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# SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



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**Portly Problems**

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**Blue Growth**

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**Implementing the SSF Guidelines**

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**Women Fishworkers**

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**Safety at Sea**

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**A Rights-based Approach to SSF**

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

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

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

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

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HARINI KUMAR

# SAMUDRA

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## FRONT COVER



"Half-moon Boat Coming Out of the Sea"

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

## BACK COVER



A young boy on a pirogue at Kayar fishing harbour, Senegal  
Photo by Mats Hellmark/Sveriges Natur  
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INFOSAMAK CENTER



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A fisherman sorting new fishing nets  
in Sri Lanka

# Looking beyond Fisheries

**The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) will help small-scale fishing communities**

This issue of *SAMUDRA Report* carries seven articles—including two extracts—that report on modest- to well-attended workshops for raising awareness and for supporting implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). They were held in different places—ranging from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific—within a time span of eight months during 2015-16 at the regional, national and local levels, and were organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional bodies, fisheries projects, national governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Nearly 600 participants representing various stakeholders from over 50 countries, mostly developing countries, attended these workshops.


The workshops saw the SSF Guidelines as a tool to eliminate the marginalization of small-scale fisheries actors at various levels. They highlighted the significance of a holistic and human-rights-based approach, a dimension not upheld in any fisheries instrument so far. Several examples of good practices were provided in relation to legal systems and institutional structures that can potentially support the implementation process.

While some of these workshops focused on the conservation and sustainable-use elements of the SSF Guidelines, others focused also on protecting individual and collective human rights, including the right to decent work of fishers and fishworkers, and migrant workers in fisheries. They also consciously brought in, for the first time, several social-development actors to interact with fisheries actors. Not only regional plans of action, but actions at the national and local levels were also proposed for the effective implementation of the Guidelines. These included decentralized management of coastal and inland fisheries at the local level, especially through

strengthening community-based systems, and developing plans of action for implementing the Guidelines at the regional and national levels with the active participation of organizations of small-scale artisanal fishing communities and indigenous peoples.

A significant departure from the past was the recognition of the importance of collaborating with non-fisheries institutions, including national human-rights institutions, towards implementing the recommendations of the Guidelines related to labour, social development, migration, rights and tenure aspects, and climate change—areas often outside the competence of fisheries authorities.

The Guidelines should, in the first place, act as a reference framework to guarantee preferential access rights to small-scale fisheries and to enable the participation of small-scale fisheries actors, including migrants, in institutional arrangements for sustainable fisheries. Secondly, the Guidelines should seek a balanced outcome and help reform fisheries and social legislation and policies at various levels to protect the right to life and livelihood of marginalized small-scale fishing communities and women in small-scale fisheries, within an ecosystem approach, a gender-sensitive approach and a human-rights-based approach. Thirdly, the Guidelines should assist in winning support from non-fisheries actors to help the social development of fishing communities, both within and outside the fisheries sector.

Towards reaching these goals, we strongly urge governments to take the lead in establishing regional and national plans of action to implement the SSF Guidelines by making space for both State and non-State actors in a consultative and participative manner, upholding the principles of accountability, rule of law and transparency. Such a move—which goes beyond the immediate bounds of ‘fisheries’—can trigger an irreversible process of undoing the marginalization of small-scale fishing communities in different parts of the world. 



# A Casual Approach

By taking on board the concerns of a fishing community in Hazira, India, regarding the construction of a port, the National Green Tribunal has set an important precedent

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In 2013, a fishermen's group in Hazira—the Hazira Machimar Samiti—and three affected fishermen had filed a petition against the Adanis, the project proponent of the port at Hazira, in Surat district in the south-western Indian state of Gujarat, as well as against the governmental bodies that granted environmental clearance to the project proponent. The case was filed in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as, since 2010, cases relating to environment protection are exclusively dealt with by this tribunal for 'effective and expeditious' disposal of cases. The Tribunal has the powers of any other civil court in the country

damages caused by the project proponent.

The key issues that were considered by the court in this case were whether the 2013 environment clearance itself "suffered from any illegality, impropriety or irregularities" and whether there is an actual threat of restriction of access due to expansion. While unravelling answers to these questions, the court also looked into the extent of environmental destruction that was caused due to the whole project. What started as an issue of the fishermen's access to the sea led to questions of the project's compliance to environmental clearance conditions, the process followed by the government in giving clearances to the project and the environmental impacts of the project. A fine of Rs 25 crores (3.7 mn US\$) was imposed on the project proponent to be used for restoration of the environment, and the environmental clearance that was given for the expansion of the project was set aside. The court also gave further orders to look into the compliance of forest-related conditions of the 2003 environment clearance.

**The basic challenge that the petitioners put forth was on the environmental clearance given for the expansion of the port by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**

and can provide for relief and compensation for damages to person and property. The case was heard by the NGT's western zone bench in Pune and on 8 January 2016, the judgment was finally delivered.

There are about 80 families in the village of Hazira engaged in fishing using traditional boats. These boats sailed into sea through a creek, at the opening of which now sits the Hazira port. The fishermen fear that if the port is expanded anymore, they will lose access to this creek. The port was developed in phases since 2003 after it was granted environmental clearance, and the petitioners claimed that this had already caused massive environmental damage to the surroundings. They demanded restoration costs for the environmental

## Basic challenge

The basic challenge that the petitioners put forth was on the environmental clearance given for the expansion of the port by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The court, made it unambiguous that the question of legality of the environment clearance, the sole defendant is the MoEFCC. This is because while the project proponent put forth the necessary documents, the onus is on the Ministry to examine them carefully, ask for

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verifications and impose necessary conditions. As a central ministry that examines high-impact projects whose environmental impacts are usually multiple and widespread, the Ministry's performance is not only a question for rule of law but for the wellbeing of the environment and citizens.

For the environment and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance granted in 2013, the procedural path taken was traced back by the court. Since clearances are granted on the basis of recommendations from an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) that is constituted by the Central government, the minutes of these meetings were looked at by the court. While the recommendations given by the EAC are not binding on the Ministry, the Court assessed the time spent by the Committee on discussing and understanding the impacts of the project, and on whether facts had been verified by the Committee. The court, after appraising the minutes, remarked on the 'casual approach' taken by the EAC on recommending the grant of clearance.

The arguments made in the case clearly bring to light the fact that the MoEFCC had not considered various factors while granting clearance. The necessary permissions that are required while handling hazardous materials were neither taken by the company nor sought by the MoEFCC. The discussions regarding the project also ignored examining the possible impact of the effluent pipeline of the project on the marine life in the area.

It is almost as if a pre-decided approach was taken by the government regarding this expansion, and the procedures were touched upon merely as a matter of formality. The Ministry, which should have prioritized the protection of environmental resources and minimising of the impacts of such projects, had gone easy on a large-scale infrastructural project which is more than capable of bearing the monetary cost of environmental compliance.

Regarding the issue of access, maps submitted by the petitioners were superimposed with earlier maps to understand the landscape changes caused by the project. This showed clear evidence that the creek had narrowed since the project construction began. Though it was contended that no public consultation held to discuss the impacts of re-alignment of a railway line undertaken for the project and there were at least two critically endangered species in the area—the white back vultures and long-billed vultures, these issues were not dealt by the court in detail.

While the compliance of the environment clearance of 2003 per se was not considered by the court, it looked at the issue of compliance of conditions regarding compensatory afforestation of mangroves. The court considered the evidence provided by the petitioners in the form of maps and compared it with the clearance conditions. It also accepted the affidavit of the Deputy Conservator of the Forests, stating that the area once had mangroves in abundance while

NILESH VASAVA



Fisherfolk protesting against the port project at Hazira, Gujarat, India.

The fishermen fear that if the port is expanded anymore, they will lose their access to the creek

there was no mangrove vegetation now.

The 2003 clearance had imposed the condition that the mandatory compensatory afforestation for an area of 450 ha would be taken up by the project proponent. In 2007 this got modified to 200 ha, through 'official communication' to the company. This bypassing of conditions by diluting it later on without giving any 'substantial reasons' for such changes makes the entire process of grant of conditional approvals seem like a redundant exercise.

Though the legality of the environmental clearance given in 2003 was beyond the scope of this case, it does come into light that there were substantial changes that were made to the layout of the port in 2007. An affidavit that was given by the respondent company itself reveals this. It was found that the company had proceeded with expansion work after 2007 in the absence of necessary environment and coastal regulation clearance.

It also became clear from the records available to the court through the Ministry's affidavit dated 5 March 2015 that the MoEFCC did not monitor the compliance of the project nor did it evaluate its performance while considering the environment clearance of 2013. This raises a pertinent question of the past performance of the companies being an indicator of their future performance. How could the approval of expansion of a project not be based on the existing project details? While looking at granting an 'environment clearance', should not one of the basic criteria be compliance with previous conditions? Deterrence to environmental violations can come about only when the non-compliance to environmental conditions has adverse consequences.

While a standalone petition asking for access to fishing would have resulted in limited remedies, bringing together all the elements that affect the community and the environment ensured that the remedies given were more encompassing. Also substantiating the issues along with

reliable evidence strengthened the case. For example, the claims made by the fishermen on the restriction of access were supported by maps.

The hefty fine imposed by the court for restoration was due to the cumulative environmental impacts that have to be dealt with. A standalone petition asking for access to fishing would have resulted in limited remedies. Bringing together all the elements that affect the community and the environment ensured that the remedies given were more encompassing. It is also, however, important to show the relevance of each plea with respect to the remedy asked for, and ensure, as far as possible, that these claims are presented with reliable evidence. Claims made by the fishermen on the restriction of access were supported by maps. While the court did not examine in detail most conditions of the initial environmental clearance of 2003 that were raised, the destruction of mangroves was examined in detail.

Even though the case is now being heard at the apex court of the country due to an appeal, the judgment is an important precedent as the fishing community's voices were heard and the subject of environmental non-compliance by large projects and their consequences have been placed in the spotlight. Moreover, the project proponent has reportedly paid the fine amount of Rs 25 crore imposed by the National Green Tribunal, as per the apex court's orders. Large-scale land-use transformations usually leave certain sections of society more vulnerable to the effects of such changes, and their opinions are usually not heard, sometimes noted but mostly not accounted for. A robust and outcome-based environmental compliance and monitoring system can reduce or mitigate the impacts of land-use change. It needs to be built and upheld as a critical rule of law issue for these times.

**For more**



[www.greentribunal.gov.in/](http://www.greentribunal.gov.in/)

**National Green Tribunal**

# Sailing from a Good Port

A Central American regional workshop on the SSF Guidelines, held in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, in December 2015 sought commitment to take forward the Guidelines in a binding manner

The adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication has been of great importance for small-scale fishers worldwide. Fishers in Central America as a region, with the support of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and the Cooperative for Social Solidarity (CoopeSoliDar R.L.) started a discussion on how to move towards the implementation of this important instrument at a regional workshop in Puntarenas, the central port on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, on 1–3 December 2015.

The Workshop was attended by about 30 participants from the Central American region. Fishers and fishers' organizations from Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panamá were present. There was also participation from the FAO, represented by John Jorgensen, Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer, FAO Sub-regional Office for Mesoamerica, Panama and Octavio Ramirez, FAO Representative in Costa Rica.

The implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the regional level would require creative and innovative action where dialogue, strategic alliances, negotiation, consensus and commitment would be needed to make it a reality. So the Workshop was an important milestone in this context.

Gustavo Meneses, Executive President, Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPESCA), Costa Rica, mentioned at the regional workshop's opening: "If you are here now, it is due to the fact that you had great struggles in the past—struggles for

assuring a better life, struggles for wanting to see a healthier sea and struggles for wanting to improve the livelihood of your fishing communities. To be here today means to recognize that there are still a lot of people along our coasts who are struggling for food, medicines and other needs". He highlighted how small-scale fishers together with the indigenous peoples have succeeded in placing the SSF Guidelines within the framework of the Costa Rican government policy for implementation.

The general objective of the Central American workshop was to

**"If you are here now, it is due to the fact that you had great struggles in the past..."**

move towards a plan of action for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Central American region. The following specific objectives formed the basis for the discussions during the workshop:

- Integrate the efforts of civil society organizations of small-scale fisheries, indigenous peoples and fishers, and the Confederation of Artisanal Fishers of Central America (CONFEPESCA) for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Define priorities at the regional level for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Define a roadmap to ensure progress toward the main strategies defined for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

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- Support organizations of civil society and artisanal fishers in capacity building and policy making geared to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

The workshop began by recalling that prior to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines, meetings were held in the Central American region, namely, in Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and El Salvador with the support of the ICSF. A regional meeting was also held in Tárcoles, Costa Rica.

There was general agreement among the participants that the SSF Guidelines marked a path for the development of a process that would help eradicate poverty and reduce marginalization of the most vulnerable sectors in the small-scale fisheries of Central America.

The proposals prepared by the artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen and other representatives at the regional workshop were important inputs for negotiations at the meeting of the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Central America (OSPESCA) that took place in El Salvador during 15–16 December 2015, where agreements for regional implementation of the SSF Guidelines were developed.

The priorities for the regions were: governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management, social development and employment, gender equity, addressing risks from natural disasters and climate change, capacity development, and monitoring and control.

For each priority, fishers suggested clearly-defined actions and discussed the possible limitations in implementation efforts. The priority actions defined for each subject are discussed below:

#### **Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management**

Priority actions:

- Create the ideal mechanism to implement the SSF Guidelines and develop a strategic plan led by OSPESCA and supervised by CONFEPESCA.

- Seek information on resources that form the basis of the SSF Guidelines.
- Respect the views and knowledge of local communities and organizations of fishers, and take them into account, prior to the adoption or establishment of marine protected areas and continental reserves.
- Encourage the authorities to adopt in principle the concept of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, within the legal framework.

#### **Social development and employment**

Priority actions:

- Recognize the importance of the small-scale fisheries sector for the region's economy and food security.
- Create a mechanism for social and financial support to fishing communities.
- Bring fishers within the ambit of medical insurance, pension, old-age benefit and financial credit.
- Create a legal framework for the social and economic development of fishing communities in their territories through replicable pilot models. This legal framework should factor in the implementation of all aspects of the SSF Guidelines.

#### **Gender equality**

Priority actions:

- Identify communities where the role of women in the fishing sector is relevant for the fishing culture and value chain (for example, New Armenia and La Ceiba, Honduras).
- Conduct a regional meeting to define strategies for action.
- Review and follow up the meeting on women in fisheries conducted in El Salvador.

#### **Addressing risks from natural disasters and climate change**

Priority actions:

- Demonstrate that the small-scale fisheries sector is the most vulnerable to climate change.
- Prepare a regional project on small-scale fisheries and climate

change, prioritizing coastal areas and islands and continental water bodies.

- iii. Disseminate to the communities the reasons for, and the effects of, climate change.
- iv. Prepare a programme for the adaptation to climate change.
- v. Identify communities that have been, or will be, directly affected by climate change to generate grants to support them.

### **Capacity development for fishers and their organizations**

Priority actions:

- i. Impart training for young fishermen in education, politics, biology and technology.
- ii. Establish a training centre for artisanal fishing.
- iii. Help fishermen strengthen their identity.
- iv. Encourage fisherwomen to fight for gender equality.
- v. Train fishermen in leadership skills, in acquiring knowledge of national and international legal frameworks, including the SSF Guidelines, and also prepare literacy programmes adjusted to the schedules of the fishermen, and impart knowledge of computing, administration and accounting.
- vi. Produce radio programmes to train fishermen in the above mentioned issues.

### **Monitoring and control**

Priority actions:

- i. Create programmes that discuss the legal framework in each fishing country, perhaps via the radio.
- ii. Publicize the SSF Guidelines at all levels (in communities and with all the relevant authorities and institutions).
- iii. Teach federations of fishermen to manage economic resources.
- iv. In the context of implementation of these priority actions, the fishers discussed several important limitations: lack of vision towards sustainable use of marine resources, mega development projects that affect fishermen and their communities, lack of will

on the part of governments, lack of economic resources, lack of organization at the community level, and finally, the lack of qualified personnel (fishermen who are prepared to discuss and create the necessary legal framework). The fishers also said that change in authority makes it difficult to implement the proposed actions, and there are also difficulties in training on the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

In the context of social development and employment, they rued the lack of political and moral will on the part of the authorities, which makes it difficult to implement actions at a regional level.

They also considered gender-oriented actions difficult in the follow-up and dissemination of the priority actions. For instance, OSPESCA held a meeting on gender and small-scale fisheries, which did not have any follow-up and very little has been done to date.

The fishers were also concerned about the absence of resources for programmes of adaptation to climate change, specifically for fishing communities, and the unwillingness of the governments to prioritize the sector. In this sense, they felt, the SSF Guidelines provide a good effort to turn the focus of attention of the authorities to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Perhaps the most important agreement of the regional workshop was to request the Central American States to make a commitment to take the SSF Guidelines forward in a binding manner by adopting a regional plan of implementation. OSPESCA representatives and the governmental authorities who participated in the regional workshop left with a clear mandate of informing the El Salvador OSPESCA meeting of the discussions and recommendations from this important fishers' regional workshop.

#### **For more**

[www.coopesolidar.org/](http://www.coopesolidar.org/)

**CoopeSoliDar**

[www.sica.int/ospesca/](http://www.sica.int/ospesca/)

**Ospesca**

# Towards Blue Growth

**A consultation workshop on East Africa recognized that, if applied well, the principles of the SSF Guidelines can advance small-scale fisheries in the region**

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**T**he East Africa Consultation Workshop on improving small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication, hosted by the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during 15–18 September 2015. The workshop was attended by 38 participants from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, and included representatives of governments, regional organizations/regional fishery bodies (RFBs), civil society organizations (CSOs)/non-state actors, NGOs, research institutions, academia,

fishers and fishworkers in the region and contribute substantially to food security and livelihoods through their role in providing nutritious food and generating local and national incomes. Inland fisheries are particularly important in many countries of the region. There are many aquatic resources, including freshwater and marine resources that are shared by two or several countries, and the regional aspects of small-scale fisheries are hence important.

The workshop noted the many already ongoing initiatives, good practices and opportunities for supporting small-scale fisheries in the region. Some important activities had already taken place (for example, consultation meetings in Tanzania and Somalia, and a regional meeting for non-state actor organizations convened by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (AU-IBAR/NPCA). Yet, there are many challenges and constraints to address before secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries are a reality. Accordingly, the workshop called upon all stakeholders to promote the application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines at all levels. The role of CSOs was particularly emphasized and the need to collaborate with governments stressed.

**The workshop acknowledged the comprehensiveness of the SSF Guidelines as well as the need to take a holistic and human-rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development.**

other relevant actors as well as FAO staff and resource persons.

The overall objective of the workshop was to facilitate the understanding of the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and their application in order to support sustainable small-scale fisheries and 'blue growth'. During the workshop, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through country and topical presentations, and discussed priorities and actions for implementing the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels.

The workshop noted that small-scale fisheries employ the bulk of

## Comprehensive

The workshop acknowledged the comprehensiveness of the SSF Guidelines as well as the need to take a holistic and human-rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development. The links between the SSF Guidelines and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure

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of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were also acknowledged and their relevance to fisheries noted.

The workshop recognized that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should be anchored at the local and national levels but that regional attention and support would also be required to address trans-boundary fisheries-related issues. The role of the African Union (AU) and the work done by AU-IBAR/NPCA on developing an African Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture was appreciated. This strategy includes a thematic area on sustainable small-scale fisheries development, with specific reference to the SSF Guidelines. The importance of the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) was acknowledged, as also the need for strengthened collaboration among concerned countries with regard to other shared resources.

The workshop proposed key priority areas of action to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes included:

- Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resources management (chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines): Securing tenure for small-scale fishing communities with regard to fishery resources and land needs to be ensured. Land-use legislation to contain provisions for consultations with all stakeholders, specifically including small-scale fisheries actors, and land-use plans should be developed with the involvement of small-scale fishers and fishworkers.
- Existing zones and preferential access arrangements for small-scale fisheries need to be protected. Participatory enforcement mechanisms should be developed, building on existing good practices in the region.
- The capacity and organizations of small-scale fisheries actors need to be strengthened so that they can effectively participate in decision-making processes relating to small-scale fisheries governance. Also, structures for co-management and shared decision making need to be established/strengthened at all levels.
- There is a need for harmonization of policy frameworks and fishery regulations on shared water bodies and for shared fishery resources. Management plans should be developed accordingly and experiences from other parts of Africa shared.
- Inter-ministerial collaboration—as well as coordination with other actors—on small-scale fisheries governance and development is needed. A first practical step towards establishing a structure for such collaboration and coordination at the national level could be for the fisheries authority to request an inter-ministerial technical consultative meeting.
- The application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as a model for developing small-scale fisheries management should be promoted. Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (chapter 6+8 of the SSF Guidelines) should be addressed.
- Access to amenities, facilities and services for small-scale fishing communities should be improved as part of fulfilling basic human and social needs. Existing regional information should be analyzed to improve this. Linkages with relevant government agencies, mobilization of community action and lobbying by CSOs in this respect will be required.
- The current focus of fisheries management should be shifted to a more people-focused approach to small-scale fisheries governance. Small-scale fisheries actors should be part of relevant processes, fisheries management structures should allow for their effective participation and small-scale fisheries organizations strengthened to ensure true representation at all levels.

- The availability of financial services and insurance schemes for small-scale fisheries actors should be enhanced, based on assessed needs of small-scale fisheries, strengthening fisher groups, and facilitating communication regarding the use and need for financial instruments between fisheries actors and banks. Relevant good practices, including the development of small and medium enterprises, should be shared across the region.
- The poor standard of living (often), lack of decent working conditions and discriminatory policies need to be addressed, including through the professionalization of small-scale fisheries, compliance with existing labour instruments and guidance, such as safety at sea, occupational safety and health (OSH) regulations, and capacity development of fishers. At the regional level, harmonized operationalization of safety-at-sea/security instruments, including adoption of ILO Work in Fishing Convention, and IMO standards for training, should be promoted.
- Efforts should be made to build entrepreneurial capacity for alternative and complementary livelihood opportunities to help reduce the vulnerability of small-scale fisheries actors and mitigate their reliance on fisheries as the main source of income.
- Compliance with, and implementation of, existing gender instruments needs to be strengthened, including through empowerment of, and affirmative action for, women. Value chains, post-harvest and trade (chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines) should be addressed.
- Improved landing, processing and marketing infrastructures (including access roads) and enhanced data collection and information systems need to be established for promoting equal market access for small-scale fisheries actors. Fishery-related trade laws need to be reviewed and harmonized in the region.
- Fish value chain actors should be actively involved in decision-making processes and representative forums, inclusive of all small-scale fisheries value chain actors, need to be established.
- Women, and vulnerable and marginalized groups should be fully engaged in a dignified and respected manner, and their contribution to small-scale fisheries recognized. Access to market information and amenities, capacity building—including on technical skills and social awareness—should be provided to these groups.
- Appropriate infrastructure for small-scale fisheries needs to be developed, post-harvest losses reduced to a minimum and value addition enhanced. Bottlenecks and opportunities should be identified and capacity building with respect to fish handling, processing, value addition and marketing promoted.
- Enabling regulations, guidelines and harmonized fish product quality standards should be promoted to provide an enabling environment. Disaster risks and climate change (Chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) must be addressed.
- Small-scale fisheries actors need to leverage existing climate-change strategies within their countries to have access to funds and insurance for climate-change adaptation, and their needs should be integrated in disaster-risk and climate-change studies, policies and action plans.
- To realize the proposed actions, broad collaboration and support are needed from governments, national and regional organizations including RFBS, and other actors. This will require raising awareness and political will. The workshop identified the next steps to promote collaboration and make progress on SSF Guidelines implementation at the national and regional levels. Some were identified as immediate follow-up in 2015 such as raising awareness and dissemination of the SSF Guidelines at all levels, and introducing SSF Guidelines as agenda in other meetings and events; workshop results to be

presented at AU-IBAR/NPCA ‘Think tank meeting on governance and management of small-scale fisheries in the African context and its contribution to the African agricultural transformation agenda’; RFBs to submit the SSF Guidelines to statutory bodies for consideration, adoption and monitoring of implementation; translation of the SSF guidelines into national/local languages by the governments or simplified version as appropriate; sharing the guidelines by CSOs; organize World Fisheries Day celebrations to promote the principles of the SSF Guidelines.

### **Beyond 2015:**

- Workshop participants should organize, in collaboration with partners and small-scale fisheries actors, national workshops to raise awareness on the SSF Guidelines and to initiate the establishment of national-level multi-stakeholder platforms.
- The AU-IBAR/NPCA should report on the workshop results and follow-up actions at the national level at the next Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CAMFA) meeting in 2016.
- The AU-IBAR/NPCA in collaboration with the FAO, should organize consultative workshops in other African regions along the lines of this Eastern African workshop. The AU-IBAR/NPCA should also continue to support SSF Guidelines implementation at the continental level, including regional activities identified by the workshop, as appropriate and required, and continued engagement in the non-state actor platform.
- RFBs should support the celebrations of the World Fisheries Day at the regional level by organizing a follow-up event with a view to evaluate progress and further disseminate information on small-scale fisheries.
- RFBs should support experience sharing and communication among stakeholders and actors in the region.
- Governments, RFBs and CSOs should investigate possible partnerships and develop proposals for funding by development partners.
- Governments and RFBs should report on progress with regard to SSF Guidelines implementation to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Sub-Committee on fish trade.
- Governments should initiate or continue the alignment of policies with the principles of the SSF Guidelines and develop national plans of action to ensure their implementation.
- CSOs should support the strengthening of small-scale fisheries actor organizations at local and national levels across the region.
- The ‘Too Big To Ignore’ (TBTI) research network should engage with small-scale fisheries stakeholders in the region. Governments and other stakeholders are advised to communicate research needs to the TBTI.
- Ongoing and planned regional and national projects (like SMARTFISH) should be encouraged to integrate or continue their efforts to promote the SSF Guidelines implementation in their work plans.
- FAO should continue to provide technical support, including with regard to raising awareness and implementation planning processes, and the development and dissemination of information and communication materials.

### **For more**



[rea.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AU-IBAR%20-%20Fisheries%20Policy%20Framework%20and%20Reform%20Strategy.pdf](http://rea.au.int/en/sites/default/files/AU-IBAR%20-%20Fisheries%20Policy%20Framework%20and%20Reform%20Strategy.pdf)

### **AU-IBAR - Fisheries Policy Framework and Reform Strategy, NEPAD**

[www.nepad.org/system/files/CAMFA%20-%20Theme,%20sub-themes,%20aims%20and%20objectives.pdf](http://www.nepad.org/system/files/CAMFA%20-%20Theme,%20sub-themes,%20aims%20and%20objectives.pdf)

### **The Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries & Aquaculture (CAMFA)**

# Looking Ahead

## The regional conference on 'Building a Future for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea'

The regional conference on 'Building a Future for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea', held at Algiers, Algeria during 7–9 March 2016, was attended by over 200 participants, including policymakers, scientists, practitioners, fishers' representatives, fishworkers, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, international organizations, among others.

The conference was organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the

### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

In the light of the UN Sustainable Development Goals which, among other issues, stress the importance of providing access for small-scale artisanal fisheries to marine resources and markets, the importance of the regional conference on 'Building a Future for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea' was acknowledged. Widespread support was expressed by conference participants for the conference objectives to raise awareness, share knowledge and devise future strategy to promote this crucial fishing sector.

In particular, the following general proposals were made:

- Tailor implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to the Mediterranean and Black Sea context and provide support to GFCM contracting parties in the implementation of these guidelines.
- Launch a comprehensive and region-wide survey to develop accurate, timely and complete baseline data on the value and economic impact of small-scale fisheries, with a view to ultimately informing policy interventions.
- Launch wide-ranging consultations, including a mechanism for the sustainable development of the small-scale fishing sector and specific actions to develop a coordinated policy to support this sector. To this end, implement a joint regional strategy which builds on existing regional networks and platforms and promotes a level playing field

**The conclusions are put forth to urge actions in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.**

Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including its Mediterranean regional projects, in collaboration with the Algerian Ministry for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries and in partnership with CIHEAM-Bari, MedPAN and WWF.

The following conclusions have been developed based on the outcomes of the regional conference. The conclusions are put forth to urge actions in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. They are grouped, first, under a cluster of general and transversal proposals and, next, under five clusters relating to the specific thematic sessions of the conference.

*This article is based on the Conclusions Document, of the Regional Conference on 'Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea', brought out by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)*

throughout the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

- Develop a regional programme aimed at providing support and technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, in order to build capacity in the field of small-scale fisheries. Carry out, at the national level, where necessary, an analysis of legislation and institutional mechanisms which ensure the full participation of small-scale fishers in all activities regarding the sustainable development of the sector (development of alternative activities, co-management, financial support, labelling, traceability, right to decent work, social protection, etc.). Build the political will to invest in small-scale fisheries as a crucial tool to transform fisheries management, particularly within the context of the Blue Growth initiative and the implementation of the reformed EU Common Fisheries Policy. It was suggested that the GFCM member countries, the European Commission and FAO provide joint leadership in this regard (that is, through the organization of a high-level event). Disseminate the conclusions of the regional conference on 'Building a Future for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea' to relevant international meetings, such as GFCM regular sessions, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and relevant European Union (EU) meetings.

#### SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS OF THE PANELS PANEL I

Supporting the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea under the Blue Growth perspective:

In the light of discussions held at the panel, it is proposed to: Develop indicators to measure the economic and social impact of small-scale fishing, both in quantitative and qualitative terms. In particular, efforts should be made to estimate not only the value of the output produced by such fishing and its economic impact on coastal

communities in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, but also the impact of small-scale fishing on related sectors such as fish processing and tourism. Furthermore, an analysis of the interaction of small-scale fishing with other sectors, particularly those also engaged in Blue Growth strategies (in marine transportation, oil and gas, tourism, etc.) is needed for a better understanding of both the wider economic and social impacts of small-scale fishing, as well as the risks these other sectors may pose to small-scale fishing communities. Examine the economic impact of small-scale fishing under different exploitation arrangements with a view to identifying circumstances under which this activity might generate an investable surplus and undertake studies to estimate the potential size of this surplus. Similarly, efforts should be made to identify points of entry for technological, management, marketing and policy interventions that would facilitate the above mentioned favourable circumstances. Identify relevant parameters—having acknowledged the need to develop a common definition of small-scale fisheries—for the classification of 'small-scale fishing' in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, based on relevant regional characteristics (dimension of the vessel, gear used, activities of non-vessel based fisheries, etc.) and in relation to the harvested resources. Disseminate information on the effectiveness of the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) and promote its use as a data collection tool for small-scale fishing. Provide technical assistance in the practical application of the DCRF in the collection of standardized data on small-scale fishing in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Produce a desk study on the social protection systems and national legislations in place and available to small-scale fishers in the Mediterranean and Black Sea riparian States, with a view to identifying and promoting the most successful options. Identify policy interventions which facilitate income and livelihood diversification for

small-scale fishers. In particular, efforts should be made to identify opportunities for crossover between the small-scale fishing and small-scale aquaculture sectors.

Develop, in collaboration with GFCM members, a pilot programme that would test ways to better integrate small-scale fisheries into a Blue Growth approach, as well as better integrate small-scale fisheries in the decision-making processes of other sectors whose Blue Growth activity may have an impact on small-scale fisheries.

#### PANEL II

Strengthening the role of stakeholders in the context of management and co-management schemes:

In the light of discussions held at the panel, the following actions are proposed: Conduct an analysis to assess national and international legal frameworks with a view to identifying institutional contexts that allow for the establishment of small-scale fisheries co-management schemes and with a view to defining general rules for the engagement and compliance of small-scale fishers with these schemes. Prepare best practice guidelines for the enforcement of small-scale fisheries co-management schemes in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Such guidelines should be linked directly to the SSF Guidelines and, in addition to providing advice on the institutional and legislative context, should provide direction for the elaboration and implementation of participatory processes, co-management settings and tools, approaches for monitoring, control and surveillance schemes and indicators to monitor the effectiveness of management measures. Provide support to currently ongoing co-management processes in the Mediterranean and build commitment for their multiplication across the region. A regional programme, based on a solid institutional framework and building on existing experiences and partnerships, should be established to offer a longer-term vision on how co-management can

benefit small-scale fisheries at the regional scale. Map fishing activities in order to provide relevant information to be integrated into marine spatial planning processes. Such processes are crucial to securing tenure rights and access to the resources for small-scale fishers, and thus ensuring livelihoods and the sustainable development of communities reliant on small-scale fisheries. The GFCM, on behalf of its member countries, should advocate for this issue at a high level with the European Commission, prior to the commencement of the marine spatial planning processes. Establish a capacity-building programme devoted to supporting stakeholder roles in small-scale fisheries co-management and tailored to different targets (institutional, marine protected areas administration, local administrations, natural and social scientists, civil society, small-scale fishers and other resource users).

#### PANEL III

Improving the efficiency of marine protected areas (MPAs) as fisheries management tools and benefits from involving the small-scale fisheries sector:

In the light of discussions held at the panel, it is proposed to:

- Adapt and draw lessons from the experience of MPAs with no-take zones and regulated buffer zones that have been successful in involving fishers in management decisions and in processes that safeguard wild resources, while also preserving the livelihoods upon which small-scale fishers depend. Given the socioeconomic benefits obtained by small-scale fishers in these exemplary MPAs, learning from such cases would provide guidance on how to sustain economic, social and cultural aspects of the profession. To support replication of these successful MPAs, adequate legal frameworks, political will and financial and human capital would be required.
- Replicate examples of collaboration at the inter- and intra-ministerial

level that demonstrate the successful management of small-scale fisheries in and around MPAs when working 'hand in hand'. Such integrative models could encourage top-down and bottom-up processes in many riparian countries for securing the future sustainability of the profession, while also providing international technical guidance.

- Improve the management of MPAs, including multiple-use MPAs, by relying on the scientific and traditional knowledge of fishers, by involving concerned users/stakeholders and by using adaptive approaches. To this end:
  - tailor management in the light of the outcomes of long-term comparative monitoring of biological features, ecological effects of small-scale fisheries and socioeconomic benefits in and outside MPAs;
  - develop adaptive participatory approaches for management plans for small-scale fisheries in and around MPAs, based on biological and socioeconomic data, which could be jointly formulated, implemented and revised by MPA practitioners and fishers;
  - adopt regulations to overcome conflicting uses of MPAs which could have a negative impact on the livelihood of small-scale fisheries, having regard to relevant conservation objectives; and
  - consider participative management, in cases of use conflicts, specifically those between small-scale fisheries and recreational fisheries, to create a balance between the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and, where applicable, the sustainable development of responsible tourism, so as to achieve conservation objectives.
- Consider conservation efforts, and MPAs in particular, as an investment in natural capital rather than as a public expenditure. Efforts should be

made to protect this investment from risks, such as conflicting marine-based activities and land-based pollution.

- Safeguard the small-scale fisheries sector in and around MPAs, including by setting up cooperatives, through strategies that are integrated in development plans devised by local authorities and that provide a market edge in favour of responsible and sustainable fisheries practices.

#### PANEL IV

Enhancing small-scale fisheries value chains:

In the light of discussions held at the panel, it is proposed to: Identify best practices for value creation, especially in the fields of labelling, direct sale, processing, diversification, inter-sectoral integration and vertical coordination. Additional case studies should be carried out to further examine such best-practice interventions and to promote their replication in various Mediterranean and Black Sea contexts. Model successful value chains, particularly in cases where clustering of various coastal economic activities occur, to identify entry points for innovation and to better understand the scope for fisher cooperation in resource management and in product marketing. Establish a capacity-building programme to support stakeholder roles in the creation of cooperatives, formulation of agreements with public and private institutions, development of partnerships and projects for coastal development. Better study and analysis of issues related both to credit and financial institution support. Public institutions should provide basic infrastructures and services to foster value chains and to prevent market failure. Access to formal finance is a crucial concern. This includes access to both formal credit for capital expenses and financing for fishing operations. Facilities and financial products can be developed in partnership with banks for medium- to long-term investment. Formal financing schemes (production

contracts, storage receipts) can be applied with the participation of fishers, traders and public authorities.

#### PANEL V

Putting the principles of the SSF Guidelines into practice: The case of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

The SSF Guidelines constitute an important tool for supporting actions to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. These guidelines take a holistic perspective on the needs of small-scale fisheries and recognize that the implementation of these guidelines will necessarily be cross-sectoral. With a view to adapting these guidelines to the regional context, key elements to operationalize the principles of the SSF guidelines were explored: (i) policy and legal frameworks, (ii) main stakeholders, (iii) institutional structures, (iv) key entry points and (v) collaboration with other initiatives. The panel noted the importance of action at the local level and the need for effective participation of fishing communities. There are already positive developments taking place in the region in support of the SSF Guidelines implementation. For example, the existence of regional organizations and platforms such as the Maghreb Platform for sustainable small-scale fisheries, the Mediterranean Platform of Artisanal Fishers (MedArtNet), Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and the Mediterranean Advisory Council (MEDAC), and the development of national policies and initiatives (for example, Aquapêche 2020 in Algeria, SSF national action plan proposals in EU countries).

In the light of discussions held at the panel, it is proposed to:

- Establish a GFCM working group on small-scale fisheries to facilitate the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the GFCM region by developing national action plans and taking into account recommendations from relevant events and existing experience within the region and beyond.

- Strengthen the GFCM engagement with small-scale fishing communities by establishing a mechanism for supporting organizational development and agreeing on a modus operandi for meaningful collaboration. In particular, FAO's work on small-scale fisheries should be taken into account and special efforts should be made to collaborate with existing small-scale fisheries organizations and platforms, as well as to include women and marginalized groups in such collaborations.
- Promote, without compromising environmental sustainability, the improvement of socioeconomic conditions within small-scale fisheries, particularly through the promotion of livelihood diversification as appropriate, and the endorsement of the principle of decent work, as defined by the Work in Fishing Convention (C188) of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Furthermore, ratification of this Convention by GFCM member countries should be encouraged.
- Promote and facilitate the development of a forum for small-scale fisheries associations of northern and southern Mediterranean riparian countries, particularly through specific projects financed by member countries or by other international, governmental or non-governmental entities.

#### For more

[www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssfconference2016/en/#jfmulticontent\\_c382958-4](http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/ssfconference2016/en/#jfmulticontent_c382958-4)

**GFCM Event Website**

# Better Understanding Needed

**The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation on SSF Guidelines focused on raising awareness and support for implementation of the guidelines.**

**T**he Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Workshop, ‘Towards the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication’, was held in Muscat, Oman, during 7–10 December 2015. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). The workshop was attended by 40 participants from countries in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region—Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia—including representatives of governments, fisherfolk organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, NGOs and other relevant actors.

The overall objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in the region. During the workshop, participants reviewed the situation and current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through regional and topical presentations and discussions, and made suggestions with regard to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region, including identification of priorities and recommendations for action.

The workshop noted the socioeconomic and cultural importance of small-scale fisheries in the region. Small-scale fisheries contribute to livelihoods, food security, and local and national economies. Fish is very important for nutrition, especially for population groups with limited purchasing power, and small-scale fisheries are a main contributor to local fish supplies.

It is of great importance that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines be carried out within the framework of food security and poverty eradication and takes local needs into consideration. It was noted

**The workshop noted the socioeconomic and cultural importance of small-scale fisheries in the region.**

that small-scale-fisheries-dependent livelihoods go beyond fishing, and encompass social, economic and cultural values as well. The comprehensiveness of the SSF Guidelines was acknowledged and the need to take a holistic approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development was recognized.

## **Women’s work**

Women make significant contributions to small-scale fisheries, mainly in post-harvest processing and trading but also in other down- and upstream activities, although the rate of women’s participation varies from one country to another. Women also play an important role at the community and household level. However, women’s work is often

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invisible and hence not sufficiently recognized.

There are encouraging developments in the region with regard to reviews of policies and strategies, recognition of the socioeconomic dimensions of small-scale fisheries, and increasing emphasis on the participation of small-scale fisheries

**Data and information necessary to support sustainable management of small-scale fisheries are often lacking or insufficient.**

actors in decision making on resource management and development. However, challenges persist, including—with some differences between different countries—insufficient or weak organizational structures of small-scale fisheries actors, poor infrastructure facilities and services, heavily exploited fishery resources and a strong influence of demand on production, especially in the context of exports, and increasing risks from climate change and disaster impacts.

The regional consultation consolidated summary conclusions and recommendations on issues, challenges and opportunities in relation to the implementation of SSF Guidelines in the NENA region in a final plenary session. In addition to the summaries of each working group, the workshop agreed on a vision for the region for the SSF Guidelines implementation, the need for political support and on broad objectives and principles of a Regional Plan of Action and related next steps.

Key priority areas of actions to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes proposed by the workshop included:

#### GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- The small-scale fisheries sector is constrained by the lack of specific small-scale fishing areas and the

regulatory framework does not grant preferential access rights. Countries should develop or improve legislation, policies, strategies, plans and institutional structures to grant fair access and user rights for sustainable small-scale fisheries, both to men and women.

- Existing institutional frameworks do not always enable the participation of all relevant small-scale fisheries actors to achieve sustainable management. At the regional level, producer organization platforms and other appropriate mechanisms/organizations are needed to contribute to participatory decision making. These organizations need training and capacity development in relation to sustainable use and management of resources. At the national level, these organizations can play an important role in supporting the development and strengthening of fishers and fishworkers, including women, and their associations.
- Data and information necessary to support sustainable management of small-scale fisheries are often lacking or insufficient. The awareness of all stakeholders about the importance of data and information needs to be raised and the capacities to process and use data should be developed, including at local levels, so that small-scale fisheries actors can participate in data collection.

#### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK AND GENDER EQUALITY

- Small-scale fisheries actors in the region, particularly deprived categories, women and migrants, are not always sufficiently organized to actively participate in fisheries management and policies. It is expected that increased participation could also contribute to create additional employment possibilities.
- Small-scale fishers and fishworkers, in particular women and deprived groups, often lack access to

social security protection. Better organization of small-scale fisheries actors and the provision of awareness raising and training on the benefits of social protection and on how to access these schemes should be provided.

- Safety at sea and other decent working conditions, including for women, are currently insufficient in small-scale fisheries. A regional workshop on decent working conditions (including safety at sea and occupational safety and health) should be organized with relevant partners. In this context, the impact of climate change on working conditions in fisheries should also be considered.
- In order to enable small-scale fisheries to be a driver for development, integrated approaches that reconcile environmental, social and economic development are needed. All countries in the region should use the SSF Guidelines as a reference framework when developing policies and strategies. Research, in particular on socioeconomic aspects, should contribute to improved conditions for small-scale fisheries.
- In general, the small-scale fisheries sector is often characterized by limited access to education and professional development opportunities, in particular for children and women. The implementation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) guidance on decent work should be promoted to support better professional development in the sector.

#### VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE

- Small-scale fishers need to be empowered to reap more of the benefits of, and income from, the sales of their produce. Their marginalization should be eliminated and their self-esteem improved. At the national level, fisheries departments need to provide support, for example, through establishing better

marketing facilities following successful experiences of 'model fishing villages'. At the regional level, better coordination among governments is needed to negotiate trade agreements with importing countries, taking small-scale fisheries into consideration.

- The links between trade (demand) and production need to be better understood and considered. Adverse impacts of international trade on resource utilization and local food security should be avoided by creating awareness among middlemen and consumers on the resource implications of demand. Diversification of small-scale fisheries products should be promoted and the access of small-scale fisheries actors to knowledge on new markets and products should be facilitated.
- The organizational structures of small-scale fisheries actors need to be strengthened along the value chain to enhance their negotiating power with other segments of the market and allow them to get better returns from their production activities.
- The availability of trade-related information facilitating the access to domestic, regional and international markets needs to

**The links between trade (demand) and production need to be better understood and considered.**

be improved. Appropriate links and networks for sharing and exchanging information should be strengthened, making use of relevant regional organizations and structures.

- There is a lack of adequate conditions and controls to ensure the quality and prices of fishery products. Small-scale fisheries actors need capacity development to improve their handling and marketing opportunities, based on international good

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Small-scale fishermen in Morocco. The small-scale fisheries sector is constrained by the lack of specific areas and the regulatory framework does not grant preferential access rights

practices to increase the value of their products.

- Investments are needed for small-scale fisheries in appropriate infrastructure and equipment, marketing facilities, financial support, as well as in the development of technical and human capacities for value addition and reduction of post-harvest losses. Small-scale fisheries actors should be supported with regard to the improvement of product quality and value addition.
- The context of food security and poverty eradication is essential and priority should be given to improved value added to the benefit of small-scale fishing communities and the improvement of their well-being, but also remembering the needs of consumers.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISKS

- Climate change and disasters negatively affect small-scale fisheries in the region (for example, through sea level rise, changes in water temperature and salinity, damage to infrastructure by storms, red tides and human-induced pollution, such as chemical discharge). Studies to better understand the impact of climate change and disasters at the regional level are needed, and

the small-scale fisheries sector needs to be included in national climate change adaptation strategies.

The workshop confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and socioeconomic development, and that the SSF Guidelines will be an important tool for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development.



#### For more



[www.infosamak.org/english/news.cfm?id=459](http://www.infosamak.org/english/news.cfm?id=459)

**Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK)**

# In One Voice

**A public hearing of women fishworkers in the south Indian state of Kerala was held in the capital, Thiruvananthapuram, on 16 February 2016**

**T**he women fishworkers in the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Kerala, India, have, for several years now, been complaining that life is getting increasingly difficult for them. While some of their issues are being taken up by the union, they still complain of the difficulty of surviving amidst increasing competition of all kinds and how the growing numbers of male vendors and male domination in markets were making life a daily struggle. SEWA then undertook a more detailed study of the vendors, their access to fish, and the issues they faced in the market.

The study revealed that there have been significant changes in the sector over the past six to seven years, and these have had a tremendous bearing not only on the work of women in the fisheries but also on the quality of fish that is reaching the market. The findings of the study were discussed in depth with the women in February 2015. The women highlighted the two major problems as (i) growing male domination in fish vending and in the markets, and (ii) competition from poor-quality frozen fish that prevented fresh fish from fetching its rightful price.

While both the women who sell fresh fish and those who sell frozen fish were present at these discussions, they all seemed to understand that they are together victims of similar processes of change taking place in fishing itself. As the boats get bigger and more capital-intensive, landings have become more centralized. Fish is frozen during long voyages and dumped in harbours. This fish then travels back to the seashore for sale to women vendors in the fishing communities, as the catches in the

small-scale fisheries sector have also been diminishing due to the large catches out at sea. The women who sell frozen fish said: "This is the only way we get fish for sale but we know it is not of good quality. Moreover, consumers do not have much money to buy, so they purchase this bad-quality fish".

In such discussions, women understood that this is the case with all food. Even vegetables today are of bad quality and so there are now organic shops where people can buy good-quality vegetables even if for a slightly higher price. Would they be willing to sit in separate markets so

**They realized that they would have to reach a consensus among themselves and be willing to speak in one voice to convince the authorities and the consumers.**

that consumers could have the choice to buy either fresh or frozen fish? Although they could not fathom this in the beginning, the women gradually began to understand and wondered how they could work towards such a process. They realized that they would have to reach a consensus among themselves and be willing to speak in one voice to convince the authorities and the consumers.

## Public hearing

Hence it was decided to organize a 'Public Hearing' to ensure better publicity for the issue, after which negotiations could be undertaken at different levels to move towards greater food safety and decent working conditions for women. But

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this would be a long struggle and would women be willing to give the time for it? Several women were willing to put in the effort for this. They agreed to come for regular meetings, develop arguments and then prepare their testimonies to be ably communicated to the jury.

While it is normally very difficult to get women to free themselves for such activities, a group of around 20 women kept coming for the meetings on a regular basis for around nine Sundays over five months. They had to first understand what a public hearing is. Then they had to understand the logic and connection between the issues they were going to communicate, and afterwards think of alternatives. They also had to choose who would speak on which topic, and prepare themselves accordingly.

SEWA managed to get together an interesting jury for the public hearing, comprising the chairman of the Famine-cum-Relief Fisheries Welfare Fund who is a retired High Court judge, the Director of Fisheries, the Commissioner of Food Safety, the Chief Executive Officer of Matsyafed (the state fisheries co-operative federation), the Chairman of the Fisheries Development Corporation, the Chairperson of the Head Load Workers Welfare Board, a senior woman scientist from the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, and an activist on fisheries and coastal issues.

At the hearing, Sonia, the secretary of SEWA Kerala, introduced the reason for conducting the hearing. She said that there are over 50,000 women in small-scale fisheries, mainly in three coastal districts in Kerala—Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Kasargod—and they face numerous issues in earning their livelihood. The hearing would only raise issues of the women who directly engage in fish vending. Subsequently, the women began with their testimonies.

Philomi spoke about the traditional knowledge of the small-scale fishers and how they managed to bring back large catches without any so-called

‘modern’ equipment, and how the communities lived off these resources. She said that this is due to the knowledge accumulated over generations of both the fishers and the women who sell, salt and dry fish. This knowledge is the source of livelihood for thousands of coastal people and since it is based on the rhythms of nature, it is also sustainable. This knowledge should be protected.

Mercy, a young woman, spoke about the debt she had fallen into as her husband tried to keep abreast of the new methods of catching fish with outboard engines, global positioning system (GPS), larger nets and powerful lights. As new equipment is introduced every week, all the fishers think they have to buy it. Mercy said they had borrowed Rs 3 lakhs (US\$ 4500) five years ago and now had a debt of Rs 10 lakhs (US\$ 15000). Their entire catch seems to go to the companies who produce the technology and the oil to run the engines. They are left in debt as they ended up fishing not to sustain themselves but to sustain the companies. “Why does the government not control this”, Mercy wondered.

Punitha, Carmel, Mary Varghese and Jaya then spoke of the problems they had in accessing fish. Punitha, who only procures fresh fish, spoke about the burden of travelling to different shores, starting in the wee hours of the morning, to get fresh fish after bearing the high transport costs. Carmel spoke about the competition at the Kollam harbor to buy fish at the auctions. Mary narrated how they are cheated on weights and quality by the wholesale merchants at the markets. Jaya spoke about the bad-quality frozen fish that comes to their seashore in insulated vans from distant harbours, and how they are cheated by the merchants again. They have no idea how old the fish is, but it is much cheaper than the locally caught fish, whose prices are thus driven down.

Reaching the market is another ordeal. Stella spoke about the problems she has had getting into

the state transport buses as they are not allowed to travel in them, and the bus conductors treat them very badly. She shared her painful experience of being literally thrown out of the bus with her container. Achamma spoke about the Matsyafed bus that takes them to the harbour at Kollam and brings them back to the market, which is a great service, but that there are only four such buses in the state. Kochu Thresia spoke about the costs of hiring private vehicles, which drains them of all their earnings. She demanded that Matsyafed provide a bus exclusively for the over 100 women vendors from her village.

Worse are the experiences of women in the market itself. Selvarani, Silvamma and Punitha spoke about the extortionist headload workers who demand large sums just to take out the fish baskets from the autorickshaws at the market and then demand festival allowances as well. There are other problems as well—high market taxes, lack of running water and toilets even in refurbished markets, lack of space for consumers, slippery tiled floors that dissuade consumers from venturing in, among others. They spoke about the poor drainage for water runoff. All the prime spots are occupied by male merchants who were earlier absent. Finally, Annamary, who had put up a big fight at the market where she sells fish, explained in detail how they, the members of SEWA, who had managed to get the *panchayat* to refurbish the market, were forced to sit out in the sun. When the *panchayat* finally did construct the market, the women were not allotted spaces to sit under the shelters—these were occupied by the men. This is because the municipal market is auctioned and the man who bid for it has been in control for decades. He makes the rules and treats the women with disrespect. He has now also become a big merchant of frozen fish himself and has engaged male vendors to sell the fish for him. These men do not pay any tax and they occupy the prime spots in the market. Shusheela and

Merina, women from Kollam, had similar stories to tell.

Alphonsa and Vimala spoke about the fate of the women who sell dry fish. They explained that the only fish they get to dry these days comes from the vehicles that bring frozen fish. Since this fish is of bad quality, disguised with ammonia or formalin, it has no shelf life even when it is dried. Hence they have to dispose of it fast and the price they get is very low. Moreover, they have to go to distant markets to sell the fish, to areas where no other fish reach.

To wind up, Amala spoke about the living conditions of the fishing community. In many areas there is no access to potable water and women have to buy water. There are no drainage and sanitation facilities, and many areas are water-logged, posing a major health hazard. Several villages face threats of coastal erosion, and houses are damaged during the rains. This is caused by the stone retention walls that are being built all along the coast, which is no way to save the coast from erosion. Amala claimed that the sea receives all the pollution from inland sources and nobody cares about the lives of the people who live on the coast.

Sita, who compered the hearing, wound it up by saying that the policy for modernizing the fishery had led to these effects on people's work and food, and that the government, while only thinking of increasing the fish catch through modernizing, does not pay heed to these aspects. This has led to a greater masculinization of the fishery, and the women bear the brunt of it. Hence it is important for the local and state governments to find ways to solve these issues to ensure that the fisherwomen get their legitimate rights to a decent livelihood.

After listening attentively, the jury gave its responses, which are summarized below:

- Maintaining the quality of fish is an important aspect of food safety. The Department of Food Safety will train fisherwomen in aspects of quality management. Such experiments are presently

being undertaken in north Kerala and the same can be adopted in Thiruvananthapuram as well. This must eventually be conducted through the entire value chain.

- If and when women are trained, means of branding the high-quality fish can also be undertaken.
- Women-only markets selling only good-quality fish should be developed in other districts to facilitate the process of informing the consumers of good-quality fish, so that the small-scale fishers also get better prices.
- Markets are developed by the Fisheries Department/Fisheries Corporation and handed over to the Municipal Corporation or local bodies. In future, criteria will be developed when handing over markets to local bodies so that the rights of women vendors are safeguarded, and maintaining infrastructure of sanitation, lighting and waste disposal will be made mandatory.
- Discussions should be held between the women vendors and the headload workers through their representative organizations, in which the Headload Workers Welfare Board will proactively help, to see that charges are made only as per rules and to sort out other disputes and reduce the harassment of the women.
- As the market is their workplace, any harassment of women should be dealt with according to the Harassment at the Workplace Act.
- While Matsyafed still runs a few buses for women vendors at great cost, efforts will be made to introduce buses on routes that will be viable, particularly from the Adimalathura area towards Neyyatinkara.
- All women should actively participate in *gram sabhas* so that they can demand their rights from the local government and stand united against the marginalization and harassment they now face.
- More comprehensive data is required regarding women who work in different aspects of fisheries. The Fisheries Department

should be able to find ways of collecting more authentic data so that planning and budgeting for this sector becomes more meaningful.

- Presently, there is a mismatch between the loan schemes of the various departments and the needs of the women. Efforts will be made to develop, in collaboration with SEWA, some creative participatory alternatives that can be of more beneficial to the women.
- All technical institutions should reach out more to women's groups to develop their capacities in financial management and quality control. Financial support through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) could also be sought for this.
- More attention should be given to the implementation of the Street Vendors Act so that the street vendors are not arbitrarily evicted and also to ensure that the various requirements of the Act—portable shelters, access to public toilets and water, garbage clearance—are also put in place, thereby serving both the vendors and the public. 3

#### For more



[igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html](https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1064-Background%20Papers.html)

#### **Changes in the labour roles of women in the small-scale fishery in Kerala**

[m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the-new-indian-express-epaper-newexpress/kerala-women-fisher-folk-raises-voice-about-their-woes-in-sewa-hearing-newsid-47400143](https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the-new-indian-express-epaper-newexpress/kerala-women-fisher-folk-raises-voice-about-their-woes-in-sewa-hearing-newsid-47400143)

#### **Kerala women fisherfolk raises voice about their woes in SEWA hearing**

# Land Ahoy !

**In pursuit of its mandate to raise the safety standards in the country's fishing fleet, the Norwegian Maritime Authority will rely on dialogue with the industry**

Over the last decade, Norway's fishing fleet has undergone significant structural changes that have led to fewer vessels and a smaller number of professional fishers. This is due to the merging of allowable amounts of catch and also due to more efficient vessels and improved profitability for many. There has also been a significant upgrade of the vessel fleet, both in terms of new building and modification of existing vessels, which entail an upgrade of the standard of accommodation conditions, improving the working and living conditions for fishers working on board. An improved inspection regime during vessel construction and more detailed periodical inspections have also led to safer vessels.

A review of the accident statistics for Norwegian-registered fishing vessels shows that most of the damage to vessels happens as a result of grounding or fire on board, as shown in Figure 1. The smallest fleets of less than 15 m in length are the most accident-prone.

Figure 2 illustrates a positive trend in the number of occupational accidents in the fishing fleet. The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) hopes that this trend is a result of the increased focus on preventive measures over the recent years. We see a significantly higher number of reported occupational accidents in the fleets above 24 m, but the statistics probably do not give us the whole story in this case. We know that occupational accidents are being under-reported in the fishing fleets below 15 m, and the big picture would be more nuanced if we had access to all the data.

Even if the number of fatal accidents has decreased in the Norwegian fishing fleets, we will not

be satisfied until we have similar results as in 2008, when, for the first time in history, no professional fishermen in Norway lost their lives at work, as shown in Figure 3.

The legislation administered by the NMA is meant to contribute to increased safety. When inspections uncover non-compliance with the legislation, this is often explained by poor attitudes towards safety or lack of a safety culture. This is not necessarily the case, since attitudes depend on how the risk is perceived. Individual experiences, personal abilities and aspects of the working environment in general play a significant role in the understanding of risks.

**We know that occupational accidents are being under-reported in the fishing fleets below 15 m, and the big picture would be more nuanced if we had access to all the data.**

For years, the NMA has worked purposefully towards increasing the focus on safety in the Norwegian fishing fleet, both through increased supervision and stricter regulatory requirements, but also through attitudinal and behavioural measures. We have an organized cooperation with other authorities, fisheries organizations, insurance companies and research communities. This cooperation focuses on health, environment and safety for fishermen, and the goal is to find common measures in order to improve the health, environment and safety level in the fleet.

## **Liable party**

According to Norwegian law, the company is the main liable party

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Figure 1: Marine (not occupational) accidents distributed by length

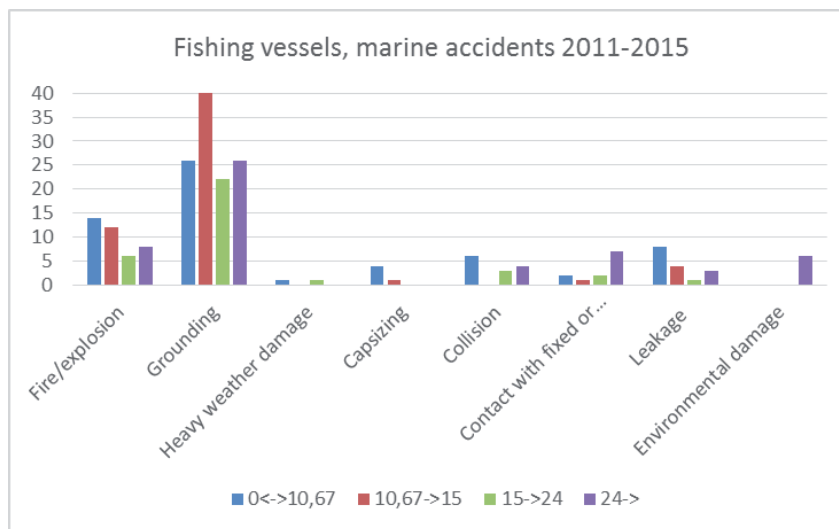


Figure 2: Development of occupational accidents, 2011—2015

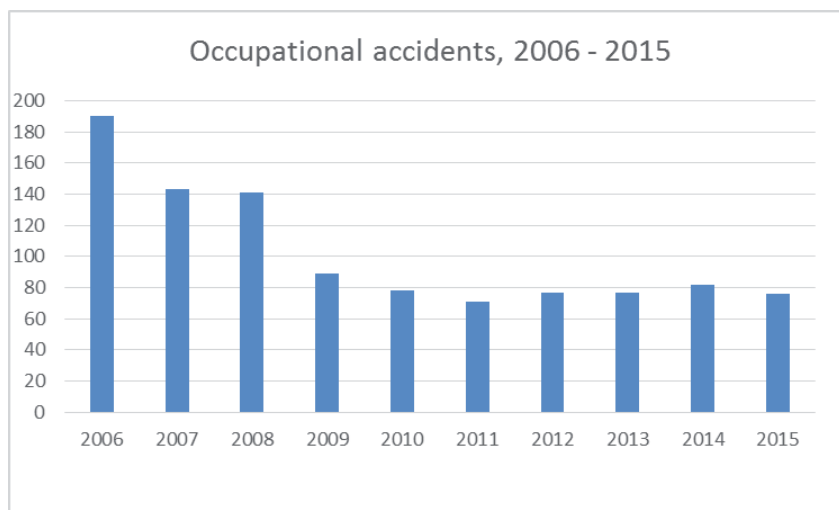
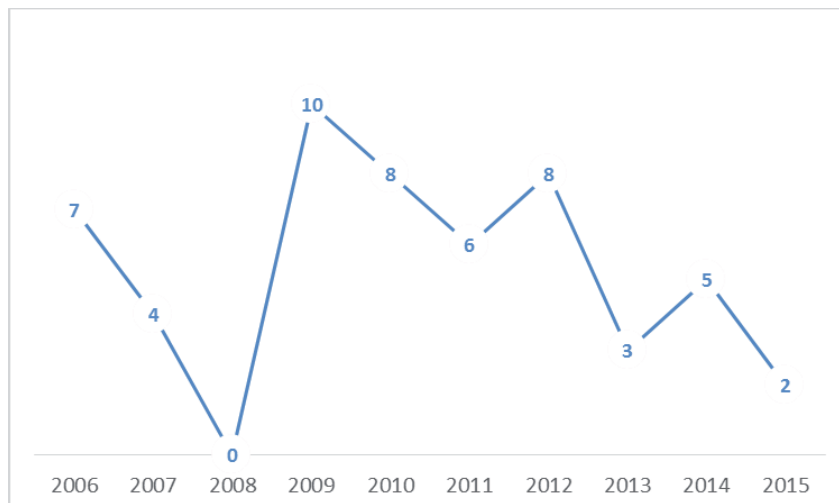


Figure 3: Fatal accident rate in the Norwegian fishing fleets



(as per the Ship Safety and Security Act). The company has an overall duty to ensure that the construction and operation of the ship is in accordance with the Act, and that the master and other persons working on board comply with the legislation.

As regards employment rights, Norway gives seafarers and fishermen equal rights to a greater degree than what is done internationally. Fishermen have the same rights as seafarers to an employment agreement in writing, salary, holiday and leave of absence. In connection with the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) in 2008, the requirement for an employment agreement in writing was introduced for all fishing vessels regardless of size.

For Norwegian fishing vessels, the Ship Safety and Security Act provides the main provisions for safety and working environment on board. The Regulations on working environment, safety and health for persons working on board ships give more detailed provisions and guidelines on how the requirements of the Act shall be satisfied, and these Regulations apply to the entire vessel fleet, regardless of size. They include, among other things, a requirement for documented risk assessment of hazards on board.

Through cooperation with the fisheries industry and our neighbours in Denmark (the Danish Working Environment Council), the NMA has developed an online utility programme to make it easier for Norwegian fishermen to carry out risk assessments. The programme (see [www.fiskrisk.no](http://www.fiskrisk.no)) is available for everyone free of charge (but, for the time being, available only in Norwegian).

The Regulations also include requirements for personal protective equipment and the construction and arrangement of working equipment so that the employees are protected against accidents and injuries to health. Safety measures shall also be implemented to avoid long-term effects on health, which may be caused by exposure to chemicals, vibrations or noise in the working environment.

The company has a duty to ensure that persons working on board are given the necessary training and

information about safety and health risks related to their work. The fishermen or their safety representative shall be consulted and have the right to make proposals in connection with any issue which may affect their health or safety.

On Norwegian fishing vessels, it is currently possible to use young people under the age of 16 as paid labour. This rule will nonetheless be changed following the implementation of ILO Work in Fishing Convention No. 188.

Provisions related to the accommodation, diet, potable water and cleaning for fishing vessels of more than 15 metres are laid down in a separate set of regulations. These regulations will implement the requirements of the ILO Convention No. 188 into Norwegian legislation without further adaptation.

Norway has separate regulations covering rest period requirements for all persons working on board fishing vessels, which means that the fishermen shall have at least 10 hours of rest in any 24-hour period and 77 hours in any 168-hour period. The interval between consecutive periods of rest shall not exceed 14 hours, and one of the rest periods shall be at least six hours in length.

Compliance with the legislation on hours of rest may, in some cases, be a challenge for parts of the fishing fleet. There are several reasons for this, one of them being that the entire crew is often involved in fishing activities that may be difficult to plan in advance. Some vessels, however, are probably understaffed in relation to their operational pattern, and it is our impression that the regulations on hours of rest are not well known among all fishermen.

Risk assessments carried out by the NMA show that challenges related to fatigue is an important contributing cause of accidents, both groundings and occupational accidents. In 2016, we will, therefore, have a particular focus on hours of rest and manning in our unscheduled inspections, and in connection with certificate supervision where company's control is required. Norway does not require safe manning documents on fishing vessels, but regulations for this will be introduced in connection with the implementation of ILO Convention

No. 188. We will, in addition, introduce a requirement stipulating that a specification of crew shall be sent to the designated person ashore (company), which is not being practised by all fishing vessel companies today.

#### **Technical requirements and supervision schemes for fishing vessels under 15 m**

Norway has a number of national regulations on construction, outfitting and operation of fishing vessels. Fishing vessels of between 10.67 and 15 m in overall length (OAL) have, since 2001, been subject to a supervision scheme where it is required to have valid vessel instructions on board. The vessel instructions are issued by approved companies on behalf of the NMA.

In connection with the entry into force of new regulations for the construction of fishing vessels of under 15 m, fishing vessels of between 8 and 10.67 m OAL must also be subjected to an initial survey by an approved company, and these vessels are now also covered by the requirement for valid vessel instructions. After 2022, all sailing fishing vessels of more than 8 m will be required to have valid vessel instructions.

The NMA is rarely directly involved in the issuance of vessel instructions, but the company may appeal a decision to the NMA. We also assist the approved companies by preparing the necessary guidelines and report forms, and by providing the necessary clarifications and information about decisions of principle.

The ship-owner shall, first and foremost, carry out the inspection in order to safeguard his crew, himself and his vessel. The inspection shall ensure that all fishing vessels maintain a common safety standard, and the vessels instructions are a confirmation of this.

When a vessel is to be presented for inspection, the ship-owner or master must contact an approved company to arrange an inspection. In connection with this, the ship-owner or master must first carry out a control of the vessel (company's control). The company's control is carried out in accordance with the report form prescribed by the NMA. The report

form and other useful guidelines can be found on the NMA's website.

Approved companies will review the vessel documentation and carry out inspections on board the vessel. When an inspector from the approved company has been on board and has found the vessel and documentation to be in order, vessel instructions are issued.

Vessels of under 9 m shall only be subject to an initial survey by an

**The NMA places great importance on keeping a good dialogue with the industry and its various organizations in the ongoing work to raise the safety standard in the fleet.**


approved company, and thereafter to periodic company controls. Vessels of between 9 and 10.67 m shall, after the initial survey, be subject to periodic controls by an approved company every 60 months. Vessels of over 10.67 m shall, after the initial survey, be subject to periodic controls by an approved company every 30 months.

Apart from the above mentioned control by an approved company, the NMA carries out unscheduled inspection of the fleet. This will, in practice, take place by inspectors from the NMA showing up in the port and carrying out an inspection on board the vessel without prior notification. This is a good way of checking the safety standard in the fleet.

If the inspection uncovers non-compliance on the part of the vessel, this could result in the NMA issuing orders to rectify, with a deadline for rectification, or it could lead to the vessel being detained until the non-compliance has been rectified. The NMA also has the possibility of issuing a coercive fine if the deadline is exceeded. In serious cases, a violation fine may be imposed on the company or the individual seafarer, or they may even be prosecuted in particularly serious cases. The Norwegian Coast Guard also has limited access to control vessels, either alone or in cooperation with the NMA and the Directorate of Fisheries.

In the years to come, the NMA wants to place greater importance on the active prevention of accidents and the use of safety-management systems. It is a deliberate policy that fishermen are being included, to a greater degree, in requirements for systematic safety activities and quality assurance, which characterise the Norwegian working life in general.

All fishing vessels used for commercial purposes are required to have a Safety Management System which can be documented and verified in order to identify and control the risks and also to ensure compliance with requirements laid down in, or pursuant to, a statute or in the actual Safety Management System. The contents, scope and documentation of the Safety Management System shall be adapted to the needs of the company and its activities. Fishing vessels of 500 gross registered tonnage (GRT) and upwards shall have a certified ISM Safety Management System.

It has, however, become apparent that there is also a need for developing more specific regulatory requirements in order to supplement the Act's requirements related to safety management for small vessels. The NMA is, therefore, well under way in developing more detailed regulations for fishing vessels of under 500 GRT. The fishermen's organizations and insurance companies in Norway have, in turn, developed detailed safety-management manuals for their members, as tools to implement proper safety management on board the vessel. The NMA places great importance on keeping a good dialogue with the industry and its various organizations in the ongoing work to raise the safety standard in the fleet. 

#### For more

[www.sjofartsdir.no/en/](http://www.sjofartsdir.no/en/)

**Norwegian Maritime Authority**

[www.sjofartsdir.no/en/legislation/#laws](http://www.sjofartsdir.no/en/legislation/#laws)

**Legislation relevant to Marine Ship and Safety**

# A Vision for Southeast Asia

**Participants at a recent workshop in Bali sought to develop a draft Southeast Asian Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region**

**T**he Southeast Asia Regional Consultation Workshop on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the workshop) was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 24–27 August 2015. It was co-organized by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of the Republic of Indonesia and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the FAO Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project. The workshop was attended by 116 participants including representatives of governments, regional and international organizations, fisherfolk organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and other relevant actors.

The objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness and develop a draft Southeast Asian Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in the region. Over three and a half days, participants examined the current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through country and topical presentations, and discussed elements of a regional plan of action to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Across the region, small-scale fisheries contribute to livelihoods, food security, and local and regional economies. In most countries, the

majority of fishers and fishworkers are employed in the small-scale fishery subsector.

There is significant diversity amongst the small-scale fisheries of the region in terms of activity and context, but there are also some common characteristics. Small-scale fisheries are typically characterized by open access, low levels of empowerment and a general lack of organizational structures and formal representation in decision-making processes. Small-scale fisheries also typically involve rather complex livelihood strategies combining fishing and other activities.

**Across the region, small-scale fisheries contribute to livelihoods, food security, and local and regional economies...**

Threats to small-scale fisheries include declining resources, habitat degradation, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, post-harvest quality issues, increasing competition for access to resources and fishing areas between small-scale fisheries and commercial fisheries and other sectors, high levels of poverty and vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change and low levels of formal representation.

## **A vision for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines**

Based on the focus of the workshop and its discussions, a vision for the future was proposed:

- Resource management, rights, and social and economic constraints are addressed through

*This document is based on the Conclusions from the Proceedings of the Southeast Asia Regional Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. 24–27 August 2015 Bali, Indonesia*

the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, leading to increased empowerment, improved livelihood and food security, and increased resilience of small-scale fisheries and those people who depend upon them.

### **Ensuring that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines receives adequate political and policy support**

Promotion of a Southeast Asian RPOA for implementation of the SSF Guidelines, to be led by Indonesia and coordinated by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC):

- The workshop appreciated the Government of Indonesia's initiative to develop its National Plan of Action (NPOA) for small-scale fisheries, and for taking a leading role in the region in promoting implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- The workshop further welcomed the commitment by SEAFDEC to support the development and implementation of a Southeast Asian RPOA for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication, for subsequent introduction to the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for consideration

### **The workshop identified the need for additional activities:**

- Further consultations addressing specific issues, to inform and guide national and regional implementation planning.
- National programmes for awareness raising and mainstreaming of the SSF Guidelines into policies and actions at all levels (following the example set by Indonesia).
- Proactive partnership and cooperation with relevant non-fisheries institutions and organizations, including National Commissions for Human Rights, to resolve small-scale fisheries issues relating to labour, social development, rights and tenure, which may not lie within the direct area of competence of fisheries agencies or agriculture Ministries.

- Soliciting support for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines by national and regional partners and projects. Encourage recognition and incorporation of the SSF Guidelines implementation priorities in the future and, to the extent possible, current regional projects and initiatives (as exemplified by the BOBLME Strategic Action Programme—SAP).

### **Overarching objectives of an RPOA**

- Regional and national government policy commitment to promote an NPOA for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.
- Sustainable and equitable management of small-scale fisheries and access of their products to markets.
- Small-scale fishers and their communities are empowered to participate in, and benefit from, sustainable development associated with the fisheries and resources upon which they depend.
- Improved livelihoods and working conditions of small-scale fishing communities.
- Gender considerations are mainstreamed as an integral part of small-scale fisheries development strategies.
- Reduced vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and climate change, and increased climate resilience.

### **Approach and guiding principles of an RPOA**

The workshop acknowledged the importance of all principles of the SSF Guidelines for the region and that these must guide implementation.

The workshop acknowledged that the comprehensive nature of the SSF Guidelines requires a holistic and human rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development. It was further recognized that actions must take regional, national and local characteristics into consideration and be inclusive of all stakeholders. This includes the mainstreaming of gender considerations in implementation.

The workshop recognized that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should be anchored at the local and national levels, but that regional attention and support would also be required to address shared concerns and transboundary issues.

The workshop emphasized the role of governments in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines as well as regional and local fisheries organizations, communities and the private sector, to ensure ownership of the SSF Guidelines. The workshop called upon these stakeholders to be proactive in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This implementation should take place in the same inclusive and consultative spirit which characterized the SSF Guidelines development process.

The workshop recommended that implementation of the SSF Guidelines would require the initiation of new actions, but would also build on the existing experiences, good practices and processes supporting small-scale fisheries in the region, some of which have been identified during the workshop.

#### Principal areas for action identified by the working groups

The working groups identified objectives and actions. Potential priority areas for actions to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes proposed by the workshop are based on the following three thematic areas, which follow Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines.

#### Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resources management (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

The workshop identified six possible priority areas for SSF Guidelines implementation:

- **Review existing tenure rights systems (for fisheries and land) to protect small-scale fisheries** including legalizing or recognizing customary tenure systems of indigenous peoples, to ensure access to resources, including to coastal/waterfront areas as well as inland waters.
- **Follow an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA)** to achieve sustainable, productive use, healthy ecosystems and improved well-being of fishing communities. A change in attitude will be needed from seeing small-scale fisheries as recipients to rights holders, and processes should include consultations, capacity development and empowerment at regional and national levels.
- **Ensure equitable participation of small-scale fisheries in co-management and other initiatives and frameworks** (such as integrated coastal zone management, and blue economy and marine protected area [MPA] development). Fisheries advisory bodies need to be established that include small-scale fisheries representation.
- **Ensure that appropriate fora, including regional human rights and legal mechanisms, exist to address transboundary issues, including in relation to transboundary resources and migrants, and migratory fishers and fishworkers.**



The Bali workshop recommended that implementation of the SSF Guidelines would require the initiation of new actions, good practices and processes

- Include small-scale fisheries—and not only fisheries in general—in national and regional **climate-change adaptation and disaster risk management** legislation, strategies and plans. Early-warning systems, vulnerability assessments, disaster-related social security and insurance systems and other arrangements should be adapted to cater for small-scale fisheries.

**Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (Chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)**

The workshop identified six possible priority areas for action in relation to this theme, which also considered the issue of climate change and disaster risk and gender:

- **Empower small-scale fishing communities through an integrated ecosystem/holistic approach for small-scale fisheries development.** The establishment of national platforms representing all related stakeholders to support the SSF Guidelines implementation in a participatory manner (as indicated in particular in paras. 13.4, 13.5 and 10.1 of the SSF Guidelines) and the promotion of interdepartmental collaboration within each country outside the Fishery Departments are key in this context. This includes the incorporation of the SSF Guidelines into the agenda of the ASEAN Ministerial-level on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF). This process could be supported by thematic research on small-scale fisheries by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, a mapping of ongoing related initiatives, and sharing about current empowerment conditions in the region.
- **Address tensions generated by transboundary and transborder issues to support an environment for small-scale fisheries communities that have decent work and living conditions.** This would require, in particular, collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and the Fisheries Department as well as a better understanding of issues in relation to transborder/boundary issues at local level (for example, on the risks of IUU fishing, and migration for labour) and efforts to seek humanitarian and responsible solutions.
- **Enable access to education for all to achieve informed and educated coastal communities.** Study visits at the regional level, the participatory development of curricula and the exploration of new technology for education could be supportive in this context.
- **Improve living and working conditions and social protection in SSF to contribute to ensuring decent work in the region.** This should be based on International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidance and good practices, in particular in relation to migrant labour and work in fishing. The sharing of experiences in relation to national social protection schemes in this context could support change in the region.
- **Actively promote and realize gender equality and equity in small-scale fisheries through the development and implementation of gender-sensitive legal, regulatory and policy frameworks.** This could be supported, *inter alia*, through targeted programmes and the gathering and sharing of best practices on the empowerment of women, also through social media and cultural campaigns.
- **Ensure effective climate-change adaptation, emergency response and disaster risk management in small-scale fisheries by including fisheries and fishing communities, including indigenous people, in related national policies and plans at all levels.** At the regional level, the ASEAN Declaration on Climate Change and Resilience should be taken into account in this context and pilot projects should be initiated at the national level to learn and inform a regional programme.

## Value chains, post-harvest and trade (Chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

The workshop identified the following five priorities under this theme

- **Small-scale fisheries meeting local food-security and human-development needs, participate as partners in domestic, regional and global value chains, and receive a fair share of the benefits:** Proposed actions include conducting small-scale fisheries value-chain assessments and risk analysis, market analysis, improvement of traditional value-added products and promotion of small-scale fisheries products and inclusion in traceability systems.
- **Reduction of fish losses and ensuring quality of the product to increase fishers' income and support sustainable fisheries management:** Proposed actions include regional assessment on sustainable fish catch and processing capacity and most critical fisheries, potential causes of fish losses, promoting best practices for handling and distribution and establishment of a regional platform to promote exchange of experiences among small-scale fisheries.
- **Develop a conducive policy and business environment to encourage investment in infrastructure appropriate to small-scale fisheries:** Proposed actions include identifying best policies for facilitating investment in infrastructure, establishment of regional and national organizations for fishing port managers, capacity development for the maintenance and management of landing sites/fishing ports and small-scale fisheries business skills, and encouraging innovation in the appropriate technology on infrastructure for small-scale fisheries.
- **Establish transparent market information systems for local and international markets and trade, facilitate networking between small-scale fisheries and end users, and promote better access**

## to information through suitable information and communications technology (ICT):

Proposed actions include identification of the information needs of all players in the supply chain, ensuring regional scalability and compatibility of ICT, providing up-to-date and transparent market price information system, and establishment of fishers' markets.

- **Organize small-scale fisheries associations, facilitate their evolution and strengthen them to encourage a fair and inclusive environment, improve their bargaining positions through an inclusive legal framework, and promote community-based resource management combining local wisdom and scientific knowledge:** Proposed actions include creating and strengthening fishers associations and empowering them to get involved in resources management and capacity building, empowering regional EAF management working groups to support small-scale fisheries, and conducting regional reviews on how traditional systems have evolved and adapted.

## Immediate next steps as follow-up to the regional workshop

The follow-up actions identified by the workshop to progress the RPOA and further promote implementation of the SSF Guidelines have been clustered thematically according to the structure of Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines.

## Policy coherence, institutional collaboration and coordination

- Identify key partners at national and regional levels (NGOs, private sector, other government departments), including indigenous peoples and NHRCs.
- Map regional projects/initiatives to explore synergies and opportunities for implementation of the SSF Guidelines (for example, BOBLME, Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme and the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem,

which already include references to the SSF Guidelines).

#### **Information, research and communication**

- Each participant should bring back the learning from this workshop to colleagues.
- Support lobbying at national level with the government to implement the SSF Guidelines.
- The SSF Guidelines should be translated into national languages (simple version).
- Develop mechanisms for alternative reporting (by CSOs/NGOs) on how the SSF Guidelines can support the improvement of small-scale fisheries.
- Select one to two major market and trade activities at the regional level (for example, assessment of the value chain of small-scale fisheries or organization of a regional event to promote small-scale fisheries products).
- National- and local-level workshops organized to raise awareness on the SSF Guidelines (including fishers, local and national governments, partners, e.g. International Collective in Support of Fishworkers).
- Raise awareness on the SSF Guidelines by Mangroves for the Future through steering committee and national coordinating bodies.

#### **Capacity development**

- Understand needs and support capacity building at the national level, targeting public institutions.
- Provide support to CSOs/fisheries organizations that supported development of the SSF Guidelines and/or are following up on their implementation on the ground, including sharing of best practices among small-scale fisheries groups.
- Strengthen small-scale fishers' organizations.
- FAO to support development of guidance on implementation of the SSF Guidelines (in partnership with thematic experts/countries), and specific thematic small-scale fisheries issues.

#### **Implementation support and monitoring**

- Prepare the zero draft of the Regional Action Plan and organize a SEAFDEC regional technical consultation to discuss the zero draft (for subsequent introduction into the ASEAN mechanism).
- Initiate national processes to develop an NPOA for small-scale fisheries for each country (e.g. example from Indonesia) by sharing the results of the regional workshop with all relevant stakeholders (e.g. in Thailand).
- Identify small-scale fisheries "hotspots" (most numerous, most dependent, most vulnerable, most poor, women, indigenous people, etc.) and develop pilot activities at the subnational level to demonstrate change through the application of the SSF Guidelines (requires criteria on identifying hotspots and financial support for piloting).
- Organize virtual working groups to work on specific topics and define outcome.
- Create channels to report on progress on implementation to relevant regional institutions.
- Report progress on SSF Guidelines implementation to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2016.
- Aim for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in five years' time.
- BOBLME, subject to a second phase, should support the further development of an RPOA for implementation of SSF Guidelines.

The workshop extended its gratitude to the MMAF of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the workshop. 3

#### **For more**

[www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/01970d80-9a4c-46cf-b202-e1a9d2216a54/](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/01970d80-9a4c-46cf-b202-e1a9d2216a54/)

**Towards the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Southeast Asia Region**

# Moving On

**Promoting a rights-based approach to sustainable small-scale fisheries development through participatory and consultative processes was discussed at a workshop in Colombo**

**T**he South Asia FAO–BOBLME Regional Consultation on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during 23–26 November 2015. The event was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project. It was co-hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka, and additional financial support was provided by the Government of Norway. About 42 participants from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka attended the workshop, including representatives of governments, regional and international organizations, fisherfolk organizations, CSOs/NGOs, academia and other relevant actors.

The overall objective of the workshop was to raise awareness and support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region. The workshop started with an introductory presentation by FAO, explaining how the process of preparing the Guidelines took place since 2008, with the enrolment of about 4,000 stakeholders who interacted with one another in a series of conferences, workshops and consultations held in a number of countries. The role of BOBLME in this initiative by contributing to institutional coordination, information, research, communication and capacity building was also explained.

## **The status of SSF in South Asia**

An array of presentations by public, private and civil society actors

explained the status of fisheries in their own countries. The country representatives stressed the importance of SSF in the region due to the large numbers of rural populations engaged in fishing, both marine and inland, and the greater share of SSF in the total fish landings. The major issues highlighted by all included the need to promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources, promote participatory decisionmaking and management, empower small-scale fishers, provide them with market access, strictly enforce laws, and protect the aquatic resources. Moreover, emphasis was

**The country representatives stressed strongly the importance of SSF in the region due to the large numbers of rural populations engaged in fishing, both marine and inland, and the large share of SSF in the total fish landings.**

laid on gender concerns, especially the need to empower women. Everybody stressed the need to identify and recognize the rights of fishers. Some of the important considerations that emerged during discussions included the importance of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, engagement of fishing communities in decisionmaking, integration of research outputs into policy, and capacity development of all parties concerned in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Several voids in fisheries research were also identified, which included, among others, the need to find out the most appropriate interactive platforms, mechanisms of empowering fishing communities, guiding technological change and institutional change along a socially

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optimal direction, and addressing issues of legal pluralism.

The country representatives also discussed issues specific to their countries. Both India and Bangladesh expressed serious concern about the process of marginalization of fishers, including women in the processing sector. Maldives pointed out that sea level rise (due to climate change) is a serious risk to SSF, while for Bangladesh, vulnerability was strongly related to 'ownership of fishing assets slipping out of the hands of the small-scale fishers'. Sri Lanka expressed increased concern on safety of fishers and the lack of alternative employment opportunities for fishing populations.

Participants also discussed the good practices adopted by their countries in dealing with some of the above issues. Sri Lanka boasted of a very strong legal framework and the functioning of a number of co-management platforms (especially in lagoon fisheries), rights of access to resources established through the construction/declaration of beach access roads, and recognition of beach seine *padu* and stake-net fisheries. Participants from India explained how self-help groups and cooperatives deal effectively with social and economic issues, while fishworker unions deal with the 'rights' of small-scale fishers. Representatives from Maldives and Bangladesh explained how small-scale fishers are granted access to land for fish processing. Maldives have also been able to set a floor price for tuna. With respect to transboundary issues, the shared management plan for the *Hilsa* fishery between Bangladesh and India was highlighted.

#### **Concerns and suggestions**

Through group discussions, the participants identified the key areas of concern and the actions proposed to deal with them.

##### ***i. Governance of tenure in SSF and resources management***

The participants recognized the need to legalise customary tenure rights, both in fisheries resources and land,

and proposed that efforts should be made by CSOs and academia/researchers to identify and document such rights and advocate their recognition by governments. The need to identify and document incidences of human rights violations and address them in collaboration with fisher community organizations and national human rights institutions was also highlighted. The absence of a 'fisher voice' in the process of decisionmaking was also a major concern.

Participants stressed the importance of effective and meaningful consultation of fishing communities. Co-management was recognized as an effective mechanism for incorporating fisher interests, including those of women and marginalized groups, into fisheries management. This needs capacity building and empowerment of fishing communities, who will engage in effective resources management both at the local and national levels. Establishment of multi-tier platforms to address regional management issues and transboundary fishing issues was also proposed. The participants added that governments should ensure that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and international human rights conventions, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions, are applied to all fisheries activities.

##### ***ii. Social development, employment, decent work and gender equality***

Development of human capacities in SSF was identified as one of the most urgent needs and a prerequisite to adopt holistic approaches to fisheries development. Training of fishers and fisherwomen to earn decent incomes and financial support to start up productive activities and improvement in the provision of information (for example, through information and communications technology ICT) were also recognized as important. The participants stressed the need to provide basic needs, such as housing, secure tenure rights, sanitation and drinking water. The need to develop/

strengthen and operationalize public health schemes, fisheries insurance schemes and subsidized loan schemes (in particular for women) was also brought to light. The participants expressed concern on the issue of empowerment of fishing communities. Not only the establishment of community organizations, but also the provision of capacity development and strengthening of the link between community organizations and the government, was emphasized. It was also observed that the small-scale fisheries sector often fails to provide equal opportunities and a safe and fair source of income, in particular for women and in inland fisheries. The poor bargaining power of fishing communities vis-à-vis the middlemen, had pushed down fishing incomes, which could be addressed by developing alternative means of support generally rendered by merchants. It was suggested that minimum wage schemes for small-scale fishworkers be examined, as also the development and/or implementation of policies in support of gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Strengthening and expansion of regional collaboration among CSOs to share experiences on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and resolving transboundary and other common issues were also strongly recommended.

### **iii. Value chains, post-harvest and trade**

The role of women in post-harvest activities received great attention. Organizing women into cooperatives, training on entrepreneurship, promoting micro-finance assistance, provision of low-interest credit, promotion of community saving and credit schemes, were all recognized as important steps in facilitating women's involvement in the fish value chain. Distribution of benefits from trade and returns from fish and fishery products were noted to be 'unfair'. The need for fisher organizations to involve in bargaining vis-à-vis buyers, collective purchasing by cooperatives, reducing cost of

fishing inputs, effective dissemination of market information and the need to support post-harvest infrastructures were suggested as remedial measures. Another important concern of the participants was the issue of 'safety at sea'. It was suggested that safety of small-scale fishers be improved through the provision of safety equipment, training on safety at sea, designing effective insurance schemes, and improved communication and early warning systems.

### **The way forward**

The following were identified as the steps to be taken by diverse stakeholder groups to actively promote the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the national and regional levels:

#### ***Role of government actors and other participants***

The government participants agreed to establish the SSF focal points in their fisheries administrations and other authorities, as appropriate. All participants agreed to organize formal and informal debriefing meetings to provide information about the outcomes of the workshop within their respective administrations and organizations and to disseminate the SSF Guidelines and the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop to relevant meetings. It was also suggested to advocate for the establishment of a regional oversight committee with at least one government and one CSO member per country (with due attention to gender balance) to follow up and monitor (for example, through email groups) the process, building potentially on existing initiatives (like the Asia Alliance on Small-scale Fisheries).

#### ***Role of CSOs, CBOs and NGOs***

The CSOs agreed that they should develop additional language versions of the SSF Guidelines, with the help of the respective governments and the FAO. The NGOs and CBOs/CSOs are to prepare posters, simplified versions, short movies, and radio features, again with the support of their

governments, in order to raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines. CSOs also agreed to appoint national focal points for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

#### ***Role of international organizations, FAO and BOBLME***

The participants thought that it is best for the FAO to provide guidance for the preparation of National Plans of Action to support the implementation of the SSF Guideline and support the monitoring of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. It was also suggested that the BOBLME project should include support to follow up activities after the workshop and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at regional and national levels during its proposed second phase.

#### ***Role of research institutes and universities***

It was recommended that academia and researchers should contribute a chapter on the SSF Guidelines implementation to a planned publication of the research network Too Big To Ignore (TBTI). It was also proposed that the research institutes and universities need to look into new research areas relevant to the application of the SSF Guidelines, which might include socioeconomic data collection, design and implementation (including gender-disaggregated data), provision of information on the socioeconomic status of fishing communities and the aquatic habitats through participatory research, and making initiatives to integrate the SSF Guidelines in fisheries course curricula.

Finally, the participants noted the need to secure funding, which, among other things, include engagement with international and regional development partners through bilateral donors and embassies at the country level, and with new projects (including BOBLME phase 2). The need to explore opportunities of joining hands with NGOs operating outside fisheries and working with human rights and social development institutions was also brought to attention. Provisions to be made for

the implementation of SSF guidelines and promoting interaction with relevant non-fisheries ministries and departments at all levels, and mainstreaming of SSF Guidelines in relevant policies, strategies, plans as well as public-private partnerships in support of the SSF Guidelines were also recognized.

#### **A concluding remark**

In summary, there was general agreement among the participants at the workshop that sustainable development of small-scale fisheries shall be based on proper governance and management of the natural resource base and the people who depend on it, through the establishment of effective interactive platforms, such as fisher community organizations and appropriate co-management platforms, which will adopt holistic and integrated approaches, while ensuring that the rights and responsibilities of the participating actors, including women and marginalized groups, are clearly laid down and respected, and that decisions are made through a process of consultation, collaboration and coordination of all actors concerned. Such a process shall encompass capacity building and empowerment of small-scale fishers, providing them with the required social protection, and meeting their well-being aspirations through proper social development interventions and adoption of appropriate legal instruments. 3

#### **For more**

[igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1066-Interesting%20articles%20on%20SSF%20Guidelines.html](http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1066-Interesting%20articles%20on%20SSF%20Guidelines.html)

#### **Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines**

[www.fao.org/srilanka/news/detail-events/en/c/356820/](http://www.fao.org/srilanka/news/detail-events/en/c/356820/)

#### **FAO-BOBLME South Asia Regional Consultation on SSF Guidelines**

# Learning, Sharing, Acting

A workshop held at the coastal town of Bagamoyo during 17–18 August 2015 addressed the role of the SSF Guidelines in meeting the challenges of coastal communities in Tanzania

The adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of FAO in June 2014 has established a firm foundation for organizing and facilitating activities that will enhance the profile of small-scale fisheries around the world and promote their role as diligent actors in the fight against global poverty. These Guidelines resonate with the situations that coastal fisheries in Tanzania face. Coastal Tanzanian communities have to confront a number of challenges in improving their livelihoods from fisheries, not the least of which is the increase in destructive fishing methods, including the common use of explosives. Additionally, the role of women in the small-scale fisheries value chain is largely unrecognized, in terms of their role in gleaning and fish processing and selling.

In response to the move to disseminate the SSF Guidelines, Tanzanian member of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), in collaboration with MWAMBAO Coastal Community Network of Tanzania, conducted a workshop with policy-makers and representatives from marine fishing communities during 17–18 August 2015 at Bagamoyo.

MWAMBAO is an evolving network of coastal communities in Tanzania that is working to build the capacity of communities and bring them together while also linking up with scientists, government institutions, practitioners and experts to facilitate cross-learning, information sharing and joint action.

The workshop paid tribute to the memory of Chandrika Sharma, the former Executive Secretary of ICSF, who was very closely involved in the process leading up to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines, but who was sadly lost when the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 disappeared on 8 March 2014.

The total number of participants at the Bagamoyo workshop was 36, of whom 10 were female and 26 male. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. continue the participatory process of creating awareness of the SSF

**The workshop paid tribute to the memory of Chandrika Sharma, the former Executive Secretary of ICSF, who was very closely involved in the process leading up to the adoption of the SSF Guidelines...**

Guidelines and their applicability in the local context of Tanzania;

- ii. explore how current legislation reflects the SSF Guidelines and where there might be room for improvement;
- iii. stimulate local awareness amongst members of the marine fishing community in Tanzania of the breadth of their rights both in the national and international context; and
- iv. identify ways in which fishing communities can begin to implement the SSF Guidelines on the ground.

The workshop was conducted in the coastal town of Bagamoyo and involved participants from different locations and at different levels of governance, from policymakers to fishers themselves. Zanzibar fisheries were not included in the workshop

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largely for logistical reasons but also because Zanzibar fisheries legislation differs from that of the mainland. In order to facilitate easier communication with participants, a Kiswahili translation of the SSF Guidelines was prepared.

A brief introduction was given on the development of the SSF Guidelines until their adoption on 1 June 2014 so that the members would appreciate the participatory efforts taken to involve and consult stakeholders from different levels of the fisheries community. These included representatives of governments, small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their organizations, researchers, development partners and other relevant stakeholders from over 120 countries in six regions and over 20 civil society organizations.

The methodology for the workshop involved:

- appreciative inquiry;
- giving priority to the rights and responsibilities in small-scale fisheries;
- sharing of related experiences of small-scale fisheries in other countries using a community film;
- presentation on key issues; and
- group discussions and deliberations.

### **Highlights of the workshop**

#### ***(i) Sharing of experiences using a community film***

Two videos were shown from two different parts of the world to illustrate the rights of small-scale fishers and the issues which they are currently facing.

- a. *Voice of Fishers, Panama*, which was produced under the 'Voices of Fishers' project conducted in relation to the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The documentary production involves testimonies from members of the fishing community of Kuna Yala, Comarca, who talk about their vision and the reality of issues relating to tenure and rights over traditional fisheries, and the need

for the government to recognize their traditional governance system.

- b. *A Cry for Rights*, is a participatory video facilitated by MWAMBAO with the fisher communities in Lamu, Kenya, regarding the need for community consultation with regard to a major local port development which will significantly impact their fishing grounds, livelihoods and culture.

#### ***(ii) Clarification of small-scale fisheries governance issues from a central government perspective***

At the workshop, it was elaborated that the fisheries sector, being an important livelihood sector for the people and economy of Tanzania, is a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder sector, within which a number of rights and responsibilities have been developed in order to ensure the desired functioning of the sector. Governance responsibilities are outlined by the national policy, legal and institutional framework. Key instruments include the National Fisheries Sector Policy and Strategies Statement (NFSPSS) of 1997; the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2003 and the Principal Regulations of 2009 and 2012, usually reviewed from time to time.

Local participation through decentralized management of the fisheries sector is enshrined in these instruments through which the government recognizes the central and significant role of small-scale fisheries and fishing communities in the country. In addition to fishers having the right to make demands on the government for information, facilitation and other services to enable them to benefit from fisheries resources, small-scale fishers also bear responsibility for protecting resources, and ensuring sustainable use and compliance to sensitive management practices on the marine environment guided by their own bylaws.

#### ***(iii) Group discussions and deliberations by participants***

Five groups were formed, each assigned under one of the major

themes of the SSF Guidelines, namely, (a) Governance of tenure; (b) Social development, employment and decent work; (c) Value chain (including post-harvest and trade activities); (d) Gender equity; and (d) Climate change and disaster risk.

From the ensuing discussions, some of the experiences regarding fishers' rights noted that overall, there was a lack of a clear mechanism or platform for voicing the rights of small-scale fishers. It was noted that some organizations have been formed, such as Muungano wa Wavuvi

wa Mwambao Tanzania, but these are area-specific and do not have a coordinated outreach for the coastal fishers in the country. In addition, community-based systems such as Beach Management Units (BMUs) or Village Liaison Committees (VLCs) have been formed, but the effectiveness of these structures is also area-specific, and their operations are sometimes challenged by lack of capacity, non-compliance or inability to stand for small-scale fishers' rights.

- Specifically, the following issues were mentioned:

| Issues  | Issues  |
|---|---|
| <b>Policy and legal issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishers do not have the absolute right of ownership of fishing grounds</li> <li>• Conversion of land areas to other uses such as tourist hotels is limiting the right of access of fishers to fishing grounds</li> <li>• Lack of participation of small-scale fishers in the coastal land-use planning processes is affecting small-scale fishers' rights</li> <li>• Fisheries laws and policies are not commensurate with small-scale fisheries situations, and hence need to be reviewed</li> <li>• There is need to endorse BMU regulations</li> </ul> | <b>Interlinkages for management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor linkages with the Meteorological Department deny fishers adequate information on the weather situation, making it difficult for them to prepare for disasters</li> <li>• Inadequate savings and credit facilities to satisfy and motivate fishers. These need to be upscaled</li> <li>• Low entrepreneurship skills for small-scale fishers</li> <li>• Poor dissemination or coordination of market information</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Ecological, environmental issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate knowledge makes it challenging for communities to engage in sustainable management of resources (like mangroves, beaches and coral reefs)</li> <li>• Degradation of marine ecology from both climate change and anthropogenic factors</li> <li>• Rise in sea level and destruction of beaches related to climate change</li> <li>• Climate-change-related decline in seaweed production</li> </ul>  | <b>Health issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited health services available for small-scale fishing communities (especially healthcare for women and children)</li> <li>• Inadequate knowledge of HIV/AIDS among small-scale fishers</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Gender-related concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's involvement in decision-making is low (only 30 per cent)</li> <li>• Women do not have adequate knowledge of the fisheries</li> <li>• Women in small-scale fishing communities are less educated (low schooling levels) compared to men</li> <li>• Tough competition for women from more able fishers and buyers</li> <li>• Women's low engagement in the value chain is due to inadequate support and lack of capital</li> <li>• Gender-based violence is experienced throughout the value chain (in employment, business, etc.)</li> </ul>       | <b>Small-scale fisheries management concerns</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few developed and equipped landing sites</li> <li>• Inadequate access to appropriate fishing tools or technologies, which affects more women and the youth</li> <li>• Permission for non-government actors to manage marine resources (for example, in creation of artificial reef structures)</li> <li>• Poor or lack of efficient tools, low-standard tools, gear and equipment, and lack of capital to invest in fishing and related activities</li> </ul> |

### Prioritisation of issues

Each working group prioritized two actions as priority outcomes from the workshop and these were summarized under the major themes as follows:

- i. Forming an umbrella national fishers' organization starting at the village level

The responsibility of this national small-scale fishers' organization will be to (a) mobilize and collect people's views and increase their awareness and sensitization on key issues confronting small-scale fisheries; (b) unite groups that already exist; (c) provide advice and guidance; and (d) collaborate with the government and the village to develop a common goal. The organization will also have to develop a constitution.

- ii. Encourage further formation of savings and credit groups

Forming savings and credit groups to promote the sensitization, mobilization and formation of a sound savings and credit system with reasonable reach among the small-scale fishing community, which will also be accessible and affordable. This will be done in cooperation with current leaders and advisers of VICOBA (Village Community Banks).

- iii. Improve collaboration among, and between, fishing communities in the protection of landing sites

This proposal will include the formulation of a decision-making protocol for landing-site management. This protocol will involve the following:

- a. preparation of bylaws and guidelines for (coastal) investors (in particular, tourism developers). These bylaws will be formulated through the sensitization of the small-scale fishing community at the village level;
- b. allocation of roles and responsibilities;
- c. consideration of gender equity;
- d. encouraging increased hygiene at the landing sites by BMU and other stakeholders;
- e. follow-up on security issues at landing sites;
- f. follow-up on bylaw enforcement; and

- g. improving women's access to fish markets.

- iv. Prepare a Social and Environmental Management Plan for small-scale fisheries. This plan will outline small-scale fisheries management aspects, disaster mitigation aspects, and information sharing and coordination among the different stakeholders—village-local government (district) and the central government. The plan will also outline mechanisms for improved communication and for technical/expert support on fisheries and the environment to small-scale fishing communities.

- v. Prepare and enforce bylaws to help in the prevention of gender-based violence among small-scale fishing communities and across the value chain. The programme should include strategies to control HIV/AIDS transmission, as well as liaison with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to obtain appropriate guidelines.

In order to jump-start the process and to ensure its sustainability, the workshop facilitators agreed to proceed with the following steps:

- forming a task force involving ICSF, MWAMBAO and the government
- formulating an action plan as the Tanzanian chapter for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and
- developing a monitoring plan with established indicators.

### For more

[igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1070-Tanzania.html](http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1070-Tanzania.html)

**Report of the Workshop to Introduce the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (VG-SSF) in Tanzania**

# A Huge Struggle

**A recent workshop at New Delhi discussed capacity building for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)**

A national workshop on 'Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)' was held during 21–22 March 2016 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. While this was the first in a series of workshops supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to be organized in various countries and regions, for India it was the culmination of a series of workshops and consultations held across the country since early last year.

The national workshop was organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), in collaboration with the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) to promote awareness about the SSF Guidelines and to mobilize support for their implementation. The workshop also aimed to highlight the small-scale fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector; and to discuss how Indian policies and legislation to protect the lives and livelihoods of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities can benefit from the SSF Guidelines.

The New Delhi workshop was planned to coincide with the second anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, which Chandrika Sharma, the former Executive Secretary of ICSF, was on board. At the workshop, representatives from WFFP, WFF and ICSF spoke about her support for the struggles of small-scale fishworkers

the world over, and how we need to carry on the fight in her honour.

In the spirit of the SSF Guidelines, the workshop brought together a range of actors of relevance to the small-scale fisheries sector, in an attempt at developing a coherent intersectoral response. Nearly 96 participants attended the workshop. There were distinguished participants not only from marine and inland fishing communities across India, but also from a cross-section of ministries, departments and agencies, both at the Union and state level, dealing with human rights, rural development, decentralization and local governance,

**The workshop also aimed to highlight the small-scale fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector**

labour and employment, disaster preparedness, finance, tribal affairs, planning, marine and inland fisheries as well as representatives of CSOs/NGOs, research institutions, FAO, IFAD and BOBP-IGO. Panel discussions focusing on each component of the SSF Guidelines brought forth a range of information, opinions and experiences from different stakeholders. Group discussions on the second day helped concretize recommendations towards action plans based on what emerged from the panel discussions.

## Concerns raised

International small-scale fishworker forums, represented by their Indian members, raised their concerns plaguing the sector and what needed

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to be done to protect their rights and promote their interests. These included the importance of securing access to tenure rights to coastal and inland land and water bodies and protection of customary rights; the need for measures to ensure their social development including decent housing, sanitation facilities, potable water, education and health infrastructure; ways in which decent

the imminent threat to coastal communities due to sea level rise, global warming and acidification of oceans adversely impacting marine life.

The plethora of challenges women faced was highlighted by several speakers. Fisherwomen had low access to government finances, were not recognized as 'fishers' and were therefore unable to lease inland water bodies without protracted struggles. As workers, they often received less than the minimum wage, and their lack of collateral also left them at the mercy of middlemen and moneylenders. They lacked facilities at landing centres, including access to drinking water, leave alone water for cleaning fish. Among the many issues raised were—the lack of marketing facilities, exploitation of women in markets, lack of security as well as facilities for women who travel intra - and inter-state to sell fish, work displacement of women caused by factors such as male-friendly technology development which decreased their access to fish, loss of access rights to traditional fish drying areas, and poor access to education, health, entitlements and property. Also, it was pointed out that the high levels of alcoholism among men in fishing communities were the cause of great suffering for the women.

Participants at the workshop condemned the practice of giving value to trash fish in the form of fishmeal for poultry. They also spoke out against the government incentivising the export sector, adversely affecting the domestic market and food security. They also condemned the dumping of toxic waste in oceans, large-scale destruction of mangroves for 'development' projects, flattening of sand dunes for sand mining, and the lack of a system of punishments for violations of environmental laws.

### Framework

The workshop participants felt that the SSF Guidelines now provide a framework to address these issues. Government representatives from a wide range of ministries and research

**Participants at the workshop explained how the tenure rights of both men and women were weak and not guaranteed...**

work could be ensured for workers; how the role of women in small-scale fisheries needed to be valorized, their participation strengthened and capacities built for value addition, leadership and marketing; and, the need to address the implications of climate change and natural disasters on small-scale fisheries. They discussed the importance of pensions for fisherpeople, safety at sea, insurance policies against disasters, protection of fishers across territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone, and compensation during fish ban periods. Issues concerning migrant workers on fishing boats were highlighted, the need for facilities, insurance covers and registration in the places where they work and that interdepartmental coordination between fisheries and labour is needed at the national and state levels. Suggestions were made regarding zoning, including reserving areas for traditional small-scale fishers, and for different gear groups to reduce inter-gear conflicts.

Participants at the workshop explained how the tenure rights of both men and women were weak and not guaranteed, and pointed to their poor access to health, housing, water and sanitation facilities, and how fishing communities were especially affected by natural and man-made disasters and developments in the coastal and inland areas, including

institutions as well as international agencies welcomed the SSF Guidelines and highlighted its importance in a country like India where 95 per cent of its fisherfolk are in the small-scale subsector. They recognized the threats to small-scale fisheries and said that though some aspects of the SSF Guidelines were reflected in the 2004 Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy, the draft 2015 National Marine Fisheries Policy and the Marine Fishing Regulation Acts at the state level, some issues like disaster risk reduction and climate-change mitigation were new to the fisheries authorities. They spoke about the role they could play and how the SSF Guidelines could provide guidance for legislation, policies and research of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities.

Attention was drawn to how existing policies and legislation deal with life and livelihood issues of both men and women and how gaps in legal and policy instruments as well as the gap between the research conducted and the realities confronting the communities could be meaningfully addressed by implementing the SSF Guidelines. The roles that local bodies or *panchayats* can play in economic, infrastructure and social development and the importance of fisheries cooperatives were highlighted. As the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has started monitoring flagship social protection programmes of the government, fishing communities can bring to the notice of NHRC their particular vulnerabilities or poor access to these flagship programmes.

At the New Delhi workshop, data and information gaps were pointed out, and participants expressed the need for baseline documentation of traditional rights on inland and marine fisheries in order to protect traditional rights from getting extinguished. They also discussed data on landings, a data bank of migrant-sending and receiving states, an inland fishery survey, and the need for gender-disaggregated data to make the role of women in fisheries more visible. There was also a call for a National Data Acquisition

Plan for Fisheries, with fishing licences accompanying a mandatory requirement of sharing catch data.

The workshop participants were given a glimpse of FAO's efforts towards implementation of the SSF Guidelines. There was recognition that the Indian Constitution and human-rights law place great value on the human rights principles reflected in the SSF Guidelines, but the reality is different and political will is needed to ensure that these principles are actually protected and promoted to ensure the human rights of small-scale fishing communities. It was acknowledged that the SSF Guidelines are unique in that they are developed within the framework of two main approaches—the human-rights-based approach as well as an ecosystem approach to fisheries—which, therefore, attempt to achieve better benefits for small-scale fisheries and fishworkers as well as sustainability of fishery resources. The participants of the workshop enumerated the positive steps taken, including key climate finance initiatives by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which have helped to build resilience and to improve efficiency, IFAD's post-tsunami livelihood programme, the aquarian reforms in Kerala where fishing is restricted to fishing

ICSF



David Brown, Ujjaini Halim, M Illango and V Vivekanandan at a panel discussion at the National Workshop on Capacity Building for the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines, New Delhi, India

communities, and NHRC's responses to safeguard the collective rights of communities.

What came across throughout the workshop was a concern about the future of small-scale fisheries, and how the sector has changed drastically over the years with changes in technology, depletion of fish stocks and exploitation of resources leading to a change in the livelihood patterns of SSF communities and their increasing vulnerabilities. SSF communities are the most vulnerable, exposed to the vagaries of nature, prone to the maximum number of natural calamities, and difficult to reach, both geographically and politically. Many communities have benefitted from advances in technology, but the SSF sector has actually worsened, while others, including trawl fisheries and tourism, are threatening the entitlements of SSF to coastal and marine resources.

At the New Delhi workshop, the importance of active participation of small-scale fishing communities in fisheries management, research, and in decision-making bodies as well as in community-based resource management systems for monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was underscored by both fishworker organizations and government representatives.

**The timing of the workshop was appreciated as a new national legislation is taking shape for marine fisheries...**

The New Delhi workshop helped to inform all the participants about the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines, highlighting the small-scale fishery organizations' efforts at empowering the fishing communities and valorizing the subsector. The importance of SSF was recognized as a major contributor to poverty eradication and food security. Most importantly, the workshop provided a space for government representatives and

small-scale fishworker organizations to freely engage with one another and exchange views and recommend action plans on how to take the concerns of small-scale fisheries on board.

Small-scale fishing community representatives were exposed to policies and schemes of various ministries and how they can be applied to their communities; they were also told about the gaps that needed to be filled. Ministry representatives, on the other hand, heard the voices and concerns of small-scale fishworkers, and were made aware of the SSF Guidelines and the role that they can play in its implementation, including the possibility of developing policies and measures or implementing existing ones that protect the interests of the subsector.

The SSF Guidelines, in fact, can give guidance on how various national and state schemes offered by many different ministries can be extended to small-scale fishing communities and how each level of government up to the *panchayat* level has a role to play. The need for a plurality of agencies to address the needs of the small-scale fisheries sector was recognized as was the need for a concerted response. The importance of a National Plan of Action for implementing the VGSSF was acknowledged, with the lead taken by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and with the active involvement of FWOs and CSOs. Capacity building of the various departments responsible for dealing with SSF would be a necessary prerequisite. The government expressed willingness to develop indicators, with the participation of FWOs, to monitor the progress of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and to measure the outcome. The timing of the workshop was appreciated as a new national legislation is taking shape for marine fisheries and the recommendations supporting SSF could still be incorporated in the new marine



The New Delhi workshop provided a space for government representatives and small-scale fishworker organizations to freely engage with one another and exchange views and recommend action plans on how to take the concerns of small-scale fisheries on board

fisheries policy. The need for a National Inland Fisheries Policy was felt if one wanted to adopt the SSF Guidelines in the inland context. It was hoped that the workshop would provide avenues for cooperation and collaboration between FWOs, the government, civil society and research institutions.

Much more needs to be done to understand the inland fisheries sector which is very complex in India. While it was felt that semi-intensive or intensive aquaculture was negatively impacting the SSF, some other participants at the workshop pointed to the mariculture advantage, where the gender issue can be addressed by giving more rights to women. These issues need to be looked into further. The lack of private sector participation is also a matter of concern, particularly as the SSF Guidelines include them as one of the stakeholders and because their interests could clash with the SSF sector.

The New Delhi workshop was just one step towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The challenges ahead are huge in a country as diverse as India where even the definition of what constitutes a small-scale fishery is difficult. Moving from awareness and capacity building to actual implementation

in terms of policy and legal changes with benefits reaching the small-scale fisheries sector is far from easy. Much more needs to be done to formulate ideas and action plans for implementation as well as to ensure that the multiple players work together for a coordinated response.

The federal system with its multi-layered governance structures can be a blessing and a challenge when it comes to converting the SSF Guidelines into practical measures for implementation. Action plans or interventions towards implementation need to be contextualised and developed at the national, state and local levels. Further, the SSF Guidelines place the responsibility for implementation on multiple stakeholders—government, civil society, private sector, fishworker organizations—leaving it to those with ‘greater’ stakes to push for its implementation. Though sustainability of lives, livelihoods and natural living resources are considered global and national priorities reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals and country plans, in reality, there is always a huge struggle to reflect these in action.

#### For more



[sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/home/india-national-workshop-on-capacity-building-for-the-implementation-of-ssf-guidelines](https://sites.google.com/site/ssfguidelines/home/india-national-workshop-on-capacity-building-for-the-implementation-of-ssf-guidelines)

**India National Workshop on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries**

## FISHERIES LEGISLATION

### IUU Fishing

Cuba's accession to accord signals important step in global anti-rogue fishing effort.

2016, Rome—Cuba has helped to edge forward global efforts targeting illegal fishing by acceding to a FAO-brokered international pact that now requires the adherence by just one more party before coming into force.

On 25 March 2016, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations agencies in Rome, Alba Soto Pimentel, formally presented FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with Cuba's instrument of accession to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

"Cuba's accession to this international treaty is a sign of the political will of the Government of Cuba to contribute in an effective and concrete way in support of measures for the protection and sustainability of ecosystems and the preservation of marine biodiversity", Ambassador Soto Pimentel said.

For his part, the FAO Director-General strongly welcomed Cuba's accession. "I am sure it is an example which will be followed by many other countries in the Caribbean region", Graziano da Silva said.

The Agreement, which will create binding obligations, comes into force when 25 countries or regional economic blocs have deposited their instrument of adherence with the FAO Director-General. With Cuba's adherence, 23 countries and the European Union, on behalf of its members, have deposited 24 instruments of adherence. Among the latest are Barbados, Guyana, Republic of Korea, South Africa and the United States.

Graziano da Silva has expressed confidence that the target of 25 could be reached by July this year.

Illicit fishing, which includes operating without authorization, harvesting protected species, using outlawed fishing gear and violating quota limits, may account for up to 26 mn tonnes a year, or more than 15 per cent of the world's total annual capture fisheries output.

Besides economic damage, such practices can threaten local biodiversity and food security in many countries. Port State measures set standards for inspection of foreign vessels that seek to enter the port of another State. Importantly, the measures allow a country to block ships it suspects of having engaged in illicit fishing and thereby prevent illegal catches from entering local and international markets.

To assist countries in building their capacity to implement the Agreement, FAO has convened a series of regional workshops around the world, with participation from over 100 countries.

By becoming party to, and implementing, the Agreement, States will be in a position to better achieve the objectives of the voluntary 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which seeks to promote the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/397479/icode/>

## BBNJ

### First Session of Preparatory Committee

The first session of the Preparatory Committee on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) convened from 28 March – 8 April 2016 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Meeting in plenary and informal working group settings, the Committee considered: the scope of an international legally binding instrument and its relationship with other instruments; guiding approaches and principles; marine genetic resources, including questions on benefit-sharing; area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity building and marine technology transfer.

Delegates engaged in frank discussions, outlining their detailed positions on the various elements related to the 2011 "package." On the final day, they agreed to a procedural roadmap outlining the structure of PrepCom 2, and on having a Chair's summary of the meeting and an indicative list of issues circulated during the intersessional period, to facilitate preparations for PrepCom 2.

Source: <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/bbnj/prepcom1>

## VERBATIM

The economics of fisheries is related to forestry, water, and even non-renewable resources by the notion of optimal investment and disinvestments, or when and how much to subtract or harvest.

— FROM *THE ECONOMICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES*  
BY QUENTIN GRAFTON ET AL

## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

### Haor Farmers and Fishers Alliance (HFFA)

Haor Farmers and Fishers Alliance is a platform to raise the voices of farmers and fishers of Bangladesh. (Haor is a wetland ecosystem of Bangladesh.) HFFA seeks to establish young leadership to ensure meaningful lives for farmers and fishers who face many challenges, including the impacts of climate change. HFFA held its 8th General Assembly on 22 January 2016, where representatives of farmers and fishers selected their leaders for the next three years. The newly formed central committee also reviewed the organizational status of HFFA.

HFFA has 13,000 members (8,000 men and 5,000 women). Its organizational structure is divided into Upazila

Committees, a District/Main Committee and a Technical Committee.

HFFA has finalized and set its objectives with the consultations with its members and free stakeholders. 'Objectives of HFFA' is a result of



almost two years of continuous knowledge gathering and sharing.

The main objectives of HFFA, which were set in consultation with its members and stakeholders over a two-year period, are to (i) establish knowledge-based farmers' and fishers' communities, (ii) create

an enabling environment for farmers and fishers to identify their legitimate rights and appropriate responsibilities, and (iii) enhance the capacities of farmers and fishers to utilize resources sustainably.

HFFA believes in a rights-based approach to enable farmers and fishers to lay claim to their legitimate rights. It also seeks to sensitize the 'duty bearers' towards the needs of the rights holders.

Considering that the youth of Bangladesh are not showing enough interest in agriculture, HFFA tries to engage with young farmers, fishers and community leaders to help revive the fisheries and farming sectors.

## FISHERIES STATISTICS

# The Role of Trade in Fisheries

Fish and fishery products are among the most traded food commodities worldwide. Trade plays a major role in the fishery industry as a creator of employment, food supplier, income generator, contributor to economic growth and development, and to food and nutrition security. For many countries and for numerous coastal, riverine, insular and inland regions, fishery exports are essential to the economy.

Fishery trade has been expanding considerably in recent decades, with the fisheries sector operating in an increasingly globalized environment. Fish can be produced in one country, processed in a second and consumed in a third. Sustained demand, trade liberalization policies, globalization of food systems, technological innovations as well as changes in distribution and marketing have significantly modified the way fishery products are prepared, processed, marketed and delivered to consumers.

During the last two years, the global fishery and aquaculture sector has continued to expand, with sustained growth in overall production, trade and consumption, despite high prices for many important species. The shift towards relatively greater consumption of farmed species, compared with wild fish, hit a milestone in 2014, when the farmed sector's contribution to fish food supply overtook that of wild fish for the first time.

A growing share of fishery and aquaculture production is directed to human consumption, as more people worldwide appreciate the health benefits of regular fish consumption. Fish and fishery products play a crucial role in nutrition and global food security, accounting for about 17 per cent of the world population's intake of animal proteins. World apparent per capita fish food consumption increased from about 18.7 kg to more than 20 kg during 2011–2015, with major growth

in emerging economies. This expansion in demand has been driven by a combination of population growth, rising incomes and urbanization, and facilitated by the strong expansion of fish production and more efficient distribution channels. International trade plays an important role in this respect, allowing countries to diversify consumption, thus providing wider choices to consumers.

Despite the overall increase in the availability of fish to most consumers, growth patterns of per capita apparent fish consumption have been uneven, for example, remaining static or decreasing in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Availability and disposable income are not the only factors to boost fish consumption. It is evident that socioeconomic and cultural factors also strongly influence the level of fish consumption among countries and within countries in terms of quantity and variety consumed. The long-term challenge for policymakers is to sustain and to improve the intake per capita of fish as a source of proteins and essential micro-nutrients not readily found in other foods. In the next decade, major expansion in demand is expected to occur in developing countries, but consumption will increase in all continents, with Asia showing the fastest growth rates. However, in sub-Saharan Africa, per capita consumption may decrease in scenarios with very high population growth.

A significant share of total fish production (about 36 per cent, live-weight equivalent) is exported, reflecting the sector's degree of openness and integration into international trade. In 2014, more than three-quarters of the quantity of fish and fishery products exported were destined for direct human consumption.

International trade of fish and fishery products has significantly increased during the last few years, peaking at US\$ 144 bn in 2014. However, preliminary estimates for 2015

point to a decline of about 10 per cent to US\$ 130 bn. There are several reasons for this contraction, including the weakening of many key emerging markets and lower prices for a number of important species. However, the primary underlying cause of this decline is the strong gain of the US dollar versus multiple currencies, particularly those of major seafood exporters such as the European Union (EU, Member Organization), Norway and China. The decline should be only in value terms, whereas traded volumes should remain rather stable or slightly increase.

Trade in fish and fishery products is, to a large extent, driven by demand from developed countries, which dominate world fishery imports, although with a declining share in recent years (73 per cent share of world imports in 2014 vs 81 per cent in 2004 and 85 per cent in 1994). Their imports of products from capture fisheries and aquaculture originate from both developed and developing countries, giving many producers an incentive to produce, process and export.

This is a major reason for the low import tariffs on fish in developed countries, albeit with a few exceptions (that is, some value-added products), and has allowed developing countries to supply fishery products to markets in developed countries without facing prohibitive customs duties. This trend follows the expanding membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the entry into force of a number of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and rising disposable incomes in emerging economies. In several cases, the most important barriers for developing countries to increase their exports to developed countries are non-tariff measures, such as the difficulty to adhere to quality and safety import requirements.

Some of the major issues of international fish trade are:

- the relationship between fisheries management policy, allocation of rights and the

economic sustainability of the sector,

- the growing concern of the general public and the retail sector about overfishing of certain fish stocks,
- the role of the small-scale sector in fish production and trade,
- the increasing concern about social and labour conditions within the industry and its suppliers,
- IUU fishing and its impact on the value chain as well as on labour conditions within the sector,
- the impact on the domestic fisheries and aquaculture sector from a surge in imports of farmed products,
- the globalization of supply chains, with growing outsourcing of production,
- the significant increase of eco-labels and their possible effect on market access for developing countries,
- the requirement for new traceability systems,
- the economic instability and the risk of increased protectionism using non-tariff barriers or high import tariffs,
- the impact of mega trade agreements in the international flow of fishery products,
- the volatility of commodity prices in general and the impact on producers as well as on consumers,
- the currency exchange volatility and its impact on trade of fishery products,
- the prices and distribution of margins and benefits throughout the fisheries value chain,
- the need for competitiveness of fish and fishery products vs other food products,
- the incidence of fraud in the denomination of commercial names of fish and fishery products,
- the difficulty to meet the stringent rules for quality and safety by several countries,;
- the perceived and real risks and benefits of fish consumption, and
- the perception of aquaculture by stakeholders.

Source: Excerpted from the Trade sub-committee report

## 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

#### **Voices from African Artisanal Fisheries: Giving the Floor to Those Who Live from Fishing. March 2016**

From Senegal to Togo, from Guinea-Bissau to Mauritania, from Tunisia to Ghana, communities living from maritime fisheries show the same attachment to the sea and face the same challenges.

Between September 2014 and November 2015, the West African Network of Journalists for Responsible Fisheries (rejoprao), in collaboration with the African Confederation of Fisheries Professional Organizations (CAOPA), went to meet artisanal fisheries stakeholders in these six countries. In each country, they visited fishing sites, had exchanges with groups of men and women living from fishing, made individual interviews and did documentary research.

The outcome document provides a better understanding and honestly describes the realities in which fishing communities have to live and work, and the challenges they face. It also shows that, beyond the often unreliable statistics, African artisanal fisheries are composed of men and women who want to be heard. Built around a series of six field reports, this publication gives the floor to artisanal fisheries stakeholders, who share their fears and hopes for the future. For the full report, please visit:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/517fe876e4b03c6b86a4b81b/t/56ea7c3e7da24f3656a484od/1458207810052/Voices+from+africa\\_eng.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/517fe876e4b03c6b86a4b81b/t/56ea7c3e7da24f3656a484od/1458207810052/Voices+from+africa_eng.pdf)

#### **The Seas Will Save Us: How an Army of Ocean Farmers are Starting an Economic Revolution**

This article demonstrates the various issues in fishing over the years, and also demonstrates different aspects of aquaculture.

The article focuses on the new face of environmentalism, as food systems are pushed out to sea, and how privatization can be blocked.

<https://medium.com/invironment/an-army-of-ocean-farmers-on-the-frontlines-of-the-blue-green-economic-revolution-d5ae171285a3#.i3k21pva6>

### Videos

#### **Training Material on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)**

CoopeSoliDar has produced a number of training materials on the SSF Guidelines in Spanish, with English titles. The videos relate to different aspects of the SSF Guidelines such as access rights, participative governance, capacity strengthening and food security.

These are available as Flash presentations for different users at <http://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1066-Interesting%20articles%20on%20SSF%20Guidelines.html>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEETINGS

#### **Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 32nd Session,**

11 - 15 July 2016, Italy, Rome

Amongst other things, the 32nd Session of the COFI, will also discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

#### **Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources**

20 - 22 June 2016, Italy, Rome

The meeting will focus on access

and benefit-sharing for aquatic genetic resources.

### WEBSITES

#### **Port State Measures for IUU fishing**

FAO's theme page on Port State measures, provides information on latest news, key facts, and statements from different officials besides providing the complete text of the Agreement and Ratification Status.

[www.fao.org/port-state-measures/en/?utm\\_source=faohomepage&utm\\_medium=web&utm\\_campaign=featurebar](http://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/en/?utm_source=faohomepage&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=featurebar)

#### **SSF Guidelines Implementation**

This website is part of a joint effort by the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), Centro Internazionale Crocevia and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), as part of the efforts to disseminate information on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, especially through capacity building and awareness-raising workshops in different parts of the world.

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

#### **Combating unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood industry**

This project, funded by the EU, aims to address working conditions that deny fundamental principles and rights at work in the Thai fishing and seafood processing industry.

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms\\_460872.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/projectdocumentation/wcms_460872.pdf)

## FLASHBACK

### Guiding Small-scale Fisheries

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Rome in early 2011, agreed on the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector and decided to give it high priority and adequate visibility. The Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries. A set of international voluntary guidelines that would draw on relevant existing instruments complementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, to address both inland and marine small-



scale fisheries in developing countries, will be developed. This is to be done with the involvement of all stakeholders. The FAO Council subsequently lent support to COFI by including the work on small-scale fisheries in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the year 2012-13.

The workshop-cum symposium on sustainable small-scale fisheries, organized by the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), India, in collaboration with ICSF, and held at Kolkata in September 2011, was intended to contribute to the process of developing the proposed FAO guidelines.

At least nine similar meetings are scheduled to be held under the auspices of civil society organizations such as the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) during the next three months to contribute to the guidelines process.

This is the first time that several meetings are being organized under the auspices of civil society organizations in preparation for a proposed FAO fishery instrument. These meetings and their pertinent outcomes should be seen by the FAO Member States and the Secretariat as an opportunity to benefit from a bottom-up process to develop meaningful voluntary guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, to complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. They should also be seen as a promising beginning to broadening the participation of civil society organizations in the fisheries work of FAO.

— from Comment in SAMUDRA Report No. 60, November 2011



## Endquote

### Dawn at Sea

*The water by the sun's first rays  
is friendly, soft, serene,  
An orange glow enhanced by haze  
surrenders things unseen.*

*A white sail as the mist unfurls  
takes shape above a sloop,  
A startled fish sends up great swirls  
The bait fish jump and sea birds swoop.*

*This moment strangely mystical  
Is salve upon my soul  
A phenomenon unequaled  
by man's most lofty goal.*

*Surely Heaven abounds with  
such evanescent majesty  
to savour like a heady wine  
for all eternity.*

*A honking horn, a barking dog  
assails my ears from shore  
to herald life's realities  
Another dawn is o'er.*

— Jack Jay Burns

