

SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



The ICSF Pondy Workshop

FAO SSF Guidelines

Norwegian Model of Fisheries

ILO Protocol on Labour

'Fishermen of the World' Film Festival

Obituary: Thomas Kocherry



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

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FRONT COVER



Fish drying (Seca do Peixe) in Camara de Lobos, Madeira Island, Portugal
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BACK COVER



A fisherman from Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Photo : Joeri Scholtens
(J.Scholtens@uva.nl)

NAÍNA PIERRI



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DYLAN WALKER/FAO

A Cambodian fisherman preparing
his crab traps

Now Walk the Talk

The recent adoption of the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) is historic

The tenth of June ought to be celebrated as “World Small-scale Fisheries Day” since it was on this historic day in 2014 that the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) formally endorsed the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). In adopting the Guidelines, COFI also honoured Chandrika Sharma, former Executive Secretary of ICSF, for her invaluable contributions to small-scale fisheries.

By adopting these Guidelines, the international community has lent its weight to the struggles of fishers, fishworkers and their communities in the small-scale sector, as well as to indigenous peoples worldwide to defend their right to secure life and livelihood from fisheries-related activities, both marine and inland. The adoption of the Guidelines marks an expression of support to a politically and economically marginalized people, beleaguered by, among other things, pollution, displacement, conflicts over space and resources and climate-change impacts, and poor access to education, health and housing facilities.

The Guidelines represent the first formal attempt to talk in the same breath about equitable development of fishing communities and sustainable small-scale fisheries. They recognize small-scale fishing communities as a subsector that demands multisectoral and multistakeholder solutions. The Guidelines are couched in the language of a ‘rights-based approach’, where human rights take priority over property rights. Developed in an inclusive, ground-up and participatory manner, the Guidelines weave together international human-rights standards and soft and hard legal instruments that deal with fisheries, labour, women and gender, land, food, nutrition, ecosystem, trade and climate change. They deal substantially with most of the concerns of small-scale, rural and indigenous communities worldwide, as articulated through a raft of workshops of civil society organizations (CSOs), held in Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America since 2011, in preparation for the FAO technical consultations in May 2013 and February 2014.

The Guidelines will now have to move into the implementation mode. In this context, firstly, they should be made relevant for all vulnerable and marginalized groups who depend on small-scale fisheries.

Secondly, considering the number of stakeholders—including fishing communities, governments, regional bodies, multilateral and bilateral donors, CSOs and the private sector—that may want to participate in their

implementation, a coherent approach to this process is required. It is especially urgent to ensure the Guidelines do not deviate from the spirit in which they were developed. Governments, in particular, should be encouraged to involve fishing communities in the development and application of implementation plans and in the development of

national or subregional small-scale fisheries policies, based on these Guidelines.

Thirdly, it must be remembered that fishery stakeholders, particularly small-scale ones, are often the most powerless in many fishing nations. In the absence of strong political will at the highest level, they cannot hope for support from other ministries and departments to implement the Guidelines. A full implementation of the Guidelines is impossible without the support of non-fishery stakeholders; the United Nations General Assembly should pass a resolution to support the Guidelines and seek co-operation and collaboration from all stakeholders at various levels for their implementation.

Fourthly, since the Guidelines are to be interpreted and applied according to national legal systems and institutions, which in many countries are not fully mature enough to recognize all human rights of all individuals, it is necessary to understand the implications of justiciable and non-justiciable human rights, and the distinction between the right of the citizen and the right of an individual.

Finally, mechanisms should be developed to make sure that small-scale fishing communities receive direct support at the local level from the international community towards implementing the Guidelines.

The time has now come to walk the talk!



Guiding Small-scale Fisheries

A workshop organized by ICSF discussed how to take forward the implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines recently adopted by FAO

Representatives of fishing communities, fishworker organizations (FWOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) from all over the world congregated at Puducherry (formerly, Pondicherry, often abbreviated to Pondy), India, during 21 – 24 July 2014 for the workshop titled “Towards Socially Just and Sustainable Fisheries: ICSF Workshop on Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)”.

group, while those from Europe, Latin America and Africa made up the other. In the group discussions, community representatives analyzed the implications of the Guidelines. At the feedback session that followed, participants heard from the FAO on its plans regarding the Guidelines. Participants were again divided into regional groups to discuss priorities and plans to take forward the SSF Guidelines. The Pondy Workshop concluded with a plenary session of reflection and discussion on the potential role of CSOs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

The main thrust of the Pondy Workshop was on how to take forward the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at different levels (local, national, regional and international), the roles of fishing communities, CSOs, governments and FAO, and how these various stakeholders could work together to move towards a socially just and sustainable small-scale fisheries within a human-rights framework.

The workshop participants felt that the issues of social justice and sustainable fisheries are interdependent and inseparable. They urged stakeholders, especially the State, to recognize the intersectoral nature of the SSF Guidelines, which, as some participants observed, even FWOs often tend to ignore in their internal functioning.

Translation

Raising awareness about the SSF Guidelines, particularly through the media, was of paramount importance, workshop participants noted. The need to translate the SSF Guidelines into

The Pondy Workshop concluded with a plenary session of reflection and discussion on the potential role of CSOs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the workshop, which was dedicated to Chandrika Sharma, was a first attempt at analyzing the SSF Guidelines, which were adopted at the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, on 10 June 2014.

The introductory session of the workshop recapitulated the milestones on the road to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines. This was followed by a presentation on developing a transformative agenda to address social inequality through the SSF Guidelines. The workshop participants then split into two groups based on region and language. Participants from Asia and Brazil formed one

*This report has been written by **Sumana Narayanan** (icsf@icsf.net), Programme Associate, ICSF*

local languages was stressed. CSOs ought to go back to the communities who provided invaluable inputs at the national-level consultations that were held prior to the Technical Consultations in May 2013 and February 2014, to share information on progress at the global level since then.

Participants at the Pondy Workshop also expressed concern at the growing lobby of financially strong organizations in the fisheries sector, which view the SSF Guidelines from a narrow commercial and/or environmental perspective. These organizations, some participants felt, might not share the values of human rights, equity and sustainable development that small-scale fishworkers uphold. The Latin American delegates raised the issue of how free-market forces influence the political system. In some developing countries, small-scale fishers are being boxed in by unfair conservation norms in their traditional fishing grounds, and they are also being marginalized by the demands on coastal/ocean space for industrial and tourism-related development projects.

Representatives of FWOs from the developed countries pointed out that while the SSF Guidelines focus on the South, it must be remembered that there are indigenous, marginalized and vulnerable groups in the North as well. An exclusive South focus will give industrialized countries an excuse to not implement the SSF Guidelines.

The Pondy Workshop also pointed out the need to develop a transformative agenda that recognizes that social power relations are usually skewed, especially against women. Several issues of discrimination, violence, reduced access to resources, the absence of decision-making powers, inadequate representation of women's interests and a devaluation of their contribution to fisheries, poverty alleviation and food security were highlighted. It was pointed out that while the SSF Guidelines do refer to key issues of importance to women, such as protecting and securing their rights to tenure, social development,

decent working conditions and freedom from violence, these references needed to be made more explicit through social analysis of gender relations, intersectionalities and context specificity. The need to be aware of social and gender inequality within CSOs and FWOs was highlighted, as was the need to document and share positive examples of bottom-up changes which could inspire others.

During the group discussions on the third day of the workshop, community representatives from the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Honduras, the Caribbean, West Africa, India, Brazil, Thailand and Indonesia highlighted some of their concerns, hopes and plans for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Among the important themes that emerged were the following:

Mobilization of small-scale fishers: In Brazil, fishing communities have worked towards proposing a draft law that calls on the State to recognize the rights of small-scale fishers, and to define small-scale fishers based on the community's own definition. In Indonesia, fishworker groups are working on a law for the protection of small-scale fisheries and they are now petitioning their government to adopt and implement the SSF Guidelines. In West Africa, artisanal fishers are

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The Pondy Workshop paid tribute to the memory of Chandrika Sharma, former Executive Secretary of ICSF, who went missing on the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370

demanding priority access to fishing grounds, resources and markets. National fisher organizations have also established joint working committees with neighbouring countries to resolve conflicts between fishers. In The Netherlands, the inland fishers' union has been working with the government to implement a decentralized eel management plan. The African Confederation

Several presentations pointed out fishers' concerns about their responsibilities to resources.

of Professional Organizations for Artisanal Fishers (CAOPA) representative spoke of how the organization connects with other groups to communicate small-scale fisheries issues to the public through the media, and works with the European Union to ensure that fisheries agreements and development aid to fisheries are in line with the SSF Guidelines.

Capacity building: The Garifuna community in Honduras underscored the need to raise the capacity of fishing communities to deal with issues related to employment, livelihood opportunities and how the SSF Guidelines can protect resources. Participants from the Ivory Coast mentioned how women are active at all levels, from pre-financing of fishing trips to making sure that the fish reaches the table. Women have organized themselves into co-operatives that receive technical support from FAO on post-harvest processing. In The Netherlands, the union of inland fishers has been working with the State, researchers and NGOs to develop management and monitoring systems for the eel fisheries.

Development: Costa Rican participants talked of the growth in tourism projects and the difficulties of balancing the development needs of the country with the livelihood needs of the community. Questions were

raised on whether such developments are an opportunity or a threat, and how the community's interests can be protected.

Climate change: Participants from the Caribbean region focused on climate change and the importance of an ecosystem approach to fisheries. In West Africa, it was pointed out, FAO is financing a project to assist fishing communities adapt to climate change. CAOPA, which consists of 14 national organizations from 14 African countries, is Chair of the steering committee of this project that covers Senegal, Gambia and Sierra Leone.

Women: Participants from West Africa spoke of the range and importance of women's work and their role in education, health and well-being. They pointed out how women are organized into co-operatives or associations that operate at all levels of the value chain.

Science and communities: The presentations from Thailand highlighted the role of scientists in development projects. It was noted that environment impact assessments are often biased and pro-industry. Communities in Thailand have begun to counter these assessments through community-led impact assessments that highlight marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services that are important for local communities.

Access to fish: The presentations by the Indian and African delegates noted that fishermen prefer to sell their catch to those merchants with greater financial resources rather than to women fish vendors from local fishing communities. Women fish vendors of Mumbai, India, said they are denied the right of first offer of fish catch.

Responsibilities: Several presentations pointed out fishers' concerns about their responsibilities to resources. In Thailand and Indonesia, for instance, communities have taken up the regeneration of mangrove forests that were being destroyed by commercial interests.

Identity: Many presentations sought to deal with the issue of the

identity of a fisher. Brazilian fishers have proposed a draft law which calls on the State to accept the community's definition of a fisher. In The Netherlands, a recent law has defined small-scale fishers in such a manner that many inland fishers are denied official recognition.

The presentation by the FAO representative focused on how the FAO sees its role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It noted the need to maintain the inclusive spirit that has thus far characterized the SSF Guidelines' development process and to mainstream them into policies and strategies across sectors and levels. The aim is to anchor the small-scale fisheries agenda to other international issues that FAO is involved in such as food security, ocean management and governance.

There were other topics that came up for discussion at the workshop, including the difficulties of defining vulnerable and marginalized groups, which vary from region to region and tend to be context-specific. One participant felt that 'marginalized' and 'vulnerable' are negative terms that stigmatize people and make them feel inferior.

On the last day of the workshop, participants met in groups split into the regions of Latin America, Europe, Canada and the Caribbean, Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa and Asia. They discussed the road map in implementing the SSF Guidelines, guided by broad-based questions on implementation strategies and priorities, the role of CSOs in capacity building, how States can be motivated to implement the SSF Guidelines, and how vulnerable and marginal groups can be accommodated in the process.

At the concluding plenary session, the various groups summarized their discussions, from which the following common themes emerged:

- There is a need to recognize vulnerable and marginalized groups and indigenous peoples' rights, which might be in conflict with those of more mainstream small-scale fishers.

- The SSF Guidelines should be integrated in discussions at other international forums (like side events at international conferences) in order to promote them.
- The SSF Guidelines implementation process must be made inclusive and should be centered around fishing communities.
- Fisheries governance, land access and tenure arrangements must give priority to the interests of small-scale fisheries, in a participatory manner.
- Information on the SSF Guidelines must be shared at all levels, across different stakeholders. CSOs must go back to the local communities who were involved in the earlier consultations. This will help gain an understanding of how the SSF Guidelines can be implemented in the local context and will create bottom-up pressure on the State to implement them. Such information-sharing will also improve relations between communities and CSOs.
- Policies and legislation must be reviewed to ensure that the SSF Guidelines can be mainstreamed into official governance mechanisms.
- In order to aid capacity building, information must be made available to all groups. Training should

Information on the SSF Guidelines must be shared at all levels, across different stakeholders.

be given to government officials and local communities on the SSF Guidelines. Examples of current practical challenges in the daily lives of artisanal fishers should be used to demonstrate how the provisions in the SSF Guidelines can be used to address these issues, which can then be used to lobby governments.

- The larger public must be informed of the SSF Guidelines so that the importance and need for proper

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The main thrust of the ICSF Pondy Workshop was on how to take forward the implementation of the SSF Guidelines adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

implementation is understood, and there is public scrutiny and pressure on the State to ensure implementation. The SSF Guidelines should not be considered as a solely fisheries-department issue but should be integrated across sectors and departments, including those that deal with women's affairs, social welfare, rural development, labour, health, education and trade.

- The role of women in artisanal fisheries should be recognized, and they should be encouraged to participate in FWOs.
- While several of the issues raised by the SSF Guidelines already exist in the national legislation of many countries, the challenge lies in implementation.
- FAO was requested to bring out the final text of the SSF Guidelines as soon as possible so that they can be disseminated to the communities.
- A monitoring system, with key indicators, needs to be developed to map the progress in implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Such a system should be participatory and subject to adaptation and modification.

- Child labour, safety at sea, women's working and living conditions, gender equality, access to infrastructure and resources, and legitimate community governance institutions and organizations were the issues that were seen as important in the next stage of implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

While mapping out the long road to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines, the Pondy Workshop also highlighted the power of CSOs coming together as a united front for a common cause. Much remains to be done to ensure the SSF Guidelines are implemented effectively. 3

For more

igssf.icsf.net/

ICSF's Website on Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines

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

CSO Website on Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines

Shepherding SSF

The following is the first in a series on the role of FAO and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in promoting small-scale fisheries (SSF)

Although the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) did recognize the social dimension of fisheries as far back as 1945—the year of its establishment—the issue was ignored for nearly 30 years as governments around the world sought to increase fish production.

The *Commission A*, set up in 1945 by the First Session of the FAO Conference—its supreme governing body—observed that fishers and shore workers were in the low-income group of labour and recommended that FAO study the relation of fishery products to production and employment, to general well-being and public health, to occupational hazards and diseases, to opportunities for education and community life, and to the problems of collective bargaining and labour organization.

This recognition was, however, sidetracked for over 25 years for rehabilitating fishing industries devastated by the Second World War, especially by building up of fishing fleets, and the development of fisheries in developing countries. The slogan of the Fisheries Division set up in 1946—later upgraded to the status of a Department in 1965—was “The harvest awaits the reaper”, which aimed to encourage exploitation of both inland and marine fishing grounds in various parts of the world in order to secure greater fisheries production, especially to alleviate world food shortage, through the application of modern commercial practices and equipment, including small-boat mechanization and improvement of fishing gear and methods.

Although the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was established by the FAO Conference in 1965—it precedes the Committee on Forests, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committee on World Food Security—the first reference to ‘artisanal fishermen’ in FAO statutory reports was made when the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1971 observed: “The large number of artisanal fishermen in most parts of the world deserved special help and their needs for a sustainable fishery should be given particular attention.” The same Conference noted with concern that

At the Seventh Session of COFI in 1972, a background paper on artisanal fisheries was presented for the first time.

exploitation into offshore waters sometimes resulted in depleting fish stocks in coastal waters, which were the mainstay of artisanal fisheries.

At the Seventh Session of COFI in 1972, a background paper on artisanal fisheries was presented for the first time. The paper, titled “Artisanal Fisheries in Developing Countries”, estimated nearly 90 per cent of the 10.2 mn fishers in the world as artisanal fishers in 1972. They included all fishers of developing countries.

No general agreement

The paper noted artisanal fisheries were to be found mainly in coastal, estuary, river or lake fisheries in developing countries, and that there was no general agreement as

*This article by **Sebastian Mathew** (icsf@icsf.net), Executive Secretary, ICSF, has been compiled mainly from COFI and FAO sources. Special thanks are due to Armand Gribling of the FAO Library for assistance in accessing key reports held in the FAO Library*

to what was an artisanal fishery. The paper employed several negative attributes to characterize artisanal fisheries in developing countries: low capital investment; low level of organization; little use of specialized skills; small vessels; hand-operated fishing gear; low productivity and income; inadequate infrastructure and credit; and catch sold in the fresh, salted, dried or smoked form in local markets.

Rather than adopt a sectoral perspective, the paper sought to locate the problems of artisanal fisheries within the context of general welfare policies. It observed that for most countries, social objectives such as employment and living standards of fishers were more important than economic objectives related to the contribution of artisanal fisheries to the market economy. It argued that “artificial preservation of marginal fisheries should not be accepted as a legitimate long-run development target” and advocated a natural “withering away” of artisanal fisheries.

In the same COFI meeting, L J C Evans, Director, Agriculture Projects, Department of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) of the World Bank, spoke in

artisanal fisheries mainly exploited fishing grounds and resources that were of little interest to industrial fisheries, and recognized the importance of artisanal fisheries for local consumption and export. The Conference acknowledged the role of artisanal fisheries in providing employment and in raising the standard of living in remote fishing communities. The Conference proposed an integrated approach for the development of artisanal fisheries, and recommended that FAO intensify its activities in assisting the development of artisanal fisheries.

The Ninth Session of COFI was held in 1974 in the backdrop of the Third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Hamilton Shirley Amarasinghe, President of UNCLOS, spoke at this session about the principle of international social justice and fisheries. Small-scale fisheries were dealt with in a comprehensive fashion at this session, which could boast of several firsts for FAO in relation to small-scale fisheries. It was, for the first time, that a separate agenda item on small-scale fisheries was included (agenda item 5). It was also for the first time that FAO used the term ‘small-scale’ fisheries in lieu of ‘artisanal’ fisheries.

The 1974 COFI session was also the first FAO meeting to talk about small-scale operators and their families. It was concerned that in spite of many efforts to improve the state of small-scale fisheries, the people engaged in these activities and their families continued to live at the margin of subsistence and human dignity. The importance of small-scale fisheries as a source of vital protein food supplies and employment was recognized. The Committee emphasized the significant role of small-scale operators in the fisheries not only of developing countries but also of industrialized countries.

Watershed meet

The 1974 COFI was a watershed for small-scale fisheries. It sought the highest priority for improving small-scale fisheries to address the problem

The 1974 COFI session was also the first FAO meeting to talk about small-scale operators and their families.

support of incentivizing production and of the need to maintain both a traditional and a modern fishing industry, especially from an employment perspective: “How can we improve efficiency in production without reducing the employment opportunities in the fishery industry?” he asked. He suggested disseminating improved technology to enhance productivity and reduce costs, without worsening the gap between a small, prosperous modernized industry and a traditional fishing industry.

The Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1973 observed that

of small-scale operators through the implementation of action projects. The Committee also recognized that improving the state of small-scale fisheries and operators required not only technological and scientific inputs but also an overall approach with due regard for “social, economic, cultural, and political aspects.”

The Committee recommended that national governments integrate small-scale fisheries into overall economic and social-development programmes within the framework of rural development. In the light of UNCLOS and the prospects of expanding national jurisdiction in the marine space, the Committee sensed greater opportunities and responsibilities for small-scale fishers. As a remedy for protecting small-scale fishers from industrial fisheries, the Committee suggested reserving specific fishing areas for the small-scale fishery. A designated fishing zone for protecting small-scale fishers suggested at this session was another first.

Since regions around the world had many conditions and problems in common, COFI favoured a regional approach to small-scale fisheries development. Pilot operations and model projects with multiplier effects were expected to “gradually lead to global concepts and policy guidelines for small-scale fishery development”.

The Committee, in this context, initiated a preparatory project for the development of small-scale fisheries in west and south Asia. It stressed the need for continuous assessment of project results, to use evaluation criteria such as ‘social rate of return’ for development action and investment projects in the sector, and to ensure full consideration of the social benefits and general contribution of rural and coastal development.

The Committee sought to organize regional seminars to examine the whole range of small-scale fisheries development, and to later hold a technical conference on small-scale fisheries. The Committee was informed about two meetings to be organized on small-scale fisheries in



In an Indonesian village (*kampong*), a mass opening (*misa lefa*) of the fishing season takes place every year on 12 May. Fish landed by SSF is the main source of animal protein for many local populations

1975 and 1976. The first was a regional seminar on small-scale fisheries to be organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Central America in 1975. The second was an international meeting on post-harvest problems in small-scale fisheries to be organized by the erstwhile Tropical Products Institute of the United Kingdom in 1976.

The Committee was also informed about the availability of fellowships for courses on fishery co-operatives organized annually by the Japanese Co-operation Agency. Some of the members that had received technical assistance from bilateral or multilateral courses for small-scale fisheries development—namely, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Uruguay—referred to a number of successful schemes that could serve as models for other countries.

Initial support

The Representative of the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) stated that the small-scale fisheries development project proposal for west and south Asia had received initial support, that projects for various other regions, like the South Pacific, Africa (inland fisheries) and Latin America, were under consideration, and that UNDP was also considering the possibility of

financing an international project on small-scale fisheries development. The Committee also noted increasing attention being given by the World Bank to integrated rural development, and expressed its hope that small-scale fisheries development would form an important part of this programme.

In considering various specific aspects of small-scale fisheries, the Committee emphasized the

The Conference stressed FAO's role in the field, and emphasized that it should pay greater attention to the problems of the small-scale fishers.

interdisciplinary nature of assistance requirements. Improvement of boats, gear, processing, storage, transport, distribution and credit availability was to be complemented by social and community developments, such as health services and schools. The Committee stressed the establishment of well-organized fishers' co-operatives for small-scale operators to break the dependence on intermediaries and to improve returns to the producer. Training in business management was an important element in successful fishers' co-operative development, it observed. The Committee pointed out the possibilities existing in rural aquaculture schemes for small-scale fisheries development.

The Committee referred to the United Nations (UN) World Food Conference, to be held in Rome in November 1974, and urged that the contribution of the small-scale fishery sector be given appropriate attention at the event. The Committee also suggested that the topic of small-scale fisheries feature regularly on the agenda of COFI in order to give it an opportunity to examine progress in the field.

Although there was no separate agenda item on small-scale fisheries, the Tenth Session of COFI in 1975 more or less reiterated the importance of small-scale fisheries. While upholding the employment dimension of the subsector, its non-profitability

was flagged for the first time, and emphasis was laid on building production, supply and credit co-operatives for small-scale fishers.

The Eighteenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1975, which followed the 1974 and 1975 COFI sessions, agreed with the COFI recommendations. It appreciated the growing awareness about the centrality of small-scale fisheries development to the improvement of the social and economic life of rural communities. It agreed that the problems of small-scale fisheries development had economic, social and cultural dimensions much wider than just providing pure technology. The Conference stressed FAO's role in the field, and emphasized that it should pay greater attention to the problems of the small-scale fishers.

The Conference also called for greater attention to be paid to environmental problems such as pollution, in relation to fisheries, particularly those in inland waters and coastal areas, both in developed and developing countries. The importance of these problems was emphasized, and FAO was urged to take a more active part in collaborating closely with organizations and bodies dealing with these problems. It was pointed out in this context that "conflicts in use of coastal zones were assuming a greater importance and the claims of fisheries were often being overlooked". The Conference asked FAO to maintain close links with other bodies involved in coastal area development and to co-ordinate these activities within the UN system in order to protect the living resources.

Poverty eradication

The Eleventh (1977), Twelfth (1978) and Thirteenth (1979) sessions of COFI were fairly uneventful in terms of small-scale fisheries, except that during the 1978 Session, for the first time, some delegations urged COFI to give attention to the formulation of policies on small-scale fishery development programmes to eradicate poverty in fishing communities. It is rather surprising that the first Expert Consultation on Small-

scale Fisheries Development, held in Rome in 1975, found no mention in the Eleventh Session of COFI (1977), which was the first COFI to be held after this Consultation.

The Fourteenth Session of COFI in 1981 was the first to recognize small-scale fisheries for its positive attributes. Reference was made, for the first time, to the greater employment generated per unit of capital investment in small-scale fisheries than in industrial fisheries. Several delegations referred to programmes designed to assist the small-scale fisheries. These included subsidies for motorization, the use of motorized vessels and for training of fishers. Problems of rising fuel costs were mentioned by most delegations, and means were sought to reduce fuel consumption. These included the development of lower-horsepower engines as well as provision of subsidies to help maintain the viability of sail-powered vessels. This also seems to be the first session that had the participation of an international non-governmental organization (NGO), the erstwhile World Confederation of Labour.

The Fifteenth Session of COFI in 1983 had a substantive focus on small-scale fisheries. In his keynote address to this Session, Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, spoke about the vital role of small-scale fisheries, stressing their social dimension. Small-scale or artisanal fisheries, he said, accounted for about 25 per cent of the world catch and provided about 40 per cent of the total supply of food fish. Small-scale fisheries, although probably supplying less than a quarter of the catch in Latin America, accounted for two-thirds of the fish landed in Asia and about five-sixths of the total in Africa. In the least developed countries of Asia and Africa, they provided over three-quarters of domestic fish supplies. Despite their vital role, small-scale fishers generally occupied the lowest stratum in society. Located in isolated areas, often lacking the most basic amenities, they formed one of the poorest and most neglected of rural communities. Close parallels existed

between the small-scale fishers and the poor farmers and landless labourers. The guidelines prepared to follow up the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development applied equally to poor fishing communities, the Director-General clarified.

The drive to produce fish supplies beyond immediate needs must be generated by the prospect of a reasonable financial return, he added. All too often, planners neglected the social and economic expectations of the people involved in small-scale fisheries. The management challenge should be to satisfy these expectations. For example, those engaged in these fisheries must enjoy adequate access to resources—financial as well as biological—and to markets. It would also be necessary to use subsidies and other devices to make sure that the burden of feeding poor consumers was not laid on the shoulders of even poorer fishers. The role of women in these fisheries should be emphasized. In some parts of the developing world, women were responsible for almost all the local trade in food fish. They usually also played a key part in processing the catch. Any development plan should take into account their essential contribution, he observed.

With local participation, access to resources and a sympathetic govern-

The Fourteenth Session of COFI in 1981 was the first to recognize small-scale fisheries for its positive attributes.

ment, considerable opportunities existed to encourage self-help and progress in small-scale fisheries at comparatively little financial cost. The results would be to increase fish production and, at the same time, help relieve the social and economic distress of millions of people.

New approach

The Director-General also stressed the need for a new approach to fisheries management whereby more emphasis

SANTIAGO DE LA PUENTE



Artisanal purse-seiners landing anchovies in Pisco in the south of Peru. The physical requirements of many SSF call for the improvement and adaptation of vessels and gear to meet changing conditions

It highlighted the importance of small-scale fisheries in the context of social and economic development. The Committee noted that in many countries, fish landed by small-scale fisheries was the main source of animal protein for the local population. It also stressed the importance of small-scale fisheries in providing employment. The Committee noted that it was difficult to reduce the number of active fishers as a possible means to limit fishing pressure on scarce resources. It suggested reallocation of labour could sometimes be brought about by the provision of employment in processing, marketing, mariculture or other related ancillary sectors.

Although marine capture fisheries were often emphasized in international meetings, production from inland waters was extremely important for many countries, it was pointed out. In this connection, it was stressed that increased co-operation in research, management and development was called for where inland waterways and lakes were shared by several countries.

The Committee agreed that an integrated approach was essential for successful, sustained small-scale fisheries development and management. The concept of an integrated approach was broadened to mean integration of not only components in the production chain, such as resource management, capture, processing, transport, marketing, credit and supply of inputs, but also the social and economic welfare of the small-scale fishing communities themselves. The importance of community participation in planning of development projects was flagged. Mobilization of local skills and involvement of women in the development process were also recognized for the first time.

NGO role

NGOs, it was noted, could contribute effectively and inexpensively to an integrated approach at the village level. Sustained improvement in the sector usually required assistance over long periods of time, as shown

was put on the social and economic importance of fisheries and not restricted simply to maintaining fish stocks and improving physical yields.

Fisheries management should no longer consist largely of endorsing or rejecting the advice of fisheries scientists, and all actors must be brought into the main plot. Fisheries management and development must take central stage in government planning, policymaking and allocation of resources, he said.

The special problems of small-scale fisheries was introduced as a sub-item during this Session of COFI, under agenda item 4 (Key issues for fisheries management and development), and it led to the most substantive discussion of small-scale fisheries since the beginning of FAO. In addition to reiterating an integrated approach, a new emphasis was put on management of small-scale fisheries. The Committee observed that small-scale fisheries were one of the priority areas in the context of fisheries development and management, and this fact should be reflected in the strategy for fishery management and development and the associated action programmes.

The Committee observed that the 1984 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development presented a timely and valuable opportunity to examine the role and needs of small-scale fisheries.

by examples of notable socioeconomic success.

For the first time, excessive fishing pressure on limited stocks and the need for regulatory measures in small-scale fisheries that were often in competition with industrialized and medium-scale fishing vessels for the same nearshore resource, were flagged by the Committee. It pointed out the importance of continuing stock assessment as a base on which to build and revise small-scale fisheries development and management plans. It was emphasized that, as far as possible, regulatory measures needed to be formulated in close consultation with the fishers, to ensure their implementation. Lagoons, estuaries and rivers were often in particular need of protection from both overfishing and pollution. The Committee pointed out that the traditional fisheries-management systems that existed in many areas could sometimes be used as models for other areas. Some countries requested FAO to assist them in drafting management regulations for the protection of small scale fisheries.

The Committee noted the paucity of reliable data for management. The multispecies nature of many fisheries, especially in tropical areas, called for new analytical methods as well as technical co-operation and training.

The Committee paid special attention to the need for international co-operation in the development of effective fisheries administrations. Administrators and organizational/business managers must be trained for the small-scale fisheries sector. A lack of such skills was limiting the absorptive capacities of many developing countries. Such training was particularly urgent for small island States. Regional training programmes and pooling of high-level expertise with FAO assistance could accelerate improvements, it was suggested.

The problems posed by the physical requirements of many small-scale fisheries call for the improvement and adaptation of vessels and gear to meet changing conditions. Maximum use should be made of locally available materials and sources of energy. The

useful work already undertaken by FAO and other bodies in this respect was noted, and it was suggested that further regional training courses in boat construction and operation should be organized with the assistance of FAO and other international agencies.

The Committee emphasized the importance of improved methods of fish handling, processing, transport and marketing in small-scale fisheries in order to reduce post-harvest losses. This was the first time that post-harvest losses in small-scale fisheries were receiving the attention of COFI.

The lack of adequate financing and credit lines posed strong limitations for improving the lot of small-scale fishers. The Committee drew attention to various schemes that have been used to assist the small-scale fishers outside the traditional forms of credit, including subsidizing boats, equipment and fuel, the provision of loans through rural banks and fishers' co-operatives, as well as exemption from import duties and taxes. The lack of foreign exchange needed to import spare parts, materials and fuel was a problem for small-scale operators in many countries.

The assistance and support that governments of interested countries could give to small-scale fisheries was considered to be essential. In addition to support through resource management, subsidies and credit, governments needed to provide technical assistance, training, market regulation and land-based infrastructure.

The Committee noted the importance of fishers' organizations for development. Though not always successful, co-operatives were indicated by many delegations as possible organizational structures that could get substantial government support.

Fishers' organizations

Many experiments with other types of fishers' organizations were being attempted, ranging from 'fisheries extension service societies' to State enterprises for small-scale fisheries. It was often difficult to convince small-scale fishers to

SIFFS



Unloading catch from plank-built canoe in Alappuzha, Kerala, India. Any development plan should take into account the essential contribution and role of women in fisheries

collectivize; there was thus a clear need for strong, effective guidance and training in support of fishers' organizations, and for full participation of fishermen and women in their own organizations.

The Committee considered fisheries extension services to be among the weakest links in the existing small-scale fisheries development structure. Many extension services lacked a systematic approach and organizational framework, as well as good, well-trained supervisors and expert extension agents willing to live and work at the village level. Extension services were often not well integrated into small-scale fisheries development plans. Assistance was needed for the training of new extension agents and the upgrading of those already in the field.

The Committee pointed out that training was an essential ingredient for improving all aspects of small-scale fisheries. Although the training of small-scale fisherfolk themselves must necessarily be a national concern, there was wide scope for international co-operation in the training of fisheries officers, technical specialists and administrators at all levels. Exchange of experts, the use of specialists from the region as workshop instructors, and the deployment of regional technical centres for high-level specialists should

be further developed. The trained persons must be utilized properly and provided with the essential tools to put their training to good use.

The often slow delivery of project inputs by international funding and executing agencies after signing agreements was commented upon. The Committee recommended that ways be found to speed up the delivery of projects. When possible, regional or sub-regional funds must be established for the development of small-scale fisheries.

The Committee felt that FAO had an important role to play in assisting Member Countries with the development and management of their small-scale fisheries. FAO's involvement should include a catalytic, advisory, training, and demonstration role in all aspects of small-scale fisheries. Particular attention was drawn to the need for assistance in project planning and the co-ordination of regional groups.

The Twenty-second Session of the Conference of FAO in 1983, which followed the Fifteenth Session of COFI, emphasized the high priority that should be given to the management and development of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and the central role played by women in the sector. It also stressed the necessity of adopting an integrated approach to the development of small-scale fisheries, with due recognition to social and economic aspects. It therefore recommended that the 1984 World Fisheries Conference consider this subject in detail.

For more



www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/committee-fi/en/

Committee on Fisheries

www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/gsbhome/gsb-home/en/

Governing and Statutory Bodies of FAO

The Next Steps

FAO is committed to continuing to promote collaboration and engagement by all stakeholders in the next vital stage of implementation

A major event for small-scale fisheries worldwide occurred during the 31st Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in Rome during 9-13 June 2014: the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). As pointed out during the ICSF Workshop on Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, held in Puducherry (Pondicherry), India, during 21-24 July 2014 (the 'Pondy Workshop'), even if voluntary, the SSF Guidelines represent a morally binding agreement for governments. Civil society organizations (CSOs) played a major role in achieving this important goal.

The SSF Guidelines emphasize the importance of social equity and food security, and promote a human-rights-based approach. They complement important international instruments like the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG Tenure), and the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Right to Food Guidelines), which guide governments and others in improving food security and poverty-eradication policies and advancing sustainable development. It is critical to nurture these links to enable individuals and communities to develop their capabilities to actively and meaningfully participate in

decisionmaking and to shape their future.

During the development of the SSF Guidelines it was noted that, while the official endorsement of the SSF Guidelines of course is critical, the real challenge lies in their implementation: the SSF Guidelines will only become effective if their provisions are woven into the daily life of fishing communities. The SSF Guidelines provide the link between fishing and the larger aspects of life of SSF communities. This multidimensional perspective poses a number of challenges. CSOs will have to continue playing a role in not only

The SSF Guidelines provide the link between fishing and the larger aspects of the lives of SSF communities.

reminding governments that the SSF Guidelines are intersectoral, but also in ensuring meaningful community involvement in the implementation, including by marginal and vulnerable groups.

Implementation issues

In 2012, COFI had already agreed on the need to develop implementation strategies for the SSF Guidelines and recalled that in 2011, COFI had agreed to the establishment and implementation of a related Global Assistance Programme (GAP). In response to this, FAO started considering implementation issues more explicitly since 2013, including through the organization of a workshop on Strengthening

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Small-scale fishers in Malta. FAO advocates for adequate consideration and inclusion of the small-scale fisheries perspective in international development initiatives

principles of the SSF Guidelines mainstreamed in policies, strategies and actions at international, regional, national and local levels. Mainstreaming is also important in the context of FAO's work: elements of the SSF Guidelines should be embedded in all relevant FAO projects so that they become an integral part of the FAO programme of work. It will also be important that FAO continues advocating for adequate consideration and inclusion of the small-scale fisheries perspective in the international arena, particularly in areas of FAO's mandate, such as food security and ocean management.

In June 2014, COFI welcomed the proposal for a GAP based on four components:

1. Raising awareness: knowledge products and outreach

The SSF Guidelines can only be implemented if those concerned and able to make a difference are aware of their existence and understand their contents. FAO knows that considerable efforts will be required to raise awareness of the SSF Guidelines and to enhance the knowledge among all stakeholders at different levels. Partnerships will play a crucial role in ensuring that all stakeholders are reached.

FAO, therefore, will strive to engage strategically with actors and partners to influence policies and funding priorities towards supporting the SSF Guidelines implementation. Potential partners include those in the fisheries arena and those in related fields, for example, NGOs, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and national co-ordination agencies.

SSF Guidelines ambassadors

Activities under this component could include the development of implementation guides (e.g. on different topics, for different countries/regions), translation into local languages, use of social media, identification of 'champions of change' and 'SSF Guidelines ambassadors', and dissemination of information at relevant events.

Organizations and Collective Action in Fisheries (Rome, March 2013), an e-consultation on Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (November December 2013), and a dedicated session in the First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (Malta, November 2013).

FAO seeks to continue the overall strategic approach for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines by building on the inclusive and consensus-seeking spirit and environment that characterized their development process. Implementation will be based on participation and partnerships and anchored at the national and local levels within a framework of regional and international collaboration, awareness raising, policy support and capacity development. This requires support to, and collaboration with, many different actors, including governments, civil society, regional organizations, development agencies and international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and the private sector.

The aim of the strategic approach promoted by FAO is to have the

The expected results of these activities will be a broad awareness and understanding of the SSF Guidelines, across regions and countries as well as among different stakeholder groups. This awareness will be fundamental for continued action and provide a basis for other impact-oriented implementation support.

2. Strengthening the science-policy interface: sharing of knowledge and supporting policy reform

The consultation process revealed that there is a need to better understand and recognize the importance of small-scale fisheries and their current and potential contribution to food security and poverty eradication. To elevate the small-scale fisheries sector on the policy agenda, data and information generation and sharing is needed. Thus, the second component of the GAP will address the need for a strengthened knowledge base and promote policy reforms for sustainable resource management combined with social and economic development.

Accordingly, FAO will work to ensure that activities under this component include among others efforts to identify, analyze and document existing best practices and lessons learnt with regard to participatory management systems and holistic and human-rights based approaches integrating resource management and a livelihoods perspective (including traditional and local management systems and knowledge). Other activities could consist of the promotion of collaboration between research initiatives on small-scale fisheries governance and development as well as increased interaction between researchers and fishing communities as well as technical support and assistance for reviews and revisions of policy and legal frameworks to create enabling frameworks for the SSF Guidelines implementation.

The expected results of this component would be an increased

understanding of the issues, challenges, opportunities and approaches relevant to achieving the sustainable use of aquatic resources and secure livelihoods. This improved understanding should be translated into guidance that can be widely disseminated and utilized, supporting the integration of the SSF Guidelines' principles and contents in policy documents, strategies and plans at national and regional levels.

3. Empowering stakeholders: capacity development and institutional strengthening

The consultation process for the development of the SSF Guidelines made it clear that small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their communities can, and should, be effective partners in the SSF Guidelines implementation—both in the planning and when carried out. Capacity development, therefore, should be the backbone of SSF Guidelines implementation. Developing capacity is closely linked to empowerment and to ensuring that small-scale fisheries actors and communities are able to take an active role in shaping the future of the sector and of their own livelihoods. This will require attention to organizational structures and modalities for fair and effective representation.

Capacity development will hence be required at different levels, for different stakeholder groups and with respect to different skills and abilities. Some activities relevant to this component, which emerged from the consultation process and related events, include the identification of needs for organizational development and strengthening, at the fishing-community level as well as at national and regional networks levels, and the provision of the related support.

Cross-sectoral linkages

Other activities could consist of assistance to communities and their organizations to establish cross-sectoral linkages, partnerships and dialogue with government agencies, research institutions and other development partners to address

identified development and resource-management needs; the sensitization and training of government officials and development partners in issues related to the SSF Guidelines implementation (especially on the human-rights-based approach to development and participatory management of natural resources).

The GAP can support capacity development and institutional strengthening, thereby creating some of the key building blocks for a

and different regions. This component would also support the development of a comprehensive implementation monitoring system and reporting on implementation progress to FAO Members and others. Monitoring and evaluation procedures for the GAP itself will be based on FAO standards for results-based monitoring and comply with donor requirements.

This component is expected to provide results in the form of transparent and efficient programme management and strengthened collaboration, leading to overall more effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Informing about implementation outcomes is also expected to increase the awareness of the SSF Guidelines and, hence, create a virtuous circle of events.

A Programme Secretariat based in FAO will plan and oversee the programme activities on a day-to-day basis, working closely with other relevant projects and programmes of FAO, other Rome-based agencies and other development partners.

The Secretariat will encourage partnerships and support the preparation of project proposals to be submitted for funding, in particular with regard to demand-driven technical support at regional and national levels.

It is expected that many activities will be implemented in close collaboration with partners, and that the role of the Secretariat will often be one of facilitation rather than direct implementation. The Secretariat will also develop mechanisms for monitoring programme activities and results, and will support reporting on overall implementation progress.

Programme Steering Committee

The Secretariat will be guided by a Programme Steering Committee consisting of representatives from various stakeholder groups, including small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their communities. This Committee will also play a role with regard to programme oversight in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

COFI acknowledged FAO's role in the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines, which included a monitoring process through COFI.

long-term process of continuous improvement of the situation of small-scale fisheries and increased contribution of the sector to food security and poverty eradication.

4. Supporting implementation: programme management, collaboration and monitoring

In June 2014, COFI acknowledged FAO's role in the development process and stressed that FAO's role in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines includes a monitoring process through COFI. FAO's facilitating role in the SSF Guidelines development and implementation process was also highlighted during discussions at the ICSF Pondy Workshop. It should, however, be noted that the GAP will need to be complemented through collaboration with, and support from, other initiatives in order to bring about substantial and sustainable results.

Potential activities relevant for this component, which were recommended during the SSF Guidelines development process, include the promotion of implementation experience exchanges and collaborative planning and the establishment of a mechanism to allow for participatory and inclusive discussions on best practices to accelerate learning across countries


FAO will report to FAO Members on progress in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. During the consultation process, it was also suggested that the Committee on World Food Security could support the monitoring processes, complemented by monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations human-rights system, such as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This option needs to be further explored by FAO and its partners.

The 31st Session of COFI recommended that FAO should further develop the GAP in a participatory manner, discuss the roles of different partners in the implementation and emphasized the role of governments in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, as well as that of regional and local fisheries organizations to ensure ownership of the SSF Guidelines. It also recommended building on existing experiences and institutional structures and processes. All these recommendations will be taken on board as FAO moves forward with the SSF Guidelines implementation.

The ICSF Pondy Workshop provided a first opportunity to gather ideas to further develop the GAP. FAO perceived the meeting as part of a process towards defining a more specific plan of action and to bring the global process back to the local level, ensuring community-driven change through local empowerment. Other upcoming opportunities to consult stakeholders include the 6th General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, the 2nd Congress on Small-scale Fisheries in Merida, Mexico, in September; a side event during the Committee on World Food Security in Rome, Italy, in October; and a side event during the 67th conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Barbados in November. The outcomes of these events will feed into an Expert Workshop on the Development of a Global Assistance Programme in support of the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context

of Food Security and Poverty Eradication that will be held in FAO in Rome in December 2014. The outcome of this workshop will also inform a workshop organized in December by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the design of its Coastal Fisheries Programme under the GEF6 funding.

The relationship between governments and CSOs is changing, and the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines has provided small-scale fisheries stakeholders with an important tool to work together towards sustainable and socially equitable small-scale fisheries development.

FAO is committed to be part of these new relationships and to continue the promotion of collaboration and engagement by all stakeholders, at all levels. As noted by a speaker during the ICSF Pondy Workshop, the alliances between CSOs and an open spirit for engagement with others are strengths that need to be nurtured by all, even when faced by the challenges of engaging with new partners whilst retaining the inclusive, human-rights-based spirit of the SSF Guidelines. If we can do this, we will ensure that this spirit, so strongly promoted by Chandrika Sharma, will live on. 

For more


www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16152/en
Securing Small-scale Fisheries

www.fao.org/fishery/ssf/guidelines/en
**International Guidelines on
 Securing Sustainable Small-Scale
 Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)**

Where There Is A Will

The Norwegian model of fisheries governance, via the Norwegian Raw Fish Act and fish sales organizations, is worth examining

22

Small-scale fisheries and their well-being are an important part of the political and institutional history of Norway. This is, first and foremost, due to the significant social and economic role that the fishing industry has played—and still plays—for the country as a whole. But before I give an overview of this history and the crucial formative role of fishers' organizations, let me briefly explain why the organization of small-scale fishers is such a pertinent issue, also in connection with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Then there is the issue of bargaining power. Individually, small-scale fishers are easily exploited. They can be played against each other. They, therefore, lose out in transactions with middle-men or with governments. Together, if organized, they would be able to negotiate with more strength, and perhaps even impose their own terms.

Thirdly, there is the problem of collective action. Without organization, small-scale fishers easily fall into the trap of the 'tragedy of the commons' and the poverty that it often leads to. Organized, fishers could establish their own rules and exercise self-management or co-management. Organization would not only make small-scale fishers people more powerful, it would also set them free.

All three points mentioned above are basically about the empowerment of small-scale fisheries and their people, which is also what the SSF Guidelines aim at. This is undoubtedly important. How you actually accomplish that is another equally important question. The SSF Guidelines provide many important suggestions to this effect, including about developing organizational designs that people would support.

Governability

But there is a fourth argument for organizing small-scale fishing people, which is not explicitly mentioned in the SSF Guidelines, which is what I would like to elaborate on. This is about the 'governability' of the whole fisheries sector—governability defined here as the capacity for, and quality of, governance. A disorganized, fragmented and chaotic small-

Without organization, small-scale fishers easily fall into the trap of the 'tragedy of the commons' and the poverty that it often leads to.

(hereafter SSF Guidelines), recently adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The impetus behind the SSF Guidelines is, as its full title alludes to, the observation that small-scale fishers are so often poor and marginalized. They do not have a voice in the political process as one would have expected, given their large numbers and contribution to society. This sad fact may largely be explained by the lack of organization. If small-scale fisheries people were better organized, they would not only be able to talk to one another but also speak with one voice. If they cannot do that, others are less likely to listen. No one has patience for cacophonies.

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scale fisheries sector is obviously more difficult to govern, be it from the inside (self-governance) or the outside (government). Who should the government talk to if they want to communicate with the industry? And who in the industry is entitled to talk on behalf of whom? These are also important questions as far as the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are concerned.

Given this governability challenge, organization is not only in the small-scale fishers' interest, it is also in the government's interest—or in the interest of anyone whose agenda is to improve the lot of small-scale fishers, such as the FAO and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Without such organization, government would not be able to govern effectively, democratically and legitimately, and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines would be more cumbersome.

Indeed, if small-scale fishers were well organized, they would even be able to govern themselves, without government constantly on their back. They would also be able to play a more proactive role in the SSF Guidelines implementation process. The government would be released from micro-management and could instead direct attention towards facilitation and support, rather than focusing on control and surveillance only. The implementation process would, in many instances, have to start with organizing small-scale fishers, and not just at the level of the local community but perhaps also countrywide. Small-scale fishers would also benefit from large-scale organization, as illustrated below.

Organization as a governability-enhancement device is something that the Norwegian government understood early on. It realized that organizing fishers would not only help small-scale fisheries as a sector but also be in the national interest. The government was, therefore, instrumental in the formation of the nationwide Norwegian Fishers' Association in 1926, and, later, with the establishment of the co-operative sales organizations from 1938

onwards. These measures not only turned the table for small-scale fishers in Norway but it also fundamentally changed the power relations in the industry in a way that has lasted until this day.

The lesson here is that the facilitating role of the State should not be underestimated. Organization of small-scale fishing people does not happen spontaneously and not always from the inside. A push from the outside is often needed, like from government or NGOs. This is because organizations are collective goods, and thus subject to a similar problem as with the tragedy of the fisheries resource commons: It is in the individual interest of potential members to remain passive and wait for others to take the initiative, as they can enjoy the benefits once the organization is up and going. Who would freely want to carry the burden and costs of organizing others? It is better to wait for others to make the move. (Poor people would not be able to afford it anyway). But if everyone thinks like this, no one will. This tendency, which increases with the size of the group, is sometimes referred to as the 'second-order' collective action problem—which should perhaps instead be called the 'first-order' problem, as it has to be solved before one can effectively address the substantive problems in

UNKNOWN



An old couple from Varanger fjord, close to Norway's border with Russia. The government helped form the Norwegian Fishers' Association in 1926

small-scale fisheries as they are described in the SSF Guidelines, like those related to empowerment, community development and poverty eradication.

Once established, the government and the Norwegian Fishers' Association could engage in a constructive partnership, which has characterized the relationship between the government and the industry. The government has been willing to exchange the loss of sovereign control with the legitimacy they have obtained from the industry. One may argue that the Norwegian Fishers' Association, if not being part of government, has certainly been part of governance. This has obviously made the Norwegian fishing industry more governable than it would otherwise have been, if the relationship was antagonistic rather than co-operative.

However, it is the Fishers' Sales Organizations and the 1938 Raw Fish Act (popularly called 'The Fishers' Constitution') that instituted them, and that really makes Norway different institutionally from most other fisheries nations. There are now six such organizations, together covering the whole country, with the Norwegian Raw Fish Association being the biggest one.

By the turn of the 19th century, Norway was among the poorest of European nations, and small-scale fishers were at the lower end of the national income scale.

The sales organizations are owned by the fishers and are, as with any other co-operative producer organization, organized according to the classic Rochdale co-operative principles. Importantly, the law grants the sales organization the monopoly right of firsthand sales within its geographical district. It also gives the organizations the right to determine the minimum price, which the buyer must accept.

There are always collective negotiations between the two parties, but if they cannot agree, the sales

organization can dictate the price. This does not eliminate the market completely, as buyers can always make a higher bid (which they often do when there is competition for the fish), but the law surely regulates the transaction in favour of the fishers.

This is what the 1938 Raw Fish Act says about the organizations: The King may decide that the processing, sale or export of raw fish ... or products thereof shall be prohibited regardless of where the fish is caught if first sale of the raw fish has not taken place through or with the approval of a fishermen's sales organization whose statutes have been approved by the Ministry concerned. Sale by an approved sales organization is regarded as first sale. Purchase of, and settlement for, raw fish fished on a share or percentage basis by owners of vessels, owners of gear or other co-partners is also regarded as first sale.

Imagine what difference this made in empowering the fishers. Not only did it guarantee fishers a decent price for their catch, with the Raw Fish Act, Norwegian fish merchants and exporters could no longer thrive on the back of the small-scale fishers. Instead, they had no other option but to do a better job in the export market. This would, of course, be good not only for the fishing industry but for the country as a whole, given that fish was at that time the most important export product. It should be noted that the Raw Fish Act was introduced at a time when fishers were much more numerous and small-scale than they are today. Norway was economically in a very different situation than it is now. By the turn of the 19th century, Norway was among the poorest of European nations, and small-scale fishers were at the lower end of the national income scale.

Merchant class

Although popular among the fishers, the Raw Fish Act and the sales organizations were, as one would expect, never popular with

the merchant class. This is still the situation, and the current conservative government would probably have liked to see the act gone.

There is also now in Norway a neoliberal wind blowing, which regards intervention in the market as not a good thing. But these organizations and the law authorizing them are not easily toppled. One does not mess with a law that fishers regard as their constitution—not without heavy political costs anyway.

Norwegian fishers have long learned to take this 'constitution' for granted, and they would have been hard put to imagine how the Norwegian fishing industry would be without it. Even those who want to scrap it would tend to agree. An old professor of mine, Ottar Brox, used to say that he never realized the significance of the Raw Fish Act until he came to Canada in the late 1960s. This was not because Canada had a similar legislation, but because it did not. He was struck by the organizational powerlessness of Canadian small-scale fishers relative to their Norwegian counterparts. The book he wrote about the fishing industry of Newfoundland helped to inspire the formation of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union there. Personally, I had never seen fishers in a picket line until I came to Canada in the mid-1980s. Norwegian fishers would, of course, not strike against their own organization when they have the power to set prices.

The sales organizations are as strong as ever. The Raw Fish Act still remains; even if a law reform in January 2014 changed its formal name to the Fish-sales Organization Act and new paragraphs were added.

What lessons can be learned from the Norwegian case? Can one export institutions as easily as one exports fish? Can the Norwegian Raw Fish Act and the fishers' sales organization system be copied by others?

First of all, the system was introduced in a particular historical context. It is less than likely that it would have seen the light of day in the current context. The industry looks very different today. Norway is a



The crowded Lofoten winter cod fishery in the 1950s. The Raw Fish Act was introduced at a time when fishers were more numerous and small-scale than they are today

different place, political ideologies have changed, and power relations are not what they used to be. The fishing populations do not carry the same weight that they used to do. Their numbers are down ten per cent compared to when the Raw Fish Act was introduced.

Still, as a governance model, the Norwegian Raw Fish Act and the sales organizations that the law facilitated, are not outdated. They address problems that small-scale fisheries are facing everywhere: poverty, vulnerability and marginalization, which have motivated the SSF Guidelines. And who can say that if the Raw Fish Act and the sales organizations were dismantled in Norway, the problems that originally triggered these institutions would not resurface again?

It is not for me to say how relevant the Norwegian model is for other countries. Those who would say no must also explain why not. What the Norwegian example does suggest, however, is that if there is will to foster organization that makes a difference to small-scale fishers, to the industry, and to the entire fisheries governance system, there is a way. 3

For more



www.seafoodfromnorway.co.uk/

**Article on Norwegian
Raw Fish Act**

www.regjeringen.no/nb.html?id=4

Department of Fisheries, Norway

Fishing for Food Security

The following are the recommendations of Report No. 7 of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

1. Fish deserves a central position in food security and nutrition strategies

States should

- 1a) Make fish an integral element in inter-sectoral national food security and nutrition policies and programmes with special regard to promoting small-scale production and local arrangements (such as procurement through local markets, for example, for school meals) and other policy tools, including nutrition education.
- 1b) Include fish in their nutritional programmes and interventions aiming at tackling micronutrient

good investments that support food security and nutrition in relation to sustainable fisheries (such as infrastructure and capacity development), or to improve the livelihoods and economic possibilities of fishing community residents.

States, national and international research institutes and development agencies should

- 1e) Conduct regular intra-household studies to better understand the pathways between fish, gender and the nutritional status of individuals and households, including on the impact of overfishing. These studies need to be conducted based on gender-disaggregated data.
- 1f) Review fisheries' discarding practices and options through a food security and nutrition lens as well as with regard to resources and ecosystem sustainability.

Fish deserves a central position in food security and nutrition strategies.

deficiencies, especially among children and women, in the respect of cultural specificities, promoting local procurement, and taking into account costs and benefits.

- 1c) Strengthen international assistance and co-operation to build the capacity of developing countries to negotiate better terms in fishing agreements to protect the food security and nutrition of their populations.
- 1d) Eliminate harmful subsidies that encourage overfishing, to make progress toward halting the current decline in global fish stocks. Revenues available to States from foregone subsidies could be redirected towards public

2. Threats and risks for world fisheries, including effects of climate change

States should

- 2a) Mainstream climate change adaptation strategies relevant to fish and food security and nutrition into all aquaculture and fisheries policies and actions at national and subnational levels, including by linking them to climate and weather research and prediction agencies, developing specific studies and introducing, where needed, flexibility in management and governance mechanisms.
- 2b) Engage in inclusive dialogue and analysis to build scenarios to understand the possible impact

*The HLPE Report No. 7, titled 'Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition', has been dedicated to the memory of **Chandrika Sharma***

of climate change on the food security and nutrition of most vulnerable zones (for example, coastal and small island States) that could be affected and develop and implement the necessary actions through inclusive processes.

FAO should

- 2c) Take the lead in a global effort to redevelop resource assessment tools and governance concepts suitable for use in improving the contribution of fish to food security and nutrition, including by developing new approaches for use in the multispecies, multigear fisheries and more adapted to the specific characteristics of small-scale fisheries.

3. Opportunities and challenges in aquaculture

National and international research organizations (such as the CGIAR Centres), funded by the governments and other agencies, should

- 3a) Lead research and development initiatives that aim at enhancing sustainability and productivity of aquaculture, both in small- and large-scale systems. Research should focus on health control and food safety, improved feed stocks that do not directly compete with human foods, domestication and genetic improvement of key traits contributing to the various dimensions of food security and nutrition, integration of aquaculture in agroecological models of production at the farm and landscape levels, and improved linkages with food chain, with due consideration to ecosystems' integrity.

States and other private and public stakeholders and international actors should

- 3b) Put in place appropriate actions to reduce further the use of fishmeal and fish oil as feed in aquaculture and livestock production, and should encourage their elimination by the use of alternate sources as well as by the promotion of low trophic-level fish (herbivores and omnivores).

- 3c) Put in place the conditions to develop and implement South-South collaborations to encourage sharing and learning experience in aquaculture.

4. Small-scale versus large-scale fishing operations

Governments and other private and public stakeholders should

- 4a) Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition, and take into account their characteristics in the design and implementation of all national and international policies and programmes related to fisheries, including through appropriate and inclusive representation.
- 4b) Support self-organized, local professional organizations and co-operatives, as these arrangements strongly contribute to foster the integration of small-scale operators into markets.

National and regional agencies responsible for fisheries should

- 4c) Give high priority to the support of small-scale fisheries through adequate planning, legislation and the recognition or allocation of rights and resources. Where small-scale fisheries are in competition with larger-scale operations, governments should promote the former's contribution to food

BEATRIZ MESQUITA JARDIM PEDROSA



Artisanal fishers in Brazil. The contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition, especially in developing countries, ought to be recognized

security and nutrition and, in particular, develop national policy regulations that protect small-scale fisheries.

5. Trade and markets

States should

- 5a) Ensure that food security and nutrition are better taken into

States should ensure that their aquaculture and fisheries policies and interventions do not create negative impacts on women, and encourage gender equality.

account in the objectives of policies and mechanisms related to international, regional and local fish trade, including by the inclusive development of guidelines, procedures and regulations to protect the food security and nutrition of local populations.

International agencies, regional economic and fisheries bodies and national ministries should

- 5b) Allocate more policy attention and resources to develop, promote and support domestic and regional fish trade. Investment should take account of the voluntary guidelines for land, fisheries and forests and respect the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture. They should redirect resources to and support capacity building for the different actors involved in local, national or regional fish trade activities, especially through the value chains involving small-scale fisheries, aquaculture and marketing.

Governments, international organizations, private sector and civil society should

- 5c) Support the development and use of existing or new sustainability certification standards which include food security and nutrition criteria and facilitate the engagement of small-scale operators by adequate support and capacity building.

6. Social protection and labour rights

States should

- 6a) Ratify the ILO No. 188 Work in Fishing Convention to ensure improved working conditions and social security of those working in the fishing sector.

States, in particular national government labour agencies, in collaboration with fisheries agencies, should

- 6b) Improve national-level regulations for fishworkers, including women workers in processing factories and markets, migrant and local crew on fishing vessels. Owners should guarantee that their vessels are seaworthy and that at-sea working conditions are safe.
- 6c) Take measures to put in place social protection systems in the form of minimum wages and social security schemes for both fishers and fishworkers, including self-employed workers, women and migrant workers.

7. Gender equity

States should

- 7a) Ensure that their aquaculture and fisheries policies and interventions do not create negative impacts on women, and encourage gender equality.
- 7b) Enshrine gender equity in all fisheries rights systems, including licensing and access rights. The definitions of fishing must cover all forms of harvest, including the forms typically practised by women and small-scale operators, such as inshore and inland harvesting of invertebrates by hand and the use of very small-scale gear.

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) should

- 7c) Develop policy guidance on gender equality and economic contributions, for example, technical guidelines on gender in aquaculture and fisheries within the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The CFS should

- 7d) Urge international and national fish sector organizations to fully

address the gender dimension of the fishery and aquaculture sectors in their policies and actions to overcome the unintended gender-blindness of present approaches.

Development assistance programmes should

- 7e) Be gender-aware and give priority to gendered projects.

8. Governance

States must

- 8a) Comply with their obligations under international human-rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

States should

- 8b) Assess policies, interventions and investments with direct and indirect links to fisheries and fishing communities in terms of their impacts on the right to food of the affected communities.
- 8c) Use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, recognising the articular relevance of article 8.3 on collective rights and common resources, to design and assess policies and programmes, especially those which affect the access of fishing communities to natural resources.
- 8d) Ensure that fishing communities and fishworkers actively and meaningfully participate in all decisions that impact their enjoyment of the right to food.
- 8e) Ensure that food security and nutrition, that are gender-sensitive, are an integral element of fish-value-chain governance mechanisms, including national government policies, certification standards and corporate social responsibility policies.
- 8f) Formally protect the rights and ongoing tenure over sites for food-insecure people, fishing

communities and indigenous and tribal peoples.

- 8g) Support the development of small and medium enterprises, by, for example, helping them access best management practices and credit schemes to stay profitable.

FAO should

- 8h) Lead reform of international fisheries and ocean governance with the objective of improving the transparency and representativeness of all the major international programmes and initiatives to guarantee that the small-scale fishers are fully included in these programmes. These programmes should go beyond their early focus on economic growth with ecological sustainability and aim to prioritize food security and nutrition and poverty alleviation.

The CFS and COFI should

- 8i) Convene a special joint session involving international fisheries and aquaculture bodies and related actors to share views on how to co-ordinate their policies and programmes towards progress in the food security and nutrition outcomes of their activities.

For more



www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/
Website of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)

www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-7_EN.pdf

HLPE, 2014. Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. A Report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2014

An Important First Step

A new training course from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project will help build capacity in the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in Asia Pacific

Often remote, and usually vulnerable, many small-scale fishing communities find existence literally 'life on the edge'. Rarely involved in the management of the resources they depend upon (if indeed there is any actual management), many artisanal fishers find themselves chasing dwindling stocks and eyeing the future with the worried concern usually reserved for gathering storm clouds.

Effectively integrating resource users such as small-scale fishers into fisheries management has long been a challenge. One way of giving small-scale fishers a bigger stake in the

benefit of resources, communities and governments alike.

Backed by a number of major international forums, the ecosystem approach is recognized as a guiding principle for the recently endorsed Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). These landmark guidelines help safeguard the sustainable use of fishery resources that millions of small-scale fishers around the world, particularly in developing countries, depend upon for their livelihoods.

It may sound good in theory, but putting EAFM into practice is far more challenging, as Chris O'Brien, BOBLME Regional Co-ordinator, explains: "When the BOBLME Project started out, there was a real need to help develop more efficient fisheries management for the Bay of Bengal.

Many countries and organizations in the region recognize that the ecosystem approach offers the most practical and effective way to manage complex fisheries. However, fisheries staff lack EAFM experience and capacity. People know the buzzwords but putting them into practice is a problem. As a result, progress in developing ecosystem-based management plans has been slow."

Ecosystem strategies

"Decentralization policies have also left local fisheries agencies with the challenging task of developing management plans that not only work locally, but also fit into broader fishery and ecosystem strategies. This situation needs to be

Many countries and organizations in the region recognize that the ecosystem approach offers the most practical and effective way to manage complex fisheries.

management of the resources they rely upon is through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).

An innovative and participatory tool, EAFM promotes systems and decision-making processes that balance environmental, human and social well-being, within improved governance frameworks.

By involving all relevant stakeholders in a participatory process, management plans better capture the diverse array of elements that make up and impact any fishery. Stakeholder involvement in the planning process (with small-scale fishers playing an important role) helps lead to more effective implementation of plans, to the

*This article is by **Steve Needham** (stevenneedham6@gmail.com), Communications Consultant, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project*

addressed as a matter of priority,” he added.

To help address these urgent capacity-development needs, a comprehensive training course entitled ‘*Essential EAFM*’, has been developed and launched by the BOBLME Project in collaboration with partners, including the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Asia Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC).

The *Essential EAFM* training course is designed to help meet the need for capacity development in the ecosystem approach, especially with regards to complex, data-poor fisheries with weak or no management which are common in the Asia-Pacific region.

The five-day course begins with explanations of why a new approach is required to address the many threats and issues facing capture fisheries. Participants then develop professional planning skills for more effective decisionmaking. By working through the entire planning process, participants are equipped with an array of tools to develop fisheries-management plans that address current demands for food security and livelihoods while protecting marine resources for the future. A practical ‘hands-on’ approach is used to show how EAFM plans can be developed under the constraints common to the region.

“A major strength of the course is that it allows participants to develop an EAFM plan that can be taken away and, with some further work, be implemented either in the participant’s country or as a transboundary plan,” says O’Brien.

In recognition that many of the challenges and issues threatening sustainable fishing fall outside the mandate of fisheries management agencies, *Essential EAFM* not only targets mid-level fisheries and coastal resource managers but also environmental, economic development and planning staff.

During early pilot sessions for the course, the value of broader, cross-sectoral collaboration was evident. Participants from different agencies and countries actively shared

experiences and expertise during the development of draft EAFM plans.

The course is also designed in a way which should make local adaptation in Asia-Pacific countries easy. “By changing the focus and examples, the *Essential EAFM* course can be easily modified to apply to other marine and inland fisheries and even aquaculture. The principles and the approach to management planning are the same,” adds O’Brien.

Building the capacity of ‘change agents’ such as mid-level fisheries or planning staff to effectively implement the ecosystem approach should benefit small-scale fisheries as well as the multitude of family members, traders, processors and consumers who depend on them.

Although *Essential EAFM* does not specifically target small-scale fisheries, its integrated and holistic approach will lead to such communities playing a more active role in developing and implementing fisheries-management plans which are both effective and inclusive.

The development of ‘people skills’ features highly in *Essential EAFM*, skills that are so often lacking in conventional fisheries management, usually to the detriment of small-scale fisher communities.

“There is a real need to consult and involve people,” says BOBLME’s chief technical adviser Rudolf

BOBLME



A training session in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. The *Essential EAFM* course is designed to help meet the need for capacity development in the ecosystem approach

Hermes. “It is the people skills that make a difference and if stakeholder engagement is done properly, then small-scale fishers will not be overlooked. The *Essential* EAFM training will broaden participants’ views. They will learn participatory methods and that it is no good to simply be top-down any more.”

During *Essential* EAFM training, participants learn to carry out participatory planning processes. They gain hands-on experience of how to identify and engage stakeholders as well as how to work with them so that they are fully involved in the development of fisheries-management plans. The process helps ensure that small-scale fishing communities are given a voice, and that their voice is heard.

Important techniques such as conflict management are introduced and practised. These will help fisheries officers to better understand and reduce disputes between various resource users, including small-scale fishers.

The training should also lead to utilization of improved fisheries-management measures such as zoning that provide rights and protection (but also responsibilities) to small-

scale fishers as well as include them in joint enforcement /compliance teams alongside fisheries officials.

First trialled in July 2013, *Essential* EAFM has quickly gathered momentum with sessions held in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. Early events have been used to fine-tune the material and delivery as well as to begin the process of building up a body of trainers who can help run or support the course when it is held in new locations.

“We want to train as many practitioners as possible,” says O’Brien. “In addition to working with government staff who need these skills now, *Essential* EAFM should also be taught in universities and become a part of undergraduate courses so when officers rise through the ranks they understand it and are more inclined to use it.”

“We are furthermore seeking to create a lively trainers’ and trainees’ network as well as an active community of practice. By doing so, we should be able to create demand for an ecosystem approach from people within government agencies who really understand it,” he adds.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), based

Essential EAFM training materials available free of charge

A complete set of *Essential* EAFM course materials is available for use free of charge and can be downloaded from www.boblme.org/eamf. Materials include complete learning modules, presentations, and tools to be used at different stages in the EAFM process, a resource guide, a handbook, session plans and workbooks. Interested organizations are encouraged to make use of the materials and to contact the BOBLME Project should they need further information or assistance.

Who supported *Essential* EAFM?

Essential EAFM was jointly developed by specialists in fisheries, conservation, resource management and education and training from the BOBLME Project, the US Coral Triangle Support Partnership, NOAA’s Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Centre, APFIC and IMA International.

Financial support has been provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD); the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA); FAO (through the BOBLME Project); NOAA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the US Coral Triangle Initiative (USCTI) and the Coral Triangle Support Program (CTSP).

For more information

www.boblme.org/eamf or contact rcu@boblme.org


SUMANA NARAYANAN / ICSF



A fisherman in Kampong Phluk village, on the Tonle Sap lake in Cambodia where a community fisheries management system is in place

in Bangkok, will become a regional hub for the *Essential* EAFM course. A regional co-ordinator is also set to be appointed to help get *Essential* EAFM up and running and to provide support for institutions around the region wishing to run the course.

Efforts to build sufficient capacity in the Asia-Pacific region to implement

the ecosystem approach will take many, many years. Yet, as the proverb goes, “Every journey starts with a first step”. The launch of *Essential* EAFM and its open availability to any organization which wishes to use it should help sow the seeds for better fisheries management, to the benefit of fishers and resources alike. 

For more



www.boblme.org

**Bay of Bengal Large Marine
Ecosystem Project**

A Human-rights Moment

A newly adopted International Labour Organization Protocol should help combat forced labour and human trafficking of fishers at sea

It was around 12 a.m. on 11 June 2014 when the plenary of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) overwhelmingly adopted a new legally binding Protocol to tackle modern forms of forced labour.

The Protocol, supported by a Recommendation, was adopted by government, employer and worker delegates, with 437 votes for, 27 abstentions and eight against.

The new Protocol brings the existing ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour, adopted in 1930, into the modern era to strengthen protection against forced labour, particularly as

And trafficking is a growing concern for many member States. So both the Protocol and the Recommendation provide very concrete guidance as to how to address trafficking for the purpose of forced or compulsory labour. But then, in addition, and, more importantly, we have these provisions now on protection, prevention and remedy, which apply to all victims of forced labour, whether they have been trafficked or not. And which we believe can really make a difference in terms of suppressing and eliminating forced labour in the future."

ILO Conventions

The ILO has two Conventions on Forced Labour (No. 29, adopted in 1930, and No. 105, adopted in 1957). The first defines forced labour as "all work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily", and requires States "to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms" and to ensure that penal sanctions are strictly applied on those who impose forced labour. The second adds a specific obligation for States never to impose forced labour as a means of political coercion or education, punishment for expressing political views or participating in strikes, mobilizing labour for economic development, labour discipline or for racial, social, national or religious discrimination. In addition to ILO Conventions Nos. 29 and 105, a number of international and regional instruments address forced labour, slavery, trafficking in persons, as well as institutions

The new Protocol brings the existing ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour, adopted in 1930, into the modern era to strengthen protection against forced labour...

found in the private economy. The accompanying Recommendation provides technical guidance on the implementation of both the Convention and the new Protocol.

In the words of Beate Andrees, Head of the ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour: "This is a truly historic moment, because delegates in this room have now modernized effectively Convention 29, which was adopted 84 years ago. And there is a new Protocol, supplementing the Convention. We will have much stronger measures now to protect the victims, to prevent forced labour, and to also give victims the possibility to access remedies."

"There is a clear link between forced labour and human trafficking.

*This article is by **Jean-Marie Kagabo** (kagabo@ilo.org), Programme Officer, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland*

and practices similar to slavery. Worth mentioning is the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (the Palermo Protocol). However, in spite of the broad range of instruments available, measures taken in practice have focused mostly on increasing the detection of offenses, while preventive action and victim protection have been accorded lower priority.

The definition of forced labour provided by Convention No. 29 is still valid, as it is a broad concept that covers a wide range of coercive labour practices, which occur in all types of economic activity and in all parts of the world. However, a good number of the provisions of Convention No. 29 are outdated, as they were intended to regulate the compulsory labour of native workers in colonial territories. Indeed, when the Convention was adopted in 1930, State-sanctioned forced labour by colonial-era governments was the norm, and, thus, most of its provisions were designed to regulate that form of

forced labour, providing, for instance, safeguards for workers when forced labour is exacted from them.

Today, there is a decline in certain traditional forms of forced labour, while new practices have emerged, occurring mainly in the “private economy”. The way forced labour works in the world today is very different from the way it worked in the 1930s. Indeed, at present, forced labour occurs overwhelmingly (in 90 per cent of cases) at the hands of private actors, not governments, a situation which the Convention dealt with inadequately. Contemporary forms of forced labour entail a variety of exploitative labour practices wherein victims are compelled to work in a variety of formal and informal industries through trafficking, debt bondage, withholding of payment or identity documents, deception, threat of physical violence, psychological coercion or confinement. The main sectors affected are agriculture (including fishing), mainly in developing countries but also in industrialized countries. We also see a

THIERRY FALISE / ILO



A Burmese migrant boy in Samut Sakhon, Thailand. In many parts of the world, especially in developing countries, fishers are often forced to work for long hours at very low pay in difficult and hazardous conditions

International Labour Standards

International Labour Standards are legal instruments drawn up by ILO's constituents (governments, employers and workers) that set out basic principles and rights at work. They are either Conventions, Protocols or Recommendations

Conventions are legally binding international treaties that may be ratified by member States. A Convention lays down the basic principles to be implemented, in a given area, by ratifying countries.

A Protocol, just like a Convention, is an international treaty subject to ratification. In the context of the ILO, however, a Protocol does not exist independently and is always linked to a Convention. It creates legal obligations applicable to the ratifying State and can be ratified only by those Members that have ratified the Convention. The associated Convention remains open for ratification. A Protocol is used for the purpose of partially revising or supplementing a Convention, to allow adaptation to changing conditions, thus making the Convention more relevant and up-to-date.

A Recommendation, just like a Convention, has to be brought before the competent authorities, but is not subject to ratification and, therefore, does not have binding force. It provides guidance as to national policy, legislation and practice. It can supplement a Convention (or Protocol) or it can be a stand-alone instrument.

Source: ILO (2009). Rules of the game. A brief introduction to International Labour Standards.

lot of forced labour in domestic work or care work, in the entertainment industry and in construction and manufacturing. According to recent ILO estimates, perpetrators—ranging from small labour intermediaries to well-organized criminal enterprises—exploite around 21 mn victims worldwide, and illegal profits generated on their backs are estimated at US\$150 bn per year.

It is against this backdrop that the ILO, after conducting a detailed analysis to identify gaps in existing coverage of its standards, considered that, despite the broad reach of Convention No. 29 and the measures taken to date by member States, there was an added value in the adoption of supplementary measures to address the significant implementation gaps remaining in order to effectively eradicate forced labour in all its forms.

The new legal instruments supplement and strengthen existing ILO standards on forced labour, as well as complement international law on trafficking in persons and slavery by addressing issues of particular relevance to the world of work. The new instruments do not review, duplicate or put in question existing standards.

The new Protocol sets out minimum standards to strengthen

prevention, protection and remedies, including compensation for forced-labour victims. As such, the instruments address implementation gaps and supplement the Forced Labour Convention No. 29.

The provisions of the adopted instrument seek to:

- strengthen the prevention of forced labour through measures including targeted awareness-raising campaigns, skills-training programmes, and the promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining;
- strengthen the protection of victims of forced labour through assistance, recovery and rehabilitation measures, through the development and implementation of national policies and plans of action, and by involving employers' and workers' organizations;
- ensure access to justice and compensation;
- strengthen the enforcement of national laws and regulations and other measures; and
- encourage international co-operation among member States.

Worth mentioning is the fourth article of the Protocol in which States have pledged to ensure that all victims of forced labour, regardless

of immigration status, have access to appropriate and effective remedies, such as compensation; and to refrain from prosecuting such victims for their 'participation' in unlawful activities connected to forced labour.

Forced labour in fisheries

Recent trends within the fisheries sector, such as overfishing, illegal fishing, declining fish stocks and a shift in sourcing the workforce from developed to developing States mean that more relatively low-cost migrant workers are employed by the fisheries sector. They are particularly too often deceived and coerced by brokers and recruitment agencies and forced to work on board vessels under the threat of force or by means of debt bondage.

In addition, migrant workers are often not in possession of their identity documents, making it difficult to leave their workplace when they do reach port. Victims are prone to illness, physical injury, psychological and sexual abuse, and death. Fishers are often forced to work for long hours at very low pay, and the work is intense, hazardous and difficult. They are often very isolated and their work on board vessels in remote locations of the sea for months and years at a time means that abuse can take place for significant periods of time before any intervention is possible. Sadly, capture fisheries have amongst the highest occupational fatality rates in the world.

Fishing and fish trade are among the earliest globalized industries and represent a sector steeped in culture and tradition. In its broadest definition, the fisheries sector is one of the world's largest employers and about 38 mn people work in capture production. The demand for, and trade in, fish has increased steadily over the decades. Wild-fish stocks are subject to high levels of overfishing and most, if not all, commercially exploited fish stocks are fully or over-exploited.

The high exploitation rate of these fish stocks has meant that fishing operators, both small-scale and industrial, must go further out to sea

to locate abundant fishing grounds. Globalization allows many long-distance fishing operators, structured as transnational corporations, to make use of secret jurisdictions, to register their vessels either in open international registers to avoid law enforcement measures or in flag States that are unable or unwilling to meet their international responsibility or to exercise their criminal law enforcement jurisdiction.

Therefore, fishers aboard vessels engaged in transnational organized fisheries crime have little or no protection from employers' abuses. Transnational fishing operators and operations engaged in organized crime pose real challenges to effective compliance measures and law enforcement, and require a high degree of transboundary law enforcement co-ordination and co-operation, which is currently lacking.

For some years now, ILO has worked hard to ensure a global convention with minimum standards for work in the fisheries sector through the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188). In May 2013, the ILO convened a Global Dialogue Forum on the implementation of the Convention. According to Brandt Wagner, Head, Transport and Maritime Unit, Sectoral Activities Department, ILO, this meeting discussed challenges in

ILO has worked hard to ensure a global convention with minimum standards for work in the fisheries sector through the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188).

the Convention's implementation, evaluated how it could be used as a tool to address major issues in the sector, shared good practices and experiences, reported and reviewed promotional activities, and provided an update on the status of national efforts to implement and ratify the Convention.

Participating governments, fishing-vessel owners' associations and trade unions, therefore, came together and called for the ILO to work with

INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and with other UN agencies and international organizations to address the most severe forms of labour exploitation in the fisheries sector, with promotion and implementation of C.188 being one aspect of it.

In June 2014, a British newspaper, *The Guardian*, released a six-month investigation that revealed that the fishing industry in Thailand is all too often built on slavery, with men often beaten, tortured and killed to catch fish food to feed prawns sold cheaply in the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US) supermarkets. However, although forced labour and human trafficking in the fishing industry may appear to be most prominent in southeast Asia, it is a problem of global reach and all the regions of the world are concerned. It affects not only the industry, but also flag States, fishing companies, retailers, wholesalers, fish-processing companies and consumers of fish.

In addition to the great personal tragedies this activity causes, it also exposes the entire local community, mostly in developing countries, to a significant loss of income. The activity also fuels unfair advantages compared with the many law-abiding stakeholders in the market.

The new ILO Protocol, together with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention C.188, will help revitalize action to end abusive working conditions within the fisheries sector. Many of the provisions proposed by both instruments will foster the implementation of ILO-specific activities through on-the-ground projects such as the Global Action Programme against forced labour and trafficking of fishers at sea (GAPfish) which is currently being developed. The GAPfish project will consist of four pillars—research, prevention/protection/prosecution, capacity building and awareness raising, and transparency and multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI) with activities in four State categories (source States, flag States, port/coastal States and market States). The first

implementation phase of GAPfish is planned to start in 2015.

GAPfish intends to implement specific activities such as targeted awareness-raising campaigns for migrant fishers; assistance, recovery and rehabilitation programmes for the victims; skill training for law enforcement officers and labour inspectors; and international workshops to increase the co-operation between States.

The primary beneficiaries of the project would be migrant fishers in small-scale and industrial fisheries, and, indirectly, their dependents and local communities. It would also benefit inspectors, investigators, government agencies and key stakeholders in States that are tasked with regulation of fishing vessels and are faced with large numbers of foreign fishers seeking protection and compensation. GAPfish would, moreover, assure social partners and key stakeholders in the fisheries value chain that fish entering the market is caught in accordance with decent working conditions, and by avoiding unfair competition.

Ultimately, the project will also contribute to greater consumer protection, food security and conservation of marine living resources, by ensuring greater transparency in the fisheries value chain.

For more

www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C029

Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105

Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3174672:NO
Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930

We Don't Need No Marinas

A project for the development of a marina in San Juanillo, in the north Pacific region of Costa Rica, has attracted strong opposition

San Juanillo, in the north Pacific region of Costa Rica, is a community of approximately 90 houses and 270 inhabitants, whose principal activity is fishing and work related to the construction and hospitality industries. There are 14 small-scale artisanal fishing boats in this coastal town, which depend on trammel nets and bottom-set lines as fishing gear, targeting mainly the spotted rose snapper (*Lutjanus guttatus*), locally known as *pargo mancha*. There are also two lobster diving vessels and a few others engaged in tourism.

The San Juanillo Fishers' Association (ASOPESJU), established in 1998, has a Board of Directors of eight members and 32 associates—nine women and 23 men. It strives to improve sanitary conditions at the fish collection centre; fetch better market prices by doing away with middlemen; and maintain access to the San Juanillo Bay.

Today, a tourism-related issue is confronting the community of San Juanillo. In July 2007, a tour operator proposed the development of a marina in the bay. The proposal was never discussed or debated publicly and only a small group of locals were in the know. Language problems confounded the issue and added to the doubts about the project.

The representatives of the investors of the marina project claimed to have had a very close relationship with the community, which contrasted with the accounts of various inhabitants we interviewed.

At one meeting we were invited to, a clear interest was expressed in developing the project as quickly as

possible. The investors had already prepared plans for a potential investment of US\$35 mn for the project, which, in addition to the marina, entailed infrastructure development in the adjoining coastal zone in the form of apartments, shops and restaurants.

However, some of the proposals put forward by the project's representatives were not well received by the community. One was for the relocation of the town's church to a more distant site so as not to interfere with the development of the marina. Verbal assurances were given to community members

...the San Juanillo Fishers Association and the San Juanillo Development Association organized an information-sharing workshop to discuss the marina project.

that they would be taken to the United States (US) to learn English and be trained to work for the marina project.

Workshop

In the light of these developments, the San Juanillo Fishers Association and the San Juanillo Development Association organized an information-sharing workshop to discuss the marina project. Several experts were invited, including those specializing in social, environmental and oceanographic subjects, who debated the positive and negative effects of the project, based on technical and scientific criteria and on real-life experiences. Interestingly enough, among the participants

*This article, by **Henry García Zamora** and **Wagner Quirós Pereira** (wagner@biocenosismarina.org), has been translated by Vivienne Solis Rivera (vsolis@coopesolidar.org)*

were those who supported the marina project, including a lawyer and local investors.

At the end of the workshop, all the members of the Board of Directors of the San Juanillo Fishers Association and the Development Association, as well as another 92 members of the community who participated in the workshop, signed a statement, addressed to several national institutions, which expressed their opposition to the project. While they were not against development per se, the community representatives questioned the manner in which the project was being developed, and the lack of transparency and clarity in matters related to the environmental, social, cultural and institutional sustainability of the project.

A new draft bill that modifies several articles of Law No. 7744, "Concession and Operation of the Tourist Marinas", states that "parts of

a marina are considered to include: the buildings, the installations, the access roads to different areas, and other private property designed, by their owners, to provide services for the tourist marina and included as part of the concession." This has generated doubts in the community about free access to the San Juanillo Bay, which has only one access road which could be closed off due to the marina construction. During a visit to the most important marinas of the central Pacific zone of Costa Rica, San Juanillo community members saw first-hand the harsh reality of access—most marinas had only one entrance with 24-hour security and other restrictions.

While the San Juanillo community is certainly not opposed to development as such, they want it to be responsible, be respectful of their rights, and be inclusive and transparent. In a statement to several national institutions, including the Santa Cruz Municipality, the National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECA), the Ministry of the Environment (MINAE), the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, the Office of the Ombudsman and the National Fora of Small-scale Fishers, the community members declared:

"The undersigned persons from the communities of San Juanillo, Cuajiniquil and Guanacaste send their greetings and, at the same time, express their opposition to the intended marina development involving around 200 yachts and associated infrastructure in the fragile and enclosed bay of San Juanillo.

Collective action

Having informed ourselves about the different aspects related to the development of the marina in our community, we have collectively pondered over



the substantial negative effects of the proposal. We believe this project will jeopardize our culture as a community of artisanal fishers, and endanger the bay and its natural resources on which, for around 30 years, we have depended for our daily livelihoods. In the medium to longer term, this type of development will increase our cost of living, threaten the security and tranquillity of our community, and put at risk the tradition we wish to pass on to future generations. Through this statement, we also assert our rights to a healthy and stable environment, as established in Article 50 of the country's Constitution.

Our town has existed for more than 70 years and we know that we live in a very beautiful place with unique characteristics that attract a lot of interest. We wish to keep it as it is, and promote sustainable development projects like rural community tourism. The marina project is not consistent with the initiatives that we, as a community, have been proposing for many years. We call on the representatives of the Costa Rican State institutions primarily, the Santa Cruz Municipality, MINAE, INCOPECA and the Office of the Ombudsman—as well as national and international organizations, to support our cause and not permit the development of a marina in our bay. This project has been rejected by our community and we confirm that this is the position of not just the signatories to this petition but also organizations at the local level. We call on you to support us and follow up our campaign to deter the unwanted efforts being made by parties interested in the marina project”.

The anti-marina campaign by the San Juanillo community involved a great degree of communication and exchange of information with other coastal communities in Costa Rica, like Tarcoles on the Pacific coast, who had experienced similar development projects near their homes, which affected their traditional fishing grounds. Field visits and sharing of real-life experiences revealed the realities behind this kind of investment in 'development', which offers few



A fisherman in San Juanillo Bay getting ready to set out on a fishing trip.
The San Juanillo community is fighting against the construction of a marina in the area

direct benefits for the communities in the immediate project area.

Looking ahead, the area's residents hope to bank on the natural beauty and strategic locational characteristics of San Juanillo Bay to promote projects that have no detrimental impacts and that are characterized by openness and transparency, and a commitment to the larger environmental and social well-being of the community. 3

For more



www.visitcostarica.com/ict/paginas/leyes/pdf/Law_on_Concession_and_Operation_of_Tourist_Marinas.pdf

The Marinas Concession and Operation Law

www.biocenosismarina.org/index.php/en/fisheries

Biocenosis Marina

North, South, East, West

The Geographic Information System (GIS) can prove to be an indispensable tool in the hands of fishermen

The knowledge of a maritime fisheries territory that is generated through a mapping tool like the Geographic Information System (GIS) could well prove to be an ace in the hands of fishermen. European fishers, for instance, are taking up cartography to defend their rights. In Brittany, France, fishers who occupy maritime territories, although they do not legally possess them, have been able to “oppose” occupation by other parties, thanks to their application of GIS.

GIS is capable of organizing and presenting spatially referenced alphanumeric data on plans and maps.

GIS is capable of organizing and presenting spatially referenced alphanumeric data on plans and maps.

Geomatics (a hybrid of geography and computer science) enables data to be processed and geographic information to be diffused. Though GIS data is normally represented as two dimensional, it is possible to transform the information gathered into three dimensions by incorporating time series data to facilitate negotiation and decisionmaking. Fishers must be better able to claim their user rights as professionals in an equal manner with new, often extremely powerful, entrants. Geonumeric information on activities in a maritime territory considerably strengthens the hands of interested parties in a negotiation; it is urgent that every grassroots fishers’ structure owns a GIS tool, in a manner

adapted to their socio-economic contexts.

Breton fishers, who produce half of France’s marine fish catch, were confronted with a problem in 2009 when the Minister for Environment called for plans for the future siting of marine renewable energy structures in coastal waters. Spatial representation of sea going fishery activities was poorly included in these projects, with significant consequences for the fishers, given the persuasive capacity of industrial wind farm operators. Consequently, in 2010, the Breton Regional Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee (CDPMEM29), a body representing and elected by the fishers, decided to put in place a cartographic fisheries system.

In order to counter the proposals to set up wind farms at sea, the fishing community needed to spatialize and make an inventory of coastal fisheries activities in Brittany. Their work revolved around two main issues: investigations by the fishermen, and the design of a database to centralize all the information analyzed by the GIS.

Rich data

The objective was to obtain an easy to use GIS, rich in data obtained from the different fishery activities around Brittany. The fact of showing the fishery reality to within one metre to research bureaus or to government administrations, who had previously been the sole repositories of “knowledge”, has permitted a rebalancing of debates and to some extent forced them to respect fishers and their “human” rights. As a result, the Brittany Regional Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee and

*This article is adapted from a submission made by **René-Pierre Chever** (chever.cdpmem29@gmail.com), an ICSF Member*

the Departmental Committees decided to undertake a more ambitious programme for the 2010-2015 period. The main thrust is to put all fisheries activities in the region under GIS, especially in the context of the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs), the development of marine offshore renewable energy projects, the massive extraction of gravel and sand, the dumping of waste from land into the sea, and the development of offshore industrial aquaculture.

The computer based system SIPêche has been developed by and for the Breton fishermen. Apart from enabling them to defend their fishing territories, this tool allows them to make the profession better known to the rest of the population. Over time, the system has become harmonized with the method developed by the neighbouring Regional Fisheries Committee of the "Pays de Loire". It has also been made compatible with the French State Fisheries Computerized System and with the cartographic systems of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). All codes of species and names come directly from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Brittany Regional Fisheries Committee has gradually sought to authenticate its SIPêche project by linking up with scientists from the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS), the largest public-funded French scientific research body, and the Geography University in Nantes. This co-operation is expected to lead to the creation of a scientific interest group, GIS VALPENA, which will bring together several regional fisheries committees and scientists.

Across the world, a movement from the land to the sea has witnessed a new stage in the colonization of the oceans through sea-based activities, thanks to high technology and generous funding. The world's population is expected to reach between 9 and 10 bn by 2050; many of them already live along the coast, adding to the pressures on the sea and



Transferring vessel data to GIS by SIPêche Project staff, whose background of 'fishermen-engineers' is not common, but is proving very effective

its resources. The sea is now the new frontier, coveted by everyone, from conservationists to multinationals. As a result, in future, fishermen will find their spaces increasingly reduced.

To deal with this existential challenge, fishing communities and their organizations have few answers that are fit for purpose. GIS provides a tool for fishers to better defend their point of view, and is an important additional asset. We cannot afford to neglect it to help ensure the 'human rights' of fishing communities, wherever they may be.

For more



www.comitedespeches-finistere.fr/

Finistere Departmental Committee

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/gis/

NMFS Website for GIS

No Fishy Screen Presence

This year's 'Fishermen of the World' film festival at Lorient, France, portrayed a wide range of fishers, their communities—and their problems

Fishermen have become slaves.” These are the words uttered by a Polish fisherman in the film *Fishermen*, made by Viktoria Marinov, a young Polish filmmaker, which received an award from the jury at this year's Lorient film festival, billed 'Fishermen of the World'. Strangely enough, this reality was a theme echoed in many of the other films screened at the festival, including the ones that received awards.

Every year, the festival screens about 40 films—fictional narratives, documentaries and reports. Many of them describe situations of dramatic crises facing communities humiliated

beautiful landscapes to discover. We don't only gut fishes!”

This year the festival opened with a film on an exemplary Mexican community that displayed solidarity and equality in mastering its resources, markets and its future. It ended with the testimony of a langoustine fisherman, confident of his future, resilient, determined to pass down his passion to new generations and constantly researching innovations to meet fresh challenges.

Aboard an old shrimp trawler, the film captures scenes of the crew, composed of Sicilians and Tunisians who live for weeks in an oppressive, closed-in world, searching for increasingly depleted resources, and surrounded by small fishing boats overloaded with migrants fleeing war and poverty. The film goes beyond fishing to reveal images of a world on the brink of the abyss, a world undermined by inequalities. The boat stopped its fishing operations just after the film was shot.

The jury also paid tribute to the short film of Thomas Szacka-Marier, a young Canadian, titled *Following the Tide*. For seven days, he filmed the work and life aboard a deep-sea pirogue from Dakar, off the coast of Senegal, portraying fishermen who are courageous and serene despite their harsh working conditions and the depleted resource.

Meagre catch

After seven days at sea and after enduring a storm, they have to return with a catch too small to cover their expenses. This unusual film transports us into the everyday lives of fishermen who love their job, but

Every year, the festival screens about 40 films—fictional narratives, documentaries and reports.

and deprived of their rights. Others testify to the fishworkers' capacity to resist. What stands out in all these portrayals is the fishers' passion for the sea and a specific way of life, far from daily routine, where they—both men and women—are called on to work intelligently. Through these fishing activities, the films offer a view of society, human relations and the communities' relationship with nature. That is what struck Marie Cadieux, the Canadian president of the festival's jury, who told a journalist, Pascale Marcaggi: “We are speaking about fishing, but we deal with everything else—the human condition, the role of women, an international look at what is being done elsewhere, but also

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do not wish their children to follow their path.

Another moving film, *Canning Paradise*, a French-Australian production by Olivier Pollet, bore witness to the contempt of the powerful towards the coastal fishing communities of Papua New Guinea, who are being sacrificed to allow the development of free zones for tuna-canning industries. The film depicts the Papuan fishermen's anger and their desperate struggle to retain their lands and their rights. It was given an award by the jury of the young (composed of fishermen and high-school pupils) who were amazed at discovering the implacable violence of a system of which the European Union is an accomplice as it seeks to satisfy its market demands.

The youth jury also awarded *Give a Man a Fish*, a film by a young Palestinian, Alastal Iyad, who wanted to testify to the fate of thousands of Palestinian fishermen, left to live in poverty as a result of the Israeli prohibition on them going out to

sea. The fate of these fishermen is indirectly evoked in Mahmoud Darwich's poems and through the encounter with a Corsican fisherman who shows solidarity with his eastern Mediterranean brothers.

Sold to the Sea, by the Environmental Justice Foundation, an NGO, described the appalling situation of Burmese migrants forced to embark on industrial Thai fishing boats to work as slave labour.

Balfego: Tuna from Father to Son reported on the rapid development of industrial farming of bluefin tuna, as an answer to the resource depletion crisis, while another film, *Salmon at All Costs*, analyzed the experience of farmed salmon, which has often had catastrophic results.

Today, this industrial model is also applied to shellfish farming. In the Netherlands, dredging for mussels on the seabed is forbidden, and has been replaced by spat hatching, to the great dismay of fishermen who are shown sadly resigned to their fate in the film *L'Amour des Moules*. Another film,

ROBERT LE GALL



Italian filmmaker, Rossella Schillaci receives an award for her film *Il Limite* at this year's Lorient film festival, titled 'Fishermen of the World'

Requiem for Oysters, points out the serious crisis oyster farming is going through, and the risks it poses to the environment and to genetic resources.

Fishermen also have to face threats from the land. In Alaska, the last flourishing salmon fishery has been threatened by the opening of a gigantic copper mine. The resultant pollution may put an end to the annual rush of hundreds of boats searching for salmon, as depicted in the film *Jackpot in Alaska*.

In Brittany, the wreckage of the tanker *Erika* (also the title of the film by Christopher Hoyet) has destroyed the coastline and part of the seabed, and interrupted the sale of fish and shellfish. The film shows how volunteers and elected representatives joined forces to combat the power of the oil companies.

Orphans of Development, a film by the Sri Lankan NGO, National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO), denounces the eviction of fishing communities to create a huge tourist complex on the Kalpitiya lagoon in the north of Colombo.

The collective capacity of fishermen to innovate is shown in *Punta Abrejos: An Exemplary Community*, a film by Stéphanie Brabant on a fishermen's village in Mexico. There the fishermen manage

Breton, Quiterie Sourget, shows how the region's fishermen are able to find complex solutions for better management and distribution of their fishing territory between trawlers and gillnetters.

In Québécois Pierre Perrault and Michel Brault's *Pour la suite du monde*, we are shown how it is possible to pass down values and experiences to future generations. There can be no future in fishing without a passion for the sea, a passion that is often passed down at an early age. Even when crises in fisheries loom and jobs in cities seem more attractive, the sons of fishermen often express regret for not living off the sea. Sometimes they find that in their new jobs, working conditions are far worse, as shown by the young Cambodian ex-fisherman in the feature-length film, *A River Changes Course*. His parents, who had no fixed income, forced him to stop studying and look for a job in a Chinese cassava plantation. The film depicts the disruption of Cambodian society, and the destruction of the environment that goes with it.

Elsewhere, too, there seems to be a future for the young in fishing. In Poland, some young men have returned to fishing despite uncertainties. In Alaska, young people are rediscovering the thrill of the rush for 'red gold' during the summer. In Lorient, some young men and women, who are training to become fishermen, have used their cameras to record and pass on their passion to other young people through several short-length films.

Some coastal activities that used to be considered as extinct, such as the traditional gathering of salt in salt pans, have reappeared and prospered in the 1970s, thanks to a generation of enthusiasts, as shown in the film, *Grain de Sel*.

Women amply represented

Women were also amply represented at the festival, both in the juries, in the films and among filmmakers. In *Mélancolie des beaux jours*, an old Korean woman goes on fishing despite being fatigued and worn-out, so as to make a living,

There can be no future in fishing without a passion for the sea, a passion that is often passed down at an early age...

their resources by controlling their fishing zones as well as access to the fishery. A co-operative is in charge of marketing, as well as social-welfare measures, including pensions. The main resource, lobster, is sold live and transported by air to China. This may be an example of successful integration with globalization, even if the sustainability of such a form of marketing is moot.

In *Fishing Together: Quite an Art*, a young amateur filmmaker from

because her drunkard husband is unable to work.

In *A Mae et o Mar*, Gonzalo Tocha, a young Portuguese filmmaker, revives the memory of a small fishing community, evoking the times when women used to be skipper-owners of their boats. In one scene, an old fisherman declaims his passion for the sea with great lyricism.

In her film, Rossella Schilacci evokes, in a restrained manner, the isolation of the Tunisian fishermen's wives in Sicily.

One of the most striking films about women in fisheries came from India. In *Chronicles of Oblivion*, Priyanjana Dutta narrates the plight of women living in coastal villages. They are forbidden access to coastal resources by bureaucratic conservation policies that refuse to take into account their unreliable means of subsistence. The screening of this film also gave the festival participants the opportunity to pay tribute to Chandrika Sharma, ICSF's Executive Secretary, who went missing in the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 a few days before the festival. In the film, Chandrika talks about the involvement of ICSF in defending the rights of women in fisheries.

The Lorient film festival ended with the screening of a documentary by the Comité Départemental des Pêches du Finistère, on fishermen fishing langoustines in the Bay of Biscay. Four fishermen, including two young men, from different ports, talked of their passion for their jobs, inherited over generations.

Elizabeth Tempier, a regular at the Lorient festival since it started in 2008, sums up the spirit of the festival: "Each film is a song...some are sad, haunting, insistent, instructive, revolting, some are a real treat! The art of the filmmaker is at its best when he is self-effacing, so as to let his subjects' vivacity express itself freely". As the films screened at Lorient testify, the one thing fishworkers do not lack is vivacity, and they need it to survive. 3



"Each film is a song...some are sad, haunting, insistent, instructive, revolting, some are a real treat!" Every year, the festival screens about 40 films—narratives and documentaries—on fishing communities

For more



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmXd8uGtBKM>

Orphans of Development

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=setlyxlcpxA>

Punta Abrejos: An Exemplary Community

Crusader, Leader, Comrade

Thomas Kocherry (1940 – 2014)

Father Thomas Kocherry, a rather unpriestly priest, was a man of the people and a crusader for the livelihood rights of small-scale fishing communities

48

Summer showers, thunder and lightning ... On 5 May 2014, at the Muttada Holy Cross Catholic Church in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the south Indian State of Kerala, these elements seemed to have come together as nature's fitting tribute to a man who was, to borrow from Shakespeare, "a tempestuous noise", a thorn in the side of authority, a voice for the voiceless, a challenger of convention, a courtier of controversy.

Thomas Kocherry, born in Changanacherry in central Kerala, gravitated towards the lesser-known Redemptorist order of Catholic priests and was soon influenced by

garnered deep insights into small-scale fisheries and the psyche of fishermen. At a time when parish priests were looked up on as indefatigably virtuous authorities, Tom was the eccentric priest who went out to sea, fishing alongside his parishioners. His work in the fishing village of Marianad exposed him to the co-operative model of fish marketing.

So radical was Tom's praxis that it put the traditional Church establishment in a quandary. The Redemptorist Provincial 'transferred' Tom out of Kerala, under pressure from the Thiruvananthapuram Bishop. Tom, however, managed to convince his order to grant him 'study leave' to pursue a course in law. Ultimately, he became a qualified lawyer.

The problems associated with trawling, Tom soon realized, were uppermost in the minds of the small-scale fishermen of many Indian States, like Kerala, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Main agenda

In 1978, groups of fishers and their representatives from many coastal States met in Madras (now Chennai) to form the National Forum of Kattumaram and Country Boat Fishermen (NFF, later the National Fishworkers' Forum) whose main agenda was to fight against trawling. Though Tom was not part of that founding meeting, he soon realized the significance of the move, which would ultimately transform into an organization of small-scale fishermen bent on battling trawling.

...Tom was the eccentric priest who went out to sea, fishing alongside his parishioners.

the radical "liberation theology" movement that was sweeping through Latin America in the 1960s. During his seminary days, he sought permission to work with the refugees who came to India after the conflict in East Pakistan (later, Bangladesh). Soon after his ordination as a priest, Tom—as he was universally and lovingly called—opted to work with the fishing community in Kerala, one of the 'outliers' of a society that was otherwise revered for its superior human development indicators.

In the 1970s, working in a small, poor parish in the northern part of Thiruvananthapuram district, Tom

*This tribute is by **V Vivekanandan** (vivek.siffs@gmail.com), Adviser, South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS)*

In 1980, when the Kerala government reneged on its pledge for a three-month fishing ban during the southwest monsoon, Tom led the Trivandrum District Independent Fishermen's Union (which included women) in a string of protests and street demonstrations that forced the government to impose a monsoon fishing holiday. Tom was especially outstanding in managing to forge some semblance of unity among the somewhat unruly and disorganized fishermen.

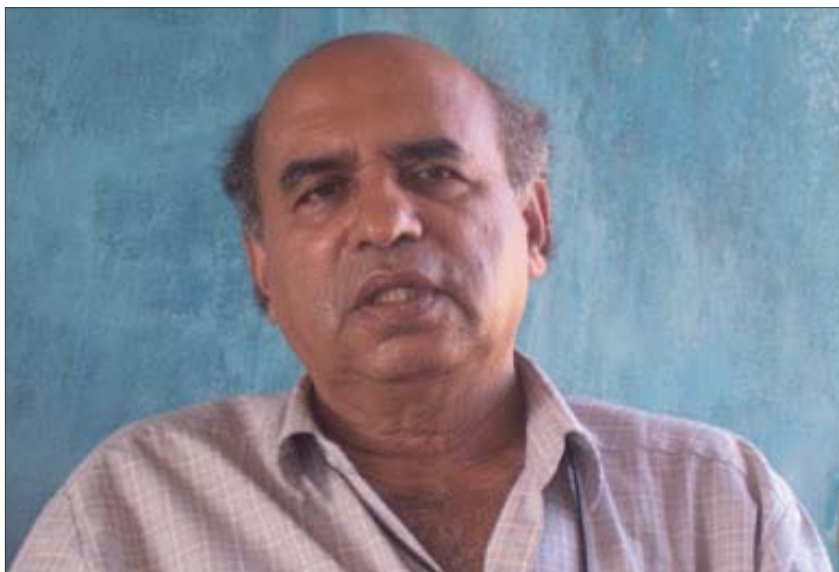
Tom's role in shaping a strong fishworker trade union, in the form of the Kerala Swatantra Malsya Thozhilali Federation (KSMTF, the Kerala Independent Fishworkers' Federation), cannot be over-emphasized. He soon moved on to the national stage when his leadership was sought to revamp the NFF.

Tom took over as the chairperson of NFF in 1987 and embarked on a long-term journey to transform the organization into the voice of the fishing communities of India.

The 'Protect Waters, Protect Life' campaign organized by NFF in 1989—a march by fishers and their supporters from Maharashtra on the west coast and West Bengal on the east coast, culminating in Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of continental India—was a pioneering attempt to reach out to all fishing communities in India, to highlight the new threats to the coastal regions and to forge alliances with environmental groups that were striving to protect the coastal environment.

It was on the issue of licences for foreign vessels fishing in the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) that Tom managed to lead the NFF, in 1994, in a national struggle against the new policy, with the support of associations of mechanized boatowners, merchants and seafood exporters.

At an international level, Tom was involved with the formation of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) and, subsequently, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP). As an ardent anti-globalization warrior, Tom was



Thomas Kocherry managed to forge some semblance of unity among the somewhat unruly and disorganized fishermen in small-scale fishing communities around the world

in the thick of protests in Seattle and Doha. He tended to relate fisheries issues to larger issues like food security/sovereignty, the wider global financial architecture and the new rules of trade that undermine national and local development strategies. Until he was forced to cut down on travel due to ill health, Tom remained a globe-trotting crusader for a just world order.

As a person of many endearing qualities, Tom had an appeal that was global and went beyond the needs of the task at hand. Simple as a hermit, he had few personal needs—apart from a simple meal and a mat to sleep on. He loved songs and was ever ready for a laugh.

Once I invited Tom and the then WFFP office-in-charge, Fr. Santiago, for dinner at my home. When Tom called to confirm the engagement, my mother-in-law picked up the phone, and struggled to understand the message. When I returned, she told me that some “Tom and Jerry” had called! When I shared this with Tom over dinner, he burst out in a roar of laughter.

In the passing of Tom Kocherry, we have been robbed of a truly great personality who brought national attention to the plight of fishing communities in India and gave them the confidence to fight for their rights. We will all miss him.



For more



www.nffindia.org

National Fishworkers' Forum

www.keralafishworkers.in/Fr.Thomas_Kocherry.pdf

Kerala Independent Fish Workers Federation

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

The Crisis of Small-scale Fishing in Latin America

Fishing is a risky activity per se. Hurricanes, storms, and rough waters are a constant hazard for the thousands of men and women whose livelihoods depend on the water. Yet political and economic forces on different levels currently present a more dramatic and far-reaching threat to small-scale fishing in the Global South. These forces constantly provoke territorial conflicts that make fishing waters a politically and ecologically turbulent terrain upon which multiple interests and actors collide.

On January 27, 2014, artisanal fishers and residents of the Chilean city of Arica waved black flags and marched throughout the city. They were “mourning the sea” after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague redrew the Chile-Peru maritime border. After six years of dispute between these two countries over their maritime boundaries, the ICJ ruled in favor of Peru and granted it about 21,000 square

kilometers of ocean territory formerly claimed by Chile. The ICJ’s decision, however, was followed by political turmoil that made visible other problems artisanal fishers face today such as the monopoly of fishing companies, the scarcity of fish, and the precariousness of the labor conditions. As a result, the situation of Arica’s fishers has become illustrative of a broader crisis that also impairs artisanal fishing throughout Latin America.

For the fishers of Arica, the ICJ’s decision meant what many are referring to as the “death” of the sea, given that part of the maritime territory where hundreds of men and women subsisted for decades will no longer be available to them. Yet this geopolitical dispute was not the only cause of the general discontent in Arica. In an interview for Radio Universidad de Chile, Nelson Estrada, a member of Consejo Nacional de Defensa de la Pesca, pointed out that the real concern beyond

the loss of maritime territory is the so called ‘Ley Longueira’—a recently approved law that favors the monopoly of large-scale fishing companies. According to Estrada, the fishing communities of Arica are subordinated to the monopoly and control of prices established by the Angelini Group, a very powerful company that also invests largely in mining, timber, and natural gas.

This type of conflict between artisanal fishers and large-scale fishing companies has provoked multiple protests well beyond Chile. In February 2014, artisanal fishers of Bahía Blanca, Argentina, denounced the critical effects of fishing trawlers—large commercial fishing vessels that drag nets through the water, known for disrupting the ecosystems on the ocean floor—on small-scale fisheries and the sustainability of fish fauna. The Argentinian state ruled in favor of artisanal fishers by revoking the license of two major fishing trawlers. Yet in doing so, the state unleashed a new strike on the part of local workers and unions whose livelihoods rely

on the resource extraction of fishing trawlers.

The unbalanced and unfair competition between artisanal fishers and large-scale extractive companies is a part of a complex crisis in which the ecological sustainability of water is also at stake. The expansion of large-scale industries such as oil exploitation, for instance, is becoming a major source of water contamination in fishing territories. That is the case of the Argentine oil firm Pluspetrol, which is responsible for the contamination of rivers and the dramatic pollution of the Shanshacocha lake in the Peruvian Amazon.

Source: <http://globalvoiceonline.org/2014/08/14/the-crisis-of-small-scale-fishing-in-latin-america/>

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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Frysian Inland Fishers Union

Formed in 1891 by 16 local fisher groups in The Netherlands, the main objective of the Friese Bond van Binnenvissers (the Frysian Inland Fishers Union) is to protect the interests of its members through advocacy and negotiation with the national and provincial governments and the water management board. Currently, the union, which is affiliated to the National Association of Inland Fishers, has 14 enterprises as members.

Among its major activities are: distribution of fishing rights; engaging in responsible and participative fisheries management; working on social and cultural valorization; shortening the market chain

and ensuring high-quality fish products; and entrepreneurial development or capacity building.

The union rents fishing rights from the provincial government and distributes

FRYSLAN

them among its members. When a fisher retires without a son or daughter to succeed him, the union allots the newly available fishing rights.

Based on an European Union directive, The Netherlands government developed an eel management plan, which, through a three-month closure of the fishery, aims to restore the

stock through 40 per cent escapement of adult silver eels into spawning grounds.

Lobbying and political pressure from the National Association of Inland Fishers for an alternative eel management plan during 2009-2011 led to a pilot project for decentralized eel management in Fryslan.

Instead of a three-month closure, fishing was permitted throughout the year under annual quotas managed by the union.

These management measures were taken up in consultation with recreational fishers’ organizations. An eel reserve has been set up in collaboration with an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO).

The union has also collaborated with scientists to collect and record data on catch and fishing effort.

FORCED LABOUR

MSC statement on forced labour

The Marine Stewardship Council Board has issued a statement condemning the use of forced labour, and has agreed to include a clear policy on the issue of forced labour within the future requirements of MSC certification.

Companies which have been successfully prosecuted for forced labour violations in the last two years will be out of scope of the MSC programme and will be ineligible for MSC certification.

For fisheries, this amendment will be included in the MSC fisheries certification requirements to be released in October.

For Chain of Custody certification, this addition has been incorporated into the revised Chain of Custody certification requirements, which opened for public consultation on 1 August as part of the Chain of Custody Programme Review.

Source: www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/msc-statement-on-forced-labour#sthash.zEzKL4.dpuf

FISHERIES FACTS

Fishers and Fish Farmers

Many millions of people around the world find a source of income and livelihood in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The most recent estimates indicate that 58.3 mn people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2012. Of these, 37 per cent were engaged full time, 23 per cent part-time, and the remainder were either occasional fishers or of unspecified status. In 2012, 84 per cent of all people employed in the fisheries and aquaculture sector were in Asia, followed by Africa (more than 10 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean (3.9 per cent). About 18.9 mn (more than 32 per cent of all people employed in the sector) were engaged in fish farming, concentrated primarily in Asia (more than 96 per cent), followed by Africa (1.6 per cent), and Latin America and the Caribbean (1.4 per cent).

In the period 2010–2012, at least 21 mn people (about 36 per cent of all those engaged in the overall sector) were capture fishers operating in inland waters, concentrated primarily in Asia (more than 84 per cent), followed by Africa (about 13 per cent). The above figures do not include people engaged in fish farming in inland waters as the employment statistics collected by FAO do not separate marine from freshwater aquaculture.

Historically (1990–2012), employment in the fisheries sector has grown faster than the world's population and than employment in the traditional

agriculture sector. The 58.3 mn fishers and fish farmers in 2012 represented 4.4 per cent of the 1.3 bn people economically active in the broad agriculture sector worldwide, compared with 2.7 and 3.8 per cent in 1990 and 2000, respectively.

However, the relative proportion of those engaged in capture fisheries within the fisheries and aquaculture sector decreased overall from 83 per cent in 1990 to 68 per cent in 2012, while that of those engaged in fish farming correspondingly increased from 17 to 32 per cent. At the global level, the number of people engaged in fish farming has, since 1990, increased at higher annual rates than that of those engaged in capture fisheries.

In the last two decades, the trends in the number of people engaged in the fisheries primary sector has varied by region. In percentage terms, Europe and North America, with very low population growth and decreasing economically active populations in the agriculture sector, have experienced the largest decrease in the number of people engaged in capture fishing, and little increase, or even a decrease, in those engaged in fish farming. These trends relate to the trends in production from capture fishing and aquaculture. In contrast, Africa and Asia, with higher population growth and growing economically active populations in the agriculture sector, have shown sustained increases in the number of people engaged in capture fishing and even higher rates

of increase in those engaged in fish farming. These trends in employment are also related to sustained increases in production from capture fisheries and even more so from aquaculture.

The Latin America and Caribbean region stands somewhere in between the tendencies already described, with a decreasing population growth, a decreasing economically active population in the agriculture sector in the last decade, moderately growing employment in the fisheries sector, decreasing capture production and rather high sustained aquaculture production. However, its vigorously growing aquaculture production may not result in an equally vigorously growing numbers of employed fish farmers as several of the important organisms cultivated in the region are aimed at satisfying foreign markets. Hence, efficiency, quality and lower costs rely more on technological developments than human labour.

According to the employment statistics for selected countries, including China, where more than 14 mn people (25 per cent of the world total) are engaged as fishers (16 per cent of the world total) and fish farmers (9 per cent of the world total).

In general, employment in fishing continues to decrease in capital-intensive economies, in particular in most European countries, North America and Japan. For example, in the period 1995–2012, the number of people employed in marine fishing decreased by 30 per cent in Iceland, by 42 per cent in Japan, and by 49 per cent in Norway. Factors that may account for this include: the

application of policies to reduce overcapacity in the fleets; and less dependence on human power owing to technological developments and associated increased efficiencies.

In addition to differences in per capita average outputs between aquaculture and capture fisheries, there are also regional differences.

The most populated regions—Africa and Asia—that together also account for the largest proportion (94 per cent or more) of fishers and fish farmers, show the lowest outputs with annual averages of about 1.8 and 2.0 tonnes per person per year, respectively.

Those figures contrast with annual average outputs of 24.0 and 20.1 tonnes per person in Europe and North America, respectively. Latin America and the Caribbean, with annual average outputs of 6.4–11.7 tonnes per person, lies somewhere between the aforementioned low- and high-output regions. To an extent, production per person reflects the higher degree of industrialization of fishing activities (for example, in Europe and North America) as well as the relative importance of small-scale operators, especially in Africa and Asia.

This contrast is more evident for aquaculture production. In 2011, the annual average production of fish farmers in Norway was 195 tonnes per person, compared with 55 tonnes in Chile, 25 tonnes in Turkey, 10 tonnes in Malaysia, about 7 tonnes in China, about 4 tonnes in Thailand, and only about 1 tonne in India and Indonesia. The information provided to FAO still lacks sufficient detail to allow full analyses by gender. However, based on the data available, it is estimated that, overall, women accounted for more than 15 per cent of all people directly engaged in the fisheries primary sector in 2012. The proportion of women exceeded 20 per cent in inland water fishing and is considered far more important, as high as 90 per cent, in secondary activities, such as processing.

Source: The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014, FAO

World fishers and fish farmers by region

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012
	(Thousands)					
Africa	2 392	4 175	4 430	5 027	5 250	5 885
Asia	31 296	39 646	43 926	49 345	48 926	49 040
Europe	530	779	705	662	656	647
Latin America and the Caribbean	1 503	1 774	1 907	2 185	2 231	2 251
North America	382	346	329	324	324	323
Oceania	121	126	122	124	128	127
World	36 223	46 845	51 418	57 667	57 514	58 272

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

The Value of African Fisheries. de Graaf, G. and Garibaldi, L. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular. No. 1093. Rome, FAO. 2014

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3917e.pdf>

This study was carried out in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-FAO Fisheries Programme (NFFP) funded by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida). It saw the participation of national experts from the Ministry/Department of Fisheries and National Bureau of Statistics in 23 African countries, three Regional Fishery Bodies (Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea [COREP], Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea [FCWC] and the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission [SWIOFC]), the NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (NPCA) and the International Partnership for African Fisheries Governance and Trade (PAF) programme.

An Activists' Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

http://www.cb dalliance.org/en/images/publications/AN_ACTIVISTS_GUIDE_TO_THE_CBD.pdf

This guide is intended to provide a simple and accessible introduction to the CBD and current efforts to protect biodiversity. It aims to reflect a range of views held by members of the CBD Alliance, and includes summaries of CBD materials and other resources.

Gap Analysis of National and Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Priorities and Initiatives in Southern and Eastern Africa in Respect to Climate Change and Disasters. Davies, S., Sheridan, S., Hjort, A. and Boyer, H. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1095. Rome, 2014.

Fisheries and fishing-dependent people are particularly vulnerable to disasters and climate-change impacts. The objective of this study was to identify regional and national gaps and opportunities to reduce the vulnerability of the sector to impacts from climate change and increase the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods to disasters.

Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change

<http://www.cinemapolitica.org/film/inuit-knowledge-and-climate-change>

Nunavut-based director Zacharias Kunuk (Atanarjuat The Fast Runner) and researcher and filmmaker Dr. Ian Mauro (Seeds of Change) have teamed up with Inuit communities to document their knowledge and experience regarding climate change. This new documentary, the world's first Inuktitut language film on the topic, takes the viewer "on the land" with elders and hunters to explore the social and ecological impacts of a warming Arctic. This unforgettable film helps us to appreciate Inuit culture and expertise regarding environmental change and indigenous ways of adapting to it.

FLASHBACK

Cracking the Code for Small-scale Fisheries

There is need for both an international instrument and a global programme to address the specific needs of the world's small-scale and artisanal fisheries

Should the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) be "opened up" to include a special Chapter on



small-scale artisanal fisheries? This was called for by the civil society organizations at the FAO's Global Conference on Small-scale

Fisheries (4SSF) in October 2008. The call was reiterated by civil society at the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 28).

The CCRF, while making several references to small-scale fisheries and fishworkers, does not provide specific guidance on how the small-scale artisanal subsector, which employs about 90 per cent of those engaged in fishing and fisheries-related activities, should be supported and promoted. The CCRF also lacks a gender perspective—especially to address the specific forms of discrimination faced by millions of women who are part of the fisheries worldwide, or to acknowledge the vital role they play at all levels. For civil society, these are areas that need urgent attention.

However, several delegations to COFI 28 opposed opening up the CCRF, which, it was argued, could prove to be a "Pandora's Box". If opened up for small-scale artisanal fisheries, then why not for other interests? While there was consensus on the need to support small-scale artisanal fisheries, there was no consensus on the best way to do so. Many Members expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries, which could comprise a new article in the Code, an international plan of action (IPOA) and/or the development of guidelines that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting. In addition, many Members called for the establishment of a new COFI Sub-Committee on small-scale fisheries. In the end, COFI 28 directed the FAO Secretariat to examine various options to carry these suggestions forward.

—from SAMUDRA Report No. 57, November 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

2nd World Small-scale Fisheries Congress

21-25 September 2014. Merida, Mexico

The congress' main theme is "Options and Opportunities for Small-scale Fisheries", with the following sub-themes: economic viability; livelihoods and well-being; ecosystem stewardship; rights and access; governance and governability; food security; and assessment and monitoring.

12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

6-17 October 2014. Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

The meeting will address the programme of work on marine coastal biodiversity, with specific reference to traditional knowledge in ecologically or biologically sensitive areas (EBSAs) and on marine spatial planning.

IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC)

12-19 November 2014. Sydney, Australia

One of the focus areas of this WPC is on marine and coastal protected areas. The stream sessions on enhancing diversity and quality of governance, respecting indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture, and supporting human life have a specific focus on marine and coastal protected areas.

WEBSITES

World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) www.worldfishers.org

The official Facebook page of the WFFP <https://www.facebook.com/worldfishers?fref=ts>

World Forum of Fish Harvestors and Fish Workers (WFF)

<http://www.worldfisherforum.org/>

The official Facebook page of the WFF <https://www.facebook.com/wff.fisher?fref=ts>



Endquote

With a View of the Sea

*October, and the sea this morning
rests its cheek against the quays;
the pattering upon the awning's
seeds of the acacia trees,
keeping a beat. The blazing sun
is hoisting up out of the sea
a piercing stare that doesn't burn,
just as the rowers sculling by
pierce the water, gazing up
at one far snowy mountaintop.*

—from *With a View of the Sea* by **Joseph Brodsky**,
translated from the Russian
by Glyn Maxwell and Zakhar Ishov

