

SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



Migrant Labour

Climate Change

Women in Co-operatives

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A New Virtual Platform

Land Tenure Rights



ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-governmental International Organizations. It also has Liaison Status with FAO.

As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns

and action, as well as communications. *SAMUDRA Report* invites contributions and responses. Correspondence should be addressed to Chennai, India.

The opinions and positions expressed in the articles are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily represent the official views of ICSF.

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Guidelines

- [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication](#)
- [Legislating for sustainable small-scale fisheries: A guide and considerations for implementing aspects of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in National Legislation](#)

REPORTS

- [Report of the ICSF-BOELME India \(East Coast\) Workshop: Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication \(SSF Guidelines\)](#)
- [UserRights 2015: A Global Forum on Rights based approaches for fisheries Detailed report of the workshop by Sebastian Mathew, ICSF](#)

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FRONT COVER



A ceramic wall decoration, island of Ustica, Sicily, Italy
Photo by Cornelia Quist
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The service often features exclusive, original stories on small-scale and artisanal fisheries, particularly in the regions of the South, as well as issues that deal with women in fisheries and safety at sea. Apart from news and stories on fisheries, the service also focuses on environmental and oceans issues. Please visit <http://www.icsf.net> to subscribe to SAMUDRA News Alerts.

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Fish sales on Nouakchott beach, Mauritania
Photo by: Olivier Barbaroux
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GIUSEPPE BIZZARRI/FAO

Fisherman sitting next to boxes of sardines that have been unloaded on to the wharf at El Jadida harbour, Morocco

A New Platform, A New Engine

The FAO-SSF Umbrella Programme offers a platform to provide direction for the formulation of small-scale fisheries policies, strategies and legislation in many developing countries

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant control measures, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in an unprecedented move, decided to hold its 34th Session in a virtual mode in the first week of February 2021, almost seven months after the scheduled date.

As with all the previous eight COFI meetings since 2003, the 2021 COFI agenda includes support to small-scale and artisanal fisheries as a standalone agenda item. This is welcome. The range of activities undertaken since the establishment of the FAO-SSF Umbrella Programme (hereafter, the FAO-SSF-UP) in 2015—in partnership with governments, regional fisheries bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia—towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, is quite significant, and has greatly expanded in scope since the last COFI meeting in 2018.

The initiatives under the FAO-SSF-UP are mostly demand-driven activities. Perhaps the most exciting development of all is the establishment of regional platforms for non-State actors (NSAs) in Southern Africa as well as in Western Africa, and the ongoing effort to create a pan-African NSA platform and to link it up with the SSF Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF).

Supported by FAO-SSF-UP, some countries are already developing national plans of action in a consultative and participatory manner. Others are developing regional approaches to implementation, including with the participation of Indigenous Peoples, or looking at how regional policies are complementing the SSF Guidelines.

The FAO-SSF-UP is complemented in some countries by other donor-supported projects related to women's empowerment, gender equality, small-scale fisheries governance, co-management and climate-change resilience of small-scale fishers. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the project to evaluate, at the global level, the performance of extant fisheries co-management systems, and initiatives to strengthen small-scale fishers' associations and to develop practical guidance on improving gender and social inclusion in coastal fisheries as positive initiatives.

Private foundations, NGOs, universities and research projects, are also supporting efforts to

disseminate information about the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, to facilitate exchange of information on small-scale fisheries, and to improve co-ordination among small-scale fisheries stakeholders. The SSF Guidelines are also being advocated as a tool for achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda, particularly to reach the SDG 14b target.

The FAO-SSF-UP, needless to say, is an eloquent testimony to the continued relevance of the SSF Guidelines in providing direction to the formulation of small-scale fisheries policies, strategies and legislation at the regional and national levels in many developing countries. It also has the potential to be the engine to power the SSF-GSF mechanism.

As was argued in *SAMUDRA Report* over a decade ago (see *SAMUDRA Report* No. 57, November 2010), there is need not only for an international instrument but also a global programme to cater to the needs of the world's small-scale artisanal fisheries. The FAO-SSF-UP, in our view, plays this role, and needs to be comprehensively supported to strengthen, or initiate, national

participatory processes for the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries.

Although over 30 countries have impressively benefited from various initiatives in support of small-scale fisheries since 2016, many small-scale fish-producing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are yet to figure in the list of countries engaging in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The scope of the FAO-SSF-UP might also be broadened to include initiatives to document how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicators measures the social wellbeing of the vulnerable and marginalized in marine and inland fishing communities.

In addition, the FAO-SSF-UP should be encouraged to support monitoring and evaluation of all initiatives under the auspices of all actors involved in implementing the SSF Guidelines. At a time when fishing communities, worldwide, are limping back to their fisheries after being devastated by COVID-19 and the pandemic control measure, it is all the more pertinent to enhance support and to strengthen the FAO-SSF-UP to improve the contribution of small-scale fisheries to livelihoods, as well as to food security and nutrition.



At Sea, Out of Sight

A first-of-its-kind survey in coastal Andhra Pradesh, India, revealed the peculiar vulnerabilities and demands of fishworkers who migrate regularly to Odisha, Karnataka and Gujarat

When the authorities enforced large-scale lockdowns to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vulnerabilities of migrant workers were thrown into high relief. Other than the hardships and challenges that are common to migrant labourers across sectors, migrating fishworkers face certain specific adversities. The International

lockdown. The surveyors were two civil society activists from AP, well versed in the local language, Telugu, and who have significant experience of working with fishworkers. They enquired after not only the migrant fishworkers themselves but also their groups and communities. They were asked about the reasons for migration and their experiences during the COVID-19 crisis.

The fishworkers had been migrating to three locations to work as crew on mechanized boats: Veraval in Gujarat; Malpe in Karnataka; and Paradeep in Odisha. Almost all the respondents have worked in all three locations at some point or the other, adding to the representative nature of their feedback. All of them migrate for better income. Their migration is largely fuelled by relationships of kinship and family. The survey showed its pattern.

Previous surveys and studies have shown that fishworkers from this region have been migrating to as far as Gujarat—the other end of the Indian coastline—since the 1990s, especially to work on multi-day trawlers.

Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) conducted a detailed survey of 14 migrant fishworkers to understand their conditions, their vulnerabilities and what is required to provide them the security and dignity outlined in international labour laws.

The respondents of the survey were from three locations in coastal Andhra Pradesh (AP): across Srikakulam district, across Visakhapatnam district, and from the hamlet of BCV Palem (Boddu Chinna Venkataya Palem) in Korangi, a fishing village in East Godavari district. Previous surveys and studies have shown that fishworkers from this region have been migrating to as far as Gujarat—the other end of the Indian coastline—since the 1990s, especially to work on multi-day trawlers. A 2016 study had estimated the number of migrants from AP to Veraval in Gujarat at 25,000 every season.

The 14 fishworkers were surveyed in the month of June after they had returned to their villages following the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting

Srikakulam district: Five respondents

The respondents from Srikakulam were in two groups. One migrates to Malpe and the other to Veraval. Dhoni Lakshmana Rao, 40, is from D Matsyalesam village of Echherla Mandal. For 20 years now, he has been going to Malpe to work on mechanized fishing boats. Four others from this district had returned from Veraval, where they have been working as crew on mechanized boats for between nine and 16 years. They include: Cheekati China Danayya, 45, from Narasayyapeta; Komara Gurumurthy, 40, of Mohfus Bandar; and Ganagalla Korlayya, 30, who comes from China Ganagalla Peta. All three areas come under Srikakulam Rural. The final respondent from this district is Moogilkkayya, 35, who hails from D Matsyalesam of Echherla Mandal.

*This article, by **Sopan Joshi**, is based on ICSF's fishermen migration survey conducted by **Arjilli Dasu** (arjillidas@rediffmail.com), executive secretary of the District Fishermens Youth Welfare Association, Andhra Pradesh, India; **B.L. Narasimha Raju** (blnrajur992@gmail.com) of Andhra Pradesh, India; and the report prepared by **Venkatesh Salagrama** (vsalagrama@gmail.com), independent consultant based in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The preliminary report was prepared by **Ahana Lakshmi** (ahanalakshmi@gmail.com), an independent researcher based in Chennai, India*

MOOGI APPANNA



Srikakulam migrant fishers are working in Gujarat, India. The diet comprises a breakfast of freshly cooked rice with fish fry; lunch usually features rice and fish curry; dinner consists of chapati and fish curry. Vegetables are served with each meal on Saturdays

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Visakhapatnam district: Four respondents

The migrant fishers from this region go to work as crew in Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. The respondents to the survey, in particular, had returned from Veraval. They included: Koviri Mahesh (Nookaraju), 46; Perla Apparao (Danayya), 48; Perla Dasu (Danayya), 35; and Garikina Mandulodu (Peddayya), 32. They are all from Gangavaram village in Pedagantyada Mandal of the district.

BCV Palem (East Godavari district): Five respondents

Karri Annavaram (Suryanarayana), 35, has been going to Malpe for the last 15 years as crew on a mechanized boat. Previously, he had migrated to Paradeep and Veraval. While he was still living and working in BCV Palem, his father and he fished together on a

wooden shoe-*dhoni*. The catches were meagre and hardly sufficient to meet the family needs. After he got married, his father-in-law Annavaram helped him go to Paradeep, later to Chennai and finally to Malpe. Once he found his feet in the new place, he arranged for around 15 people to find work in Malpe's fisheries, including his father, 10 younger family members, and four young men from the village. His condition improved since he started migrating. Besides, his father being on the same boat gives both of them security and support. Had COVID-19 not forced them back, they had two more months of good fishing left before the monsoon break. Nowadays, he is part of the crew on a Kakinada-based trawler.

Kopanati Peda Acchiraju (also called Bhairava Swamy), 46, and Karri China Suryanarayana (Peda Narayana), 56, have been going to

MOOGI APPANNA



Srikakulam migrant fisherman. In a 29-day trip, they get to take a bath hardly four to eight times. When they bathe, it is mostly with seawater that is washed off with about four small containers of freshwater towards the end.

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Paradeep for the last 10-12 years. Both have previous experience of working on similar boats in Gujarat, Mangalore, Malpe and Chennai. Prior to venturing into mechanized fishing, they were fishing with various kinds of estuarine gears in the creeks and backwaters near BCV Palem. After running up debts, there was no option but to migrate on a long-term basis to Paradeep. Once Acchiraju found his feet, his uncle and his brother-in-law followed him into the seasonal migration. It was the other way round for Suryanarayana; his son and the son's father-in-law had been working in Paradeep and he followed them there.

Pinapothu Mahalakshmi (aka Pentayya Kamaraju), 50, also fished 15 years ago in the creeks near the village on his wooden boat, using estuarine nets—both fixed and drag nets. He found additional income in agricultural labour and net making/repair. Over time, as the family grew, it became difficult to meet the household needs. Moreover, small fishing activities in the village declined, with the wooden boats getting replaced by fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) boats

and the fishing grounds shifting to the sea and the Kakinada Bay; his estuarine gears were of little use there. Faced with problems on several fronts, migration to Paradeep to work on mechanized trawlers offered a way out. The demand for fishing labour meant that the income was good, regular and sufficient for the family's needs. Mahalakshmi spends most of the year on a trawler in Paradeep, visiting home for festivals. Living on the boat for extended periods of time has its disadvantages but Mahalakshmi has made a virtue of a vice. He said it keeps his expenses down and helps him to save enough to pay off his old debts.

Like him, Sangani Gangadhara Rao (aka Chinna Apparao), 57, has also been working as a crew member on a mechanized boat in Paradeep for the past 10 years. Previously, he worked on a similar boat from Kakinada. That did not work out because his expenses were higher than the returns, partly because he found excuses to avoid going to fish. As he watched his daughters grow up, he felt the drive to work harder and earn better. Migration to Paradeep paved the way for that.

Nature of work, life at sea

The migrants who go to Veraval described their work cycle. The fishing operations last eight months (mostly eight trips) in a year. They leave their villages for Veraval by the last week of July. Work begins in the first week of August. Each fishing trip lasts about 25 days; the return to the harbour takes an additional four days. In Malpe, the migrants are engaged only on the larger boats; the smaller boats are crewed by the local fishers. In Veraval and Paradeep, the boats are more uniform in size and the smaller boats of Veraval employ mostly local crew. In Malpe boats employ 10-15 crew members; in Veraval the count is nine; and in Paradip it is eight to nine. They spend one day in the harbour, unloading the catch and loading supplies for the next trip, starting back for fishing that same night. Fishing is carried out some 270 nautical miles from shore. The sale of fish and shrimp from each trip generates about INR 10-15 lakh (USD 14285-USD 21428) in revenue. The operations close in March and by early April they are back home.

Onboard, the fishers hardly get any sleep because sleeping arrangements are poor, leaving the fishers exposed to the elements; rainy months are much worse. In Malpe, it rains June to August; in Paradeep the season is July to August; and in Veraval, it rains from August to November. In a 29-day trip, they get to take a bath hardly four to eight times. When they bathe, it is mostly with seawater that is washed off with about four small containers of freshwater towards the end. The harbour and its surroundings are unhygienic and the facilities are very poor. The occasional stay on land while the boat is getting repaired—or for some other contingency—is not a welcome distraction.

Despite all the hardships, the fishers still choose to migrate because of the assurance of regular monthly salaries. While fishing in their own neighbourhood can fetch between INR 5,000 (USD 71) and INR 10,000 (USD 142) a month, the expenses are much higher when a fisher works on his own and lives with the family—there are opportunities for extravagance. Being stuck onboard for 29 days at a

stretch off the Gujarat shore precludes any opportunities for expenditure, automatically enforcing a discipline of austerity. There is no opportunity to spend the income; the boat owners meet the daily needs. The diet comprises a breakfast of freshly cooked rice with fish fry; lunch usually features rice and fish curry; dinner consists of chapati and fish curry. Vegetables are served with each meal on Saturdays.

Terms of work and payment

When the fishermen spoke about the location of their migration, their responses often overlapped, regardless of whether they were talking about Veraval, Malpe or Paradeep. But when they talked about their own villages, very little was common. It is usual for each group of fishermen to work out their arrangements with the boat owners. This does not happen directly, however, but through the mediation of the *tindels* or skippers. It means the migrant routes tend to be stable and unchanging year after year.

The demand for fishing labour meant that the income was good, regular and sufficient for the family's needs.

There are no written contracts of employment. The mode of payment varies from place to place. In Veraval, the fishing crew are paid on a monthly basis; 40 per cent of the annual salary is paid out in advance and the rest in equal instalments, depending on the mutual agreement. The Srikakulam fishermen said the monthly salary varied from INR 10,000 (USD 142) to INR 12,000 (USD 171); the fishermen from Visakhapatnam said the salary ranged between INR 8,000 (USD 114) and INR 10,000 (USD 142). They do not have any share from the catch returns. The boat owners have very little role in the recruitment, the payment of salaries, or addressing the crews' concerns. All such responsibilities rest with the skippers, who are also migrants hailing from Andhra Pradesh. They have separate agreements with the owners

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Srikakulam migrant fishers. While drinking water was supplied, a single well within the harbour premises was the only source of water for all non-drinking purposes

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to cover all their expenses and earn monthly salaries of INR 25,000 to INR 30,000 (USD 357-USD 428); even INR 35,000 (USD 500), in some cases.

A different mode of payment is used in Malpe and Paradeep where the duration of the fishing trip is seven to 10 days: A share of the catch. The average value of catch fluctuates wildly based on the quantity, variety, quality and season of the fishing. Broadly, the value of catch in each trip is INR 8-12 lakh (USD 11428-USD 17142) in Malpe and INR 3-6 lakh (USD 4285-USD 8570) in Paradip. In Veraval it is at least INR 8 lakh (USD 11428), going up to INR 15-20 lakh (USD 28570-USD 21428). The two groups migrating to Malpe reported slightly different arrangements. The crew's share in the income is 21 per cent, divided among the eight members. Dhoni Lakshmana

Rao of Srikakulam said one share goes to each crew member, while two shares are taken by the captain. The BCV Palem fishers said that after deducting all operational expenses from the gross income, 22 per cent of the income is shared equally among the crew members.

Fishers from BCV Palem going to Paradeep said 17-18 per cent of the income from the catch is shared among the crew members, after deducting operational costs from the gross income. Here, too, the crew has no direct contact with the boat owners; from recruitment to all subsequent dealings, the skipper handles it all. He is also a migrant, usually from the same area as the crew—that's how recruitment happens—but has longer experience and a working relationship with the boat owners.

Migrant fishworker sector: A profile

The respondents were asked to enumerate the migrant fishworkers from their state; their gender; their age groups; and the availability and quality of on-shore accommodation. The responses indicated it is mostly men who migrate. No accommodation was provided in Malpe and Veraval and none of the migrants had a place to stay on shore; they spend 29 days in a month at sea. They said it was impractical and unsafe to take their families with them.

A few Telugu women do migrate and are involved in shore-based activities like supply of ice and water; but they were from areas other than where the respondents had come from. In Malpe, it was estimated that 700 fishers were from AP, of whom 280 were from Srikakulam and 40 from BCV Palem. Fishers from Ichhapuram, Nellore and Kakinada also migrated to Malpe. They ranged in age from 16 years to 55 years.

Respondents who migrate to Veraval said that there were between 12,000 and 15,000 fishers who migrate to other states exclusively for fishing.

Most migrant fishers from BCV Palem go to Paradeep (except for a group that goes to Malpe) and the numbers, according to the respondents, ranged from 160 to 1,000. The men lived on the boat for 25 days at a stretch. They fell in the 25-60 age group, with a majority of them between 40 years and 55 years of age. A few fishers here had taken their families along with them because they speak Odiya; this helped them make a living on their own while the men were away fishing.

COVID-19 crisis: Immediate relief and shelter

The fishers were asked about incidences of COVID-19 among the fishermen. All of them said they had not heard of any fishers testing positive for COVID-19, though they were worried about getting infected. In Malpe the fishermen were in a 45-day quarantine in the Malpe harbour. They were given two masks and medical check-ups were carried out on them twice each day. In Veraval, doctors tested fishers but all the tests came out negative. Both in Paradeep and in BCV Palem, the migrants received good medical attention. They

were quarantined for eight days after their return to AP and allowed to go only after all precautionary conditions had been met. One group from BCV Palem said that they visited the local Community Health Centre upon return to BCV Palem from Paradeep, and were sent to Kakinada for quarantine. Once the period was over, they were tested thoroughly for any symptoms and allowed to go home. Doctors and other medical professionals looked after the fishers well.

Boat owners called in their boats, asking them to stop fishing after 18 March, 2020. The fishers in all three locations returned to their harbour base between 19 and 22 March. They had to stay within the harbour area till they left for home. The Malpe fishers left for their hometowns on 17 May, while the Veraval fishers left on 30 April.

The migrant fishers were asked whether, during the lockdown, they were entitled to food rations,

Despite all the hardships, the fishers still choose to migrate because of the assurance of regular monthly salaries.

good hygienic accommodation, medical facilities, counselling and communication with their families. Were they provided timely and accurate information on COVID-19 in a language they understood?

Fishermen who worked out of Malpe said that, initially, food was reasonable but the quality declined with time. Unable to move out of the harbour area, the option was to go hungry. BCV Palem respondents said that the rice they received initially was undercooked; when they complained, they got overcooked rice. In general, the accommodation in the harbour was unhygienic. While drinking water was supplied, a single well within the harbour premises was the only source of water for all non-drinking purposes.

Good health services were provided to all but no counselling. COVID-19 information was available in Kannada in Malpe, but not in Telugu. While cell phones helped in communication with their families, it only made them feel more lonely and homesick. The

BCV Palem respondents also said that supervisors did not respond adequately or appropriately.

Fishers in Veraval said that they were fed during lockdown and quarantine but the accommodation in the harbour was poor. Health services were good but there was no counselling. While information on COVID-19 was available, it needed to be translated by some of them who knew Gujarati. Communication with families was through cell phones.

In Paradeep, responses varied. Kopanati Peda Acchiraju and Karri China Suryanarayana said that while they remained stuck at Paradeep harbour, each fisherman received five kg of rice, lentils and other groceries to cook their food; both the owners and Odisha government helped with this. The owners paid INR 1,000 (USD 14) as advance and that was the sum total of the help they offered. They spent 45 days in the jetty, during which time there were twice-a-day health checkups. The health workers also provided them with face masks. The owner sent drinking water, but there was no water provision for bathing and other purposes other than one well. Pinapothu Mahalakshmi said that in Odisha, several officers from the police, fisheries and other departments visited the jetty regularly and explained what the novel Coronavirus was about. It became difficult to stay in the harbour indefinitely, with no idea of the future.

Getting back home, compensation

The boat owner in Paradeep booked train tickets for the fishworkers to get back home, but when the trains were cancelled again, he handed each of them INR 1,000 (USD 14) to make their own way back; after the first few days, though, he stopped taking calls from the fishers. (The migrant workers are not sure if that is a handout or an advance.) They walked about 85 km to Cuttack where they had heard that a Telugu-owned transport company was helping migrants back home. During quarantine at Ichapuram on the border, they received good food and tea. There were hygienic kitchens and good medical facilities; the fishers were able to charge their phones, talk to their families and keep up-to-date

with everything. However, the INR 2,000 (USD 28) promised by the AP government was not forthcoming. One group received essential food items from volunteers on their return to the village; the state government provided ration four times and gave a one-time cash allowance of INR 1,000 (USD 14). No compensation was provided for the loss of fishing days and opportunities.

Those returning from Malpe also denied getting this cash. They said boat owners who had been supportive earlier were not so forthcoming this time around. Fishers returning from Veraval to Srikakulam said that about 30 per cent of them received INR 2,000 (USD 28) compensation. According to fishers returning to Visakhapatnam from Veraval, until now, no government officer has shown interest to know about their situation or to offer any assistance. When the fishers approach them, they reply that they have no information or orders to support the fishers.

The migrant fishworkers were asked if they were repatriated to their villages under government arrangements; if not, who had borne the costs. The responses were varied. Migrant fishermen from Srikakulam in Malpe said that each of them had raised INR 4,400 (USD 62) from boat owners to pay for the bus journey back home. It took them two days to go from Malpe to Srikakulam, where they were quarantined for two weeks, followed by another six days of quarantine in the villages before meeting their families. They said that their travel expenses were INR 2,000 (USD 28). They had not received the relief promised to help them tide over the quarantine period. BCV Palem migrants in Malpe said that they raised INR 4,000 (USD 57) each to find their way back to their villages.

From Veraval to Srikakulam or Visakhapatnam cost the fishers INR 3,000 (USD 42) each that they raised from boat owners. The group from Visakhapatnam said that the state governments of AP and Gujarat had discussed their repatriation several times. The fishers had tried their best to pressure them into prompt action. There was a proposal to send the workers back by sea route on a ship, but this was abandoned in favour of bus transport.

Relief and assistance

The migrants were asked if they had been receiving help from other quarters. The Srikakulam group from Malpe said that they had not received any support from anyone. The group from Veraval said the same. While they were in Veraval, the AP government had arranged to distribute to each of the migrant fishers 10 kg of rice, blankets, groceries for cooking, soaps, mosquito nets and masks. The Veraval group from Visakhapatnam said aside from a dry ration kit provided by the NGO District Fishermens Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA)—itself quite inadequate—they had not received any support from any other source, government, NGOs or otherwise.

The BCV Palem group from Malpe said that the Boat Union association provided food from day four onwards because their food stocks did not last beyond the third day. Back in BCV Palem, the state government supplied rations in four cycles along with INR 1,000 (USD 14) per family as immediate assistance.

Some local philanthropists (Boddu Satyanarayana and Voleti Jaggarao) as well as the local shrimp processing units like Apex provided the fishers with rice and other essential supplies. The Member of the Legislative Assembly of Yanam, Malladi Krishna Rao, supplied vegetables to every household in the village. More recently, ICSF helped a small number of fishers with a package of essential items.

What do the migrant fishworkers demand?

Their list of suggestions and demands is long, be it related to recruitment, working and living conditions, or social protection. The responses were quite similar on this count, pointing to a clear path of common action.

Those who go to Malpe and Veraval demanded written contractual agreements directly with the boat owners, signed in the presence of officials of the two state governments and the local boat owners' associations in Malpe; these bodies should vouch for the agreement. They demanded identity cards and the reduction in the duration of fishing voyage from 29 days to 15 days, letting the crew rest for at

least five days in a month; this led to the demand that the harbour premises need cleanliness and maintenance. The captains, they urged, should be instructed to avoid fishing near the Pakistan border. They need insurance cover because those who die or suffer accidents at sea are not protected at all just now, covered neither by the boat owners nor the state governments, even though the boats are insured. They demanded bio-toilets on the boat for safety and convenience; fishers sometimes fall overboard while relieving themselves, in the absence of toilets.

They need the same support and services that the AP government extends to other fishers in the state. The fishers said that if mini-jetties were built in AP and they were provided boats and nets at 90 per cent subsidy, they will not need to migrate for work.

They said that the monthly salary must be enhanced from INR 15,000 (USD 214) to INR 20,000 (USD 285).

The average value of catch fluctuates wildly based on the quantity, variety, quality and season of the fishing.

Some portion of the income from fishing revenue is set apart from the sharing process (Veraval does not have a sharing system); the respondents said this amount should also be shared with the crew. They said sharing patterns differ between the boats that have skippers from Tamil Nadu and those from Karnataka. While the owners pay impartially, how the skippers pay the crew depends on their whims. This needs to stop, they said; recruitment is best handled by the owners directly, making them responsible for the needs and well-being of the crew.

All information, warnings and other notices should be provided in Telugu, they said; the boat owners should pay for the travel expenses incurred on account of the lockdown, compensating the fishers for the loss of two good months of fishing.

Location, location, location

Paradeep migrants said their conditions were better than those who stayed and worked in their villages. They received regular salaries and are looked after well. Only an emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic left them in need of support that was difficult to find. They called for a systematic approach to support migrant fishers in emergencies. One part of it will have to be improved facilities to rest in the harbour after the fishing trips. During the COVID-19 lockdown they had to spend several days in the harbour, putting up with poor amenities.

Several of their demands were the same as those of the migrants of Malpe and Veraval: accountability from the boat owners; toilets on the boats; insurance; emergency cover; and identity cards, among other things. A

Respondents who migrate to Veraval said that there were between 12,000 and 15,000 fishers who migrate to other states exclusively for fishing.

major difference was how the Paradeep migrants wanted to deal with the boat owner; they were happy with the captain as the via media. They thought direct contact with the owner put the worker at a disadvantage on account of difference in language. They also thought the owners were on their home turf in Paradeep, while the workers were not, reducing their ability to drive a bargain.

The reaction to the question of insurance was different, too. Some fishers of BCV Palem said in case of a fatal accident, the deceased fisher's family receives a compensation of INR 50,000 (USD 714), contributed from a common fund set up by the skippers in Paradeep. In earlier times, the Paradeep fishers said, the owners arranged for medical treatment of a migrant who had fallen ill. If the treatment was prolonged, they arranged for the worker to return home.


Pinapothu Mahalakshmi said that each fisherman has an insurance policy, but no savings schemes nor other

government support programmes. Every fisherman has his own cell phone. The state government relays weather warnings and organizes a meeting with all people in the harbour every 10 days to give advice on safety practices.

Skilled but unrecognized

When asked if they considered themselves skilled, all the respondents responded in the affirmative, citing their considerable experience of fishing. They knew swimming and signalling and were adept at using different kinds of fishing gear – trawl, long-line and hand lines, for example.

Malpe migrants said that they knew their fishing grounds lie between 13°N and 17°N; that if they travelled closer to 18°N, they would reach Mumbai. They know how to operate a global positioning system (GPS) and put it to regular use on their boats.

In addition, Paradeep's migrant fishers said that since there was no difference in fishing between Kakinada and Paradeep, they found it easy to adapt to the fishing systems there. Gangadhara Rao is partially blind on account of having only one eye but is a skilled fisherman. He is of advanced age and hence in charge of cooking and is a good cook—an example of the diverse skills that go into migrant fisher's work. 

For more

ICSF's Survey of Migrant Fishers and Fishworkers during COVID-19, India

<https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/India%20Migrant%20fishworkers%20survey.pdf>

India: Left in the lurch

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Inter-state migration of fishers from Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

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Reboot Overdue

Small-scale fishworkers face many challenges in Peru but the government pays little attention to the informal and unregulated sector

Peru's marine waters are among the world's richest fisheries. This is mainly due to the Peruvian anchovy fishery (*anchoveta*), mostly run by industrial operations producing yields of 3-6 million tonnes per year in the last five years. Small-scale fisheries also play a significant role, with species such as giant squid (yield of 500,000 tonnes in 2019), mahi-mahi, horse mackerel, jack mackerel and white tuna. Small-scale fishing has placed Peru among the three largest producers in the world for all five species.

Landings from the small-scale segment—both for export and domestic markets—account for 70 per cent of the total labour force in the country's fishing sector.

Yet the government has historically neglected small-scale fisheries management, for several reasons.

The Ministry of Production, for example, is more interested in industrial operations, especially fishmeal production. The government pays little attention to small-scale fisheries; this has resulted in poor quality in management and a highly informal sector. That, too, in a country where economic activities often have a high degree of informality.

At the turn of this century the Congress of the Republic of Peru approved a decentralization process aimed at counterbalancing the extreme centralization of power in the 1990s. Even those involved in this movement to democratize fisheries acknowledge the weaknesses at the implementation level: Small-scale fisheries were no exception to the general problem.

Currently, small-scale fisheries face important challenges. One, the number of fishworkers and vessels has significantly increased. The Instituto del Mar de Perú (IMARPE, Peru's Institute of Marine Science) carried out

three structural surveys of the sector, in 1995, 2006 and 2015.

They show that Peruvian fleets increased threefold in three decades: from 6,268 vessels in 1995 and 9,667 in 2006, to 17,920 in 2015. The number of fishworkers increased more than twofold, from 28,143 in the first survey to 67,427 in the last.

Two, the uncontrolled growth of the fishing fleet has brought together competing vessels with highly unequal fishing capacities in inshore waters, especially within one mile from the coastline. This has put lots of pressure on habitats and stocks because juveniles and spawning stocks concentrate in

Small-scale fishing has placed Peru among the three largest producers in the world for all five species.

coastal areas. Besides, several fisheries, especially coastal operations, have experienced a decrease in their catch per unit effort. In other words, costs are increasing at higher rates than catches.

Three, small-scale activities present a high degree of informality; informal operations are easier and more profitable. This gets intensified by the public administration, which encourages informality through endless red tape and arbitrary requirements for, say, professional registration as a fishworker or for a vessel's licence. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown this into high relief, showing that officially-registered fishworkers are a minority of around 20 per cent of the total.

Even though these types of fisheries often experience oversupply, accompanied by collapse of landing

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prices, the challenges outlined above have made these episodes more frequent. Without any previous coordination, a segment of the fleet concentrates efforts on one single species, such as giant squid; processing plants and storage facilities cannot fully absorb this excessive supply and part of it is, therefore, diverted to illegal fishmeal production.

Similarly, mackerel and horse mackerel are also captured by several dozens of industrial vessels, large-scale fleets that normally target anchovy. Part of the catch is marketed fresh at very low prices, bringing down the income of small-scale fishermen who try to sell the same type of fish when this happens.

Price collapse at landing sites does not necessarily imply a significant price reduction further down the value chain. This is a source of conflict, especially within the highly specialized giant squid fishery. Middlemen are ubiquitous in informal operations; they compete for the product with industrial processors or exporters.

In addition, the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management

Organization (SPRFMO) gives preference to the interests of industrial fisheries over artisanal fishing. This is happening when Chinese fleets targeting giant squid in the South Pacific region have increased significantly: from 254 fishing boats in 2012 to 516 in 2019. Small-scale operations have repeatedly denounced the entry of these vessels in the 200-mile zone.

The high seas are not under Peru's jurisdiction but the country has legitimate interests in these waters, such as decreasing fishing pressure in the area adjacent to its coastal waters, where small-scale vessels capture their main target species, giant squid (500,000 tonnes a year!).

Small fleets also face raids and attacks, with 18 fishermen killed and around 50 injured. Mainly the victims are small-sized boats without a large crew to protect them. They still contain valuable engines and equipments that can be easily taken away and sold in second-hand markets in, for example, Ecuador.

Although small-scale fisheries' rights to resources are recognized, in practice they cannot be fully exercised.

JUAN CARLOS SUEIRO



Traditional humid, salted, horse mackerel at the Chimbote Market, Peru. Price collapse at landing sites does not necessarily imply a significant price reduction further down the value chain

JUAN CARLOS SUEIRO



Beach landing of a craft, Cerro Azul, Lima, Peru. Small-scale activities present a high degree of informality; informal operations are easier and more profitable

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When industrial fleets target the same species as artisanal fleets, such as giant squid, small-scale fishermen's rights of access to these resources are often undermined. Other stocks have suffered the same problem in the past.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of building public participation: Citizens should be empowered to put into question poor public services or corrupt practices. Among fishing communities, women's empowerment needs support. Women are actively involved in fish processing and marketing; they are more concerned about the health and education of household members; their presence is more permanent in the family, as men tend to spend longer periods at sea.

General elections are to be held in Peru in April 2021, when the country will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence. It is

a timely opportunity to reflect on all the challenges facing the fishing sector. The current government is an interim one after the previous president stepped down. It cannot address issues such as the re-establishment of a Fisheries Ministry, the legislative updates the sector needs or the necessary administrative simplification and red tape reduction. Yet, whichever government comes out successful in the ballots in 2021, it will have to discuss these issues in earnest.

For more



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<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/black-market-anchovies-report-details-perus-illegal-fish-meal-industry/>

A Large Ocean State Seeks Change

Vulnerability to climate change has forced the Pacific republic to build resilience through community approaches to fisheries management

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The Republic of Kiribati faces many development challenges due to its remoteness and limited resources—financial, infrastructural, institutional and environmental. With population pressure increasing, land is not only scarce but at a perilously low elevation. Kiribati is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Hence it is often being portrayed in the media as a victim of climate change, with low-lying islands being submerged by the rising sea level. While there is nothing they can do to prevent climate change,

of fish to the domestic population—in other words, food and nutrition. Annual per capita fish consumption is high at an estimated 62.2 kg, providing a very important source of protein. Kiribati has the lowest gross domestic product per capita in the Pacific and is listed by the United Nations among the Least Developed Countries.

Climate change threatens its coastal fisheries. The productivity for coral reef fish and invertebrates is projected to decline by 20 per cent by 2050; its direct effects include increased sea surface temperatures and the indirect effects include changes to fish habitats. Combined with population growth, these pressures can further reduce the potential share of reef fish per person. Aquaculture will also suffer from some mixed impacts, with potentially positive impacts on milkfish pond production while higher water temperatures and rainfall and/or increased ocean acidification are likely to have gradual negative impacts on seaweed and giant clams culture. Sand movement and build-up could see the conversion of intertidal areas into subtidal areas, which could cause an impact on shellfish production. Oceanic fisheries, accounting for a large proportion of the government revenue, are expected to fluctuate but could benefit overall from an expected increase in catches of skipjack and yellowfin tuna.

...leaders and residents of the Pacific nation are forging ahead with a number of initiatives to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change...

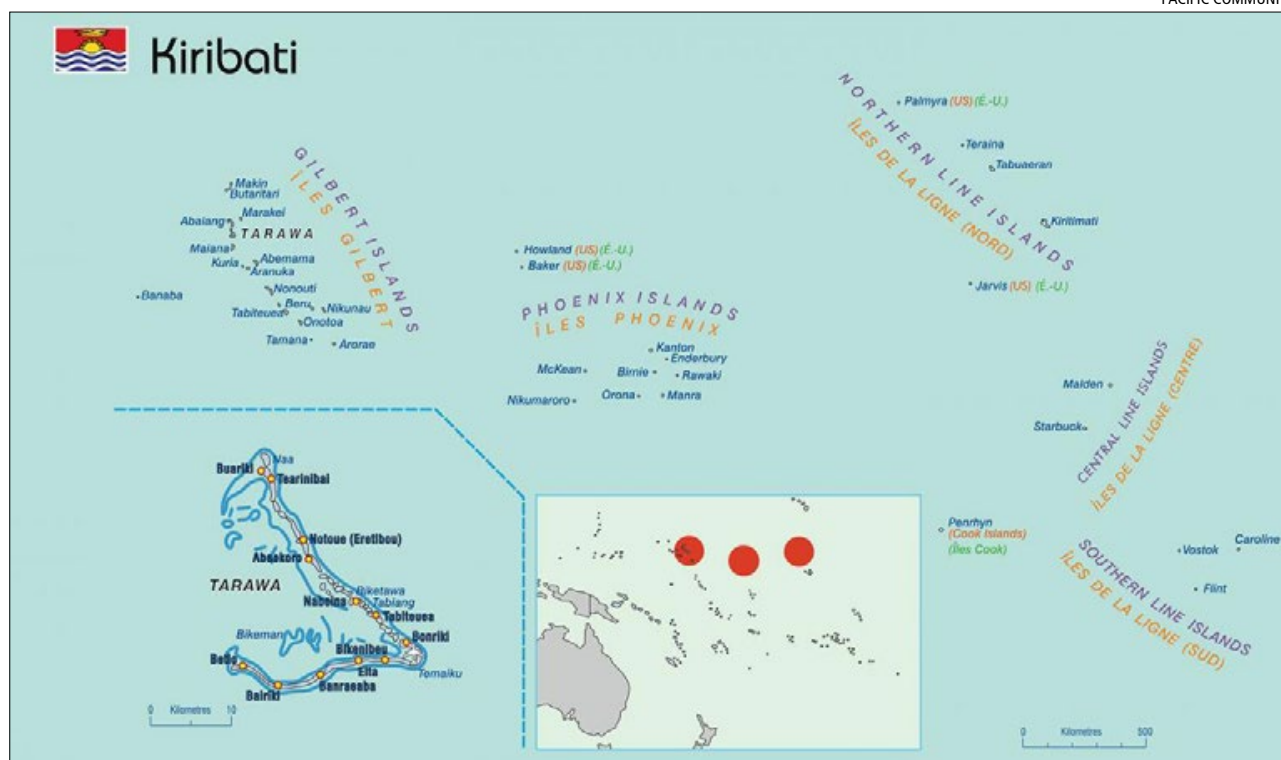
leaders and residents of the Pacific nation are forging ahead with a number of initiatives to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of their communities.

Kiribati comprises 33 islands dispersed over a large area in the Central Pacific Ocean. While its land mass is about 810 sq km, its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), covering 3.6 million sq km, makes Kiribati a “large ocean state”. Its population was over 110,000 in the 2015 Census, 57 per cent of which resides primarily in a peri-urban environment. Kiribati depends heavily on fisheries. A large proportion of the national income comes from fees for tuna fishing licences. However, coastal fisheries support livelihoods and, more importantly, the supply

Alternative options

Given the lack of any alternative livelihood options, marine and coastal ecosystems in Kiribati are increasingly overexploited. Kiribati needs to manage its fisheries sustainably to improve food

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Map of the republic of Kiribati. Kiribati is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Hence it is often being portrayed in the media as a victim of climate change, with low-lying islands being submerged by the rising sea level

and nutritional security. Specifically, the management of coastal fisheries is critical for a population that relies heavily on the resources for its daily intake of protein.

It is not the only country in the Pacific region, however, facing such threats and challenges. As a result, the Heads of Fisheries of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have committed to give prominence to the sustainable management of coastal fisheries. Pacific leaders and other stakeholders have agreed upon a new framework—‘A New Song for Coastal Fisheries – Pathways to Change: The Noumea Strategy’—that establishes a set of principles and outcomes to guide the efforts of governments. In this framework, coastal communities have been identified as the vehicle to drive change. Community-based fisheries management or CBFM, a form of co-management, relies on a set of principles adapted to local contexts and increase the likelihood that coastal communities will have the ability to adapt to change and absorb shocks.

In Kiribati, the intrinsic co-relationship between communities

and the marine environment means that the management of coastal resources by communities is not a new phenomenon. However, increasing population pressure, technology improvement, globalized threats and erosion of traditional ecological knowledge mean that new forms of community-based approaches to fisheries management are needed.

In 2014, the Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development (MFMRD), with the support of the Australian government, piloted a CBFM project. The purpose was to reinvigorate community engagement, giving it a central role in fisheries management with the support of government partners at the national and island levels.

The CBFM project initially worked with five communities. In the first three years, the project worked to build relationships, established a locally acceptable and socially inclusive process of engagement, assisted pilot communities in establishing fisheries management rules and worked with national and island agencies on creating an enabling environment for CBFM.

An important aspect of the approach was to build the capacity of communities to come together and act collectively.

The project endeavoured to break down misconceptions around CBFM. Early on in the project, communities were sceptical of the sincerity of seeking their input; they doubted whether the national agencies would accept the rules created locally. On the other hand, staff in the national agency questioned the ability of communities to meaningfully be involved and provide accurate information. A number of staff were also cautious as to whether CBFM would mean their job would no longer be relevant if communities were to make management decisions.

Those misconceptions slowly gave way through participation in the project. Knowledge around CBFM principles increased. Government staff had the opportunity to build their capacity on community engagement through “learning by doing”. More

on establishing a process culturally acceptable but ultimately socially inclusive. Traditionally, women and youths might not feel they have an opinion or can voice their ideas. The project found that providing a space to discuss issues of sex or age-based groups before holding joint meetings helped build confidence for all groups to speak up. The legitimacy of the process being approved by community leaders also helped women and youths in their willingness to provide inputs.

Since its pilot stage, the CBFM project has now grown to become embedded in the programmes of the Coastal Fisheries Division of MFMRD. The project has now reached 60 communities in the Gilbert group through information provision to deeper engagement with communities. A subset of communities has established its own set of community rules codified in management plans.

Community rules are locally adapted and include provisions such as banning destructive fishing methods, looking after coastal habitats and creating local marine protected areas. Communities and (sub)national partners exchange knowledge and lessons to gain support for their initiatives. Communities have established their own local structure—namely, village CBFM Committees—to enforce the rules and get advice and support from the national agency to monitor the effectiveness of rules and adapt their management accordingly.

In terms of co-ordination, communities have also sought to get support for their initiatives from their neighbours. In their own words, communities engaged in the CBFM project see themselves as the stewards of the coastal environment and want their actions to be for the benefit of the whole of Kiribati. As a result, information is shared, more communities are getting involved and island-wide CBFM committees have been created to establish a whole-of-island approach to coastal fisheries management. At the national level, MFMRD provides an enabling and supportive environment by including CBFM in its 2019 Coastal Fisheries Regulation. MFMRD also recognises that the management of coastal

importantly, communities and government staff recognized that through CBFM, each of them have roles and responsibilities. Strong partnerships and dialogue among key stakeholders could only strengthen the management of Kiribati coastal fisheries.

An important aspect of the approach was to build the capacity of communities to come together and act collectively. The project staff established the ‘maneaba approach’ to guide the process. The maneaba is the traditional place where communities come to meet and openly discuss affairs of the village. The project decided to work under the maneaba to give legitimacy to decisions made on coastal fisheries management. The maneaba approach also provided an avenue for respecting the voices of women, youths and other marginalised groups.

The CBFM project works closely with community leaders to gain legitimacy for all voices in a community to be heard and to find guidance



Women's group meeting to discuss management plan under the village maneaba. The maneaba is the traditional place where communities come to meet and openly discuss affairs of the village

fisheries requires perspectives, support and coordination from numerous other national agencies including Environment, Health, Internal Affairs and Women and Youth Affairs. MFMRD established a National CBRM Taskforce to lead those efforts.

Kiribati continues to push sustainable management of coastal fisheries to sustain the supply of fish for food and nutritional security, and to provide resilience to shocks. The initiatives taken by communities continue to be monitored for adaptive management and to increase knowledge and capacity. Although 60 communities in 10 islands have been reached by CBFM in Kiribati, more than 100 communities remain.

Scaling up CBFM is a national and regional priority. Lessons learned and shared through co-ordinated initiatives are fundamental to build momentum and enhance the spread and role of

CBFM in the sustainable management of coastal fisheries nationally, regionally and globally. For instance, the initiative of the government of Kiribati to chair and lead a new Commonwealth Blue Charter Action group on sustainable coastal fisheries provides a timely forum for countries to come together and collectively act to maintain the benefits provided by coastal fisheries worldwide.

For more



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Reform Agenda for Empowering Women

A study of three fishing communities shows only with empowerment can women occupy positions of power in fisheries cooperatives

What do young fisherwomen in Belize need? How can decent work and empowerment come to them? A collaboration among three bodies addressed these questions; they included the Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association (BFCA), the International Collective in Support of

As of September 2020, there are 2,953 registered commercial fisherfolk in Belize, of whom 72 are women. In addition, women are employed in fish-processing activities; many were employed in shrimp trawling and farming before the early mortality syndrome (EMS) hit vannamei shrimp farming in Belize.

Women display strong responsibility towards improving the structures of fishing organizations. They have to share additional responsibilities alongside domestic duties. All fishers in Belize, both women and men, enjoy equal rights. They use similar licences and operate in the same areas while abiding by the country's fisheries laws.

In September-October 2020, BFCA executive director Sydney Fuller, a fisher himself, along with Nadine Nembhard, administrative officer of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations, visited three fishing communities in the Corozal District of Belize. Situated in the northern part of Belize, it had 783 licensed fisherfolk as of September 2020. The fishing communities visited were Sarteneja, Copper Bank and Chunox. In addition, they visited the two fish exporting cooperatives located in the Belize District, which has 1,209 licensed fisherfolk as of September 2020. The National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd and the Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd receive lobster and conch for local consumption and export.

There are many fisherwomen in Sarteneja village. Only 15 women were interviewed from the 4,500 inhabitants.

Women display strong responsibility towards improving the structures of fishing organizations. They have to share additional responsibilities alongside domestic duties.

Fishworkers (ICSF) and CoopeSoliDar RL. In addition, the organizations proposed to enhance the knowledge of young women in Belizean fisheries.

BFCA functions like a bridge between the Government of Belize (GOB) and the commercial fishing industry. The issues covered include legislation, and social and economic matters pertaining to commercial fishing since its inception on October 23, 1970. The BFCA board members consist of bona fide fishers from the only three existing fishing cooperatives, as also other fishers who are not members of the cooperatives. BFCA is the only true voice of the Belizean commercial fisherfolk.

Women are involved in the job of capturing molluscs (conch), crustaceans (lobster) and finfish in the intertidal zones, shallow waters and reefs for subsistence and export. Three per cent of licensed fishers are women.

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NADINE NEMBHARD/ BELIZE FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



National Fishermen Cooperative Society Limited, Belize. Women display strong responsibility towards improving the structures of fishing organizations

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The women were very receptive and seemed accustomed to visitors and possible projects that can improve income. There are two different tourist businesses in the village: homestays and fishing tours. In homestays, the women refurbish their homes with comfortable rooms to accommodate visiting tourists. Fishing tours involve their husbands who take the tourists out fishing. The women prepare fish meals for the tourists, sell their fish catch at the markets and clean the fish traps. The women hope to expand their business by adding more rooms, private bathrooms and improved kitchens featuring new refrigerators and microwave ovens.

Chunox, a popular fishing village in the Corozal District, is located on the east bank of Laguna Seca, towards the south end of the lagoon. According to the 2000 census, Chunox had a population of 1,143 and is still a small village. At least half of the community is made up of fisherfolk. Women in Chunox traditionally undertake tasks like cooking and sewing. Job

opportunities are scarce so they try to make ends meet by opening small shops, and planting vegetables and other produce for sale. The majority of the women are housewives who take care of their children. But times are changing and the women are now interested in finding work outside the home. One woman interviewed said she is not comfortable depending on her husband. She has opened a small business at home by selling groceries and clothing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she had to suspend a small business at the local school that was providing snacks for the students. As the deputy chairperson of the village, she is interested in supporting her community by providing training opportunities for the other women so that they can contribute financially to their households.

Generations-old tradition

Another fisherwoman and her family shared their generations-old tradition of catching fish. In a school of fish, there will always be one specific fish,

small or big, that will bring luck. That is put in a bottle of seawater, and each time the family member returns from the sea, the biggest fish is fed with blood. This is supposed to guarantee a good catch during future fishing trips.

Copper Bank, the third community visited, is a fishing village with a population of 500, of whom 150 are fisherfolk. The women are involved in small businesses preparing food for sale. Several young women are interested in setting up their own businesses outside the village. This is because the population is too small to accommodate any more businesses locally. Some of the women add value to the fish products, while others try to run Internet cafes and beauty salons.

Barbara Bradley, General Manager at the National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd (NFC), reminisces about

...one must remember that the most important people in the community are the fisherfolk who are loyal to the cooperative.

the countless opportunities provided through educational grants to the children of cooperative members, ranging from those in high school to those in junior college. Some recipients eventually seek employment outside the sector and land jobs as lawyers, doctors and bankers. Unfortunately, in 2020, the scholarship grant programme will come to an end. To run a successful cooperative, Bradley reminds us, one must remember that the most important people in the community are the fisherfolk who are loyal to the cooperative. Over the past 53 years of its existence, the society has been solvent and members have been receiving good returns for their investments. Bradley believes the fisherfolk leaders should be trained in basic computer skills.

This year the cooperative is paying 100 per cent up front for all marine product sales, the result of a price war with the private sector players. Earlier, the fishers were able to get a

part of their payment on delivery and the balance shortly after the close of the fishing season. Bradley believes, the two cooperatives in Belize need to work together for the betterment of the industry.

The second visit to NFC was to the processing plant. Fuller interacted with the women to find out their perception of their role as women in the fishing industry. The women responded that they like their jobs for the income they provide for their households. They added that they are proud of Bradley, their general manager, and many expressed ambitions to one day step into her shoes.

Maria Allen, a fisherwoman and manager at the NFC plant in Caye Caulker, who has been fishing for over 15 years, said that her dad was a fisher himself and a founding member of NFC. She learnt a lot about fishing by going out to sea with her father from an early age. She was the one who introduced her husband to fishing. They now have two grown-up sons who fish with them. Together, they build their own lobster traps and go fishing in both shallow waters and the deep sea, sometimes also for conch.

Robert Usher, NFC's general manager, said that he has been working almost all his adult life at this cooperative. After graduating with a degree in marketing, he has worked here since 1976 and has participated in the many struggles. The future of fishing depends entirely upon how we conserve the resource and the cooperative movement will survive despite the problems, he added.

Jaime Velasquez, plant manager of NFC, said that they employ 18-20 permanent workers in the processing plant and 12-14 additional seasonal workers, all women. In June they hire the seasonal workers who work for five to six months. The working hours are from 7 am to 7 pm, with several breaks totalling an hour and a half. The off-season timings are from 7:30 am to 5 pm, with a total of two hours of breaks per day. The peak work occurs during the first four to six weeks of the lobster and conch seasons.

Senior member

Geraldine Usher, NFC's most senior processing staff member, is now 60 years old. She has been with the cooperative since the age of 17. She has been packing lobster for many years and says she can do her job with her eyes closed. She adds that her work is at times frustrating, yet she loves her work. She believes it is better to have a secure job than to be unemployed. Too many unemployed young women, she says, are vulnerable to exploitation because of their need to survive. Usher encourages young women to seek employment in the fishing industry, even if part-time.

The women's work in processing lobster tails and conches is strenuous. The cooperative currently processes two 20-foot containers, amounting to an average weekly output of 40,000-42,000 lb. The women work every day, including Saturdays and Sundays. Currently, they are processing 7,000 lb to 9,000 lb of conches per day. No other processing plant in Belize has been able to consistently match that level of production.

Those hired over the past decade are very committed in this work routine, fitting into different roles in the cooperative as cleaners, packers and secretaries. The plant manager is proud of his motivated employees who often work late and even on weekends. Without them operations would come to a standstill, he said.

Most of the permanent full-time employees have been working at the cooperative for 10 years or more and are part of its development. Their inter-relationships are good and most of the women know each other well. They are eligible for all social security benefits.

The needs of the women in the three fishing communities studied are similar: Skills training, education and capacity building, microfinance options and training in information and communications technology (ICT).

One recommendation for BFCA is the refurbishment of its existing building to make office space available for rental, which will bring additional income.



Maria Allen building lobster traps, Caye Caulker, Belize. The women prepare fish meals for the tourists, sell their fish catch at the markets and clean the fish traps

The study revealed that though the women in the sector are able and willing to participate in the fisheries value chain, they need training and capacity building. Otherwise, the predominance of men in leadership positions, even in households, will continue. Only the empowerment of women can make visible their leadership skills and potential.

For more

Belize Fishermen Cooperative Association

<https://www.facebook.com/Belize-Fishermen-Cooperative-Association-276086746385152/>

Belize: Free to Move

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/78-4332-Free-to-Move.html>

National Fisher's Co-Op

<https://www.nationalfisherscoop.com/>

Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organizations (CNFO)

<https://cnfo.fish/>

Crashing the Blue Party

Confronted with plans for an offshore wind farm, the fishers of the Bay of Saint Brieuc in France are clamouring for their rights to be respected and guaranteed

“It is important to highlight that the millions of people who, to this day, still rely on ocean space for their lives and livelihoods—specifically, small-scale fishers—have, for the most part, not been invited to the blue party. This poses very tricky political questions for fisher movements and allies. Some are trying to arrange an invitation into the blue economy, believing that this is the surest way to secure rights to their

request is intended to provide a transparent response to the questions asked by professionals,” according to the report by the Fisheries Committee. The fishers say they have “taken a club to the head”, following the company’s refusal to give a clear response to their repeated requests for clarification and assurances about the project’s impacts. Preparatory work for the construction of 62 huge 216-metre-high wind turbines has been well underway; the government is eager to see France finally get its first offshore field, while the countries bordering the North Sea already have thousands of wind turbines (2,225 in the United Kingdom, against only one in France).

The fishers and the Fisheries Committee have not, *a priori*, rejected the project, as they are aware of the need for energy transition—but not at any price. “Future prospects for the fishery, its fishers, the resources in the Bay of Saint Brieuc and the local economy are at stake. This is an ambitious project of colossal scale that could make our department a showcase and a model of intelligent association between the world of fishing and that of new energies,” the fishers say.

Observation period

“A wind farm could be installed provided that it is well managed, and that it is located away from Zone 3 (state services) so that fishers can continue to practise fishing with dredges. After a period of observation, fishing and wind turbines can coexist. The installation of an offshore wind farm in the Bay of Saint Brieuc seems inevitable. The collaboration of fishers and project leaders must be carried out under the best possible conditions for both parties. For my part, having seen the size of the park in Denmark,

The collaboration of fishers and project leaders must be carried out under the best possible conditions for both parties.

fishing grounds. Others, however, are more sceptical, having witnessed how the blue growth agenda pushes small-scale fishers into an impossible corner.”

– Zoe W. Brent, Mads Barbesgaard, and Carsten Pedersen in *The Blue Fix: Unmasking the Politics behind the Promise of Blue Growth*.

On 10 December 2020, following the meeting of the management committee of the offshore wind farm project, the fishers of the Bay of Saint Brieuc, a commune in the Cotes-d’Armor department of Brittany in northwestern France, refused to continue the dialogue with the company Ailes Marines, a subsidiary of the Spanish multinational Iberdrola. “We refuse to waste our time with companies that don’t respect us,” they said. They deplored the fact that “Ailes Marines has made a mockery of the fisheries committees and state services”.

“Ailes Marines preferred to take our recommendations as additional requests...but they did not understand that this is in their interest, as our

This article is by **Alain Le Sann** (ad.lesann@orange.fr), Co-President of the International Pêcheurs du Monde (Fishers of the World), Lorient, France



Dredgers in the port of Paimpol, France. A wind farm could be installed provided that it is well managed, so that fishers can continue to practise fishing with dredges

it seems important to me to be able to work inside it (dredge),” according to a fisherman quoted in the report of the study group of fishers who went to Denmark in November 2010.

Since 2012, the fishers have been engaged in a long consultation process for the choice of the zone, the type and method of installation, and the links with the land. They have obtained results that should enable them to guarantee the continuation of fishing near the wind farm. But several phenomena have contributed to the deterioration of the relations between the fishers and Ailes Marines, to the point of their seeking the cancellation of the project.

On several occasions, preparatory work was undertaken without giving the fishers timely notice and without taking into account their fishing schedule. At sea, the fishers were furious and intervened against the presence of boats carrying out

soundings in the area. They received the support of local associations that were opposed to the project as well as that of an environmentalist association, Robin Hood. The latter, contrary to the majority of the large environmental organizations supporting the project, denounced the industrialization of the sea for the benefit of powerful multinational companies and financial groups interested—through a heavily subsidized project to the tune of Euro 25 billion over 20 years—and ensures juicy profits, in the name of supporting innovation. The fishers are vehemently opposed to the privatization of their traditional working space. They realize that this is only the first manifestation of the “blue acceleration” that threatens to achieve at sea “what we have already done on land”. The blue economy will marginalize or even exclude them. Moreover, the context of Brexit and the difficulties linked to the COVID-19 crisis are exacerbating tensions.

“We are not fishers but gardeners of the sea: in the 60 years since we started fishing, we have protected the seabeds. And today we are going to destroy all the work we have been doing for years,” said one fisherman. For the fishers, the Bay of Saint Brieuc is “the nest of the Channel”, a place where many species reproduce and feed. For decades, they have implemented management programmes, particularly for scallops, that enable them to provide a base for a thriving inshore fishery. In fact, they have found that the area chosen for the wind farm, because it was less productive, has now turned out to become a high-production area. They are, therefore, demanding scientific studies on the impacts of wind farms before any work is started.

...the fisheries committees have chosen to work together, but the majority of fishers remain very suspicious and have refused financial compensation...

The Northern European Advisory Committees have expressly asked the European Commission (EC) to initiate in-depth studies on the impacts of wind farms on fisheries and the marine environment. Scientists may claim that the negative impacts will be limited and temporary, on the basis of botched and questionable studies. They can promise positive impacts that can compensate for the losses, but the fishers are sceptical about modelling that is based on examples that do not take into account the diversity of ecosystems. The oceanographic institution Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER) has called for special attention to be paid to spawning and nursery areas.

The fishers know that their fishing strategies and the ecosystems will necessarily be modified, even if they are guaranteed continued fishing near the wind turbines, as they employ mainly dragging engines for shellfish and fish. This promise is also questionable, as fishing is practically forbidden near the North Sea wind farms. They are also very worried about the impact of

the noise generated by the construction work, which is highly disruptive to marine animals. They have also prevailed on Ailes Marines to opt for drilling installation instead of pile driving for piles that will descend to 30 m below the seabed. But no proof has been provided that the noise impacts and turbidity will be reduced.

Finally, the fishers are concerned about the significant discharges of metal (aluminium and zinc) generated by the anodes that protect the offshore installations from corrosion. Some experiments have been launched to develop aquaculture or algae culture around the wind turbines but if these work, the investments needed will be beyond the reach of the fishers.

The wind farm in the Bay of Saint Brieuc is the first in a series of six projects in the Channel and the Atlantic. After that, the time will come for floating wind turbines which will still be within the reach of inshore fishers. An experimental field of three wind turbines is being prepared south of Lorient, featuring two large fields in the heart of the langoustine fishing areas, the gold mine of the fishers of Southern Brittany. Here, too, the fisheries committees have chosen to work together, but the majority of fishers remain very suspicious and have refused financial compensation, preferring to earn their living from work. For some Fisheries Committees, there is no choice but to participate in the consultation, knowing that the installations are inevitable in the face of European and governmental pressure in favour of offshore wind energy. To be sure, fishers must play their part in the decarbonization of energy, considering the compensation going to finance programmes to improve fisheries management and practices. Yet there will certainly be strong resistance because the areas concerned in Southern Brittany are the mudflats where langoustines thrive.

Other areas

However, in other areas farther south, the reactions of fishers and committees seem less hostile for the moment. For example, off the island of Yeu, fishers' mistrust appears less marked, because the environmental impacts are not the

same due to the nature of the seabed and ecosystems, and their fishing practices. Sometimes, where fishing communities are in decline, as in Dunkirk in the north of France, the promise of wind farms is welcome because it can be a source of employment and may even accelerate the decline of fishing, as is the case off the coast of England, where almost half of Europe's marine wind turbines are installed. Is it a coincidence that these are also the areas where fishers have all but disappeared? The installation of a wind farm makes it even more difficult to recruit fishers, who are attracted by the wages and working conditions offered by the few jobs in wind turbine maintenance.

The EC estimates that an installed capacity of 300 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind power and about 60 GW of marine energy by 2050 would be needed to create an integrated, greener and climate-neutral energy system. This represents a 25-fold increase in installed capacity, at a cost of Euro 789 billion. France envisages that by 2050, 25 per cent of its electricity will come from offshore wind power. Of course, the EC assures that these wind farms will occupy only three per cent of European maritime space, but it must be considered that the impact on the coastal zone, where artisanal fishers work, will be much greater, to which must be added the impacts of port facilities and onshore infrastructure, and the need to extract sand from the sea to meet concrete needs. Coastal areas will be greatly disrupted, which will force fishers to work in smaller areas.

In Amsterdam, on June 2, 2018, hundreds of Dutch and Belgian fishers demonstrated against the wind-powered industrialization of the sea: "We must draw the attention of the population who must understand, see and hear that we are being driven out of the sea...We have almost nothing left south of the North Sea...These are the places where we have always fished from generation to generation," said one fisherman.

If offshore wind power is to find its place without jeopardizing the future of coastal fishers, it must be integrated

into a vision of the future for fishers first and foremost by respecting their rights. It is not enough to simply debate the relationship between offshore wind turbines and fishers, since they are then subject to new constraints with the uncoordinated stockpiling of reserves, protected areas, threats to ban the fuel tax exemption and fishing holidays to protect dolphins, among other things—all in the name of objectives that are quite respectable but do not take into consideration the fisher's future. In the absence of a guarantee of respect for their rights, fishers are still wary of the great promises of the blue economy which, for the moment, is their only prospect, even as they are threatened with marginalization or exclusion. The considerable amounts of public money committed to offshore wind projects must also remain under democratic control and should not be allowed to go first to feed the profits of powerful multinationals or foreign pension funds.

The way in which the consultation between Ailes Marines and the fishers of the Bay of Saint Brieuc took place—the fishers felt misunderstood, betrayed and disrespected—does not augur well in terms of long conflicts in the years to come. The fishers have already realized that their activity weighs little in the face of the immense interests at stake and the needs of an energy transition. But what is more sustainable? A fishing area well managed by fishers or an offshore wind farm that will have to be dismantled after 20 years. The answer is blowing in the wind. Yet, the question is: How can we meet, in a sustainable manner, the need for electricity, without resorting to fossil fuels and nuclear power? The answer is, unfortunately, far from obvious. 🌊

For more



The Blue Acceleration: The Trajectory of Human Expansion into the ocean One Earth 24th January 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2019.12.016>

Parc en mer de Saint Brieuc : planification maritime, éolien en mer posé, pêche, je t'aime moi non plus! Energies de la mer

<https://www.energiesdelamer.eu/2020/11/22/planification-maritime-eolien-en-mer-pose-peche-je-taime-moi-non-plus/>

Nathalie Niquil, in Le Monde, éoliennes en mer : quel impact sur l'écosystème?

https://www.euractiv.fr/content_providers/euractiv-com/

The Fishing World's (Virtual) Oyster

A new virtual platform for knowledge sharing and engagement that collates experiences and stories from small-scale fishery actors around the world

Small-scale fisheries are vulnerable to persistent threats from climate change, overfishing and lack of representation in policy discussions and decision making processes. As we have seen over the last year, the

with them could easily connect and support one another, they could be better equipped to ensure their livelihoods. Fisheries knowledge exchanges highlight the impact of engagement and communication among small-scale fishing stakeholders.

On a fishery knowledge exchange trip in 2016, a group of Indonesians travelled to meet with their Belizean counterparts, where they discovered they had more in common than they expected and much to learn from one another's experiences in sustainable fishery management.

Exchanges across seemingly different cultures, languages and traditions are powerful ways to inspire change but are difficult to make a reality. The Small-Scale Fisheries Resource and Collaboration Hub (SSF Hub) is a new digital platform due to get launched in January 2021. It will connect the people working in, with and for small-scale fisheries, bringing these knowledge exchanges into a globally accessible online platform.

As small-scale fishing communities around the world face the COVID-19 challenges, it is especially critical to provide opportunities for fishers and other fishing professionals to share their experiences and connect with one another virtually. Even prior to the pandemic, there has been a growing need for online and collaborative platforms that can bring together the diversity of resources and knowledge that exists to empower small-scale fishing communities to ensure their long-term sustainability and viability. Many organizations, networks and

Small-scale fishers have come together to develop and implement a set of innovative solutions...

COVID-19 pandemic has brought a range of new challenges and risks for the communities that depend on fisheries.

In the north of Peru, small-scale fishing is one of the main economic activities; hundreds of families depend on fishing for their food and livelihoods. The challenges brought on by COVID-19 have hit them hard—from regulations limiting fishing activity to disruptions in the supply chain, putting the health and sustenance of fishers and their families at risk. Community members are working together more than ever to overcome these challenges. Small-scale fishers have come together to develop and implement a set of innovative solutions, such as new sanitation and safety measures, to be able to fish and sell their catch.

Other small-scale fishing communities around the world are simultaneously innovating to address their respective challenges. If these communities and the people working

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CHRIS CUSACK



Blue Swimming Crab fishers in Indonesia working with the Smart Boat Initiative Programme. The SSF Hub is an online platform where people can learn, share and grow together. When on the Hub, people will be able to easily access tools and resources

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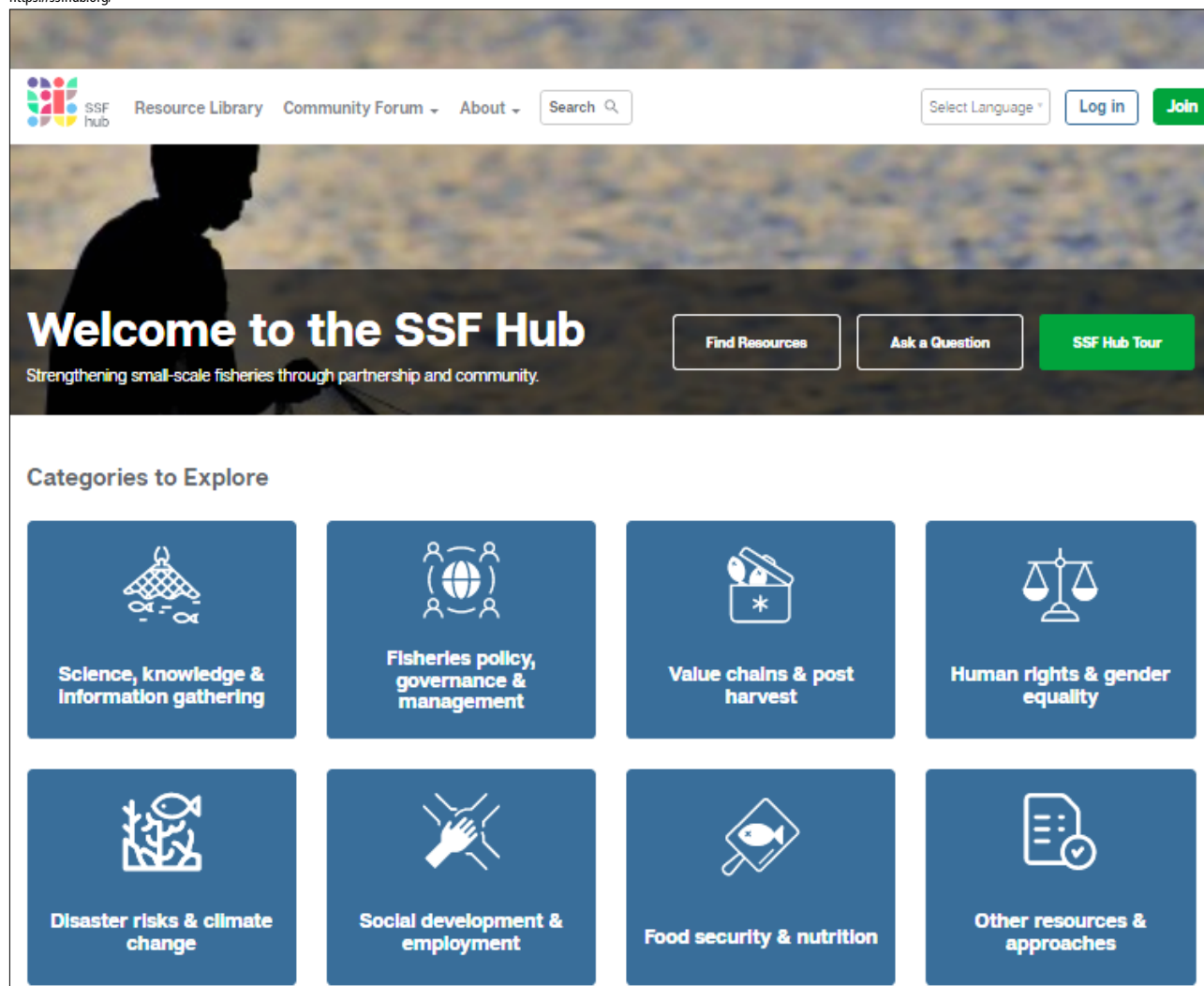
people have been working to highlight the contributions that small-scale fisheries make to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, and to elevate their profile on the global agenda to ensure their future. Hearing stories and experiences from peers around the world—separated by distance and language—can be inspiring and help bring people together for collective action.

In recognition of this need, on the heels of the FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability in November 2019, a coalition of partners working in small-scale fisheries came together to discuss ways they could better support small-scale fishery actors and empower them to share their experiences with others around the world. Since last year, these partners—including environmental groups, fishing organization advisers

and other experts in small-scale fisheries—have been developing the SSF Hub: An interactive online space for small-scale fishers, fishworkers, their communities and the people who work to support them.

The SSF Hub is an online platform where people can learn, share and grow together. When on the Hub, people will be able to easily access tools and resources they would not otherwise be able to obtain, while also being able to contribute their own experiences and ideas with others. People from all over the world and different types of fisheries can join the SSF Hub by creating a user profile, adding pictures from their communities and describing their fisheries and areas of interest. Access to multilingual content and a rotation of featured community highlights allow Hub members a chance to explore global stories without the barriers of language.

https://ssfhub.org/



Access to multilingual content and a rotation of featured community highlights allow Hub members a chance to explore global stories without the barriers of language

A knowledge exchange similar to the one between Belizeans and Indonesians could virtually take place within the SSF Hub through real-time translations of content and discussions. A fishworker from India could search the Resource Library on the Hub in their native language for information about how to add value to their product and find an example under the 'Value add and processing' category on how women who are key to the value chain in Tanzania helped do this for *dagaa* or sardines. The Resource Library has tools and resources that can be filtered by category, region, type and or language. So this fishing community member could also search for examples specific to Asia or for specific e-courses, case studies or videos. This person could also go to the 'Community

Forum' where they can ask questions in a discussion board or browse through related discussions. They also have the option of connecting directly with individuals or organizations behind those examples or search the member directory and see what other members have in that same area of interest.

Similar challenges

Public or private groups can be created on the SSF Hub with members who have similar interests or face similar challenges. For example, you could create a group around a common topic, species or region. In support of work being done on technology for small-scale fisheries, you can join a group on ICT4Fisheries to meet with others who are developing information and communication technology solutions

for small-scale fisheries across the globe. Groups could also be formed for discussions about tuna or octopus fishing to share insights about the gear used or gear innovations in those fisheries, management or market strategies and how resources within the Hub are being applied in these fisheries. A private group could be formed in support of a co-management committee for members to both discuss plans and to share relevant information. Regional groups can share information on prices, where to find weather or ocean conditions, and relevant laws and regulations.

There is also an events page where Hub members can see upcoming small-scale fishery events at local, regional or international levels, and network with others who might attend. This could serve to bring together a group of fishers to present their successes, challenges and lessons learned with broad audiences or to come together to advocate for, or amplify, topics of mutual interest.

Inclusion and participation have made the SSF Hub what it is today. Over 100 people from 19 different countries—representing fisher organizations, conservation groups and expert advisers—have provided feedback throughout the Hub's development. Hub partners held virtual consultations via Zoom, WhatsApp and Facebook to discover what participants wanted out of it. These conversations collected thoughts on what topics to cover, what essential interactive features to include and how to design the Hub to ensure it was user-friendly and met the needs of fishers and other users.

Much of the feedback was about the Hub being a dedicated space for small-scale fishers and those supporting small-scale fisheries. "I appreciate the Hub because it's focused on SSF. First time I've seen it [a site like this] focused more on the fisherfolk," said Mario Gasalatan, NGO consultant and fisher representative from Cebu City in the Philippines.

Participants noted how useful and significant the Hub could become in their regions while providing real-world examples of other small-scale fishery efforts around the world. People were

interested in the tools, how to use them and the examples of how they were being used by other fishers through case studies and success stories.

Early in the testing process, many of the participants expressed their interest in the collaborative aspect of the Hub—the Community Forum—where they could "create genuine and meaningful exchanges" through discussions and groups. They were excited about being able to communicate with others on the Hub across multiple languages.

Other testers noted that their attention was drawn to how the resources on the Hub are related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how the Hub can amplify the role small-scale fisheries play in them. The Hub can be used to strengthen small-scale fisheries governance and community development while supporting implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

The design of the Hub was largely driven by the feedback received through this consultative development process. With this input, the SSF Hub has been adapted into a platform that speaks to the needs and expectations of fishery stakeholders around the world. After the Hub's public release it is expected to grow and evolve based on member feedback.

It is hoped that the SSF Hub helps bring together a mosaic of the diverse people involved in small-scale fisheries by creating a space to share their stories, experiences and resources to inspire others. The strength of the SSF Hub lies in its diversity and in its role as a place to highlight the importance of sustainable fishing practices, food security and poverty alleviation around the world.

The Hub welcomes all stakeholders of the SSF community; their experience and stories can have an impact in other parts of the world. Together they can strengthen the well-being of small-scale fisheries, elevating their profile and their importance for food and nutrition for local cultures and economies. 

For more



SSF Hub: Strengthening small-scale fisheries through partnership and community

<https://ssfhub.org/>

Implementation of the FAO's SSF Guidelines

<https://igssf.icsf.net/>

Implementation of the SSF Guidelines

<https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/>

Fishy Tourism

Coastal communities cannot transition from fishing to tourism when land tenure rights are weak. An example

In the Philippines, the growth of tourism has coincided with widespread declines in the fishing industry, causing a host of challenges as coastal communities negotiate this change. At the heart of this transition is land tenure; it determines the outcome of this transition.

The recent increase in coastal tourism has been greeted with general support from various bodies and organizations. The government considers the industry an important aspect of economic growth, while

2000s. By 2018, the number of annual arrivals had grown from well under 10,000 in the 2000s to nearly 200,000.

This has transformed the livelihoods of the locals. Boats that were previously used for fishing have either been sold or converted into tourist boats, while many fishers have now moved to the more profitable and less physically taxing jobs in the tourism industry.

While the benefits of tourism as a sustainable and lucrative form of income have been noted, there are concerns that the locals do not receive many of the profits from the industry. A key factor is land tenure.

The Philippines land tenure laws are complex and often contradictory, meaning that their interpretation is variable. In Esperanza, a wealthy family based in Coron is trying to claim ownership of the coastal land; it is trying to evict the residents from the area in order to construct tourism development projects. While the legal battle is ongoing, it has caused several complications for residents. There has been a ban on developing new cement structures, preventing locals from building tourist accommodation, or even their own housing. Some even claim that they were unable to access housing materials provided as aid for Typhoon Haiyan. These prohibitions will continue to exist while the legal battle is ongoing.

Considerable anxiety

The constant threat of relocation has also caused considerable anxiety, particularly among those who fear that they will lose their livelihood. A fearful resident explained: "We have done our best here, but if we are moved, I don't know what will happen. Sometimes I lie in bed thinking about all the bad things that could happen. So we just pray to God."

...widespread overfishing and environmental degradation has led to a decline in profitability for fisheries

conservationist groups have welcomed what is considered to be a sustainable alternative to fishing for coastal communities. Meanwhile, widespread overfishing and environmental degradation has led to a decline in profitability for fisheries. Restrictive government regulations have been introduced to combat these issues, which have caused further barriers for fisherfolk. As a result, many coastal residents who previously relied on fishing have now moved to tourism.

A key example can be seen in Esperanza, a small village in the municipality of Coron, Palawan province. Fishing has historically been one of the area's major economic activities, partly due to the fertile marine grounds surrounding Coron. However, a push from government bodies and a series of national media campaigns resulted in a rapid expansion of tourism from the late

This article by Michael Fabinyi (Michael.Fabinyi@uts.edu.au) and Hannah Taylor of the University of Technology Sydney, is based on Fabinyi, M. 2019. 'The role of land tenure in livelihood transitions from fishing to tourism'. Maritime Studies early online view, available open-access at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40152-019-00145-2>



Residents show their eviction notices. The weak legal basis for the eviction notices, coupled with the comments of officials, suggest that this was an attempt to 'clean up' the area in preparation for tourism

This has not been the only instance of tensions surrounding coastal land tenure. In 2018, President Duterte's closure of Boracay caused increased attention to other tourism hotspots, including Coron. In May, 75 businesses and households in Coron received a 'Notice to Vacate' from the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR). The legal reasons for these evictions were that the structures were located in a 'timberland' area, which is outlawed by the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines (1975). This was strange, as there was little evidence that the location had been treated as a 'timberland' zone in recent times. Indeed, the DENR itself had previously approved Environmental Compliance Certificates in the area. Meanwhile, officials suggested that the human waste and rubbish produced by residents was a risk to Coron and that the area needed to be cleaned for tourism purposes.

The weak legal basis for the eviction notices, coupled with the comments of officials, suggest that this was an attempt to 'clean up' the area in preparation for tourism. However, the notices led to anxiety for the residents, particularly for fishers who feared losing their livelihood as a result. This highlights how the rapid growth of the tourism industry can come at the expense of local residents, assisted by weak land rights.

While the residents of both Esperanza and Coron have not yet been evicted, both cases show how conflicting laws and policies can end up with negative impacts for fishers. The rise in tourism has increased pressure on coastal land tenure, leaving the locals to face various barriers preventing them from taking advantage of the resulting profits. The consequences resulting from the fishing-tourism transition would be greatly improved by stronger land rights for coastal residents. ♻️

For more



Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, The Philippines

<https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/>

The role of land tenure in livelihood transitions from fishing to tourism

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40152-019-00145-2>

The Intensification of Fishing and the Rise of Tourism: Competing Coastal Livelihoods in the Calamianes Islands, The Philippines

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10745-010-9329-z>

A New Deal with our Ocean Planet

The creation of an inclusive, equitable and sustainable ocean economy calls for bold political and social leadership, based on a holistic relationship with our ocean planet

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The ocean sustains all life on our planet. Our human relationships with the ocean are diverse, complex and evolving. They represent both a time-honoured and new plurality of values—material, monetary, emotional and spiritual—that must be respected and fostered.

These blue relationships—ocean values—are also tempered by how and where we encounter the ocean. Recognition and acknowledgement of these attributes will alone contribute to creating an inclusive, equitable and sustainable ocean economy that ensures human wellbeing for the present and into the future.

...we need to demonstrate how the coastal and oceanic parts of our history have shaped our ethical codes and moral practices.

Consequently, the future governance of the ocean becomes a collective responsibility of humanity. All those who earn their livelihoods from it—ocean citizens—and all the others—ocean supporters—must collaborate to ensure ocean health and ocean access.

The above are the key messages contained in a recent paper titled 'The Human Relationships with our Ocean Planet', commissioned by The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (www.oceanpanel.org). Established by 14 serving world leaders, it aims to create momentum for a sustainable ocean economy in

which effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity go hand in hand.

Difference in Approach

Currently, the dominant discussions about the future of the oceans is led by 'blue economy' enthusiasts who look primarily into the 'new and material' aspects of the ocean as 'resources and services'. This approach can be called the 'what more can we get or take from the ocean' perspective.

There is a strong case today to go beyond the material and take a 'what values does the ocean offer to us' perspective.

Paraphrasing anthropologist Epeli Hau'ofa, just as the ocean is an open and ever-flowing reality, our effort should be to transcend all forms of insularity, to become openly searching, inventive and welcoming in our approach.

The ocean has influenced and shaped our societies. Ocean sciences today concentrate on what we are doing to the ocean—overharvesting it, polluting it, failing to govern it). Alternatively, we need to demonstrate how the coastal and oceanic parts of our history have shaped our ethical codes and moral practices. We need to stress, for example, how the oceans have nurtured our collective and cooperative instincts.

New perspective

Adopting an integrated social wellbeing framework that considers the material, social and relational attributes of wellbeing is one way to pursue this new perspective. While the material relationships which humans have with the ocean are indispensable, there

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is need today for mainstreaming the relational and subjective dimensions.

The relational dimension encompasses our relationship with nature and our fellow human beings, whether within families, communities, societies, nations and the world. It also includes our links to institutions and the rules, rights and responsibilities that govern the access to, and use of, our coastal and marine spaces.

The subjective dimension is about the feelings and aspirations we have towards the ocean, whether a sense of awe, adventure, joy, tranquillity, spirituality or freedom.

These relationships have played, and must continue to play, a major role in future governance of the oceans at the micro, meso and macro levels.

Such a holistic perspective is still on the periphery of policy and public concerns about the ocean. A fresh look into the history and future of human relationships with the ocean is imperative for our future.

History, present and future

The history of civilization reveals that multicultural and multi-ethnic societies, polyglot, and with tolerant religions, started in ports and on-board ships.

The continued existence of ocean and coastal commons means that cooperative ways of working and living persist and thrive on our seacoasts—when recognized and supported. However, such systems are becoming rarer, on land, as our societies privatize public space and emphasize the individual more than the collective.

The principles and norms of free trade, neutrality, religious freedom, multiculturalism and the duty to render assistance to those in mortal danger are all maritime in origin and point toward humankind's better nature.

Currently, there are rising anxieties about increasing economic inequalities, climate-change impacts, the rise of authoritarian governance and, more positively, the worldwide reckoning with racialized and gendered injustices. This, and the moves for decolonization, of minds as well as lands and waters, point to a fervent desire to re-examine our relationships with each other and with non-human nature.

In this context, emphasis on the positive values that our long relationship with the ocean has bequeathed us is timely.

Access: a priority

Consider our relationships with the ocean—worldwide—in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The seashore and beaches emerged as key relational spaces of vital importance to people, as evidenced by the rush to the sea all over the world as lockdowns eased. The oceans' appeal to the inner stirring of the body and soul became more



pronounced. But the inequities of access and their impacts on people's wellbeing have also been more starkly illustrated.

Our coasts have been victims of creeping privatization for numerous economic activities, leading to excess pollution of the ocean and coastal ground water, destruction of coastal vegetation, and transgressing into the common spaces of the coast and the littorals.

In tropical regions, ocean infrastructure has resulted in untold erosion of sandy coasts.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also witnessed the important contribution that small-scale fisheries and local value chains play in our fish-food systems. When global value chains faltered, retailers and consumers turned to the local small-scale fleets

and supply chains. These value chains are more gendered and relational and were once dismissed as inefficient and unsuited to modernity. They have now come to our rescue.

These new ocean values must be fostered, sustained and allowed to evolve in order to maintain people's access to the ocean.

What is the use of conserving or sustaining the ocean ecosystems, on the one hand, while emptying it of the people who brought us these values, on the other hand? Will this not leave humanity poorer in more than the material sense?

Ocean supporters who are concerned about what the ocean portends for humanity's future must keep their eyes, minds and hearts open...

Ocean supporters who are concerned about what the ocean portends for humanity's future must keep their eyes, minds and hearts open to perspectives that embrace a more holistic understanding of the various strands of human relationships with the ocean. They must perceive how these strands can be woven together to create a reciprocal relationship with the ocean and a collective responsibility for its future.

To achieve a broader societal reflection on 'building forward better' here are some points of action.

Humanize the ocean narrative

Narratives motivate and inform political action. Stress more on narratives that celebrate the rich diversity of human social, cultural, cognitive and emotional relationships with the ocean. Emphasising more on the relationship between human wellbeing and ocean ecosystem flourishing will broaden the political consensus around a sustainable ocean planet.

We should reinstate the original idea of the blue economy that was propounded by the small island states and based on the tenets of equity and environmental sustainability.

The economic concept of 'ecosystem services' needs to be replaced by the more socially appropriate 'nature's contribution to people' concept.

There is need to highlight that the oceans contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goes far beyond just SDG 14.

Efforts must be undertaken to restore a broader knowledge base in ocean dialogues which considers indigenous knowledge and other systems of knowledge such as history, anthropology, culture, arts, heritage and traditional ecological knowledge.

Wider constituencies, new vision

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the vulnerabilities in the 40 years of consensus on globalized and liberalized economies. Rising inequalities and inadequate action on climate change are leading to radical calls for transformative economic and social policy. Even on the blue economy discussions, there is a call for blue justice and blue degrowth.

These voices of dissent must be heard as they come from those whose lives and livelihoods depend on the oceans. This will prevent a repeat of the polarising and exclusionary processes witnessed in the industrial and agrarian revolutions.

Small-scale fishers, the largest segment of the ocean citizens, need support and involvement as allies for ocean stewardship. Greater priority must go to the democratic and human-rights-based FAO/UN Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

There is a need to mainstream the concerns and actions of port cities and coastal towns as they spearhead the concerns on climate change and sustainable tourism, stressing local governance in the context of national planning.

More support is needed for policies and finance that prioritize participatory and inclusive ocean-society relationships. We need to invest in socially, culturally embedded meso-level institutions of community governance that are between the national and individual levels. The non-monetary human relationships to

FAO/JOHN WESSELS



Fishers are waiting at Mbour beach in the early hours to buy freshly caught fish, Senegal. The seashore and beaches emerged as key relational spaces of vital importance to people, as evidenced by the rush to the sea all over the world as lockdowns eased

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the ocean are most evident and valued at this level.

The historical rights and responsibilities of these communities in the ocean need to be retained and expanded where appropriate. Inclusive governance is best supported by participatory democracy, which requires an active and capable civil society.

It is imperative to establish long-term public funding for repositories that preserve, enlighten and enthuse us about community memories of events, for example, natural disasters, toxic exposures, development projects. Such initiatives will even out information asymmetries, facilitate intergenerational memory and create a more level playing field for communities negotiating with external interests.

This must be accompanied with the rise of public-interest litigation bodies that ocean citizen communities can approach when their 'social license to operate' is threatened by corporate development interests. These bodies must be fluent in, and supportive of, the priorities and cultural worldviews

of the communities they represent. At the same time there must be investment in post-COVID-19 initiatives that direct funding towards social wellbeing, creating more resilient economies and food systems. This should be supported by the inclusion of ocean citizen communities in recovery planning in other sectors, principally transportation, tourism and fisheries.

This call for harmonized ocean governance comes at a time of resurgent nationalism. This is the time to stress greater multilateralism to bring order to the governance architecture of the ocean, ensuring a delicate balance between local and national priorities as well as the common good of humanity.

As we prepare for the UN Decade for Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development, due to run from 2021-2030, only bold political and social leadership will make such a future an emerging reality. Herein lies the challenge of envisioning and working towards a sustainable ocean, based on a holistic relationship with our ocean planet.

For more



The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel)

<https://www.oceanpanel.org/>

The Human Relationships with our Ocean Planet

<https://bit.ly/3ajSWZj>

Activist, Advocate, Comrade

A prominent leader of India's fishworkers succumbed to COVID-19 on 8 October. T Peter was a committed organizer and a practical leader with exemplary political acumen

T Peter, the General Secretary of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India, passed away on 8 October, 2020. About a week earlier, on 2 October, Peter had led a protest at sea in Kollam (Quilon), Kerala, against a shipping corridor routed through the famous 'Quilon bank', a rich fishing ground falling between the 200-metre and 500-metre depth lines. He was unaware that he had already contracted the virus. He returned home to Thiruvananthapuram and his busy routines, ignoring the tell-

of good fish catches. When fish was plentiful, Veli would bustle in a festive atmosphere. Peter's eyes would light up when he talked about helping the fishermen remove fish from the nets, playing hide-and-seek amidst the fishing boats beached on the shore and, above all, the joys of a large extended family full of cousins to play and quarrel with.

His parents chose to get Peter educated rather than follow the traditional occupation. Although he barely managed to scrape through school, the education gave him a foundation. In the late 1970s, when Peter was looking around for suitable career options, most of his contemporaries in Veli with a semblance of an education joined the 'Gulf rush'—the mass migration to the oil-rich countries of the Western Asia—as did most of Kerala's unskilled workers. Peter had several cousins to ease his path there. But something held him back from the conveyor belt to the Gulf countries.

He cut his leadership teeth in his community. At age 21, he became the secretary of a trade union of small-time, casual labour in Veli working in the nearby campus of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Being part of the 'affected area' of the space centre, Veli was seen as a potential source of trouble. It was hence pacified with jobs. But the low level of educational qualifications meant that these were mostly menial jobs. Peter's union did its best to extract job opportunities and other benefits there for the local community.

It was around this time that the fishermen of Trivandrum district were in ferment; bottom trawlers—introduced in the 1960s by the state government that grew into a sizeable fleet by the late 1970s—threatened their livelihoods, regularly invading the coastal waters,

When an internal crisis forced him to take over as NFF's general secretary, his close personal relations with union leaders from other states was pivotal to his success.

tale symptoms of cough and cold, assuming it was a familiar form of seasonal distress. His health suddenly deteriorated; he was hospitalised on October 5 and put on the ventilator. Despite the best medical attention, he died of multiple organ failure, brought on by COVID-19.

Peter's achievements emerged from humble beginnings. Born to Clarie and Thomas Bell in a fisher family in Valiya Veli, a coastal village at the edge of Thiruvananthapuram (earlier Trivandrum, the capital of the south Indian state of Kerala), Peter's childhood was spent in a small fishing community of the 1960s. He encountered the struggles of an occupation dependent on the vagaries of nature, the poverty of a community living on the edge of land and society.

Yet his memory was etched with the good old days—often the days

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T Peter, the General Secretary of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), India, passed away on 8 October, 2020. About a week earlier, on 2 October, Peter had led a protest at sea in Kollam (Quilon), Kerala, India

reducing the local fish catch, cutting their nets, damaging the reefs in the area. The newly-formed Trivandrum District Fishworkers Union mobilized the fishing community into a massive and militant struggle against trawling, the likes of which had not been seen before.

Some of the organizers saw leadership potential in Peter at a youth training camp organized by the Programme for Community Organization (PCO), a local NGO that did pioneering work among the fishing community of Trivandrum. In no time, Peter was pulled into the struggle as one of the organizers. Their interventions included squatting on railway tracks and the first-ever blockade of the Trivandrum airport.

The first struggles of the Trivandrum fishers in 1980 caught the imagination of the fishing community across the Kerala coast, creating a statewide fisher movement against trawling that coalesced into the Kerala Swatantra Malsya Thozhilali Federation (KSMTF), an independent (non-party) trade union that was a network of local fishworker organizations. The KSMTF made waves

throughout the 1980s by virtue of its relentless anti-trawl movement. This eventually led to an experimental ban on trawling during the southwest monsoon period in 1988 and become a regular monsoon ban from 1991 onwards. A seasonal ban on mechanized boats eventually became the norm across the entire Indian coast when scientists and administrators, who had initially opposed the ban, became champions of the trawl ban.

Father Thomas (Tom) Kocherry, the leader of the Trivandrum Union, became a key figure in the Kerala fishworkers movement. He attracted and mentored a large number of young fishers. Which is how Peter, one of the most promising youngsters in that lot, became the trade union secretary, a role he performed with skill and dedication. Once KSMTF was reorganized as a unitary organization by the mid-1980s, Peter would continue as the secretary of its Trivandrum district unit. By the late 1980s, he became its sheet anchor. It was clear that Peter had made a permanent commitment to the fishworker movement and had dropped all career options. He had chosen the arduous path of full-time activism.

Over the next decade, he quietly managed the day-to-day running of the Trivandrum union, organizing innumerable protests and rallies with little fuss. From a token protests to large rallies of thousands, Peter created a system that delivered—planning, communicating issues to rank and file, mobilizing members, logistics, the media management—and all on a shoestring budget.

In a city where protest rallies are an everyday occurrence and the ordinary public quietly suffers the inconvenience without taking much notice of the protest itself, the fishworker protests always caught the public imagination. Led by a large proportion of fisherwomen and young people, the rallies were colourful and dynamic, guaranteed to attract attention. Trivandrum being the seat of administrative power in Kerala, all major state-level protests ended there. It all owed to Peter's coordination.

By the mid-1990s, Peter enjoyed state-wide importance. By the late 1990s, he had become KSMTF's strong man, a status he held till his death, irrespective of his formal position in the organization. Over the last two decades Peter had become the face and voice of small-scale fishworkers in Kerala. He was accepted across the spectrum by both left-wing and right-wing parties and by other fisher organizations and administrators. His mobile telephone number was invariably on the speed dial of journalists covering fisheries issues; TV channels routinely interviewed him on matters concerning the fishing community.

For over 20 years—remarkably—Peter published *Alakal*, the fortnightly Malayalam newspaper of KSMTF. He wrote much of the content and convinced others to write for it, collected advertisements and sponsorships, proofread the pages, and got it printed. Often, he also posted copies to the subscribers! The newspaper provided useful information and analysis to Kerala fishworkers. More importantly, it propounded KSMTF's views on important issues. He wasn't restricted to small-scale fishers, either, drawing a wider community consensus. Despite the conflict of interest, the trawl associations of Kerala respected Peter and were often willing to cooperate.

In 1987, when Kocherry took over NFF's leadership, Trivandrum became the nerve centre for the national movement. Peter was ever-dependable in the NFF. From the early 1990s, fishworker's issues became national in scope and required a coordinated effort by the member unions. Delhi became the centre of activity, posing a big challenge to NFF with its predominantly coastal membership. If Kocherry opened doors in Delhi using his forceful personality and larger-than-life image, Peter and others followed in his footsteps and developed their own contacts and networks, using those settled or working in Delhi and hailing from the coastal states.

Peter commanded respect for his rich experience and political acumen. Given his commitments in Kerala, his precarious finances and his unfamiliarity with English and Hindi, Peter did not aspire to a national role. But he had to take on a more active role in the NFF following the death of several towering leaders such as Harekrishna Debnath, Thomas Kocherry, Matanhy Saldanha and Rambhau Patil.

When an internal crisis forced him to take over as NFF's general secretary, his close personal relations with union leaders from other states was pivotal to his success. Many of them stayed with him when they visited Trivandrum and he, in turn, stayed with them when he visited their states/towns. This helped them transcend barriers of language and culture. Peter also mindful of the diversity of the NFF's base, stretched across a wide spectrum of fishing fleets, many of them in conflict with one another. Their leaders trusted Peter's non-partisan handling.

Peter quietly developed his language skills and taught himself to use modern information technology—computers, the Internet, social media.

Peter was using the COVID-induced break to work on many ideas and issues. He had ambitious plans to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the KSMTF from December 2020 to May 2021. He was all set to take the NFF forward on several fronts when he was taken away. 3

Call to the European Commission: An Inclusive Oceans Strategy is Needed to Secure Sustainable Fishing Communities

We, the undersigned organizations and people, are deeply concerned by the recently published European Commission DG Mare proposed priorities on oceans, entitled 'A Blue Economy Initiative to Combat Climate Change' as it does not include the need to establish sustainable fisheries and fishing communities.

Even though fisheries are by far the largest provider of employment, income, livelihoods and food of all the ocean-based industries, they are absent from the European Commission strategy for achieving growth in the blue economy. As a result, the European Commission focuses exclusively on the development of other sectors, especially energy production, aquaculture, shipping, marine bio-technology, mining and tourism. These sectors occupy the maritime space, but they also have a direct impact on biodiversity and sustainable fisheries.

A fundamental problem in the Commission's approach is the use of crude economic indicators: growth in the blue economy is measured almost exclusively through Gross Value Added. The European Commission is aware of the dangerous flaws that stem from this approach, and the need to develop indicators that are more inclusive of social and environmental progress. Indeed, in the case of fisheries, their role and importance can only be fully comprehended when looking not only at the economic value added, but also at the vital contributions sustainable fisheries and fishing communities make to food security, livelihoods, social cohesion, cultural heritage and identity. There are also important synergies between fisheries and other sectors, such as coastal tourism. Fisheries is also more and more part of circular economy (fish

processing by- products incorporated into new products, recycling fishing gears etc.). Traditional sustainable fishing practices and the incorporation of traditional knowledge into scientific advice contribute to sustainable fisheries. In the absence of policies protecting fishing communities, the European Commission's approach will increase competition for scarce resources in coastal areas, and sustainable fisheries and fishing communities will likely be on the losing side.

Amongst the proposed priorities of DG Mare, the Seafood and Aquaculture Initiative implies that boosting aquaculture and excluding fisheries will help decarbonize this food sector. This argument is highly questionable. First of all, fisheries policy should be at the heart of climate action: ending overfishing, together with a shift to low impact fisheries will boost ocean resilience to climate change. Secondly, promoting ocean-based industries that compete with fisheries, such as deep-sea mining and intensive aquaculture, are expected to contribute further to the climate crisis and the destruction of the coastal environment.

This non-inclusive blue growth vision that marginalizes fisheries is even more concerning when it is promoted in the European Commission dialogue with third countries. Indeed, the European Union is currently supporting the African Union to develop its African blue growth strategy. In Africa, fisheries, and small-scale fisheries in particular, are essential to the social, economic and ecological sustainability of coastal communities. African fisheries stakeholders, consulted through the Fisheries Non-State Actors platforms initiated by the African Union, have emphasized

On the occasion of the World Fisheries Day (21 November, 2020), sixteen small-scale fisheries organizations, from Europe and Africa, environmental and development NGOs, and the former Vice-chair of the European Parliament fisheries committee have signed a statement calling the European Commissioner-designate for Environment and Oceans, Virginijus Sinkevicius, to secure sustainable fisheries and prosperous fishing communities in Europe and in partner developing countries through an inclusive oceans strategy that recognizes the central role of fisheries. The statement is available at: <https://www.cffacape.org/s/191115-Final-Oceans-Statement.pdf>

that sustainable fisheries, and the well-being of coastal communities, must be prioritised in the Africa Blue Growth Strategy, to address environmental threats to coastal ecosystems and to promote inclusive development.

In view of the above, the European Commission must recognize, respect and defend the vital role of sustainable fisheries and coastal communities in the blue economy in Europe and in partner countries. The 2014 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication recognize the importance of such communities and would provide a framework for strong human rights-based approach to blue growth strategies.

To make this happen, we urge Virginijus Sinkevicius, European Commissioner-designate for Environment and Oceans, to revise comprehensively the European Commission Blue Growth Strategy and the work priorities of his administration, in order to develop an inclusive Oceans strategy that secures sustainable fisheries and prosperous fishing communities in Europe and in partner developing countries.

Signatories

Linnea Engstrom
Former Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee

Gaoussou Gueye
President, African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organizations (CAOPA) - Frederic Lemanch

Bloom - Francisco Mari
Responsible for food security, agriculture and maritime policy, Bread for the World (BFDW)

Douglas Ruley
Chief Counsel, ClientEarth

Beatrice Gorez
Co-ordinator, Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA-CAPE)

Alain Le Sann
President, Collectif Pêche et Développement

Kurt Svenning Christensen
Chairman, Danish Living Seas

Keith Andre
President, Federation of Artisanal Fishers of the Indian Ocean (FPAOI)

Francois Piccione
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Maarten Bavinck
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Katarzyna Wysocka
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Javier Lopez
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Ahmed Senhoury
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Christian Adams
Chair, South African Small-Scale Fisheries Collective (SSASSFC)

Karin Lexen
Secretary General, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

Hilda Adams
Founder, Weskusmandjie (South Africa)

For more

DGx proposed priorities

https://www.politico.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/clean_definite2.pdf

DG Mare page on blue growth

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/blue_growth_en

What is the 'Beyond GDP' initiative

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/beyond_gdp/index_en.html

Small scale fisheries and Blue Growth in the EU

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU\(2017\)573450](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2017)573450)

A call to the European Commission: An inclusive oceans strategy is needed to secure sustainable fishing communities

<https://www.cffacape.org/news-blog/small-scale-fisheries-organisations-and-ngos-call-on-the-ec-for-an-inclusive-oceans-strategy-to-secure-sustainable-fishing-communities>

An Unsung Hero

A technology innovator with a heart of gold and all the time in the world for small-scale fishworkers around the world

Very few who read this note will know Jeremy Herklots, that tall lanky Englishman we all looked up to—literally and figuratively—for his quiet, dogged and totally unobtrusive contribution to both small-scale fisheries technology and the global small-scale fisheries movement. I had the unique privilege of being his associate on both counts.

In February 1981, at a meeting in Manila, the Philippines, to discuss appropriate technology in fisheries, sponsored jointly by ICLARM (now known as WorldFish) and the

Asian Development Bank, Jeremy, accompanied by the famous naval architect EWH Gifford from the UK, met with William Blase and Rathin Roy of the Bay of Bengal Project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Jeremy was then with ITDG (the erstwhile Intermediate Technology Development Group, now known as Practical Action), the institute set up by EF Schumacher, author of the much-quoted book *Small Is Beautiful*. He was manager of ITDG's Small Boat Design and Construction Unit.

PHILIP HERKLOTS



Jeremy Herklots. His unforgettable contribution was his role in highlighting to the world the hundreds of artefacts of the life and struggles of small-scale fishers

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The quartet's discussion revolved around the possibility of introducing new designs of beach-landing boats in India to replace the *kattumaram*, the artisanal wooden raft widely used in South India for many millennia.

For such a possibility to materialize, they needed to have contact with a credible boatyard with skilled workers and a boat builder with experience of dealing with artisanal fishing craft. Interestingly, each one of them had, in different contexts, heard about the Boat Building Centre (BBC) at Muttom, a fishing village in South India, and about Pierre Gillet, the innovative Belgian boat builder based there.

Jeremy and Gifford contacted Gillet and, on their way back home from Manila, went to Muttom to meet and discuss possibilities for embarking on a joint venture for building a beach-landing fishing craft that would meet the occupational needs and also suit the pockets of the expert artisanal fishers of the area.

With his enormous technical and organizational skills, commonplace resourcefulness, and huge reserves of energy and English wit, he played the critical role of the connector...

The rest, as they say, is history, which cannot be recounted here. Suffice to say that by 1984, within three years of coevolved research and development among fishers, boat-building carpenters, naval architects and designers, an unprecedented outcome resulted. Fishers began to purchase and operate several plywood boats built using a technique called 'stitch and glue' with enthusiasm, in lieu of their traditional and age-honoured *kattumarams*.

Within a decade, by 1995, as many as 2,500 of this new genre of plywood boats were built by BBC, Muttom and the boatyards of the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS). As I write now in 2021, their numbers have increased to well over 100,000 and they have become the most popular village-based, beach-landing fishing craft design, spread all across the surf-beaten coast of the whole of South India. This is a major revolution and an unparalleled example of 'innovation and diffusion'

of appropriate technology in small-scale fisheries.

I was a keen observer and participant in the making of this revolution. I was closely involved in documenting the pains and pangs of the process of innovation and diffusion of these boats and can vouch for the crucial and pivotal role Jeremy played.

Collaborative technical work, involving a range of variously skilled persons from different countries and socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, working within the confines of their own organizational structures, is rarely a smooth affair. Jeremy assumed the role of 'facilitator-in-chief'. With his enormous technical and organizational skills, commonplace resourcefulness, and huge reserves of energy and English wit, he played the critical role of the connector, the resolver of knotty problems, the facilitator of crucial organizational inputs, the hands-on fixer of the multitude of technical and financial coordination aspects, the pacifier of frayed nerves and egos, and much more. Without this rare mix of qualities in Jeremy, the South Indian beach-landing boat innovation and diffusion would not have played out in the successful manner in which it finally did.

Jeremy's next unforgettable contribution was his role in highlighting to the world the hundreds of artefacts of the life and struggles of small-scale fishers.

A meeting in January 1984 in Hong Kong decided to convene an International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters. This conference was to be held in Rome in July 1984, parallel to the FAO/UN World Conference on Fisheries Development and Management. It was planned in this manner to highlight the central role of 'the people' in the fisheries sector and to also free-ride on the presence of the global media at the FAO Conference to get this message across. I was to play a key role in the organization of this event.

To achieve this objective, it was paramount to have something at this event which would be uniquely different from the usual run of conferences featuring just speeches and discussions. Consulting with Pierre Gillet and Jeremy led to the idea of a major crowd-sourced exhibition on the theme 'Life and Struggles of

Fishworkers'. We wrote letters to the fishworker participants, encouraging them to bring samples of their fishing gear and tackle, models of their boats, their work and cultural costumes, posters, photographs, audio-visuals of their fishing activities and of their songs and poems—anything they could carry to Rome to represent their lives and their work and also their social and political struggles.

I had made a trip to Dakar in Senegal in April 1984 for a preparatory regional conference of West African fishworkers and supporters. The vibrant colours of the work dresses and fishing craft of these fishers, and their readiness to bring to Rome whatever they could carry, gave hope that the exhibition could be held. And if indeed this was a reflection of the sentiment among all the fishworkers around the globe, then the event could be successful.

I returned to India via Rome to handle the logistics—the conference was two months away in July. With the help of the local organizing team in Rome we identified the venue for the conference and the accommodation for the participants. The venue also had a very large break-out hall that could be used for the exhibition.

On July 1, three days before the conference, Jeremy arrived with his wife Rosemary, all enthused and geared up to make arrangements for the exhibition—without a clue about the space requirements. In those days the telephone and telex was the fastest means of communication, but also the most expensive and least accessible. There was no way we could get information from the delegates—already on their way to Rome from the distant towns and villages of 36 countries—about the nature and quantity of material they were carrying for the exhibition. We had no way to plan the number of (rather expensive) display boards and tables.

As the delegates arrived and unpacked their exhibition items, we realised that the response was overwhelming. The fear dawned on us that we had grossly underestimated the space requirements.

Jeremy made a quick trip to the British Council in Rome and used his influence and contacts to get them to agree to lend their large stack of huge display boards—with wheels—and foldable tables for the exhibition. This was the council's contribution to the



1984 Rome conference poster. Consulting with Pierre Gillet and Jeremy led to the idea of a major crowd-sourced exhibition on the theme 'Life and Struggles of Fishworkers'

conference, for which Jeremy wrote a thank you note on his typewriter, getting me to sign.

The exhibition showcased a diversity of artefacts and a vast number of audio-visual shows of the lives of fishworkers around the world. The venue became the great interaction point of the conference, given the sizeable barriers to communication due to the plethora of native languages being spoken.

The exhibition was a huge success and a major venue for numerous encounters between fishworkers and the world press. Jeremy was always at hand, with his quick strides and efficient skills, to fix any issue. No problem was too mundane or complicated for him to handle. Rosemary accompanied him as the unobtrusive organizer and curator.

Over the years, I have become acutely aware of the huge and under-appreciated role that many individuals have played—and continue to play—in making small but vital differences to the lives of fishworkers around the world. It is also important to note that nobody else but those very individuals, could have made those contributions, given their special talents and willingness to share these unconditionally in the unique circumstances.

Jeremy was a perfect example of one such unsung hero. And he lived to see a thousand full moons. 3

A Many-sided Munificence

A seminar discussed how the SSF Guidelines can help improve the management of a fish species in the Amazon rainforest territory

The fisheries in Brazil's state of Amazonas range from a multiplicity of fishing practices to a diversity of conflicts and realities. How indigenous fishers of varying ethnicities see their sector is not very well known. This emerged in fine detail in a seminar on indigenous fisheries in Amazonas and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of

do Indio (FUNAI), the official Brazilian indigenist organ.

According to research conducted in 2016, the community-based management of the pirarucu has brought several social, economic and cultural benefits, such as local income generation, valorization of indigenous cultures, growing 'pride' in the community and the strengthening of indigenous villages. The authors of the study concluded that the management of the pirarucu is a rare window of opportunity that can harmonize the goals of sustainable management of natural resources with the reduction of poverty. The previous stock of the pirarucu increased by 427 per cent in the managed areas of the Mamiraua Sustainable Development Reserve, according to the Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development.

"The management of the pirarucu is an example of citizenship," said Ana Claudia Torres, fishery coordinator of the Mamiraua Institute, in an interview during the March 2019 seminar. "It started small, with just 42 fishermen who believed it was possible to work with a resource that was in a state of scarcity and to have this resource in abundance again by reexploring it through a sustainable perspective. When I see this sort of management being more adopted every day as a model that aggregates other values such as health, education and basic rights of the population, this reinforces even more the idea that management is an example of citizenship. Management has power; it's just one aspect of the whole, but through it we can discuss other things."

Relationships

Reports presented at the seminar showed how the renewed system

...the community-based management of the pirarucu has brought several social, economic and cultural benefits...

Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines); it was held on March 27-28, 2019. Participants spoke about conflicts, demands and opportunities in their territories. The subject that drew the maximum interest was the fishing management of the pirarucu species (*Arapaima gigas*, also known as the Amazon codfish). Its flesh has a soft flavour and it is as big as a codfish. It grows fast; a specimen can reach a weight of up to 250 kg and up to three metres in length.

The pirarucu's community-based management began in 1999 in the region of Tefe, in the middle of the Solimões river, with the riverine communities. The Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development provided the technical support. Since then, the indigenous communities of the Deni, Paumari, Kokama, Tikuna and Kambeba ethnicities have developed their own management strategies, with the support of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Operação Amazonia Nativa (OPAN) and Fundação Nacional

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OPAN/BRAZIL



The 'Seminar on Indigenous Fisheries in Amazonas and Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries' was held on 27 and 28 March 2019, in Manaus. The event was attended by 25 indigenous fishermen from 16 ethnic groups

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of management of the pirarucu transformed relationships within the territory, allowing the community to exercise control over its lands, lakes, rivers and the fishing resources. This happened through the implementation of a system of vigilance, monitoring and care of these indigenous lands, rivers and lakes. The system also prevents the invasion of illegal fishermen and loggers into their lands. In the words of Rose from the Bare ethnic group: "Management makes possible guaranteeing our territory, especially when our lands have not yet been demarcated." Many indigenous communities do not have their lands demarcated; the new management of the pirarucu can strengthen the struggle for tenure rights.

The changes have also brought benefits to indigenous women, bringing up and promoting gender discussions. Women are present at all stages of fisheries management, from development and decision making, to monitoring and surveillance of the territory. To further encourage women's participation in the management of the pirarucu, the Mamiraua Institute has initiated the Edna Alencar Prize:

It rewards management projects involving incentives, recognition and the effective participation of women in their activities. During the seminar, Dione of the Apurina ethnic group said: "Management changes women's lives."

The seminar revealed how the pirarucu's management puts the SSF Guidelines into practice by meeting all the objectives: Improving the socio-economic status of indigenous fishers, securing the sustainability of the pirarucu fishery, and contributing to artisanal fisheries food security and to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future. In the words of the Bare leader Sandra Gomes: "The indigenous peoples were already implementing the SSF Guidelines but because we were not aware of them, we did not know that we were doing that all along."

Institutional level

In this regard, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Brazil does not necessarily need to be done exclusively through laws at an institutional level. How many practices performed by indigenous communities can have parallels with the premises of the SSF

Guidelines? This can be found out through the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest through an approach of indigenous communities; this will help better understand their demands, their practices and their struggles. This will make it possible to learn other practices that will help push the SSF Guidelines into action, all the while respecting the different cultures and their traditional practices in the process. As a result, the community governance processes should permeate formal instances until these get institutionalized as legislation.

Starting at the local level, the SSF Guidelines help dealing with a great challenge: the extension of the Brazilian territory. The Brazilian Amazon rainforest territory extends over 5 million sq km, covering eight states. In Brazil, fishery policies are implemented at the federal level and are applied in all regions of the country, each with its own peculiarities. The problem is that implementation exclusively at the federal level makes it difficult to fathom and incorporate the realities of ethnic diversity in the vast expanse of the Brazilian territory. It isn't that there is no need for policies at the federal level; rather what's needed is a broader perception of the local level. The local level also enables decision making on a community basis and encourages the decentralization of power.

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines can also give visibility to the practices of the indigenous communities, like the pirarucu fishery management. Despite the positive results brought about by the management of the pirarucu, there is not enough investment from the federal and state governments in some of the Amazonian lakes. The lack of funds is another challenge facing the country in implementing fishery management policies and the SSF Guidelines. However, increased visibility of indigenous practices on a larger scale during the implementation of the SSF Guidelines will make it possible to allocate resources to these practices.

Recommendations

The SSF Guidelines could also strengthen the struggle of tenure rights

that several indigenous communities are facing at this very moment. According to the SSF Guidelines, small-scale fishing communities need secure tenure rights over the resources that form the basis of their social and cultural well being. The defence of tenure rights is an urgent demand of the indigenous communities. This call in the SSF Guidelines opens a great window of opportunity for indigenous communities in the struggle for their basic rights that are often denied in Brazil. The authors of a book titled *The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation* mention that the SSF Guidelines are an important moral support for the causes of indigenous peoples in securing sustainable fisheries, especially when their tenure rights are under siege.

The indigenous participants at the seminar noticed this opportunity and showed great interest in the SSF Guidelines. As a concluding recommendation, they proposed more seminars to inform other indigenous communities about the SSF Guidelines, so as to strengthen the dialogue. This is a great opportunity because it is the indigenous people who need to be the main beneficiaries of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Brazilian Amazon and their participation is fundamental for the process to be successful. 3

For more

Seminar on Indigenous Fisheries in the state of Amazonas and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), which was held on 27 and 28 March 2019

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1082-Brazil.html>

Brazil: Kickoff Time

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/81-4392-Kickoff-Time.html>

Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN)

<https://amazonianativa.org.br/>

Indigenous Fisheries in Amazon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGFxr2ly_Wc

Rich Rewards of Doing it Right

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines should be based on human-rights principles and standards, factoring in local conditions

In June 2014, the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The SSF Guidelines are rooted in decades of pioneering work in small-scale fisheries by intrepid human-rights campaigners such as John Kurien and Chandrika Sharma, among other advocates.

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) has spearheaded campaigns since 2014 that show how the SSF Guidelines provide an unprecedented framework for addressing the needs of small-scale fishers through the human-rights-based approach. The initial phase of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Ghana was thus not unique to the country but part of ICSF's broader global campaign in 2018-2019 in Brazil, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

While its guiding principles are based on international human-rights standards, standards of responsible fisheries and on sustainable development, a number of contextual factors must be considered before local implementation. In Ghana, these considerations included socio-cultural, economic and educational factors, in addition to SSF value chains, bottlenecks and interventions. These broad conditions determined the local content of Ghana's programme, its focus and outcomes vis-a-vis the SSF Guidelines.

Small-scale fisheries play a critical role in providing food security and

supporting livelihoods in Ghana. It is estimated that the sector contributes 60 per cent of the total animal protein intake of Ghanaians while providing a source of livelihood for three million fishworkers dependent on the SSF value chains. For nutritional and socio-cultural factors, fish is highly valued. Ghanaians are among the highest consumers of fish in the world: 20-25 kg per capita per annum.

The country draws about 450,000 tonnes of fish annually from marine and inland waters, as well as from

...the sector contributes 60 per cent of the total animal protein intake of Ghanaians while providing a source of livelihood for three million fishworkers...

aquaculture. An additional 450,000 tonnes is imported. In terms of volume, SSF contribute 70-80 per cent of the total catch from marine and inland waters. The high number of fishers and communities dependent on SSF makes the sector pivotal to employment, livelihood and also to the food security mix.

Since the mid-1990s, Ghana's SSF economy was once thriving but has been declining since the mid-1990s. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) points out that overfishing, overexploitation and overcapacity of fishing vessels are the main obstacles to recovery of stocks. Small-scale fishers, on the other hand, point to weak regulation and enforcement of bye-laws as the fundamental problem. Despite state

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TESCOD



The two-day national workshop was held on August 14-15, 2019, at the University of Ghana. Participants and delegates were drawn from the NAFPTA, the Prampram Cooperative Fishmongers Society, NICFC, GNCFC, CEWEFIA and the University of Ghana, among others

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policy interventions and multilateral donor support, Ghanaian fisheries are hurtling towards unprecedented crises. To reverse this trend, fishworkers must be empowered to participate in decision making and management of the fishery resource to make the sector more productive and sustainable. Central to this is a shift from the macro level, top-bottom policy approach to a clear-cut human-rights-based approach.

Accordingly, in 2013, representatives from the NGO, Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD) contributed to discussions on a 'zero draft' of the SSF Guidelines in Grand Bassam, Cote d'Ivoire. The initial phase of the implementation of the guidelines in Ghana, therefore, provided a unique opportunity to engage with long-time SSF advocates to shape the discourse for local implementation.

The first phase of the SSF Guidelines implementation in Ghana focused on improving awareness of the guidelines at the community, national and institutional levels; identifying common SSF challenges that could be addressed within a national SSF Guidelines framework;

and deepening the understanding of the implementation challenges. To this end, the year-long programme was structured around four key activities:

- Translating the SSF Guidelines into four indigenous languages
- Conducting three local workshops
- Organizing a two-day national implementation workshop
- Creating a national SSF Guidelines platform

Considering that most small-scale fishers have limited formal education, the abridged SSF Guidelines in English, by John Kurien, had to be translated into the indigenous languages. For this reason, a team of seasoned translators and linguists were commissioned in the Ga, Ewe, Fanti and Nzema languages. The initial copies of the translated drafts were circulated in James Town, Keta, Elmina and Sekondi-Takoradi between October 3 and October 10, 2018. However, the feedback was that the texts were technical and difficult for the average reader to comprehend. This observation led to several reviews that modified the texts to make them easier to read and understand.

The second activity comprised conducting three subnational workshops in 2018 for fishworkers, community-based organizations (CBOs), national fishworker organizations (FWOs) and their local branches. These workshops were held in Accra on November 27, in Takoradi on December 11, and in Keta on December 16. In order to create a high level of awareness and foster a deeper appreciation of the SSF Guidelines, the workshops were conducted in the Ga, Mfantse/Nzema and Ewe languages. Over 90 participants participated in the local workshops.

The three workshops highlighted the guiding principles, themes and roles; they also reflected the unique specific challenges of each location. In Accra, participants prioritized illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, lack of direct involvement in policy making and weak enforcement of fishery laws as major worrying concerns. In Takoradi, fishworkers were more concerned about 'saiko' (illegal trans-shipment of fish at sea), security of tenure regarding management and access to the fishery resources, and worsening livelihoods as a result of commercial oil and gas production. The Keta participants identified poor social infrastructure, lack of enforcement of bye-laws, frequent tidal waves, lack of proper beachfront development and exclusion of fishworkers in decision making as key constraints affecting their livelihoods.

The third activity was the national workshop. Its objective was to identify common SSF challenges from the local workshops and how they can be addressed within a national SSF Guidelines framework. The two-day event was held on August 14-15, 2019, at the University of Ghana. Participants and delegates were drawn from the National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), the Prampram Cooperative Fishmongers Society, the National Inland Canoe Fisherman Council (NICFC), the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), the Central & Western Fishmongers Association (CEWEFIA) and the University of Ghana, among others.

The first day followed a discussion of the themes of the SSF Guidelines.

The second day's three-part session programme commenced with a formal welcome address and solidarity statements. This was followed by a presentation by Prof FKE Nunoo on the topic 'The FAO VG-SSF: Nature, Scope and Relevance'. The second session dealt with a presentation of local workshop reports by Peter Adjei of TESCO/ICSF, which formed the basis of focus-group discussions along three strands: one, key national SSF challenges and opportunities for change; two, identifying roles and responsibilities of primary actors in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines; and three, ways forward—actions for addressing key identified and/or prioritized issues.

The group discussion led to the third session that focused on group reports and conclusions. Although there were varying perspectives from the three groups, the key prioritized issues and recommendations at the end of the plenary session were deeply rooted in the local workshops but were broader in scope. The main recommendations of the national workshop include:

In order to create a high level of awareness and foster a deeper appreciation of the SSF Guidelines, the workshops were conducted in the Ga, Mfantse/Nzema and Ewe languages.

- Work with the MoFAD and other stakeholders to adopt the SSF Guidelines into enforceable laws and regulations;
- Develop a document for MoFAD to advocate a long-term vision on the SSF Guidelines, with clearly outlined annual plans;
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis of the SSF Guidelines value chain, including a definition of SSF and the relationship with other organized businesses in the fishery sector;
- Increase advocacy efforts regarding inequalities in the SSF sector; and
- Emphasize the need for training and capacity building of FWOs and other interest groups to sustain the dissemination the SSF Guidelines at both national and subnational levels.

TESCOD



Mfantse - Nzema (Takoradi) local workshop, 11 December 2018, SSNIT House Takoradi, Ghana. The workshops were conducted in the Ga, Mfantse/Nzema and Ewe languages. Over 90 participants participated in the local workshops

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The fourth activity was the creation of a national SSF Guidelines platform. To this end, a seven-member national platform was launched on August 15, 2019, at the sidelines of the national workshop. The platform seeks to raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines among various stakeholders and promote human-rights-based SSF through appropriate policy responses.

The initial phase of implementing the SSF Guidelines in Ghana has led to several meaningful outcomes. Besides the development of local language contents, over 120 participants from FWOs, CBOs, academia and MoFAD benefited from local and national workshops. In addition to the establishment of the national platform, the implementation activities by TESCO/ICSF have been the most visible and comprehensive in Ghana since the adoption of the SSF Guidelines in 2014.

Nonetheless, the year-long implementation was fraught with a number of notable organizational and logistical challenges. Close to three million Ghanaians are dependent on the SSF, spread across hundreds

of communities. It was impractical to directly disseminate the SSF Guidelines in these communities. To achieve greater impact, the TESCO team did not only engage with FWOs, municipal chief executives (MCEs) and MoFAD officials but also introduced the guidelines directly to chiefs and fishworkers. This approach led to high interest and a diverse blend of workshop participants.

Time constraint

The time constraint was another challenge. While all the activities were executed as per the timeline, the national workshop date was rescheduled from the original date of February 2019 to August 2019. This was necessary for deeper consultations, back-and-forth communications and in getting the major FWOs, including GNCFC, NAFPTA and NICFC, to harmonize their views and commit to working together to implement the SSF Guidelines.

The committed bottom-up approach came at considerable expense, far above the implementation budget. Many small-scale fishworkers

who expressed interest in attending the events could not do so because of the limited number of invitations allotted to each event.

The initial implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Ghana has, on the whole, met the goals outlined at the beginning of the programme. The participatory process motivated the fishworkers to express themselves eloquently as active participants, not just passive observers. Small-scale fishers from varying backgrounds, for the first time, discussed their roles in responsible fisheries and sustainable development in their mother tongues. Despite these successes, however, many invaluable lessons were learned; the areas where improvements can be made. It's worthwhile to consider them in detail for other such democratic efforts.

Addressing misperceptions: A common view among fishworker participants was that because of the voluntary nature of the SSF Guidelines, it would not be worthwhile to address their grievances. This view stems from the belief that stringent enforcement of fisheries bye-laws will rid the sector of the numerous illegal practices, particularly 'saiko'. Continuous effort is, therefore, needed to help fishworkers recognize that while legislative and economic approaches do have certain advantages, for sustainable management of fisheries, the SSF Guidelines address their needs in a more organized, all-inclusive and dignified manner on the basis of guiding principles such as human rights and dignity, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability.

Training and capacity building: In order to prepare national and community-based FWOs to be proactive in promoting the SSF Guidelines, they must be assisted to appreciate the human rights-based approach in SSF. Training and capacity building should equip FWOs and community leaders with participatory techniques to educate their members on the SSF Guidelines; align their organizations with human-rights standards; improve collaborations with other actors in the SSF value chain; and take a bigger role in SSF Guidelines advocacy and community monitoring.

Stakeholder consultation: Broad consultation can be a factor for change when it is properly facilitated and allows for direct participation of stakeholders or indirectly through their assigned representatives. Attention needs to be given not only to identifying and understanding the influence of each stakeholder but also the perspectives of the disadvantaged and vulnerable early on in the process. Future implementation of the SSF Guidelines should broaden the initial scope of consultations, with more attention to

...while legislative and economic approaches do have certain advantages, for sustainable management of fisheries, the SSF Guidelines address their needs in a more organized, all-inclusive and dignified manner...

stakeholders involved in inland SSF, gender justice, tenure rights, saiko, and child labour and trafficking (CLaT).

Policy integration: Existing policies for developing and managing SSF are generic, with no specific objectives, measurable outcomes and time-frames. A holistic policy on SSF must be based on human rights and must recognize that small-scale fishworkers have legally mandated rights to use and manage fisheries resources. The next phase of the SSF Guidelines implementation should influence or drive policy alignment of national fisheries laws with the human rights principles and standards enshrined in the SSF Guidelines. 3

For more

Ghana: Improved awareness about the SSF Guidelines at the community, national and institutional level and better understanding of the challenges facing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1083-Ghana.html>

Ghana: Small Fish, Big Solution

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/83-4426-Small-Fish,-Big.html>

The SSF Guidelines Summary translated in Ghanaian languages (Ewe, GA, FANTE and NZEWA)

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1083-Ghana.html>

Spreading the Net

A planned national network will share information and knowledge on the SSF Guidelines to a wider audience of fishery-related stakeholders

In Myanmar, limited access to natural resources and financial capital has resulted in many fisherfolk struggling to maintain even basic living standards. They are left with little opportunity to move out of poverty; this also undermines the sustainable management of fishing grounds. These uncertain conditions have driven the migration of small-scale fishing communities to work as casual labour

It soon became clear that community participation needs to be further improved if the objectives of the meetings and workshops conducted were to be achieved. At present, the contribution of several participants during discussions is weak, making it difficult to practically implement the action agenda in the field. Although the fishery co-management plan has been largely supported, there are emerging competing interests and incentives in the co-management system since the new Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fisheries Law was enacted in 2018 by the regional government. In most parts of the Ayeyarwady region, co-management practices are still quite new and, therefore, it is hard for the Department of Fisheries (DoF) to manage the new interests and incentives of various groups to implement legally-supported co-management. Furthermore, the limited capacity of department staff to implement the new law and policies due to personal motivations, conflicting interests and an ongoing power struggle between the regional/state governments and the Union DoF, hinders effective implementation of the fishery co-management system in the Ayeyarwady region.

Policy provisions

The new Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law (AFFL) provides a better framework for improving ecosystem conservation, increasing revenues, reducing corruption and supporting broader livelihood development. It provides for tender licences under Myanmar kyat (MMK) 4 million value to be allotted to community fisheries group without calling for auctions. These policy provisions have supported thousands of small-scale fisheries to gain access to resources; their impacts

The new Ayeyarwady Freshwater Fishery Law (AFFL) provides a better framework for improving ecosystem conservation, increasing revenues, reducing corruption and supporting broader livelihood development.

in cities as well as forced them to join the raft fishing industry as fishworkers.

To promote the rights of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the delta, the Network Activities Group (NAG), a Myanmar-based non-governmental organization (NGO), worked on a project in 2018-2019 to strengthen the capacity of small-scale fishing communities by focusing on the SSF Guidelines with the help of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). Five key activities followed, which are: one, review of the existing fishery co-management plans of the project's targeted zones; two, capacity need assessment and strengthening of Fisher Development Associations (FDAs); three, study on the working conditions of fishers and fishworkers of the kyarr phong (stow net) fishery; four, awareness raising; and, five, strengthening the capacity of FDAs and the Ayeyarwaddy Region Fishers' Network (ARFN) to raise issues related to kyarr phong fisheries in policy dialogue.

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Co-management training workshop, 22-24 December, 2018. The discussions focused on review the existing co-management plans for each fishing zone and the areas which needed to be developed, revised and modified were mapped out

are at several levels. As the result of the new legislation, 487 fisheries Tender Areas, 52 Common Fishing Grounds and seven Conservation Areas have been granted to the small-scale fishery communities.

However, the current fishery reform process continues to face several challenges in implementation, especially in the formalization of new institutions. Firstly, tenders with an auction floor price of over MMK4 million can only be obtained through participation in the auction system. The floor price of tenders keeps changing from year to year, based on the floor price calculation system that adds further uncertainty and hardship for fishers. For example, in 2017, the floor price of the Mya Sein Kan Tender was MMK3.9 million but in 2018 it was increased to MMK4.29 million, an increase of 10 per cent. As a result, the tender could not be allocated to the SSF because its floor price had gone over MMK4 million and could thus be allocated only through the auction system as per the government policy.

In effect, this meant that the SSF had to bid against more powerful and affluent outsiders for the rights. The

MMK4 million policy is an unwritten piece of legislation that depends mainly on changing political interests, especially with a new government due after 2020. It is likely that there will be a return to previous means of serving individual benefits rather than enabling co-operation under co-management arrangements. This could prove to be a discouraging factor for the long-term commitment to institutionalizing the co-management system and conservation practices.

Despite these challenges, the recent reforms in the governance of the freshwater fisheries sector in Myanmar are significant and provide lessons and guidance for the improved governance of other economic sectors. These lessons help to understand the impact of the new regulations, the social dynamics involved, and the revenue derived from co-management arrangements and practices. It is necessary to convince the fishing communities that co-management is for the long term. The DoF's role should be oriented more towards facilitating community fisheries management rather than controlling and collecting revenue, which has been its traditional function.

NAG



Kyarr Phong (stow net) fishery study group meeting. The kyarr phong fishery has attracted greater attention in recent years as news about its unsustainable practices brought widespread media attention

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The kyarr phong fishery has attracted greater attention in recent years as news about its unsustainable practices brought widespread media attention. The reality of the fishery remains quite appalling. Despite poor and often violent working conditions on the rafts, the government does not seem too keen to tackle the issue. The study of the ICSF-aided project reported that though the fishery is risky for both owners and workers, it has a powerful attraction because of its 'high-risk, high-reward' orientation. Although the salaries paid to the boat labourers are not large, another attraction draws people to take up the job: advance payment. Whoever works on the raft (excluding the workers on land and on the carrier boats) gets an advance payment, which can amount up to 10 times their basic salary. To be eligible for the advance, the worker needs to sign a contract prepared by the owner, though the written contract is waived where the owners trust the crew member. In

most cases, it is not the workers who avail of the advance personally but one of their family members, which may make it legally complicated; but it is a traditional practice all the same. The complex arrangements behind the advance systems have given rise to several accusations, including those of money laundering, labour exploitation and human trafficking.

Most of the workers on the unregistered rafts have no personal documentation like the National Registration Card (NRC). They have to suffer extremely long working hours (minimum 12 hours a day) and brutal treatment from supervisors and owners. In addition, they have to deal with the common eventuality of natural disasters. Life-saving equipment like jackets are not provided to workers for fear that they will flee. Some runaways have found work under new owners on neighbouring rafts or boats. The prevailing labour shortage aids such recruitment.

Only limited quantities of food were provided on the boats and there was no purified drinking water available. The unsanitary conditions breed infectious diseases which can lead to death due to the lack of medical care. Although the owners pay compensation to the families of those who die on the rafts, the amount is not fixed and it is not certain whether it would be adjusted against the advance paid. The raft owners insist on waiting for six months, until the missing person is officially declared dead. To address this problem, a Raft Fishery Association comprising boat owners was established in 2016 in Pyapon Township of Ayeyarwady Region and in Yae Township of Mon State. But the association has no representation from the employee side. Any initiative to safeguard decent work in the kyarr phong fishery must take these factors into consideration.

Media exposes of the deplorable conditions in the fishery have forced the DoF and the Union Government to set up Investigation Committee. Clearly, engagement with the media will be key in future programme implementation and advocacy work. Progress on the proposed Marine Fishery Law is slow, despite sufficient ground-level information. There is a need to engage carefully with the government in the Marine Fishery Law development process; some interests in the government do not wish to see the law passed since it will lead to the decentralization of inshore areas, further weakening the power and influence of the DoF. Any focus on decent work in the fisheries is likely to make new enemies. However, given the magnitude of the issue for the livelihoods of thousands of fishworkers, NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) must engage at multiple levels to bring an end to these abusive and dangerous practices.

The SSF Guidelines can be a point of departure for amending the fishery laws and policies of Myanmar. The main priorities are: responsible governance of tenure; post-harvest activities and trade; promoting legal frameworks for SSF; strengthening fishery institutions and networks; and conservation for sustainable resource management. All

these themes ought to be reflected in amending or promulgating fishery laws and policies.

However, most stakeholders have limited understanding of the SSF Guidelines. Specific measures have now been undertaken by government agencies to impart knowledge on the guidelines. The Myanmar Fishery Partnership, formed in 2016 for technical co-ordination and exchange information among the Project Implementation Partners, does not have representatives of SSF and fishery communities. At the state and regional levels, fishery partnerships have since been formed, with at least 75 per cent

The SSF Guidelines can be a point of departure for amending the fishery laws and policies of Myanmar.

representatives of SSF. Collective problem solving and knowledge sharing is now regularly carried out by development agencies.

In 2020 a National SSF Network was set up, initiated by NAG in close collaboration with international NGOs (INGOs) and CSOs. This network is anticipated to be the key platform in advocacy work for fishing rights and in sharing information and knowledge on the SSF Guidelines to a wider audience of fishery-related stakeholders in the near future.

For more

Myanmar: Improved governance of small-scale fisheries and enhanced upholding of duties towards conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and decent work at the subnational levels

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1087-Myanmar.html>

Kyarr Phong Fishery: The Tiger's Mouth

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/75-4245-The-Tiger's-Mou.html>

Fisheries Governance: Confusion, Uncertainty

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/80-4372-Confusion,-Unce.html>

Network Activities Group (NAG)

nagmyanmar.org/

Being Worker-friendly

The plight of fishworkers on board vessels engaged in commercial fishing operations calls for regulating their conditions of work and providing protection benefits

Concern over the conditions of fishworkers on board commercial fishing vessels was thrown into high relief in the Philippines in 2018. This was during a series of consultations that sought out small-scale fishers and fishworkers on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). Fishworkers who

Forms of penalty, on the other hand, may be in the form of withholding of wages, confiscation of travel or identity documents, and physical violence, among others.

The Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 1992 in the Philippines defines forced labour as the extraction of work or services from any person by means of enticement, violence, intimidation or threat, use of force or coercion, including deprivation of freedom, abuse of authority or moral ascendancy, debt bondage or deception, including any work or service extracted from any person under the menace of penalty.

Forced labour becomes Trafficking in Person (TIP) or a mode of committing TIP when all elements of forced labour are present and there is internal movement or cross-border migration. In the context of commercial fishing, this may happen when a person is recruited to work as a crew member on a commercial fishing vessel but through machinations and misrepresentation of the recruiter, the victim ends up working under abusive labour conditions.

Labour exploitation

A study on the supply chain of tuna in the Philippines identified the presence of indicators of forced labour and factors that increased workers' vulnerability to labour exploitation. The study highlighted the plight of fishworkers both in capture fisheries—using handlines and purse-seines—and in the processing industry. It showed that these workers face exploitative conditions such as induced indebtedness; lack of contracts or written agreements on the conditions of work; lack of a grievance redressal mechanism and blacklisting in case they complain about their situation;

are employed or made to work in such vessels venturing into distant waters are prone to abuse in view of the distance and the physical impossibility of monitoring their activities while at sea. It is estimated that about 250 million people are employed in the global seafood industry; a majority of them come from developing countries. In 2016 a widespread occurrence was reported of forced labour in 47 countries, including the Philippines.

Forced labour refers to all work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty—and for which the said person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. Thus, forced labour has the element of involuntariness on the part of the victim, under pain of penalty, to him or her to perform an involuntary service.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) lays down indicators of involuntariness. They include recruitment linked to debt, deception about the nature of the work, and induced indebtedness, among others.

It is estimated that about 260 million people are employed in the global seafood industry; a majority of them come from developing countries.

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Harvest from small boat (ringnet) being hauled by fishworkers in Mulanay municipality, Province of Quezon in Luzon island, The Philippines. There is a need to organize fishworkers on board fishing vessels, particularly those who are working on small and medium commercial boats.

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deception about the legality of a particular voyage, leaving them with no opportunity to give their consent; and/or hazardous work and low earnings due to lack of transparency on the part of the financier's process of determining the earnings. Workers in the purse-seine fishing also experience under-payment of wages and isolation due to longer fishing trips, compared to handliners.

Department Order 156-16 was issued by virtue of the rule-making power of the Secretary of Labour under the Labour Code of the Philippines. It is a big step in the right direction in regulating the conditions of work of fishworkers and in providing protection and benefits to them. Implementation of the new law needs to be monitored.

Statistics for 2016 from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicated that the Asian

region contributed the largest number of fishers and fish farmers compared to other regions of the world, with a total of 87 per cent people employed in the sector. This includes those engaged in various fishery sub-sectors, either part-time or full-time, and regardless of their scales of engagement. In recognition of the importance of fishers and workers in the fisheries sectors, the Southeast Asian countries have been confronted with pressing concerns on the need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing associated with labour-related issues, as well as on the status of people engaged in fishing and related activities in the region.

The increasing demand for workers in the fisheries sectors to serve the needs of international trade in Southeast Asia resulted in large numbers of migrant workers getting on board to seek work opportunities in other countries,

and also large groups of workforce moving from one country to another. Those countries that employ these workers, therefore, need to pay serious attention to addressing the issues and concerns in fisheries labour, especially the allegations that these workers receive low wages; have inadequate or no social security; are unskilled in relation to fishing operations; receive inadequate training before working on board fishing vessels; are unaware of the requirements for safety at sea; possess fake or no legal documents; are subjected to forced labour, child labour and human trafficking; experience poor working conditions and unfair treatment by employers; and that some fishing vessels do not comply with sea-safety requirements.

On November 16, 2017, the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (C188) came into force. It sets the basic standards of decent work in the fishing industry and provides effective protection to about 38 million people who work in the sector. It is intended to prevent, among others, all unacceptable forms of labour for fishers, such as human trafficking, forced labour and other abuses. This landmark convention underwent a tedious process of negotiations, dialogues and consultations among States, employers, operators and civil society organizations (CSOs), including a number of fishers' organizations.

Though the Philippines has yet to ratify the C188, the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) issued the Department Order No. 156-16 Series of 2016; this came into force on July 1, 2016. It provides the rules and regulations governing the working and living conditions of fishers on board fishing vessels engaged in commercial fishing operations.

Preventive measures against TIP in the fisheries context is addressed by DO 156-16, albeit limited to fishworkers on board commercial fishing vessels with Philippine registry operating within or outside Philippine territorial waters. It is aligned with ILO C188 in providing protection to fishers, including fishworkers. It provides the normative regulations and standards on Estimated Energy Requirement (EER), compensation and

benefits, occupational and maritime safety, grievance mechanisms and post-employment benefits such as repatriation, among others.

These provisions are intended to reduce—if not eliminate—exploitative labour practices that tend to increase the vulnerabilities of fishworkers while on a fishing voyage. The Department Order is still in its infancy; its implementation has yet to make a dent on the improvement of the working conditions of fishworkers. Owners of handline fishing vessels and the fishers in the tuna-rich area of General Santos City put forward a proposal to the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) during the Tuna Handline Summit held in 2018 to further study the possibility of another similar policy issuance that would reflect more of their context and apply flexibilities as they have a smaller scale of operations unlike the handline boats that are vertically integrated in the supply chain and are owned by big fishing companies.

When Thailand ratified C188 in 2018, it became the first Asian country to do so. With the current problems besetting fishworkers and the lack of coordination among agencies, it is high time for the Philippines to work towards C188 ratification. It might be worth looking at how to make use of its flexibility clauses and negotiate with both companies and workers.

Compliance to these standards by members states are, however, subject to certain flexibilities. This is to bridge the gap in terms of implementation and compliance by member states on account of the diversity in fishing operations, capacity and infrastructure available to member countries in complying with the rules and regulations of the convention. It is also intended to facilitate widespread ratification by member states.

Three modes

There are three modes of flexibilities provided under ILO Convention 188: One, exclusion possibility. A member state may seek exclusion from complying with certain provisions of the convention after consultation by the competent authority with the representative organizations of

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Tuna handline fishers getting ready to go out to sea in Mindoro Occidental, The Philippines. A study on the supply chain of tuna in the Philippines identified the presence of indicators of forced labour and factors that increased workers' vulnerability to labour exploitation

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employers and workers concerned, and, in particular, with the representative organizations of fishing vessel owners and fishers. This exclusion covers only inland fishing vessels or limited categories of fishers or fishing vessels. An example cited by ILO is the progressive implementation of certain requirements, such as the written work agreements between the fishers and fishing vessel owners or their representatives, while still requiring small vessels to carry basic first aid kits and to meet many other requirements of the Convention.

Two, progressive implementation. Where it is not immediately possible for a member state to implement all of the measures provided for in this convention, owing to special problems of a substantial nature in the light of insufficiently developed infrastructure or institutions, the country may, in accordance with a plan drawn up in a consultation, choose to progressively implement all or some of the following measures:

- Require fishers to work on board a fishing vessel without a valid medical certificate with respect to vessels remaining at sea for more than three days.
- Require every fishing vessel to submit a crew list to authorized persons ashore prior to departure of the vessel, or communicate it ashore immediately after departure of the vessel.
- Execute a written contract between the fisher and fishing vessel owner or the latter's authorized representative or produce any evidence of contractual or similar arrangements where fishers are not employed or engaged by the fishing vessel owner, which provides for decent work and living conditions on board the vessel.
- Conduct risk evaluation in relation to fishing, as appropriate, with the participation of fishers or their representatives.
- Provide fishers with protection for work-related sickness, injury or death, and ensure a system for fishing vessel owners' liability; or provide for compulsory insurance, workers' compensation or other schemes in accordance with national laws and regulations.
- Require fishers to work on board a fishing vessel without a valid medical certificate attesting to fitness to perform their duties.

Women and community members can be organized as support groups and advocates to push for expanded labour and social protection of workers and their families.

This flexibility does not apply to certain fishing vessels on account of their size, length and distance of voyage at sea, and their port state control.

Three, substantial equivalence. Member states may provide alternative measures in complying with certain standards on manning a fishing vessel for safe navigation and control, rest periods of fishers, and compensatory periods of rest, provided that the safety and health of the fishers are not jeopardized. Likewise, a member state not in a position to implement the provisions found in Annex III on Fishing Vessel Accommodation may, after consultation, adopt provisions in its laws and regulations or other measures which are substantially equivalent but subject to certain limitations:

- Responsibilities of fishing vessel owners: A fishing vessel owner means the owner of the fishing vessel

or any other organization or person, such as the manager, agent or bare-boat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the vessel from the owner and who, on assuming such responsibility, has agreed to take over, in so far as it applies to vessels remaining at sea for more than three days.

- Medical care, health protection and social security: Article 10 does not apply to fishing vessels which are, one, 24 metres or longer in length; two, remain at sea for more than seven days; or three, normally navigate at a distance exceeding 200 nautical miles from the coastline of the flag state or navigate beyond the outer edge of its continental shelf, whichever distance from the coastline is greater; or four, are subject to port-state control as provided for in Article 43 of the Convention, except where port-state control arises through a situation of force majeure.

The integration of a human rights-based approach in the development planning for the fisheries sector must be explored. This can pull out fishworkers from invisibility, not only in terms of target beneficiaries of the programmes and projects of the local and national governments but also as claimholders for the specific remedies they need as potential or actual victims of TIP. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), for instance, as the primary agency under the Department of Agriculture that regulates commercial fishing, can include compliance with labour standards by commercial fishing vessel operators as a ground for the cancellation or non-renewal of licences. It can also require fishworkers to undergo human-resources (HR) education awareness training before issuing their licence as a fishworker, similar to the Pre-employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) or the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) being carried out by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). This can be done in partnership with the Commission on Human Rights and DOLE. The HR education and awareness raising may provide impetus for fishworkers to organize as an association bound by the desire to protect both their individual and collective rights.

Urgent need

There is an urgent need to organize fishworkers on board fishing vessels, particularly those who are working on small and medium commercial boats. Workers on board large commercial vessels have long been organized into trade unions. In General Santos City, owners of smaller boats who operate domestically are more organized, compared to their fishworkers. The voice of these workers are being heard through the boat owners and operators. Women and community members can be organized as support groups and advocates to push for expanded labour and social protection of workers and their families. Actions could start from increasing the community awareness on laws that protect their rights and promote their welfare, and conducting more in-depth socio-economic studies

that capture the nuances of the scale and operations of small- and medium-scale boats.

Further study on the nature of indebtedness among fishworkers should be conducted to better understand the nature in which they become victims or are exposed to the dangers of debt bondage and forced labour. This can be correlated with the nature of sharing of income and expenses as practised by the different types of commercial fishing operations.


Policies on environment protection and conservation should integrate social and labour protection of fishers and workers. The long-standing global problem of decent work deficit in fishing, such as unprotected work, human trafficking and slave labour, is also tied up with the global problem of IUU fishing and trans-shipment at sea. Thus, policy reforms in environment protection and conservation of national and global fisheries should integrate social and labour protection of fishers. Other international non-binding instruments relevant to fishing would be helpful in developing international norms founded on providing decent work to fishers through advocacy and engagement, which must be observed at the national and international level. Eventually, this will help broaden the adoption of ILO C188 and create ripples that will comprehensively address the labour abuse and exploitation in the fishing industry.

Certification or ecolabelling of fishery products is a market-based trade measure to bring about improved fisheries management in response to the overexploitation and depletion of global fish stocks. Certification refers to the procedure “by which a third party gives written or equivalent assurance that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements. Ecolabelling schemes entitle a fishery product to bear a distinctive logo or statement which certifies that the fish has been harvested in compliance with conservation and sustainability standards. The logo or statement is intended to make provision for informed decisions of purchasers whose choice can be relied upon to promote and stimulate the sustainable

use of fishery resources”, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

According to a UNEP study, the improvement in fisheries management through certification could have a positive outcome not only for the environment but it could also significantly address the problem of poverty and food security by ensuring the sustainability of the fish stocks, particularly in developing countries, where small-scale fisheries provide a staple livelihood.

Certification is a tool for norm development and enforcement of standards that have proven to be effective in drawing the support of end-users and consumers. Thus, these market-based initiatives are potential tools to improve and change the behaviour of corporate and private players in the fishing industry in terms of addressing the labour conditions of fishers.

Recently, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has announced an overhaul of its certification process which includes a new requirement that MSC-certified fisheries declare they are free from forced labour and child labour. In the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, an NGO is partnering with an association of fishers to push for the labelling of tuna products as “worker-friendly”, instead of using the usual “environment-friendly” label. 

For more



Seeing slavery in seafood supply chain

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Path to a Policy Upgrade

Incorporating the SSF Guidelines into the national fisheries policy requires several rounds of engagement with state and community stakeholders

The onset of the new millennium saw the process of fisheries development taking a new path globally. It's one with a strong emphasis on offshore and deep-sea fishing, fish exports and the increased use of oceans for tourism and other development activities, indicating a rising dependence on blue economic growth. These processes remain weakly regulated or unregulated; they

functions of providing employment, nutrition and food security to coastal populations.

The implementation process

Between July 2018 and August 2019, SLFSSF embarked on a process to implement the SSF Guidelines, with assistance from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), as part of FAO efforts towards the global implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The plan of activities included sensitizing the state actors (from diverse institutions in the coastal zone) to the nuances of the guidelines; developing communication tools for community stakeholders; conducting stakeholder consultation workshops covering several parts of the country; assessing current policy; and remodelling it by incorporating the relevant parts of the guidelines.

Community representatives

The participants at these workshops included fisher community representatives (including women fisherfolk), state actors representing diverse government departments operating in the coastal zone, and policy experts. The active participation of fisheries officials at the stakeholder consultation workshops was a key feature of the island-wide consultations. This resulted in a group of policy experts creating an SSF policy document (SSF Policy 2019), taking into account a number of thematic areas that formed the missing links in the fisheries policy as it existed in 2018. This was discussed and finalized at a policy workshop held in June 2019, attended by the Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries, who made the keynote address. It was expected that the current national fisheries policy would be remodelled taking into account the new policy guidelines.

The active participation of fisheries officials at the stakeholder consultation workshops was a key feature of the island-wide consultations.

marginalize the artisanal and small-scale fisheries (SSF) sector rooted in vulnerable communities severely hit by poverty and displacement.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), adopted in 2014 at the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), came as a panacea for the protection of the rights of small-scale fishers. In an effort to implement the SSF Guidelines, the Sri Lanka Forum for Small-Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF) embarked on an island-wide consultation process in 2018-2019, leading to the formation of a small-scale fisheries policy that has incorporated a number of policy strategies to protect the rights of small-scale fishers. Now it is up to the government of Sri Lanka to adopt them, to see that the small-scale fisheries sector is protected and would continue to perform its age-old

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The state actor sensitizing workshop held in Colombo 28th September 2018. The major outcome was the Ministry of Fisheries agreeing to initiate discussions in incorporating the SSF Policy 2019 into the national fisheries policy of 2018

Addressing existing voids

A number of missing links in the National Fisheries Policy of 2018 were noticed in thematic areas, such as tenure rights, sustainable resource management, post-harvest and trade, occupational health and safety, social protection and insurance, gender equality, disaster risk and climate change, social development, capacity development and empowering community organizations. The SSF Guidelines implementation process addressed all these missing links, and policy strategies were prepared based on the island-wide consultations carried out in 12 of the 15 coastal districts.

In the SSF Policy 2019, the emphasis laid on the need to look at the coastal ecosystem as a whole in management decision making was an important step forward. This was associated with the need for cross-sectoral collaboration and institutional coordination and the need to establish co-management platforms at the local level, rising up to the national level. Emphasis was laid on the incorporation of four important features into co-management platforms

to make them integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic. The need for capacity building of both state and community stakeholders for effective participation in such platforms was also underlined. A related proposition was the need to empower community organizations, consulting them at all stages of development activities and obtaining their active participation in management decisions. Several policy statements were also incorporated to protect the legitimate tenure rights of fishers to land, water and fish resources, as well as their rights to the demarcation of boundaries in the coastal zone.

The SSF Policy 2019 also laid down a number of strategies on social protection, work conditions and fisheries insurance. The need to revise and improve the fishermen's pension scheme, adopting the relevant ILO conventions on work in the fishing sector, reducing discrepancy in the wages paid for men and women, and establishing a fisheries insurance scheme jointly with fisheries cooperatives to minimize informational asymmetries, are important

As a maiden effort in preparing socially optimal action plans, the new SSF Policy 2019 could accompany an action plan...

improvements over the current policy. Gender is another area that got increased attention in the new policy; it was also proposed, among other things, that women's representation in the committees of community organizations should be a minimum of 25 per cent. Appreciably, the need for government intervention in marketing and trade, to cope with unfair producer prices, unfair trade and nutrition issues, was also highlighted.

Negotiations with the government

Political turmoil in late 2019, and the period through the first round of COVID-19 (from March until the parliamentary elections in July) saw a long period of 'governance failure', wherein the administrative system remained very weak and 'regressive'.

The fisheries sector was no exception and the only function of the Ministry of Fisheries was to ensure that fishing, fish landing and distribution continued uninterrupted.

Now that the country has established an effective governance system, the SLFSSF is initiating a process of negotiating with the government with the aim of incorporating the SSF Policy 2019 into the national fisheries policy of 2018. The SLFSSF is strongly supported in this by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka, which has requested the Ministry of Fisheries to consider the SSF Policy 2019 for improving the national policy. The government's response has been positive and a change in the current national policy seems possible in the near future; it will go a long way in securing a sustainable small-scale fisheries sub-sector. Unfortunately, the second wave of COVID-19 devastated Sri Lanka, delaying the proposed discussions; they are expected to commence once the pandemic subsides.

Pre-conditions for 'take-off'

Successful implementation of the proposed SSF Guidelines depends on certain important pre-conditions. These will ensure the policy is properly translated into community deliverables. They are:

Awareness building: In general, the governors see fishing as 'catching fish to earn an income'. They have poor knowledge of fishing communities, the issues confronted by them in their day-to-day life, social-development needs, social security protection, levels of poverty and threats posed to them by other coastal resource users and climate change, among other things. No efforts or investments have gone into studying fishing communities since the last census of fisheries was carried out in 1972. Which is why a national seminar is in the works, aimed at 'understanding fisheries and fishing communities'; this could be an 'awareness-building' workshop, especially aimed at state officers and parties interested in, and working towards, securing sustainable SSF. This timely and apt move could be held in 2022, the year devoted to artisanal and small-scale fisheries.

Assist the government to prepare an action plan: Past experience shows that action plans are often prepared without being guided by policy. In fact, in the absence of any national policy, past actions plans were prepared in an ad hoc manner. This age-old practice cannot continue in the presence of a national policy. As a maiden effort in preparing socially optimal action plans, the new SSF Policy 2019 could accompany an action plan based on information obtained from extensive stakeholder consultations, including an array of activities proposed by the fishing communities and state actors, scrutinized and improved with the participation of experienced policy and planning experts, academics, researchers and civil society organizations.

Integrated and collaborative platforms: The coastal zone resources are also used by other stakeholders like those in tourism, industries, agriculture, wildlife, forests, and so on. Unfortunately, mandates of various institutions differ and there are huge mismatches among them. This often

leads to friction among parties who operate in the same arena. The new Coastal Zone and Coastal Resource Management Plan of 2018 intends to manage the coastal zone through a Special Area Management (SAM) process, a model that has produced fruitful results in certain areas in the past, for example, in Rekawa. SAM is a typical example of integrated, participatory and holistic management. Thus, it is necessary now to ensure that fisheries interests are well represented in SAM. This necessitates the establishment of Fisheries Management Areas, as laid down in Article 31 (1) of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996, and Fisheries Committees, under Article 31 (2) of the same. The representatives of Fisheries Committees could participate in Integrated Coastal Resource Management (ICRM) platforms, such as SAM. This demands a strong commitment by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Sectoral integration and institutional coordination: The need for cross-sectoral collaboration and institutional coordination in managing the coastal zone resource use is also an important concern. Co-management efforts will not succeed unless discrepancies among the mandates of different institutions are minimized. Therefore, it is proposed that the state intervenes to minimize overlapping policies and mandates among institutions responsible for coastal resources development, conservation and management. Even the planned SAM process will not achieve the desired results if such institutional coordination does not take place and conflicts among mandates are not resolved. A related issue would be the promotion of demarcating the boundaries of ecosystems in the coastal zone, when boundaries of diverse subsystems—such as lagoons, mangroves, reserves and forests—are not clear and difficulties are encountered in managing coastal resources.

Training and capacity building: The effective implementation of a number of policy strategies needs building up the capacities of state officers as well as communities in a

number of disciplines. While there is much interest today in the sustainable use of resources, conservation and management, the fishing communities are hardly made aware of the diverse measures to be adopted to achieve the goals of sustainability. A sizeable void exists in the area of fisheries management, especially in the idea of co-management. Neither the state officers nor the communities fully understand what co-management means and how it leads to integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic resource management in the coastal zone. Thus, all stakeholders in the coastal zone should be trained to actively participate in co-management platforms.

Empowering cooperatives: When it comes to performing the functions expected of a strong community organization, the fisheries cooperatives suffer from two problems at present: one, their weak role in resource management and, two, the presence of a parallel community structure, the Rural Fisheries Organizations (RFOs).

A sizeable void exists in the area of fisheries management, especially in the idea of co-management.


Even though they have performed fairly well in meeting an array of the well-being aspirations of the fisherfolk, the cooperatives have failed tremendously in managing the fisheries resources, especially in controlling entry. On the other hand, the RFOs remained outside the mainstream of activities because they commanded no faith or trust among the people and did not enjoy a dominant status among fishers. This was the opposite case with the fisheries co-operatives that had won the faith of communities with, for example, transparency in financial matters, auditing of accounts, open membership for all (including women), provision of livelihood capital, equal treatment to all, organization of collective activities, high social cohesion and protecting the rights of fishing communities.

Therefore, fisheries cooperatives need to be empowered, to represent fisher interests at Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) platforms and also to take the leading role in ICZM as the representative of the dominant stakeholder group.

Social security protection: A serious drawback in the government involvement in social security and social welfare in Sri Lanka's fisheries sector has been its inability to offer an effective pension scheme to fishers, the only 'safety net' that aimed at providing protection to SSF. Apart from the structural inefficiencies, the basic problem was the non-viability of the scheme, which depended heavily on government funds. The Ministry of Fisheries has to revisit the scheme, identify the reasons for its failure and attempt to revitalize it with the required institutional co-ordination, in consultation with social security experts. Fisheries insurance has always remained ineffective due to the inherent—and colossal—informational issues. One of the effective means of minimizing information asymmetries is to link insurance schemes with fisheries co-operatives that possess near-perfect knowledge of what happens at sea. This necessitates a close dialogue among the Department of Fisheries, insurance companies and fisheries cooperatives.

Conclusion

The process of implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Sri Lanka has been quite successful in making significant progress on the policy front. The major output of the process was the preparation of a small-scale fisheries policy that has incorporated several guidelines missed out in the current policy, while the major outcome was the Ministry of Fisheries agreeing to initiate discussions in incorporating the SSF Policy 2019 into the national fisheries policy of 2018. The success of the process could be attributed to the active participation of the government actors throughout, the successful conduct of island-wide stakeholder consultations and the ability of the project staff to explain the SSF Guidelines to the diverse stakeholders in their own language in very simple terms.

The expected benefits of this exercise, however, depend not only on the successful incorporation of the relevant guidelines into the national policy but also on ensuring that the process will finally benefit the small-scale fishers. This requires several rounds of engagement in preparing the people and the environment. The essentials and the deliverables remain constant: training and awareness and capacity building of state and community stakeholders; sectoral integration and institutional coordination; empowerment of community organizations; and assistance from the government to prepare action plans, based on policy guidelines. 

For more



FAO - ICSF's Project: National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and legislation integrates key elements of the SSF Guidelines

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1088-Sri%20Lanka.html>

Sri Lanka: Aiming for Holistic Management

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/80-4368-Aiming-for-Holi.html>

SSF Guidelines: Action Stations

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/82-4407-Action-Stations.html>

Co-operatives: Wellbeing Aspirations

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The national fisheries and aquaculture policy: Changes proposed to the current fisheries policy, 'to incorporate relevant FAO Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication'

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Shared Success

Some valuable lessons—a replicable model—on protection of aquatic resources and small-scale fisheries

The term co-management has been researched in Vietnam since the 1990s. A number of pilot projects have been conducted to find appropriate distribution and management sharing responsibilities between the government and the community. April 25, 2019, was a crucial milestone because a dramatic change came into effect that day: Decree No. 26 on the implementation of co-management of fisheries resources, via Article 10 of the Fisheries Law of 2017.

Binh Dinh is a province located on the central coast, with a 134-km-long coastline. Eighty per cent of the local fisher population—owning 6,115 vessels—benefits from small-scale fishing in both inshore and offshore areas; it contributes 10 per cent of the province's gross domestic product (GDP). However, overexploitation of fishery resources is now a major concern in the province due to its negative impacts on important ecosystems (like coral reefs and seagrass), and because it rapidly reduces incomes from fishing activities.

In order to improve the situation, on 16 May 2019, Decision No. 1636/QĐ-UBND on Implementation Plan of the Fisheries Law in Binh Dinh Province was issued. It mentioned co-management as a method in managing fisheries resources. This method was then applied in four communes, namely, Nhon Chau, Nhon Ly, Nhon Hai and Ghenh Rang, located in a 36,357-hectare Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA), the Quy Nhon Bay. The pilot project for the co-management model was implemented with the support of the Centre for Marine Life Conservation and Community Development (MCD), the Binh Dinh Fisheries Sub-Department and the Binh Dinh Fisheries Association between January 2019 and May 2020, based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), which

has been practised in this LMMA since 2017.

The implementation of the co-management practice in the Nhon Ly commune can be taken as a typical example for the Quy Nhon Bay LMMA. The management responsibilities are divided into six levels, starting with the People's Committee in Quy Nhon Province, down through the Inter-Communal Co-Executive Association, the People's Committees of various communes, fisheries co-management groups, core groups and community members. The core groups play a key role in gathering and unifying members and promoting

The core groups created units to protect the coral reefs and fisheries resources through frequent checks and annual monitoring...

their participation in managing the exploitation and protection of aquatic resources, and engaging in tourism and related activities in accordance with local government regulations. The core groups created units to protect the coral reefs and fisheries resources through frequent checks and annual monitoring reports in order to introduce timely adjustments to the management method.

First phase

The first phase of the implementation of the co-management plan began in January 2019. It first created a network to enhance community participation for the upcoming phases. The most important result of the first phase was reaching unanimous agreement among all the representatives from each

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MCD



Meeting on developing strategies to monitoring coral reefs. The 60 core members from the community groups were chosen to participate in identifying the negative impacts on coral reefs and benthic species

group, at all management levels, on the need to protect the coral reef ecosystem in Bai Dua.

After four months, the second phase was launched during which time core members were identified for implementation; a number of regulations, action and media plans were drafted. The 60 core members from the community groups were chosen to participate in identifying the negative impacts on coral reefs and benthic species. From those inputs, a draft plan of action for solutions was drawn up, not only for fisheries resource protection and exploitation activities but also to identify the beneficiaries from tourism and impress on them the importance of sustainable and responsible tourism in coastal areas, resulting in stable incomes.

The Bai Dua beach area is located in the Nhon Ly commune, which has high biodiversity, with the coral reef area estimated to cover about eight hectare. With a fairly dense distribution, these reefs offer a high diversity of species, shapes and colours—a beautiful marine landscape. The Nha Trang Oceanographic Institute's 2017 survey recorded 207 types of aquatic species in Bai Dua, including 11 species of seaweed, 87 species of hard coral, 23 mollusc species, 14 echinoderm species and 69 fish species. Bai Dua has some

of the highest species diversity in the whole Quy Nhon Bay area and is a spawning ground for big-fin squid, snails, lobsters and other species.

Bai Dua's co-management area was divided into three sub-areas for different economic purposes—namely, one, strictly protected area; two, fisheries exploiting area; and, three, area for tourism related to coral reefs—with correspondingly appropriate management methods prescribed. Besides this, two levels of conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms were drafted. The funds required annually were to be drawn from the Community Fund. But each member whose livelihood stood to benefit directly from the conservation efforts was supposed to contribute an additional amount.

Third phase

In June 2019, the third phase began to survey and identify areas overlapping with other projects within Bai Dua. The most important outcome of this phase was the creation of a localized map for protecting coral reefs in Bai Dua, a valuable document in the fisheries co-management process. The management responsibility for this area was handed over to the Nhon Ly community.

After the fourth phase of final consultations in July 2019 to identify

community groups and to draft regulations for protection and exploitation, the fifth phase was organized the following month. This aimed to seek approval for the list of core members in each community group, to put into action the draft plan schemes. Seventeen core members were elected to form a representative board for the community group.

It took nearly six months to finalize all legal records and documents. On February 4, 2020, the community co-management group was officially and legally recognized and handed over the rights to implement co-management and protection of the aquatic resources in Bai Dua.

After one year of implementing the co-management plan, about 329,000 tourists had visited the Quy Nhon Bay LMMA, a 6.2 per cent increase over the previous year. The total revenue was 6.1 billion Vietnamese dong (VND), equivalent to 42.9 million VND per capita; this was 18 times higher than in 2015. As one of the first models nationwide of co-management of fisheries resources in accordance with the Fisheries Law of 2017, it demonstrated that sustainable fisheries and ecotourism could co-exist, leading to a stabilization of incomes, an improvement of living standards, and protection of fisheries resources. Especially notable is that this successful model can be replicated in other areas—provided the crucial technical guidelines are followed.

In 2010, Nhon Ly was a fishing village where the main source of livelihood was fishing, primarily from coastal areas, and processing of aquatic products. Seventy per cent of community members made a living through fishing activities, 12 per cent through industrial construction, and 28 per cent through services and trade. By 2019, the structure of the village economy had shifted significantly: revenue from agriculture, forestry and fishery products decreased from 70 per cent to 42.49 per cent, while revenue from construction increased slightly to 14.82 per cent, and revenue from trade and services increased to 42.69 per cent.

The rapid and successful completion of six phases in just one year shows the high determination of local people and

related agencies, especially MCD, the Binh Dinh Fisheries Sub-Department and the Binh Dinh Fisheries Association. The positive outcome of the project offers a great opportunity for people to understand the importance of the co-management method for both the environment and the economy, especially when it is supported by detailed legislation. Nonetheless, it is still a considerable challenge to produce the right mix of appropriate management ability, stable funding, participatory initiatives and concrete legislation. Once this is achieved, the community is almost certainly on the way towards sustainable and responsible fisheries.

In May 2020, MCD coordinated with the Sub-Department of Fisheries in Binh Dinh Province to organize a conference on co-management sharing, recognizing the assignment of management and protection rights of aquatic resources in the LMMA Quy Nhon Bay.

At the conference, Nguyen Thanh Danh, the vice president of the Commune People's Committee and

The positive outcome of the project offers a great opportunity for people to understand the importance of the co-management method...

Head of the Representative Board, said that by successfully promoting and encouraging community member participation in protecting the coral reef ecosystem, they were able to collect two million VND per year per household for the community protection fund.

Valuable chance

Mai Thi Huong, Chairwoman of the Seafood Processing Co-operative in Nhon Ly and a member of the community co-management group, said: "Co-management is a valuable chance to build up sustainable livelihoods, educate the community on resource protection, reduce overexploitation and increase product value to generate income not only for the women but also for entire households."

Table 1. The roles of key stakeholders in the Nhon Ly co-management plan

No.	Stakeholder	Role
1	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Binh Dinh Province	Direct the Sub-Department of Fisheries to coordinate with other stakeholders and community groups to establish a co-management implementation plan that complies with the Law of Fisheries (2017) and Decree No. 26.
2	Sub-Department of Fisheries in Binh Dinh Province	Provide technical support for community groups in proposing and implementing co-management, protection and exploitation plans in the assigned areas, with appropriate targets regulated by the government; report to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Provincial People's Committee about the results obtained from the community groups for prompt and timely amendments.
3	Fisheries Association in Binh Dinh Province	Support consultations on establishing the co-management and plan; advise stakeholders on completion of the project.
4	People's Committee in Quy Nhon City	Consult stakeholders and approve the co-management profile; support and monitor the implementation of the co-management plan in the Nhon Ly commune.
5	People's Committee in Nhon Ly commune	Direct all relevant actors in the Nhon Ly commune to support community groups in submitting a co-management plan to the authorities for approval and subsequent implementation.
6	Community group	Represent the community; develop the co-management profile, and methods for operation and regulation of the co-management plan; elect and agree on the representative board for the community group.
7	Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development	Facilitate stakeholder participation and implementation of the co-management plan, including forming advocacy groups, community groups, co-management plan regulations, and community communication and capacity-building schemes.

Tran Van Vinh, a representative from the Sub-Department of Fisheries in Binh Dinh, said: "The Nhon Ly commune is a coastal area with traditional features of diverse fisheries resources and high biodiversity; assigning management rights to the

applying the model, the selected area should have a high biodiversity, should not be vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts but provide important resource habitats as a source of livelihoods for communities. Importantly, it should be ensured that the area does not come under the management of any private-sector organization. If there is harmony between protecting ecosystems and developing livelihoods by raising community awareness and capacity, alongside clarifying the benefits and obligations of practising co-management, the living conditions and incomes of the coastal community can be raised. A sustainable financial mechanism should be identified at the early stages of co-management.

A sustainable financial mechanism should be identified at the early stages of co-management.

community groups, also called co-management, is necessarily needed for more effective protection of fisheries resources, with responsibilities shared with the government as stipulated in the Law of Fisheries."

Through the preparation and implementation of the co-management model, MCD realized that in order to achieve a positive outcome from

Considering the remarkable outcome of the co-management model in the Nhon Ly commune, replication



The boundaries of the co-management areas were identified by the team members. The positive outcome of the project offers a great opportunity for people to understand the importance of the co-management method for both the environment and the economy

should be considered in other LMMAs, not only in Quy Nhon (Binh Dinh) but also along the central coast—for example, in Quang Nam and Khanh Hoa provinces—to improve the environment and the living conditions of coastal communities. Case studies and good practices from the Nhon Ly model could be identified and shared at national or regional workshops to disseminate and fine-tune the technical and legal aspects for an improvement of the model.

In the early stages, regular support from government bodies is the key to handling difficulties and limitations in management capacity. Fishers from nearby regions who exploit the fisheries resources of Bai Dua can also be involved in, or invited to, the community groups to expand their scale and internal capacity. Furthermore, to avoid problems in trading, the legal status of the community groups should be ascertained with strong support from the local government.

The voluntary Community Fund—inherently rather unstable—requires supplementary support from the collection of service fees from tourism and related services.

For more



FAO - ICSF's Project: Small-scale fishing communities are better informed about co-managing local aquatic and coastal ecosystems and benefits of community-based MCS systems to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU fishing practices

<https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1090-Vietnam.html>

Vietnam: Learning from Warnings
<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/80-4369-Learning-from-W.html>

Fisheries Co-management: Learning from Experience

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/82-4415-Learning-from-E.html>

Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD)
<http://mcdvietnam.org/en/>

COVID-19

COVID closures, embassy intervention strands hundreds of Lao fishermen in Malaysia

Hundreds of Lao migrant fishermen are stranded in Malaysia after the Lao Embassy in Kuala Lumpur took control of their return travel plans to arrange pricier flights, which had already been complicated by coronavirus restrictions, the fishermen told RFA.

Drawn by the prospect of well-paid work at sea, around 700 Lao migrants traveled overland through Thailand to Pahang state on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula, entering Malaysia on tourist visas, one of the men said.

"The company or the owner of the fishing boats made all the paperwork for us, including work permits and contracts, so we are all legal workers in Malaysia," the fisherman told RFA's Lao Service Monday on condition of anonymity. But the coronavirus threw a wrench in their plans to return home when the fishing season ended in November. After an inexpensive bus trip back to Laos through Thailand became impossible when borders between Malaysia and Thailand closed, about 530 of the fishermen negotiated

passage to Laos from Pahang with V Travel, a Malaysian tour company.

With expenses piling up and no money coming in, hundreds of the fishermen illegally entered Thailand in hopes of taking the overland route. On Tuesday, a group of about 20 of them were arrested in Thailand's southern Songkhla province. As of Tuesday, 463 remain in Malaysia and are still waiting for the flights. The Lao Embassy in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday said that flights chartered for the end of November were postponed because the Lao Prime Minister's Office suspended incoming flights.

"The embassy made a second request to the Lao National Taskforce Committee for Covid-19 Control and Prevention to reschedule the flights, one on December 12 and the other on December 17, 2020. Now, the request is being considered by the taskforce. So, please wait," the statement said.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/fishermen-12082020213103.html>

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

World Fisheries Day: How the EU can support sustainable African artisanal fisheries

In this declaration on the occasion of World Fisheries Day, the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CFFA) calls on the European Union (EU) to integrate the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) into all its policies that have an impact on this sector, particularly in the Blue Economy and Farm to Fork strategies and in its external action.

Therefore, we recommend:

-- That the EU systematically integrates the contribution to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines into its external action, both within the framework of its development co-operation policy and its CFP in its external dimension.

-- More specifically, that the European Commission, as

it has done through its new regulation on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets (SMEFF), integrate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines into its basic CFP regulation as well as into all other policies that have an impact on artisanal fisheries, such as the Blue Economy Strategy, or the "Farm to Fork" Strategy (F2F).

-- That the consideration, and implementation, of the SSF Guidelines be integrated as a specific objective of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs), particularly as the guidelines are rooted in a human-rights approach.

-- And finally, that the EU encourages and supports the draft convention for an RFMO dedicated to the management of shared stocks in West Africa, being itself involved in the exploitation of these species.

The perspective of the year 2022 dedicated to artisanal fisheries is an opportunity to encourage the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to ensure that this sector fully integrates the strategic priorities for the development of fisheries in developing countries and that it is fairly integrated into the legal frameworks.

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert/article/detail/61339-World-Fisheries.html?language=EN>

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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

The National Commission for the Strengthening of Extractive Reserves, Communities and Traditional and Coastal and Marine Extractive Communities

The National Commission for the Strengthening of Extractive Reserves, Communities and Traditional and Coastal and Marine Extractive Communities is an aggregator network involving 72 grassroots organizations. These include 32 Extractive Reserves (of which 28 are federal, one is at the state level and three at the municipal level), four Environmental Protection Areas (APAs) and 6 'other' maretorios—the fishing communities, activists working on coastal and marine extraction—located in the 17 states along the Brazilian coast.

Created in 2007, CONFREM Brazil's mission is to develop, articulate and implement collective strategies aimed at the recognition and guaranteeing of the subsistence and sustainable production of resources in the coastal marine territories.

Constant conflicts and threats to the fisher's way of life are common in these maretorios, alongside poor environmental management and political pressure for the reclassification of conservation units as 'Extractive Reserves'. The aim is to allocate these areas for tourism, oil and gas extraction

**CONFREM
BRAZIL**

and large-scale food production, like shrimp farming. Recent events, such as oil spills and the spread of COVID-19, affected the entire production structure and its modes of organization.

CONFREM Brazil has sought to advance the agendas of fishing communities to national debates; develop and/or support capacities for intervention in social policies; strengthen the

fight to guarantee sustainability; and seek to give visibility to coastal and marine extractive maretorios, highlighting their ways of life and their relationship with the sustainable use of resources.

CONFREM Brazil has links with the following organizations: Mangaba Catadores Movement in the State of Sergipe; National Coordination of Traditional Communities Caiçaras; Network of Women in Fishing Communities in the South of Bahia; Network of Women in the Amazon Mangroves; APA Costa dos Corais Women Network; Parnaíba Delta Resex Women Network; and Articulations of Young Protagonists of Artisanal Fishing. CONFREM Brazil has also created synergies of action with fishers and their organizations in Latin America and Africa.

CONFREM Brazil participated in the creation of the 'Observatory Group on Coronavirus Impacts on Fishing Communities', created jointly with the Fishermen and Fishermen Movement of Brazil (MPP), National Fisheries Articulation (ANP), Fisheries Pastoral Council (CPP) and National Coordination of Traditional Caicaras Fishing Communities. The initiative brought together fishermen and artisanal fishers, researchers, health professionals and activists from almost all regions of Brazil who, since March 2020, have sought to monitor and collect data on the progress of the coronavirus in fishing communities.

- by Flávio Lontro (flaviolontro@gmail.com and confrembrasil@gmail.com), General Coordinator of CONFREM Brazil

Supporting Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries

This document summarizes achievements of FAO to support sustainable marine and inland small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance and development. It reports on progress under the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and related developments. It highlights the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries to food system transformation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as innovative efforts to improve technical capacities for data collection and analysis in small-scale fisheries. Finally, it presents preparations for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022. Complementary and additional information is provided in COFI/2020/Inf.12 (Small-scale and artisanal fisheries: Progress on implementing the SSF Guidelines since the Thirty-third Session of COFI in 2018), COFI/2020/Inf.12.1 (Status update on the global study 'Illuminating Hidden Harvests. The contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development'), COFI/2020/Inf.12.2 (Draft planning roadmap for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022).

I. SSF Guidelines as a Tool to Support Achieving the SDGs

1. Small-scale fisheries play an important role in food security and nutrition and offer development pathways for poverty eradication and equitable development. The SSF Guidelines provide a framework to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security, poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods, and directly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14 and target 14.b, but also other

SDGs. As noted in previous paragraphs, and elaborated upon in COFI/2020/Inf.12, efforts of the SSF Umbrella programme support achievement of many SDGs, including 1 No poverty, 2 Zero hunger, 5 Gender equality, 12 Responsible consumption and production, 13 Climate action, 14 Life below water and 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.

2. These efforts include working with partners to promote a human rights-based approach, social protection, gender equality, and value chain enhancement, in particular in the postharvest subsector, as well as efforts to address climate change and extreme poverty in small-scale fisheries. FAO is promoting sustainable food systems to increase the quantity and quality of fish products for human consumption by empowering women, and working to strengthen the mitigative and adaptive capacity to climate change of traditional fishers and fish workers, and supporting the integration of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
3. Target 14.b of the 2030 Agenda calls on States to "provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets". Governments have an essential role to play in ensuring equitable access to resources and markets for small-scale fishers and fishworkers, and the SSF Guidelines contain valuable recommendations to support achieving SDG Target 14.b.
4. The governance and management of fisheries that recognize the participation of fishers, local stewardship, and shared decision-making, or co-management, empower fishworkers and balance rights and responsibilities between users and government authorities. Appropriate access to resources and secure tenure

or user rights, together with co-management, are fundamental elements of sustainable fisheries. FAO is working to complement recommendations in the SSF Guidelines with specific practical guidance on options and opportunities for fisheries stakeholders to consider how to implement co-management and facilitate the formalization of appropriate tenure, access and user rights in fisheries, noting that these are key elements for realizing sustainable access to resources, as well as the food security and the economic contributions of the small-scale fisheries sector. To date, regional workshops have provided recommendations for national marine fisheries in the respective areas of South East Asia and the Bay of Bengal, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The next workshop, Great Lakes and Inland Water Bodies of the World, will provide further recommendations for inland fisheries guidance. Additional workshops are planned to cover other regions of the world.

5. The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade emphasized the importance of market access, value chains, post-harvest operations and trade to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries towards the achievement of SDG 14.b. A new FAO Technical Paper, "Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Showcasing applied practices in value chains, post-harvest operations and trade", examines good practices and successful initiatives consistent with the recommendations of the SSF Guidelines (included as COFI/2020/SBD.20) and can be used to inform future work by FAO.

II. International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

6. The United Nations General Assembly in its Seventy-second session in December 2017 proclaimed 2022 the

"International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture". In its 33rd session, the Committee welcomed the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022 (IYAFA 2022). FAO is serving as the lead agency for IYAFA 2022 in close collaboration with relevant partners and bodies of the United Nations system. Since 2018, FAO has begun planning in earnest for IYAFA 2022. To guide and focus its efforts, FAO has developed a draft planning roadmap and welcomes inputs and suggestions from the Committee.

7. Countries and partners are encouraged to actively engage in and support the observance of this auspicious international year. IYAFA presents an opportunity to promote the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture food systems; enhance global awareness about, understanding of, and action to support the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to the global fisheries sector; and promote dialogue and collaboration between and among small-scale fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, governments and other key partners. These efforts will further contribute to sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
8. A summary of preparations to date for IYAFA 2022 and the draft planning roadmap are included in session information document COFI/2020/Inf.12.2 (Draft planning roadmap for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022).

Source: Supporting Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries, Committee on Fisheries Thirty-fourth Session, 1–5 February 2021, Rome, Italy
<http://www.fao.org/3/ne712en/ne712en.pdf>

INFOLOG: NEW RESOURCES AT ICSF

Publications

The Human Relationship with Our Ocean Planet by Edward H. Allison, John Kurien and Yoshitaka Ota

<https://oceanpanel.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/Human%20Relationship%20with%20Our%20Ocean%20Planet%20Final.pdf>

By enhancing humanity's relationship with the ocean, bridging ocean health and wealth, working with diverse stakeholders and harnessing the latest knowledge, the Ocean Panel aims to facilitate a better, more resilient future for people and the planet.

Cast Out: The Systematic Exclusion of the KwaZulu Natal Subsistence Fishers from the Fishing Rights Regime in South Africa, by Jackie Sunde and Kira Erwin

https://static.pmg.org.za/201027Cast_Out_Policy_Document-2020.pdf

This report illustrates a process of systematic exclusion from the legal and policy regime for Durban fishers, who view themselves as subsistence fishers but are not legally recognized as such.

Guide for the implementation of the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocol in shrimp fishing and peeling work at the Barra del Colorado Association of Women Fishermen and Processors by ILO

https://www.ilo.org/sanjose/publicaciones/WCMS_764285/lang-es/index.htm

This guide is for people who work in fishing and peeling shrimp belonging to the association of women fishermen and processors of Barra del Colorado to whom the prevention and mitigation actions of COVID-19 will be directed.

My Fear is Losing Everything: The Climate Crisis and First Nations' Right to Food in Canada

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/10/21/my-fear-losing-everything/climate-crisis-and-first-nations-right-food-canada>

This report documents how climate change is reducing traditional food sources, driving up the cost of imported alternatives, and contributing to a growing problem of food insecurity and related negative health impacts for First Nations in Canada.

The Environmental Impacts of COVID-19: Perspectives from Fishing Communities

https://cobi.org.mx/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/COBI_Covid19-environmental-impacts-16nov20.pdf

This document suggests general strategies for the new normal in Mexico that would have to integrate environmental issues and challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ghost Fleet: Battling Slavery in Thailand's Seafood Industry

<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/witness/2020/12/2/ghost-fleet-battling-slavery-in-thailands-seafood-industry>

This program follows a small group of Thai activists who risk their lives on remote Indonesian islands to find justice and freedom for enslaved fishermen.

FLASHBACK

Cracking the Code for Small-scale Fisheries

Should the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) be "opened up" to include a special Chapter on small-scale artisanal fisheries? This was called for by the civil society organizations at the FAO's Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries (4SSF) in October 2008. The call was reiterated by civil society at the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 28).



However, several delegations to COFI 28 opposed opening up the CCRF, which, it was argued, could prove to be a "Pandora's Box". If opened up for small-scale artisanal fisheries, then why not for other interests? While there was consensus on the need to support small-scale artisanal fisheries, there was no consensus on the best way to do so.

To follow up on the mandate given by COFI, the FAO organized three regional workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in October 2010. This enabled a large number of both governmental and civil society participants to provide their views on how small-scale artisanal fisheries can be best supported and enabled to fulfil their potential. All the three workshops recommended developing a new instrument, complementing the CCRF, to address small-scale and artisanal fisheries issues.

ICSF feels that there is a need for both an international instrument and a global programme. With the world gripped by concerns about overfishing, excess capacity, declining biodiversity and climate change, as well as the challenges of food insecurity and poverty, it is increasingly evident that sustainable small-scale artisanal fisheries within a human-rights framework offers the most viable solution. There is recognition today that the small-scale artisanal fisheries subsector is relatively more sustainable, energy-efficient and less destructive, even as it supports millions of livelihoods across the world, and supplies diverse populations, and particularly rural and remote populations in food-insecure regions, with a rich source of nutrition.

The potential of a new instrument to strengthen the social pillar of sustainable development and to effectively complement the CCRF within the framework of a human-rights approach was well recognized by the regional workshops. The onus is now on the 29th Session of COFI, to be held from 31 January to 4 February 2011, to respond in a manner in keeping with these recommendations. If it is not possible to open up the Code, COFI should agree to develop an instrument, along the lines of FAO's Right to Food Guidelines. This would go a long way in meeting the aspirations expressed in the 2008 civil society Bangkok Statement. We hope that COFI obliges and decides upon the most appropriate instrument for further recognizing small-scale artisanal fisheries

— from SAMUDRA Report, No.57, November, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), 1-5 February 2021, Rome, Italy
<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/>

World Aquaculture and Fisheries Conference (WAC 2021), 19-20 May 2021
<https://www.worldaquacultureconference.com/>

World Fisheries Congress, 20-24 September 2021, Adelaide, Australia
<https://wfc2020.com.au/>

109th Session of the International Labour Conference, 7-18 June 2021
<https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/109/lang-en/index.htm>
MARE Conference People & the Sea XI, 28 June to 2 July 2021
<https://www.msp-platform.eu/events/mare-conference-people-sea-xi>

WEBSITES

Seafood Risk Assessment
<https://seafoodriskassessment.hk/>
Sustainable seafood is increasing in popularity around the world, yet much of the seafood popular in Asia

has not been assessed in terms of its sustainability. Over time, the Seafood Risk Assessment site aims to gradually fill that gap, by providing sustainability assessments of seafood for the Hong Kong market thereby ensuring that consumers have access to the sustainable seafood of their choice.

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
<http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/en/>

This website is about the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). What makes the SSF Guidelines stand out is that they go beyond fisheries and highlight the rights of fishers and fishworkers. In sum, they are about people, not just about fish. The SSF Guidelines are aimed at all actors striving to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries, to end hunger and poverty, and strengthen human rights. They are a tool to guide dialogue, policy processes, and action at all levels, from local communities to global fora.



Endquote

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

– Vincent Van Gogh

