

***REGULATORY MECHANISMS IN FISHERIES:
THE CONTRIBUTION OF QUOTA MANAGEMENT TO SUSTAINABLE
FISHERIES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC IN THE PERIOD 1977-2007***
A PhD project by Katharina Jantzen

Declining fish stocks due to over-fishing pose a problem for the survival of the fishing sector. Three quarters of the world's commercial fish stocks are reduced to a non-sustainable level while the demand for fish is increasing. The reproduction capacity of many commercial fish stocks has been reduced to a minimum due to the fact that too many boats are harvesting a decreasing volume of fish. Technological progress and enhanced fishing effort have considerably intensified the global fishing activities. The number of fishing fleets indicates overcapacity. The 'race for fish' has caused a massive decline of fish populations. The utilisation of common-pool resources such as fish stocks constitutes a major problem in resource management. There is a need for optimal resource management to be able to conserve fish stocks for future harvesting.

The individual transferable quota (ITQ) management seems to be most efficient to achieve sustainable fisheries management. This approach is however highly discussed in the literature. In general, it is argued that the efficiency of fisheries is dependent on the different surroundings and is not solely related to the quota system. Fishing nations show dissimilarities in the evolution of the quota systems, their compliance, and with regard of sustainable efficiency. This study intends to analyse and to compare the sustainable effectiveness of individual transferable quota management. It addresses the question whether this management instrument has been an effective tool to achieve sustainable fisheries management by providing incentives to prevent overfishing.

For the purpose of comparison, the cases of fisheries in the UK, Iceland and along the Grand Banks of Labrador and Newfoundland are investigated from the perspective of economic history, using the example of the Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*). The research period covers the time from the declaration of exclusive economic zones in 1977 until the present times.

This study was supported by the Bremen International Graduate School for Marine Sciences (GLOMAR) that is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the frame of the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State governments to promote science and research at German universities. GLOMAR and the German Maritime Museum (Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum Bremerhaven/DSMB), associated with GLOMAR as an Institute of the Leibniz Association, have supported generously the project. They have provided working place and an exceptional library for the research fields of German maritime

history and its international context. GLOMAR has offered an excellent educational environment to work internationally and interdisciplinary in a network of senior scientists and PhD students. It was possible to conduct the self-designed research project within a well-structured graduate training programme on the basis of a comprehensive curriculum.

Katharina Jantzen has attended several senior expert courses and was educated in research and communication skills, and in project management. Thanks to the GLOMAR additional funding was made available offering grants to participate in international conferences and to discuss the results of the project with international experts from the beginning of the research period to the final end.

As provided in the framework of GLOMAR, an international and interdisciplinary thesis committee meeting was installed to supervise the progress of the work. The committee members have contributed with advice, very valuable comments and feedback. The Committee members were Prof. Dr. Ingo Heidbrink (currently at the Old Dominion University Norfolk, VA, USA); Prof. Dr. Trond Bjørndal (from the Centre of the Management and Economics of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE) Portsmouth, UK); Prof. Dr. Venugopalan Ittekkot (from the Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) at Bremen University, Bremen) and Prof. Dr. Karl Wohlmuth (from the Institute for World Economics and International Management (IWIM), University of Bremen, Bremen).

Katharina Jantzen gratefully acknowledges Prof. Dr. Karl Wohlmuth for his scientific support. Prof. Wohlmuth has provided an outstanding discussion forum with the seminar 'Weltwirtschaftliches Colloquium'/WWC at the IWIM. In the course of the WWC seminar sessions, Katharina Jantzen has presented and discussed the concept and drafts of the PhD project and has published a related study in the Reports of the WWC: IWIM Blue Series/ Blaue Reihe Discussion Papers/Diskussionsbeiträge No. 110: 'Eine Einführung in Regulierungssysteme für die Fischerei im Nordatlantik am Beispiel der Fanggründe vor Island und Neufundland'. The participation in the WWC at an early stage of the work was very valuable for its progress.