

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	Marine biodiversity and sustainability of fishing resources in Brazil: a case study of the coast of Parana state		
Authors:	Frederico Brandini		
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Region:	South America		
Country:	Brazil		
Ecosystem Type:	Coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	Coastal community		
Scale of Study:	State		
Resource Type:	Fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	Research driven project, government initiative		
Community-Based Work:	Resource management, conservation, development planning		

Keywords:	Marine conservation, fishing resources, anti-trawling system, artificial reefs, open shelf mariculture, Parana coast, Brazil
Summary:	<p>The subtropical coastal zone of Parana´ state in southern Brazil is only 80 km long yet environmentally diverse, with relatively pristine coastal landscapes and high marine and coastal biodiversity supporting important artisanal fishing grounds. However, this region began to change in the early 1970s. The development of industrial harbors, as well as unregulated tourism and urban settlement and pollution caused the loss of natural habitats. In addition, commercial shrimp trawlers began to operate in the adjacent shallow shelf areas. Biodiversity was seriously affected, and local fish stocks have decreased drastically in the last four decades. This article describes a long-term program to protect coastal habitats, recover marine biodiversity and diversify the economic base of fishing communities in order to guarantee fish stocks for future generations, hence preserving the social and cultural identities of these communities. Although it is difficult to change traditional fishing practices, fishing communities may exploit alternate components of the marine biological resources in order to achieve environmental, social and cultural sustainability in the long term.</p>