

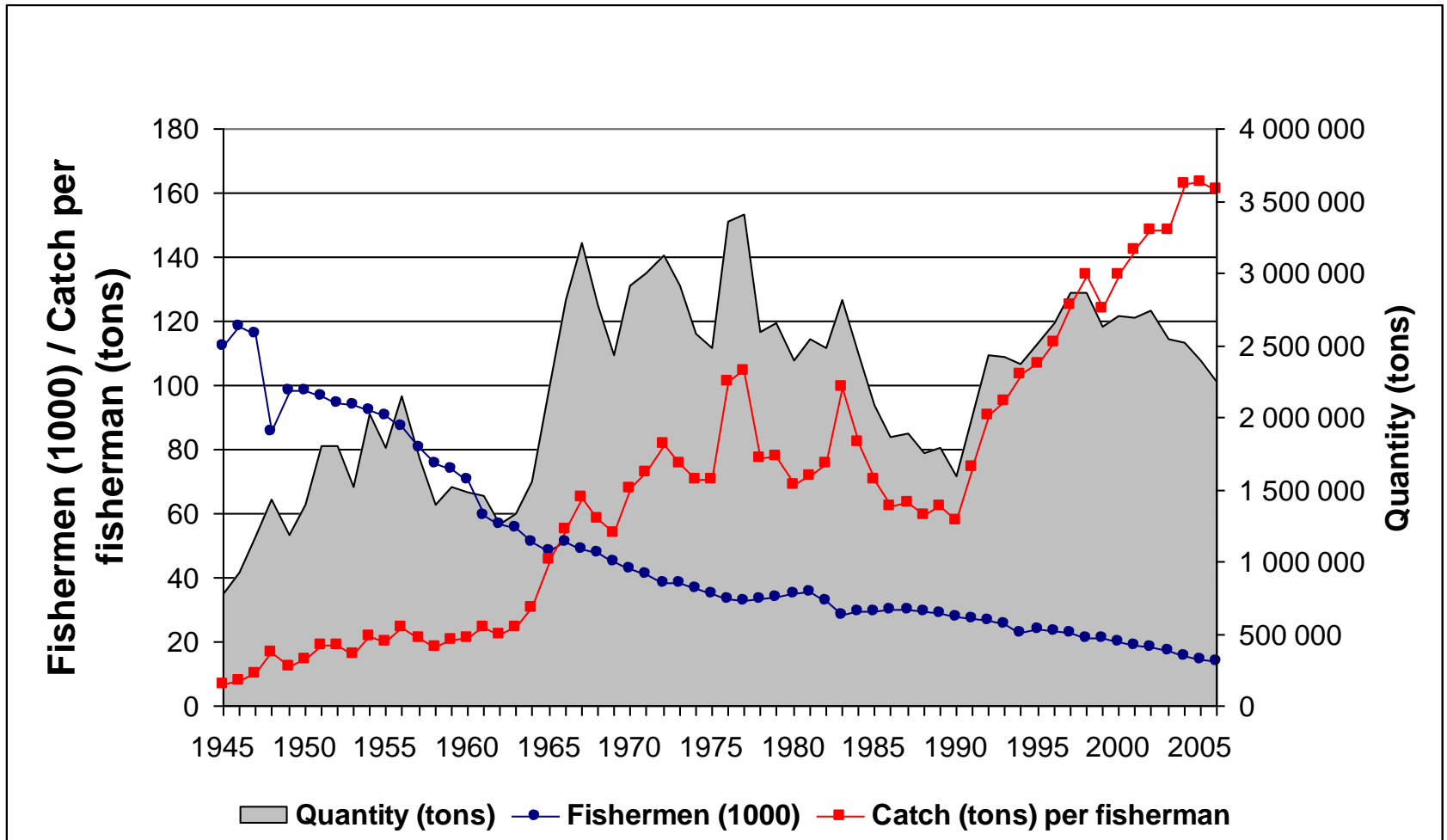
Small-scale fisheries –  
temporary problem or permanent  
challenge?

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# What's the problem?



## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

In Norway as well as in most industrialized countries:

- The number of fishers continuously reduced
- Technical improvements imply less labour and more capital
- If fishers should receive salaries on par with other workers, two alternatives:
  1. Subsidies (no longer an alternative in Norway)
  2. Permanent pressure for increased efficiency

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- Is the same tendency valid in small-scale fisheries in the Third world?
- Paraphrasing Marx: are small-scale producers doomed to extinction with the advent of modern capitalism?

- What is small-scale?
- “Small-scale fisheries can be broadly characterized as a dynamic and evolving sector employing **labour intensive harvesting, processing and distribution technologies** to exploit marine and inland water fishery resources. The activities of this sub-sector, conducted **full-time or part-time, or just seasonally**, are often targeted on supplying fish and fishery products to **local and domestic markets, and for subsistence consumption**. Export-oriented production, however, has increased in many small-scale fisheries during the last one to two decades because of greater market integration and globalisation” (FAO ACFR 2004).

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- No generally valid definition, but normally:
- Labour intensive
- Size of vessel
- Fishing gear
- Processing methods
- Markets (local)
- Different definitions give different results

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- Estimates of small-scale varies:
- 22 mill (out of 30 mill) = small-scale fishers
- 88 mill including support industries
- 150 mill including family members
- Full time or part-time?
- Including aquaculture farmers?
- Including auxiliary industries?
- FAO dependent on country statistics!
- Estimates may vary by a factor of 10! (SADC)

- Few countries can boast of a fisheries contribution to GDP > 5%:
- Namibia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Senegal, Vietnam + 5 island states (Norway < 1 %)
- Small-scale fishers responsible for 50 % of fish for human consumption
- Small-scale fishers and fish farmers increase rapidly (in Indonesia 3.5 mill + 2.5 mill)
- 1 billion people dependent on fish as main source of animal protein



## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

Region	1976		2001	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
World	7.98	8.84	56.10 [603]	60.26 [581]
Developing	2.94	1.19	28.03 [853]	10.66 [796]
LIFDC	0.96	0.44	10.82 [1072]	3.16 [618]
LIFDC – China	0.83	0.44	6.72 [710]	1.34 [205]
Dev./World %	37	13	50	18
LIFDC/World %	12	5	19	5

Table 2.4: Trends in Fishery Products Exports and Imports (US \$ Billions).

Figures in [ ] are % change of 2001 over 1976.

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- Small-scale fishers not only survive but increase their contribution to catch fisheries and to aquaculture production
- Why?
- Modern capitalism able to integrate various forms of production (Bernstein)
- A question of risk management within the context of New Institutional Economics (Platteau)

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- In developing countries vertical integration in the catching/processing is risky
- Therefore a credit-cum-marketing relationship to be preferred
- Middlemen are secured supplies through credit
- Solves problems of uncertainty on both sides
- Dependent on imperfect information, imperfect capital markets, no insurance markets, etc

- Platteau and Jul-Larsen show that the small-scale operators generally are open to technological innovations,
- that their survival is due to economic efficiency, flexibility and the capacity to use information, not least regarding various market opportunities.
- Small-scale fishing should consequently not be treated as a transitional form, but as a more or less permanent feature of the fisheries in developing countries, with a significant potential for adjustment and increased efficiency.

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

Catching sector:

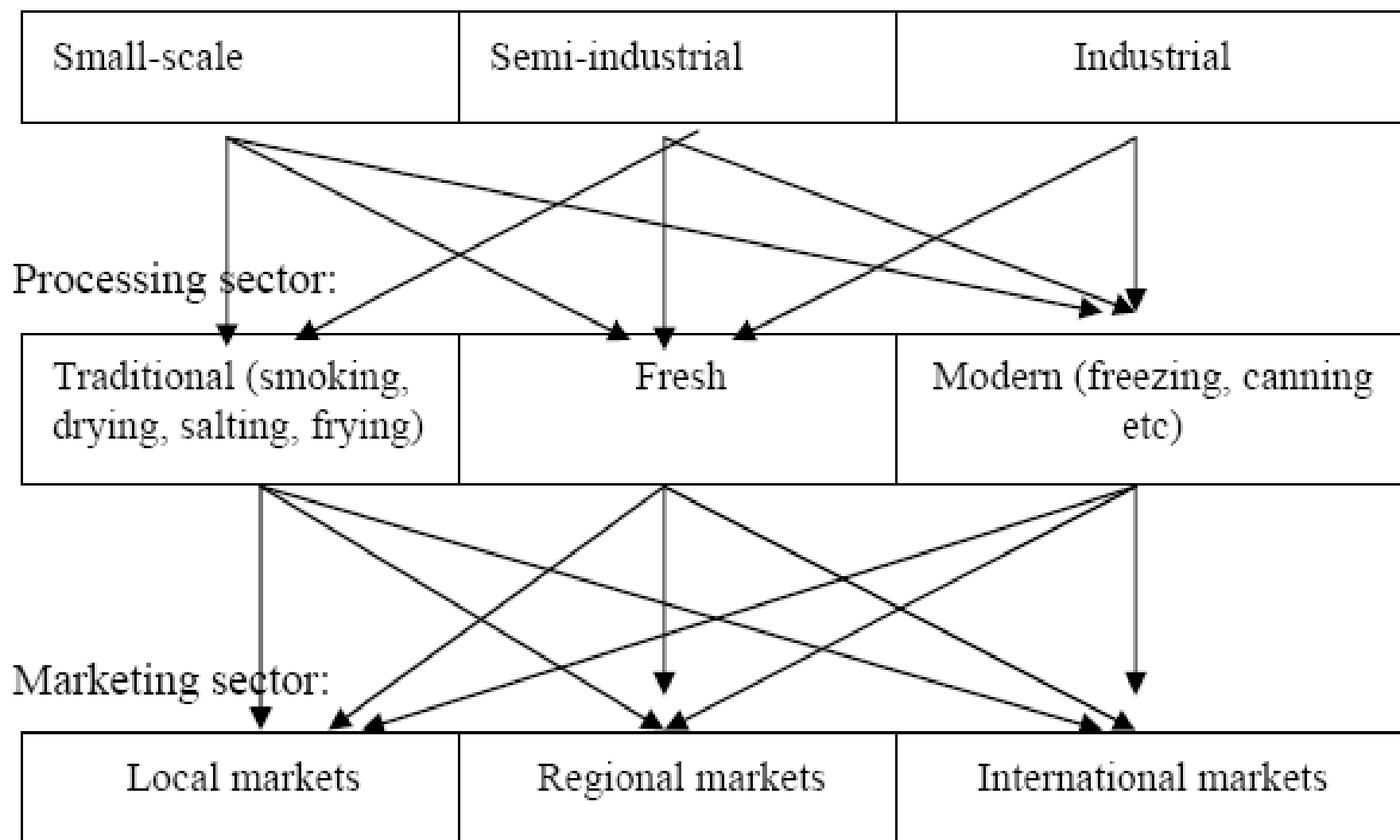


Figure 2.4: Possible fisheries development strategies (Hersoug 1995:303)

- Still, small-scale fishers in a difficult position
- Poverty: fishers = poor or even the poorest of the poor?
- Largely undocumented!
- Perhaps 23 mill fishers live from less than 1\$/day
- With the exception of some countries (like Indonesia and Vietnam) fisheries and aquaculture play an insignificant role in National Poverty Reduction Strategies (NPRSs)
- WHY?

- Small-scale development assistance projects considered difficult:
- Rapidly changing natural conditions
- Chain dependent
- Goal conflicts (export, food, income, employment)
- Intensely political sector
- Even after 1984 small-scale fisheries have received a minor share of development aid
- Labour intensive (for donors and banks!)

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- Why concentrate on small-scale fisheries today?
- Because of the new management debate!
- Rights-based fisheries management and in particular ITQs advanced as THE answer
- The challenge: if poor fishers are dependent on access to marine resources, how do we limit access without excluding the poorest?



- According to Jul-larsen et al.: increased capacity a minor problem
- In African lake fisheries capacity is variable, easy access, easy exit
- Traditional fisheries management may in such instances be harmful! BUT:
- Hardly representative for most marine fisheries in developing countries:
- Rapid technological improvements, increased market access, easy entry/difficult exit = increased pressure on the marine resources

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- The dominant position: **they are poor because they are fishers!**
- Solution: limit access, increase the income of the prioritized bona fide fishers, sector-oriented
- Alternative position: **they are fishers because they are poor!** (fishing as an employer of last resort)
- Solution: alternative employment, multi-sectoral approach

# FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

## WHEN FISHERY RHYMES WITH POVERTY

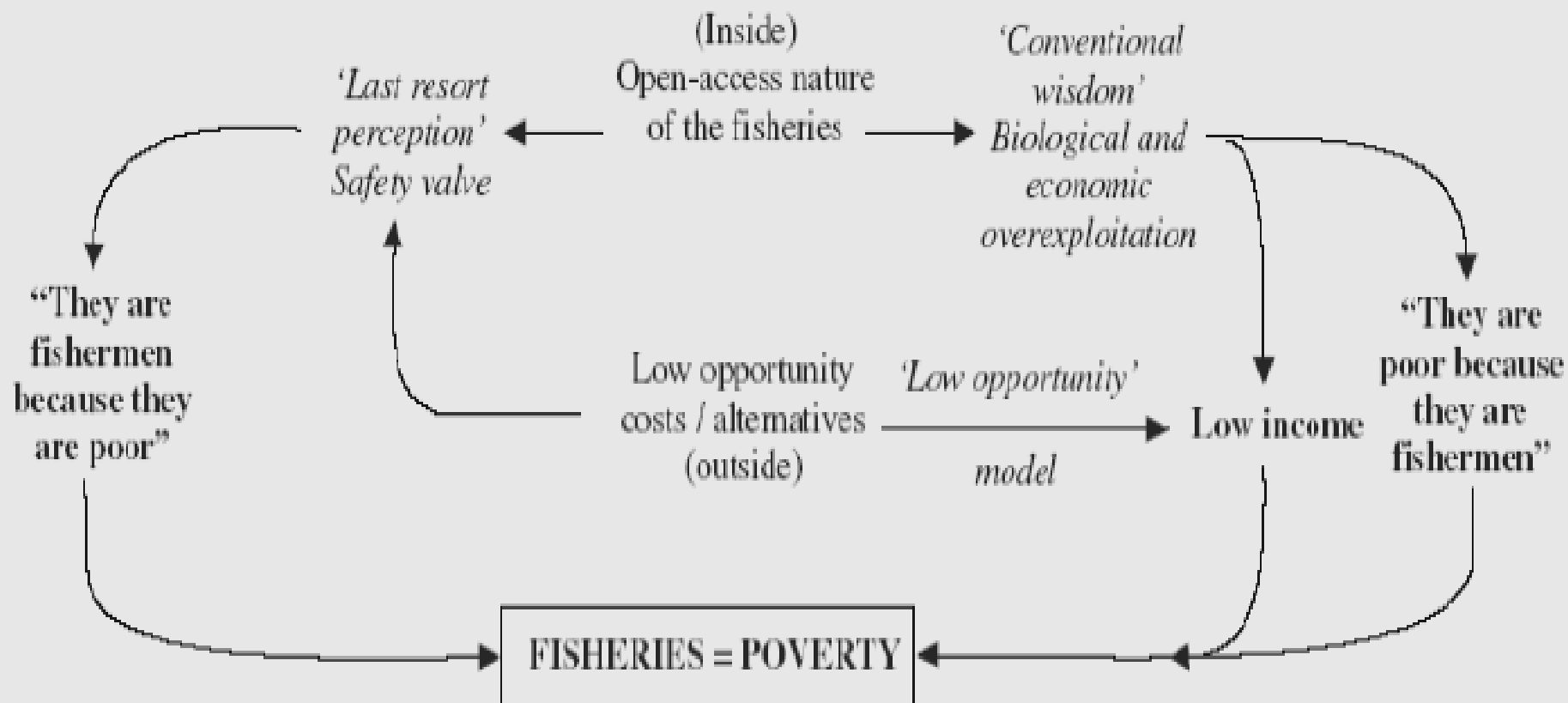


Figure 2.5: The two pillars of poverty in fisheries (Béné 2003:957).

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- Conclusion:
- More focus on social, cultural and political conditions instead of a purely natural resource perspective
- Still a dilemma, especially when you have both explanations at the same time (as in Vietnam)
- A need for a fisheries reform (similar to land reform)?

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- The case of South Africa:
- 6-700 000 tons per year (no. 30 in the world), 0.4 % of GDP, 37 000 in the formal sector
- BUT: large importance in Western Cape, many subsistence fishers in SA, 700 000 recreational and large political importance! (SA as a “green nation”)
- SA case important as an example of using rights-based fisheries management system to deal with a transformation process (reallocation of rights/quotas)
- Can a “first world” fisheries management tool be used in a “third world” setting? (SA contains both)

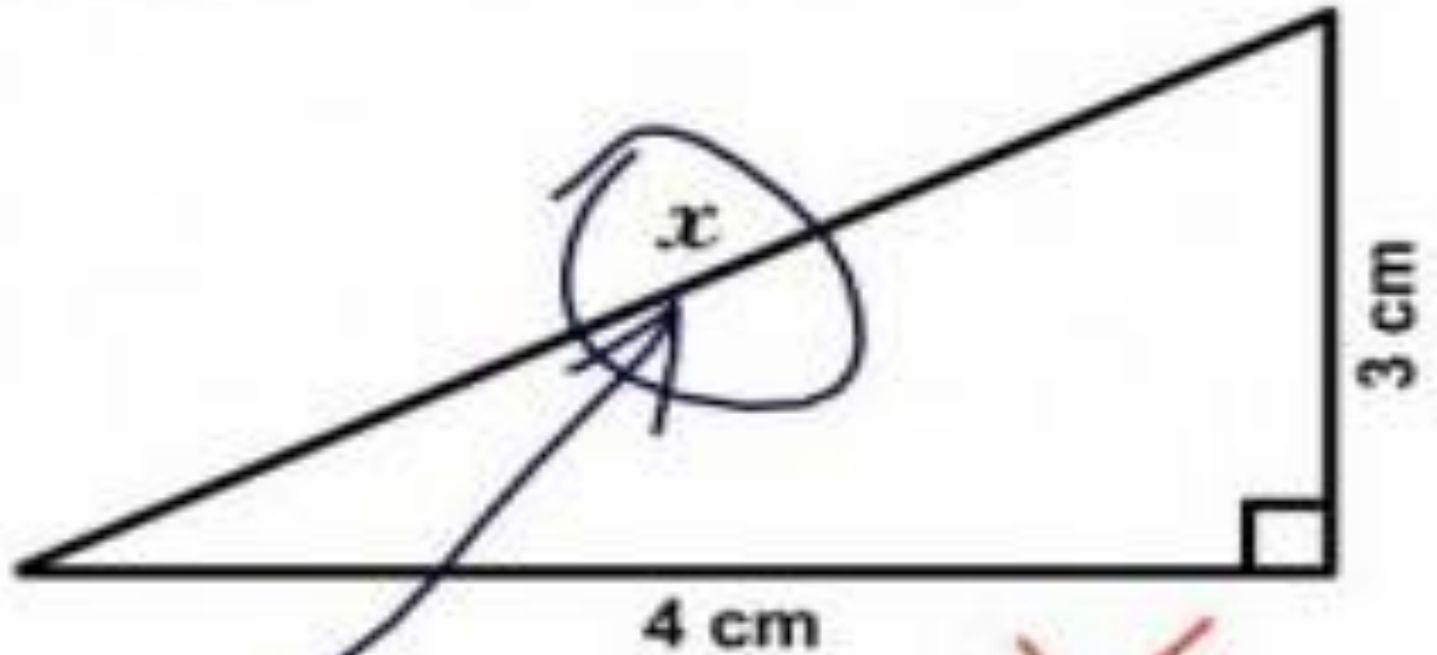
## The legacy as per 1994:

- 0,75% of total quotas (TACs) to blacks
- 7% of registered boats belonged to blacks
- 6% of licenses issued to blacks
- 7% of TACs allocated to small business
- Extreme concentration in hake (3 companies controlled 72%)
- A fisheries administration characterized by lack of legitimacy towards the blacks, but top class in (biological) science

## FF 2007: Small-scale fisheries

- What's the situation in 2007:
- A new fisheries policy (Marine Living Resources Act 1998), allocation of long-term rights in all important TAC-regulated fisheries (20) + resource fees
- Considerable success in transforming ownership of firms and quotas (60% on average), BUT:
- A large number of bona fide fishers falling outside the system, subsistence fishers locked to poverty
- The process hijacked by black entrepreneurs
- The challenge: how to limit access to the marine resources while at the same time have a focus on the poor and the poorest of the poor?
- ITQ depends on formal qualifications and business skills

**3. Find  $x$ .**



*Here it is*

