

Trade, Change, and Fisheries: A Governability Assessment of Rural Coastal Communities

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Background

The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA), signed in late 2017 is a facet of globalization that brings change to the governance and market pressures of fisheries in Canada. Various opinions and points of view about CETA have already been expressed in regard to its effect on Newfoundland's fisheries. For example, the federal government highlights the reduction in tariffs on seafood products, while some actors in the fishery express concern about the domestic policy changes enacted in order for CETA to be implemented.

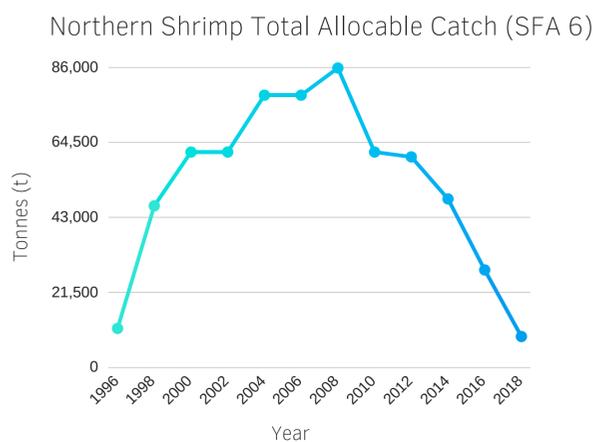
A case study of a fishery dependent region was used in order to examine the compatibility between the principles of the free trade doctrine and the policies that promote the viability of domestic fisheries and the communities that rely on them. Although globalization has been studied in many contexts, there is interest in who will benefit as well as who will be adversely affected by international trade at different temporal and spatial scales for both fisheries and social-ecological systems more broadly (Crona et al., 2016., Young et al, 2006).

Research Objectives

- 1. Examine the governability of the fisheries of the GNP
- 2. Evaluate how the policies of CETA align with the small-scale fisheries of the region

Study Area

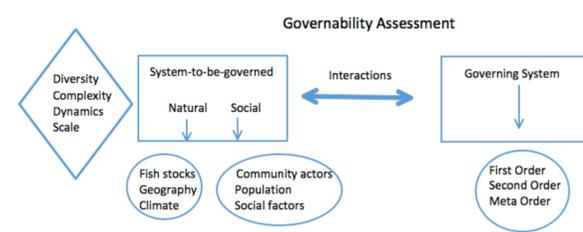
Region: Great Northern Peninsula (GNP), Eastern Canada
Economy: Fishing, Fish Processing, Lumber, Tourism, Services
Population: ~14,000
Fisheries: Northern Shrimp, Northern Cod, Snow Crab, etc.



Description: The GNP is a rural region of Newfoundland that is highly dependent on fisheries, namely the Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) which has had drastic stock declines in recent years as shown in the graph above.

Theoretical Approach

Interactive Governance Theory



Kooiman et al., 2005

Governability Assessment

Table below explains the governing system and how it interacts with the system-to-be-governed (study region)

Goodness of Fit	Responsiveness of Mode	Performance of Order
Local: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community viability Fishery sustainability Provincial/Federal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Efficiency Modern Economy International: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global economic growth Weakened domestic protections 	Conflicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of local resources Inshore face drastic quota cuts CETA domestic policy change not welcome by some in the inshore 	Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government Regional initiatives Skepticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veracity of Provincial support Federal decision making Beneficiaries of free trade

Preliminary Findings

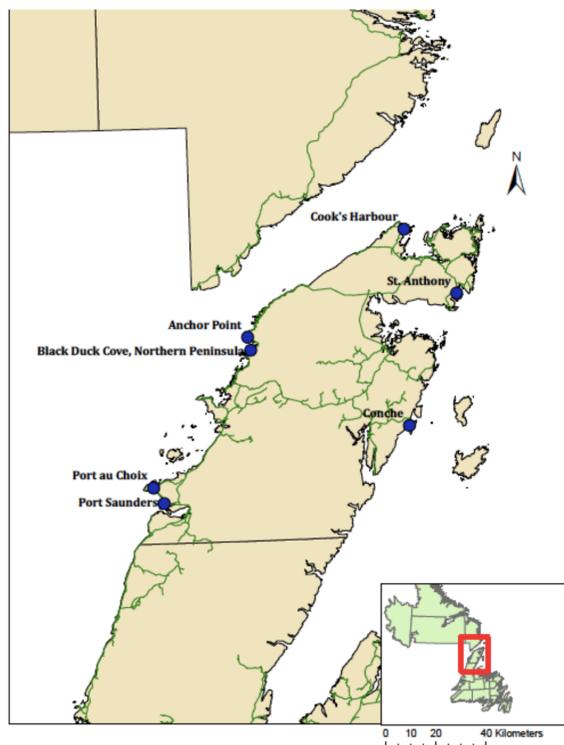
Hierarchical decision making

Domestic policy change

Ecological & Social stressors

- Weakening of domestic protections
- Willingness to modernize the fishery
- Offshore sector poised for the most gains
- Inshore sector's independence initially not compatible with homogenized free trade
- Misalignment between international/federal policy and the desires of the fishing and coastal communities

Great Northern Peninsula, Newfoundland



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