Greenland IPY Project ***GL-IPY 011***

FISHERIES DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES UNDER CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS

Within the general theme of *Challenges in a Changing Environment: Survival Strategies – past and present,* the project on "*fisheries dependent communities under changing environments"* is focusing on the socio-economic consequences of the double squeeze influencing the development in fisheries – on one hand the changing environmental conditions and their implications for the resource situation, and on the other hand the changes in the socio-economic conditions, especially the world and local market conditions for the produced products. North Atlantic fisheries dependent communities have experienced three major socio-economic shifts during the 20th century, all of them induced by the interactions between the natural system of climate change, and the socio-economic and socio-technical system of resource exploitation. The first was the introduction of commercial fisheries during the first part of the 20th century, partly due to a marked increase in sea temperature and an increase in the demand from European and North American markets. The second was the industrialization process after World War II which implied large scale fisheries concentrating on mono economy based activities, eventually leading to a highly regulated and capital intensive business. And the third is the ongoing shift towards a more diversified focus of fisheries, still highly regulated and with single resources as the backbone of the economy, but with other fisheries related activities offering substantial contributions in the Northern Regions. The research focus is on this ongoing process of changes which are re-defining not only the business activity, but the whole concept of fisheries dependency.

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