

SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



Global Partnership for Oceans

SSF Guidelines

Migrant Crew in New Zealand

MPAs and Human Rights

Latin America Fisheries Workshop

Connemara Smokehouse



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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ALAIN LE SANN

FRONT COVER



Salmon drift boats waiting for a fishing opening in Naknek, Alaska
by Hannah Donkersloot

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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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A fisherwoman from the Eastern
Cape coast of South Africa
Photo : Jackie Sunde



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GIAMPIERO DIANA / FAO

A fisherman carrying a freshly caught fish at Kaedi, Mauritania

Forced Labour

New Zealand's experience shows that labour conditions on board foreign charter vessels are far from perfect

Even as New Zealand grabbed international media headlines for good fisheries management practices, it was also exposed for employing forced labour on board foreign-flagged fishing vessels in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Until very recently, foreign charter vessels (FCVs)—all above 30 m registered length—accounted for over half the marine fish catch from the New Zealand EEZ and nearly 50 per cent of the value of total seafood exports. These included southern blue whiting and hoki that are certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The FCVs were employed to fish privately owned quota under contract to a domestic permit holder within the EEZ.

The forced labour conditions included poor living and working conditions, physical and sexual abuse by officers, non-payment of wages and manipulation of time sheets, especially of Indonesian crew members on board Korean-flagged FCVs (see page 8).

How could such a laudable sustainable fishing regime—“rated as first equal out of all marine regions around the world”, according to the 2012 Report of the Ministerial Inquiry into the use and operation of Foreign Charter Vessels—perform so poorly when it comes to labour conditions on board FCVs in its EEZ? How come there were no prosecutions for the use of forced labour on board these FCVs, a criminal offence under international law, when there were numerous prosecutions related to fisheries violations?

The Ministerial Inquiry attributed forced labour conditions on board FCVs in its EEZ mainly to a flaw in the FCV programme. All FCVs in the New Zealand EEZ are mainly from Korea, Japan, Ukraine or Dominica. They were time charters and flying foreign flags. Under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), New Zealand, as a coastal State, is not responsible for labour conditions on board foreign-flagged FCVs, which are the responsibility of the respective flag State.

The recommendation of the Ministerial Inquiry was, therefore, to convert all time charters to bare-boat or demise charter. A bill to this effect—the Fisheries (Foreign Charter Vessels and Other Matters) Amendment Bill—is being discussed in the New Zealand Parliament to bring all FCVs under the New Zealand flag.

According to latest reports, however, the Primary Production Committee of the Parliament proposes to provide loopholes to FCVs to get around registering under a New Zealand flag, especially to FCVs targeting certain species of tuna, or to FCVs employed by vessel operators holding catch entitlement from the Maori settlement quota.

Combining effective conservation and management measures of the coastal State with ineffectual labour standards of the flag State is suggestive of revenues and profits in the New Zealand fisheries being made at the cost of better working and living conditions, especially of poor migrant fishers on board FCVs from developing countries.

Whether FCVs are eventually to be re-flagged or not, all flags fishing in the New Zealand EEZ must be required to ratify the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Secondly, ecolabelling and fisheries certification as well as catch-certification programmes should include social auditing to ensure that fisheries management systems take into account not only biological, technological, economic, environmental and commercial aspects but also all social aspects, including working and living conditions of fishers on board fishing vessels.

Thirdly, while labour conditions are left to the jurisdiction of the flag State under UNCLOS, the FCV experience would underscore the need for effective legal mechanisms to shift the burden of proof to vessel operators to demonstrate that fishers are not treated poorly on board fishing vessels.

Fourthly, and most importantly, the international community should think of mechanisms whereby labour-supplying States take responsibility for recruitment, working and living conditions and social protection of fishers, and co-ordinate with the flag State, port State and the market State regarding the welfare of fishers on board third party fishing vessels.

New Zealand has a responsibility, and an opportunity, to improve labour conditions in fisheries. We would like to see it grabbing newspaper headlines for the right reasons: the allocation of fishing rights should be conditional on respecting human rights.



Sticky Issues

An update on the recent Technical Consultation on the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries

The Technical Consultation (TC) on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 20 to 24 May 2013, in Rome, Italy, was well attended. There were delegations from 68 countries and the European Union (EU).

Also represented was the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the

The Draft of the SSF Guidelines, titled 'Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication', contained 13 sections and 108 paragraphs, apart from the Preface. In the hope that the negotiations could be completed within the week, three night sessions were scheduled.

However, the time available still proved to be inadequate. Only about two-thirds of the text (until para 7.8) could be discussed. There was agreement on about half of the 59 paragraphs discussed, implying that they are closed for further discussion.

The remaining paragraphs, however, still contain bracketed text or are fully bracketed, meaning that the text within the brackets is open to further discussion. The second round of negotiations, tentatively scheduled to be held during 3 to 7 February 2014, thus has its work cut out.

So what were some of the 'sticky issues'? There was reluctance on the part of a few delegations to recognize the rights of small-scale fishers and fishworkers to participate in the governance of aquatic resources and, in fact, an antipathy in some quarters to the use of the term 'governance' itself.

Customary rights

The right to participate in governance could undermine the authority of the State, it was feared. The recognition of customary rights and systems, and of the rights of indigenous people, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), was not forthcoming from some delegations.

There was unwillingness on the part of some delegations to keep the focus on 'marginalized and vulnerable groups' within small-scale fisheries...

Right to Food, as well as observers from six intergovernmental organizations.

There was a substantial 37-member-strong civil society delegation, with men and women from 18 countries, representing the civil society organization (CSO) platform comprising the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), and the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC). Included in the CSO delegation were several small-scale and artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen from both developing and industrialized countries.

Fabio Hazin from Brazil was elected as the Chair. The task before the TC was ambitious from the start.

*This report has been written by **Chandrika Sharma** (icsf@icsf.net), Executive Secretary, ICSF*

The CSO voice

Joint Opening Statement: World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC), made on 20 May 2013 at the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 20 to 24 May 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My name is Zoila Bustamante Cardenas. I am the President of the Chilean National Confederation of Artisanal Fishermen, an organization that unites 35,000 artisanal fishers, men and women, along the length of Chile's 4,500-km coast.

I speak on behalf of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty.

We are a platform of small-scale food producers who include fishworkers and indigenous people. Our international member-based organizations represent fishworkers from over 50 countries, from both North and South, and people actively engaged in supporting our communities.

Artisanal and small-scale fisheries represent the majority fisheries sector, and we provide the most sustainable model of fishery exploitation from a social, economic and environmental perspective.


Our engagement with FAO to develop this international instrument began in 2008 following the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries in Bangkok, Thailand. However, we have been knocking on the door of FAO since 1984 when small-scale fishers and their supporters were excluded from participating in decision-making processes that affected their livelihoods.

We welcome the fact that we can now engage with FAO in developing this instrument. In fact, over the last two years we have co-operated with FAO to organize around 30 national and regional-level consultations across Africa, Asia, South and North America and Europe. Through these consultations, over 2,500 people, men and women from small-scale fishing communities, have had the chance to contribute to this process.

For us, the process of developing these Guidelines represents an important milestone by adopting an inclusive approach to small-scale fisheries, an approach which places equal emphasis on social development, the human rights of fishing communities and the responsible governance of the fisheries on which their food security, livelihoods, and wellbeing depend.

We welcome the visibility the Guidelines give to women and the serious way in which they address gender issues. The Guidelines also take the unprecedented step of addressing as a whole the different aspects of small-scale fisheries from the perspective of governance, production, trade, labour and quality of life.

The Guidelines also take account of the fact that small-scale fisheries face a multitude of threats from more powerful interests both from within and outside the fisheries sector. They come at a critical juncture of global transition when we face challenges of an economic, social and environmental nature where small-scale fisheries provide the best hope for generating employment, livelihoods and food for the burgeoning world population.

We are committed to working with FAO and its member States to develop effective Guidelines and to engage wholeheartedly with you in their development and implementation once adopted by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) next year. 

Paternoster snoek being caught and processed in South Africa



There was unwillingness on the part of some delegations to keep the focus on ‘marginalized and vulnerable groups’ within small-scale fisheries, fearing that the term could be interpreted too broadly. There were even reservations about keeping the phrase “both men and women”, which was mentioned in several paragraphs of the draft text to ensure a gender focus. Some delegations objected to the term ‘informal economy’, equating it with the ‘illegal economy’, though significant small-scale fisheries, particularly in the developing world, can be considered to be part of the informal economy.

Some of the other areas on which agreement was not forthcoming related to: the need for redistributive reforms to facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for small-scale fishing communities; the need for effective and meaningful consultations with fishing communities prior to commencing a commercial or development project which impacts them; the extent to which, and the manner in which, the role of migrant fishers, and of transboundary movements of fishers, should be reflected in the Guidelines; and the extent to which the Guidelines should stress the need for consistency with the mandate, principles, rights and obligations established in WTO agreements.

For fishworker organizations and support groups present in Rome, the reluctance of some delegations to support certain issues of fundamental importance to them was disappointing. CSOs consistently pointed out that the issues being raised were the result of an intensive, participatory, bottom-up process of consultation with small-scale fishworker groups.

Between them, CSOs had organized 20 national-level workshops spanning Asia, Africa and Latin America, two regional workshops in Africa, as well as consultations among small-scale fishers and fishworkers in the EU and Canada in the period between September 2011 and December 2012. More than 2,300 people had participated in these consultations and

shared their aspirations and proposals in relation to the Guidelines.

On a more positive note, at least some of the interventions made by CSOs on issues of critical importance to small-scale fishing communities found the support of delegations, ensuring that reference to them was retained or included in the text. As per FAO rules, CSOs were only allowed to make interventions after delegations had done so. Also encouraging was the fact that some delegations included CSO representatives.

...there is much at stake for fishworkers in the next round of negotiations...

The statement presented by CSOs (see box) at the start of the negotiations reflected the hope that fishworker and support groups had from the Guidelines process and from their delegations.

However, at the end of the first round of negotiations, Ramida Sarasit, a woman leader representing the Fisherfolk Federation of Thailand, said: “I feel we have not gained much as yet. Most of the States, as far as I can see, are not ready to respect the rights of small-scale fishing communities. Day by day, we are losing our rights, our coastal and inland water bodies, our livelihoods. We cannot see any progress unless States pay serious attention and address the root causes of our issues.”

Clearly, there is much at stake for fishworkers in the next round of negotiations; so too, to be an effective tool, the SSF Guidelines must reflect, and be relevant to, the day-to-day realities and problems faced by fishworkers.

For more



igssf.icsf.net

Small-scale fisheries guidelines

sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries

Civil society website on SSF guidelines

Forced into Slavery

Working conditions for migrant crew on foreign chartered vessels fishing in New Zealand's waters are nothing short of slavery

Internationally, New Zealand is regarded as having a world-class fishing industry. Yet, for over three decades, forced labour has been a key element of the New Zealand foreign chartered vessel business model (see box). In early 2011, Indonesian crew aboard two South Korean vessels—Shin Ji and Oyang75 - fishing in New Zealand's waters walked off their vessels citing physical, psychological, and sexual abuse by their Korean officers as well as the non-payment of wages.

New Zealand quota holders in New Zealand's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Twelve of these vessels belonged to South Korean companies.

The 27 vessels were crewed by approximately 2,000 foreign workers, comprising Chinese, Indonesian, Filipino, Ukrainian and Vietnamese nationals. Foreign crew have, in fact, been working on foreign charter vessels in New Zealand waters since 1979, and the events of 2011 were not the first incidence of forced and exploitative labour aboard foreign charter vessels.

In the mid-1990s, accusations were made in Parliament that “what is happening on those ships is nothing short of slavery, and it will continue”. Indeed, over the next 15 years, there were “numerous documented cases of crew members not being paid, being underpaid, having their wages eaten up by agency fees, and being verbally and physically abused”.

Despite efforts introduced in 2006 to address the problem—albeit soft regulation in the form of a Code of Practice—forced labour within the foreign charter vessel sector continued.

We began our research into fishing industry business practices in 2008. In 2009 we identified some unusual features of the foreign charter vessel business model. However, it was not until 2011, when the crew members engaged in industrial action, that we began in-depth research into forced labour practices.

Ongoing research

Our research in this area is ongoing and, in so doing, we respond to the

In the mid-1990s, accusations were made in Parliament that “what is happening on those ships is nothing short of slavery, and it will continue”.

The industrial action taken by these crew members became the flashpoint for a sequence of events that would challenge the governance of New Zealand's foreign charter vessel fishing sector. Crew members from other South Korean fishing vessels subsequently engaged in industrial action.

The identification of forced labour conditions aboard South Korean vessels fishing in New Zealand's waters attracted attention from international media, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The United States Department of State's “Trafficking in Persons Report 2011” identified New Zealand as a destination country for forced labour in the fishing industry.

In 2011, 27 foreign trawlers were chartered to fish on behalf of

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International Transport Workers Federation call to “raise the profile of the human element of these global industries”. To date, we have interviewed around 300 key informants, mostly crew from 12 foreign charter fishing vessels but also industry personnel. The majority were serving crew, but others had returned home to Indonesia. Some were deserters and hiding from authorities.

We discuss below how the crew obtained work aboard South Korean fishing vessels and became victims of forced labour, before describing the slave-like conditions aboard these vessels. We conclude the article by observing that slavery in the fishing industry is a global problem with bio-sustainability and socioeconomic implications for all nations.

The majority of the Indonesian crew working aboard Korean fishing vessels came from the Tegal region in Central Java, an area characterized by low levels of education, high unemployment and poverty. They are recruited through family contacts and other crew, through recruiting brokers, or directly by manning (recruitment) agents who advertise in local newspapers.

In order to secure work, the fishermen are required to pay the manning agent an application fee of between five to 10 mn Indonesian rupiah (\$550 to \$1100) as well as sign over collateral, which can include land and house titles, education certificates, motorbike titles as well as additional sums of money.

Collateral requirement is expressly prohibited under International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 9 and 17, which require the ship owner to pay the agent.

One Jakarta-based manning agent justified the collateral thus: “If the crew run away, Korean agents will claim costs such as air fares from the Indonesian agents and that’s why we need security. It’s hard for us to sell their houses, but with motorbikes they are easy to sell.” Manning agents also used

a bargaining system for prime positions aboard certain fishing vessels. Such positions were given to whoever paid the highest fee.

The manning agents used multiple contracts to recruit crew. The three versions of employment contracts—Indonesian, New Zealand and South Korean—were all significantly different. The Indonesia crew were employed under the Indonesian contract, which clearly specified the fishermen’s base salary as between \$240 and \$500 a month, depending on their qualifications, level of experience and rank. This was well below New Zealand minimum wage entitlements of NZ\$15 an hour at 42 hours a week minimum.

The Indonesian contract also detailed the required level of compliance by the crew towards the officers—crew must remain “completely submissive and obedient”. Significantly, the contract also included a clause setting out the crew’s liability if they break the contract even if seeking refuge from abuse. For example, crew would forfeit their retained wages and be subject to fines between \$2,000–\$10,000. The New Zealand and Korean versions of the contracts, which the crew were unaware of, were

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Unwanted fish, on a South Korean fishing vessel, waiting to be discarded. Crew members often dump fish overboard to reduce the amount of processing

Our findings revealed unrelenting and violent subjugation of Indonesian crews aboard the majority of Korean foreign charter vessels...

used to meet regulatory requirements in the respective countries.

Moreover, the Indonesian and Korean versions of the contract were unknown to New Zealand officials. The majority of crew interviewees had no recollection of signing either the New Zealand and/or Korean versions of the contract, though, in some instances, they did recall signing documents in another language. In other instances, the signatures on the contract were forged.

Wages were paid through manning agents (often a subcontracted network of linked agents based in Korea and Indonesia), each of whom took a deduction for dubious insurance and operational fees. The families did not receive the first three to six months of pay as this was

retained by the manning agents as part of their fee. crews aboard the majority of Korean foreign charter vessels, including inhumane punishments and the beating of crew members by the officers for often unprovoked reasons. “While eating lunch, the bosun put a rice sack over my head and punched the back of my head until I had trouble breathing,” said one interviewee.

One crew member newly arrived aboard the vessel was required, after his shift had finished on deck, to work below deck to help size fish. Untrained, he asked a fellow crew member to explain how to do this. For talking, his mouth was taped over with packing tape by the factory manager. Crew members aboard many South Korean fishing vessels were subject to indecent assaults, unwanted touching and groping as well as incidents of repeated rape.

Aboard one vessel, an Indonesian crew member reported being repeatedly raped by a South Korean officer. When asked why he never complained, he said “no one would listen”. Another crew member suffered the sexual abuse in order to save his friends from the same treatment. He recounted: “I was angry, I was embarrassed but he is the master of the boat and I was powerless”. He returned home before his contract was complete because he could no longer endure the sexual abuse. For breaking his contract, he was fined 15 mn rupiah (\$1536) by the manning agent.

When the slave-like conditions aboard the Korean foreign charter vessels became public in 2011, the South Korean and New Zealand governments were quick to respond. In July 2011, the New Zealand government announced a ministerial inquiry into the foreign charter sector.

Reflagging

One outcome of the inquiry was the requirement that all foreign-flagged fishing vessels be reflagged as New Zealand vessels by 2016, meaning that foreign crew would come under New Zealand employment relations, and workplace health and safety law.

Agents also retained part of the wages to be paid to the fishermen after completion of their contract—in some instances, the retained portion of the wages may be held for up to two years or not paid at all.

On average, crew worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week for the duration of their one- or two-year contract. One interviewee recounted working a 53-hour shift while others described working long shifts to the point they begged for a break or fell asleep while working. In some instances, crew members deliberately dumped fish overboard in order to reduce the amount of processing so they could take a break. They were regularly required to sign false timesheets, regardless of the hours worked, and they did so out of fear of abuse and blacklisting.

Our findings revealed unrelenting and violent subjugation of Indonesian

Box

Foreign vessel charter model

Foreign fishing vessels have been fishing in New Zealand waters since the early 1930s. Following the establishment of New Zealand's EEZ in 1977, the government approved the use of joint ventures (JVs) as a short-term measure until New Zealand companies developed capabilities to properly utilize the EEZ themselves. Foreign JV partners provided funding, deep-sea vessels and market access, while New Zealand partners provided fishing quota. In 1978, the government approved 22 JVs and a further four in 1979. Others followed.

- The JVs were structured in different ways. The most common was a catch split between the partners, with the vessel-operating risks shouldered entirely by the foreign partner. In 1979, South Korea's Oyang Corporation was in the first wave of charter vessels to arrive. The New Zealand JV company chartered the *Oyang 3* and *Oyang 5*. By 1981, the number of foreign chartered vessels fishing in New Zealand waters had grown to 97 and, at its peak in 1999, over 3,900 work visas were issued to foreign fishing crew. Over time, the JV model morphed to a 100-per cent New Zealand-owned charter company model.

Currently, there is a variety of charter arrangements, but, in the main:

- Quota holders or charter companies enter into an arrangement, largely on a time charter basis, with foreign fishing companies, to fish quota.
- Foreign fishing companies provide the fishing vessel fully crewed and the profits from catches are split between the foreign fishing company and the New Zealand quota holder or charter company.
- While the vessel acts under instruction from the New Zealand charterer, possession and control of the vessel and crew are retained by the vessel owner.
- The foreign charter model is based on maximizing catches, coupled with the stripping of costs, and, thus, the use of low-cost legacy technology and the use of migrant labour are central to this model. Catch is manually gutted aboard the vessels.
- The bulk of catch is exported to Asian countries where it is reprocessed into twice-frozen product before being re-exported to North American and European markets.
- Employment of New Zealand citizens aboard the foreign vessels is not a requirement.
- As foreign crew members enter into employment contracts with the vessel owner, they, *inter alia*, fall outside the jurisdiction of New Zealand health and safety and employment laws. Foreign crew are exempt from income tax and accident compensation levies and, furthermore, do not receive any employment entitlements such as redundancy provisions, sick pay or holiday pay.
- In 2012, there were 25 foreign charter vessels manned by some 1,500 foreign crew in New Zealand's waters.

In respect to working conditions for migrant fishing crew, at the international level, New Zealand has yet to ratify the Maritime Labour Convention (2006), the Work in Fishing Convention (2007), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990).

In the interim period, crew will be protected through monitoring and enforcement. Another outcome of the inquiry was the move by New Zealand Immigration to introduce policy changes requiring wages to be paid into crew members' New Zealand bank accounts as opposed to being paid to manning agents.

However, while there have been some improvements to crew wages, in the main, operators have circumvented the new immigration regulations.

In May 2012, the South Korean government launched an intergovernmental investigation into the claims of ill-treatment and

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A South Korean vessel fishing in New Zealand's waters. Forced labour has been a key element of the country's foreign chartered vessel business model

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abuse of crew from the *Oyang 75* trawler. Their findings confirmed human-rights abuses, physical and sexual abuse, non-payment of wages and forgery of documents.

The case was referred to the Busan Regional Public Prosecutors Office for prosecution of physical abuse, sexual assault and criminal activities, including counterfeiting and breaches of the Seaman Act. However, the Prosecutors Office did not proceed with prosecuting the Sajo Oyang Corporation because Sajo Oyang submitted 'Confidential Settlement Agreements' and 'Petitions' signed by many of the Indonesian crew complainants stating they "withdraw any complaints and allegations of any kind made to any government agency".

In addition, they had signed powers of attorney to a Sajo Oyang Corporation manager for the "attainment of the foregoing objective". The settlement agreements included a provision for the crew to be paid several thousand dollars "for the work already done".

Despite undertakings by both governments, to date no one has

been prosecuted for the physical and sexual abuse that many crew members suffered aboard South Korean fishing vessels. The only prosecutions have been those taken against the officers of several Korean vessels by the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries for environmental offences, including the dumping and under-reporting of fish catch. Officers of one vessel have been convicted of fish dumping, and two other cases are pending.

The fishing industry is one of the most unregulated industries globally, and slavery in this industry is a global reality with biosustainability and socioeconomic implications for all nations. Increasingly, more research is being undertaken on this issue, and we are extending our own research beyond New Zealand.

IOM report

A report released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the NEXUS Institute detailed how Ukrainian fishermen were "led through a calculated maze into a world of imprisonment at sea, backbreaking labour, sleep

deprivation, crippling and untreated illness, and, for the least fortunate, death. These men, seeking honest work at sea, ended up on slave ships”.

Elsewhere, research found that Filipino men had been trafficked—sometimes for years—into the long-haul fishing industry through Singapore. More recently, in May 2013, a Taiwanese woman was charged in a Cambodian court for trafficking around 700 Cambodians to work in slave-like conditions on fishing vessels.

Despite the increased research, much more needs to be done. Forced labour does not occur only on developing nations’ vessels. Recently, a foreign crew member aboard a New Zealand-flagged vessel not only described his appalling working conditions, but also alleged his New Zealand managers had told crew if they said anything bad about management, “we will be floating in the water”.

Moreover, information gleaned from numerous foreign crew members suggests that human-rights abuses, forced labour and human trafficking are much more widespread in the fisheries industry than is suspected. They go hand-in-hand with other illegal activities, such as corruption, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, dumping of fish and the discharge of toxic pollutants into the sea.

Thus, its impacts on the biosustainability and socioeconomic sustainability of fisheries worldwide can have devastating and far-reaching consequences, particularly for small-scale fisheries nations.

Ultimately, as US President Barack Obama told the Clinton Global Initiative on 25 September 2012, “around the world, there’s no denying the awful reality. When a man, desperate for work, finds himself...on a fishing boat...working, toiling, for little or no pay, and beaten if he tries to escape—that is slavery...it is barbaric, and it is evil, and it has no place in a civilized world. Our fight against human trafficking is one of the great human-rights causes of our time”.

For more



docs.business.auckland.ac.nz/Doc/11-01-Not-in-New-Zealand-waters-surely-NZAI-Working-Paper-Sept-2011.pdf

‘Not in New Zealand’s waters, surely? Labour and human rights abuses aboard foreign fishing vessels’

www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22613

Forced labour in shipping and fishing industries still an issue

slavefreeseas.org/updates/

Slave free seas

Grabbing Oceans

As reserves grow in number and size in continental and marine areas, it is necessary to examine the human-rights issue of exclusion of people

For the past 20 years, since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, many biologists and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), powerfully supported by foundations, international organizations, public agencies, private donations, and, increasingly, multinational companies, have imposed the idea that one of the best ways to preserve marine biodiversity and fisheries resources is to increase the number of no-take reserves and marine protected areas (MPAs).

After imposing this model on terrestrial ecosystems and constantly demanding an extension of reserves

within ENGOS themselves, there are debates on the compatibility of their action with human rights.

Promoting no-take reserves to protect biodiversity is based on two concepts developed in the United States—the ‘wilderness’ and the ‘tragedy of the commons’. The tragedy of the commons’ was theorized in a famous article by Garrett Hardin in 1968, always cited, but rarely in its entirety, because there are some stunning passages: “If we love the truth, we must openly deny the validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, even if it is promoted by the United Nations.”

The reference to the ‘tragedy of the commons’ is linked to the enclosure movement in 18th-century Great Britain, which dispossessed thousands of peasants of their collective rights to land and common resources, for the benefit of landowners and industrialists.

Today we are witnessing a similar process in marine and coastal areas. Beneficiaries include not only powerful companies interested in mineral and living resources, but also ENGOS, promoters and sometimes reserves managers, often related to tourism interests, and funded by multinational corporations.

For them, fishermen do not have rights to common resources, as these common goods are mostly public property, and only the State, on behalf of the nation, can assign privileges and authorizations, under financial and or ecological conditions.

Common heritage

Reference to biodiversity as the common heritage of humanity turns against those who have enjoyed for centuries shared resources under

...no-take reserves, in particular, raise important issues related to the exclusion of fishers.

(from 17 per cent, increasing to a 25 per cent target later), in Johannesburg in 2002, ENGOS pushed for setting up MPAs in 20 per cent of the oceans, half of them as no-take reserves. For the public, sensitized by catastrophic speeches, films and media pronouncements exalting the beauty of marines reserves, this demand is simple and obvious.

Yet, no-take reserves, in particular, raise important issues related to the exclusion of fishers. Without condemning the objectives of ENGOS, we may question the methods, results and social impacts of the setting up of reserves in continental and marine areas. Depending on the people at work in the field, practices are diverse, particularly in relationships with the communities concerned;

*This article, by **Alain Le Sann** (ad.lesann@orange.fr), Member, ICSF, was translated into English by **Danièle Le Sann***

their control, but without recognized property rights. According to Hardin, it is impossible to entrust the management of areas that have to be protected to their inhabitants, and, therefore, they should be excluded. ENGOS deem this necessary on the basis of opinions they consider as scientific.

The concept of 'wilderness', as an imaginary foundation for conservation models, was born in the US in the late 19th century, with the creation of the Yosemite park in California. This park was created following the publication of photographs that depicted a wonderful nature without any human footprints. Yet, native American Indians had occupied the Yosemite valley for millennia. The process of creating parks is part of the colonial strategy of expropriating the property of indigenous peoples and denying them their rights.

There is a strong European resistance to the integration of the concept of 'wilderness' in the imagination of people and the references of scientists, because the continent has been densely populated for centuries. There is, however, a natural environment where the wilderness can find its place in one's imagination, and that is the marine world.

By its nature, it is a world that is not permanently occupied by people and, as noted tongue-in-cheek by the French ENGO Robin des Bois: "Ownership is easy; there are no indigenous peoples, only aquatic organisms, little experts in matter of petitions and legal disputes." The only permanent users of those resources, until recent decades, were fishermen.

For centuries, fishermen have occupied oceans, and not only in coastal areas. The oceans have been the workplaces of fishermen for centuries; consequently, they have profoundly altered marine ecosystems and the seabeds on the continental shelves, sometimes at the risk of extinction of some species.

However, that is nothing compared to the changes made to the land; in

the marine realm, it is still possible to dream of the existence of oceans untouched by human intervention. Then it is possible, on this basis, to justify more easily the existence of no-take reserves, all the more fishermen are increasingly becoming marginalized in society.

Before analyzing the social impact of marine reserves, it is good to go back to what has been happening on the land for more than a century. In Durban, in 2003, delegates from indigenous peoples at the 5th World Parks Congress declared: "First we were dispossessed in the name of kings and emperors, later in the name of development, and now in the name of conservation."

SHILPI SHARMA



Seaweed collectors in the Gulf of Mannar National Park, Tamil Nadu, India. No-take reserves raise important issues related to the exclusion of fishers

In “Losing Ground”, Mark Dowie has made one of the most comprehensive analyses of the relationships, often conflicting, between conservationists and indigenous peoples. More than 108,000 reserves have been created since 1900 at the request of five big ENGOs: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, African Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The sea is now the new frontier, the object of desire for conservationists and multinational energy companies alike.

The phenomenon has accelerated in recent decades with the awareness of the loss of biodiversity. Millions of people have been displaced and dispossessed of their land and rights to establish parks and reserves. One evaluation estimates it as at least five mn people since 1864. Others estimate it as 14 mn in Africa alone.

One of those who suffered most were the Maasai in Tanzania and Kenya. In 2004, during a congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Bangkok, one of their leaders, a Tanzanian, Martin Saning’o said: “In the interest of a relatively new trend, biodiversity, over 100,000 Maasai pastoralists have been displaced from their land... We were the first conservationists, now you have made us enemies of conservation.”

In 2004, again, 200 indigenous delegates signed a declaration stating that “conservation has become the first threat to indigenous territories”. Behind the good intentions and objectives, there is, in the history of parks and reserves, a truth rarely recognized, that of peoples dispossessed of their lands, and forgotten by history. Yet, IUCN and WWF developed in 1996 the “Principles and Guidelines for the

management of reserves with the participation of indigenous peoples”.

According to them, “Indigenous peoples should be recognized as equal partners in the development and implementation of conservation strategies that affect their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources, and particularly in the creation and management of protected areas”. But, in reality, conflicts have multiplied in the field and in international meetings between indigenous movements and conservationists.

Indigenous peoples did not appreciate facing ENGOs supported by companies eyeing their lands and resources. Thus, most NGOs have decided to focus their goals on conservation alone, according to their scientifically based criteria, refusing to take into account the fight against poverty and economic and social interests, which are not seen as their responsibility.

The analysis of what is happening in Tanzania is indicative of this evolution and of the collusion that is looming between ENGOs, governments and the financial interests of big business at the expense of the Maasai who are increasingly marginalized. Forty per cent of the land area is under a protection regime, partly in the theoretical framework of co-management between villagers and park managers.

The same observation can be made for Madagascar, where entrance fees on tourism concessions largely exclude local populations. In their article in *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, “Conservation, green blue grabbing and accumulation by dispossession in Tanzania”, Benjaminsen Tor and Ian Bryceson say: “The initial attempt at introducing community based or ‘win-win’ conservation worked as a key mechanism to make dispossession take place in wildlife and coastal areas in Tanzania, allowing conservation a foothold in village lands”.

Funding problems

As the States do not have the necessary funding for the management

of reserves, they depend on foundations that fund NGOs, and, increasingly, private investors, in or outside the reserves, who impose their will and capture the resources of indigenous peoples.

The detour through the analysis of continental reserves helps us to better understand the challenges of the process that has spread marine reserves since the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The sea is now the new frontier, the object of desire for conservationists and multinational energy companies alike. Unlike native peoples, whose rights are somewhat protected under the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples adopted by the ILO in 1989, and, more recently, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, fishworkers have no legal protection against an environmental law well-established and increasingly binding at an international level.

The urgency is constantly put forward to justify the creation of no-take reserves. NGOs try every possible means to persuade the public that no-take reserves are one of the most effective ways to restore resources. This may be true; they are effective for biodiversity, but for fishing, the impact on resources is far from being generalized.

The problem is not simple, because for some fishworkers, the location of the reserves actually prevents them from fishing in areas vital to them, condemning them either to poverty or to poaching with all its risks of imprisonment and sometimes death.

Thus, fishworkers' representatives in international conferences on biodiversity have found themselves agreeing to the positions of indigenous delegates, since the Bonn conference in 2008.

In Hyderabad, India, at the meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2012, Riza Damanik, from the Indonesian NGO KIARA, recalled that 13 fishermen were killed by ecoguards because they had not

kept off reserves. A South African delegate pointed to the creation of parks as the "second wave of dispossession" after apartheid, calling it a "green apartheid".

For the first time, in India, the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) called for a day of protest in January 2013, to demand a moratorium on no-take reserves because they condemn thousands of coastal fishworkers to poverty.

In the global South, we are witnessing anger against imposed no-take reserves, when they have demonstrated their ability to protect resources and biodiversity, such as in Brazil where 'marine extractive reserves' have been created and managed by the fishworkers themselves.

What has been happening, sometimes with violence, in the global South is now taking place in Europe. Environmentalist pressure, acting on the popular sense of emergency and catastrophe, opens the way for a weakening of the occupation, and guardianship, of marine space by fishworkers.

Once this hurdle is passed, the enclosure movement at sea can develop and divide the ocean between

In the future, the space devoted to fishworkers—coastal or deep-sea—will be increasingly limited.

the various interests prancing around with impatience—conservationists, mining companies looking for rare earths, operators in the energy, tourism and aquaculture sectors, and so on.

Public opinion

The most greedy are the conservationists who can play on the sensitivity of public opinion to impose their wishes. In California, a network of marine reserves has been closely monitored by a representative of the oil companies, to the chagrin of professional

JEAN GROC



"The island of fishermen is dying" says this sign on a boat in Yeu in France, where fishermen are affected by many restrictions

to then fish in collaboration with scientists and ENGOS respectful of these rights. **3**

fishworkers, native American Indian tribes and grass-roots environmentalists.

In the future, the space devoted to fishworkers—coastal or deep-sea—will be increasingly limited. Alongside conservationist environmentalists, liberal economists ensure that the common good requires a marginalization of fishing. The value of the ecological services it renders is low compared to that generated by tourism and extraction activities. Scientists, ENGOS and many elected representatives believe that fish resources are public or private property but never a common one, never the common property of fishworkers.

Yet there is a scientific basis for a collective management of fisheries resources that recognizes rights and responsibilities, as validated by the 2009 Nobel Prize in economics awarded to Elinor Ostrom for her ground-breaking research on sustainable and equitable management of shared resources.

All this, however, appears too complicated; what is simple and better is a good market for fishing rights and reserves monitored by ENGOS and biologists. So it is urgent to recognize collective rights for fishworkers, rights which also include responsibilities. They will be able

For more



mitpress.mit.edu/books/conservation-refugees

Conservation refugees, the hundred-year conflict between global conservation and native peoples. Mark Dowie. 2009

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Pêche & Développement

Getting Rights Wrong

The Global Partnership for Oceans is blatantly ignoring the voices of the world's small-scale fisher peoples

The World Bank is notorious for its lack of inclusion of the voices of the poor in the design of its multi-million dollar programmes. The World Bank-initiated Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO), formally launched at the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012, is yet another opaque initiative where the masses of people with opposing views have no say.

The GPO is set to mobilize US\$1.5 bn over five years, which will make it the largest programme of its kind to date and it is, therefore, not surprising to see that more than 100 organizations and institutions have signed the Declaration for Healthy Oceans to become members of the GPO.

Besides the staggering sums of money involved, the GPO Declaration for Healthy Oceans is formulated to attract additional partners from civil society, governments, big business and philanthropic foundations. It is worth noting that most of these philanthropic foundations are, at the same time, funding the international environmental organizations that are listed as 'civil society' partners.

To understand our criticism of the GPO it is necessary to begin by taking a closer look at what the programme is actually about. In the following sections, we will elaborate on the GPO, look into the market-based agenda of the programme, explore the lack of inclusion of fisher peoples, and, finally, present an alternative.

To get a more detailed understanding of the context and processes of the GPO is in itself a challenge, given how difficult it is

to access information relating to the programme. After numerous requests, we managed to secure copies of important documents, and reading through them reveals another truth about the GPO—a truth that cannot be picked up by reading the Declaration for Healthy Oceans.

According to the architects of the GPO, the Declaration for Healthy Oceans “commits the partnership to mobilizing significant human, financial and institutional resources for effective public and private

Rights-based fisheries is presented by the World Bank and GPO partners as a panacea for the challenges facing the world's fisheries.

investments in priority ocean areas”. The Declaration itself states that the results will be achieved by “creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights”. This mechanism is further elaborated on in the key document of the GPO, the 57-page-long Framework Document, which is centred on the paradigm of private property rights in fisheries, also referred to as “rights-based fisheries”. In the following section, we will unpack and scrutinize the rhetoric that makes this model of rights-based fisheries seem so appealing.

Panacea

Rights-based fisheries is presented by the World Bank and GPO partners as a panacea for the challenges facing the world's fisheries. The

*This article by **Masifundise Development Trust** (MDT) builds on views and inputs from the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) as well as the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*

Framework Document and other GPO documents make numerous references to rights-based fisheries but other terms are also used interchangeably: 'secure tenure rights', 'clear rights', 'secure access rights' or 'spatial rights'. The GPO documents imply that 'rights' refer to 'property rights' and that fish stocks or quotas and/or coastal land or spatial water areas should be owned by private investors.

The literature is full of information on rights-based fisheries" or "a rights-based approach to fisheries management", and many

For generations, small-scale fishers have maintained a traditional system of taking care of the environment.

20

proponents openly refer to this system as a form of individual private property rights. This model is also described by some as "the privatization of the oceans". In the United States, these programmes are known as 'catch shares'. In Iceland, Chile, South Africa and New Zealand, they are called 'individual transferable quotas' (ITQs).

The European Commission refers to 'transferable fishing concessions' (TFCs), while in Africa, the World Bank-funded New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the African Union (AU) call them 'wealth-based fisheries'.

Over the last few decades, we have witnessed a shift from State ownership toward private ownership of fishing rights in the countries where rights-based fisheries have been introduced. The characteristic features of such programmes are that 'rights' are freely given to selected owners, usually based on 'catch history', are fully transferable (can be leased, bought or sold, or otherwise exchanged or transferred), and are effectively permanent.

In analyzing the social and environmental impacts of rights-based fishing, firstly, it is important

to stress the significance of small-scale fisheries. At the global level, approximately 140 mn people are engaged in catching fish in rivers, lakes and at sea. Approximately 90 per cent of the fisher people work in the small-scale fishing sector, and predominantly in the South. These small-scale fisher peoples harvest half of the world's total catch by volume.

For each fisher in the small-scale sector, an additional four people, on average, are engaged in land-based activities, such as the preparation of equipment, fish processing, and marketing. In total, more than half a billion people depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. These numbers are confirmed by the World Bank.

All over the world, we see a similar pattern when rights-based fisheries have been introduced: a concentration of fishing rights in the hands of rich elites and corporations, and a reduction in the number of boats and people who make a living from fishing.

After the introduction of rights-based fisheries in South Africa in 2005, the incentive for taking care of marine resources vanished in many coastal areas. For generations, small-scale fishers have maintained a traditional system of taking care of the environment.

This stewardship builds on the multi-species characteristic of small-scale fisheries, where fishers shift from catching one species to another, depending on species availability, on a seasonal basis, using a variety of gear.

The introduction of the single-species rights-based fisheries led to the exclusion of 90 per cent of the country's 30,000 fisher peoples. The minority 10 per cent of the fishers who were allocated a quota under the new system were only allowed to catch one particular species, and, hence, the traditional multi-species fishery was lost.

Illegal fishing

A significant number of fishers who lost the means to feed their families

were forced to disobey the law and many became the first in a chain of illegal fishing and export. In this process, fishers lost respect for the traditional rules and practices and unchecked illegal and unregulated fishing began to threaten fish stocks. Contrary to what is a fundamental assumption of the GPO, rights-based fisheries worked as a disincentive to fish responsibly.

The negative impacts of rights-based fisheries in traditional fishing communities triggered unrest, protest campaigns and, ultimately, a litigation process against the South African Minister for Fisheries.

In May 2007, after a two-year-long litigation process, the judge of the Equality High Court issued a Court Order that compelled the State to finalize a policy framework that will effectively accommodate small-scale fishers within the allocation of fishing rights by recognizing and giving protection to their economic, social and cultural rights.

In 2012, the government endorsed a new small-scale fisheries policy, which “aims to provide redress and recognition to the rights of small-scale fisher communities...previously marginalized and discriminated against...in terms of individualized permit-based systems of resource allocation and insensitive impositions of conservation-driven regulation”. In other words, the new policy recognized the inappropriateness of rights-based fisheries.

In Denmark, rights-based fisheries has led to a substantial draining of the fleet from traditional fishing communities—many communities no longer have any active fishing vessels, and others have less than 50 per cent of the vessels that were active prior to the introduction of the system in 2005.

Thomas Højrup, a professor at Copenhagen university, describes the Danish ITQ system as replacing the race to fish with race for ITQs, as increasing the incentive to high grade, replacing ecofriendly catch methods with sea-floor disturbing methods (heavy bottom trawling). Furthermore, he argues that the system is disastrous

for the entry of young fishers. Fishing rights have been transformed into financial assets, making fisheries deeply dependent on the banks, replacing fishermen-owned boats and their share system with companies owned by quota barons and wage labour. This has subordinated fisheries directly to speculative transactions and the whims of financial markets.

In Chile, a new law, which took effect in February 2013, allocates 93 per cent of the fish resources to four companies and the remaining seven per cent of the quotas has to be shared by approximately 80,000 artisanal fishers. When the ITQ policy was first introduced in 2001, it was argued that the private ownership would promote stewardship and ensure the rebuilding of overfished stocks. But to this date, and according to government data on fisheries, 70 per cent of the commercial fish stocks under the ITQ system remain overfished.

The US catch share system was introduced in New England in 2010 to halt what was perceived as ‘the race for fish’. By 2013, just three years later, the catch share system has resulted in a significant accumulation of quotas to bigger vessels. According to the director of marine fisheries in the State of Maine, this has

BEATRICE GORÉZ / CFFA



Pirogues, the fishing craft used by Senegal's traditional artisanal fishermen, coming in to land fish at the harbour

NOOR AIDA



Women sorting fish in the Jaring Halus village, Secanggang District, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia

their catches brought in about \$300 mn on Spain's frozen-fish market. Meanwhile, very little wealth from the resource was retained in Namibia for the benefit of Namibian citizens.

In Iceland, some 428 fishing companies closed down in the five-year period between 2003 and 2007, as large companies bought up the quotas held by small-scale fishing ventures. By 2007, more than half of the overall quotas were owned by just 10 companies.

Two of the excluded fishers alleged that Iceland's ITQ system violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), because the system forced them to pay money to a privileged group of citizens—the owners of fishing quotas—in order to pursue their occupation.

In October 2007, the Human Rights Committee (HRC) under the ICCPR ruled that Iceland's ITQ system did indeed violate international law. The HRC ruled that the two fishermen should be compensated for their losses, and that the Icelandic government should change legislation to give effect to the HRC's decision.

In summary, these examples document how rights-based fisheries leads to *de facto* exclusion of small-scale fishers and the concentration of fishing rights with the financial powerful elites and corporations. They provide evidence that rights-based fisheries is incompatible with sharing of national wealth in an equitable manner and, in particular, with small-scale fishing, and is likely to result in the loss of traditional fisheries management practices.

Stewardship

Furthermore, they show that the fundamental argument in support of rights-based fisheries, that 'private ownership promotes stewardship', is nothing more than an assertion that does not appear to be true. Rights-based fisheries builds on neoliberal ideology rather than on facts. The millions of fisher peoples from all over the world whose concerns are taken up by the World

significantly contributed to declines in fish abundance. In Alaska, small-scale fishing communities have disproportionately lost fishing rights, with native villages being especially vulnerable as collective fishing lifestyles are being replaced by individual private fishing rights for the elite.

In New Zealand, small-scale fishers were disadvantaged with the introduction of ITQs by the fact that commercial banks would not consider their quotas as collateral for lending. A small-scale fisher without either a large quota allotment or a large bank account struggles to acquire more quotas when his or her own share is too small to be economically viable. Small-scale fishers cannot borrow against other assets as larger companies are able to do. This has made it easier for large firms to buy up many of the tradeable quotas.

In Namibia, ITQs were introduced in 1992. Research has shown that, in terms of 'stewardship', there is no evidence of increased voluntary compliance by the fishing industry. Furthermore, capital flight in the fishing industry is rampant under this system. About 75 per cent of the Namibian hake market is controlled by Spanish companies, under joint-venture arrangements, and in 2010

A DECLARATION FOR HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE OCEANS TO HELP REDUCE POVERTY

We the Participants in the Global Partnership for Oceans, commit to develop and help implement this Partnership, in recognition of humankind's dependence on healthy oceans to feed the planet's growing population, support millions of livelihoods, contribute hundreds of billions of dollars annually to the global economy, and to provide essential environmental services, including climate regulation.

Despite global commitments made to date as well as the efforts of many organizations, governments, enterprises and individuals, the oceans remain under severe threat from pollution, unsustainable harvesting of ocean resources, habitat destruction, ocean acidification and climate change.

Building upon and better coordinating existing efforts and programs, including in support of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, our Global Partnership will convene stakeholders to mobilize significant human, financial and institutional resources for effective public and private investments in priority ocean areas. These investments will improve capacity and aim to close the gap in implementing global, regional and national commitments for healthy and productive oceans.

The Partnership Will Work toward Meeting the Following Interrelated Objectives by 2022

Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments* and taking into consideration growing impacts of climate change:

- Significantly increase global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental and disease risk to stimulate investment;
- Reduce the open access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights for fishers and incentives for them to hold a stake in the health of the fisheries; and
- Enable the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing.

Critical coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity

In line with previous internationally agreed targets and to address the growing impacts of climate change:

- Halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management;
- Increase marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation • measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and
- Conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience • to climate change impacts.

Pollution reduction

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments and taking into consideration the growing impacts of climate change:

- Reduce pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and
- Support implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess nutrients, and further develop consensus for achievable goals to reduce these pollutants.

The Global Partnership for Oceans is an inclusive partnership of Governments, civil society organizations, private sector companies and associations, research institutions, UN agencies, multi-lateral banks and foundations whose membership will grow over time. We will contribute resources according to our respective comparative advantages which may include capability for implementation, knowledge, and/or monetary support towards investment on behalf of healthier oceans in a number of priority ocean areas.

A Global Partnership for Oceans Fund will be established and governed by a committee representative of the diversity of the membership and stakeholders of the Global Partnership for Oceans, and with an advisory process that will ensure that investment choices are evidence-based. Within the next six months, the partners will seek to finalize the governance and working arrangements for the Partnership.

*Note: The previously agreed international commitments and targets referenced in this Declaration include those made in Rio in 1992 in Agenda 21, and subsequently at Johannesburg in 2002 and in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in Nagoya in 2010.



Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) or the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) have not been invited to, nor involved in, any preparatory processes of the GPO, and at the time the GPO Declaration was drawn up, it was clear that the GPO promotes values and systems that contradict the fundamental value systems underpinning the vast majority of small-scale fisheries around the world.

The GPO is described as an 'inclusive partnership of public, private and civil society organizations and governments', but it is open only to those who formally endorse the GPO Declaration.

Both WFFP and WFF perceive rights-based fisheries as a threat to nature, and to small-scale fisheries, in particular...

Both the WFFP and WFF perceive rights-based fisheries as a threat to nature, and to small-scale fisheries, in particular, and are, therefore, not prepared to endorse the Declaration.

As a consequence, both these worldwide bodies, who represent by far the largest number of fisher peoples around the world, are effectively excluded from engaging in the GPO. The claim of the GPO to be an 'inclusive partnership' is, therefore, highly questionable.

This *de facto* exclusion of the vast majority of the world's fisher peoples from decisionmaking in reform processes is a fundamental denial of their rights as reflected in numerous international instruments, including the ICCPR; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the Millennium Declaration (para. 25).

Contrary to what the GPO claims, it is possible to develop fishing policies for sustainable fisheries which do not build on private-

property rights, but which, instead, are based on the principles of social and environmental equity and communal and human rights.

First and foremost, the importance of empowerment and inclusion of fisher people in fisheries governance and management has been increasingly acknowledged over the past few decades.

The FAO-led process of developing the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) is a recent example of how small-scale fisher peoples are becoming increasingly recognized as key stakeholders, and supporting the empowerment of small-scale fishing communities to participate in decisionmaking is cited as being fundamental towards achieving the overall goal of the SSF Guidelines in the latest draft text.

In the human-rights-based approach to fisheries, the notion of 'rights' is distinctly different from those under rights-based fisheries. It must be recognized that the benefits from fish resources include social, environmental and economic components, while the GPO fundamentally rests on a purely economic rationale.

Non-monetary benefits include the sharing of power, democratic development, empowerment of fisher peoples, decreased conflict, increased food sovereignty and enhanced social cohesion. The value of these benefits exceeds the importance of monetary gains.

Fisheries experts and organizations representing fisher peoples from around the world have argued that economic incentives for resource stewardship is insufficient when there are other sources of insecurity in people's lives that are unrelated to the state of fishery resources.

Fisheries governance


More secure, less vulnerable fishers make more effective and motivated fishery managers in the context of participatory and a human-rights-based approach to fisheries governance.

The UN's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food has also taken up the issue of fisheries and the right to food, making explicit the link between the right to food and the rights of those who produce it, to fair access to resources such as land and water, and to obtain a fair share of the benefits from their labours.

He has spoken out against “ocean-grabbing” in his report on Fisheries and the Right to Food submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. Rather, he favours the involvement of local fishing communities in the design, implementation and assessment of the fisheries policies and interventions affecting them, in accordance with human-rights norms and standards.

Integral to the human-rights-based approach is gender equity and the promotion of the rights of women, which are based on universal principles enshrined in national and international legislation. Worryingly, the GPO completely fails to recognize the role and importance of women in fisheries, and reinforces the fact that women have fewer opportunities than men—also in terms of decisionmaking in fisheries.

WFFP and WFF have called on governments and inter-governmental institutions to abandon the GPO and impose an immediate and complete stop to initiatives pursuing rights-based fisheries as a ‘cure-all’ for fisheries.

Furthermore, our global organizations have urged governments and inter-governmental institutions to direct their human and financial resources towards a strengthened engagement with the world's small-scale fisher peoples and the finalization and implementation of the SSF Guidelines. 

For more

masifundise.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/WFFP-WFF-Call-on-Governments_GPO_200313.pdf

Call for governments to stop supporting the global partnership for oceans and rights-based fishing reforms

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-2979.2011.00405.x/abstract

Rights-based fisheries governance: from fishing rights to human rights

www.havbaade.dk/thenecessity.pdf

The need for common goods for coastal communities

Smoking Kilns

In the wild west of Ireland, the European Ecomuseum network is putting fisheries' artisans on the map

Most people would take umbrage at being called a museum piece. But Graham Roberts says he and his family leapt at the chance when the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Teagasc) approached them about becoming Ireland's first food 'Économusée'.

In late April 2013, the Connemara Smokehouse and Visitors Centre was incorporated into a growing network of Économusées across the North Atlantic. This family business was started over 35 years ago on Ireland's wild-west Connemara coast by Graham's mother and father.

(ENE) project. The ENE is establishing 17 Ecomuseums across seven north European countries, with two in Ireland. The ENE, in turn, is part of the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme (NPP), which aims to help peripheral and remote communities on the northern margins of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential.

The diverse communities in these remote regions share such common features as harsh climatic conditions, low population density, and remoteness. The wild Connemara coast of Ireland certainly fits this bill. In Bunowen Bay, where the Smokehouse is situated, in winter storms, with a rising tide and a following wind, waves have been known to carry away rocks from the pier and toss them up on the beach; once or twice they have even been seen breaking over the Smokehouse roof.

An 'Ecomuseum' is defined as a craft business open to the public that features educational materials designed to introduce the artisan and his or her craft, and promote cultural tourism.

To meet these objectives, Ecomuseums tell the story of their cultural history and foundations, open their workshops to the public, and display traditional and contemporary examples of their craft.

Artisans

A boutique is the final element and must pay for the whole operation. Today there are more than 500 artisans in Canada presenting and promoting their crafts through the Ecomuseums initiative to more than 900,000 visitors a year. All

An 'Ecomuseum' is defined as a craft business open to the public that features educational materials designed to introduce the artisan and his or her craft, and promote cultural tourism.

'Économusées' were initiated in the French-speaking Canadian province of Quebec in the 1980s to promote and sustain traditional artisanal craftsmanship and know-how.

They have come to be called 'Ecomuseums' in the English-speaking world. "What Teagasc proposed was exactly in line with our thinking, and would help take us in the direction that we wanted to go", says Graham. "Over the past few years, we have been developing our own product range, direct selling, and the educational and tourism aspects of the business. Becoming an Ecomuseum won't change what we do, but it will enable us to do it much better".

Teagasc is a partner in the Ecomuseum Northern Europe

*This article has been written by **Brian O'Riordan** (briano@scarlet.be) of ICSF's Belgium Office*

the Economuseums are private companies that fund their daily operations by themselves.

Through its combined focus on culture (presenting traditional crafts and trades), education (passing on traditional knowledge) and business (supporting artisanal entrepreneurial ventures), the network intends to foster cultural diversity in the regions, especially in remote areas. It aims to preserve living heritage and promote sustainable development. The European project, which also focuses on rural or remote communities, is assisting with the transformation of artisanal businesses into Economuseums to showcase their indigenous crafts and traditions, as well as to provide new jobs and training for young people.

Teagasc, through its involvement in the NPP, aims “to facilitate and promote the development of aspects of marine tourism, including fisheries tourism and seafood-based experiences”.

According to Teagasc, such industries “are essentially new industries for many peripheral communities, and are innovative in that they aim to fuse together local marine-based knowledge, culture, heritage and products with tourism and business-related skills and knowledge”.

Not that fishing and rural livelihoods, with their associated artisanal skills and traditions, are new; but, until relatively recently, the links with tourism were tenuous, and fishery activities were traditionally meant for not much more than subsistence.

Today, the Connemara Smokehouse and Visitors Centre welcomes at least 15,000 visitors a year from all over the world, with around 60 per cent arriving from France. On a peak day as many as 300 visitors drop in at the Smokehouse, with queues of up to 70 to 80 people at a time lining up in the shop. They produce over a dozen different products from locally sourced fish, and their business and products have received national and international acclaim and awards for

their high quality, innovation and exemplary practices.

Graham and Saoirse Roberts, the current owners of the business, reckon that at least half of their visitors would not come to this part of Ireland were it not for the Smokehouse.

Undoubtedly, the enterprise is making a huge contribution, both directly and indirectly, to the local economy, providing, as it does, eight full-time, and up to six part-time, posts, adding value to locally caught and reared fish, and producing high-value products for local, national, regional and international markets.

The Economuseum project aims to boost this. According to Graham, Teagasc’s support in developing the educational and outreach side of the business is proving invaluable. Besides helping to develop interpretative panels that portray and explain the artisanal processes and skills, Teagasc will integrate the Smokehouse more centrally in tourist and small-enterprise networks.

When John and Bridget Roberts, Graham’s parents, came to Ireland in 1978 to set up a fish trading company, they found a rocky outcrop and a marshy meadow where the Smokehouse now stands. In those



GRAHAM AND SAOIRSE ROBERTS

The Connemara Smokehouse’s product range includes Honey Roast Smoked Salmon, Honey Roast and Cold Smoked Tuna, Gravavlax and Smoked Mackerel

GRAHAM AND SAOIRSE ROBERTS



The Connemarra Smokehouse produces over a dozen different products from locally sourced fish like these albacore

and sales marketing. Maintaining high standards of hygiene and quality demand abundant potable water supplies as well as reliable three-phase electricity for powering the chill and cold stores, and the freezing units.

Over a 10-year period, John and Bridget built up a thriving processing, retail and export business. Along the way they acquired an Afos smoking kiln, originally built in 1946, which proved highly successful.

Initially, the wood chips used for smoking came from oak shavings discarded by coffin makers, and ash shavings from the makers of hockey and hurling sticks. Then, in 1990 disaster struck when a fire completely demolished the factory.

Ironically, the only piece of equipment to survive was the smoking oven. But the business had to start from scratch all over again. The fire caused a total loss, and insurance monies cannot bring back the business; and markets find other suppliers.

The early years of the Smokehouse coincided with the salmon farming boom in Ireland in the 1980s, and, initially, much of the business was smoking on contract for the big salmon producers and processors.

While that provided the much-needed bread and butter to get the business up and running again, today the Smokehouse prioritizes its own brand, based on fish it sources itself from the locality.

Graham explains that the move away from contract smoking was mainly to focus on developing his own brand and product line. "We decided to work more on our own brand as we found that the returns from contract smoking did not reflect the amount of time and effort needed. Our contractors often expected us to work miracles. Time and time again, we found ourselves going out on a limb for other people. That made no sense, businesswise."

Wild fish

Today, the emphasis is on wild fish, which provides 50 per cent of the supplies. Farmed salmon is

days, the water supply fell from the sky and was gathered from roofs into storage tanks; drinking water was available several miles down the road from a stand pipe.

There was no electricity supply or phone connection; fuel for heating and cooking was dug out of the turf bogs; and candle flames and gas lights lit homes at night.

The fishing fleet consisted essentially of small open boats; in the main, traditional boats like currachs, punts and 26-footers operated out of rocky coves, off sandy beaches or from small harbours on a seasonal basis to supplement farming and the dole.

Relatively few larger boats also caught fish for tourist hotels in the summer, and shellfish for export. Most of the rich fishery resources were either left in the sea or thrown back because there was no market for them. The Roberts family business aimed to change that by providing the market linkages and the knowhow to develop and diversify a product range into a variety of niches.

In today's high-tech, market-driven world, the Smokehouse could not survive without the Internet; at least 40 per cent to 50 per cent of sales are made online. Businesses increasingly depend on the Internet for social and business networks, and for advertising

controversial and has a bad reputation in many places.

But Graham sees it as an essential component of his product mix. “Today about five per cent of our product is farmed salmon, and 45 per cent is organically reared. For most people, farmed salmon or organically reared salmon are their entry points to smoked salmon. For example, our farmed smoked salmon sells at Euro7.50 for a 200 g pack, whilst organically reared sells at Euro13, and wild salmon at Euro25.

By providing a range of options, we can start up a conversation with customers, so thus enabling them to make an informed choice. If we just did wild salmon, a large segment of our customers would simply walk out of the shop if they had to pay Euro25 for their picnic lunch, without knowing why. This way, we link commerce with education and tourism, and we all benefit.”


The European Economuseum project will also form a tourism-based network or trail, which will assist the businesses to expand sales and sustain employment. Graham explains how the initiative is also linking with other initiatives like the Wild Atlantic Way project, for which he is an ambassador.

The Wild Atlantic Way is a long-distance driving route from Donegal in the north to Cork in the south that will take in some of Ireland’s most incredible experiences: its coastline, seascapes, history, culture and people. This is a coast which Vikings raided; it is a coast steeped in myths and legends, linked to the Brendan voyages and the Spanish Armada, rich in marine biodiversity, with iconic marine mammals and rare avifauna.

The Roberts family is also looking to the future, and training up the next generation. Graham and Saoirse’s children are taking a keen interest in helping their parents with the tours, packing the products, and learning how to fillet.

The Connemara Smokehouse and Visitors Centre features in most of the good food guides, at national and European levels, including in the French Guide de Routard and the

Guide de Gourmande. The awards won by the Smokehouse include the Bridgestone Guide Award, Good Food Ireland’s Best Use of Sustainable Local Fish Award, Great Taste Awards, Favourite Speciality Producer at the BBC Good Food Show, and Graham is listed as one of Rick Stein’s Super Food Heroes.

The Connemara Smokehouse’s extensive product range includes Honey Roast Smoked Salmon, Honey Roast and Cold Smoked Tuna, Gravavlax and Smoked Mackerel; its website has pages of recipes, both modern and traditional. 

For more



www.smokehouse.ie

Connemara smokehouse

www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/rerc/economusee.asp

**Agriculture and food
development authority**

www.economusee.eu

Économusée

Men, Women Fishing Together

A training workshop in Honduras focused on the need for gender equity in the fishing communities of central America

“All of us, men and women, youth, adults, the old... we all live on the coast and depend on artisanal fisheries, and we must all do our best to live together with greater equity and respect.” — Fidel Bonilla from Honduras

In today's world, discussing gender is a must. Gender is not an issue just for women; it concerns both men and women equally.

All actors participating in productive activities—in this case, artisanal fisheries—have the right to be recognized and valued for the work they do. Artisanal fisheries,

Historically, fishing has been considered a typically male activity and hence the common perception—which is far from reality—that women do not participate in either fishing or in the fishery.

“Generally, we go fishing, but the men don't want to acknowledge this and give due value to our work. They simply see us as shellfish gatherers, and this work is not valued as it should be. We women extract shellfish, we sell, we engage in trade, but the men don't recognize us as fisherwomen.” — Hilda Elizabeth Mendoza from Guatemala

Historically, in our society there has been a division between the public sphere (linked to men) and the private or domestic sphere (linked to women); the problem is that men's work is given a social and economic value, whilst other work in the domestic (reproductive) sphere that generally falls to women is neither valued nor recognized.

The tasks undertaken by women in the private sphere should also be recognized as work that contributes to continuity in the artisanal fishery and to the complementarity of the roles which men and women play in accomplishing a decent living and wellbeing for their families and communities.

“We face problems when fishing trips last more than three days. We have children and that means leaving them, but sometimes there is no one to care for them.” — Rosa Myriam Sandoval from El Salvador

Wider perception

Recognizing that both men and women participate in artisanal fisheries widens our perception, and allows us to discard preconceived

The tasks undertaken by women in the private sphere should also be recognized...

like all other productive activities, involves the work and dedication of many people in harvesting (capture), and in pre- and post-harvest activities. Large numbers of women are involved in these activities, engaged throughout the artisanal fisheries productive chain. This adds value to the sector, in the sense that their contribution to the wellbeing of the community is immense.

In many cases, ancillary tasks directly related to artisanal fishing and carried out by women have not been recognized as such. In many countries and contexts, this acknowledgement and appreciation of the contribution they make to artisanal fishing have not been adequately recognized.

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ideas of what is and what is not of value in artisanal fisheries, widening the range of alternatives through which we can develop our potential as human beings in the framework of rights, duties and values, through a development process that is balanced socially, economically, environmentally and culturally.

Below we show, through practical examples, the realities of the men and women fishery workers, and provide ideas to integrate gender equity and equality in the debate and in the everyday life of artisanal fisheries in central America. Our objective is to increase women's participation and engagement in the debate, which is generally dominated by men, and to increase recognition of gender equity and equality in artisanal fisheries.

In February 2013 a training workshop was undertaken in Honduras hosted by the recently established Fishermen's Association in the Cuero and Salado Reserve, with inputs from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the Central American Artisanal Fisheries Confederation (CONFEPESCA), CoopeSoliDar R.L., and the Honduran Community Tourism Network (RECOTURH). Seventy-four people participated in the event—49 men and 25 women—including fishermen and fisherwomen from six countries in central America, namely, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. ICSF representatives from Chile, Brazil and Belgium also participated.

From the outset, in designing the training workshop we were committed to using creative ways of ensuring that participation between men and women should be as equitable as possible, to enable them to share their knowledge, impressions and needs, in an atmosphere of respect and solidarity.

The work began with invitations being sent out, initially to women and youth associated with artisanal fisheries activities and their

productive chain. Each country was asked to comply with a participation quota for fisherwomen. Even if a larger number of men participated in the workshop, there was a strong representation of women who contributed their views and ideas. Wherever possible, women took the opportunity to express their views and concerns on all the issues raised during the workshop.

On the eve of the event, men and women, as well as youth, were invited to share their knowledge and concerns on the issue of gender and youth. The discussion began after showing a video called *"An Impossible Dream?"* This highlighted the lack of recognition given to the work carried out by women in the home, in the community, and in artisanal fisheries.

Often the activities carried out by women are not considered as work, or as contributing to coastal economies. The debate was accompanied by the reading of some paragraphs from a book *"Women and Artisanal Fisheries in Central America"*, which was written ahead of the meeting and provided a good reference for deepening the debate.

Starting with the experiences of working with artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen, it was agreed that the



Participants at an ICSF training programme session organized by CoopeSoliDar R.L. in Honduras

training workshop should include gender at three levels, which we describe below.

1. Incorporate gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout the training workshop

In technical jargon, this is referred to as 'gender mainstreaming'. First of all, it requires analyzing each of the issues without losing sight of the contribution or specificity of women. The methodology included using 'gender flags', with the aim of making women and their needs

Often the activities carried out by women are not considered as work, or as contributing to coastal economies.

visible in the debate, so that their faces and their voices should not remain hidden once again, as happens in most mixed workshops.

Generally, it is the men who usually speak out and who take the decisions in such meetings. These 'gender flags', with women's symbols, were developed with the intention that both women and men could stand up and make their voices and issues heard and known.

2. Spaces for men and women to discuss separately

In technical jargon, these are referred to as 'focus groups'. During the morning of the third day of the workshop, we included two working groups: one with men and the other with women. Whilst the women discussed their concerns and proposals, the men did likewise at the same time in a separate area.

A series of phrases was used which contained myths and realities about gender in artisanal fisheries, which served as a point of departure for reflection. In the case of the women, it provided a space for them to share their life stories, their experiences in artisanal fisheries,

their struggles, their dreams and their realities.

3. Meeting between both fishermen and fisherwomen

Following the separate working groups, each focus group wanted to know what the others had discussed. But, most importantly, that also opened up a space to share what had been discussed by men and women, both in terms of points of convergence and divergence.

We will see the conclusions of this discussion later on. Concrete proposals were put forward about how solidarity could be improved between men and women; about sharing responsibilities for housework and work at sea; about achieving equitable participation in meetings and organizational spaces; and about respect and non-violence between the sexes. Both shared their points of view on the issue; their knowledge; their perceptions on themselves; as well as their commitment to face up to fears and to bring about changes in gender relations.

And on this subject, what did the women discuss? What were the concerns and views of the men? And what did they both agree on in the joint space provided by the meeting?

Let's start with the women. What did they have to say, what proposals did they make? A great diversity of women participated in the workshop, including artisanal fisherwomen and others engaged in trade networks, in 'lujado' (work mainly carried out by women to untangle lines, to prepare the gears, to bait hooks, etc.), in the administration of fishing companies (with most of them belonging to artisanal fishery organizations); and all of them assuming, in their turn, work in the domestic sphere, childcare and in community work.

Brazilian women

There were also women participants from Brazil who contribute to organizing small-scale fishworkers

and to their discussions. They played an important role in sharing their wide experiences of organizing and engaging in policy advocacy.

Fisherwomen from Guatemala who participated in the workshop commented on their involvement in a fish-trade network and their contribution to the artisanal fishery productive chain, not only through trade but also specifically in fishing.

"I am a mother of three children. I fish, process and sell. Most of the women in my community fish." — Hilda Mendoza

Fisherwomen from Nicaragua who participated in the workshop spoke about their dedication to fishing, fish collection and storage, and trade. Some of them had the chance to study, and are now professionals, but they have tried to continue contributing in various ways to the artisanal fisheries sector. Participating in the meeting were a lawyer and a nurse, with their history and linkages with artisanal fishing.

"From the age of 10, my father took me to sea for fishing and also showed me how to haul the chinchorro (seine-net). When I reached 15, I went with my friends to fish and also went with my mother to market fish. I have two grandchildren of 10 and 14 years of age. They also help me with marketing. I am currently president of a co-operative. I am treasurer of the co-operative union in my region, as well as a member of the Steering Committee of FENICPESCA."

— Naila Fredericks

Also participating was a young fisherwoman from Nicaragua who besides studying, contributed to the organizational and administrative functions of the organization.

"I am Nicaraguan and I live on the central Pacific coast of Nicaragua. I am fully occupied in the fishery. I am the secretary for acts and agreements in my organization. I am studying tourism and hotels administration. I co-ordinate the provisioning of international mercantile vessels that arrive at our port. I also administer a small business that consists of a kiosk which is used for selling different processed products like fish pies,

fish burgers, etc. In this way, the consumption of our products is increased and we guarantee the quality of life of our organization's members." — Isamar Aguilar

Women from Honduras, most of them Garifuna women, brought with them a rich cultural experience, and similar problems experienced in their lives that arise from not being recognized in the artisanal fisheries sector.

"I feel that I have been blessed by God and by my ancestors because I belong to a Garifuna community. There are many things that make me feel proud to belong to this community and about our culture, our dances, our traditions, our autonomy, our rites; thanks to God and our ancestors, I am where I am, and we must forge ahead because if we stop to ponder about carrying on in the same way, we will be marginalized as indigenous people, both as garifunas and as women." — Ana Ortiz

Women from Costa Rica, many of whom fish and are involved in fishery activities, have also acquired new capabilities to engage in artisanal fishing

...they have tried to continue contributing in various ways to the artisanal fisheries sector.

organizations, as can be appreciated in the following testimonies.

"For some years, since 1999, I have been a fisherwoman in Costa Rica. I come from a fishing family and in 2005, along with fishing, I dedicated my time to managing a co-operative enterprise called Consorcio Por la Mar, R.L., and, in recent years, I have grown both as a person and as a woman." — Jeannette Naranjo

"I am a young woman and I work in a co-operative, the Consorcio Por la Mar R.L., in the central Pacific region of Costa Rica. I prepare the gear so that fishermen can go to fish. I also compile the co-operative's database, and I am secretary of the

COOPESOLIDAR R.L.



Women from the Garífuna communities of Honduras participating in the boat competition as part of the Sea Festival

co-operative's Steering Committee."

— Laura Morales

"I belong to the Limón Independent Fishermen's Association, located in the Costa Rican Caribbean. I have been working in the fisheries sector for approximately 10 years. My job is to help fishermen obtain tax exemptions on fuel and fishing equipment. I also hold the post of vice president of the association." — Jessica Jackson

Women from Panama who participated in the workshop belong to fishing organizations and contribute to their management and administration. They have received leadership training and are facing new challenges as regards the participation of women in artisanal fishing, both in the workplace and in the organization.

"Getting recognized in the fishery has come at a cost for Panamanian women. It is a daily struggle. We are now seeing the fruits, with more of us women participating in organizations and taking decisions. There is much to be done to rid society of its machismo and to get people thinking about fair opportunities for men and women."

— Martha Machazack

The women emphasized the issue of rights, in all forms—the right to be recognized and be valued; the right to dignity; the right to health and social security; the right to land,

sea and technology) so that they can keep abreast of what's going on in their sector); the right to participate in organizations; and the right to non-violence. Below are some testimonies:

- Asserting our rights in fisheries through getting organized, uniting, and through mutual support. "We are not going to be given our rights; they must be fought for." — Ana Ortiz from Honduras
- Combat violence and abuse. "As women, we must not put up with being forced to do things against our will. We must combat violence and abuse, and strive for our identity and self-esteem." — Naila Fredericks from Nicaragua
- Access to better opportunities and ease of access to social security. "Women don't have easy access to social security as fishworkers. Generally, the organizations assure women workers of their rights; but often they don't want to be part of an organization, they feel that it is not their place. That must change." — María Amparo Flores from Honduras

What do the men think about gender? What proposals do they have? The men recognized that there are inequalities between men and women in the fishery, and that women have fewer opportunities to participate in artisanal fishery organizations.

They feel that the issue of gender is new for men and several times they expressed their fears about fisherwomen having the capacity to take decisions and about displacing them from senior-level decision-making positions.

Violent attitudes

Others acknowledged attitudes about having power over women, but commented that, bit by bit, these must go, because men were also losers as human beings when violent attitudes prevail, when they don't share in child rearing, and when they have feelings of jealousy and possessiveness, which destroy human relations. However, other men, still insensitive about the

subject, maintained a strong resistance to, and were angry about, women having the possibility to leave their places in the home to go out for meetings and to be able to fully develop other aspects of their lives.

Against this background, they proposed:

- Men must change their macho attitudes and truly commit themselves to the needs of women.
- Many men are unaware that their behaviour and actions may often be violent. Violence and jealousy are not natural emotions.
- Organizational plans must include training for women in administrative and technical subjects to strengthen their leadership in local, national and regional organizations.
- There should be opportunities for women who want to develop as entrepreneurs in the sector.
- New steps must be taken to provide innovative training for men and women to change relationships of power, authority, violence and mistrust, making it possible to adopt new values and relationships based on respect, solidarity, co-responsibility in educating boys and girls and in undertaking domestic tasks, in ways that bring about equity in the relations between men and women who work in artisanal fisheries.

Based on what was said by both men and women, it can be seen that various threads emerged that point to changes in the power relations between men and women, and in the need to construct more harmonious ways of life that strengthen cultural identity, the right to the sea and to live a life free from violence. Three main themes were put forward in the debate.

4. Recognizing women and their engagement in fisheries-related work.

“Women are taking part in fishing; this must become more apparent every day - that we gain recognition for what we do and for what we can do for the wellbeing of

our coasts and communities.” — Naila Fredereicks from Nicaragua

5. Women’s participation in fishery organizations and in decisionmaking.


“It’s important that as women we get organized in our own organizations to unite better and defend our fishery-related interests, as men occupy positions of representation and decisionmaking in fishery organizations and other associations.”

— Jeannette Naranjo from Costa Rica

6. Regarding respect, equality and equity between men and women.

“We will get nowhere if men and women don’t recognize each other as human beings who share and discuss matters.”

— Oscar Marroquín from Guatemala

It is a fact that things are changing and today various efforts are being made to improve the quality of life for the people who live facing the sea. To reach agreement on equity, to improve communication amongst people, to improve all-round security, to promote the sustainable use of marine resources, to demand alternatives for access to land, and to enjoy economic, social and cultural rights are challenges that must guide us towards wellbeing on the coasts and at sea. 

For more



[sites.google.com/site/
jornadadeaprendizaje1/home](https://sites.google.com/site/jornadadeaprendizaje1/home)

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An impossible dream?

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Women and artisanal fisheries in central America

Depending on Mangroves

Integrated shrimp-mangrove farming systems offer a solution for protecting mangroves and improving livelihoods in Vietnam

Ca Mau Province, located in the Mekong Delta, is the southernmost of Vietnam's Provinces and has the highest remaining area of mangrove forests—it contains almost half of the remaining mangrove forest in Vietnam and 70 per cent of remaining mangrove forest in the Mekong Delta. It is estimated that Ca Mau has around 64,500 ha of mangrove forest, classified as production, protection or special-use forests.

Protection forests are under the management of forest

The provinces of the Mekong Delta contain about 740,000 ha of aquaculture, equivalent to three-quarters of the total aquaculture area in Vietnam, and produce about 1.7 mn tonnes of fish and 370,000 tonnes of shrimp, equivalent to three-quarters of the total farmed shrimp. Of the 12 provinces that comprise the Mekong Delta, Ca Mau is the leader in terms of area and output of shrimp cultivation, contributing about one-third of the delta's farmed-shrimp production.

Within the coastal zone, shrimp aquaculture is located along the coast and in estuaries and waterways near the coast where there is brackish water.

Shrimp aquaculture was introduced in Ca Mau in the early 1980s due to suitable natural conditions and the abundance of seed. The main aquaculture model in this period was traditional extensive aquaculture in the south of Ca Mau, where brackish and marine water could be easily accessed.

The potential income source that shrimp provided soon became evident, which led to large-scale expansion of shrimp farms. Because of its high economic return, shrimp farming has been promoted to boost the national economy, to provide a potential source of income for local communities and to alleviate poverty.

Mangrove destruction

This period witnessed widespread destruction of mangrove forests in the south of the province. Since the turn of the century, there

The area of mangrove forest has declined significantly primarily due to in-migration...rice cultivation, the overexploitation of timber...and shrimp farming.

management boards (FMBs) and are maintained to protect streams and soils, prevent soil erosion, and mitigate natural disasters.

However, the mangrove area has been dramatically reduced. It is estimated in the early 1970s, the mangrove forest in Ca Mau province covered approximately 200,000 ha. The area of mangrove forest has since declined significantly, primarily due to in-migration, the expansion of rice cultivation, the overexploitation of timber for construction and charcoal and, more recently, the expansion of shrimp farming.

The Mekong Delta provides ideal natural conditions for aquaculture and is home to most of the aquaculture in Vietnam.

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have been growing requirements and efforts to protect the remaining mangrove areas. The government is under pressure to balance wider aspirations of an export-led economy with the need to conserve the remaining mangrove forests. Against these competing agendas, integrated shrimp-mangrove systems have emerged as an opportunity to maintain production while ensuring a minimum forest cover.

Integrated shrimp-mangrove farming can be considered a traditional form of extensive aquaculture that has been practised along the Ca Mau peninsula since the early 1980s.

Although making up only 15 per cent of the total pond area in the province, integrated shrimp-mangrove systems have remained attractive to farmers and policymakers alike, given their protection of mangrove forests.

Farms are characterized by a dependence on mangroves for shrimp reproduction and food, and resulting in a relatively high share of income from crabs and fish. The farms are also inherently stable and resilient and more resistant to shrimp disease.

The shrimp-mangrove integrated farming system is characterized by a highly structured geometrical pattern. These shrimp farms are primarily 'extensive' aquaculture farms where integrated shrimp-mangrove production is practised. Shrimp ponds tend to be around 5 ha in size each, and are surrounded by small dikes that control the water level. Within the ponds, the remaining mangrove forests are typically replanted in a row.

The forest lands are allocated or contracted out to farmers, normally for 50 years, requiring them to adequately protect certain areas of mangroves. If this is not the case, the contract will not be renewed.

The SNV Mangroves and Markets project (MAM) aims to reduce the pressure on the mangrove areas by working with local authorities, companies and farmers to introduce

economic incentives for sustainable use and stronger protection. The project will work the Nhung Mien Forest Management Area.

To successfully conduct the project in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, MAM has three main partners and recently signed an agreement to promote organic shrimp production with the Minh Phu Seafood Company.

This private shrimp-processing and exporting company ranks second in Vietnam and fifth on shrimp values and shrimp production worldwide. Minh Phu Seafood Corp has collaborated with MAM to support the certification process at household levels and launch awareness raising for local households in Nhung Mien.

Given the ability to access an ensured market through the collaboration with Minh Phu, MAM project will also be able to give incentives to maintain mangrove forest cover. For the time being, the SNV's beneficiaries in Ca Mau sell their shrimp products to local collectors with considerably lower than committed certified prices from Minh Phu.

Officially, MAM partners with the various government authorities and institutions of Vietnam: the Departments of Agriculture and

SNV / NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Shrimp harvesting in Nhung Mien province of Vietnam. Integrated shrimp-mangrove systems have emerged as a productive opportunity

SNV / NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Timber from mangroves being transported in the Mekong Delta of Ca Mau in Vietnam. Mangrove forests are habitats for diversified fauna and flora

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Rural Development, as the project owner, local FMBs, the Forestry Department, the Department for Aquaculture, and the Quality Control of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery products.

Another partner is the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which has recently listed many mangrove reptiles on their Red List.

The abovementioned mangrove forests and Melaleuca forests have formed diversified fauna and flora with high biodiversity values, which are also home to some endangered animal species. Twenty two mangrove species (*Rhizophora apiculata* and *Avicennia alba*), which have been discovered in the region, are home for many bird species.

MAM's project manager Thuy Nguyen Thi Bich and her team aim to protect those 74 bird species belonging to 23 families, including some rare species such as white storks, sandpipers, pelicans, Indian storks, herons and black-headed ibis.

In addition, there are 17 species of reptiles belonging to nine families, and five species of amphibians belonging to three families, 14 species of shrimp, 175 species of fish belonging to 116 breeds and 77 families, and 133 species of plankton.

Fortunately, the coastal protection forests of Ca Mau province and the alluvial area of the Mui Ca Mau National Park are areas with suitable conditions for reproduction and development of marine creatures in their larval stage.

Sustainable mangrove restoration and sound shrimp production are meant to enable lasting conditions to access markets and improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. To support the abovementioned 600 households in sustainable shrimp production, the FMB strives to reach the Naturland certification in 2013 and 2014.

The MAM partnership with the Minh Phu Seafood Company also mandates all certified shrimp products to be bought by the company itself, which will improve the incomes of those 600 households by 10 per cent or more by early next year. In terms of protecting mangroves from illegal deforestation for shrimp ponds, the standards set

Box 1

Vietnam's fisheries production

The aquaculture area of Ca Mau accounts for nearly 300,000 ha, with the total output of aquatic products reaching 363,000 tonnes. In 2012 the shrimp farming area was more than 265,000 ha, and production reached 126,000 tonnes, accounting for 38 per cent of the country's total shrimp farming area. Of this, 5,000 ha are for intensive shrimp farming, 22,000 ha for improved extensive shrimp farming, nearly 238,000 ha for extensive farming (including 176,453 ha of extensive shrimp farming), 22,600 ha for mangrove-shrimp farming, and 40,000 ha for shrimp-rice farming in the four coastal districts of Phu Tan, Dam Doi, Nam Can and Ngoc Hien.

The total annual aquaculture production reaches about 255,000 tonnes per year on average, including products like shrimp, crab and different species of fish, which are the province's strength.



Box 2

MAM's focus

The MAM project focuses on four main components:

- The mangrove–shrimp farming model for sustainable supply of mangroves
- Restoration of mangroves in coastal protection zones
- Accessing climate finance (shrimp production standards, rehabilitation, climate change adaptation or CCA services)
- Recommendations for national policy: legal basis for mangrove Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)



by Naturland, the Netherlands-based organic agriculture /aquaculture/ seafood certifier, require at least 40-50 per cent of mangrove area to be set aside for local shrimp farms every year.

MAM provides a good opportunity to support households at a local level and restore Ca Mau's mangroves in the coastal areas. MAM will also emphasize capacity building for related stakeholders, local authorities, and the forestry and aquaculture sector on resource management.

**For more**

www.snvworld.org/en/sectors/redd/cases/MAM

**Mangroves and markets:
Supporting mangrove protection
in Ca Mau Province, Vietnam**

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A0_Mau_Province

Ca Mau Province, Viet Nam

ICSF Statement

The following is the ICSF Statement at the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), 15-17 May 2013, Geneva

First of all, we would like to congratulate the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its social partners for ensuring the required number of ratifications for paving the way for entry into force of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, in August this year. Similarly, we hope the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) also would soon enter into force.

Ever since its adoption, the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, has provided a framework for many developing countries to look at the

organized, and poorly informed, workforces; fisheries departments do not necessarily deal with the labour dimension of fishing, and labour authorities, in general, do not often engage with fishing. As a result, information regarding the labour dimension of fishing often is not easily available.

Now, with the idea of ratifying the Fishing Convention, several governments have started looking at the fishing sector more systematically. It has come to their notice that existing laws are too fragmented or inadequate to provide social protection. It has become clear to these governments that several new elements in national legislation are to be developed to make them consistent with C.188.

Elements of C.188 seem to fall within the jurisdiction of the labour authority, the fisheries authority and the maritime safety authority at different levels, and these authorities are yet to work in unison to develop an appropriate legislation to develop all relevant national and subnational standards to ensure social protection of fishers.

Influential sections of fishing vessel owners in some countries believe ratifying C. 188 would lead to non-viable fishing operations, and little effort is made by the national authorities to clarify that a national labour standard based on C.188 can lead to fishers developing a long-term, real interest in fishing, that it can reduce fatigue-induced accidents at sea—a reason for many collisions at sea in recent months—that it can improve compliance with fisheries conservation and management

Fishers still remain one of the least-organized, and poorly informed, workforces...

poorly understood labour dimension of fishing, especially in their maritime sector. Fast-paced technological changes have been taking place in marine fishing ever since the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, leading to fishing operations on board all types of mechanized fishing vessels expanding their operations to new fishing grounds.

As a result, recruitment practices, duration of fishing trips, work and living conditions, and vessel safety in relation to most fishing operations have changed significantly, with implications for the lives and livelihoods of fishers. These changes, however, are not properly documented in most fisheries. Fishers still remain one of the least-

This intervention was made by ICSF (icsf@icsf.net) on 15 May 2013 at the Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) in Geneva

JOHN HULME / ILO



A fisherman hauling in nets for repair. The working and living conditions of the fisheries workforce still do not receive the attention they deserve

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measures, that it can provide greater transparency in recruitment of fishers and that it can provide better international market access for fish and fish products.

Finally, it is a question of political will. The working and living conditions of the fisheries workforce still do not receive the attention they deserve. A welfare-based approach to social protection of fishers is still politically given greater preference over a rights-based approach. An organization such as ILO, which is built on the tenet that labour is not a commodity, should convince its member nations that C.188 is the best tool to deal with unprecedented commodification of labour in fishing that has transformed fishing into the most dangerous occupation in many parts of the world. 3

For more



www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/recommendations-conclusions-of-sectoral-meetings/WCMS_214603/lang-en/index.htm

Points of consensus—Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)

www.ilo.org/sector/activities/sectoral-meetings/WCMS_204806/lang-en/index.htm

Global Dialogue Forum for the Promotion of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188)

A Fishy Partnership

The proposed Global Partnership for Oceans must recognize, and protect, ocean space for coastal fishing communities to safeguard their culture, dignity and source of livelihood

In a speech, “A New S-O-S: Save Our Seas”, Robert B. Zoellick, former President of the World Bank Group, announced in Singapore the formation of the Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) at *The Economist* World Ocean Summit in February 2012. The Bank would mobilize US\$300 mn in catalytic finance, he said, and the GPO would leverage an additional \$1.2 bn in five years.

Almost four months later, the GPO was launched at the Rio+20 Summit in Brazil (See “A Declaration for

not-for-profit environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry associations and certification agencies.

The GPO proposes to address institutional weaknesses that not only created conditions for open access leading to overexploitation of fishery resources, but also institutional weaknesses that failed to stop pollution and habitat loss, says the draft Framework document. It would customize examples of successful reforms to restore the health of the world’s oceans, through co-ordinated action for investment in Priority Ocean Areas at the regional level in developing countries to reduce poverty. The investment—not only in financial resources but also in terms of human and institutional resources and innovations—would be made mainly in marine and coastal areas under national jurisdiction but could also include, for example, rights-based management of tuna fish stocks in the high seas.

Rights-based advocates

The criteria to identify the Priority Ocean Areas are to be developed late-2013 by the GPO Blue Ribbon Panel—a panel drawn from 15 countries, predominantly comprising representatives of academe and the private sector, followed by an equal number of representatives of governments, multilateral bodies and environmental NGOs. Nearly two-thirds of the panellists are from OECD countries (nearly 60 per cent are from just one country). Some of the panellists are internationally known advocates of rights-based fisheries from industrialized countries. The

One year after its launch, the GPO has nearly 150 participants.

Healthy Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty”, page 23). To translate this Declaration into reality, a Framework document for a GPO is being prepared. A draft is online (see www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org).

The GPO is proposed to be a partnership of governments, regional and multilateral organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, foundations, research institutions, private sector companies, and civil society organizations (CSOs). One year after its launch, the GPO has nearly 150 participants.

While the government partners are currently divided mainly between the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the CSOs comprise mainly for-profit and

This article has been written by **Sebastian Mathew** (icsf@icsf.net), Programme Adviser, ICSF

GPO Action Plans for Priority Ocean Areas are hoped to be developed to achieve targeted outcomes for healthy oceans by 2022. These Action Plans, most likely, would be announced at the Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth at The Hague, The Netherlands, in February 2014.

Enhancing the capacity at local, national and regional levels through appropriate investment is expected to close the gap between some of the significant previously agreed international commitments and their implementation. These commitments are drawn from Agenda 21 of the 1992 Earth Summit, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (JPOI) and the 2010 Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The commitments thus extrapolated for action range from those outstanding since 2004, such as implementing the International Plan of Action (IPOA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), to implementing selected Aichi Targets set for 2015-2020 relating to habitat protection, including the protection of coral reefs; adopting an ecosystem-based approach to conserve marine biodiversity; sustainable management of aquaculture; mitigation of nutrient pollution; and creation of coastal and marine protected areas (MPAs).

The global investment mechanism would include core funding directly to developing-country governments from a multi-donor trust fund to be steered and managed by the World Bank and co-financed by the Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as parallel financing from interested GPO partners.

The funds would be made available under GPO Action Plans in Priority Ocean Areas, subject to a rigorous monitoring and evaluation regime employing an evidence-based approach to determine progress. In addition, a private investment

fund would be created to respond to upstream public sector investment by supporting private investment in downstream activities. The private investment fund would, for example, invest along the value chain in response to public sector investments in rights-based management reforms in fisheries.

Grouped under three programme components, namely, (i) sustainable seafood and livelihoods, (ii) critical coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity, and (iii) pollution reduction, mainly seven targeted outcomes are expected by 2022

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES / GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA



Small-scale fishers put fish in traps as bait to catch crab in Batu Kawan, Penang, Malaysia. The GPO must adhere to a human-rights-based approach to fisheries

through GPO Action Plans in Priority Ocean Areas. These are:

1. to increase global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries;
2. to reduce the open-access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements;
3. to enable the world's overexploited fish stocks to be rebuilt and to increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 bn;

Without protecting human rights of the poor, it is often pointless to create tenure arrangements to reverse overfishing and reduce poverty.

4. to halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation;
5. to increase MPAs to include at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas;
6. to conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate-change impacts; and
7. to reduce pollution to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Agreed international commitments do not, however, include any specific commitments relating to reducing the open-access nature of fisheries or to increasing the annual net benefits of capture fisheries. There are, to our knowledge, no international commitments to a rights-based approach to fisheries either.

The targeted outcomes of GPO are thus a hybrid of unilateral prescriptions coming from the World Bank and some of the international commitments already agreed upon under the UN or its specialized agencies. It is, however, moot if these unilateral commitments indeed can prevent overexploitation of fisheries resources and reduce poverty in the developing world.

Overexploitation of fisheries resources has been attributed to

open-access fisheries. An increase in food-fish production from capture fisheries is presumed contingent upon introducing secure rights to remove open access.

However, the FAO's *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) 2012 reports how Western Central Pacific, Eastern and Western Indian Ocean—home to one the largest concentration of poor fishers in the world—have shown continuously increasing trends in catch since 1950.

This is despite the absence of any clear tenure rights in marine capture fisheries in these areas. Sustained increase in food-fish production in the face of value-chain constraints has not, however, dented the poverty of vulnerable coastal fishing communities in countries like India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

In inland fisheries, on the other hand, where there are tenure rights and no open access, these rights have been spirited away by middlemen and merchants, pushing active fishers deeper into poverty in South Asia, especially in Myanmar.

Without protecting human rights of the poor, it is often pointless to create tenure arrangements to reverse overfishing and reduce poverty. Even with regard to New Zealand, which has a well-known case of rights-based fisheries management reforms, there are documented human-rights abuses on board time-chartered fishing vessels, raising serious concerns about the social consequences of rights-based fisheries even in rich countries (see article by Christine page 8 in this issue of *SAMUDRA Report*).

Rights-based fisheries

Also, in the case of Iceland, another well-known case of rights-based fisheries reforms, the Human Rights Committee of the UN concluded in 2007 that the property entitlement privilege accorded permanently to the original quota holders, to the detriment of other fishermen, was not based on reasonable grounds (see *SAMUDRA Report* No.49, March 2008, page 44). In order to integrate social responsibility into economic and ecological sustainability of GPO

investments, GPO Action Plans must adhere to a human-rights-based approach to fisheries, consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, which is currently under negotiation.

This is perhaps necessary, considering that small-scale fisheries contribute two-thirds of global fish catches for direct human consumption, and employ more than 90 per cent of the world's fishers and fishworkers. Compliance with FAO guidelines would ensure that GPO-funded activities achieve their outcomes upholding principles of human rights and dignity, respect of cultures, non-discrimination, gender equity and equality. The FAO Guidelines are likely to be adopted in 2014.

Employment and income are still important considerations in fisheries

development in many developing-country fisheries. The GPO Action Plans ought to discuss employment of fishers not only in the context of alternative employment in tourism or offsetting loss of employment due to overfishing or pollution, but also in the context of creating employment in sustainable fisheries.

Even for successful outcomes in conservation and management of fisheries resources, it is important to invest in the welfare and human development of fishing communities, especially in sea safety, decent work and better work and living conditions. In this context, implementing the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, of the International Labour Organization (ILO) could be part of GPO Action Plans in Priority Ocean Areas. Fishers protected under sound labour legislation are far more likely to contribute to sustainable fisheries

SANTIAGO DE LA PUENTE

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Artisanal purse-seiners landing anchovies in Pisco, south of Peru. Small-scale fisheries contribute two-thirds of global fish catches for direct human consumption

The GPO Action Plans should have a duty to recognize the rights of small-scale fishworkers, women, indigenous people and local communities...

than fishers who enjoy no such protection.

Traditional knowledge is recognized as one of the guiding principles of GPO. Integrating commitments under Agenda 21 regarding the use of local and traditional ecological knowledge of fishing communities into GPO Action Plans in Priority Ocean Areas could strengthen and nurture responsible tenure rights.

This can improve information and generate ownership from traditional communities to fisheries management reforms and assist in empowering fishing communities outcomes that are likely to promote sustainable fisheries. Activities for investment under the GPO should

include support to local fishing communities to organize, maintain, exchange and improve traditional knowledge of marine living resources and fishing techniques.

While the GPO recognizes how private certification systems downstream would drive more sustainable fisheries upstream, it is important for GPO investments to offer safeguards to prevent non-tariff barriers to trade applying, among others, the principles of non-discrimination, transparency, and choosing least trade-restrictive trade measures, as proposed in Agenda 21.

Due consideration is required to the special conditions and development requirements of developing countries under international trade regimes. Also, in line with IPOA-IUU, GPO Action Plans should not support unilateral trade measures. Trade-related measures to prevent, deter or eliminate IUU fishing should be used only in exceptional circumstances where other measures have proved to be unsuccessful.

From a longer-term perspective on sustainable development, building up meaningful decision-making responsibility under GPO Action Plans in relation to marine and coastal areas is contingent upon investing in bottom-tier institutions such as fishers' associations, gear groups, trade unions and co-operatives at local and national levels to enable their participation in planning and implementation of fisheries conservation and management activities.

In line with Agenda 21, small-scale artisanal fisheries development and management need to be integrated into marine and coastal planning in Priority Ocean Areas. The GPO Action Plans should have a duty to recognize the rights of small-scale fishworkers, women, indigenous people and local communities, including their rights to the utilization and protection of marine and coastal habitats on a sustainable basis.

The emphasis on rights-based fisheries of GPO Action Plans must not only be underpinned by a human rights-based approach but must also be balanced with approaches such as co-management, input controls and technical measures, together with capacity development of fisheries departments, and greater co-ordination between fisheries and environment authorities as well as other departments dealing with ocean resources.

Consultation

Noticeably absent as regards the coastal and marine protected areas to be created under GPO Action are mechanisms to ensure proper and meaningful consultation and participation of fishing communities in their planning and implementation. Likewise, by incorporating the right to life and livelihoods of coastal fishing communities as the basic principles into these Action Plans, the GPO could take an important stance to defend these communities against the harmful impacts of coastal development, coastal deforestation, no-take fishing zones, arbitrary conservation programmes, destructive

fishing practices, fisheries access agreements, offshore oil and gas exploitation and extraction, offshore mining, and land- and sea-based sources of pollution.


Under the GPO umbrella, a powerful multilateral finance institution such as the World Bank could win support especially from finance, energy, environment, mining and industry ministries, as well as the private sector, to address the concerns of fishing communities in countries falling under Priority Ocean Areas.

In Singapore, Zoellick sent out an S-O-S to save our seas from pollution and to save our fish stocks “crashing from overexploitation”. Fishers, along with seafarers, are the original users of the seas. Fishing would still rank as the number one profession when it comes to employment in ocean space. The seas must, therefore, be saved also for coastal fishing communities to protect their culture, dignity and source of livelihood.

The final Framework document ought to emphasize the social dimension and ensure that Priority Ocean Areas and GPO Action Plans are required to effectively integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

It is, however, still unclear how far the proposed GPO fund would raise US\$300 mn in catalytic finance, and leverage an additional US\$1.2 bn, as announced by Zoellick. The challenge facing donors must be whether to commit scarce financial resources to a GPO financial mechanism or to back the ongoing efforts of UN and its specialized agencies.

We do not need a singular GPO steered by the World Bank, but rather we need several GPOs under different UN agencies, where civil society organizations, especially those representing fishing communities, are assigned a role in setting funding priorities and in decisionmaking. Rather than creating just an overarching mechanism under a multilateral finance institution such as the World Bank, it would make better sense

to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to save our seas from pollution, FAO to save our fisheries from overexploitation, and CBD to save our marine and coastal biological diversity from destruction, together with support to the ILO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to provide decent work and to strengthen local and national institutions for sustainable development. 

For more

www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org

Global Partnership for Oceans

www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/49.html?start=12

SAMUDRA Report No.49

A Champion for Fishers

The inaugural MARE Oeuvre Award goes to Rolf Willmann of FAO for his lifelong commitment to the cause of small-scale fishworkers

The Amsterdam-based Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) has bestowed the MARE Oeuvre Award on Rolf Willmann, Senior Fishery Planning Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Policy, Economics and Institutions (FIPI), of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for his lifelong commitment to the cause of small-scale fishworkers.

The award was presented during the 7th People and the Sea conference, held in Amsterdam between 26 and 28 June 2013. The dictionary defines

community, the technology and the conflicts which were brewing at that time—questions very unlike the ones which young ‘experts’ from FAO/UN usually posed.”

The connections Rolf made then with local fisher organizations—those engaged in ‘making a place for small-scale fishing’, which was the theme of the MARE award day—have lasted a lifetime.

Rolf moved to the FAO headquarters in 1982 and has been part of its fisheries division ever since, championing the cause of small-scale fisheries both in global forums and at the grass roots. According to his colleagues in FAO, Rolf has made two major contributions to the development of small-scale fisheries.

First, he has consistently strived to connect the sector with global policy developments as, for instance, those related to the 2012 Rio+20 conference. His efforts towards the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, held in Bangkok in 2008, was part of the realization that larger politics matter. His subsequent attempts to help fructify the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries—which will, hopefully, come into effect in 2014—is a logical follow-up of this drive.

Policy processes

Second, Rolf has consistently striven to help representatives of the sector themselves to express their collective voice and to participate in important policy processes. John Kurien elaborates: “Wherever he went, he established contacts with non-governmental organizations and

...he has dedicated his whole professional—and much of his personal—life to the cause of small-scale fisherworkers around the world.

‘oeuvre’ as the total body of work of a writer or artist. Notwithstanding the fact that Rolf is not an artist in the classical sense, he qualifies for the award since he has dedicated his whole professional—and much of his personal—life to the cause of small-scale fisherworkers around the world.

Rolf studied economics in Germany and joined FAO’s Fisheries Division in 1979 as an Associate Expert, based in Chennai, India. John Kurien, founding Member of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), who came to know him soon after, recalls: “Although he was new to fisheries and to India, I was impressed with the nature of the questions that Rolf raised about the fishery, the

*This report comes from the **Centre for Maritime Research (MARE)**, which is supported by the University of Amsterdam, Wageningen University, the University of Aalborg and the University of Tromsø*

community activists who worked with small-scale fishers. He did not hobnob only with policymakers and officers. Rolf straddled a wide range—from, for example, the World Bank to Bigkis Lakas, a small-scale fisherworkers' union in the Philippines.”

Now, on the eve of an end to a glorious career at FAO, Rolf has been feted by the MARE team who wish to draw attention to, and commend, his important contribution for ‘people and the sea’.

Driven by a sense of cautious optimism, Rolf has not evaded difficult issues and hard choices, and has always chosen to speak out even if his viewpoints are controversial. His style as a team player has stood him in good stead. In awarding Rolf Willmann the Oeuvre Award, MARE is sure that his work will be carried forward by others in the field of small-scale fisheries. 3



The MARE Oeuvre Award was given to Rolf Willmann in recognition of his contribution towards small-scale fisheries around the world

For more

www.marecentre.nl

Centre for Maritime Research

www.fao.org

**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations**

LABOUR

Thailand ignoring slaves at sea, says EJF

Thailand is facing fresh allegations of using slave labour in its fishing industry with the launch of a new investigation into the sale, abuse and exploitation of migrant workers on Thai fishing ships.

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), an environmental and human rights NGO, highlights the case of 15 Burmese men who had been rescued from boats in its report *Sold to the Sea: human trafficking in Thailand's fishing industry*. All of the men claim to have been deceived by labour brokers and forced to work up to 20 hours a day for months at a time with little or no pay on shrimping boats in Kantang, a city in the south of Thailand.

The men had been subjected to bonded labour, forced detention, and abuse and beatings by senior crew while working on ships operating in Thai waters, according to EJF.

Two of the men reported seeing fellow migrant workers tortured and executed for trying to escape, and witnessing the murder of at least five other men. Another man reported multiple murders and bodies being thrown out to sea with the crew forced to watch.

The report claims that while the men were in police custody, the owner of the boat that had held the men, as well as the broker who had sold the men to the ship, were given access to the rescued workers by local police.

Statements from the Burmese migrants also claim that Thai police profited from their further exploitation by forcing them to work on a rubber plantation allegedly owned by a senior official in the local force.

"We have been genuinely surprised by the levels of collusion by agents of the state, who instead of stopping these awful human rights abuses are ignoring and even benefiting from it," said Steve Trent, executive director of EJF.

"We were shocked by the extreme levels of violence inflicted on and witnessed by migrant men held as captive workers on these boats and how easy it was for us to conduct this investigation and

collect our evidence. This was all out in the open. This is not an isolated case, but indicative of the widespread acceptance and use of modern slavery in an industry that feeds a global appetite for seafood."

Thailand has been repeatedly accused of slavery and human trafficking in its shipping industry. A 2011 report by the International Organisation for Migration documented widespread trafficking within the fisheries sector in Thailand, with migrant fishermen being kept working on board for years without pay. A report in 2009 by the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking found that 59% of interviewed migrants trafficked aboard Thai fishing boats reported witnessing the murder of a fellow worker.

EJF is calling for Thailand to be downgraded to a tier three country in the upcoming US state department's Trafficking in Persons (Tip) report, which grades the scale and severity of people trafficking globally.

Thailand has been lobbying to retain its tier two status despite last year's Tip report concluding that Thailand has not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking and is not in compliance with minimum standards for its elimination.

A relegation into tier three would rank Thailand among the countries with the worst records on human trafficking including Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It could lead to restrictions on US foreign assistance and access to global financial institutions such as the World Bank.

An International Labour Organization (ILO) report this month identified the fishing industry as one of the most open to coercive and deceptive labour practices due to the isolation, length of time at sea and transnational nature of the work, as well as the high percentage of migrant labour used.

Source: *The Guardian*
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/may/29/thailand-slaves-sea-burmese-migrants>

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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Catchbox: The UK's first 'Community Supported Fishery'

Launched in March 2013, the Catchbox Co-operative is the United Kingdom's first 'Community Supported Fishery' (CSF) project. Community Supported Fisheries were initiated in the United States around six years ago based on the popular Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programmes developed in the 1980s. CSFs, like CSAs, are a kind of direct marketing scheme, designed to bring consumers and producers closer together; to cut out the middleman and put consumers directly in touch with the fishermen in their local harbours.

Catchbox is in the process of establishing itself as an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS), a legal entity that includes bona fide co-operatives that trade for the mutual benefit of their members. Catchbox describes itself as a co-operative connecting people with their local fishermen and fish in the

UK's southeast coastal towns of Brighton and Chichester. The scheme "aims to both encourage responsible fishing, sustainable consumption of a wider variety of fish, and help people get to know the fish in their seas".

To benefit from the Catchbox scheme, people first

consumers and the wider public to reconnect with the marine environment; to understand and regain respect for a traditional way of life that is often maligned or otherwise portrayed in a bad light.

One of the big challenges facing CSFs, in general, and the Catchbox, in particular, is commercial viability.

The pilot phase of Catchbox is supported by a grant from the UK's

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). SeaWeb, an international NGO set up by the Pew Charitable Trust in 1995, is leading the co-ordination of the pilot phase of Catchbox through the Seafood Choices programme. Other supporters include Co-Operatives UK and Brook Lyndhurst. Once it has completed the pilot phase, Catchbox will have to make it alone economically.

<http://www.catchbox.coop/>

CATCHBOX

have to become members by paying a £10 fee (Euro12 or US\$15). They must then pay for at least one kg worth of fish per fortnight. Members pay at the beginning of the fishing season for a share of a fisherman's catch and each week receive a set weight of fish, which varies according to season. Members may also chose between whole fish or fillets, on a weekly or fortnightly basis, and according to the size of their household.

An important feature of the scheme is its educational dimension. It will encourage

FISHERIES STATISTICS

Child Labour

Child labour is a major concern in many parts of the world and it is estimated that there are some 215 mn child labourers worldwide. Aggregate data indicate that about 60 per cent of child labourers—that is, over 129 mn children—work in agriculture, including fisheries and aquaculture. While there are limited disaggregated data on child labour specifically related to fisheries and aquaculture, case-specific evidence points to significant numbers. Children engage in a wide variety of activities in capture fishing, aquaculture and all associated operations (processing, marketing and other post-harvest activities), as well as in upstream industries, including net making and boatbuilding.

Children also perform household chores in their fishing and fish-farming families and communities. When child labour is used as cheap labour to cut fishing costs, not only is it harmful to the children, it may also have a negative effect on the sustainability of the fishery activity. Child labour appears to be particularly widespread in the small- and medium-scale sectors of the informal economy where decent work is poorly organized or absent.

Although there is a widely ratified international legal framework to address child labour, comprising International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and other agreements, laws are effective only if they are applied and enforced, with incentives to ensure compliance. Addressing child labour is rarely high on the national agenda of social dialogue, legislation review and institution building. Its elimination is difficult because it is part of production systems, is nested in the context of poverty and relates closely to social injustices. Communities and institutions are often not fully aware of the negative

Supply and demand determinants of child labour in fisheries and aquaculture	
Supply factors ('push' factors)	Demand factors ('pull' factors)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of poverty and need to supplement household income. • Lack of access to adequate schools and childcare, particularly in remote areas (insufficient number of schools, geographical distance, poor quality and non-relevant curricula). • Interruption of education or childcare due to migration. • Inadequate or insufficient information on behalf of parents (for example, perceived irrelevance of education or poor awareness of hazards of certain work). • Lack of financial services allowing the household to redistribute expenses and income over time. • Incompatible attitudes, values and norms: children's participation in fisheries and aquaculture considered a way of life and necessary to pass on skills (fishing, net making/repair, fish processing and trading). • Necessity to cope with shocks such as a natural disaster or the loss of a household breadwinner (accident at sea, HIV/AIDS). • Children's interest in proving their skills and making a contribution to the family income: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Cultural perception of masculinity and desire to earn income, making boys want to go to sea to fish at an early age. — Girls wanting to make money work in fish processing and marketing. • High child-adult ratio (demographic factors). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for cheap labour: children are often paid less than adults (or unpaid) and have weaker negotiating power with regard to terms and conditions of work. • Insufficient availability of adult labour at peak (fishing) seasons. • Need for substitution of adults in household chores and labour when parents are working, sometimes away from home. • Demand for special skills and perception that children's fingers are nimble or their (smaller) bodies better for certain tasks, such as net repairs and diving deep distances to hook/unhook the nets from fishing boats. • Existence of certain attitudes and perception that children, in particular girls, are more docile workers. • Consideration that certain tasks are children's responsibility (for example, feeding fish or fetching water).



Source: Adapted from FAO/IFAD/ILO, 2010; ILO/IPEC-SIMPOC, 2007; ILO, 2002.

individual and collective social and economic consequences of child labour. Practical and realistic pathways for improving the current situation and community engagement and buy-in are essential for successful results.

More information on child labour is needed to raise awareness at all levels. A critical first step towards eliminating child labour—in particular, its worst forms—is to understand what constitutes hazardous work and what tasks and occupations are acceptable for children above the minimum legal age for employment. Not all activities performed by children are child labour. Convention on Minimum Age, 1973 (No 138), and Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) define child labour

on the basis of a child's age, the hours and conditions of work, activities performed and hazards involved. Child labour is work that interferes with compulsory schooling and damages health and personal development.

Concerted efforts are needed to effectively address child labour with multi-stakeholder participation and involving governments, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), employers' and workers' associations and other socio-professional organizations, the private sector and communities (including children and youth). By applying holistic, participatory, integrated and feasible approaches, a better life for millions of children can be created.

Source : www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf

Excerpts from "Guidance on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture", produced by FAO and ILO, 2013

VERBATIM

...it is high time to recall that there is an alternative, and that it is staring us in the face: the small-scale fisheries. They survived, albeit with difficulties, while industrial fisheries grew in the absence of checks or balances.

— FROM DANIEL PAULY'S FOREWORD TO "WORLD SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: CONTEMPORARY VISIONS"

INFOLOG: NEW RESOURCES AT ICSF

ICSF's Documentation Centre (dc.icsf.net) has a range of information resources that are regularly updated. A selection:

Publications

Caught at Sea: Forced Labour and Trafficking in Fisheries. ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (DECLARATION/SAP-FL), Sectoral Activities Department (SECTOR). - Geneva: ILO, 2013.

This report examines recent literature on forced labour and human trafficking in the fisheries sector, with a focus on fishing vessels engaged in commercial marine fisheries. The report considers institutional and legal frameworks as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives that have the potential to impact fishers' safety and working conditions. Valuable input was received from the participants at an ILO consultation in Turin, Italy, in September 2012. The main questions answered in this report are: What do we know about forced labour and human trafficking in the fisheries sector (Chapter 1)? Which institutional and legal frameworks exist to combat this problem (Chapter 2)? Finally, what are the main issues that will inform our discussion on how to move forward (Conclusion)?

Source : http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_214472.pdf

Beginners' Guide to the Reform of EU Fish Subsidies

The European Union (EU) fisheries policy may seem complicated, but it is actually pretty simple: we must fish less now so we can fish more tomorrow. The infographic in this publication from Fish for the Future explains the Common Fisheries Policy in five minutes.

Important discussions are taking place in the European Parliament right now and there are divisions between Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) across all national delegations and political groups.

Fish For the Future is a cross-party group of MEPs who want to end overfishing and rebuild fish stocks. They are fighting against those who prefer the short-term benefit of allowing fishermen to catch the last remaining fish over ensuring European fishermen a long-term future.

Source : <http://fishforthefutureeu.wordpress.com/>

Videos/CDs

Unacceptable Levels: Pollution Just Got Personal

Pollution is not just what you can see littered in the ditches by the side of the road. It is also the hazardous chemicals you can't see in the air we breathe, the water we drink and wash in, the food we eat, and the ground we play on. In all of our blood and urine, hazardous chemicals can be measured by the dozens. How do they get there? That's a story worth watching. This movie shows just how 'up-close and personal' pollution can be.

Source : www.unacceptablelevels.com

FLASHBACK

Don't forget fishworkers

A widely reported conference on the conservation and management of highly migratory stocks like tuna, and of straddling stocks species like cod that lie both within and beyond exclusive economic zones was held at New York from 12 to 30 July 1993.

The Conference was of concern to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers for various reasons. The inter-relationship of species implies that excessive harvest of any one species could sometimes affect the catch potential of others, irrespective of juridical boundaries.



The situation is worsened by burgeoning international fisheries agreements to access the under-exploited waters of the South. In Senegal, for example, the artisanal fishworkers' organisation, Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisans du Senegal (CNPS), has been lobbying against the fisheries agreements under the Lome Convention of the European Community. Further, overexploitation of stocks can lead to the migration of fishing fleet into inshore waters. This could threaten the lives and livelihood of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers in the North and the South.

However, the plight of victims of distant water fishing nations received scant attention at the Conference. The Conference made no mention of the importance of human rights aboard fishing vessels of countries known to operate with workers from the South, who are often employed on highly exploitative terms and conditions. Without making amends for this, and without recognizing the vulnerability of artisanal and small-scale fishing communities, there cannot be any responsible fishing.

Discussing fisheries is a very complex matter because fish is, at one and the same time, food, commodity and species. Despite well-documented difficulties, and the near impossibility of obtaining reliable data on straddling and migratory stocks, the Conference is still underpinned on traditional concepts of resource management, which have so far not prevented overfishing anywhere in the world.

— from the Comment in SAMUDRA Report No. 8, November 1993

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (Informal Working Group on Marine Biodiversity)

19-23 August 2013, New York, US

Sub-Committee on Aquaculture
7-11 October 2013, Russian Fed., St. Petersburg

National Governance of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

14 - 25 October 2013, Turin, Italy

The International Training Centre of the ILO, in collaboration with SafeWork (the ILO programme which promotes OSH) is organizing this course in Turin to acquaint participants with international guidelines and principles of the ILO and the experience of consolidated and successful national OSH systems and programmes.

WEBSITES

igssf.icsf.net

The development and adoption of the International Guidelines on Small-scale Fisheries could play a role in addressing fisheries-related issues, using a human-rights-based approach.

This ICSF website provides links to gender and small-scale fisheries (SSF), and various legal frameworks relevant to SSF, including judgements in favour of SSF both at national and international levels.

PUBLICATIONS

Billion-Dollar Fish: The Untold Story of Alaska Pollock
by Kevin M. Bailey. The University of Chicago Press. 288 pages. 2013. ISBN 978-02-260-2234-5

This book traces the origins and explosive growth of the commercial pollock fishery in the United States since World War II to its subsequent crash and eventual recovery. The author focuses on the interplay between fish population dynamics and ocean ecology.



Endquote

The blue sea had over it the mystery of the darkness of the night; the high noon sun had lost its fiery vigour and shone with the pale yellow splendour of a full moon. All around me, before and on either hand, was a waste of waters; the very air and earth seemed filmed with moving water, and the sound of falling waters was in my ears.

— from *The Mystery of the Sea* by Bram Stoker

