

Dynamiques environnementales, & politiques publiques pratiques locales : quelles interactions ?

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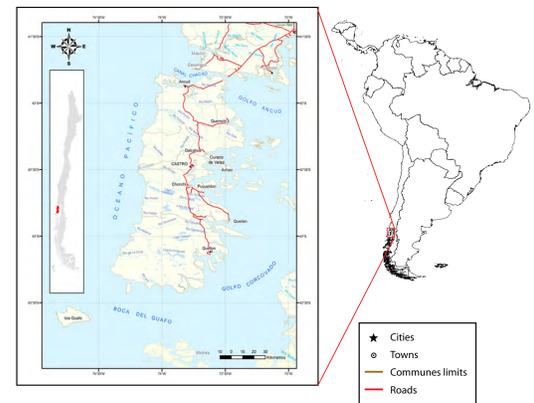
Globalized salmon industry in the archipelago of Chiloé (Chile): local impacts, socio-territorial reconfigurations, environmental conflicts and local strategies

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Abstract

The process of contemporary globalization, driven by the outsourcing of activities and enterprises worldwide, has generated spatial transformations at multiple scales but with specific local impacts (Barton, 1997). Since the early 1980s, the archipelago province of Chiloé in southern Chile has experienced significant changes in social structure, cultural dynamics, economic activity, environmental quality and spatial configuration. The driving forces are diverse, however the principal factor is the arrival and gradual consolidation of the global salmon industry. Using the framework of 'glocalization' (Swyngedouw, 2004), it is hypothesized that these changes in environmental and spatial dynamics largely respond to monoproducer strategies and practices associated with the salmon

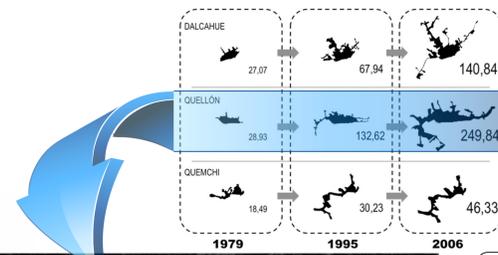
sector. Given the export-oriented production focus within a limited regulatory environment, the spatial transformations have been swift and often chaotic, e.g. in urban sprawl, accessibility, employment, migration, and landscape. From the claim that this process of reconfiguration of the province of Chiloé is part of a major restructuring strategy associated with large global firms, with few regulatory controls and little 'grounding' of production-related benefits, this three year research project examined diverse factors of these spatial transformations. These included urban growth patterns in five cities that are closely associated with aquaculture, aspects of local governance and development strategy, migration tendencies, changes in agricultural and fisheries organisation, and associated environmental changes.



Territorial Transformations

There is evidence about the influence of the sector not just in urban form, but also in the economic and productive dynamics in the province (Barrett et al., 2002; Fløysand & Román, 2008). Between 2000-2009, new land uses can be observed, associated with migratory pressures, new localization of productive activities, and public investment.

The Chiloé salmon production phenomenon has led to rising urban land values and increased sprawl of these towns. The towns of Ancud, Quemchi, Dalcahue, Castro and Quellón were examined to identify trends in land use diversification and consumption of new land on the urban fringe.



Chiloé's urban process.
In terms of land area, between 1982 and 2008, Dalcahue increased seven times, Quellón nine times, and Quemchi 2.5 times. Urbanization and urban growth rates increase, then the urban area multiplies in size over shorter periods of time.

Source: Salazar & Pozo, 2012

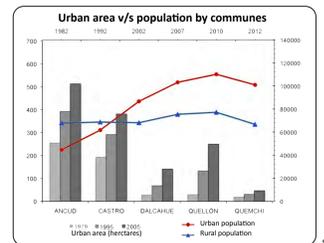
Environmental dynamics and challenges of sustainability

2007-2009: ISA appears, giving rise to a collapse in salmon production and profound impacts in Chiloé's communities.

1990-2007: A dominant vision of salmon aquaculture as regional development, but with productive practices that proved to be inadequate for ensuring environmental quality and sanitary controls.

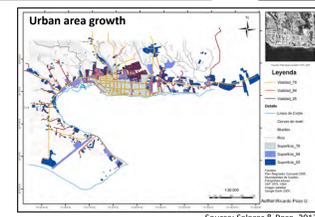


The urban sprawl grew along the coast and followed the principal inter-town road routes. In Dalcahue and Quellón it is possible to see a greater increase in urban sprawl.



Source: Authors

It is possible to identify 9 types of urban growth (TUG), compared to previous spatial occupation practices. These TUG reveal the urban morphologies of accelerated urban growth processes during the salmon 'boom'.



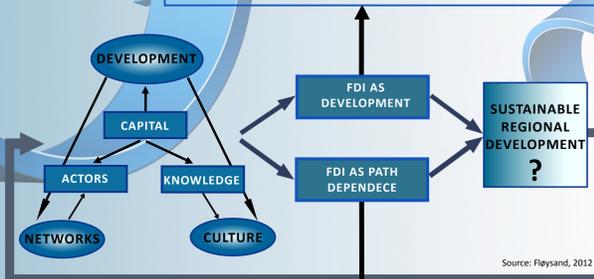
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Future: ¿Towards long-term sustainable regional development?

A new regulatory regime with more political control, but focused on output volumes and short-term returns that might lead to carrying capacity limits being exceeded once again.

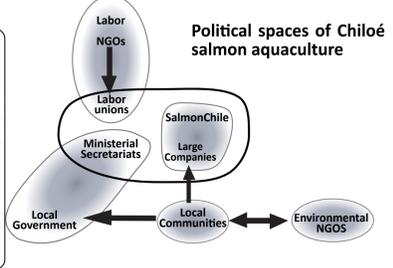
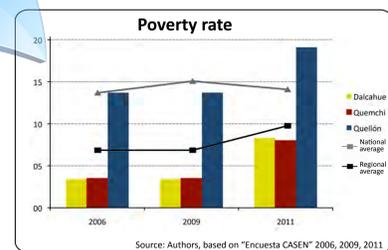
In this situation, FDI has wide regional effects related to expertise (know-how) and links with local industries, in terms of the diffusion of knowledge networks, innovation and technology transfer.

In this situation, FDI has control over the region in terms of employment and economic activities, but the region has neither the resources (extraction) nor the capital (profit repatriation)



Glocalised Chiloé: Local practices and actor dynamics

There is a fragmentation between actors who have discourses that challenge the economic imperative associated with the traditional elites. These actors share the margins of the political space, while there is a strong presence of actors with central positions associated to traditional elites.



Source: Román, 2012

The role of actors, operating vertically and horizontally in order to articulate their development priorities, were evaluated. Different discourses relating to the sector and its impacts on local development compete for social legitimacy in the province.

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