RIEL Seminar abstract  
Monday 17 Oct  
Time: 1300-1400  
Location: Blue 5.1.01  

Title: “Governing fisheries for food security”  

Presented by:  
Dr Edward Allison,  
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Abstract  
Fisheries and aquaculture play important roles in providing livelihoods and contributions to growth in many developing countries and fish provide significant nutritional benefits to 3 billion mainly low-income consumers. Food security has become a primary concern for fishery sector policy but it remains poorly understood and under-researched. After articulating the pathways linking the fisheries sector with food security, I critically examine key factors affecting the supply and demand of fish, focusing on two major concerns: aquaculture development and the globalization of trade. I conclude that existing analysis over-emphasises ‘fish as protein’ and is over-reliant on macro-scale analysis. Nutrition and health surveys at individual, household and community level are required to understand the consequences of fishery policy reforms such as transformation to rights-based fishing or the expansion of marine protected areas. This is an important arena for research, including in the Coral Triangle Area, where coastal populations are highly dependent on fish and fishery income.  

Bio  
Dr Edward Allison is a Principal Scientist in the Policy, Economics and Social Science Group at the WorldFish Center (www.worldfishcenter.org), one of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutes. Dr Allison has a BSc in Marine Sciences and a PhD in natural resource management from the University of Liverpool, U.K. He has twenty years of post-doctoral work experience in international fisheries research, development and management. He worked for the UK Department for International Development in Malawi in the early 1990s, and between 1996 and 2007 was a member of faculty in the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, UK. During that time, he combined research and teaching in environment and development with advisory roles with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Global Environment Facility, and various bilateral donors and multilateral organizations working in sub-Saharan Africa, S and SE Asia and Latin America. His research seeks to inform ways to secure the livelihoods of fishery-dependent people and to secure access by low income consumers to fish as part of a healthy diet. Working within conceptual frameworks for the analysis of risk and vulnerability, and policy frameworks relating to the application of human rights approaches in development, his work has included: analysis of rural livelihoods and poverty reduction policies in the context of fisheries governance; analysis of prevalence of HIV and AIDS in fishing dependent communities and the design of appropriate health-sector responses;
vulnerability and adaptation to climate variability and change; children’s work in the fishery sector, and the risks and benefits of globalized trade for small-scale producers and traders. His current focus is on examining how fisheries policy in low-income food deficit countries can be better aligned with food security policy and social protection schemes, and on including fishing communities in planned adaptation to climate change.