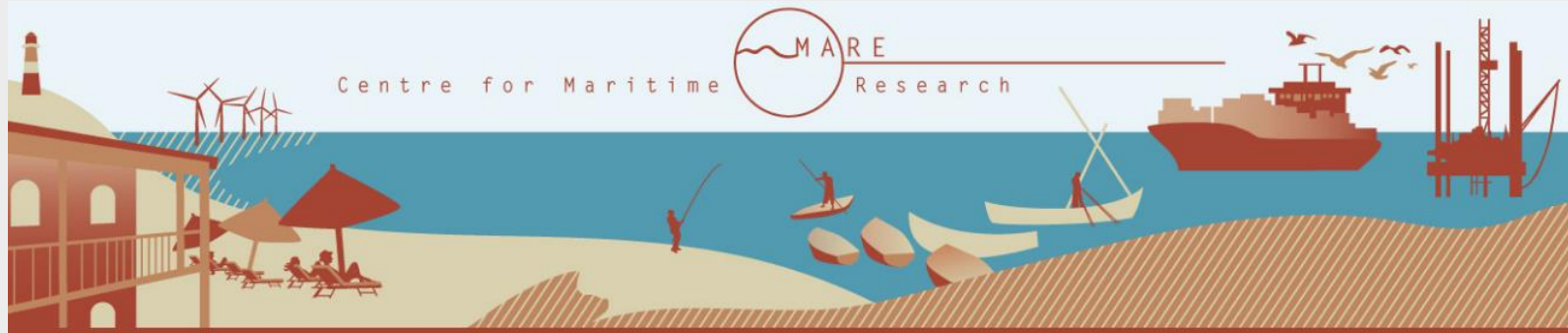


Centre for Maritime Research (MARE)

- International social science network on people and the coast
- Biennial *People and the Sea* conferences in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, next June 25-28, 2019 (see www.marecentre.nl)





Department of Human Geography, Planning, and International
Development Studies

Coastal Grabbing – From concept to empirical reality



Maarten Bavinck
CCRN Conference, Halifax, Canada
May 28, 2018



Acknowledging:

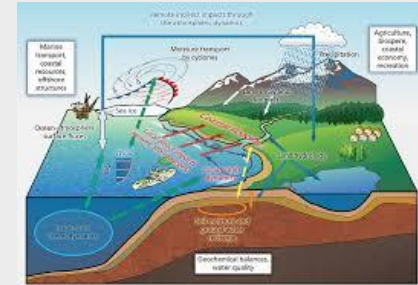
- Born in Tofino, with CCRN Initiative/support
- Bavinck, M., F. Berkes, A. Charles, A.C. Esteves Dias, N. Doubleday, P. Nayak and M. Sowman 2017. The impact of coastal grabbing on community conservation – a global reconnaissance. *Maritime Studies* 16:8
- Bavinck, M., S. Jentoft and J. Scholtens 2018. Fisheries as social struggle – a reinvigorated social science agenda. *Marine Policy* 94:46-52.



Starting points, the recognition that:

- communities depending on natural resources frequently have incentives for conservation;
 - many coastal communities across the globe are losing access to/control over resources;
 - This is having effects on conservation efforts.
-
- Goal of paper: making a case of what is happening.

Definition coastal grab:



- Coast = interface land/sea
- the appropriation of coastal space and resources by interests external to the community:
 - Local/non-local
 - Force/suddenness
 - Involuntary transfer of property rights
 - Normative quality to the verb 'grabbing'
- Related to land/ocean grabbing
- Move from common to private property.



Four case studies:

- Port Mouton Bay, Canada
- Tamoios Marine Protected Area, Brazil
- Olifants Estuary, South Africa
- Chilika Lagoon, India

Case study characteristics:

Table 1 Key characteristics of case studies

Country and location	Drivers/grabbers	Victims
Canada, Nova Scotia, Port Mouton Bay	Aquaculture (government)	Community members, especially local fishers
Brazil, Paraty area, Tamoios MPA	Federal Conservation Agency	Traditional small-scale fishers and farmers (Caiçaras)
South Africa, west coast, Olifants Estuary	Government/mineral companies	Coloured (small-scale fishers/farmers)
India, Bay of Bengal, Chilika Lagoon	Industrial aquaculture; higher caste actors supported by other elites	Caste-based fisher people

Common features of the transformation:

- All occurred since 1990s – related to neoliberal policies (except Brazil); but roots in earlier periods;
- In all cases, loss of control/property rights;
- In all cases, governments play a core role in reallocations;
- Drivers are mainly economic, but also conservation policies;



Effects:

- Disruption of livelihoods and (potential) harm to ecosystems;
- Result: impoverishment, displacement, loss of cultural identities;
- Resistance through joint action, partnerships, and political engagement;
- These have not 'reversed the tide' but created breathing space,
- Also galvanizing interest in local knowledge and own conservation initiatives.



A reinvigorated social science agenda:

- Social scientists have their own responsibility in the coastal field;
- “Unpacking the nature of social struggles may [...] also help to identify the actual drivers of resource health problems.”
- Coastal grab is a phenomenon worthy of further study (and action).



THE END

Thank you for your attention

