



Economic Brief 3 : Key Recommendations

Non-Energy Resource Extraction (mining and fisheries): Governance, Justice and Sustainability

Fisheries and mining are key livelihoods for many Arctic communities, with sub-Arctic fish stocks a vital global source of seafood and Arctic minerals extraction of global importance to the green transition. Because these sectors play a significant role in Arctic economies, their governance is a crucial issue in debates about Arctic sustainability.

This economic brief from JUSTNORTH centers on this issue. It asks: Are Arctic governance frameworks of the fishing and mining sectors adequately designed to promote a just and sustainable development path? Are there gaps that need to be addressed?

Drawing on case studies undertaken by JUSTNORTH researchers, our analyses found that fisheries and mining are governed by a complex patchwork of policies, regulations, resource ownership structures. It involves interlinkages between different spatial scales where global sustainability benefits need to be examined in tandem with local consequences and concerns. For instance, minerals extraction for the global transition to low-carbon economy may have unsustainable effects on local communities.

Our work identifies multiple governance challenges across the two sectors. The inequitable distribution of benefits from both fisheries and extraction of minerals exploitation among rightsholders and stakeholders via fiscal regimes is one of the most crucial governance challenges.

Likewise, there are problematic issues in both sectors when it comes to public influence on decision-making. Participation in fisheries management in Iceland, for instance, lacks both transparency and inclusiveness. And for mining activities, many stakeholders stress that public consultation often becomes a 'tick box' exercise.

To chart a way forward toward a governance structure conducive to a just and sustainable development, our economic brief calls attention to the need to:

- 1 Provide a stronger voice to actors with limited capacities.**
- 2 Start public consultation and planning earlier.**
- 3 Utilize taxation for a more just distribution of benefits.**

