

PROPOSITIONS
attached to the Thesis

**TRANSNATIONAL FISHERS' MOVEMENTS
AND THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL FISHERIES**

By Elyse Noble Mills

International Institute of Social Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. Three waves of capitalist development in fisheries globally – industrialization, privatization and conservation – have led to overlapping processes of exclusion in fisheries and contributed to the marginalization of small-scale fishers. *This thesis.*
2. Overlapping processes of exclusion have both triggered, and are continuing to propel, transnational mobilization, as fishers contest and seek ways to respond to exclusion through anti-capitalist strategies of resistance. *This thesis.*
3. Critical engagement with the politics of fisheries, food production and climate change – including related issues, institutions and fora – have been crucial catalysts for both internal capacity-building in fishers' movements, and the formation of productive alliances with civil society and intergovernmental organizations. *This thesis.*
4. By analysing, challenging and proposing alternatives to mainstream fisheries governance agendas, fishers' movements contribute an essential critical voice to international political spaces, expanding traditional conceptions of what constitutes a political actor in global governance processes. *This thesis.*
5. Fishers' movements play a key role in raising the profile of the contentious fisheries issues that shape their struggles, by developing political agendas and narratives that challenge the status quo and offer concrete tools for advancing fisheries justice. *This thesis.*
6. Remedies for the global fisheries crisis which depend upon technical fixes for environmental destruction and dwindling fish stocks, are ineffective and counter-productive because they fail to address power dynamics, wealth concentration and structural inequality in the fisheries sector.
7. Approaches to ocean development that facilitate the continuous expansion of capital into fisheries spaces, such as the blue economy and blue growth, contribute to poverty and inequality by prioritizing the interests of wealthy actors, while neglecting the valuable knowledge and experiences of small-scale fishers.
8. Including fishers' movements and organizations in decision-making processes which directly affect their lives and livelihoods, builds crucial trust with governments and enables the development of initiatives and policies that more accurately reflect the needs and interests of fishers themselves.
9. Research that transcends national boundaries, and seeks to provide insights into the social, political and economic impacts of globalization, provides key analytical and empirical tools for grappling with the increasing complexity of the contemporary globalized world.
10. Transnational mobilization can be significantly strengthened by scaling up collaborations both between fishers' and farmers' movements, as well as with other civil society and intergovernmental organizations, on issues of global urgency – namely food production and climate change.
11. Social organization is like the sea – its power depends on overlapping historical waves, the ebb and flow of tides of capacity, and currents of political struggle.