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# In the eye of the storm: Research, activism and teaching within the newfoundland fishery crisis

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### Abstract

This paper examines the 1990s fisheries crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador from the point of view of a feminist researcher, activist and teacher involved in that crisis. It opens with a discussion of the broad dimensions of the crisis and describes some of the problems I quickly and publicly identified, as a feminist social scientist, with the adjustment programs it generated. As the crisis unfolded, the concerns I was raising became increasingly marginalized in the media and other fora. This marginalization, coupled with a shortage of resources to study the actual impacts of the crisis eventually made me feel isolated and uncertain about my analysis and I stopped speaking out. The formation and work of the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's FishNet, a voluntary group of feminists of which I was a founding member, provided me with the sisterhood and organizational and strategic resources I needed to move beyond this impasse.

FishNet activities provide the focus for the second section of the paper. I emphasize the ways FishNet helped to empower its members and women from fishery communities but close with a discussion of some of the factors that contributed to its collapse. In the final section, I examine some of the lessons I have learned from my experience as a researcher, teacher and activist working on feminist fisheries issues within Newfoundland and Labrador during the fisheries crisis.



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