



Local level stakeholder initiative

North Norwegian municipalities' reaction to changes in fisheries management

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Local level stakeholder initiative

- Industrial policy in Norway has since the 1980s moved from having strong corporative elements towards increased liberalization
- One policy measure, though, has proven challenging to remove: the industry-owned trawlers land-lock obligations
- How can local authorities contribute to the removal of a regulatory failure?

Modernization through industrialization

- In the post-war period, there was a need - and opportunity - to rebuild and modernize Northern Norway
- Heavy investments were made in private and (semi-) state-owned fish processing facilities
- Highly uneven seasonal distribution meant the industry was given permission to own trawlers

Good intentions pave the way...

- With great power comes great responsibility: introducing the land-lock obligation regime
- Industry-owned trawlers were given an obligation to *land their catch* in specified municipalities or facilities
- Obligations to *process the catch*, and obligations to *maintain industrial activity* were later introduced

A regulatory regime under pressure

Competitive
export industry



Guarantor of employment
and settlement

- Small adjustments rather than a major overhaul
- Strong expectations, but a weakened tool

Municipal response

- Six municipalities have responded with two different strategies – appealing to the judicial system, and dialog with industry actors



Municipal response

- Gamvik municipality attempted legal action against the trawler company and the state
- The outcome:
 - The government was not responsible for ensuring that obligations were fulfilled
 - The obligation was between the trawler and the processing facility
 - Municipalities were deemed not a party

Municipal response

- Hasvik opted for dialog with the trawler company and the processing industry
- For a compensatory fee, the trawler was exempted from the land-lock obligations
- Four municipalities have attempted similar agreements, with differing results

Cutting the Gordian knot

- When the state has stepped back, the municipalities have filled the vacant role
- Innovative actions by local authorities have provided central authorities with a way out, all the while avoiding the political cost...
- ... with the consequence of partly abdicating in an important policy area



Thank you for your attention

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