

Bowman, Lauren, "Possible Advances Toward Fair Trade in CoopeTárcoles R.L., an Artisan Fishing Cooperative in Central Pacific, Costa Rica." Advisor: Vivienne Solis. Ripon College. 2010. 39pp.

Fair trade is an alternative method of international trading which has become popular in the past few years due to its positive goal of alleviating poverty in third world and developing countries. Its aim is to help small-scale producers work themselves out of poverty. This study works with a small-scale, fishing cooperative, CoopeTárcoles R.L, in Tárcoles, Costa Rica. Interviews were conducted with tourists, associated fishermen with the cooperative, non-associated fishermen, current trade partners, potential trade partners, and the administrative body of the cooperative to learn how the cooperative currently works and to assess the current mindsets related to fair trade fish of people associated with the cooperative which is trying to develop its productive activity based on a responsible fishing code. The goal of this study is to determine if it is possible to implement fair trade on a non-agricultural crop such as fish and on a small scale such as in the case of CoopeTárcoles R.L. The results show the willingness of tourists to pay more for fair trade fish, non-associated fishermen's willingness to be associated if fair trade existed, and potential trade partners' willingness to possibly exclusively buy fair trade fish in the future. Therefore depending on the cooperative's overall willingness to start the process and the understanding of the fishermen of their responsibilities and obligations to this process, it is potentially possible to implement fair trade on fish.