVERTY WITHIN SMALL-SCALE MARINE FISHERIES IN SELECTED SITES WITHIN KILIFI COUNTY IN KENYA

Wamukota A
Pwani University

1 School of Environmental and Earth Sciences, Pwani University, P.O Box 195, Kilifi Kenya. Email: a.wamukota@pu.ac.ke

Abstract

Previous empirical studies on poverty in fisheries were influenced by the perception that poverty in fisheries is mainly related to the natural factors (fishing resource) and its associated exploitation level. However, recent research has shown that the relationship is not only unilinear but is complex and remains mis-understood. This study, undertaken between September 2018 and February 2019 sought to contribute to the discourse relating to poverty in small-scale fisheries at two sites (Kilifi and Malindi) in Kenya. Data was collected to 1) evaluate the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of fishers and fish traders, and 2) explore the local definition and perceptions of poverty in the fishery, and 3) explore competitive strategies employed by fishers and fish traders.

Results show complexity in the interaction among actors at different stages of the marketing process. Apart from the cultural definition of poverty in small scale fisheries remaining complex, dynamic and largely misunderstood, actors at different marketing level apply a variety of competitive strategies that may have fisheries livelihood and resource sustainability implications. The same have so far not been addressed in mainstream fisheries management solutions.

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