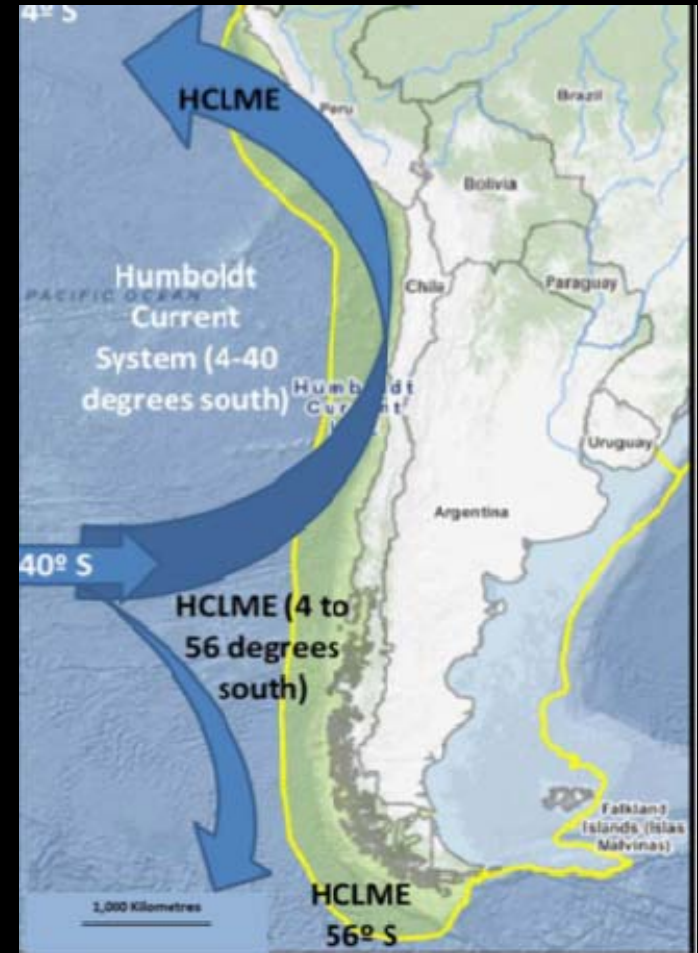


Artisanal fishing as food activism and resistance in the dock of Chorrillos, Peru



Peru's Geography



Peruvian Anchovies



The community

- Long history of community organization
- There are around 300 active fishers
- Coastal fishing (gill nets, hook and line)
- Product is mostly for local markets and neighbors
- The Association is in charge of the fish market, beach services, informal vendors, boat rides, restaurant modules, etc.





Conceptual Framework

Neoliberalism

A comprehensive process of transformation of every aspect of life according to the market rules and values

Authority and accountability vanishes among the state new entities, international organizations, corporations, etc.

The neoliberal state demands more autonomy and self-sufficiency from its citizens

Conceptual Framework

Urban Food System

An UFS is where the food for urban dwellers is produced, processed, distributed and sold. **It is also a nuanced and holistic approach to social realities**

An UFS can have its origin in rural or urban areas providing one of the links of the value chain happens in the city. **Overcome reductionism and dualism of mainstream approaches**

UFSs gained importance as alternatives to urban problems of food sovereignty, affordability, accessibility and quality

The problem (and fishers' response)

- Dominant actors involved in setting Peru's environmental agenda and food policies criticize and underestimate fishers' traditional knowledge and ability to perform as food producers
- Fishers have devised ways to adapt and resist the transformations driven by the neoliberal process providing to low-income population with affordable fresh fish, and a safe and accessible leisure space.

Methodology



Critical ethnographic approach including participant observations, interviews, conversations and field visits

Findings

[Traditional place-based knowledge]

“¡Es que yo nació acá, yo nació acá!”

I was born here, I was born here!

“Salimos en altamar y sabemos un bonito como corre, porque camina largo y se esconde... ese es el jurel, va atrás con una cola así como hélice atrás...”

out in the ocean, we know how a bonito moves because it swims great distances at the surface and then hides... that's a mackerel, it follows behind other fish and has a tail like a propeller...

[Fish producer and activist]

“(...) la pesca de altura dura mínimo una semana, luego el pescado en tierra se negocia, otro día , en el supermercado lo tienen un día más en exhibición entero, uno más, luego lo cortan en filetes y dura dos día más congelado en la vitrina, o sea que prácticamente el pescado de almacén tiene entre 15 o 20 días. Y si el pescado viene de Chile o China, son meses (...) cuando nosotros trabajamos y vendemos aquí, el pescado solo tiene 3 o 4 horas, es fresco, y barato para el pueblo”

Deep-sea fishing last at least a week, once landed is sold, and the next day goes to the supermarket where the whole fish is showcased for another day. Then it's cut in fillets and back to the glass for two more days. That fish has almost 15 to 20 days. If it's imported from Chile or China, the fish has months! When we work here, the fish has 3 or 4 hours tops, it's fresh and cheap for the people.



Discussion: Fishers and Co.

Participating in the fish commercial chain is only one aspect of multiple ecological and cultural services offered by fishers

By engaging in multiple minute relationships of authority with powerful actors, fishers inserted themselves in the ecological, economic and touristic circuits of the city

Through low-key strategies and discourses of place derived directly from their traditional/ecological knowledge, fishers gain legitimacy to keep meeting their clientele expectations

Implications

Once identified (and expose) the links connecting global and local processes, research on urban food systems of the poor in developing countries should focus on how communities have achieved stability and survived poverty. Then, we need to learn how they have negotiated and win in some cases, opportunities, resources and rights against powerful actors

Gracias

