

ABSTRACT

THE EMERGENCE OF ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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The purpose of this thesis is to reconsider the role of institutions in managing individual interactions with other individuals and the environment, model institutions as the outcome of many individual interactions and to model individuals characterized by bounded rationality. I apply learning techniques, that have been developed over the last half century by Engineers, Psychologists and Computer Scientists, to the study of ensembles of individuals that interact with one another and their environment. The environment that individuals interact with will be that of a renewable resource, fish, accessible as a multiple location common pool resource.