

Essays on Behavioral Economics and Fisheries: Coordination and Cooperation

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The continued human pressure on ecosystems places the governance of shared natural resources at the forefront of environmental policy. This thesis explores how different resource management policies impact the use of the natural environment.

The first chapter studies how cooperation between individuals is affected by the presence of uncertainty in a laboratory experiment. We find no impact on cooperative behavior when users are uncertain of the return from a public good, rather it seems like uncertainty of others' behavior is a more important determinant.

The last two chapters analyze fishers' response to management institutions using empirical data from Sweden. The aim of fisheries management is to sustainably balance both biological and economic interests. The results highlight that successful establishment of collective property rights can contribute to both of these management objectives. Private property rights are shown to rely on a well-functioning market, and that there are several ways the regulatory agency may improve market functioning.

This thesis highlights the impact of policies on behavior and that neglecting such relations may result in ineffective use of the limited natural resources available.



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