

## How Fish Reaches the Table

### Fish Commodity Chains and Networks

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## CURRA: Globalization and Recovery

A key question:

- What new opportunities are being pursued and what challenges exist, particularly in terms of labour and markets?

## Outline

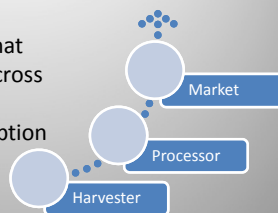
- Research Questions
- Theoretical Perspectives
- Study Sites
- Findings
  - Shrimp
  - Lobster
  - Cod
- Interpretations and Conclusions

## Research Questions

- What are the processes through which fish moves from ocean to plate?
- What is the role of power in these processes?

## Theoretical Perspectives

- Commodity Chains
  - Interconnected links that identify key linkages across time and space from production to consumption (Jackson et al 2006)



## Theoretical Perspectives

- Food Networks
  - Complex networks which connect chain nodes
  - Provides explicit space for *people* as interpreters
  - Integrates power (Gerefetti et al. 2005)



## Study Sites



- St. Anthony; Port au Choix; Burnt Islands
- Fieldwork from 2008 to 2010
  - secondary sources
  - over 50 key informant interviews
- Focus on three species: shrimp, lobster, cod

## Shrimp

- Supplying
  - Landed weight at nearly 112K MT (NL, 2010)
  - Mainly in Port au Choix; St. Anthony
  - Diversity of harvesting vessels; numbers decreasing and labour supply an issue
- Buying
  - Prices subject to collective bargaining
  - Product sold to one of four local plants
  - Large plant Managers establish and maintain contracts with buyers
  - International market (e.g. Marks and Spencer –UK)

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## Lobster

- Supplying
  - Landed weight at nearly 5247 MT (NL, 2010);
  - Mainly Burnt Islands
  - In-shore; short season
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## Transportation



Photo by Peter Sinclair

## Cod

- Supplying
  - Landed weight at over 12K MT (2010)
  - Mainly Burnt Islands
  - Hook and line (high quality)
- Buying
  - Price does not reflect quality (\$0.50/Lb in 2010)
  - Two small plants, small restaurants and some on mainland
  - Niche markets and local consumption (Khan 2010)



## Burnt Islands



Photo by Peter Sinclair

## Interpretation and Conclusions

- Power location varies by chain but it is never absolute
  - Harvesters are not powerless
  - Supply and Demand remains important
  - Consumers are crucial
  - Regulators (i.e. the state) plays critical role



## Returning to the question

- What new opportunities are being pursued and what challenges exist, particularly in terms of labour and markets?



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