

Center for Community Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	01/26/2010	Entry Number:	1039
Case Study Name:	Mapping Spots - fishing areas or territories among islanders of Atlantic Forest (Brazil)		
Authors:	Begossi, A		
Document Type:	paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2001		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Reg Environ Change		
Full Citation:	Begossi, A. 2001. Mapping spots - fishing areas or territories among islanders of Atlantic Forest (Brazil). Reg Environ Change (2) 1-12		
Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Country:	Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	remote community		
Scale of Study:	community		
Resource Type:	fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	research-driven project		
Community Based Work:	resource management		
Keywords:	Atlantic Forest, Artisanal fishing, Human ecology, Fisheries, Local management, Sea tenure, Territorial rights		
Summary:	This study analyzes the fishing areas or spots used by artisanal fishers of the Atlantic Forest coast. Fishers include inhabitants of islands of the SE Atlantic Forest in Brazil. Data on fish landings were collected for different islands,		

in 1986 and 1989-1990, for species caught, technology used and fishing time. Fishing spots were marked or checked using GPS in 1997-1999. Fishing is performed in paddles, motorized canoes or in small boats with set gillnets or hook and line. Marine animals caught vary from place to place and include fish, shrimp, squid and crab. Spots used are very stable in time, since they did not change for about 10 years. Among other factors, technology limits the range of access of the fishers to the spots. An informal division of fishing areas or spots is observed, based on the locality of the residence of the fishers. The mapping and observed division of fishing spots may be used in local management, helping to control the intrusion of industrial fishers in artisanal areas. Local rules and discrimination of spot users may be helpful for artisanal fishers, especially in areas where conflicts with trawlers occur. The observed long-term stability of the use of fishing spots by artisanal fishers and conflicts with other users indicate the urgency of considering local rules for conservation purposes in Atlantic Forest coastal areas.