



# Trust and Compliance in the Dutch Fisheries: A Case Study of the Co- Management System



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# Table of contents:

Introduction

Part 1: Developments in the Dutch flatfish fisheries sector

Part 2: What is trust?

Part 3: Co-management system

Conclusions and recommendations

# Introduction:

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Changes in relationships and types of trust  
within the Dutch (flatfish) fisheries sector



# Developments in the Dutch Fisheries Sector (1975-2008)

## Corporatism:

no conflict of interest between sector and societal interests

## Co-management:

self control and enforcement, rights and duties

## Post modernism:

increasing interweaving of state, market and civil society

focus on sustainability and innovation

# Changes have influence on trust issues



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# What is trust?

“Trust is the belief concerning the action that is to be expected from others.”

*Well being* of the holder of the belief

*Beliefs (expectations) and commitment*

Norms of *reciprocity* that must be honoured



# Types of trust

Personal trust – Institutional trust

Passive trust

Civic trust – Active trust

Social trust – Political trust (Putnam)

# Trust and its Influence on Compliance and Legitimacy

Trust substitutes for resources of social control and helps to limit transaction costs (I do not need to monitor those whom I can trust)

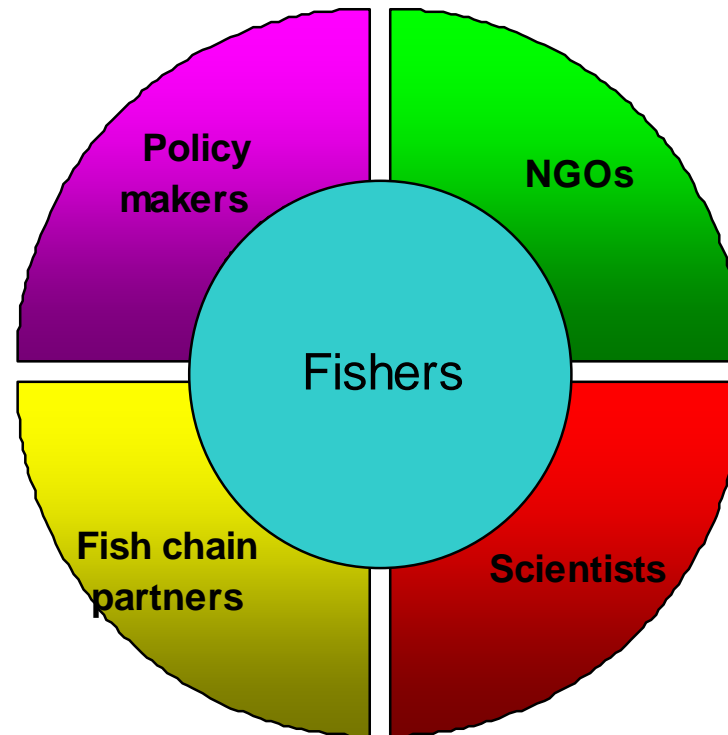
Follow norms of reciprocity

Legitimacy in modern, complex societies:

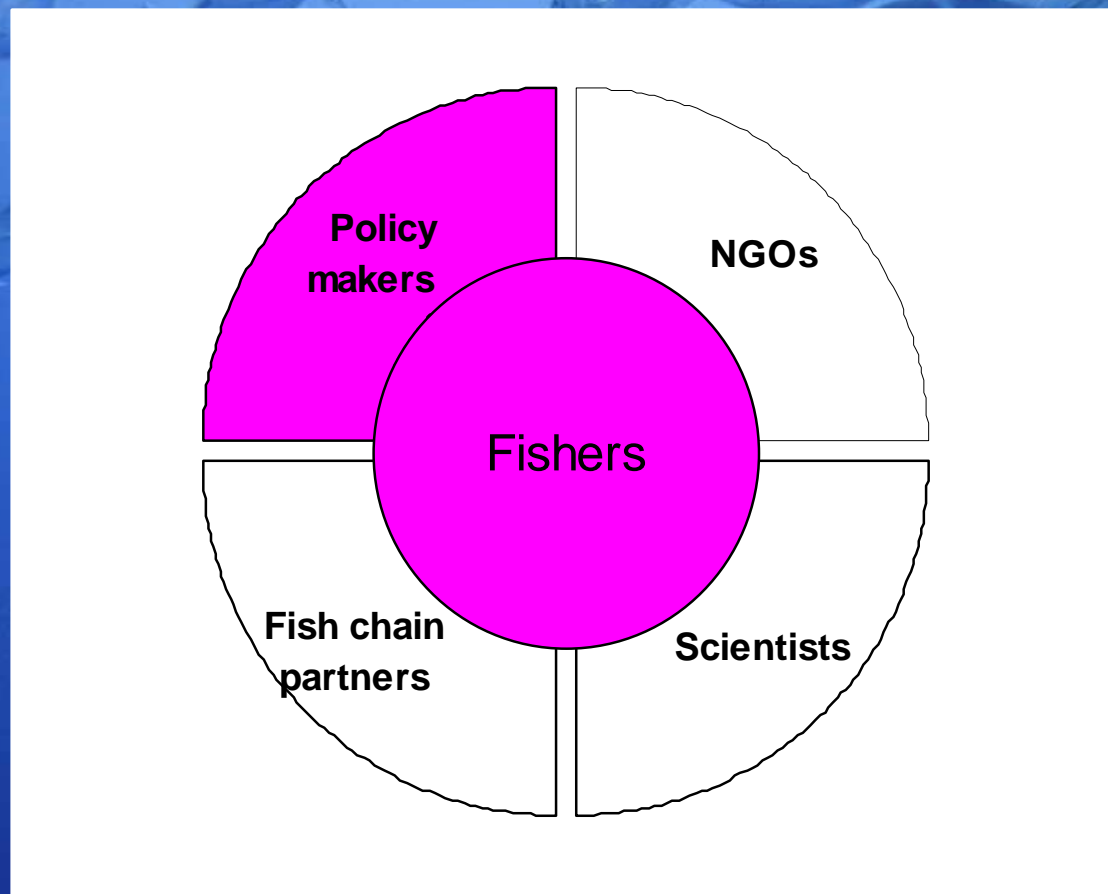
shared norms and values ↓

procedural rules and institutional performance ↑

# Various relationships of mutual trust



# Case Study Co-management



# Co-management system: 3 periods

## Period 1: Before the co-management system: 1975-1993

1975: Introduction of ITQ system

Corporatism

Control and enforcement system was highly symbolic

Trust in representatives (elites)

Passive and personal trust

Turning point: local management agreements were  
overruled by EC → strict enforcement, distrust

# Co-management system: 3 periods

## Period 2: The co-management system: 1993-2002

Eight co-management groups

Sector responsible for continuity

Interdependence

Personal → Institutional trust

Aim: increase trust between fishers and government

# Co-management system: 3 periods

## Period 3: Post modernism: 2002-2008

State, market and civil society, more actors

Sustainability and innovation discourse

Compliance and enforcement were difficult

Extension of the co-management system

Increasing distrust between two national organisations

Lack of information

Heterogeneity

# Conclusions

Trust relationships have changed, has influenced compliance

Co-management can increase levels of compliance, when:

- 1) I trust that the legislator does not neglect legislative responsibilities
- 2) I trust that administrators do not act opportunistically
- 3) I trust that fellow citizens do not defect even in cases where they can escape formal sanctioning (Offe, 1999)

Compliance influenced by fellow Dutch fishers and other European fishers and governments

# Recommendations

We need more active and institutional trust

What is important in institutions is:

- 1) Truth telling, violations have to be detected
- 2) Promises have to be kept (court system). However promises of elites and political parties cannot always be kept. This will undermine general level of trust.
- 3) Institutions have to generate practices of fairness, impartiality and neutrality.



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