

### **Review of Fishes and Forestry, Worldwide Watershed Interactions and Management**

*Edited by T. G. Northcote and G. F. Hartman,  
Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, 2004*  
ISBN-10: 0632058099;  
ISBN-13: 978-0632058099,  
\$249.99, GBP 130 (Hardback),  
789 pp, numerous tables and figures.

Northcote and Hartman have undertaken an ambitious task in their 789-page, 34-chapter-long book, "Fishes and Forestry, Worldwide Watershed Interactions and Management". To write this book they have enlisted the help of 56 scientists from around the world, enabling them to cover numerous topics about forestry and fishes that are not normally found in one single book. The book not only describes the effects of forestry practices on fishes and aquatic systems, but also introduces us to the fundamentals of forest ecology, aquatic ecology, fish ecology and forest husbandry as well as to the actual situation for fishes and forests on a region-by-region basis for most of the world.

Needless to say, this broad coverage of fishes and forestry is one of the book's strengths, providing the reader with many perspectives on a very interesting topic. Moreover, this broad-brushed approach increases the potential number of readers for the book. The inclusion of the human dimension, presented on a geographic basis, is a novel and interesting approach. It was, nevertheless, not an easy task for the editors, given the large differences in each nation's priorities and living standards. This makes the geographic coverage rather uneven in scope, which could be construed as a negative feature for the book, but at the same time it reflects real differences between nations!

While the broad coverage of the book is one of its strengths, it can also be considered a weakness. Some of the topics addressed by the book, such as the river continuum concept, are so cursorily presented that they are difficult to understand if one is not already acquainted with them. And then of course there are always things one could have done differently. Given the focus of the book, I found myself asking why some topics, such as Langmuir currents, were brought up. For several different reasons, the editors were not able to obtain contributions from all geographic regions of the world as they had originally planned. The editors' decision to fill in this gap themselves is to be commended, but the topic was understandably only superficially

addressed and felt misplaced when they inserted it into the last chapter of the book. However, do not let the above criticisms detract from my overall impression of the book, that this is a very good book, summarizing a field that has never been addressed so extensively.

One of the original impetuses for this book arose when one of the editors realized that he needed a textbook for a university course in fish-forestry interactions. Some 30 years later, Northcote and Hartman finally put together an excellent book in this field, a book that gives the reader the necessary background to be able to understand and address the problems and issues associated with fish-forestry interactions. Their last chapter is to be commended as it is largely dedicated towards summarizing the main messages from the different sections of the book, not only in terms of the general effects of fish-forestry interactions, but also the situation in different geographic regions. This book is a valuable contribution to the field of fish-forestry interactions and should be an important reference that practitioners and scientists alike can use when dealing with these kinds of problems. However, the high price for this book might preclude its use by many, and in particular, it is difficult to imagine that this book will be adopted by those teaching university-level courses in this field.

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### **Fish for Life: Interactive Governance for Fisheries**

*Edited by Jan Kooiman, Maarten Bavinck,  
Svein Jentoft and Roger Pullin, Amsterdam  
University Press, Amsterdam, 2005*  
ISBN-10: 9053566864;  
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€40.70 (Paperback),  
432 pages.

As stated on the back cover, this volume on fisheries governance is an academic publication that is the outcome of a European-funded thematic network comprising 26 fisheries academics and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The

volume is structured into five parts: (i) 'Governance: a New Perspective for Fisheries'; (ii) 'The System to be Governed'; (iii) 'Institutions for Fisheries Governance'; (iv) 'Principles for Fisheries Governance'; and (v) 'Prospects for Fisheries Governance'.

This volume highlights one of the newly elaborated perspectives in governance theory – 'interactive governance'. The 'interactive governance' approach departs from other governance approaches in two major ways: (i) it tries to take account of the increasing diversity, complexity, dynamics and differences of scale among the fisheries systems to be governed; and (ii) the notion that governance is not the task of governments alone.

There are three main themes that are interwoven throughout the chapters of this volume.

The first theme is the description of the three orders of governance as concentric circles, like the rings of an onion, and the relationships between them. The first order takes place when people and organizations interact to solve societal problems and create new opportunities. The second order deals with maintenance and design of institutions necessary to solve problems and create institutions. The third order, or meta-governance, is the articulation of the main normative principles, which guide the first- and second-order governance actions.

The second theme identifies the four major challenges and concerns that need to be addressed in fisheries governance:

- 1 Aquatic ecosystem health is globally threatened by the massive intensification of fishing effort.
- 2 The capitalist development of fisheries is resulting in social changes that have profound implications for social justice.
- 3 Coastal livelihoods, employment and social relations are threatened by the transformations of fisheries due to capitalist development.
- 4 The expansion of the international fish market and intensification of local links to it have raised the spectre of food insecurity and food safety for poor populations that historically depended on fish as an inexpensive source of protein.

The third, and most important, theme revolves around how to structure fisheries governance

approaches to successfully address the challenges articulated above. Fisheries governance should ideally contain the following five elements. Governance solutions need to be multiple and able to work at different spatial, institutional and disciplinary scales and require management systems that are dynamic and flexible to address the diversity, complexity and dynamics of the entire fish chain. The second requirement is to have institutions that are legitimate so forming an important cornerstone of good fisheries governance. Institutions supply the stability, order and predictability that make fisheries systems work. The third point is that the classical approach of turning to governments to solve problems and the market to create opportunities is proving inappropriate and ineffective and the two concepts need to be integrated. Fourth instead, a successful governance approach to fisheries problem solving and opportunity creation will focus on the precedence of basic social, economic, political and environmental values, and on the concerns and principles to be derived from them rather than focusing on the means to achieve them. The final and fifth point is that an alternative fisheries department structure consistent with an interactive governance approach would be much less technically based (lower demand for data and analysis) and much more facilitative. The key skills would be planning, project development and management, mediation and facilitation.

The importance of the volume is that it places the issues that fisheries managers have been grappling with for years – how to deal with the diversity, complexity, dynamics and different scales of fisheries while at the same time moving away from the traditional western command-and-control style of managing fisheries – into a firm and solid theoretical structure and context. However, given the rather academic nature of the volume, it is likely to be of much more interest and use to academics rather than practicing fisheries managers.

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