

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21202) - COMMUNITIES RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES AND DEMANDS OF FISHING GOVERNANCE

Carla Mouro¹

1 - Iscte Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Background and objectives

Nowadays traditional fishing communities are confronted with several new laws and policies that contrast with and affect their customary uses of places and local resources. Drawing on findings of two studies, this presentation focus on psychosocial processes that intervene on the responses of local communities to fishing laws, addressing psychosocial conditions under which the encounter between the legal and the local spheres promotes support or resistance to new laws.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

Study 1 (N=280, survey) examined the heterogeneity of positions towards new professional and recreational fishing laws by comparing groups of residents at different stages of support for these laws, following the Trans-Theoretical Model. Additionally, we examined whether perceived norm conflicts (between laws and local norms, and between local descriptive and injunctive norms) and ambivalence decelerate the support for fishing laws.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

This comparative analysis showed that higher support for fishing laws was related to perceiving that the community valued and acted in support of the laws. The analysis also showed that perceived norm conflicts between the two community norms tended to be stronger and associated to felt ambivalence at pre-action stages, but not at post-action stages (i.e., after having publicly defended the laws), for both types of laws. Study 2 (N=200, survey) addresses also how fishing laws are evaluated during the Covid19 pandemic and how this relates to place attachment and community relations.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

This research highlights the relevance of considering how the (mis)alignment between different sources of influence – the legal and the local spheres - contributes for integration or resistance to changes to traditional ways of living. The discussion focuses on how laws and policies can become more capable of integrating different knowledges and interests, therefore contributing to governance models that are more adapted to their context of implementation.

Palavras-chave : Social norms, Norm conflict, Fishing laws, Governance