Seafood consumption and environmental justice: Evolution of EU-West Africa Fishery Policies: Are social-ecological justice issues addressed?

AG2803 HT17-1 Group Sustainable consumption – seafood 2: Christos Paraskevopoulos, Chao Chen, Petter Olson, Supritha Vijayakumar

INTRODUCTION
- Roughly 80 percent of the world's marine fish stocks are now either overfished or fully fished.
- The EU has currently 12 active seafood agreements, called Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements, or SFPA, in force with third countries that operate under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- Are these policies equally focused on sustainability as the policy governing catches within the EU?
- Are the process and policies fair?
- The main aim of the report is to analyze EU’s Common Fisheries Policy through a perspective of social-ecological justice and suggest future improvements in the policy.

HISTORY OF POLICY AND TREATIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES
- Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) since 1975
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) since 1991
- Bilateral agreements between EU and African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries were practices till the end of the 1990's.
- The signing of Continuo Agreement in 2000, and came in force in 2003 changed the status quo by acknowledging the importance of "democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance".
- Those discussions and negotiations lasted for 10 years (2001-2011) till the first agreement was reached.
- The first important initiative from European Union to create a legal framework for

PRESENT POLICY
The core additions to the 2013 policy are that:
1. The Parliament, the Council and the Commission will start a "dialogue" with the aim of reaching decisions on a common basis regarding future CFP regulation.
2. The policy now aims at reducing the inequality between internal and external practices in the CFP.
3. Future agreements with third countries(SFPA) should have a clause saying that more favorable conditions are not allowed to be granted to EU vessels then to fleets operating in third countries' waters.
4. Member states must report on their external fleet capacity and if necessary reduce its overcapacity to be granted support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

DISCUSSION: SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK
- Decisions are based on how the system/ case/ society depends upon and influences local ecosystems and social-ecological systems in other regions.
- The agreements are harming local development and taking use of an unequal power balance and corruption.
- Conflicts, complexity, dynamics, and uncertainty are acknowledged.
- Solving the conflict between human needs and the capacity of ecosystem service in short-term is complex and should therefore be discussed even more.
- There is a just distribution of environmental goods and services, between and within both communities and generations.
- Local communities that depend on rich fish stocks both today and for future generations are harmed by the overfishing of foreign vessels.
- There is a just distribution of environmental burdens (environmental burdens), between and within both communities and generations.
- EU is not in any way affected by the social and environmental burdens that the SFPA are causing.
- Principles for just distribution are discussed and defined in a deliberative process.
- Since corruption is common in third countries' governments, a deliberative decision making process is hard to obtain.
- Justice permeates planning, policies and production and consumption.
- The concept of justice is not frequently seen in the policies that have been analyzed in this report.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION
- Conclusions:
- Local fishermen are seeing less and less fish in their nets and must go further out to sea to feed their families and maintain national food security. This neglecting of local fisheries and ecosystem services leads to poverty and degradation of natural capital, causing a revolutionary temper among the locals which increases the risk of armed conflicts within the country.
- Suggestions
- Sufficient funding from the EU to promote sustainable fishing methods, practices
- To preserve local ecosystems, the EU and African policy makers should ensure that the marine ecosystems are not over exploited.
- There should not be much difference in internal and external policies when it comes to sustainability.
- African policy makers should ensure that intra regional trade is given priority as well.
- It is important to ensure that infra generational demands are met locally and that the ecosystems are capable of handling high levels of export.
- There has to be more research in various areas to make the policies more just and sustainable.
- The focus on funding from EU should shift to aid the local economies from exporting fish produces as "raw materials" as a primary sector economy, to a secondary sector economy by processing and manufacturing.
- There should be regular monitoring to ensure that these boundaries do not get breached, and the requirements of the local people are met.
- The local communities should be included at least 2 meetings: One meeting at the beginning of the discussion. Another meeting when the policy’s pre-final draft is prepared.