

# Conflicting interests and institutional pluralism: a case study of fishing ban in Goa

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Current fishing practices show a global trend of stock depletion. In particular, multispecies fisheries, as found in South Asian waters, have complex dynamics and pose additional constraints for management. Use of closed season/areas to control fishing efforts is a basic management tool in fisheries. Since the breeding season differs for different species, the closed season has to be targeted at a certain critical time period that is of importance to key species. Such regulations may give rise to conflicts between different types of fishers – such as mechanized and artisanal – as well as between different institutions governing resource use and allocation. This paper presents a case study of the debate on ban on monsoon fishing in Goa, India. It also provides insight into such conflicts arising as a consequence of various institutions and institutional structures affecting local fisheries management and their effectiveness in protecting the ecosystem and marine resources. It presents a graphic example of economic and political dynamics of fisheries resource management at the local level.