

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

Date:	May 17, 2010	Entry Number:	1051
Case Study Name:	Coastal management challenges from a community perspective; The problem of 'stealth privatization' in a Canadian fishery		
Authors:	Wiber, M. G., M. A. Rudd, E. Pinkerton, A. T. Charles, and A. Bull		
Document Type:	paper in scientific journal		
Year:	2010		
Language:	English		
Document Location:	Marine Policy (2010), doi 10.1016/j.marpol.2009.11.010		
Full Citation:	Wiber, M. G., M. A. Rudd, E. Pinkerton, A. T. Charles, and A. Bull. 2010. Coastal management challenges from a community perspective; The problem of 'stealth privatization' in a Canadian fishery. <i>Marine Policy</i> . doi 10.1016/j.marpol.2009.11.010		
Region:	North America		
Country:	Canada		
Ecosystem Type:	coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	indigenous community, gateway community		
Scale of Study:	community		
Resource Type:	fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	research-driven project		
Community Based Work:	resource management		
Keywords:	Privatization, Intertidal fisheries, aboriginal rights, integrated management		

Summary:

Intertidal clam fisheries seem ideal candidates for the devolution of management authority from government to local stakeholders. In St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, a private firm recently applied for a 10-year renewal of a large (1,627 ha) lease for quahog clam aquaculture. This case study examines the challenges of implementing community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in rural fisheries within a broad integrated coastal management (ICM) institutional environment that favours corporate stakeholders. The challenges facing clam harvesters in rural Digby Neck, Nova Scotia arise from poor communication and coordination within government and between government and communities, as well as higher-level policy conflicts. The most important challenge arises from 'stealth privatization' of clam beaches. A single firm was granted rights of first refusal to depurate all clams harvested from closed (polluted) beaches in the region, resulting in the *de facto* privatization of all (polluted and unpolluted) clam beaches. Experiences in other parts of Canada suggest there may be community-based governance approaches that avoid the pitfalls associated with corporate management of clam beaches. New thinking is required about how to moderate the 'privatization paradigm' so prevalent within senior levels of government in order to ensure environmental and social sustainability in rural fishing communities.