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Kalix-Nyborg 12/04/2010

Dear Ms De Diego y Vega and Mr Paardekooper

Re comments on development of a new EU common fisheries policy.

This is in continuation of a correspondence with Ms Stefanie Schmidt.

Kustringen a cooperation between three fishing communities in the very north of Sweden exactly on the top of the Baltic sea, is in deed grateful been given the opportunity to furnish some of our experiences to be considered in your work. Even though the consultancy phase has indeed finished by end of 2009.

Background

We the local people in the three villages have since the 1980-ies seen a centralisation of the decision making process with lesser involvement of stakeholders in the villages. This is one of the reasons causing depletion in population in our three villages as well as in the commune as such. In fifteen years the population in the commune has gone down from 19 000 to 17 000. In our villages the main reason is less access to nature for fishing and hunting. When people have their employment 100-150 km away you and the family remain in the remote villages, and commute to the work, if you have access to nature. If people do not have this access you shift your premises and families to your working place in bigger towns. We have been spectators to a scenario in which we are denied the right to our water and right to small scale fishing for household table fish, when the regional authorities violates the central rules for sustainability in the fishing policy with a number exemptions. Hereby allowing a small number of big-scale fishing groups free access to the village resources.

The case

Kustringen <http://www.kustringen.com/> has during the last ten years been working with community management for sustainable utilisation of both land based and aquatic resources. We have since eight years been in a management agreement concerning a natural reserve in our area. We have also an agreement for local

management of a number of islands in our archipelago belonging to the National Property Board. We have been working on sustainable local management of fisheries both through protection and supporting activities. Our aims and objectives developed more than ten years ago are very much in line with the design principles developed by Prof Elinor Ostrom, giving her the **Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences**. Our national counterparts are Swedish Biodiversity Centre, Swedish University for Agriculture Sciences, The Swedish Village Action Movement, national, regional and local authorities Our international counterparts are linked to Gaia foundation, London, and the FTP net work in India.

Kustringen has through strengthening village level organisations been successful in:

- Management of community resources, both land and aquatic
- Development of an Agenda 21 plan to be the base for further activities
- Protection of aquatic resources both in cooperation with national agencies, 2000 ha, and by our own, almost 1000 ha of water.
- Developed a number of training programmes
 - for mutual learning of our resources
 - In cooperation with Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences on national level
 - Developed models for assessing auto deductively generated local competences.
- ECO-mapping
- Inventory and planning of sustainable managerial activities
- Management and responsible for implementation of activities in the nature reserve Likskär.

Observation

The draft to new EU common fisheries policy as presented on the internet is not elaborating and giving room for local community management for sustainable utilisation of natural resources based on local knowledge, to a level allowing a continuation of our work. We have, in recent years, been spectators to, in some cases, dramatic changes in the aquatic ecosystems due to unbalanced utilisation of our fish resources due to a fisheries policy not taking in to account the traditional knowledge in the local communities. We have also seen progress in an active intervention from the local communities in both protection and supporting activities for the various fish populations. There are also quite a number of international examples where improvements in ecological quality and eco restoration has been successful when local communities have had responsibility in the managerial process.

Suggestion

We suggest that the new EU common fisheries policy will include possibilities for community management of aquatic resources. The managerial process is to be built on local, indigenous knowledge and By-laws allowing all parties access to a sustainable utilisation of the limited resources, professional fishing, fishing for household purposes and tourist fishing, in the local community. By-laws developed based on local knowledge assessed in a community process including limiting rules (geographically, timing, yields), protected areas, supporting activities as well as controlling mechanisms and consequences when violating rules set in the By-law. The managerial process will be based on design principles (Prof. Elinor Ostrom):

1. Clearly defined boundaries (effective exclusion of external unentitled parties);
2. Rules regarding the appropriation and provision of common resources are adapted to local conditions;
3. Collective-choice arrangements allow most resource appropriators to participate in the decision-making process;
4. Effective monitoring by monitors who are part of or accountable to the appropriators;
5. There is a scale of graduated sanctions for resource appropriators who violate community rules;
6. Mechanisms of conflict resolution are cheap and of easy access;
7. The self-determination of the community is recognized by higher-level authorities;
8. In the case of larger common-pool resources: organization in the form of multiple layers of nested enterprises, with small local CPRs at the base level.

The managerial process will include the following steps: (Participatory with reference to point 8 as above)

1. Participatory planning of activities and steps to be taken
2. Participatory assessment of resources and local knowledge
3. Joint implementation of any activity
4. Participatory monitoring and evaluation

Continuation

We are very much interested to continue this dialogue on a more concrete level giving examples from our own area involving tools, methods and experiences from Community management. We would be pleased to receive you as our guests for continuation of this dialogue. We kindly invite you to pay a visit to our area, timing at your preferences.

Looking forward hearing from you, we remain.

For Kustringen

/Karl-Erik Spets/
Chairman

/Jan Bodlund/
Fishery section

/Peder Nilsson/
Environment section