

VII.B.2. Towards Governance of Sustainable Fisheries :Role of Institutions

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This paper examines the role of institutions in India's marine fisheries sector towards effective governance of sustainability of the common pool resource, i.e., marine fish. An analytical framework if developed with the help of some of the important concepts and theories popular in the institutional school of thought

The first section of the paper contains description of bio-economic resource management models based on the neo-classical diagnosis of the negative externalities of the hypothesised behaviour of an individual fisherman as competitor, lured but die possibility of extracting maximum gain in his favour, since property rights are not clearly defined in marine fisheries. Indiscriminate use of the common property resource in marine fisheries are usually shown as resulting in "tragedy of the commons" (the biological outcome) and "dissipation of rent" (the economic outcome). Oversimplification of the complex issue of the governance of sustainability in marine fisheries, based on the neo-classical theory, has been questioned and limitations of the bio-economic resource management models have been explained at length in this section.

Illustrations drawn from the coastal fisheries of India and other maritime nations are presented in the second section to support the explanation provided by institutionalists that marine fish is not an "open-access" resource but it is a "Common-pool" or "communally-held" resource, which assures territorial use rights in fisheries (TURF). It is also shown as to how different local communities perceive a notion of "territoriality" or "water-spaces" has also discussed cases of collective resistance when their "territories" are attacked from outside.

It is in the last section that author has examined various alternatives of effective governance of sustainability of marine fish and the role that institutions (of the type of rules of the game) and organisations (for overseeing, superintending or enforcing the rules) can play for the effective governance of sustainability of the natural resource in marine fisheries. Possibilities of co-management are also explored in the last section wherein community based organisations can be used for resource management to suit the needs of local level fisheries.