



Integrating local knowledge on the implantation of artificial reefs in a Marine Protected Area: the case of a small scale fisheries village, South Senegal (Yenne)

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Abstract

The implantation of artificial reefs is set in a context of gradual decrease in fish landing and an increased population pressure. A project of artificial reef implantation have been initiated in 2004 a small Senegalese's community of Yenne (Petite Côte), directed by the Nippon help to development to encourage co-management. However at the end of the project, the surveillance of artificial reefs was interrupted and fishing on these artificial habitats suddenly became intensive. Several studies on the issue have concluded that artificial reefs may have a negative impact on the abundance of the resource in case of lack of management leading to intensive fishing on artificial reefs. To assess the reality of this result through the fishermen experience in Yenne, a survey was conducted in June-July 2014. The survey covered a sample of 10 fishers in each of the seven fishing villages of Yenne (n = 70). The results of this survey showed that the majority of the fishermen describe some key features of the effect of artificial reef on fish populations. Fishermen with this complex perception of the ecosystem are aware of the need to prohibit fishing on artificial reefs; they disagree on this point with the fishermen who have a simpler vision of the artificial reefs and do not understand the point of closing these sites to fishing. Here the results of the field study, as well as the restitution of our results to the fishermen. We conclude on the utility of local knowledge to for the co-management of fisheries resources.

Keywords: co-management, fishermen experience, perception, prohibits fishing.



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Extended book of Abstract

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