

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

The future of the Norwegian fisheries development assistance; some reflections and recommendations

Bjørn Hersoug
NCFS, University of Tromsø



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010



Jumping after Wirkola, or before Sagen?

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

The starting point:

- Positive evaluation of Norwegian bilateral fisheries projects
- Fisheries less than 1% of bilateral aid
- A large base of competent personnel in fisheries and aquaculture
- Great interest of working with development issues

© MARK ANDERSON, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED WWW.ANDERSTOONS.COM



"I understand you gave it all to the poor,
but do you have any receipts?"

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

- Norway represented with fisheries projects in 25 countries
- With exception of Vietnam and Mozambique most projects are small and not in typical fisheries nations
- Effort is spread too thinly to make a difference
- Does not provide the Norwegian expertise with any long-term investments in *country specific competence*



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Dilemma 1: **All projects should be demand driven!**

- Result: Business as usual!
- Why can't we *promote* Norwegian expertise?
- If not on country level, why not on regional level?



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Should Norway concentrate on:

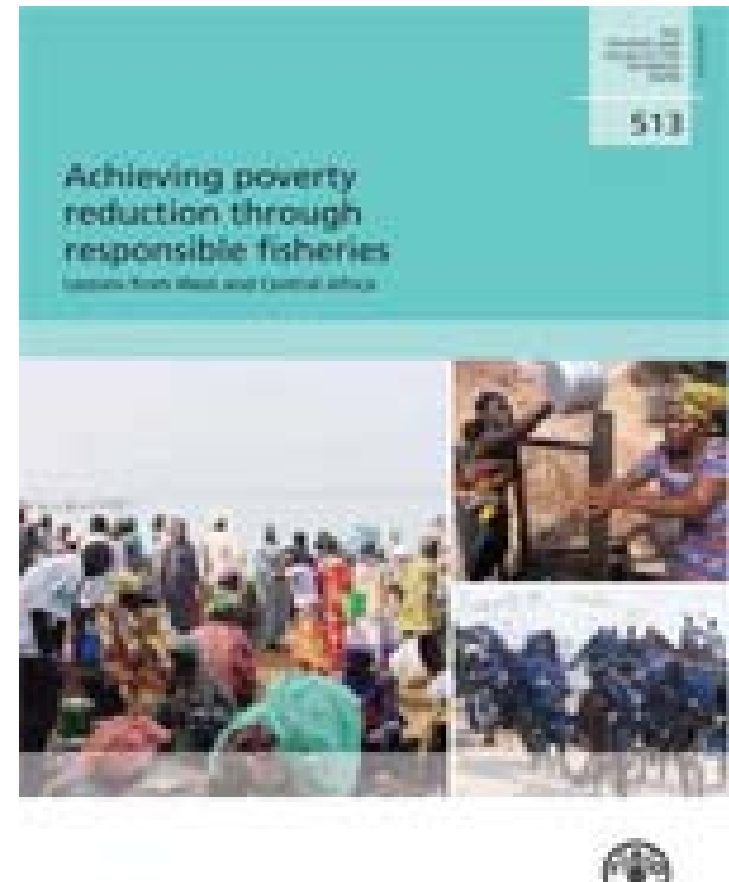
- The poorest nations?
- Fishing nations?
- Nations with the largest resource potential?
- Nations with the largest potential for fisheries management improvement?
- Nations most in need of the expertise we have?



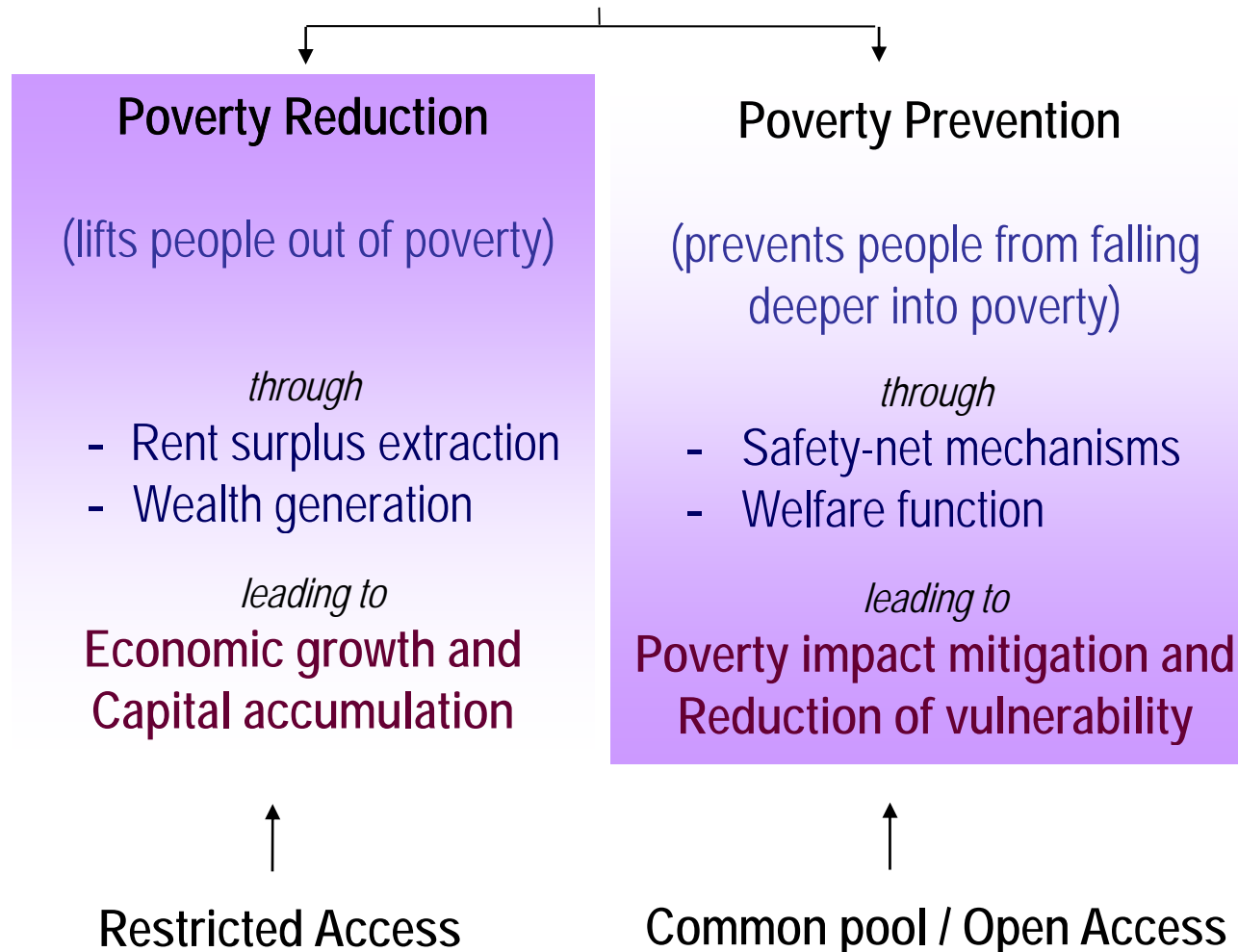
THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Dilemma 2: **All projects should be geared towards poverty alleviation!**

- Maybe time to differentiate: poverty reduction vs. poverty prevention
- If Norwegian assisted projects result in poverty alleviation, this can be achieved through improved management and trickle down effects (which in the end are empirical questions!)



Contribution of SSF to rural development



Not by rent alone: analyzing the pro-poor functions of small-scale fisheries in developing countries

Christophe Béné, Bjørn Hersoug, and Edward H. Allison*

Abstract

Increasingly, the dominant view in academic and policy arenas is one where the major contribution of fisheries to development should be derived from the capacity of society to maximize the economic rent of fishery resources. Drawing upon empirical experience from the South, we argue in this article that the economic and institutional conditions inside and outside the fishery sector are not in place to ensure the effective 'capture' and redistribution of this rent in most developing countries. In those conditions, a more gradual approach would be preferable, where the welfare function of small-scale fisheries, that is, their capacities to provide labour and cash-income to resource-poor households should be preserved until the appropriate macro-economic conditions for rent-maximisation and distribution are fulfilled.

Keywords

Poverty reduction, common pool resources, safety nets, economic development, labour buffer.

* Respectively, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy, Economics and Social Science, The WorldFish Center, Penang Malaysia (correspondence c.bene@cgiar.org); Professor, The Norwegian College of Fishery Science, University of Tromsø, Norway; and Discipline Director, Policy, Economics and Social Science, The WorldFish Center, Penang Malaysia

Article to appear in **Development Policy Review** (currently *in press*)

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Dilemma 3: **Business or basic needs?**

- Norwegian expertise primarily in the business sector (although we have the required expertise in small-scale subsistence)
- Over-capacity a major problem in catch fisheries
- Sustainability and environmental concerns central in aquaculture



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Dilemma 4: **When to exit?**

- Fisheries projects need long-term involvement to produce significant results (10-15 years)
- But they also need exit strategies and gradual take over
- Mozambique a case in point with more than 30 years involvement



Presentation to Norad and other stakeholders, Oslo, Norway
February 6th 2009



EVALUATION OF NORWEGIAN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

Colin Barnes, Suzannah Walmsley, Francisco Leotte (MRAG)
Sveinung Fjose and Audun Gleinsvik (Econ Poyri)
John Linton and Ulrich Kleih (NRI)



Recommendations

- Need to define strategic priorities in the fisheries sector relating to Norwegian expertise and extend to poverty reduction
- Programme and project indicators at output, outcome and impact levels need to be better defined in the development of ex ante and ex post indicators for programmes and projects including project specific indicators.
- Use of such indicators would contribute to better programme and project monitoring and evaluation
- Use of such indicators would contribute to better programme and project monitoring and evaluation

Recommendations

- Given the overall positive impacts on Norwegian aid to the fisheries sector, we recommend that Norwegian support to the sector should continue including:
 - Norad and Norfund programmes
 - Institutional collaboration with research institutes and universities in developing countries
 - There should be a focus on developing local capacity rather than using HEIs in Europe, this could include country specific and regional institutions
- Future cooperation should focus on results and implementation of policy

Recommendations

- A competitive open tendering process could be used for the provision of technical expertise – a broader sourcing of expertise Norwegian and international including expertise in the partner country.
- The poverty reduction strategy of the country should be assessed to establish whether Norwegian aid to the fisheries sector will have effective impacts on **poverty reduction**
- Projects should be demand driven although there should be an assessment of the commitment of the partner country to poverty reduction and the degree to which Norwegian cooperation can influence that agenda.

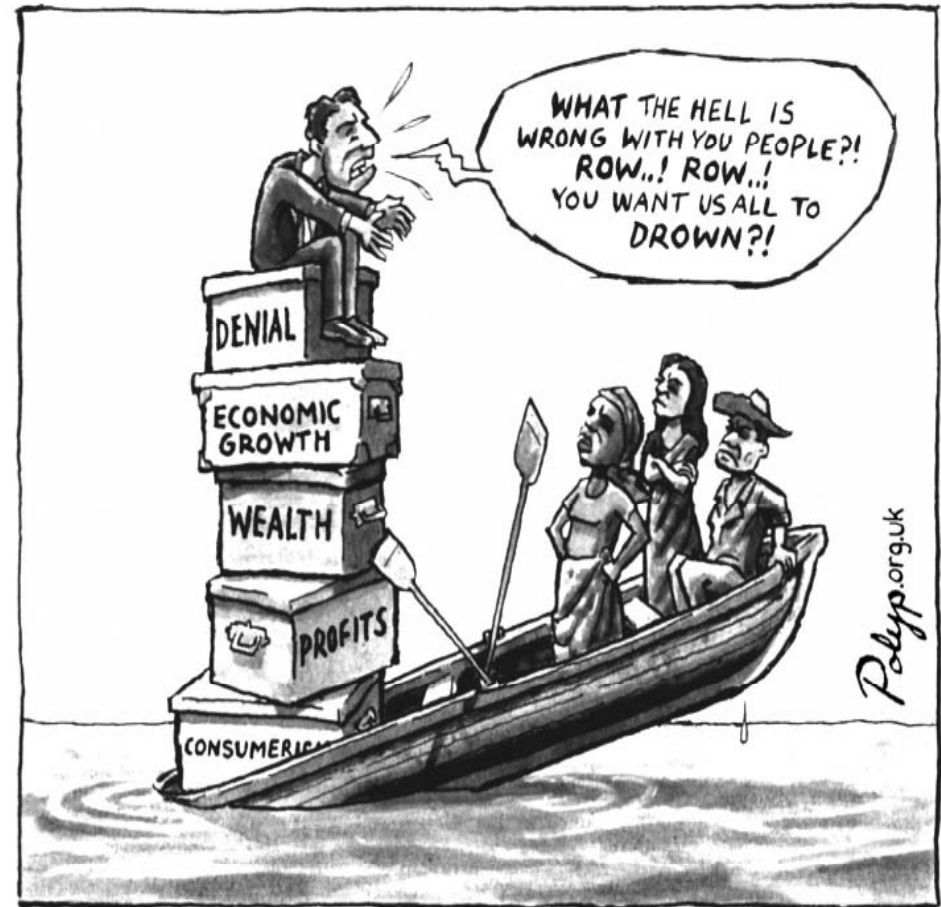
THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

- Following the MRAG/Econ recommendations may lead to some technical improvements, BUT
- In essence: “business as usual!”, i.e. piecemeal, short term, ad hoc, few incentives for capacity development
- One important recommendation: **Need to define strategic priorities in the fisheries sector relating to Norwegian expertise**



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

- Maybe it is high time to define "interests"
- Charity, solidarity, or informed self interests?
- We need a strategy for where, how, by whom
- (which in the next round requires country specific and fisheries specific strategies)
- The 1 % is a rhetorical device, now time to change to another strategy?



'THE SAME BOAT'

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Priority areas:

- Basis for improved resource management (R/V "Dr Fr. Nansen")
- Aquaculture
- Institution building (including laws and regulations)
- Strengthening research and education



THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

- Concentrate on regional projects and selected countries
- Do not pretend that all fisheries projects are poverty related
- Get more involved in aquaculture
- Use Norwegian expertise in a more committed manner



The type of jump required by MFA/Norad?

THE NORWEGIAN FISHERY FORUM 2010

Different ways of using fish in development:

1. Fish for food
 2. Fish for sale
 3. Fish for employment (processing industry)
 4. Fish for state income (Fisheries Agreements)
 5. All kinds of combinations
- It is an empirical question what is working where and how!
 - Fish for export may or may not help the poor, depending on a variety of structural factors (Kurien et al. 2004)

Fisheries Forum 2009

Amending the old adage that teaching people [to fish] is better than giving them a fish to eat, we should instead be teaching them to repair bikes, sewing machines and water pumps”

D. Pauly (2005)



Am I a fisher
because I'm poor,
or poor because
I'm a fisher?