**A case study of Ocean governance conflicts from Bangladesh, Fiji, and Hawaii**

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**Abstract**

Increased anthropogenic pressure on finite resources within contested ocean spaces can escalate not only the incidences but also the frequency and severity of conflict between resource users. A growing blue economy has laid bare the competition for space within and between established sectors such as fisheries and recreation, and new uses such as wind energy which can create or exacerbate tension in situations with overlapping or void jurisdictions and mandates. Where formal and informal rules both apply in this marine space it can add an extra complication to the governance landscape. Our goal is to gain a stepwise understanding of the formal and informal governance landscape in five communities across three case study sites (Bangladesh, Fiji, and Hawai’i) from the perspective of local users regarding who governs, how they govern, and how such governance deals with shocks and stressors will impact resource use. We are able to draw comparable lessons on resource management and conflicts for locations with different formal and informal systems, different issues, and levels of community engagement by using a standardized governance mapping process. The three case studies vary considerably in terms of rights and access to the marine environment as well as the interactions between formal and informal rules that range from strongly intertwining in Fiji, to varying embeddedness in Hawai’i, and where they are sometimes at odds (Bangladesh). The simple, locally implementable, governance mapping approach is a useful place to start in untangling and addressing the potential for community tensions and disagreement over marine resources.