



Fisheries access arrangements as joint-venture enterprises (JVEs)

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**FISHING COMPANIES WITH
INVESTMENTS AND OPERATIONS IN
THIRD NON-EU COUNTRIES:
AFRICA CASE STUDIES**



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A geopolitical-economy of distant water fisheries access arrangements

Check for updates

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In recent decades, fishing fleets and effort have grown in aggregate throughout the waters of lower-income coastal countries, much of which is carried out by vessels registered in higher-income countries. Fisheries access arrangements (FAAs) underpin this key trend in ocean fisheries and have their origins in UNCLOS's promise to establish resource ownership as a mechanism to increase benefits to newly independent coastal and island states. Coastal states use FAAs to permit a foreign state, firm, or industry association to fish within its waters. This paper provides a conceptual approach for understanding FAAs across the global ocean and for exploring their potential to deliver on the promise of UNCLOS. Illustrated with the findings from multiple case studies, we advance understanding of FAAs by developing a *geopolitical-economy of access* that attends to the combination of contingent and context-specific economic, ecologic, and geopolitical forces that shape the terms, conditions and practices of the FAAs shaping this persistent phenomenon of higher-income industrial fleets fishing throughout lower-income countries' waters.



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MAPPING DISTANT-WATER FISHERIES ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

2022 - Phase 1

INSTITUTIONAL AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES ON DISTANT-WATER
FISHERIES ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

2024 - Phase 2



TYOLOGY OF FISHERIES ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS



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Focus on non-reciprocal ‘Southern’ arrangements:

- ‘First generation’ or cash for access
 - government-to-government
 - industry association-to-government
 - company-to-government
- ‘Second generation’ or discounts in return for
 - domestication of boats and/ or
 - onshore investment

First Generation

Maximize Licensing Fees



Require some onshore linkages



Second Generation

Prioritize Sector Development



RESOURCE-SEEKERS

Japan: historical user of JVEs; strong associations; decoupled ODA

EU: public aid to global network of SFPAs; scrutinised and transparent; rise of alternatives, incl. JVEs

China: maritime expansion; fisheries as industrial strategy; supported by decoupled loans; major user of JVEs; enhanced regulation in 2020s

Taiwan: raw material specialist based on transshipment model; global reach; major FOC operator, incl. JVEs; enhanced regulation

RESOURCE-OWNERS

West Africa: multiple competing DWFs, various JVEs, but thin regional cooperation; JVE fleets in conflict with local fishers

Namibia: 'domestication' success via JVEs, but troubles with corruption

Western Indian Ocean: EU sphere of influence; competing coastal states, historic JVEs

Pacific Islands: South-South cooperation and maximising rent from DWFs via Vessel Day Scheme; multiple JVEs



All engage in JVEs to varying degrees and with different levels of success

FINAL REFLECTIONS

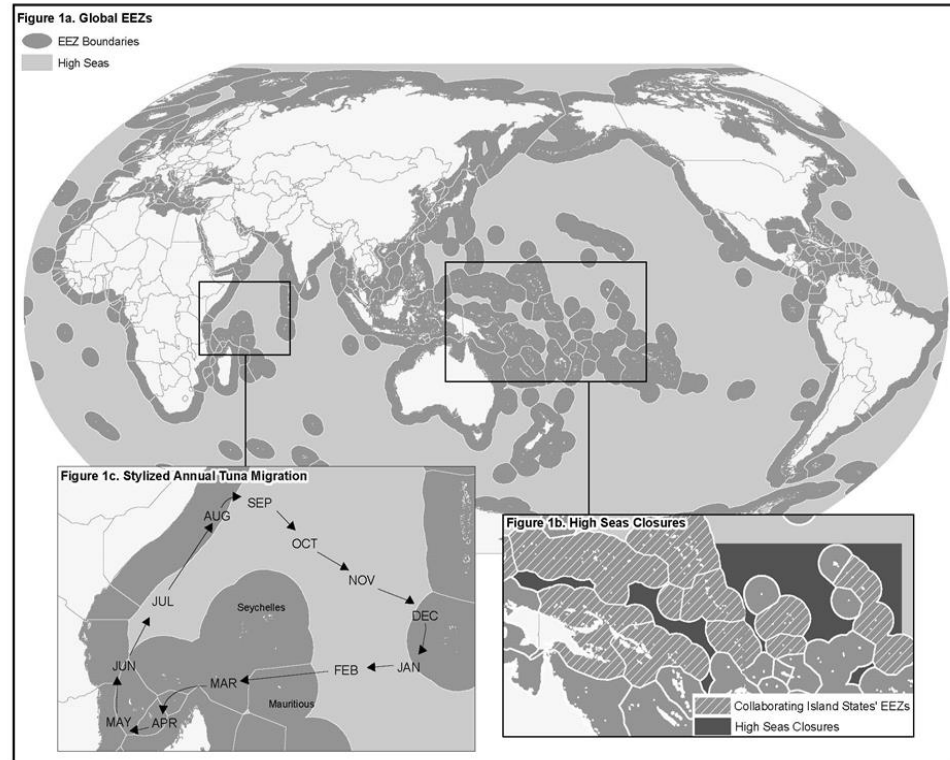
Fisheries JVEs as access arrangements are an economic calculus and struggle over rent and profit; and are often geopolitical

Access is a public asset and JVE discounting has opportunity costs, of which ministries of finance should be aware

Analysis of JVEs as access should place greater emphasis on *firms* as strategic agents

JVEs as access are highly context-specific: one-size does *not* fit all

Timing and territorial embeddedness matter to JVE reform – ‘don’t let a good crisis go to waste’



[Campling and Havice 2014](#)

