Has the reallocation of fishing rights contributed to wealth redistribution and poverty alleviation in South Africa?

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Outline

- Background
- Poverty Alleviation
- Policy process
- Policy shifts
- Rights allocations
- Consequences
- Litigation
Three Worlds in one country – Industrialised first world, new black elite represents the second world, small-scale entrepreneurs third world and marginalised poor the fourth world.

How do allocate, reallocate, reform and address poverty alleviation.

Multi-sectors - commercial, subsistence, *artisanal* and recreational fishing.

Actors – big companies, Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), marginalised poor fishers.
## Poverty Alleviation adapted from Bene (2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Reduction</th>
<th>Poverty Prevention</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(Lifts people out of poverty)</td>
<td>(prevents people from falling deeper into poverty)</td>
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**Poverty Reduction**

- through
  - Capital accumulation
  - Wealth generation

  leading to
  - Economic growth
  - Capital accumulation
  - e.g. Small quota holders

**Poverty Prevention**

- through
  - Safety mechanisms
  - Welfare function

  leading to
  - Poverty impact mitigation
  - Reduction of vulnerability
  - e.g. employment in established companies and Small and Medium Enterprises
Policy Process

► Green Paper - 1996
► White Paper - 1997
► Bill – 1998
► Act – 1998
► Draft allocation policies in 2000 and 2001 for medium term rights
► Draft allocation policies in 2005 for long term rights.
Policy Shifts

- Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) to Accelerated Growth Initiative for South Africa (Agcisa).

- Poverty alleviation through SMME’s and creation of jobs.

- Mass redistribution on hold for economic stability and growth.

- Dreams and hopes dashed as redistribution was put on hold.
Rights allocations

► Goals of equity, sustainability and efficiency competing with each other.

► Competing forces in the political arena with regard to equity (transformation - race and gender vs poverty alleviation).

► Sustainability and efficiency was instrumental throughout.
Rights Allocation Process

- One size fits all.
- Quantifying transformation (number of new entrants).
- Trading of PDI status.
- Converting social and political capital to obtain fishing rights.
- Paper quota holders (un-viability vs raw material).
Consequences

► Who benefited?
  - Established companies – race and gender
  - Elite structures within fishing communities – PDIs

► Fishermen (limited numeracy and literacy skills, no organisational structures, poor, and vulnerable to exploitation) were left outside the formal allocation process.
“Ons wil nie `n kortbroek reg he nie, ons wil `n langbroek reg he...”
Court Case – Kenneth George and Others

- Artisanal fishers – not subsistence and at times small commercial.
- Right to livelihood
- Right for accommodation
- Right to resale
- Individual rights to fishers than commercial companies
What is needed in the South African case?

- TAC and ITQ for offshore resources and best suited for the industrialised fisheries.
- Livelihoods agenda within rights allocation process.
- Community allocations to coastal communities...
- Livelihoods agenda within rights allocation process
Thank you...