

SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS TRUST



IUU Fishing and Working Conditions

Social Sustainability in Fish Trade

Migrant Workers' Rights

Canadian Fishers vs Foreign Corporates

Women in Fiji's Fisheries

UN Ocean Conference



SAMUDRA Report invites contributions and responses. Correspondence should be addressed to Chennai, India.

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FRONT COVER



Koli fishermen, Machimar Nagar, Mumbai, India. Sculpture by Debanjan Roy, public art initiative by RPG Art Foundation
Photo by Gaurav Mangela

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BACK COVER



Women taking a craft ride to the sea shallows where they will dig for clams, Gulf of Gabes, Tunisia
Photo by FAO/Giulio Napolitano



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FAO / SAEED KHAN

Fishing craft at Ban Nam Khem village harbour,
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Working for Fishers

The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) aims to protect and promote decent work and living conditions on board fishing vessels

The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) enters into force on 17 November 2017 for those 10 countries that have ratified the Convention (see article on page 4). On the same day, the European Council (EC) Directive 2017/159 on implementing C188 will also enter into force. It requires all EU Member States to adopt measures to comply with the Directive by 2019.

The Convention is meant to protect and promote decent work and living conditions on board fishing vessels, large and small, including their right to organize; their right of freedom of association; their right to freedom from forced labour and child labour; their rights against all forms of discrimination; and their rights to occupational safety and health and social security. It applies mainly to fishers on board marine fishing vessels. It can, potentially, eliminate exploitative labour conditions for fishers, both migrant and resident fishers. The EC Directive, aptly, calls C188 “a single coherent instrument to complete the international standards for living and working conditions” in the fishing sector.

C188 enters into force at a time when marine-capture fisheries have already been transformed from development-driven, to conservation and management-driven fisheries. Several of the international environmental certification schemes for accessing international markets for fish and fish products now require meeting social standards, in addition to environmental standards. These social standards include labour standards.

The linkage of social and environmental aspects of fishing, in particular, is not lost on ILO when at the June 2017 Ocean Conference on the Sustainable Development Goal 14, dealing with conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, ILO made a voluntary commitment to improve the conditions of migrant fishers and to support States in undertaking comparative analyses of C188 and their national laws.



We hope the number of countries ratifying C188 would eventually increase to include all major fish-producing nations of the world and that it benefits fishers on board both larger and smaller vessels. A large number

of smaller vessels are expanding their range of fishing operation and occupying niches vacated by larger fishing vessels. A large number of smaller fishing vessels are undertaking longer fishing trips in Africa, Asia and Latin America (see article on Peru, page 9), lasting several weeks. Implementation of C188 can protect fishers on board these vessels as well. The Convention would become the first legally binding instrument that protects the human rights of fishers on board small-scale fishing vessels.

We believe C188, in a matter of a decade from entering into force, will irreversibly improve the working and living environment on board fishing vessels worldwide, that it will put an end to forced labour in fishing, that it will fully protect children from hazardous work in fishing, and that it will help provide social-security protection to all fishers.

Truly Sustainable

Addressing the issues of IUU fishing and unacceptable working conditions for fishers can lead to fisheries that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable

The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) will enter into force in November 2017 for the first ten States which have ratified it and will enter into force for other States one year after they submit their instruments of ratification to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The objective of the Convention is to ensure that fishers have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels with regard to minimum requirements for work on board; conditions of service; accommodation

Convention No. 188 and IUU fishing

Convention No. 188 enters into force at a time when the relationship between unacceptable forms of work at sea and other concerns, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fisheries crime is coming under increasing recognition and attention.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, include, among other things, *SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all* and *SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources*. During the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for Sustainable Development, in the discussion of Partnership Dialogue 4: Making Fisheries Sustainable, the ILO representative, among other things, called for ministries responsible for labour, fisheries, maritime safety and other issues to work together with representatives of both fishing vessel owners and fishers, as this would stimulate innovative thinking, and build links between SDG 14, SDG 8 and other SDGs, and thus truly lead to sustainable fisheries.

Social costs

IUU fishing poses a threat to that sustainability, and addressing it is well-reflected in the targets and indicators for achieving SDG 14. Often understated, however, are the social costs and the decent-work deficits that can also arise from IUU fishing operations. IUU fishing may impact

... the ILO representative, among other things, called for ministries responsible for labour, fisheries, maritime safety and other issues to work together with representatives of both fishing vessel owners and fishers...

and food; occupational safety and health protection; and medical care and social security.

As provided in the Constitution of the ILO, States that have ratified the Convention are to report to the ILO on the measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of Conventions to which they are parties, and the first ten are to submit these reports by November 2018.

Through its supervisory system, the ILO will then examine the application by States of Convention No. 188 and point out areas where it could be better applied. Those States for which the Convention is in force will also be in a position to enforce the requirements of the Convention on foreign fishing vessels visiting their ports (port State control), which will increase its impact.

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adversely upon local and small-scale fishing communities, and can threaten food security, generate poverty and harm livelihoods. Studies and articles (see *SAMUDRA Report*, Issue No. 66, December 2013) have linked IUU fishing operations to substandard working and living conditions on board, exploitation of migrant fishers, unacceptable forms of work such as forced labour and human trafficking. IUU fishing vessels tend to evade legal authorities, and this means that such matters as lack of safety equipment, poor hygiene standards and inadequate food and accommodation provisions on board may also go unchecked. It has also been argued by some that fishing vessel activities which violate workers' legal rights should be considered illegal fishing. Government resources to inspect fishing vessels are often limited, and co-ordination among ministries, agencies and administrations with responsibilities for fisheries management, maritime safety and social (labour) conditions, and other matters, is important to ensure efficient and effective control by States of fishing vessels, a duty set out for States in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). On a positive note, the Third Session of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters called for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the ILO, together with States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs and NGOs) to explore strategies and consider the organization of joint capacity-development programmes, for enhanced implementation of international instruments to combat IUU fishing, in particular, the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), considering the roles of all international and regional organizations concerned. ILO Convention No. 188 calls for a system of flag-State inspection and also provides for port-State control of foreign vessels visiting the ports

of States for which the Convention is in force. In order to help States implement the Convention, the ILO adopted *Guidelines for port-State control officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)* in 2010, and *Guidelines on flag-State inspection of working and living conditions on board fishing vessels* in 2015. These provide information on how to establish or improve the national system for inspection of fishing vessels, with specific guidance on how to conduct inspections on board. They encourage co-ordinated efforts among all authorities and clear communication with those concerned, in particular, fishing vessel owners and fishers.

Inspections must be undertaken in accordance with appropriate and clear laws and regulations. The ILO has, therefore, been assisting States to establish or improve national laws to ensure they cover the issues addressed in ILO Conventions, in particular, Convention No. 188. As reported in an earlier *SAMUDRA Report* article, this includes assisting States to undertake comparative analyses of their national legislation and the Convention. Such a 'gap analysis' can identify holes in the protection of fishers and lead to the filling of those holes. It can also help promote social dialogue between government authorities and representative

ILO / MAILLARD J.




Fishing craft maintenance work at Argentina. A 'gap analysis' can identify holes in the protection of fishers and lead to the filling of those holes

organizations of fishers and fishing vessel owners, who, in accordance with the Convention, must be consulted on many provisions of the Convention during the development of implementing laws, regulations or other measures. A gap analysis, and the resulting national discussion, hopefully, leads to ratification and implementation of Convention No. 188, but even if this does not happen immediately, it usually leads to a better understanding of what protection exists for fishers, and provides a basis for action and at least some important changes to laws.

The ILO also has several projects underway to promote decent work for fishers in Southeast Asia. At the national level, in Thailand, the Ship to Shore Rights Project, supported by the European Union, aims to prevent and reduce unacceptable forms of work in the Thai fishing and seafood industries. This project works with the Thai government to strengthen the legal framework for work in fishing to meet international standards, build capacity for government officers to enforce legal protection for fishers, and revise workplace standards for processing plants, aquaculture and vessels. The project works in co-operation with several partners in Thailand, including the Command Centre to Combat Illegal Fishing (CCCIF). At a regional level, the SEA Fisheries Project (Strengthened Co-ordination to Combat Trafficking in Fisheries in Southeast Asia), supported by the United States, aims to reduce trafficking in Southeast Asia by improving co-ordination and effectiveness of actions at the national and regional levels. The links between IUU fishing and labour issues appear to be relevant to the discussion of the problems faced by fishers flying the flag of States in which the fishers are neither national nor permanent residents, often referred to as 'migrant fishers'. Migrant fishers are generally more vulnerable than other fishers to being coerced, or forced, into illegal activities, or even being, in some cases, unknowingly involved in illegal fishing. The ILO recently held a Tripartite Meeting on Issues relating

to Migrant Fishers (September 2017) to discuss issues relating to such fishers. The tripartite meeting (with representatives of governments, and fishing vessel owner organizations and fishers' representative organizations, and others) explored issues central to the discussion of decent work for all fishers. Such matters as vessel safety, fisheries crime and, IUU fishing were raised in the discussion paper prepared by the ILO secretariat. The conclusions of the meeting, which will shortly be posted on the ILO website along with a resolution that was also adopted, make recommendations for future action to prevent serious abuses of migrant fishers, which include forced labour and trafficking. These conclusions advised the ILO to consider participation as a full member of the FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and highlighted the link between the protection of fishers, sustainable livelihoods, food security and the achievement of the SDGs.

Though not all IUU fishing may involve labour abuses, and there may be serious abuses, or at least poor living and working conditions, on vessels not involved in IUU, there does appear to be a growing understanding that IUU fishing and unacceptable working conditions for fishers feed on each other, and that addressing both these issues, preferably through co-ordinated action, can, and will, lead to sustainable fisheries in the widest sense, that is, fisheries that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. 

For more

www.ilo.org/fishing

Fisheries

http://www.ilo.org/sector/activities/sectoral-meetings/WCMS_552792/lang-en/index.htm

Tripartite Meeting on issues relating to Migrant Fishers

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/66-3936-Decent-Work,-De.html>

Decent Work, Decent Fishing

A Backbreaking Struggle

The abject working conditions of the shellfish fisherwomen on the Paraná coast of Brazil call for a revaluation of their work to guarantee them rights and benefits

Although women's work in fisheries is diverse and wide and differs by culture and region and between rural and urban areas, the common factor is that it is rarely seen as 'productive'; instead, it is normally seen as an extension of the 'domestic' space. Although 47 per cent of the total workforce in fisheries comes from women, their role is invisible, unrecognized, undervalued and under-represented. This often causes them a denial of labour rights since they are not recognized as professionals in artisanal fishing.

The situation is no different with artisanal shellfish fisherwomen working along the coast of Paraná in Brazil. They have faced difficulties in receiving recognition for their work and in gaining access to their rights. Shellfish fishing occurs mainly in the city of Antonina, but such activity is also found in the municipalities of Guaraqueçaba, Pontal do Paraná and Paranaguá as a means of subsistence for fishing communities. Shellfish extraction has been carried out by digging up the muddy shoals, accessible most of the time by paddle canoes. According to Albertina Batista de Paula, co-ordinator of the Acqua Forum Project (carried out by *Fundacentro*, the state agency of the Ministry of Labour and Employment), this manual digging, with the aid of hoes and shovels, involves the rapid movement of the upper limbs, always from a dorsal position. This repetitive activity places great stress on the muscles of the neck, shoulders, upper and lower back, limbs, and wrists.

According to experts, a shellfish fisherwoman performs approximately 10,200 repetitive movements during catching and 5,040 movements

during processing in a period of one hour, totaling an average of 75,000 repetitive movements in a working day. It has been observed that these figures are comparable to those described in industrial risk situations responsible for generating spinal injuries and repetitive strain injuries. The situation is aggravated if we include housework and the effort exerted in rowing the boat.

According to the Acqua Forum Project, these fisherwomen take about four to five hours to catch shellfish. Another seven hours are needed for

Although 47 per cent of the total workforce in fisheries comes from women, their role is invisible, unrecognized, undervalued and under-represented.

commuting between their homes and the shoals, for processing and storage of shellfish. These add up to approximately 12 hours of work per day. Once back home, they still have to carry out domestic activities, resulting in an essentially double working day. They do not have holidays or vacations (with the exception of religious holidays), since forgoing working would imply a decrease in the family income.

Precautions needed

Fundacentro recommends a series of precautions that shellfish fishers must adopt to ensure their health, such as protection against solar radiation and taking daily breaks of five to 10 minutes every hour. Although the fisherwomen work through self-management, which makes it possible to take short breaks, each

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pause in a 12-hour workday would stretch their routine by a few hours, something that they cannot afford, since a second workday awaits them at home. The fisherwomen are thus forced to work even if they have symptoms of repetitive strain injuries or other occupational illnesses resulting from the socioeconomic conditions they are caught in.

It has been estimated that the average income of an Antonina shellfish fisherwoman is around Brazil real (R\$)520 per month. This amount might vary, since, in most cases, they need to hire more women to help them process the catch. After discounting the cost of hired labour, each shellfish fisherwoman earns a monthly income of R\$360, which is well below the Brazilian minimum wage (currently around R\$937 per month). As a result, shellfish fisherwomen are constrained to overwork to avoid hunger in their families. It has been noticed that they hold back from spending on health aid and medicines, neglecting to protect against well-known risks, and continue to work even when sick or in advanced stages of pregnancy—all in order to survive.

The shellfish fisherwomen say that experts from the National Social Security Institute (INSS) ignore their reports about diseases caused by fishing, thus denying them sickness allowances or retirement benefits due as disability compensation. They often face discrimination in INSS and regional labour offices, which deny them documents that would identify them as bona fide fishers. Since INSS experts are shoddy in cases where the medical examination involves a fisherwoman or a fisherman, the community is robbed of health, labour and social-security benefits, which are awarded on professional evidence. Such evidence is hard to come by in artisanal fishing, in general, and becomes particularly more difficult when it comes to women in fishing, whose work is often not recognized even within the fishing community itself.

This lack of recognition is apparent in the paucity of identification

documents that would establish their profession and guarantee their access to labour, social security and insurance rights. Only 30 women in the municipality of Antonina reportedly hold fishing identification documents, although 134 work in fishing-related activities, including in catching, processing and trading fish.

The issue of gender is central to the development of fair and equitable public policies in the fishing sector. Labour issues in artisanal fishing need to take into account the invisibility of women in this sector and its socioeconomic consequences, so that the prevalent framework can be reversed. It is necessary to value, and make visible, the work of fisherwomen so that they can access their rights equitably, and be guaranteed of benefits to compensate for the illnesses and disabilities that result from the occupational hazards of their risky work. 

For more

https://www.icsf.net/images/samudra/pdf/english/issue_26/15_art04.pdf

Invisibly Yours

<https://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/36-social-security.html?start=20>

Social Security for Fishworkers in Brazil: A Case Study of Pará

<https://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/40-artisanal-fishe.html?start=20>

Artisanal Fisheries in Brazil

<https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya/detail/EN/1651.html?detpag=mapart>

Making their Voices Heard

<https://wif.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/47-2100.html?lang=en>

Gaining Ground

http://www.umanitoba.ca/institutes/natural_resources/canadaresearchchair/thesis/CarpenterMNRM2012.pdf

Livelihoods and Gender: A Case Study on the Coast of Southeastern Brazil

Against the Current

The range of diversity of geography, gear and techniques of fishing in Peru forces the country's small-sale fishers to grapple with difficult working conditions

The small-scale fisheries sector in Peru is extraordinarily diverse, particularly in terms of the gear used to gather or catch resources, which comprise a wide range of nets, lines, traps and harpoons. There is also diversity in the vessels used for fishing. They are usually under 15 m in length, and have a hold capacity below 32.6 cu m, and, in most cases, use manually lifted gear. There are also those who fish without boats.

Geographical diversity exists too, as fishing takes place on the shore or in coastal and open waters. The different regions of the country—the north, the south and the central parts—have their own specificities. The duration of fishing operations varies too: some last a few hours, others up to three weeks.

The markets range from the country's smallest villages to its largest cities (including Lima, the capital, home to almost 30 per cent of the Peruvian population) as well as international destinations across the world.

If anchovy (anchoveta) has been historically Peru's flagship species, mahi-mahi and giant squid have considerably grown and become, in recent years, the largest artisanal fisheries in the world for these species.

While the last decades have seen an increase of exports from small-scale fisheries—destined for markets in Asia, Europe and North America—domestic markets have also grown greatly (with a demand so high it has also boosted imports, in a country generally considered a major fishing power), both at household and food-industry levels (which, in particular, has expanded greatly).

A census of the small-scale marine fleet, carried out in 2012, provides data on the number of fishworkers and fishing vessels, as well as additional information about the sector.

There are over 44,000 fishworkers, with 3.1 per cent being women (mainly in the southern regions, where they engage in seaweed collection). According to the census, 44.4 per cent of the fishermen live in the northern regions of Peru (Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque), 39.5 per cent in the centre (La Libertad, Ancash, Lima, Ica), and 16.2 per cent in the south (Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna), of the country.

...domestic markets have also grown greatly (with a demand so high it has also boosted imports, in a country generally considered a major fishing power...

In 2012, 49.8 per cent were aged 30 to 50 years. A further 28.2 per cent were under 30 and 22 per cent over 50 years of age.

Two major school education levels exist in Peru—the primary and the secondary. For the purposes of the census, fishermen having attended at least one year in the upper level were classified under the secondary education level. Fifty-eight per cent followed at least a year of secondary education, 31.4 per cent attended only primary education and 9.1 per cent took further education.

Younger fishermen attended more years of school than their older colleagues: 65.5 per cent under 30 years attained secondary levels (with 24.1 per cent having completed

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only primary school), while among the over-50s, 40.9 per cent said they attended secondary education, while 51.7 per cent attended only primary school.

Finally, of the total of over 44,000 fisher men and women, 5 per cent reported having had an accident, and 12 per cent, an illness in the last 12 months.

While it is true that the fisheries raise higher expectations now than in the past, the activity remains firmly anchored in the transmission of knowledge and the building of identity

With regard to the fleet, the census registered 16,045 boats, although a small number (several dozens) are registered for transport in coastal areas and a similarly small number are not operational. Vessels are classified in three groups according to length: between 15 and 11 m (the largest sub-group), 11 to 7 m, and finally, below 5 m.

The first group (larger vessels) includes a significant number of seiners, a fleet segment that has increased in the last decade due to easy access to anchovy resources for human consumption. More recently, the fleet targeting giant squid and mahi-mahi has also expanded greatly. This group represents 13 per cent of the total fleet.

The second group includes vessels targeting giant squid and mahi-mahi, as well as seiners and other types of vessel targeting pelagic (tuna, mackerel, horse mackerel) and demersal species (mullet, lorna drum, hake). They represent 54 per cent of the fleet.

Vessels with a length below 7 m include mainly coastal craft that use hooks-and-line or gillnets, targeting a wide variety of inshore species, as well as supporting boats supplying compressed air to divers gathering shellfish (scallop, clam, mussel and sea snail). They represent 29 per cent of the registered small-scale fleet.

The census further indicates that 59 per cent of the fleet lacked

valid fishing licences. This partially explains how the fisheries operate, to a great extent, in an informal context—with implications for working and safety conditions aboard fishing vessels.

ILO: Conditions of work in the fishing sector

The International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Work in Fishing Convention (Convention 188) in 2007, establishing decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels, according to boat size and other parameters. It came into force by end 2016, but Peru has not yet ratified it. We will try to analyze how the small-scale fishing sector in Peru stands with regard to different aspects of the Convention.

Working age

Although Peru has recently passed legislation regulating working age in the fishing sector, tradition determines that children learn the trade at an early age, normally by helping their fathers (in most cases) or other relatives (less frequently). Many fishermen, having been raised in coastal areas (though there are numerous migrant workers in the activity), defend this practice as they recall how they learned to fish and who taught them. While it is true that the fisheries raise higher expectations now than in the past, the activity remains firmly anchored in the transmission of knowledge and the building of identity. Children below working age may be found in the fishing sector, but they normally carry out ancillary tasks, such as catch landing.

Onboard working conditions

Onboard working conditions depend on the size of the vessel and the duration of the fishing operations. By their very nature, they are conducted at different times of the day, and they last as long as the skipper deems fit.

The number of crew members is determined by the type of gear used. Catches are not normally processed on board Peruvian fishing vessels, including the small-scale sector,

with the exception of some specific fisheries where some basic processing takes place; therefore, working hours are not exceedingly extended in order to add value to the catch.

Working conditions related to safety, rest and health are poor due to the lack of adequate space and equipment. Crew members answer nature's call by leaning overboard, generally grabbing a rope to avoid falling to the sea.

Risks in marine fisheries

While fishing is generally acknowledged as an intrinsically risky activity, some fishing operations are particularly dangerous. The higher risk exposure in Peru concerns divers, who collect shellfish underwater, breathing compressed air supplied from a vessel through a pipe that divers secure with their teeth. Although accidents are relatively frequent, neither do they gain national media attention nor are they captured in a centralized register. There is a lack of information about possible harmful effects of non-fatal decompression accidents.

On the other hand, the good (or bad) functioning of the engine or other power-supply mechanisms may compound the effect of other risk factors. Mechanical failure is the most common cause for a fishing vessel's loss of course or communication. Strong waves or winds, and/or overload or specific individual incidents may also increase the risks aboard a fishing boat.

Access to health services

Small-scale fishermen and women may be affiliated to the country's social-security regime for salaried workers, where contributions are made by both the employee and the employer. In the case of small-scale fishworkers, contributions do not confer a right to a retirement pension, but provide healthcare, with the minimum contribution being around US\$23.6. For a further US\$1.60 per month, fishworkers may subscribe to a life-insurance regime supported by the national social-security system. Fishworkers are required to

register, and payments are collected monthly through small-scale fisheries organizations. A series of mechanisms was put in place that disappeared with regionalization.

Nevertheless, the legislation regulating these matters excludes self-employed small-scale fishermen from the coverage of risky activities, even though fishing is a dangerous profession. This type of insurance can be secured for a monthly fee of US\$9.8.

The situation has created a sort of grey area, as it contradicts the general principle that fishing is a dangerous activity per se and should be covered by adequate high-risk insurance (established over two years ago), and it seriously reduces its reach, already restricted by the informal character of fishing operations and by the attitude of regional governments towards artisanal fisheries.

According to social-security statistics, in March 2017 there were 2,645 registered artisanal fishermen and women, accounting for 6 per cent of the total registered fishworkers in 2012. It is worth mentioning that the number has increased to 23 per cent since then.

By end July 2017, the National Parliament passed legislation providing accident insurance in fisheries, inspired by existing car-insurance legislation. Shipowners are

JUAN CARLOS SUEIRO



Gillnet craft at Chimbote bay, Peru. The markets range from the country's smallest villages to its largest cities as well as international destinations across the world

JUAN CARLOS SUEIRO



Fishermen day celebration, Cabo Blanco, Peru. Small-scale fisheries in Peru is extraordinarily diverse, particularly in terms of the gear used to gather or catch resources

required to take out private health insurance in the case of accidents at work (from pre-harvest tasks to catch landings). They are also required to pay for this type of coverage but they can also transfer the cost to crew members, deducting such expenditure from their salaries. This requirement is applied both to individuals and companies, as long as they are formally recognized shipowners.

Fisheries are conducted in an informal labour context, with frequent illegal practices that must be curtailed, as it is precisely in this type of operations that decent-work conditions and safety standards are not respected.

The impact of El Niño events

Recent years have seen the emergence of two important modalities of the El Niño effect. The first starts in the central region of the Pacific Ocean and, after several weeks, reaches the American coast. Sometimes it hits Peru in full; at other times, such as in 2016, it brings less severe conditions in its Eastern rim, just south from the Equator, next to and within, Peru's territorial waters.

In the summer of 2017, a different event took place, which was mainly felt in Peru, although with a shorter development. Although it greatly damaged the coastal cities in the north (which, these days, are

bigger and more vulnerable), it was short-lived, (compared to the long and heavy rains of the 1998 El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) episode, which had a bigger impact on infrastructure and on fishing work conditions, in terms of suspension of fishing activities and destruction of public and private facilities on the shore. A depletion of traditional fishery resources was not felt, although other species, such as prawns and tuna, increased their presence in the 2016 ENSO.

However, the negative impact of El Niño should not be underestimated, as it resulted in more than 160 fatalities and several hundred million dollars in material losses. In the north of the country, the gross domestic product (GDP) fell to an extent that can only be compared to a similar contraction derived from the 1983 El Niño. Furthermore, it brought about a breakout of dengue, a disease that was unheard of in this territory, even in the urban coastal environment, and not only in fishing areas. 3

For more

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/detail/EN/3847.html?detpag=mapart>

Diversiónary Tactics

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/03/06/peru-anchoveta-pescadores>

In Peru, Fishing Less Anchoveta Pays Off

http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0308597X13002194/1-s2.0-S0308597X13002194-main.pdf?_tid=7671bad4-964a-11e7-bacd-0000aach35d&acdnat=1505063401_84917f4a0f695b6aba21bf7044eb0b30

Valuing Seafood: The Peruvian Fisheries Sector

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/detail/EN/918.html?detpag=mapart>

On The Verge Of Collapse

Exploited, Blacklisted, Destitute

Migrant fishers who work as crew on board vessels of New Zealand companies often have to grapple with exploitation, abuse, blacklisting and oppressive working conditions

In 2011, Indonesian fishers from South Korean vessels fishing in New Zealand's waters, engaged in industrial action. The first to do so were fishers (seven in total) from the *Shin Ji* in May and 31 from the *Oyang 75*. Later that year, fishers from another South Korean vessel also engaged in industrial action. Problems on board South Korean vessels continued. For example, in 2013, 16 crew walked off the *Pacinui*, claiming they were owed unpaid wages. That same month, 21 *Sur Este 707* crew walked off for the same reason.

The vessels fishing on behalf of New Zealand companies and quota holders were crewed by South Korean officers and migrant fishers from Indonesia. In effect, many fishers were victims of forced labour. Their pathway to forced labour began in Indonesia where they had been subjected to deceptive recruitment practices, including excessive recruitment fees, and deception about the legality of their contract and their rights in New Zealand. Once on board the vessels, many endured harsh employment conditions. They worked extremely long shifts under threat of penalty, often in unsafe working conditions, controlled through debt bondage, intimidation, and threats, with some subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

After they became aware of their right to a minimum wage, the continued abuse, coupled with falsified records of working hours, violated their sense of dignity, and they refused to work. The unprecedented courageous actions of the *Shin Ji* and *Oyang 75* fishers are significant as they helped reshape the regulatory landscape of the deep-sea fishing industry in New Zealand, thus laying

the foundation for better working conditions for future fishers.

The actions of the *Shin Ji* and *Oyang 75* fishers swung the spotlight to the extent of abuse that had been happening in the foreign charter vessel (FCV) sector for many years. In July 2011, the New Zealand government announced a Ministerial Inquiry into the FCV sector. A combination of events, beginning with the crew's actions and support from advocates, coupled with academic research detailing the extent of the abuse, pressure by

Once on board the vessels, many endured harsh employment conditions...

non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and domestic and international media commentary, kept the issue at the forefront. A key outcome of this inquiry was that the government enacted the Fisheries (Foreign Charter Vessels and other Matters) Amendment Bill in 2014. The Bill required all foreign-flagged vessels to enter onto the New Zealand register of shipping as New Zealand vessels by 1 May 2016. Re-flagging means that crew and vessel will come under New Zealand law. Another outcome was full observer coverage on all vessels, with the observer's functions extended to monitor labour conditions.

Foreign vessels

In 2011, there were 13 South Korean vessels operating in New Zealand's waters. By 2016, six had undertaken

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the reflagging process. Three were operated by Dong Won Fisheries, a company with a long-standing relationship with Sanford, one of New Zealand's largest fishing companies. Another vessel chartered by Sanford, which was also reflagged, belonged to Juahm Industries. Both Dong Won Fisheries

While the New Zealand government was undertaking efforts to improve working conditions in the deep-sea industry, exploitation was occurring in the inshore fisheries.

and Juahm Industries established subsidiary companies in New Zealand—DW New Zealand Limited and JAICO Limited, respectively.

The fifth vessel was the former *Melilla 203*, which had been seized in 2015 under a High Court order by its creditors, specifically, UFL Charters Limited, the New Zealand company which had previously chartered the vessel. The *Melilla 203* was purchased from the High Court by KNW Co. Ltd, a company owned by GOM, a South Korean company with long-established connections in New Zealand. The sixth vessel reflagged was also owned by GOM.

As part of the New Zealand's government efforts to address problems in the FCV sector, the Crown also gathered evidence as to the extent of environmental offences. On board several FCVs, the fishers were required to illegally dump fish and oil. Those who engaged in industrial action began to detail the extent of fish dumping. When the majority of crew were sent home by Immigration New Zealand, some remained in New Zealand as witnesses for the Crown in its prosecution of officers from the vessels *Oyang 75*, *Oyang 77*, *Melilla 201* and *Sur Este 707*. The officers from these vessels were found guilty of illegal dumping of fish and filing fraudulent returns. The extent of dumping was such that it was estimated that *Oyang 75* dumped up to NZ\$1.4 mn worth of fish during

two fishing trips. The vessels were forfeited to the Crown under the Fisheries Act 1996. Further, Southern Storm Fisheries, the New Zealand charterer of the *Oyang 75* was fined for failing to notify Maritime New Zealand of the discharge of harmful substances, including oil, into the sea.

The Sajo Oyang Corporation paid a bond to the Crown to keep operating their vessels which are now fishing off the coast of South America. Nevertheless, the Crown retains legal rights over these vessels. Currently, the two Oyang vessels are subject of a relief from forfeiture claim by fishers from the *Oyang 70* (which sank in August 2010 with the loss of six lives) and *Oyang 77* vessels. The fishers, who were employed prior to those who engaged in industrial action, are seeking compensation for outstanding wages owed to them through underpayment. The *Oyang 75* and *77* vessels are estimated to be worth US\$8 mn (NZ\$9.6 mn) and NZ\$1.5 mn, respectively. Of the other two vessels forfeited to the Crown, the *Melilla 201* vessel was sold to a shipping scrap yard for around NZ\$200,000, while the *Sur Este 707* is fishing in foreign waters.

While the New Zealand government was undertaking efforts to improve working conditions in the deep-sea industry, exploitation was occurring in the inshore fisheries. In March 2015, two fishers whose contracts had ended complained about being underpaid. They had each paid around 20 mn rupiah (around NZ\$2,000) to obtain employment with a New Zealand company. They were initially required to work in the company's processing factory, which was not part of their contractual obligation, before working on the fishing vessels. In the processing factory, the hours worked by the New Zealand workers were electronically recorded, whereas the hours for the Indonesians were recorded manually.

Working hours

On board the vessels, the fishers had sometimes worked 12-hour

days, seven days a week and over a 10-month period, had received less than NZ\$8,000. According to their contract, they should have received NZ\$3,141.66 per month based on “42 hours per week” and hence, they calculated they were owed near NZ\$20,000 each. They and other fishers had previously complained to their employer only to be told if they “complain too much, they will be replaced by Filipinos”.

An analysis of bank records confirmed that at a minimum, they had not been paid their monthly contract wage. The two fishers remained in New Zealand, supported by advocates, seeking to obtain their outstanding wages. In May 2015, following the expiration of their work visa, they returned to Indonesia. Subsequently, months later, after an investigation by the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the two fishers received a financial settlement for unpaid wages based on the contractual amount of NZ\$3,141.66 per month, as opposed to the greater amount of actual hours worked. These being vessels already under the New Zealand flag indicates that reflagging FCVs may not necessarily resolve the problems of fraud and underpayment.

In July 2017, Ikeda Suisan Company, a Japanese fishing company operating in New Zealand’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ), was fined NZ\$122,252 for its failure to pay the Indonesian crew on board the *Hoshin Maru 77* their correct wage entitlement. An investigation by the Labour Inspectorate found that between 30 April and 23 June 2015, 5,200 hours were not recorded. In contrast, the six Japanese officers on board the vessel received their correct entitlement.

Supported by their New Zealand advocate, who found lawyers to act on behalf of crew from a number of vessels, civil litigation claims were filed. On their return home, eventually all the fishers from the *Oyang 75* and *77* vessels were contacted by the Sajo Oyang corporation and offered ‘peace’ agreements to settle claims. The approach to the fishers was made

during Ramadan, with Sajo Oyang representatives bringing with them a suitcase of cash. Many fishers were destitute because of the debts they owed for their recruitment fees and because they had not received their correct wage entitlement while working on board the FCVs. Thus, many accepted the agreement. In return for the cash payment, they agreed to “withdraw any complaints and allegations of any kind made to any government agency”. The cash payment brought each fisher up to their contractual six hours per day; however, on average, they had worked 16-hour days. Crew from Juahm Industries’ *Pacinui* vessel, were also offered a cash payment. One fisher was offered NZ\$7,000 cash, whereas he was owed NZ\$90,000 in unpaid wages.

PT IMS (an Indonesian recruitment agent) placed advertisements in *The Jakarta Globe* in February 2013, asking fishers from the *Dong Won 519*, *530* and *701* vessels who had worked from between June 2009 to May 2012, to contact them for monies owed because of “miscounting/miscalculation by Dong Won Fisheries”. An audit undertaken by Immigration New Zealand had identified underpayment compared to the minimum of 42 hours a week associated with their work visas.

The cash payment brought each fisher up to their contractual six hours per day; however, on average, they had worked 16-hour days.

Other fishers—such as those from *Oyang 77*, the *Sur Este 700*, *707*, and *709* vessels, *Pacinui*, *GOM 379*, and the *Dong Won 701*, *530*, *519* and *522* vessels—through the efforts of their advocate and lawyers, eventually received a financial settlement that they would not have otherwise received.

However, those who had worked in New Zealand prior to, or at the time of, the industrial action or who had settled a wage claim were blacklisted.

They included those who had returned home prior to June 2011. Those who had not engaged in industrial action, particularly those who had remained on their vessel during the industrial action, felt victimised by the blacklisting. It appears that the Korean companies, at the centre of the dispute, collectively


...those fishers who helped bring about a regulatory shift in New Zealand were denied access to benefits that those currently working in the industry are entitled to.

issued a directive to the recruitment agents in Indonesia that any fisher who had worked in New Zealand during the period of the industrial action be blacklisted from any of their vessels, regardless of where these vessels are now operating.

Thus, those fishers who helped bring about a regulatory shift in New Zealand were denied access to benefits that those currently working in the industry are entitled to. Five years later, many former fishers have not found permanent work since returning home; mostly, they work as temporary labourers on a day-to-day basis. Many are destitute and some have become victims of fraud. Keen to return to New Zealand, some paid exorbitant fees to recruitment agents who they thought were legitimate—for example, for work in a non-existent shrimp processing factory or for non-existent jobs with legitimate New Zealand companies.

While the *Oyang 75* and *77* fishers who engaged in industrial action brought about significant regulatory changes, to date, no one has been prosecuted in New Zealand for the labour abuses that occurred on the vessels. While the New Zealand government successfully prosecuted officers from four vessels for fish-dumping offences, many fishers felt they were only useful to the government to provide evidence of dumping and other illegal activities: “The New Zealand government is

more interested in their fish than in us being beaten and underpaid”.

In February 2017, the New Zealand government introduced new measures to protect migrant workers in all industry sectors. Employers who exploit migrant workers will be denied the ‘privilege’ of hiring migrant workers for between six months and two years. We hope that this measure will be another significant deterrent to fishing operators, as the industry is reliant on migrant fishers. 

For more

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Forced into Slavery

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New Zealand's Turbulent Waters: The Use of Forced Labour in the Fishing Industry

Confronting a Scandal

In fighting for the rights of migrant workers in the Irish fishing industry, the International Transport Workers' Federation has put the government on notice

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) campaigns for rights and fair treatment for fishers around the world. It also famously has a worldwide force of 125 inspectors whose job it is to protect seafarers from exploitation and injustice. Nowhere have these two facets come together more forcefully in the last few years than in Ireland, where the issue of the abuse of fishers has become embodied in the chief inspector (ITF co-ordinator) for the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland, Ken Fleming.

In a breakthrough moment in July, Fleming was able to put the Irish government on notice that a permit scheme it introduced in 2016—in part to respond to stinging exposés in 2015 of its inaction by the ITF, *The Guardian* newspaper and the Irish press—had, instead, allowed, and even legitimized, legalized slavery.

The permit system was supposed to give migrant workers legal status and protect their rights. Under it, the government made available 500 one-year permits to owners, who were required to pay the statutory minimum wage to migrant workers and provide them with a solicitor-backed contract. While welcoming government action on the issue, the ITF had warned that without effective inspection and enforcement, the permits would be worthless. In reality, months of vessel inspections and (often clandestine) meetings with victimized fishers revealed that the scheme had, instead, excluded many crew members, and permitted many employers to move from paying crews on a share system to paying the minimum wage—meaning that some crews were working over 100-hour weeks.

The truth was made public in a testimony to the Irish government's Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation by the Irish Migrants Rights Centre and the ITF. In his damning submission (which starts at 13' 47" in the film referenced below), Fleming said that the current regulatory regime for non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrant fishers was not fit for purpose, and called for sweeping changes. He told the committee: "I warned, as early as January 2016, that the scheme would not work because the boatowners—

While welcoming government action on the issue, the ITF had warned that without effective inspection and enforcement, the permits would be worthless.

with whom I'd been working for 10 years to try and get change—would not comply with the raft of legislation. Sadly, I've been proved right and the permit has been reduced to nothing better than a dog licence".

Employment laws

As evidence, he presented the committee with a research report into how the scheme was actually enabling exploitation, rather than outlawing it, then recounted how the ITF was in contact with over 150 fishers, of whom fewer than 10 per cent were employed by owners of fishing vessels with permits. None of them had ever been interviewed by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which has responsibility for enforcing employment laws. Most of them were unaware of its existence.

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Ken Fleming receiving the Mother Jones Award. There was a culture of fear in fishing ports that inhibited fishers from speaking out and it was only in recent months that they had begun to come forward in significant numbers to report abuses

Significantly, many of those fishers were on the run from the authorities for seeking redress over unpaid wages and compensation for injuries. Some had been threatened with deportation if they complained. Several were being pursued by hospitals for payment of bills incurred for the treatment of injuries sustained onboard.

The ITF registered the following areas of concern:

- The permit scheme was restricted to vessels over 15 m in length, and it had become a practice among some employers to redeploy non-EEA fishers on smaller vessels when ports were inspected by the statutory agencies.
- Skippers were interpreting the requirement that fishers must be paid the national minimum wage of €9.15 an hour for a 39-hour week as putting a cap on wages during any trip. As the working day is a minimum of 15 hours and a fishing trip normally lasts from five to ten days, this meant fishers were often working between 75 and 150 hours, but only being paid for 39 to 40 hours.
- Where permits were secured, some employers were deducting the legal costs (usually around €1,300) from fishers' wages.
- WRC inspectors who visited vessels inspected by the ITF failed to discover breaches of the scheme that the ITF had identified on the same vessels.
- There was a culture of fear in fishing ports that inhibited fishers from speaking out and it was only in recent months that they had begun to come forward in significant numbers to report abuses.

Ken Fleming went on to say that the ITF is, with reluctance, considering initiating its own legal proceedings, having exhausted all existing remedies and being confronted by an institutional mindset that is in denial of its failure to vindicate the rights of this very vulnerable group of people. It has already facilitated several trafficking complaints on behalf of

fishers with the Garda Síochána—the Irish national police force—and is awaiting a response.

Among the measures required are:

1. a moratorium on permits to out-of-country fishers to prevent the ‘churning’ of personnel and indefinite continuation of the current system of exploitation;
2. removal of the exemption from the permit scheme of vessels under 15 m;
3. a cooling-off period to safeguard and regularize the employment of existing fishers;
4. decoupling of the permit from a single specified employer to the fisher. (This has been done recently but with little actual application.)
5. enforcement of the State’s employment, revenue, fishery-protection, and health-and-safety laws by prosecuting non-compliant skippers and boatowners;
6. re-instatement of health-insurance cover for fishers, including provision for occupational injuries. (This was withdrawn unilaterally by the WRC as an unfair burden on employers).
7. introduction of a statutory instrument authorizing the Marine Survey Office (MSO) to ensure all employees on Irish fishing vessels hold BIM (Ireland’s Seafood Development Agency) safety cards, and prosecute non-compliant owners of vessels;
8. simplification of permit procedures so that applications can be made directly to a central registry that is open to public inspection and a Personal Public Service (PPS) number attached to each permit;
9. appointment of the MSO as the lead statutory enforcement agency; (It has the most expertise in this area and should be adequately resourced to do the job, although this would also require a mindset that understands and honours its obligations to seafarers in the fishing sector.)
10. a requirement on the Garda Síochána to make decisions on

whether a *prima facie* case of trafficking exists that requires investigation within five working days, as in the UK;

11. inclusion of the ITF in a reconstituted task force as an equal partner so that its expertise and experience can be utilized to help make the scheme effective;
12. facilitation of ITF inspections of fishing vessels to monitor and support effective compliance and enforcement;
13. recognition of ITF inspectors as key witnesses in cases where prosecutions are brought against boatowners when the ITF has been involved in the initiation of a complaint; and
14. ratification and enforcement by the Irish State of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 188, concerning work in the fishing sector.

The results of the testimony to the Oireachtas were immediate, helping to create a national debate, and putting the Irish government on notice that the issue was not going to be dropped.

A month later, there was also unexpected recognition for the role played by the ITF’s Ken Fleming when he was awarded the Spirit of Mother Jones award, which recognizes those who fight for social justice. The award is named after the Ireland-born US trade union leader Mary Harris Jones, known as ‘Mother Jones’, who was once called “the most dangerous woman in America”.

James Nolan, from the award’s committee, said: “Ken Fleming has been willing to challenge the official silence on the blatant exploitation of many seafarers and migrant fishers in Ireland and the UK. He is a fearless, passionate and determined defender of the workers who have been denied their rights, and continually exposes and challenges the system which treats many of them as virtual slaves.”

On receiving the award, Fleming paid tribute to the team that works with him, including his ITF inspector colleagues, his fellow activist Padraig Yeates, and his colleagues at the ITF in London.

For more



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Exploitation Permitted: How Ireland’s Atypical Permit Scheme Drives the Exploitation of Migrant Workers

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Scheme for Fishing Crews is ‘Legitimising Slavery’

The Black Hole in the Seas

In terms of human dimensions, illegal fishing in West Africa has several far-ranging implications for small-scale fishers and communities

Fishing is among the most unregulated commercial sectors in the world. On the one hand, it is replete with tradition and the promise of a livelihood, food and income, while, on the other, it suffers from a history of fraud, human abuse and trafficking. Fisheries provide a critical source of animal protein for over 3 bn people globally. Over 56.6 mn people earn an income and a livelihood from the ocean. Over 90 per cent of them operate within their adjacent waters and have limited opportunities to access fish.

In West Africa, where about 7 mn people depend directly on fishing as a source of income, this access is increasingly hindered by industrial

This article addresses these questions: What are the labour dimensions of illegal fishing in the region? How do West African fishers react or interact with illegal fishing vessels? How is their income affected?

Nearly 40 per cent of all the fish caught in West Africa originates from illegal fishing. This equates to a loss of US\$2.3 bn. In addition, illegal fishing is estimated to reduce the number of jobs in artisanal sectors by 300,000. Illegal fishing by distant-water fishing fleets is very difficult to assess, and known assessments are hampered by uncertainty. Yet it is increasingly felt that illegal fishing, as a facilitator of transnational crimes, has drastic consequences on fish stocks, economies, and on the livelihoods of fishing communities as a whole. It is often associated with drug trafficking, modern-day slavery, and even murder. Yet, in regions highly dependent upon fish, such as West Africa, illegal fishing vessels often find ways to escape, as they are highly mobile and develop ingenious escape techniques. Moreover, the limited monitoring capacity in the region hinders the ability to catch perpetrators.

Illegal fishing is worth US\$2.3 bn in the waters of six of the seven countries constituting the sub-region of northwest Africa...

fleets which, often illegally, target areas that are otherwise reserved for small-scale fishers and their communities. Illegal fishing is worth US\$2.3 bn in the waters of six of the seven countries constituting the sub-region of northwest Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone), accounting for up to 20 per cent of the global loss from illegal fishing. It has been estimated that over 300,000 jobs were lost to illegal fishing in the region. Studies have found that poverty is increasingly affecting fishing communities which are responding in various ways to the impacts of illegal fishing and declining fish stocks.

Policy improvement

Overall, illegal fishing in the West African sub-region has grown due to the increase in the activities of distant-water fishing fleets that are unauthorized to fish in the area (see Figure 1). This increase preceded the implementation of new Fisheries Acts for Senegal and Guinea in 2015, and the ban of all industrial fishing vessels from The Gambia by the end of the same year, a critical

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improvement in the policies of the three nations.

Illegal fishing has both direct and indirect effects on the livelihoods of small-scale fishers in West Africa. Illegal vessels reduce the opportunity of artisanal fishers to access fish since these vessels engage in unmonitored—and often unsustainable—fishing of key species that are either of high export value or that contribute greatly to local food security. The end result is overexploitation and over-capacity. Illegal fishing vessels often operate in zones that are reserved exclusively for artisanal fishers. Incursions to prohibited zones rank fourth among over 23 types of offences in the sub-region, constituting 13 per cent of all infractions (see Figure 2). Both direct and indirect impacts on the small-scale fishing sector, which employs over half a million people in the sub-region alone, have drastic labour implications for the small-scale sector.

Illegal fishing fleets are often associated with questionable labour practices and abuses of human rights as witnessed in Thailand, for example, not to mention issues related to safety at sea and collisions with industrial vessels. Also of concern is the impact on incomes of fishermen and the availability of jobs throughout the value chain in fisheries.

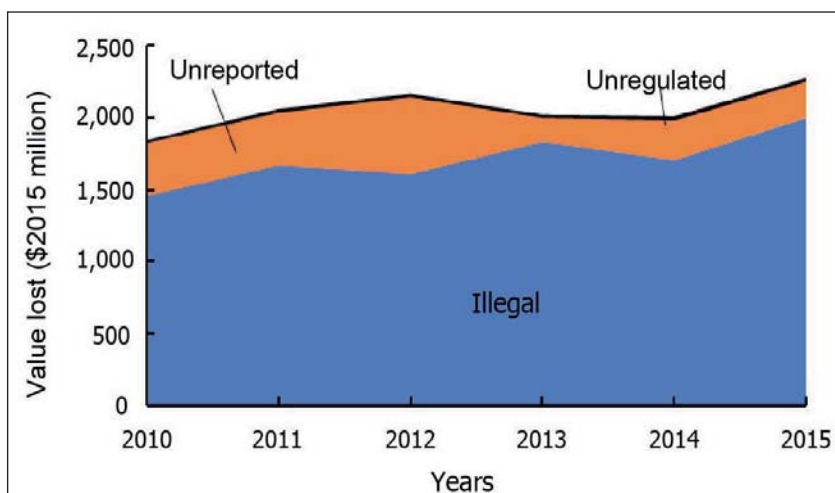


Figure 1. Evolution of illegal catch value from West Africa

Source: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2017.00050/full>

As evidence on the impacts of illegal fishing grows, and the unavailability of data covering the 'small-scale' fishing sector becomes striking, questions arise on the shifting geographic range of artisanal vessels. Consider the case of the artisanal Senegalese migrant *pirogue* fleet that has overgrown its traditional range and has quickly started spilling over into neighbouring countries, such as Mauritania, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and beyond—often reaching as far as Angola in southwest Africa. Evidently, illegal fishing—defined as fishing by foreign fleets in the waters of a nation—is not a myth.

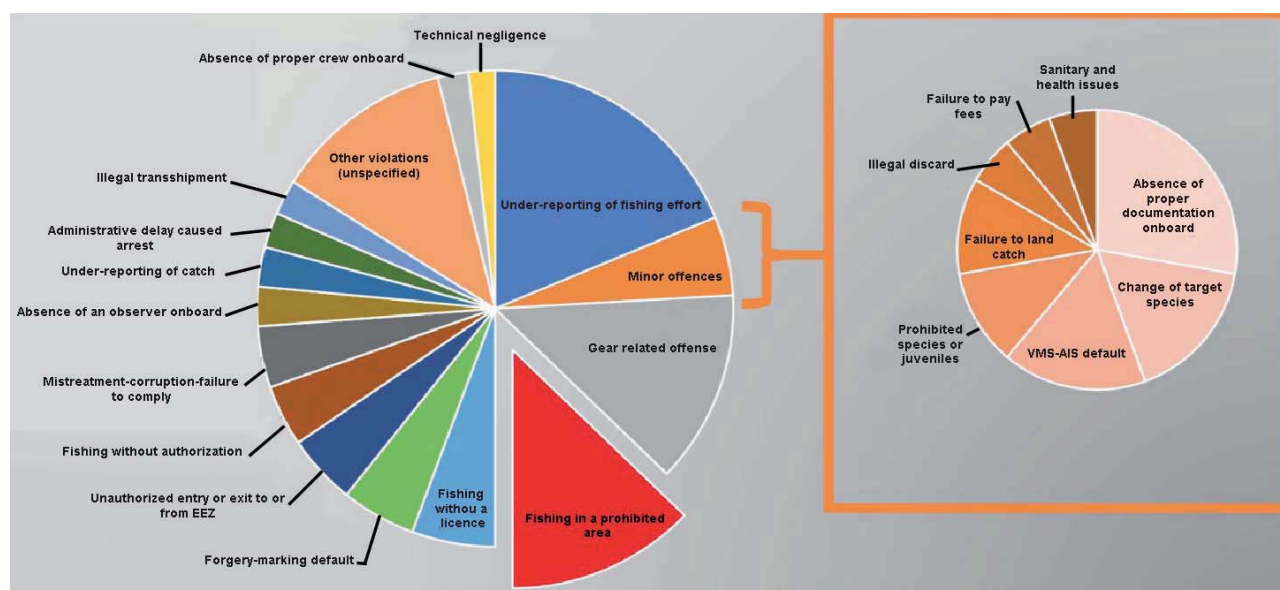


Figure 2. Illegal fishing offences in West Africa showing the types of observed offences

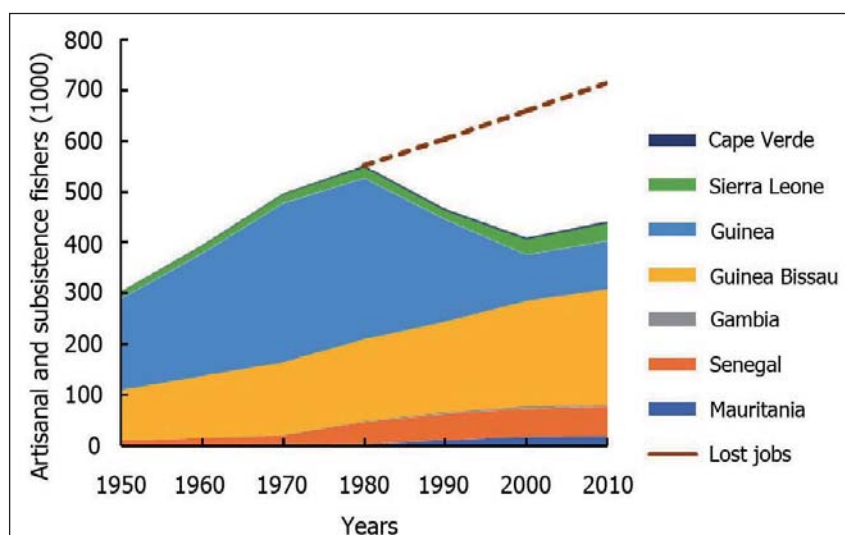


Figure 3. Evolution of the number of fishing jobs in the small-scale fishing sector in West Africa (subsistence and artisanal). Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2015.04.010>

As Senegalese fishers engage in increasing international forays, with *pirogues* that can bring in around one-third of the catch of a typical Chinese trawler, their total catch from foreign waters has reached a striking 40 per cent of all artisanal catches landed in the country. Yet, these catches are barely recorded, and never allocated to their rightful exclusive economic zones (EEZs), falling instead under the category of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It is almost taboo to refer to this vital fishing sector as IUU; fishers believe that, as Senegalese waters are being plundered by foreign fleets—mainly operating illegally, with the exception of the tuna fleet—they are forced to migrate to compensate for the loss of fishing opportunity, as a sort of spillover effect.

The financial gains of illegal fishing, which are often higher than those of a typical *pirogue* operating in Senegal, are, however, offset by the increased risks of loss at sea, in addition to regulations related to host country monitoring and sanctioning. Artisanal fishers find themselves trapped when agreements that allow them to operate within the waters that have become part of their territory, are terminated, as happened in Mauritania in 1989 and 2016. Since the mid-2000s, another phenomenon has come to occupy the waters of West Africa.

Over 20 ‘mother ships’ (also called *ramasseurs*), which can carry on board, or tow, over 40 *pirogues* and 250 fishers have set anchor in Saint Louis, Senegal, from where they would embark with fishers, with often undisclosed and unread contracts, to go fish as far as Angola with no safety guarantees whatsoever. Fishers receive a meagre wage, which is, however, often higher than what they would receive had they stayed back in Senegal, but is much lower than that paid to the non-African crew. The fishers are also at the mercy of local laws—if, or rather when, they get caught fishing with their *pirogues*, they are abandoned to their fate at the hands of local authorities.

The artisanal fishing sector’s contribution to employment increased until the 1980s, after which it declined, driven by a major drop in the number of fishers in Guinea, the country commonly referred to as the “black hole of illegal fishing in West Africa”. The number of illegal fishers rose after the 2000s, due to increased subsistence fishing in Guinea-Bissau. The decline in the number of jobs cannot be directly associated with illegal fishing, as the grounds that were targeted back in the 1980s were not necessarily overlapping. However, as fish species migrate, the decline in fish stocks can be attributed in part to industrial overexploitation which has reduced the availability of fish for small-scale fishers. The expanding range of small-scale fishers (going farther at sea and for longer periods) has created a spatial overlap in addition to that caused by common incursions of industrial fleets into areas legally reserved for small-scale fishers. In addition, recent studies have shown a significant impact of unwanted catches (discards) on small-scale fisheries, whereas artisanal fishers target the species that are discarded by the industrial sector.

Job losses

In Liberia, this generates a high loss for the artisanal sector while in Ghana, artisanal fishers have adapted their behaviour to benefit

from the discards of the Chinese fleets entering the trawl ban area to catch octopus, in the form of trade. It is estimated that, everything else being equal, if conditions are allowed, the small-scale fisheries sector could have generated an extra 271,800 jobs in the seven countries of the sub-region (see Figure 3), particularly if the fisheries of Guinea sustains the increasing trend while addressing the issue of IUU fishing within the EEZ of the country.

In addition to the loss of jobs, the daily income of fishers, which is already low, has been shrinking for the west coast of the African continent by 33 per cent, from US\$6 per day to US\$4 per day (adapted from Belhabib et al. 2015), hence dangerously approaching the poverty line (see Figure 4). However, in the sub-region of West Africa comprising the seven countries mentioned above, this income—although lower—has almost doubled from US\$2.4 to US\$4.5 per day. This is mainly driven by income increases in Senegal and The Gambia due to the expansion of the artisanal fishing fleet beyond their normal fishing range.

Incursions of industrial vessels into artisanal areas constitute the most threatening form of illegal fishing for small-scale fishers. In West Africa, these areas lie between zero and 12 miles off the coast. Vessels entering artisanal areas are often the cause of collisions at sea, the most prevalent form of accidents at sea that cause the greatest number of deaths. At least 250 lives are lost annually in the six countries mentioned above, which is much higher than the global average of 80 fishers for every 100,000 population. The death rate is notably highest in Senegal and Guinea, where artisanal fishers often venture far out. These numbers are believed to be a very conservative estimate, given that data are not properly reported or available.

In addition to the aspect of safety related to the risk of collisions, the other factor is the increasing distance that fishers now travel to access fishing grounds. This is the result

of the scarcity of resources within the traditional fishing range. Additional risks include accidents caused by engine failure, bad weather conditions, and getting lost at sea.

There is also the increased threat of piracy at sea, which may be a direct result of the lack of alternative sources of livelihoods, as is the case of Somalia. Small-scale fishing communities are becoming increasingly vocal about the need for a drastic change at sea, as they see their fisheries resources decline.

Artisanal *pirogues* have overgrown their traditional territories, and where once trips lasted five hours, the fishers now make forays into the waters of neighbouring countries, taking on up to 40 fishers on board a single *pirogue* for trips lasting up to ten days. As resources decline, the fishers are faced with an opportunity to access new fishing grounds and earn an income of up to US\$630 in one fishing trip.

This is in the form of around 20 Portuguese and Korean trawlers converted into mother ships, also commonly called '*ramasseurs*'. These vessels are of around 250 gross registered tonnes (GRT), which is of the size of an average EU or Chinese trawler; they carry on board the *pirogues* or tow them to the destination. Fishers are typically contracted by middlemen to engage in a one- to three-month fishing trip, with fishers and their *pirogues* being deployed in the waters of countries such as Angola and Gabon to fish on behalf of the *ramasseurs*. Though the fishers do earn an income, they often operate under poor conditions.

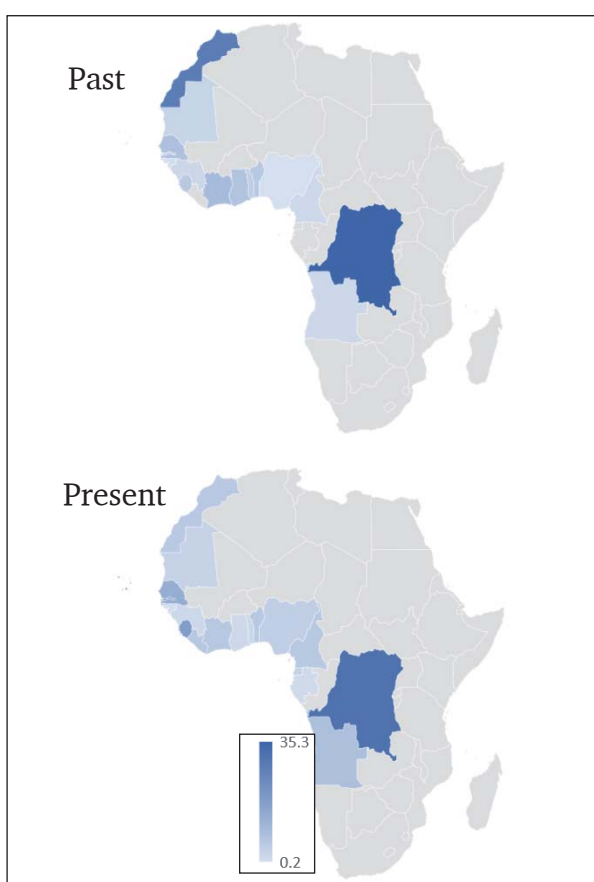


Figure 4. Fishers' daily income in West Africa

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2015.04.010>

These include:

- non-disclosure of contract and work conditions to fishers;
- long working hours (up to 16 hours daily);
- extremely poor hygiene conditions;
- lack of proper food and nutrition;
- insurance and other costs have to be covered by the fishers for their own *pirogues*;
- poor accommodation conditions on board *ramasseurs* (The sleeping area is one m in height and the fishers often sleep on cardboards.); and
- extremely poor safety conditions. Safety at sea is not of the responsibility of the *ramasseur's* skipper. If a fisher gets caught fishing in prohibited areas, or without an agreement (which is often the case), the skipper bears no responsibility.
- These conditions—particularly related to safety, hygiene and accommodation—call for legal sanctions under the laws of the countries in the sub-region, but the activities of the fishers within the waters of other countries need also be called into question. Not only do the *pirogues* lack legitimacy to operate within these waters in the absence of any agreement, but the identification of the catch, its origin, and its destination, are also often impossible to trace.

Under the 1956 UN Supplementary Convention (Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery)—there are six forms of modern-day slavery:

- Forced labour, where people are forced to work against their will and are threatened and punished for not accomplishing their work. This form is encountered in the fishing sector as well, with a hub in Thailand, where human trafficking for fishing businesses is prevalent.
- Debt bondage or bonded labour, which is the most common form of slavery, where people who cannot repay their debt are forced to work to repay it, and then become subject

to predatory practices where the debt increases and they lose control over their work conditions. This is common in the small-scale fishing industry around the lagoons of Ghana.

- Human trafficking, which is common in the industrial fishing business in Southeast Asia, where people are offered contracts to fish, and are recruited and transported, and then face exploitation, abuse, violence, threats, and even murder, if they do not accomplish their tasks, or try to escape;
- Descent-based slavery, which is an old form of slavery that has existed over the centuries, where people are brought into slavery because of their origin, and are usually captured and enslaved;
- Child slavery, which is an extreme form of child labour, and includes all forms that can hinder a child's development and education, with an individual getting all the benefits from exploiting the child. In the fishing sector, this form of slavery transpires through exploiting children on board small-scale fishing boats (particularly in Ghana and other countries in the Gulf of Guinea). This ought not be confused with the cultural practice of children inheriting fishing skills and learning the craft while fishing with their families, as in Africa and elsewhere; and
- Forced and early marriage, which is also a form of slavery that includes all child marriages.

As human lives are threatened, rights abused, and people trafficked into slavery, illegal vessels often remain undetected, and their activities get intensified by the lack of human and financial resources to monitor coastal waters. Surveillance efforts in developing countries are often handicapped by the lack of financial resources. Over 800,000 people are trafficked every year within different sectors internationally, bringing in a profit of over US\$32 bn to traffickers. Though information on the contribution of the fishing sector is scarce, evidence suggests that the



Landing of the catch, Senegal. In West Africa, where about 7 mn people depend directly on fishing as a source of income, access to fish resources is increasingly hindered by industrial fleets

fishing sector alone accounts for 50 per cent of all investigated cases. In 2015 alone, Indonesia rescued and repatriated over 2,000 fishers working on board 388 vessels, which testifies to the scale of the issue, not counting for other labour abuses that happen on board illegal fishing vessels. There has been no sanctions related to human slavery in the last seven years in the sub-region, not including cases of child labour, working to clear off outstanding debts, and sexual abuse.

Sanctions relating to mistreatment, and poor sanitary conditions represent 5 per cent of all sanctioned offences in the sub-region. This does not account for offences by other vessels that escape sanctioning or that are not captured by the monitoring system. Anecdotes show that non-compliant vessels engaged in illegal fishing exercise some form of human-rights abuses. The case of *Apsari-3* caught fishing illegally in Sierra Leone brought to light that the crew were not paid in cash but rather in unwanted fish, which would have been otherwise discarded. This seems to have become a standard practice

for distant-water fishing fleets; the question is how commonly this occurs, and whether it can be considered a violation of labour rights on a commercial scale.

I conclude by suggesting that, just as in Guinea and Senegal, sanctions against illegal fishing should be drastically revised, given the direct and indirect impacts on human lives, livelihoods and food security. Transparency should be increased with regard to both fishing agreements and illegal fishing cases themselves. In addition, transshipment of catches at sea should be banned, as it masks the real trends of fisheries catches, and allows unauthorized vessels to fish undetected.

For more



<http://www.cape-cffa.org/new-blog/2008/12/5/west-african-artisanal-fishing-communities-facing-up-to-the-future>
West African Artisanal Fishing Communities: Facing up to the Future

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<http://researcherdiaries.com/>
Researcher Diaries—Dyhia Belhabib, Research Associate

No Child's Play

Are current interventions far-reaching enough to tackle trafficking of child labour in Ghana's fishery?

Worldwide, the figures on child labour are worrying. According to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), there are about 215 mn 'child workers', many of whom work full-time, and close to 170 mn are 'trapped' in activities considered as child labour. Typically, these children are denied education, proper nutrition, recreation and other basic rights.

More often than not, the cold statistics on child labour are glossed over since they do not reveal the misery and helplessness of children. A recent child protection baseline

protect children. But despite modest gains in rescuing and rehabilitating victims of child labour and trafficking (CLaT), the problem is still widespread.

The latest response to tackling the CLaT menace is a US\$24-mn USAID-funded Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). While the SFMP has a broader objective of contributing to food security through Ghana's fishery, it also has a key anti-CLaT component backed by an elaborate, multisectoral action plan. This is a welcome addition to the myriads of CLaT initiatives, many of which are not yielding the desired results.

Arguably, the success of the SFMP will depend, to a greater extent, how it addresses fundamental shortcomings in previous interventions on CLaT.

The number of children engaged in child labour and trafficking in Ghana is estimated to be 1.9 mn, representing 21.8 per cent of children aged between five and 17 years. The range of activities vary but the common forms include fishing, stone quarrying, cattle herding, domestic servitude as well as commercial sex exploitation, mining, portering and commercial agriculture.

Young victims

In fisheries, child labour and trafficking occurs across the entire value chain, from downstream to upstream activities. Some victims as young as five are compelled to paddle or toss water out of canoes, and dive into deep waters to track fish movements or disentangle fishing nets from tree stumps. Others are involved in picking, sorting and cleaning fish for processing or marketing and distribution. Traditionally, young

Many victims are daily exposed to hazards, hunger, exhaustion, neglect, verbal and physical abuse by caregivers and employers...

report shows that child labour continues to thrive in all regions of Ghana in spite of interventions by government and non-government organizations (NGOs). The report, published by the Gender, Children and Social Protection Ministry, also stated: "Many victims are daily exposed to hazards, hunger, exhaustion, neglect, verbal and physical abuse by caregivers and employers".

In theory, Ghana is committed to fighting child labour and trafficking. The country touts its track record as being the first to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the first to enact a host of legislative instruments to

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boys have been the preferred choice of child traffickers; but the demand for girls is believed to be on the increase.

In one study by the International Justice Mission in 2015, it was established that among female child traffickers, younger girls were preferred over older girls—the main reason being the fear that older girls will become pregnant or ‘husband snatchers’. And in cases where boys are ‘understaffed’, girls work equally as boys. Nevertheless, most CLaT victims, regardless of gender and age, perform physically demanding tasks, and work for long hours with little rest, under hazardous conditions.

While the number of CLaT victims in the fishery is given as 2.3 per cent of the estimated 1.4 mn children in Ghana trapped in child labour, CLaT in fishery is empirically proven to be among the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) in Ghana. The WFCL, also known as Convention 182 according to the ILO, in simple terms “include work that is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of children.”

Ghana is a signatory to several international conventions that establish standards to protect children. Some of these conventions include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the ILO’s Minimum Age Convention (C138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Other notable instruments relating to child protection are highlighted below:

The Children’s Act, 1998 (ACT 560) and Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (ACT 653)

The Children’s Act (1998) and Juvenile Justice Act (2003) reflect fundamental constitutional provisions and establish the foundation for national child-protection systems, and govern children’s access to justice with specific provisions. For example, Article 87 of the Children Act specifies that: “(1) No person shall engage a child in exploitative labour” and “(2) Labour is exploitative of a child if it deprives the child of its health, education or development”. These

two provisions harmonize with the provisions of the ILO Conventions No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and No. 138 on the Minimum Age, respectively. Regarding work, the Children’s Act establishes 13 years for light work, 15 years for engagement in non-hazardous work, and 18 years for full employment.

The Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (ACT 694)

The Human Trafficking Act of 2005 (ACT 694) was promulgated as an “Act for the prevention, reduction and punishment of human trafficking, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons and for related matters”. The Act defines trafficking as “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, trading or receipt of persons within and across national borders by (a) use of threats, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, (b) giving or receiving payments and benefits to achieve consent”.

The Domestic Violence Act, 2006 (ACT 732)

The Domestic Violence Act, 2006 (ACT 732) was enacted as a direct response to tackle domestic violence of all forms. The Act primarily seeks to provide opportunities for addressing violence in the home and family setting. It also defines in clear terms



Landing of the catch, Prampram, Ghana and in fisheries, child labour and trafficking occurs across the entire value chain, from downstream to upstream activities

the range of violence to encompass: assault (of marriages and within families), deprivation (of food, clothing, health, education, shelter, etc.) and abuse (physical, emotional and financial). The broad scope of the Act makes it practical for the protection of the vulnerable, of which women and children are the major victims of violence and abuse.

Despite many interventions, greater political will is needed to eliminate CLaT

In addition to these major legislative instruments, there are also other state-sponsored institutional structures and interventions aimed at addressing CLaT. These include:

- Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Employment & Labour Relations (responsible for the National Child Labour Elimination Programme);
- National Steering Committee on Child Labour (the overall co-ordinating body for child labour elimination programmes in Ghana);
- Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE), School Feeding Programme, and the Capitation Grant to encourage schooling and increase retention.

Despite many interventions, greater political will is needed to eliminate CLaT. The general consensus by civil society is that current efforts at combating CLaT are not enough to constrain the practice. The US Department of State shared a similar perspective in its 2015 and 2016 human trafficking report, which placed Ghana on a Tier 2 Watch List. It stated: “The Government of Ghana does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.”

The worst form of child labour in Ghana’s fishery is flourishing mainly because of a combination of high levels of poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, lack of awareness of victims’ hazardous working

conditions, and weak enforcement of applicable laws.

The Sustainable Fishery Management Project (SFMP)

In spite of the lack of significant progress in preventing CLaT and punishing perpetrators, there are those who remain optimistic that it can be eliminated. Various governmental ministries and agencies, as well as a host of NGOs, are instituting and implementing strategies to combat CLaT.

In the year 2009, USAID initiated the Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance Initiative project (ICFG) with local partners in Ghana. The central objective of the programme, according to USAID, was to “assemble the necessary pre-conditions for a fresh approach to a formally constituted coastal and fisheries governance programme that could serve as a model for Ghana.” Upon completion of the ICFG in 2014, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) was rolled out.

The SFMP, which will end in 2019, has this objective: “to rebuild Ghana’s marine fisheries stocks and catches through facilitating adoption of responsible fishing practices.” Whereas the previous ICFG focused primarily on fishery governance, the SFMP has a wider scope, as reflected in its goals, listed below:

- Improve the legal enabling conditions for effective collaborative management of marine resources, use rights and effort-reduction strategies;
- Increase the use of science and applied research to inform decisionmaking and to strengthen enforcement;
- Heighten public awareness of fisheries issues to build the public and political support needed to rebuild fish stocks; and
- Implement applied management initiatives for several targeted fisheries ecosystems.

Just like the preceding ICFG project, the SFMP’s lead implementing partner is the Coastal Resource Centre of the University of Rhode Island (CRC-URI). The CRC-URI is working

with a consortium of organizations, including Friends of the Nation (FoN), Hen Mpoano, the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), SSG Advisors, the Central & Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA), Daasgift Quality Foundation (DQF), Development Action Association (DAA) and Spatial Solutions.

The CLaT component under the SFMP seeks to “adopt deliberate steps towards reducing child labour and trafficking in the Central Region of Ghana.” Accordingly, it held a stakeholders’ CLaT meeting in February 2016 with its main partners and other stakeholders from District Assemblies, the Department of Social Welfare, Central Regional Traditional Council, media, civil society organizations (CSOs), community leaders, the Fisheries Commission, Ghana immigration officers, police officers, and focal persons identified during the SFMP’s initial CLaT survey.

According to the SFMP, the stakeholders’ meeting resulted in adoption of a three-pronged approach to address CLaT as follows:

1. Recognize the need for extensive communication, education and sensitization of the relevant stakeholders, including communities and vulnerable households to make the practices socially unacceptable;
2. Identify and work with key actors to address the underlying causes of CLaT among the vulnerable households. Proposed actions included livelihood support, improved access to development services (health, education, economic opportunities, etc.); and
3. Engage the security agencies for extensive enforcement and deterrence actions through on-the-ground investigations to identify the key perpetrators of the CLaT practice, and effect their arrest and prosecution.

Will this three-pronged approach really make any difference in addressing the vexing issues in CLaT? The Project proponents strongly believe so.

Victoria Koomson, the Executive Director of CEWEFIA, one of the implementing partners of the SFMP, in an interview, outlined a number of successes. Among them are: community sensitisation meetings (CSMs) in Ekumfi-Narkwa, Eku-Mpoano, Ekumfi-Otuam, Ekumfi-Immuna, Gomoa-Dago, Mumford, Abandze, Anomabo and Biriwa; formation of community child protection committees (CCPCs) and anti-CLaT advocates in Elmina and Moree; business model training for 76 participants from women groups; and hygienic fish handling training workshops for 42 women fish processors and 12 fishermen in Moree and 33 fishmongers and 18 fishermen in Anlo Beach in the Shama District.

FoN another SFMP implementing partner, also reports of similar success in contributing to behaviour changes to make CLaT socially unacceptable. Through radio programmes on CLaT at Ahomka FM and Radio Peace, FoN has created the platform to inform, sensitise and educate coastal communities in the Central and Western Regions where CLaT is particularly prevalent. In addition, SNV engaged a lead Ghanaian actor, Adjetey Annan, as an anti-CLaT ambassador to promote edutainment on anti-CLaT.

Clearly, the implementation of the SFMP has gathered momentum and there is the need to sustain the gains it has made so far. The use of an integrated approach, such as involvement of traditional authorities, law enforcement agencies and extensive actors in the fishery, makes it a potent force to reduce CLaT, but eliminating CLaT will require much more political will.

However noble as the SFMP goals may be, greater political will is needed to adequately resource dedicated anti-CLaT agencies to train law enforcers and child welfare workers, as well as investigate, prosecute and convict all child traffickers. Many doubt this can be achieved within a short time.

For more



<http://fonghana.org/child-labor-and-trafficking-clat/>

Child Labour and Trafficking (CLaT)

<http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Regionsandcountries/Africa/Ghana/lang-en/index.htm>

Ghana (IPEC)—ILO

<http://www.ilo.org/ipeccinfo/product/download.do?type=document&id=28375>

Child Labour in the Fish Supply Chain on Lake Volta, Ghana: The Torkor Model

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3318e/i3318e.pdf>

Guidance on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Children’s Work and Child Labour in Fisheries: A Note on Principles and Criteria for Employing Children and Policies and Action for Progressively Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture

<https://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/39-the-state-of-wo.html?start=20>

The State of World Fisheries from a Fishworker Perspective: The Ghanaian Situation

Fraught with Danger

The sociocultural, economic and policy contexts in Tanzania have made fishers vulnerable to environmental, social and work-related problems

Tanzania is one of the top ten countries with a significant fisheries sector in Africa in terms of total capture-fisheries production. The fishery is categorized into artisanal/small-scale and commercial fisheries. The small-scale fishery comprises inland and coastal marine fisheries in the territorial waters of the Indian Ocean. The commercial fishery is composed of Nile perch fishing in Lake Victoria, prawn fishing in the territorial sea and fishing in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Aquaculture is a growing industry and has become more commercial with a significant involvement of the private industry.

worth TShs 1.49 tn (approx. US\$700 mn) in 2014.

Agriculture and fisheries are the main sources of employment in the country, accounting for about half of the employed workforce and a quarter of GDP. Although there has been a slight decline in the percentage of people employed in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector—from 76.5 per cent in 2006 to 66.9 per cent in 2014—in reality, operators in the small-scale fisheries have increased in number. The number of fishers in the small-scale capture fisheries increased from 78,672 in 1998 to 183,800 in 2014, with a large, but unknown, number also engaged in fish trading and processing. By 2014, it was estimated that about 4 mn people earn their living from fisheries-related activities. The number of fish farmers in aquaculture also doubled, from 9,500 in 1998 to 18,286 in 2014. A number of fishers are also employed in the industrial fisheries sector, such as the recently licenced shrimp trawlers.

Agriculture and fisheries are the main sources of employment in the country...

Although the fisheries sector is not among the major employers in the country, having only 0.7 per cent of the total work force in 2014, its significance is growing both socially and economically. In 2014, it was estimated that the fisheries sector had been growing at a rate of 5.5 per cent but its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) was still low, being only 2.4 per cent of the GDP. Inland water bodies contribute about 85 per cent of the total annual fish landings, while coastal marine fisheries contribute about 15 per cent. Between 1998 and 2014, fish production from the capture fisheries increased from 348,000 tonnes worth TShs 76.76 bn (approx. US\$3.6 mn) in 1998 to 365,974 tonnes

Work security

Given the open-access environment, the capture fisheries—both the inland and coastal marine fisheries—have grown exponentially. Coastal marine fisheries are fully, if not over-, exploited, and the increasing number of vessels and fishers is compelling the government to put in place mechanisms of control that would not only sustain the fisheries resource and environments, but also support gainful employment, security of work and socioeconomic mobility. Employment opportunities exist within the underexploited fish stocks in both fresh and marine waters, and in the underexploited deep sea and

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EEZ fisheries resources. Despite its growing significance, the employment environment within small-scale fisheries is engulfed by a number of issues that arise from its traditional system of engagement, uneconomical technologies and the natural conditions impacting on water bodies in the context of climate changes.

The mode of employment in the small-scale fisheries of Tanzania grants fishers some job security and, equally, some insecurity. Firstly, the pattern of fishing is largely dependent on the fishing technique and type of fishing gear or technology used. Most fishers are self-employed, operating singly or in pairs using the hook-and-line or traditional fishing traps/nets; fishers include octopus catchers (mostly women) and collectors of shellfish. Other fishers are engaged as crew to a vessel and for a certain period. (These periods are not fixed, neither is the engagement of these fishers to the vessel). Such fishing uses mostly manually handled nets or longlines. Fishing crew on a particular vessel are normally engaged through an oral agreement with the 'nahodha' (pilot) who navigates the

vessel to the desired fishing grounds. The *nahodha* normally enters into a more secure, though oral, agreement based on trust with the owner of the vessel (*tajiri*), if he himself is not the owner. The *nahodha* is then entrusted in enlisting crew on a casual basis. Crews may sustain a fishing season, and may even move across fishing sites with the same *nahodha* for a longer period, setting camp (*dago*) where fishing grounds are more lucrative. Fishing trips usually last for half a day, although the length can extend, depending on seasons. Some fishing teams may spend up to three weeks away from home, especially when they establish *dago* in distant fishing places, or islands. Increasingly, fishers are camping within, or next to, established villages where they can get basic needs such as food, water and, sometimes, shelter.

This system has reduced the arduous conditions associated with setting camp in the wild. Fishers are normally engaged according to the traditional system of remuneration, the share system, where they are paid a share of the fish catches or

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Women sardine traders awaiting for fishing vessels to dock, Tanga, Tanzania. Tanzanian fishers employed by industrial fishing vessels are comparatively better organized and better-off since they fall under the formalized employment regulations

proceeds/income from fish catches. A common arrangement involves a 50:50 distribution between the *tajiri* and the fishing crew (plus the *nahodha*), which is made after the deduction of operational costs. The *nahodha* is then given a small share by the *tajiri* since he is not only

...fishers remain highly mobile and they normally do not stick for long with one owner.

entrusted with the fishing operations, but also the safety of the vessel. Due to this share system, fishers' incomes vary according to seasons, according to spring tides (*bamvua*), which are biweekly, and according to the conditions of the water, which determine fishing successes. Hence their income is irregular and they may sometimes go without an income during low fishing periods if they do not have alternative livelihood activities. In practice, however, the lack of formal engagements does not limit fishers in making claims concerning their employer or *nahodha*, since these are dealt with by traditional sanctions. But these claims may not be recognized by formal legal instruments if they become unmanageable. On the other hand, the lack of permanent engagement has allowed the Tanzanian small-scale fisheries sector to maintain flexible employment conditions. Thus, fishers remain highly mobile and they normally do not stick for long with one owner. This mobility makes it difficult to attach fishers to a particular place of domicile or residence, with implications on monitoring of their employment.

Vessel owners, in turn, are also wary of such mobile fishers, particularly because of occasional breaches of trust. "Sometimes the owner of a vessel and fishing nets may give fishing crew equipment on the agreement that they sell all catch to him or her on return, but some fishers

breach this agreement and sell the catch to whoever pays higher", says one owner. This practice is termed locally as *kupigapanga*. Such cheating distorts employment arrangements and often pushes the fishers out of work. Yet, as is the case with fishers, vessel owners cannot lay formal charges but choose instead to seek traditional arbitration systems, which may not be always reliable.

Remuneration from direct fishing is further limited by the schemes of middle-persons and other post-harvest operators in the fisheries value chain. Being at the lowest end of this chain, fishers often do not get a fair value for their labour, and they are the ones subjected to the harshest conditions in the sector. Women, who are mostly engaged in daily paid tasks such as offloading fish (Kiswahili: *wapakujaji* or *wabebaji*) also earn quite low prices, depending on the nature of catches. The government also cannot maintain indicative prices for finfish, except where it is export-related and subjected to international standards as it is for the Nile perch, shrimp and other shellfish. Inadequate storage capacities push the fishers to sell immediately, and they usually negotiate prices according to the market of the day.

Useful platforms

The government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have had considerable gain in mobilizing small-scale fishers to form their own organizations, which is seen in the several community-based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs that have been established. Some of these organizations claim to be representative of fishers across the country, while others are more location- or fishing-ground-based, such as the Fishers Union Organization (FUO); Umojawa Wavuvi Wadogowadogo Dar es Salaam (UWAWADA) and Chama cha Wavuviwadogo MinaziMikinda (CHAWAWAMI). One of the objectives of establishing fishers' CBOs and NGOs was to facilitate platforms on which fishers could make demands and improve their situations. Beach

management units (BMUs) are currently the single most broad-based community of fishers and fishworkers surrounding a fish landing site. In most cases, the landing site also represents a village community. BMUs are a government-established CBO whose mandates include monitoring the fisheries; management of landing sites, and, confronting illegal fishing; they have been quite effective in inland fisheries, especially around Lake Victoria. It is important to note, however, that the concerns these organizations mostly deal with are not usually related to employment conditions of fishers, but to other livelihood basics such as access to healthcare, HIV and AIDS, taxation, prices and market conditions.

Tanzanian fishers employed by industrial fishing vessels are comparatively better organized and better-off since they fall under the formalized employment regulations. Fishers in this sub-sector have formed a trade union, the Tanzania Fishermen and Maritime Workers Union (TAFIMU), formerly known by its Kiswahili acronym, WAMEUTA—Wafanyakazi wa Meliza Uvuvi Tanzania. This organization has been registered by the Registrar of Organizations Tanzania, and hence is a formalized platform for claim making and seeking for better labour rewards and recognition than is generally the case for small-scale fishers in Tanzania.

Although the Government of Tanzania has long emphasized the importance of decent work in the fisheries, it still recognizes that the fisheries are one of those sectors with significant issues regarding decent work. Incidences of abuses against women and children have been reported frequently but are not effectively documented or recorded. Both inland and marine fisheries have high incidences of child labour—in actual fishing, processing and vessel cleaning—which is also seen in the aquaculture sub-sector. Several efforts to discourage and prohibit such labour have been made; yet, weak enforcement of child labour and related legislation, particularly in rural Tanzania, has permitted the

practice to persist. Other challenges arise out of low economic situations of many households, including the traditional perception on the age where a child needs to support a household. Tanzania has ratified to the universalised standard age of a child, as a person of 18 years and below, but studies have shown that children, particularly after primary school (Standard 7) are regarded as grownups and should engage in work, even though they may be below 15 years of age. The Integrated Labour Force Survey of 2014 estimated that the agriculture and fishery sector employs about 89.3 per cent of the working children in Tanzania. Findings of a 2012 study indicated that the fisheries sector contains some of the worst forms of child labour in Tanzania, exposing children to health problems, including sexual abuse.

Fishers' safety during work is another important labour issue in the fisheries of Tanzania. Although most fishing is conducted within the intertidal area (ocean) and near shore in the lakes, increasingly, fishers are venturing farther as many of them have become motorised, and the use

...the agriculture and fishery sector employs about 89.3 per cent of the working children in Tanzania.

of global positioning system (GPS) to negotiate to fishing grounds is becoming more common. Although accurate data on fatalities is missing, fishers usually recount their struggles with rough seas, and frequent and unexpected storms.

Safety at sea

Yet, most of the vessels used are not sturdy enough to withstand storms or accidents at sea, which are often experienced when the southerly monsoons pick up. It is also not very common for these vessels to carry safety gear on fishing trips. Fisheries Regulation 12- (1) (a) (b) and (c) of 2009 spells out that

a licensed fishing vessel shall not proceed on a fishing voyage unless it has fulfilled certain obligations, including carrying sufficient quantity of food and number of utensils for holding water and food; having a serviceable horn or trumpet, and at least two life rings, one life jacket or

Regular monitoring may, however, be challenging, considering that fishing trips are usually arbitrarily decided, depending on seasons and conditions of the sea/waters.

any other approved life-saving equipment for each crew, and fire-extinguishing devices. Vessel owners, however, hardly ever subscribe to, or provide, insurance packages to cater for fishing-related accidents.

The Fisheries Department and the Surface and Marine Transport Registration Agency (SUMATRA) are both entitled to monitor the safety of fishers as they go for work by enforcing safety-at-sea procedures. The Fisheries Department/local government authorities claim that they issue a vessel licence only after SUMATRA certifies/approves the safety conditions of the fishing vessels. But inspection to ensure compliance of safety regulations is not yet a regular practice. Regular monitoring may, however, be challenging, considering that fishing trips are usually arbitrarily decided, depending on seasons and conditions of the sea/waters. Occasional exercises by SUMATRA to promote safety procedures for water travel are conducted for small-scale fishers but are still inadequate. For example, fishers at the Sahare landing site (Tanga Municipality) recalled one of SUMATRA's attempts to distribute life jackets to fishers but lack of proper co-ordination with local fishing groups resulted in many of the jackets being taken by non-fishers.

Social-security institutions in Tanzania are gradually embracing more liberal insurance schemes in addition to the conventional employer-employee systems, where

each is obliged to make periodic contributions to insurance schemes. Such changes could be taken as innovations in insurance marketing strategies, responding to the needs of the times, but they allow individual commitments to insurance schemes. A number of institutions have, therefore, established insurance schemes that target persons operating in the informal sector such as small-scale fishers, petty business people and small-scale miners.

Other insurance systems that touch on informal operators include the Community Health Fund (CHF), which, through concerted mobilization, is becoming increasingly adopted by grass-roots communities, including fishing communities. Another mechanism is promoting a savings culture through the VICOBA (Village Community Banks) scheme, which also allows fishers and fishing communities to set aside periodic savings and gradually realize benefits. A couple of key challenges, however, still prevail: one, the inadequate mobilization and awareness raising on the benefits of such schemes; and two, the uncertainty or irregularity of incomes, which sometimes compromises people's commitments to such schemes.

The small-scale fisheries sector, in particular, has benefitted from the recently established 'Wote Fund', run by the Tanzania Parastatal Pension Fund (PPF), which targets all informal sector operators, including fishers. The WAVUVI Scheme, established by the Tanzania National Social Security Fund (NSSF), is, to date, one of the most innovative social-security schemes directly targeting fishers. This scheme is one among several other schemes that are 'occupation-based' and target the informal sector. Other schemes established by NSSF with similar conditions include the Wakulima (Farmers) Scheme and the Madini (Miners) Scheme.

Attractive conditions

Conditions for subscribing to the Wavuvi scheme are, thus, quite attractive to small-scale fishers, but would be accessible only if they are

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able to maintain gainful employment and concerted advocacy.

The 'informality' in work and employment conditions within small-scale fisheries in Tanzania has permitted operators in the sector to seek arbitration through multiple forums. One is the traditional dispute-resolution systems in cases between fishers themselves, such as when fishers need resolution for pay-related issues.

The other is through appealing to government authorities in the case of disgruntlement with regulations, inadequate state support to enhance fishing capacity or when they are violated by other users who operate in the fishing sector. Many fishers complain about the hassle of annual fishing licences, claiming that it is not only too high, but also cumbersome in the nature of its enforcement.

There is an evident discord between fishers' accountability and enforcement mechanisms in licensing of small-scale fishers in Tanzania which creates significant conflicts. Other common incidences of conflict are between small-scale and industrial fishers. In both the lake fisheries and marine fisheries, industrial trawlers are often caught in the wrong because they destroy the fishing nets/traps of small-scale fishers. At this level, the immediate local government office serves as the point of appeal through which frequent arbitration is performed. This has demanded concerted follow-up that is costly in terms of time and financial expenses to small-scale fishers.

There are both formal and informal rules that inform work-related issues in the small-scale fisheries of Tanzania. National Fisheries Policies, Acts and Regulations and related instruments provide the major formal framework informing employment and labour issues for small-scale fisheries, and are applicable for both the inland and coastal fisheries of Tanzania, and they basically address issues regarding sustainable fisheries development and management; enforcement and compliance, technologies and innovation. Key instruments guiding this sector include: (i) Fisheries Act No. 22 of



Fishing crew leaving for the job, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The WAVUVI Scheme is one of the most innovative social-security schemes directly targeting fishers

2003 that repealed the Fisheries Act No 6 of 1970; (ii) Principal Fisheries Regulations (2009) (iii) Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act of 1989; and, (iv) Marine Parks and Reserves Act (Act No. 29 of 1994). These fisheries legislations provide for compulsory fishing licences of two types: (a) Fishers (Individual) Licence, which costs TShs20,000 per annum, and serves as an identity document for a fisher, and (b) the Small-scale Fishing Vessel Licence (Tshs20,000). The vessel licence serves as a property ownership document and can be used to access credit. Fish products are also taxed 5 per cent of the fish sales landed. Informal rules and norms operate in conjunction with these formal rules and are equally binding to fishers and fishworkers, as mentioned above, and are evident in the daily work arrangements and dispute resolution.

Lack of compliance

Fisheries legislations also emphasize responsible fishing, which is monitored through enforcement mechanisms, compliance and education. Sometimes, the lack of compliance through the use of unsustainable technologies has resulted in serious disputes or conflicts with authorities. One of the most pervasive conflict is related to the use of dynamite in killing fish, and the use of illegal fishing methods which have not only been destructive

to the natural environment, but also destructive to the fishers' own livelihoods. Willing compliance with sustainable fishing practices, therefore, affects the employment environment in the fisheries. There is a small level of traditional fisheries management in pockets of the country, one of the most significant being the community-based octopus closures in locations of Pemba island. This indicates that participatory development of regulations may be more appropriate to secure both fishers' labour rights and the health of the fishing environment. Labour concerns for the small-scale fisheries sector, therefore, cannot avoid questions about enforcement and compliance, and must address both rights and responsibilities of the fishers themselves for gainful employment in the sector.

The sociocultural, economic and policy contexts in Tanzania have created certain conditions of work in the Tanzania fisheries that have made fishers differentially vulnerable to environmental, social and work-related problems, compared to other sectors. The context also shows that there are different levels of rules that inform the fisheries, each of which influences employment conditions and benefits of fishers and fishworkers to enable them to engage in gainful employment. Informal employment engagements and inadequate mobilization have made many of the fishers encounter low rates of remuneration, low job security and inadequate access to social-security and social-protection systems. Specifically, the following key issues summarize the conditions of labour in the small-scale fisheries of Tanzania:

- Employment conditions are based on oral, informal agreements which, although are binding according to traditional sanctions, do not permit formal recognition by current legislation unless they are sanctioned by the government. Such situations allow for avoidance of the law and fishers' rights.
- Small-scale fishing is a precarious occupation, sometimes subjecting fishers to natural disasters during work. Opportunities to subscribe to insurance schemes exist but they are still too minimal and not widely advocated.
- Employment agreements on traditional systems do not entail binding insurance benefits, including accident or off-season benefits; and there is still inadequate mobilization of social-security schemes and benefits among fishers and fishing communities to cater for the needs of the occupation.
- There are limitations in small-scale fishers' organizations to mobilize for favourable employment conditions.
- The working environment remains precarious for fishers because of poor technologies, especially for local vessels to maintain sea/water-worthy safety standards.
- Informality has sometimes limited effective monitoring of small-scale operators, despite sound regulations. This has had implications on fishers' abilities to engage in gainful employment from the fisheries.

For more

http://www.cuts-citee.org/tdp/pdf/Case_Study-Fisheries_Sub_Sector_in_Tanzania.pdf

The Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction: The Case Study of the Fisheries Subsector in Tanzania

http://www.saspen.org/conferences/informal2013/Paper_Ackson-Masabo_FES-SASPEN-16SEP2013-INT-CONF-SP4IE.pdf

Social Protection for the Informal Sector in Tanzania

<http://www.nbs.go.tz/nbstz/index.php/english/statistics-by-subject/labour-statistics/614-the-2014-integrated-labour-force-survey-ilfs>

Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS)

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

Towards the Implementation of Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines in Tanzania

Rightfully Unfair

The treatment of the commercial salmon fishermen along the the west coast of Canada, through the unprincipled actions of their own government, is driving them into bankruptcy

The invocation of human rights is a relatively recent development in human history, with much of the language around human rights being solidified through work by the United Nations (UN) after the horrors of the Second World War. As in all developments in human history, there is an ebb and flow to new and evolutionary concepts as they get tested in the courts, in international law, and in practical application and implementation—and human-rights principles are no exception.

We see, in many instances at the present time, egregious examples of massive human-rights abuses during civil wars, in the treatment of displaced citizens, and in the present exodus of stateless citizens through refugee camps and their attempts to land in countries that will protect them, not as citizens of any particular country, but as human beings who have inalienable rights according to the international principles that have evolved through the human-rights process over the last several decades.

Despite the major examples of human-rights abuses that we are made aware of daily through our interconnected planet, I am going to focus on one small part of the world and one example of human-rights abuse in a country that often sees itself as a paragon of best practices in respect to the treatment of its citizens: the west coast of Canada, and the treatment of the commercial salmon fishermen there.

I am going to focus on the principle of 'fair' livelihood as articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which Canada is a State Party. Article 6 recognizes the "right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the

opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts", and "steps to be taken by a State Party....To achieve the full realization of this right shall include... Policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment."

In Canada, although sea resources are referred to as 'common property', the state has the power to put licensing structures in place for both conservation and economic reasons that will limit who will be allowed

...human beings who have inalienable rights according to the international principles that have evolved through the human-rights process over the last several decades.

to harvest these resources. In the late 1960s, using both economic and conservation arguments, the state started to limit access to Pacific salmon by creating limited licences. It was careful to use principles as articulated in Article 6, whereby licences and allocation were based on historical catch and effort, and although the formulas used to create limited licences in many sea resources over the next decades had their flaws and their detractors, there was a conscious effort made by the Canadian government to adhere to the principle of 'fair' access to sea resources that were the basis for the limited licences that the government created.

Government power

There was a real attempt to adhere to the principle that when governments hold the power to allocate access to

*This article is by **Dan Edwards** (danedwards@telus.net), a third-generation fisherman from the village of Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island, Canada, who has trolled salmon for 40 years and now owns a longline groundfish vessel, in partnership with his son*


the resources they control, they are morally and ethically bound to not arbitrarily remove that access once it has been granted. If that happened, the principle of 'fair' compensation for that removal would follow as the only mechanism that would justify the actions of the state. In the debates with the UN on this point, it has been recognized that nation states have the right to re-allocate but if they do so, in order to not break the fundamental human right of access to a 'fair livelihood', the state must offer compensation.

Several years later, in 1996, the Government of Canada analyzed what it called the 'best use' of the salmon resource and in respect to two species, Chinook and Coho, they decided that this resource would provide more benefit to the people of Canada if it was re-allocated to the recreational angler. Dr. Art May, a former Federal fisheries bureaucrat, was hired to give advice on how best to accomplish this transfer and he articulates the principle of 'fair livelihood' very clearly in his report: "Why should those citizens who have made substantial private investments in boats and gear in order to gain access to commercial fisheries, and which, in light of their commercial licences, they had every right to expect would not be summarily removed, not expect to receive compensation if reduction of access occurs?".

The Canadian government then enacted a policy of priority access to Chinook and Coho for the recreational sector, and it recognized, in the development of that policy, that it would, as May stated, be taking that resource away from a long-established of well over a hundred years—the commercial salmon troller. It stated, at the time, that it would have to develop a compensation mechanism. It then failed to develop that mechanism and, in fact, over the next several years, started to state publicly that with respect to sea resources, there was no obligation to provide compensation.

The remaining troll fishermen's enterprises were unprofitable in six of the last ten years (from 2008 to

2016) due to the application of this policy. The recreational industry is now allowed to harvest salmon resources year-round with an unlimited fleet, while the troller has been severely limited in the number of days allowed to fish, with the excuse being that it cannot be allowed to impact certain weak stocks, while the recreational fisherman continues to have unfettered ocean access to these same weak stocks.

In conclusion, it is obvious that Canada started out with good intentions in respect to the fair access to sea resources in its original application of limited licensing, but, over time, it has drifted dramatically away from those principles, with the result that the remaining commercial troll fishermen are being driven into bankruptcy by the unprincipled actions of their own government. When the actions of the Canadian government in this instance are held up against the principles it has signed on to in its commitment to human rights, it appears to have failed to protect the rights of a specific group of its citizens: the commercial troll fishermen. The Canadian government needs to uphold its national and international human-rights commitments to these citizens, and develop a fair compensation framework in order to repair the damage it has done. 

For more

<https://smallscales.ca/2014/04/30/canada-missing-big-opportunity-to-support-its-small-scale-fisheries/>

Canada Missing Big Opportunity to Support its Small-Scale Fisheries

http://www.un.org/depts/los/nippon/unnnff_programme_home/fellows_pages/fellows_papers/capistrano_0910_philippines.pdf

Indigenous Peoples, Their Livelihoods and Fishery Rights in Canada

Down Home No More?

Ending decades of neoliberal policy, the new Liberal government of Canada aims to restore the protection that fishermen have lost to foreign corporate interests

Big changes are in store for Canada's fisheries as the new Liberal government turns its attention to supporting independent fishermen and ending decades of policy drift and creeping corporate control over its coastal fisheries. The broad scope and ambition of the government's agenda for the fishery were outlined in a major speech to the national fishermen's federation in late July by the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

In his speech to the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation, the Minister announced a broad range of initiatives—changes to Canada's fisheries legislation and its regulations; stricter enforcement of existing policies; support for young people wanting to enter the fishery; and a review of licensing policies—all aimed at ensuring that fishermen and their local communities benefit first and foremost from the fishery.

The measures announced are a thoughtful and detailed response to long-standing demands put forward by the country's independent fishing fleets, most recently and insistently by the Federation whose members gave the Minister several standing ovations during the speech, to underscore their support for his announcements.

The scope of the Minister's intention is comprehensive and far-reaching, and meant to arrest and reverse decades of surreptitious corporate control over coastal fisheries officially reserved for independent owner-operators. Taken as a whole, the measures would restore a clear sense of purpose to Canada's fisheries, linking them to the equitable socioeconomic development of Canada's coastal fishing

communities—a link lost over recent decades as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans retreated into a narrow conservation focus and introduced market-driven fisheries management measures like individual transferable quotas (ITQs) in many fisheries without consideration of their socioeconomic outcomes for fishermen and their communities.

To begin the change process, the Minister said he intends to be “unyielding and relentless” in pursuing and holding to account those who break long-standing policies regarding the prohibition of corporate control over inshore fishing licences and, astonishingly,

...the measures would restore a clear sense of purpose to Canada's fisheries...

acknowledged that in the past, the Department had been “willfully blind to what was happening” in terms of corporate control.

Social objectives

On the legislative front, the Minister said he intends to bring changes to the Fisheries Act and its regulations to affirm “the ability of the Fisheries Minister to consider social and economic objectives in administering the Fisheries Act” and go even further, by explicitly prohibiting arrangements giving corporations and other entities control over licences that are contrary to the government's social and economic objectives for the fishery. These intentions are hugely significant in

*This article is by **Marc Allain** (marcalla@gmail.com), who recently retired as Executive-Secretary of the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation, Canada*

the Canadian context because they would remove any ambiguity regarding the scope of the Minister's authority to make rules over licensing, which the corporate sector has been insidiously suggesting was limited to conservation measures.

Lastly, the Minister announced his intention to engage in consultations on a licensing review to make Canada's fisheries licensing system fairer, starting from the principle that a fishing licence provides privileged access to a public, common-property resource. The goal of the review, LeBlanc said, is to ensure that "the benefits of the fishery go to those who work hard to prosecute it, and the communities that support them."

The Minister's speech was astounding to an audience long accustomed to Fisheries Ministers, unfamiliar with their portfolio, delivering words fed to them by departmental officials intent on protecting the inertia of departmental direction. While respectful of the civil service, the Minister's speech clearly indicated that he will be providing, not taking, direction from the Department on the changes he wants to see happen.

The speech was all the more significant because LeBlanc is a powerful, senior Minister in the Trudeau cabinet, fully capable of delivering on his change agenda in

a government elected to bring about real change.

Moreover, he has a strong personal interest and commitment to a holistic approach to fisheries policy as the son of a former fisheries Minister and Governor General of Canada who is still revered in fishing communities because of policies he introduced in the 1970s to keep fishing licences in the hands of fishermen in fishing communities.

Government attention to the social and economic objectives for its fisheries cannot come soon enough for Canada's owner-operator fisheries and the small coastal communities that rely on the fishery for their very existence since Canada's coastal fisheries are booming. The landed value of Canada's Pacific and Atlantic fisheries reached Cnd\$3.2 bn in 2015—an increase of 75 per cent from 2010, while exports reached Cnd\$6.6 bn in 2016, up 68 per cent from 2010. Most of this value is generated by Canada's lobster, crab and shrimp fisheries, the first two fished almost exclusively by owner-operators based in small, isolated rural communities where the fishery is the dominant economic activity.

The abundance of lobster, in particular, has increased spectacularly in recent years, fuelled by a changing ecosystem and climate. Unusually, the increases in lobster supply have been accompanied by increases in price, as Canadian exporters have tapped into the growing Chinese demand for high-quality wild fishery products.

Chinese demand has diversified the outlets for Canadian fishery products from the traditional United States (US) market, and boosted prices to all-time new highs. The value of Canada's coastal fisheries has not gone unnoticed by investors, particularly foreign ones. Thai Union, in particular, has made major investments in Canadian lobster, acquiring a Canadian processing plant—ironically called *Les pêcheries de chez-nous* (Down Home Fisheries) and Orion Seafoods, the main distributor of Canadian crab and lobster into the US market, followed

RUTH INNISS



Lois is one of the first women to be an active deck fish harvester in coastal Nova Scotia. Lois has fished since 1982 with her husband

by a 25 per cent share of the Red Lobster restaurant chain.

Different Chinese companies have also acquired lobster processing facilities in Nova Scotia, Canada's largest lobster producer, for direct live and processed lobster shipments to China. In Canada's Pacific fisheries, where government policy allows fishery access privileges to be freely traded, an estimated Cnd\$150 mn in licence and quota value has changed hands in the last year, largely fuelled by foreign capital.

Most of this investment activity is happening without government scrutiny or oversight, which is unusual, given traditional government concerns over foreign and corporate investments in other Canadian sectors considered strategic, like oil and gas, agricultural production (dairy, poultry and eggs), potash and, increasingly, real estate in key urban markets like Vancouver and Toronto.

Most worrisome to Canada's community-based independent fleets is the fact that investors, both foreign and domestic, are surreptitiously gaining control over their coastal fisheries through these purchases and other, more opaque, initiatives. For example an ad recently appeared in a newspaper distributed in Canada's most productive lobster fishing areas seeking lobster licences for foreign buyers, a process which is illegal.

The most egregious case to be made public is that of Royal Greenland, a fishing company owned by the Government of Greenland that recently purchased Quin-Sea Fisheries Ltd., a large Newfoundland fishing company with five processing plants and accompanying fishing licences and quotas. Included in the assets of Quin-Sea was at least one 'controlling agreement' over an inshore crab licence—precisely the type of agreement which is not allowed under existing policy and which the new Fisheries Minister has vowed to eliminate.

To protect its investment, Royal Greenland challenged in a Canadian court the Minister's authority to invalidate its control over the licence. The ruling, which came in



Father and son, Gordon and Dylan Beaton, fishermen both, lifting a bait box. After decades of neglect, change is on the horizon for Canada's fishing communities

May, unequivocally affirmed the Minister's authority to issue and deny licences based on socioeconomic considerations. The ruling is very significant as it clarifies the wide scope of the Minister's authority, which will be made even clearer with the changes to the legislation being proposed. The fact that a company, owned and controlled by a foreign government, would have the audacity to challenge Canada's ability to shape its fisheries-access rules to benefit fishermen and fishing communities is alarming and speaks of how badly Canada's public policy for its fisheries has deteriorated.

After decades of neglect, change is on the horizon for Canada's fishing communities, and it may come in time to protect the huge community stake that remains in its coastal fisheries, and restore what has been lost. This is an evolving story that is worth following.

For more

<http://fed-fede.ca/>

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation

https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2017/05/governmentof_canadaintroducesnewmeasurestoensurecanadaisbetter.html

Government of Canada Introduces New Measures to Ensure Canada is Better Equipped, Better Regulated, and Better Prepared to Protect its Marine Environment and Coastal Communities

<https://sencanada.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/361/fish/rep/rep03dec98-e.htm>

Privatization and Quota Licensing in Canada's Fisheries

<https://sencanada.ca/content/sen/committee/362/fish/rep/rep03dec98part1-e.htm>

Questions of Privatization and Quota Licensing in Canada's Fisheries

Needed: A New Paradigm

Ensuring social sustainability in fish trade for small-scale fishers entails recognizing their economic contribution, and devoting public resources for policy

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Fisheries and its value chains are a key source of employment and food security for more than 120 mn people worldwide. They include men, women, girls and boys living close to the coast, on a floodplain, along a river or a lake in developed and developing countries, and who are engaged in fish and fish-products harvesting and related ancillary activities. Fish and fish-related products are among the most traded commodities globally, and the proportion of the harvested fish entering the global market has continuously risen in recent years. As a result of globalization, seafood value chains are increasingly complex

Participating in markets for small-scale fishers is not always easy. Some of the main constraints include lack of roads, landing sites and market facilities, poor technology and insufficient technical skills to produce safe and quality food. Additionally, overexploitation of resources and degradation of supporting habitats and ecosystems reduce the available resources. This is exacerbated by the lack of secure tenure rights for aquatic resources and competition over resources with other sectors such as tourism, aquaculture, agriculture, energy, mining and infrastructure development.

Despite their significant economic and societal contribution, small-scale fishers and fishworkers are often marginalized in economic, political and social terms. As a result, fisheries-dependent communities often live in poverty, and child labour and poor occupational safety and health are common issues affecting this group. Fishing remains one of the most hazardous occupations, reporting over 24,000 casualties per year, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Of the people engaged in the fisheries sector, more than 97 per cent live in developing countries and an estimated 90 per cent are employed in the small-scale fisheries sector.

and fragmented, encompassing different locations for harvesting, processing, transport and distribution, often across multiple national boundaries.

Of the people engaged in the fisheries sector, more than 97 per cent live in developing countries and an estimated 90 per cent are employed in the small-scale fisheries sector. Among these, women represent more than half of the total workforce in small-scale fisheries and tend to perform the major bulk of the processing tasks. They are often exposed to poor occupational safety and health conditions, are poorly organized and have weak bargaining power, compared to other actors across the value chain.

Operational costs

When it comes to large-scale operations, pressure to reduce operational costs and maintain or increase profitability is also increasing, which raises the incentives to use cheaper labour and neglect social and ethical considerations and human dimensions. As a result, the use of migrant workers, working in sub-optimal conditions, has increased, facilitated by the use of illegal networks of brokers and often illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing happens.

*This article is by **Mariaeleonora D'Andrea** (mariaeleonora.dandrea@fao.org), Decent Rural Employment and Social Protection Consultant, FAO, Rome*

Whether in large-scale or small-scale fisheries, the sad reality is that human-rights violations, and labour abuses, are widespread throughout the industry, including the post-harvest sector and aboard fishing vessels as a result of loopholes in fisheries and labour policies and legislation in both developed and developing countries.

In recent years, a renewed attention has sparked towards the fisheries sector, often fuelled by media reports on instances of severe abuses linked to global value chains. But the news is not only gloomy as, in response, several initiatives have emerged. Governments, the private sector, auditing and certification schemes, the media and civil society organizations are starting to adopt approaches to address human- and labour-rights violations. Social sustainability, in fact, has become the new frontier in the sector. Particularly, recent progress have been made in the international regulatory framework concerning the adoption

and implementation of binding and non-binding legal and regulatory instruments.

In November 2016, the tenth instrument of ratification of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention was deposited. As a result, the Convention will enter into force on 17 November 2017, setting minimum standards for working and living conditions on board fishing vessels. The Convention applies to all types of commercial vessels, including those in small-scale fishing, for which some flexibility in the implementation by Member States is allowed. In 2016, another key international labour instrument entered into force: the ILO Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930. The Protocol establishes obligations to eradicate forced labour, protect victims and provide them with access to remedy, while establishing a link between forced labour and human trafficking.

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food

FAO/GIULIO NAPOLITANO



Nishiki Market, Kyoto, Japan. Ensuring that small-scale fisheries communities can prosper, have a voice, are empowered, and are able to fully benefit from participation in markets will require a comprehensive approach

Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are now being implemented at the global, regional and national levels. The Guidelines complement the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and contains guiding principles for governments, fishers' representatives and any other actors concerned with small-scale fishing communities. The application of the Guidelines should be grounded in human-rights principles such as consultation and participation, gender equality and equity, as well as address key thematic areas such as social development, employment and decent work, post-harvest value chain, trade and gender equality.

In 2016, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) entered into force as the first legally binding instrument to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. FAO is supporting the capacity of national authorities to establish inspections schemes of foreign fishing vessels and, as of 30 June 2017, 48 countries have become parties to the Agreement. Through its implementation, foreign

and standards-setting programmes are beginning to include social issues in their programmes, and expand beyond ecological sustainability. Some of the issues covered by these standards include community involvement, human rights, labour rights, employment conditions, and workers' health and safety. There is also an increased attention to include the respect of human rights in bilateral trade agreements as a requirement to gain access to markets in Europe and North America. In exporting countries, commodity platforms are bringing together non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and workers' representatives around fisheries-improvement programmes.

Recently, academics teamed up to define a conceptual framework on social responsibility in the seafood sector. The framework is based on international instruments and encompasses three main pillars: (a) respect for human rights, dignity and access to resources; (b) ensuring equality and equitable opportunity to benefit; and (c) improving food and livelihood security. It calls for increased participation of social scientists in ocean science, given the key linkages between social and ecological sustainability.

The following are all key issues that will need to be addressed in the near future, but the time is now ripe for a new paradigm in the sector that reconciles ecological and social sustainability:

- How to ensure fishers and fisheries-dependent communities will participate and prosper in growing market-based initiatives?
- How will the specificities of the sector be taken into account?
- How can power imbalances within value chains be smoothened, and through which mechanisms?
- How can regional organizations and governments effectively work to create an enabling environment for the development of fisheries communities?
- What role can private-sector actors, including certification and labelling programmes, play?

There is also an increased attention to include the respect of human rights in bilateral trade agreements...

fishing vessels engaged, and believed of having engaged, in illegal fishing activities can be denied using port facilities.

The Agreement is accompanied by other instruments such as the FAO Global Record and the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes to increase transparency and traceability of fish catch. The PSMA is a cost-effective instrument, and its joint implementation, along with other instruments (such as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention), has the potential to reduce fish caught illegally while sometimes the reliance on exploited workers is brought on the table of consumers.

Pitching an increasing demand for ethically harvested food, certifications-

The Agenda 2030 advocates for “leaving no one behind”, and implementing the Agenda will entail creating bridges across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These, in fact, are not silos, and it will be important to foster inter-ministerial collaboration at the national level. Efforts are being made jointly to end poverty (SDG1), hunger and malnutrition (SDG2), achieve universal access to healthcare (SDG3), along with promoting gender equality (SDG5), and efforts to ensure that economic growth is sustained, inclusive and sustainable (SDG8) and, of course, addressing the health of oceans and communities depending on it (SDG 14).

During the first week of September 2017, in the framework of the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries’ Sub-committee on Fish Trade, a special agenda item featured ‘Social sustainability in fisheries value chains and the link to fish trade’. Governments representatives were asked to provide guidance on how FAO, along with other partners, can advance and promote more sustainable fish value chains within the sector.

Ensuring that small-scale fisheries communities can prosper, have a voice, are empowered, and are able to fully benefit from participation in markets will require a comprehensive approach. This entails recognizing the economic contribution of small-scale fisheries to the sector, and devoting public resources for the implementation of appropriate strategies and policies. Therefore, a key component will be building political will at the national and international levels.

FAO will continue to work holistically to promote the wellbeing of fisheries- and oceans-dependent communities while preserving environmental sustainability. Partnerships across the UN system, with fishers and fishworker organizations, NGOs and the private sector, are key. FAO will continue to play a facilitating role through its Vigo Dialogue, a multi-stakeholder platform centered



Cambodian women are occupied with fish transformation, such as drying and smoking fish or producing fish paste, the famous *Prahok*

on the benefits and challenges of promoting decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture.

A key component of the FAO strategy will be building the capacity of member countries to adopt national strategies that break the existing vicious cycle of poverty, lack of access to financial, social and productive services, and alternative livelihood opportunities for youth and women, while addressing overfishing, along with degradation of ecosystems and sub-optimal working conditions in the fisheries sector. This will require supporting countries to adopt institutional and legal frameworks to protect and promote small-scale fisheries. Specific initiatives and support will build the capacity of women and youth to reap the benefits of market participation. Skills development programmes for youth, and the dissemination of appropriate and gender-sensitive technologies will ensure efficient value chains with reduced food waste and loss.

Finally, any strategy needs to be centered around ensuring consultation, participation and the voices of small-scale fisheries, as the main driver of changes in the sector, at national, regional and international levels.

For more



<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5980e.pdf>

Scoping Study on Decent Work and Employment in Fisheries and Aquaculture. Issues for Actions and Programming

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7091e.pdf>

Vigo Dialogue on Benefits of Decent Employment in Fisheries and Aquaculture

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-bc014e.pdf>

The Role of Women in the Seafood Industry

Pillars of Decent Work

A study on decent work of tuna handline fishermen in the Philippines calls for policy interventions to ensure their rights

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The primary goal of the International Labour Organization (ILO) is to promote “opportunities for men and women to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, social security and human dignity”. Its mandate covers all categories of workers such as wage and salaried workers, self-employed, informal workers in the formal economy like fishermen, and other types of workers who ILO affirms as having basic rights to obtain decent work.

In the Philippines, the tuna handline fishery is regarded as one of the most important commercial

aspects where decent-work issues covering rights at work, employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue are taken into consideration. While much attention has been given to the economic importance of the tuna handline fishery, little attention has been paid to the working conditions of fishermen. Hence, this study aims to assess the working conditions of commercial tuna handline fishermen on board fishing vessels, to determine how decent the work is.

This study focuses on commercial tuna handline fishermen on board small-scale (3.1 to 20 gross registered tonnage, GRT) and medium-scale (21.1 to 150 GRT) fishing vessels in General Santos City, which is known as the ‘tuna capital’ of the country. The majority of the population is engaged in the fishery, using traditional fishing methods like handline fishing.

Primary data collection was conducted using semi-structured questionnaires that were employed to solicit information among the 182 commercial tuna handline fishermen selected. Of the 182 fishermen, 111 were from the medium-scale and 71 were from small-scale tuna handline fishing vessels. Interviews with boat operators and key respondents from various concerned agencies were also conducted for supplemental information.

Indicators

This study employed a set of determinants and indicators per pillar of decent work, which were largely based on the conventions and regulations embodied in the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (2007) and on other studies. Since the Convention

While much attention has been given to the economic importance of the tuna handline fishery, little attention has been paid to the working conditions of fishermen.

tuna fisheries, given its social benefits and contribution to the economy of southern Philippines. However, based on the preliminary assessment of the tuna handline fishery in the Philippines, the significance of this sector is increasingly threatened by a number of globalization issues like environmental degradation, poor information on the fishery, and inadequate management and regulatory systems, which impact negatively and create new challenges for the regulations of work of tuna handline fishermen.

The numerous challenges confronting the tuna handline fishery prompted this study to focus on the human dimension, particularly in terms of the labour and employment

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was specifically tailored to reflect the particular characteristics of work and the situations that fishermen face in their working lives, this study adopted the five general areas of concern that were stipulated in the ILO WFC (2007). The five general areas of concern, which were treated as determinants in this study, were categorized according to the four pillars of decent work with corresponding indicators. For rights at work, this study looked at two determinants, namely, (1) minimum work requirements, of which the indicators include age, availability of medical certificate, and availability of crew list; and (2) conditions of services that were measured using the indicators of hours of rest, availability of work agreements, and payment of fishermen. With respect to the employment pillar, this study made a reference to two determinants that included (1) career and skills development, with three indicators, namely, access to training, education level and years of fishing experience; and (2) opportunities for work that were measured using three indicators that included access to credit facilities, access to fishing-related information, and status or nature of employment. In terms of the social protection pillar, attention was given to three determinants, namely, (1) accommodation and food that was measured using the indicator of availability of living quarters, food and water; (2) occupational safety and health, with three selected indicators, including availability of protective gears, access to medicine, and access to trained medical staff on board; and (3) social security that was measured using the indicator of coverage under mandatory social-security schemes. Finally, in relation to the social dialogue pillar, this study looked at two determinants, namely, (1) dialogue, with the indicator of access to a grievance machinery; and (2) voice and representation, with the indicator of membership in fishermen's associations.

To determine the overall level of decent work of tuna handline fishermen, a decent work index was

constructed. Construction of the index adopted the shortfall or gap approach where the gaps of the fishermen respondents' scores, relative to the desired target for the indicators used, were measured against specified minimum and maximum values for each of the indicators. Expressed in index point, it is similar to the Human Development Index (HDI), where the perfect score is 100. The equation is given by the formula:

$$IS = \frac{(\text{real score} - \text{minimum score})}{\text{maximum score} - \text{minimum score}} \times 100$$

The five general areas of concern, which were treated as determinants in this study, were categorized according to the four pillars of decent work...

After deriving the score for each indicator, the overall labour index was computed as the sum of the average of the pillars scores.

The highest possible score that an individual tuna handline fishermen can get is 100. Hence, the resulting scores pertaining to the fishermen's decent work index were categorized into five levels to represent the level of decent work. Those percentage points below 50, which is said to be of acceptable level, were categorized either very low (0-25) or low (26-49), while those that are close to the maximum score were categorized either high, 66 or very high (81-100). The medium level is set for those scores within the range of 50-65.

Simple parameters

For analyzing the data, this study employed simple statistical parameters such as means and standard deviation. For further analysis and to know if there are significant differences between small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishermen in terms of socioeconomic characteristics and level of decent work, the t-test was used. Moreover, as the literature suggests, the four pillars of decent work influence each other in myriad of ways.

Hence, correlation analysis was likewise done to determine the relationship that exists between, and among, the four pillars of decent work.

On average, a household of handline fishermen constitutes about six persons, headed by a middle-aged adult with a low level of education (elementary), and relies heavily on the low earnings of fishermen, since the nature of their pay is based on a 'sharing system', wherein the typical earnings call for 20 per cent of the profit to be shared among the fishermen. Given the nature of the sharing system, the fishermen surveyed indicated that they never receive a fixed amount of pay and thus often receive a meagre amount that is insufficient to finance their basic needs. The survey indicated that regardless of vessel type, the surveyed tuna handline fishermen have no statistically significant differences in terms of socioeconomic character.

The survey results indicated that the conditions of work of tuna handline fishermen were fairly vulnerable to decent-work challenges, yet are still insufficient to realize the full potential of the fishermen, as indicated by the scores for each of the indicators used. It may be noted that tuna handline fishermen scored relatively high in most of the indicators. However, it can also be observed that for both small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishermen, eight indicators posted a score below 50 per cent, which was said to be of at least an acceptable level. These eight indicators included medical examination, provision of a work agreement, payment of fishermen, training, educational attainment, social-security coverage, access to dialogue mechanism, and membership to associations.

The conditions of work are being influenced by the work relations between fishermen and financiers, and the long-standing practices that exist in the tuna handline fishery. The relationship between fishermen and financiers, who also act as boatowners and boat operators, has remained feudal in many ways, wherein the financier exercises much

control over the fishing operation. Moreover, the relationship is based on loyalty and trust, and the practice of returning a favour is very much in place. Traditionally practised sharing systems and the very informal work arrangement, which is merely based on verbal agreement, still persist in the tuna handline fishery. Further, it can be inferred that rights at work affect all aspects of work. For instance, as a result of the lack of a formal work agreement or contract, it is difficult for fishermen to negotiate any terms of work, including their payment or earnings, or to advocate for themselves when payment practices are considered unfair. Consequently, due to their low earnings, participation in social-security schemes is on a voluntary basis.

Another notable observation is the difference in the percentage point between the small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishermen, as far as the indicator on access to grievance machinery is concerned. The difference may be attributed to the idea of kinship. In a small-scale handline fishing vessel, the majority of the fishermen indicated that it was easier for them to raise their concerns since a crew was more than a company of workers, and the crew members are usually related in many ways.

Social relations

In small-scale handline fishing vessels, a crew may consist of father and son, brothers, or a mixture of close or more distant kin. On this note, the many-sided social relations mitigate conflicts on board. On the other hand, crew members of medium-scale handline fishing vessels indicated that they hesitated making complaints about their working conditions due to the fear that it might exacerbate or further worsen their current working conditions. They indicated fear of being blacklisted or barred from future employment.

Based on the 19 indicators, this study revealed that the overall decent work level of both small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishermen fall at a medium level, since they score

62.9 (SD=7.9) and 62.6 (SD=11.9) points, respectively. This is attributed to the medium-level scores in the majority of the pillars of decent work.

It may be noted that among the four pillars of decent work, the social-protection pillar falls at a high level since the tuna handline fishermen scored relatively high, except for the social-security coverage, where a large percentage of them are not covered under any of the social-security schemes like SSS and PAG-IBIG, which can protect fishermen and their beneficiaries in conditions of disability, sickness, old age, death and contingencies resulting in loss of income and other financial resources.

The medium-scale tuna handline fishermen scored low with respect to social dialogue since their scores for the indicators of access to dialogue mechanisms and membership in fishermen's associations posted a percentage point below 50. In relation to the access to dialogue mechanism, most of the medium-scale tuna handline fishermen fear that making complaints about their working conditions may further worsen their current working condition. In terms of membership to fishermen's associations, unlike other occupations in the Philippines, fishermen have never been organized into unions due to the offshore nature of fishing, whereby their often precarious employment status and lack of higher education preclude them from asserting their rights to organize themselves into unions.


Further, the result of the statistical test indicates that there is no significant difference between the small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishery with respect to the four pillars of decent work. This is fairly understandable since the surveyed fishermen have relatively the same socioeconomic characteristics and are exposed to the same social conditions with respect to work relations and practices that exist in the tuna handline fishery.

As the literature suggests, the four pillars of decent work influence one another in many ways. Hence, for further analysis, the interdependencies

of the four pillars were examined. Correlation test results showed that for both small- and medium-scale tuna handline fishermen, all the pillars of decent work were positively and significantly correlated with one another. This implies that the four pillars of decent work are mutually reinforcing and equally significant for the achievement of the overall decent-work index for the tuna handline fishermen.

This study reveals that the conditions of work for tuna handline fishermen are influenced by various factors like socioeconomic characteristics, long-standing practices that exist in the tuna handline fishery, particularly the 'sharing system' for fishermen's pay, and the very informal arrangements that exist in the sector, largely controlled by the financier, which have greatly influenced the working conditions of the tuna handline fishermen.

Although the overall decent-work index of tuna handline fishermen falls at a medium level, the sector cannot remain complacent for much remains to be done in order to reach its full potential in ensuring that tuna handline fishermen are accorded the necessary decent-work conditions while on board fishing vessels.

Understanding the nature of work of tuna handline fishermen and the factors that either enhance or inhibit their level of decent work are crucial inputs in formulating and managing more appropriate and effective policy interventions. Interventions being currently undertaken for the continued development of the tuna handline fishery must not undermine the human dimension of it, and particular attention must be paid on how to ensure the rights, safety and protection of fishermen. To improve the working conditions of tuna handline fishermen, no single pillar of decent work should be left out. 

For more



https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AN-PTuY_Wgnn6kl&cid=DDB0904599F0629B&id=DDB0904599F0629B%2112341&parId=DDB0904599F0629B%2111645&o=OneUp

Gap Analysis of ILO Convention 188, Work in Fishing Convention, 2007

https://onedrive.live.com/?Cid=Ddb0904599f0629b&Id=Ddb0904599f0629b%21708&Ithint=File,Pdf&Authkey=!AkOod2wbmbwgn_W

A Study on Decent Work of Tuna Hand Line Fishermen in The Philippine

<http://ilsdole.gov.ph/ils-spearheads-research-on-ilo-fishing-convention/>
The Institute for Labor Studies Recently Concluded its Workshop Series Validating the Results of the Survey on the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 188

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The Condition of Fishworkers on Distant Water Vessels

<https://www.icsf.net/en/monographs/article/EN/38-the-philippines.html?start=20>

The Philippines Tuna Industry: A Profile

Entry Points for Gender

Participation of women in the fisheries sector of Fiji throws up several challenges, especially in the search for potential entry points for gender integration and positive discrimination

Gender mainstreaming processes to achieve the Fiji government's commitments to gender equality are still not well integrated into the government institutional structure, planning, and budgetary processes. Despite considerable progress made in the various sectors, gaps in the implementation or achievement of government policy on gender are numerous, and need to be addressed in institutional arrangements and in planning and budgeting. Although Fiji's constitution guarantees equality, weaknesses in legal terminology, in policies and regulations, as well as existing

are largely for home consumption. However, in the past decade, what is kept for home consumption has decreased, and increasingly, the focus is on sales and income generation, even from women's fishing work.

In Fiji and in most Pacific Island countries, the small-scale fishing sector is commonly exploited through household units of production, utilizing the complementary roles of women and men. The sector also significantly relies on the use of traditional knowledge, skills and norms of both men and women fishers. Traditional knowledge and practices are often gender-defined. Gender often dictates where women and men work, and separates the traditional knowledge held by women from the knowledge held by men. Traditional gendered roles and associated local knowledge are important in any discussion on division of labour, and paid and unpaid work in communities.

Traditions and customary practices have, however, undergone substantial changes in recent years, and in some areas of fisheries, modified versions of what were traditionally practised have appeared. The changes include inclusion of women in leadership roles, and as members in community committees, and in small-scale business ventures.

Enhanced role

Women's inclusion in decisionmaking and leadership mechanisms could ensure putting in place measures for mitigation and resilience that are not only practical, but also sustainable. Greater access to education and increased participation in income generation have facilitated this enhanced role of women. These changes, however, do not undermine

... the participation of women in fisheries continues to be in the informal and semi-subsistence fisheries sectors...

social and cultural norms, continue to discriminate women in all forms of work.

There has been some progress in work being done on gender in fisheries in the Pacific Island countries and in Fiji. However, huge opportunities remain untapped. Women's small-scale, inshore fisheries provide essential protein to a majority of Pacific Island citizens, yet the importance of these fisheries remains largely unquantified. This is because the participation of women in fisheries continues to be in the informal and semi-subsistence fisheries sectors, and these are not enumerated and do not get included in work or employment statistics of the country. Further, most women's fisheries activities fall into the unpaid work category because their activities

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the crucial role that cultural kinship systems, reciprocal practices and social capital play in sustaining people and livelihoods in Fiji.

Changes in traditional practices do not mean that women automatically find access to greater participation in decision making within fishing communities. Women fishers continue to face barriers and challenges to greater empowerment. These challenges are mostly related to cultural and social norms and practices, which, in many cases, limit women's progress in the fisheries sectors. In the context, fisherwomen have to depend on their male counterparts when trying to access financial support and to get their views included in decisionmaking.

Challenges that women face in fisheries work in the region are related to both the existing social context and the dictates of modern practices. Most women who live in rural locations are forced to conform to constrictive traditional rules and expectations. On the other hand, women fishers have also to adapt to the modern market in the fisheries sector. The difficulties and special concerns of women straddling two worlds, one of handling domestic chores, child rearing and other village responsibilities, and the other of engagement in the modern economy, leads to considerable pressure on their lives. The problem is further exacerbated, as the role of women is often not clearly defined and enumerated, either at the level of the family and community, or within the workplace in the sector.

To bridge the gender gap in fisheries participation in the offshore and inshore fisheries, there is need for training and capacity building of women fishers. Identification of key outlets, buyers and markets will ensure that women fishers have equal access to distribution and export opportunities. Steps to accurately define women fishers' work, to include women fishers in the enumerated sector and to classify unpaid household work under various heads, including self-employment, will help improve women status as fishers.

This will also assist in monitoring the changing participation of women in the different fisheries sectors. The shift in women's participation from the informal to the formal sector can then be addressed and facilitated, by the inclusion of women fishers in all aspects of fisheries training and capacity building.

In the past two decades, new entry points have emerged for empowering women within the fisheries sector. Greater access to education and leadership roles in businesses related to fisheries are exposing women to independent travel and diverse situations outside customary community life. Today, this experience can be used as entry points, to extend the participation of more community women in the fisheries sector. Here again, intervention in capacity building can substantially move forward the goal of empowerment and participation of women in decision making in the sector.

However, all this means systematic collection of information about women in fisheries. The lack of systematic research and collection of data to inform policy on fisheries development, especially where it relates to women's participation in the sector, is a big drawback to empowerment of women in the sector. The following discussion looks at some possibilities for strategic intervention, and how research can help define such interventions.

FAO/GLEN HUGHES



Woman selling freshwater mussels at Delaidamanu village, Fiji. Women's small-scale, inshore fisheries provide essential protein to a majority of Pacific Island citizens

One important area for participation of women is in fish trade and marketing. Entry into fish trade however has its own challenges. Currently, most fish trade, however, is done on individual basis or at the family level. In some instances, as recorded in Fiji, women have set up networks at the village level to facilitate fish marketing. To cut costs, women in groups have taken turns selling fish at the market, and continue to develop their own networking mechanisms. This ensures pooling of resources and greater efficiency in marketing effort. Women are not only able to cut marketing costs, but also get more free time by taking turns going to the market. Finance is usually through village-based credit facilities, where women borrow money on a weekly basis and repay when they return from the markets. Although this credit system works for small-scale village borrowing, there is no opportunity to break out of the cycle, and few options to upscale activities to the next level. Most women have been engaged in these small-scale domestic selling for

lucrative products to win customers. The study also highlighted the extensive networks of buying and selling that already exist within communities, between communities, and between women operating out of the various market centres in Fiji. However, most of these activities and networks operate in the informal sector, without financial support, without risk factors being taken into account, and without health and safety standards built in. While women are willing to engage in value addition to improve incomes, they are limited by the small-scale of operations within which they are constrained to work.

Market dynamics influence fishing and collection patterns at the community level, and these, in turn, cause changes in gender roles within fishing communities. Where there is demand for a certain species, both men and women may participate in the fishing and selling of the product. An example is the increased involvement of both men and women in the sea cucumber trade. There are other instances, where men may take on commercial fishing activities, leaving women to fish for home consumption, and even be involved in commercial fishing. These role reversals speak of the dynamic nature of the fishing community and the small-scale fisheries sector. Further in-depth research into marketing and distribution mechanisms could further reveal the complex networks and systems that women have tapped into to remain competitive on the local market. Formal production has, in most cases, increased in intensity and volume, with processing and preservation adding value. There is a need for careful research to understand value adding and supply-chain development for fisheries and aquaculture products in Fiji.

...most of these activities and networks operate in the informal sector, without financial support...

over a decade. Many of their daughters will continue to work within the same process of small-scale fisheries trade, in the absence of strategic intervention to change the situation.

A survey on women in fisheries in Fiji conducted by the Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji, revealed changes in the involvement of women in marketing. There has been significant increase in the number of women middle sellers who buy products from fisherwomen in the villages, and either sell at a slightly higher price, or cook and/or process the food to add value before re-selling at a higher price. This is indicative of a sector in transition from traditional selling and marketing techniques to participating in more

Range of activities

Within the ambit of fishing and fish trade, women have to deal with a wide range of activities, including transportation, networking with other participants along the value chain, and marketing, which involves

pricing, cash-flow management, budgeting and securing buyers. Often complicating this is the common problem of lack of access to useful and reliable information. Traditionally, communications at the household and community levels were handled by men. Today the situation is changing with the expanding role of women. Changes that have taken place include the development of market organizations, market shelters, roles of women vendors, need for legal training and other enhancement mechanisms.

Women's participating in fishing and marketing could be greatly enhanced by their adopting appropriate handling and processing techniques. This would require systematic training on value-added techniques. For the *kai* (freshwater mussels) fishery, for example, sales have been restricted to the domestic market because of the absence of training in quality handling of fish catch and landing. This means that the fish catch is not able to meet the requirements for export. The same situation holds for post-harvest handling of *beche de mer* (sea cucumber) where up to 45 per cent of the value is lost due to poor handling and processing techniques. With better training and access to systems, women can access more lucrative markets, and substantially increase value addition. There has not been much documentation of women's involvement in catch and export of fish species from the inshore areas.

Women participate in the collection and in post-harvest activities relating to *beche de mer*, trochus and ornamental species. Sex-disaggregated data is needed in these fishing sectors so that all the small-scale commercial activities that women are engaged in can be accurately enumerated and areas of their participation strengthened. Legal and technical enabling mechanisms can then be developed to further progress women's participation in the various fisheries sectors. Some of the changes will need policy interventions which will require collaborative work by non-governmental organizations



Women are also entering into direct fishing activities in Pacific Islands but they do not participate in deep-sea fishing and offshore fisheries

(NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) with the Department of Fisheries.

Women are also entering into direct fishing activities in some areas. Women in most Pacific Islands do not participate in deep-sea fishing and offshore fisheries, although there are parts of the industry where women are either heavily involved or are starting to be involved. Cultural beliefs that women on fishing boats bring bad luck, traditional norms that inhibit women's ownership and use of large powered boats, and the belief that offshore fishing is a man's domain along with the social obligations of household and family, continue to inhibit the participation of women. In the offshore fisheries, women have just started to break in to some work areas. This is mostly as observers on fishing vessels. Work on fishing vessels is hindered by the length of days at sea, which usually range between three and six months, the harsh conditions on board and the safety of travelling with crew members who are usually men.

Traditional use

The inshore fisheries fall within *i qoliqoli* (traditional owned marine areas) and *i kanakana* (areas allocated traditionally for subsistence fishing-where there is no sale of catches), which involve traditional use mechanisms used by resource owners for generations. These resource-use strategies have sustained households, ensured food security and have been

the source of income livelihoods for people. Despite the state of decline of inshore fisheries, the importance of inshore fisheries as a means of sustenance remains critical for remote communities. What is important is examining how aquaculture can sustainably enhance and rebuild inland fisheries. This is where women fishers' roles become crucial as they are important holders of information on species, their habitats, seasonality, and use patterns. Women are able to gather substantial and in-depth species knowledge through their gleaning activities. This wide knowledge base could be used for the management and recovery of traditional fish species populations.

Recent studies have shown a decline in fisheries resources in Pacific Island countries. The new focus is on management of fisheries. The strategies include community-based fisheries development and management, and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Community-based management and development using participatory,

area where the rights of women as workers need defining, with tight regulation of employment conditions.

Another area where industrial fishing impacts women is the increase in the port based activity of industrial fishing vessels. For instance, in Fiji and the Pacific islands, there has been increase in offshore tuna fisheries, with transshipment activities. While increased transshipment activities and domestic basing of foreign vessels provide increased economic benefits to coastal communities, they also increase social problems. Studies and anecdotal information indicate an increase in problems related to alcohol and drug use, and also the rise in prostitution in areas where sea-port activities related to fishing fleets have increased. In all major ports throughout the Pacific Islands, wherever foreign fishing vessels berth, there is increased concern voiced by health authorities on the impact on the health of young women.

The foregoing describes the broad areas within the fisheries sector where women find employment. As is evident, the canvass of women's engagement is large, and often requires that the definition of the small-scale fisheries sector is revisited. We shall now try to examine what should be the strategic priorities that could drive gender mainstreaming within the fisheries sector and fishing communities.

To reiterate, traditional and social barriers that hindered the full participation of women have started to break down in some areas. Changes are taking place in fishing participation, with women using and owning boats and improved equipment.

Real benefits

Women also participate in more sophisticated marketing, involving processing with modern equipment and transporting processed and fresh fish to urban centres. Underlying all these are the questions of the real benefits and measurable impacts on women's livelihoods, and the changes to their position and role

What is important is examining how aquaculture can sustainably enhance and rebuild inland fisheries.

bottom-up approaches have, in many instances, been successful in involving the various sections of communities including women, at all levels of the decision-making processes. The question however remains whether gender inclusion is sufficient in addressing women needs.

Industrial fisheries also increasingly impact lives of women in fishing communities. For instance, women find extensive employment in fish processing factories.

However, the employment is mainly in unskilled, lower-paid menial jobs. Women generally are paid less than men in similar jobs in the factories. The employment is unregulated, leading to exploitation of the women workers. This is an

at the community level. The process of mainstreaming gender into national planning and integrating gender considerations into project development is slow, and the progress is not always linear. Policymakers have to grapple with rapid transformation and changes in the fisheries sector.

While policies should challenge restrictive traditional practices and taboos, they should also take care to encourage and preserve traditional systems that can promote gender issues in the fisheries sector. Traditional systems in many ways assist in delineating tasks that women and men engage in fisheries-related work. For example, in Fiji, traditional fishers can be obligated to involve women in fishing activities and decision-making processes. Within fisheries clans, there exist fishing roles and practices that ensure the protection of resources. Women have a specific role in these roles and practices. Modern fisheries management planning should take these beneficial social practices into account, and use the traditional systems wherever possible to promote sustainability. Further, these strategic interventions need to be developed with community participation, to further enhance women's positions in fishing communities.

Coastal communities face increasing risks today from both external and internal factors, including overexploitation of resources and the erosion of traditional institutional set-ups, on the one hand, and the impact of the market economy and of climate change on resources, on the other. Because women's fishing activities are concentrated in the immediate coastal areas, any resource change, depletion, or impact from natural hazards substantially affect women.

In 2016, a Category-5 cyclone devastated the Fiji islands. Many smaller islands completely lost their subsistence livelihood base, while others suffered varying degrees of damage to their natural resources. One major challenge to rehabilitation strategies after the cyclone was the

lack of baseline data on women's fishing activities against which impact could be assessed.

Changes in gender participation have mostly reflected broader patterns within small-scale fisheries, moving away from an exclusive subsistence focus to market orientation, with greater value addition. Women therefore are also part of the supply chain in targeted fishing for selling

...Coastal communities face increasing risks today from both external and internal factors...

and export purposes. In some areas, fishing patterns have also changed from seasonal fishing to targeting lucrative species throughout the year. Improved technology, night fishing, improved diving gear, and the use of boats to move to other fishing areas have helped extend fishing boundaries and expand markets. Women also no longer just glean and fish for household consumption, with fishing for marketing taking precedence over household food needs.

In Fiji, *beche de mer* diving was largely a male preserve, but, in recent years, women have taken up diving, travelling long hours in boats to search for the species. Monetary benefits largely influence fishing patterns, with rural coastal communities relying more on fisheries resources as a primary source of income. With limited alternatives and opportunities in rural communities, this trend will continue unless there are strategic attempts to introduce other forms of income generation.

Climate change

The emerging changes include women becoming buyers from, and suppliers, to other women. Women are therefore actors across the supply chain in seafood production. Climate change is an issue that will overlap with fisheries work in many areas, and its impact on coastal communities can affect livelihoods across supply

FAO/GLEN HUGHES



Roadside fish market, Fiji. Women have set up networks at the village level to facilitate fish marketing. To cut costs, women in groups have taken turns selling fish at the market

chains. Climate-change adaptation mechanisms will have to be multi-pronged, to include agriculture and forestry; the protection of shorelines and coastal resources; and inland water resources. The knowledge bases have to be integrated while responding to climate change and preparing disaster risk strategies. This potential for using traditional knowledge is still not fully achieved, because of the cultural and social norms that define inclusion and exclusion in the decision-making processes in communities.

Although research provides information on the roles of men and women in the coastal fisheries, there is limited sex-disaggregated data quantifying the numbers of men and women in different roles. Baseline quantitative data is required to assist in the allocation of resources that will promote gender equality. In order to be effective, the data must be updated on a regular basis so that a comparative analysis over time can be made. The fisheries sector has a narrow definition that includes fishing activities and distribution systems. There has to be a more holistic look at the sector, with associated household and food-gathering activities seen as the components of fishing sector.

In 2007, studies on the participation of women in Pacific island countries and Fiji by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicated that women's participation in fisheries science and

management only accounted for 18 per cent of total staff working for fisheries in science and management in government fisheries, environment institutions and environmental NGOs. In contrast, women account for more than 60 per cent of administrative and clerical staff in government fisheries divisions. The question to be asked is: would having more women employed in the Fisheries Departments in the region speed up the process of including women in fisheries sector policy and decisionmaking processes? Women are starting to be employed in the Fisheries Departments in the region, including in the work of dealing with fishing communities.

However, women are yet to find employment in large numbers in more technical aspects of the work. There exist numerous potential entry points for gender integration and positive discrimination for women in the small-scale fisheries sector. These include policy-making levels, national decision-making mechanisms, community-based interventions and at the local community levels. There is scope for mainstreaming gender into most areas of work in the fisheries sector, with a view to building capacity, extending services, opening up markets, increasing skills in processing and post-harvest activities, and raising the opportunity for education and training. Competing priorities at the national level often result in gender issues being marginalized. The challenge is to find ways to make gender mainstreaming more effective.

For more

<https://womeninfisheriesfiji.org/>

The Women in Fisheries Network—Fiji (WiFN-Fiji)

<http://womeninfisheriesfiji.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The-Role-Engagement-of-Women-in-Fisheries-in-Fiji.pdf>

The Role and Engagement of Women in Fisheries in Fiji

Life Afloat

As always, the 2017 edition of the *Pêcheurs du Monde* film festival in Lorient, France, showcased examples of the courage, resistance and resilience of fishing communities

At the 2017 *Pêcheurs du Monde* film festival several prizes were awarded to various films from around the world. Among them was one titled *Floating Life*, by the Indian director Haobam Paban Kumar, which won the Chandrika Sharma Award, instituted in honour of Chandrika Sharma, Executive Secretary of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), who went missing in the disappearance of the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 on 8 March 2014.

The film, made in the same year, highlights the role of women in fisheries while focusing on the fragile situation of traditional fishing communities around the world, and how, despite their disadvantages, they display a determined willingness to resist. The film also draws attention to the situation of fishermen in fresh waters. There are thousands of fishermen on the Loktak, the biggest Indian lake, a wonder of nature, in the state of Manipur, close to the Burmese border.

Here, fishermen are confronted with all the challenges faced by most traditional communities around the world. Lake Loktak is experiencing a profound degradation whose origins are multiple. There is a real population growth, which leads to an increase in the *phumdis*, the floating platforms on which the fishermen's families live. This has implications on the quality of the ecosystem and promotes the loss of oxygen in the lake.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as well as the authorities, accuse the fishermen of being the only

ones responsible for the degradation of the lake, thus justifying their expulsion from the *phumdis*.

In reality, though, the fishermen are far from being the only ones responsible for the degradation of the lake. Pollution also comes from the explosion of urbanization along the shores of the lake, which is done without any treatment of effluents and waste, as depicted in the spectacular images in the film. The role of deforestation on the surrounding slopes is also important as it causes erosion and then siltation of the lake. So, there is an urgent need for action; unfortunately, the directions chosen

The film highlights the role of women in fisheries while focusing on the fragile situation of traditional fishing communities around the world.

are far from resolving the problems and, rather, often aggravate them. These protection measures are part of a plan for the development of the lake and its region, but they result in a violent expulsion of fishing families.

The objectives of this plan are both economic and environmental. NGOs like WWF played an important role in its completion, by focusing the project on the creation of large natural reserves, and banning fishing and settlements so as to protect a species of deer threatened with extinction. From this viewpoint, it has been a success, as the number of deers has increased.

Direct dependence

The economic objectives are also important and concern 1-2 mn

*This article is by **Alain Le Sann** (ad.lesann@orange.fr), President of the *Pêcheurs du Monde* film festival in Lorient, France*

PHILIPPE HOUSSIN



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Each year, the festival offers an opportunity to discover amazing movies through their creativity, originality and emotion in the diverse and complex realities of the lives of fishermen and their communities

inhabitants depending directly or indirectly on the lake and its waters. It was decided to build a dam, which increased the surface of the lake, but also profoundly transformed its operation. The aim was to facilitate irrigation and probably the production of electricity. But there is another stated purpose—making this lake unique as a tourist destination for visitors from all over India and abroad. Hotels have been built around the lake, and the fishermen are now taking tourists for trips aboard their boats, while others sell them souvenirs and cater to their other needs. The majority of fishermen had to accept ridiculously low compensation. Promises of access to land are rarely kept, and sometimes fishermen resettled on the shores are once more evicted to make room for tourist facilities.

Added to all this is the state of emergency that gives excessive powers to the army and the police. It is easy then to understand the extreme violence the fisherpeople have to endure. Their huts are burnt and destroyed by bulldozers

supervised by the police and the military. The women cling desperately to the vehicles destroying their homes. The state of emergency is justified by the proximity of the Burmese border and the illegal entry of refugees. The fishermen are offered the development of aquaculture as an alternative to fishing. So, on this lake, we find all the problems faced by traditional fishermen around the world. The film is also interesting since it illustrates the part that cinema can play in defending the rights of these fishermen. The film's director had originally come to investigate the area in order to prepare for the shooting of a fiction film with the participation of the local fishermen. That film, *The Lady of the Lake*, shows the resilience of a fisherwoman, and was presented at various important festivals in 2016.

Testimonial

The film director, however, did not want to merely go on along the same track. On witnessing the violence of the evictions, he decided to testify about them in a documentary. *Floating*

Life has been awarded at many festivals before making it to the *Pêcheurs du Monde* festival.

The two juries at the festival also crowned two films that bear witness to the resistance and resilience of the fishermen. The jury of professionals devoted its prize to the film of Loïc Jourdain, *A Turning Tide in the Life of Man*, which traces the long struggle of a fisherman from a forgotten island in Ireland to regain the right to fish. The Irish government has reserved salmon fishing for rich amateurs from all over the world. The fisherman, John O'Brien, for his part, refused the proposed compensation and fought for eight years to defend the rights of coastal fishermen against the government and in the debate on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. With the support of NGOs, he secured recognition of the rights of fishermen on his island and hopes to soon regain the right to fish salmon—an extraordinary lesson of courage and resistance of a man confronted with the logic of powers that marginalize the inshore fishermen.

There is, however, a paradox that the film director is not aware of: some of the NGOs supporting John O'Brien's struggle have contributed to the collapse of fishing in several islands (Yeu Island in France, for example) and coastal communities by fighting for a total ban on drift-nets.

These were the very nets used by John O'Brien to fish for salmon, and at the very moment when the rights of these fishers were recognized, the European Union decided to ban drift-nets from inshore fishermen. In addition, new measures to protect the marine environment, promoted by environmental NGOs, can again threaten inshore fishermen like John O'Brien in Ireland. The relationship between artisanal fishermen and environmental NGOs is, therefore, not always as idyllic as in this film.

The youth jury, for its part, awarded an Uruguayan film, *Nueva Venecia*, shot in a village on stilts in Colombia, where the villagers were traumatized by a massacre by the paramilitary. Fishermen and

their families live in very precarious conditions in a mangrove forest and young people dream of football as a professional future. The community is consolidating its resilience by rehabilitating a flooded football ground to organize a tournament. All these films show that the survival of fishermen goes far beyond that of resources, and that it is also necessary to raise hope of a common future.

Several very moving films depict the harsh reality of the living and working conditions of fishermen, in the past and today. At a screening in one school, the children were overwhelmed by the film *Les Oubliés de Saint Paul*, which tells of the tragic adventure of the Breton and Malagasy fishermen abandoned for months by the shipowner on an island in the south Indian Ocean, where they were fishing for lobster. Several dozens of them died of hunger and disease in the early 1930s.

At the same time, hundreds of fishermen were working in appalling conditions to catch cod off Newfoundland on sailing ships. A great French scriptwriter from Saint Malo who had participated in some cod fishing campaigns, wanted to pay tribute to them by interviewing the last survivors in the 1970s. This allowed us to discover their testimony in *Mémoires de Brumes*, which reminds us that the history of the cod fishery, as with many other fisheries, has been marked by a contempt for men and their rights.

Trying conditions

We find such trying conditions in the Russian film *The Pickers of Seagrasses*, which plunges us into the precarious life of seasonal Solovskii Islands fishers on the White Sea, the place where the first Soviet gulag was created. A century later, living conditions are reminiscent of those in the early 20th century. In many films we see the importance of migration in the life of fishermen. In Northern countries, European or Southern immigrants come to occupy the jobs abandoned by young people. This is the case in Iceland, as shown by the

Blending Spot

Hardly had I entered the classroom that was to serve as headquarters for the jury of the festival *Pêcheurs du Monde* in Lorient in March 2017, that it dawned upon me that I had emerged into something different, exterior, distant.

Three continents were represented: South America, Africa and Europe. The French came from Marseille, Bordeaux, Paris and Brittany—four women and three men. Their ages ranged from 30 to 60. There were followers of documentary or experimental cinema. Instinct and rationalism were equally shared. Four people came from the world of images, three from the fishing world. We were to leave our daily lives. Watching the films, we were to travel around the world, and, at the same time, we would encounter the others in our jury. I enjoyed this kaleidoscope that would forge in a unit of time, of place, and history, a slice of our life.

Natural traditions, local cosmologies, mental landscapes, regional epistemologies, discourses, temporality, boundaries, and imagination innervated by life, varied from one member of the jury to another. However, after each film, each one was transformed, in our enclave, to better reinvent this immobile dream. Our remarks had undergone, in their navigation towards others, an alteration such as they were no longer ours, and more theirs.

The crucible produced unpleasant concepts to each of our common sense and metamorphosed us. In this progressive melting each had left his symbols of power, knowledge, wealth and seduction at the door. We had abandoned our inhibitions, our aggressiveness. We accepted the other individuals as they were, they became our equals, and, finally, we were able to speak. I understood what it is like to feel good

Far from everyone's attention, the secret of our alchemy was not to be found in the depths of a cellar, but here, in a classroom. We were gathered in a room named after the greatest naval engineer in the French navy, who had advised Jules Verne for the *Nautilus*, and *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*. Unknown to us, these deep roots concentrated in this place were distilled in our conclave open to the world. In order to be up to it, we immediately ritualized our functioning: discussions after each film, to lose nothing, fair roundtable, free expression and note-taking, not to forget the speech distributed by our captain, the final decision to the president of the jury, the only master on board. We were aware that he should be accountable to the crowd and the rights holders. Life became common for four days. The links were gradually cut with the outside world. To my surprise, an eternity passed in a flash. A final acceleration of the time and of our energies made it possible for the prize list to be established. We delivered it by freeing ourselves.

Our jury, which had become part of the show and of the sea, gathered out of time, but united side by side, in front of the tensed crowd, experienced there a moment of collective exaltation. Referring to the link between the jury and the fishers around the world, the winners, the losers, those who made the films and those who will follow, to those who watched them, the prize was announced by the president and explained by some in the name of all. This moment of exceptional communion went right to the heart of all the members of the jury. In spite of our initial differences, we were no more than an egregore, including the jury of the young—a fine idea—who had made other choices. It was rare enough to recommend to the festival the magic of a little humanity, to start again with another jury.

—by **René-Pierre Chever**,
Member of the jury,
Pêcheurs du Monde film festival, 2017

Polish dockers in the film *Keep Frozen*. In the Netherlands, the Poles become, more often, sailors on beam trawlers, while their owners take boats under the British, German or Belgian flags (*Episode of the Sea*). Malagasy and Senegalese provide a share of the crews on the boats of the deep-sea tuna fishing or lobster.

The film *Miss Philippines* described how the fishermen of the Faroe Islands had to marry Filipino women because the local girls flee the islands for the continent, for lack of attractive jobs at home. At the borders of Europe, Italian or Spanish fishermen settle in Morocco or Tunisia to escape the constraints of European policies, often not adapted to the reality of the peripheries (*Once the Sea was Covered with Water*), while *In the Other Direction*, illegal immigration continues. The world of fishermen is far from being fixed; it is in perpetual renewal of practices and men, and the integration of migrants is often the pre-condition for the survival of communities. Several films reveal the destruction of the seas by industrial pollution: *Black Kiss*; the drama of fishermen facing chlordecone in the aftermath of the catastrophe of Deepwater Horizon in *Corexit: The Cursed Remedy*; *Red Zone* on the destruction of all marine life in parts of the French Mediterranean coast. The fishery itself is experiencing drifting from a dehumanizing industrialization, as shown by David Redmon's *Nocturnum Delirium*, a regular at the festival, and once again noticed by the youth jury.

However, there are other, more optimistic, messages that confirm both the capacity of the seas to recover their wealth and that of men to improve their practices and their relationship with nature. *Aral, the Renaissance*, a film by Isabelle Moeglin, who has followed for 20 years the evolution of the Aral Sea, shows the spectacular but fragile rebirth of a part of this inland sea where hundreds of fishermen have regained activity. From America comes good news with a remarkable beginning of the return of cod off Newfoundland. *Sacred Cod*



PHILIPPE HOUSSIN

Participants at the festival: A unique opportunity to travel the seas and coasts of the world and to understand the world as it goes, with its drifts as well as its beauties and successes

shows, however, the desperation of fishermen of New England condemned to disappear because this return is still to come and it is undoubtedly impossible due to global warming.

Other testimonies of hope appear with improvements in management practices by the fishermen themselves. *Sustaining Sea Scallops* describes the upheaval of scallop fishermen's practices with dredging in the United States: they thus regain the same approaches as the scallop fishermen in France. *Prud'homie de pêcheurs* shows the fragile and chaotic renewal of a multi-year fisheries management institution on the Mediterranean coast in France.

Each year, the festival offers an opportunity to discover amazing movies through their creativity, originality and emotion in the diverse and complex realities of the lives of fishermen and their communities. This festival is a unique opportunity to travel the seas and coasts of the world and to understand the world as it goes, with its drifts as well as its beauties and successes. The films show how fishing communities react to the changes in the world. 3

For more



<http://www.mundusmaris.org/index.php/en/review/films/623-lorient>
Fishermen's Film Festival in Lorient, France

<http://www.pecheursdumonde.org/edition-festival/films/>
Le Festival International de Films "Pêcheurs du monde" est un événement Culturel Unique

Learning from the Ocean

The recent UN Ocean Conference was outstanding in its methodical design and organization, as experienced by participants from the India-based Friends of Marine Life (FML)

It was in 2015 that the United Nations declared the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are 17 Goals, and SDG 14 deals with marine 'life below water', which is formulated with the aim to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Ocean Conference—co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden—was held at the UN Headquarters, New York from 5 to 9 of June 2017 to support the implementation of SDG 14. It included a special event commemorating World Oceans Day on 8 June 2017. This is the first UN conference to be held which sheds

conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems (targets 14.2 and 14.5); theme three, on minimizing and addressing ocean acidification (target 14.3); theme four, on making fisheries sustainable (targets 14.4 and 14.6); theme five, on Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets (target 14.7; target 14.b); theme six, on increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology (target 14.a); and theme 7, on implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS (target 14.c)

It was a well-attended Conference. Apart from official representatives of 193 nations the main participants of the conference also included 112 participatory organizations selected from among UN agencies, Voluntary Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations. In addition to the official Indian delegation, three of us from the marine environmental organization called Friends of Marine Life (FML), working with coastal communities in the district of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State were invited. All three of us: Johnson Jament, Lisba Yesudas and Robert Panipillai are from the traditional fishing communities in the same district and it, probably, was the first time that any members of the fishing families from India were participating in a UN Conference.

Views presented

Presentations and sharing of each target related to SDG 14 were organised as partnership dialogues. There were seven such dialogues. There was one moderator and four panellists for each of the dialogues.

...it may be for the first time that any members of fishing families from India are participating in a UN conference.

light on the importance of oceans and seas for sustainable development. It was held with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including CSOs to assess challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of Goal 14. There was also a Call to Action outcome document.

The themes of the Conference were proposed by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by the preparatory meeting, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 15-16 February 2017. There are seven themes encompassing all the SDG 14 targets and these are: theme one, dealing with marine pollution (target 14.1); theme two, dealing with managing, protecting,

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While senior leaders from selected UN member countries were the moderators, experts in each subject were the panellists. Officials of selected member countries and organisational representatives got opportunity to present their views and opinions in a short period of time. Side events were also organized on SDG 14 targets. Plenary meetings were held at the UN General Assembly Hall.

Lisba Yesudas spoke at one of the plenary meetings, representing Friends of Marine Life (FML). Referring to India, she said only a small part of India's maritime space is considered rich in biodiversity where any conservation measures are implemented. Lack of proper understanding of the marine ecosystems has led to the opening up of the ocean space to environmentally harmful technologies like bottom trawling. Ocean studies in India should include how traditional fishers have been fishing for a livelihood. Their knowledge of reefs and the ocean environment need to be

documented. This knowledge was to made use of while making policies and programmes for the coast, marine fisheries and the ocean. The traditional knowledge of fishers is unwritten and available only in coastal oral languages and this knowledge is to be valued and documented, she said.

Johnson Jament, FML's representative spoke on making fisheries sustainable at the Partnership Dialogue on 7th June. He began by telling about Mukkuvars, the main coastal fishing community of Thiruvananthapuram, who are in the forefront of identifying biologically rich natural reefs at different depths and locations and their traditional nomenclature. These reefs are the main source of livelihood for Mukkuvars, and, for centuries, they have been preserving these ecologically sensitive areas using only passive and selective fishing gears like hooks-and-line for fishing. But today, their source of livelihood is threatened and

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM OF THE UN



Opening of the UN Ocean Conference's Kava ceremony. Presentations and sharing of each subject related to SDG14 were organized as Partnership Dialogue

being destroyed in the name of 'development' and the main issues are destructive fishing gears like bottom trawls and infrastructure activities like construction of ports with breakwaters, dredging, sea sand mining and industrial and urban pollution. Small-scale fishers are never consulted while these projects are planned and implemented at the behest of the State and as a result these fishers are the major

...61 per cent of seagoing fishworkers in India today live below the poverty line...

victims of unsustainable development, he observed.

The Voluntary Commitment prepared and submitted by FML as part of the UN Ocean Conference included taking an initiative to study the seabed and to identifying biologically rich areas using the community knowledge of traditional fishers. FML also planned to propagate and popularise this knowledge among the youth in traditional fishing communities so that public opinion is also mobilized to adopt measures for the protection and conservation of such areas in the ocean. FML will take the initiative for 'ocean environment literacy' programmes in the community, for example. He suggested imposing a 'blue tax' on the commercial users of the ocean and the coast and to use the tax revenue for conservation measures in marine and coastal areas, especially in promoting sustainable fisheries.

Robert Panipilla spoke on a panel dealing with 'small pelagic fishes for food security and for small-scale fishers' at a side event held on 6th June. The main pelagic species landed in India are sardine, mackerel, ribbon fish etc., and the pelagic species contribute around 48% of the total marine fish landings. Traditionally it is the small fishers depending on these species and they also form the most important source of fish for

direct human consumption especially in rural areas. However, 61 per cent of seagoing fishworkers in India today live below the poverty line though they have a sea of potentially rich marine resources. The main problem is that the near-shore waters, their main occupational area, is heavily overfished and destroyed.

Till a few years ago, oil sardine landings in the country was around 0.5 million tonnes and the latest figures of 2015 shows that it has plummeted to 0.26 million tons. Purse-seiners and pelagic trawlers mostly owned by merchant capitalists are increasingly involved in catching pelagic species of all sizes, including juveniles as there is no restriction on the mesh size of nets. Most of the catches from these large fishing vessels go to fish meal companies and not for direct human consumption. The recently pronounced National Policy on Marine Fisheries 2017 clearly states that the number of fish meal plants is increasing and their annual fishmeal production capacity has crossed 65,000 tonnes. These fish meal plants indirectly promote the growth of commercial large scale and environmentally harmful as well as unsustainable fishing practices. Only through strict control of these fish meal plants and through imposing prohibition on production of fishing nets below certain mesh size, that the pelagic fish resources could sustainably be harvested and protected from overexploitation. Only through such measures can the livelihood security of small-scale fishers and food security of common people be achieved.

Organization of the Event

For many reasons, the organization of UN Ocean Conference is laudable. To identify people committed and interested to work for achieving the goals of SDG 14, the organizers started inviting suggestions and well-defined programme of action from interested stakeholders. It was on the basis of submissions received by the UN through this process that 112 participatory organizations were shortlisted and invited to the

Conference, apart from official-country delegates. These participatory organizations were also consulted on the procedures to be adopted at the conference.

As participants who experienced this participatory selection process, we observed that the approach of the organizers was to give priority to the victims of marine and coastal degradation to articulate their suggestions on finding practical solutions. Top priority was given to small island developing nations (SIDS) facing serious issue of existence due to climatic change factors, adversely impacting oceans and seas. Issues faced by developing countries with large number of small-scale fishers were also given due importance. Nauru with a mere 21 sq. km land area but having 431,000 sq. km sea and Tuvalu with 26 sq. km land area and that too on average of 2 m above the sea level, but having 900,000 sq. km sea were given sufficient time to present their anxieties to the world community. Countries like China tried their best to gain appreciation of other countries by presenting actions taken to resolve the issues of ocean governance in China and their plans for the future.

Important issues such as ocean pollution due to plastic accumulation, ocean acidification, human intervention affecting the sea bed environment, coastal erosion, overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, changes in the environment, and ocean environment literacy were discussed and the participants got opportunity to understand the global view on these issues.

We saw country-wise meeting of these participants to have a better understanding of their own issues and it was an opportunity to find mutually agreeable solutions for the problems. As we went back from the Conference, I was reminded of these words of Sylvia Earle, the celebrated oceanographer, "For the ocean scientists, it is very important from where they gain the knowledge they needed. If it is from ocean they will love the ocean, but if it is from

books or computers they would love that only". In short, today the story of ocean is similar to a mother who does not receive any love or affection from the children whom she gave birth to. **3**

For more



<https://oceanconference.un.org/>

Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of SDG 14

https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/Voluntary%20commitment_1393%20by%20ICSF%20Trust.doc

Voluntary Commitments for the Ocean Conference at a Glance: 1395 Total Commitments as on 14 July 2017—Compiled by ICSF Trust

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/76-4287-Contents.html>

Samudra Report No.76, May 2017

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert/articledetail/55714-Women%E2%80%99s-Major.html?language=EN>

Women's Major Group Presents Position Paper to UN Ocean Conference

LEGISLATION

Workers on Board !

Unions in the Philippines have called on the government to enforce the rights of workers on board fishing vessels. Specifically, the Citra Mina Workers Union, with the support of their national organization (SENTRO) and the International Union of Food Workers (IUF), is pushing for the government to implement legislation enforcing the rights of workers on fishing vessels—which was promulgated but never implemented.

DO 156-16—which establishes minimum social standards on Philippines-registered commercial fishing vessel—was adopted in June 2016, following a year of union campaigning and public action. However, it was 'suspended' due to industry lobbying, and has never been implemented.

The union began circulating a petition in February this year, calling on the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) to implement the government order. Signature gathering has intensified since a government consultation in June involving the industry, though SENTRO indicated that the government has little appetite for implementation, and could even even repeal the regulation.

The petition, which has, to date, been signed by over 9,000 fishing-industry workers, will be submitted to DOLE representatives in time for the annual National Tuna Congress scheduled for 7-8 September 2017. It will also be submitted to the chairpersons of the Committee of Labour in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The unions

will also be pushing for Congressional inquiries into the situation of workers in the fishing industry.

<http://www.fiskerforum.dk/en/news/b/unions-call-on-government-to-enforce%20the-rights-of-fishing-vessel-workers>

RIGHTS

March On

Workers in Agadir, Morocco, took out a march in support of rights for the DOHA fishworkers' union. Activists from around the country travelled to Agadir on 31 December 2016 to show their support for the more than 500 workers dismissed by the DOHA Fish Canning Company, following a strike and lockout in 2015, and to denounce the court-ordered seizure of the union leader's apartment.

Members of the national union and their supporters – men and women from Agadir – came out to welcome the protest demonstration that stretched for several kilometres from the outskirts of the city to the central square. The 'march of anger' then advanced along the main avenue and towards the beach area, where protestors formed a human chain, facing the lines of policemen who had been put on full alert, to demand justice for union President Abdullah Rakhmoun and the DOHA workers, and an end to the use of the courts to curtail fundamental rights. DOHA, a major exporter of processed fish products, is part of the wealthy BICHA Group.

<http://www.iuf.org/w/?q=node/5294>

MIGRANTS

Enslaved at Slea

Working on a boat amidst violence and abuse, in the middle of the ocean where you can't see the shore—it seemed like there was no future for us at all."

This description is taken from the account of an unnamed Myanmar national, tricked and forced into labour aboard Thai fishing vessels, in the Greenpeace report *Turning the Tide*. He is, sadly, not in the minority. More than 1.5 mn labour migrants are settled in Thailand, with around 300,000 in the fishing industry alone. Many of them face mistreatment, and witness abuses that have drawn comparisons to modern-day slavery. Tricked and manipulated into fishing work, migrants, originating predominantly from Myanmar and Cambodia, can spend months at sea, where basic nutrition and provisions are largely absent.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/1318003/slaves-at-sea>

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ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

After nearly two years of extensive discussions, a FiTI International Advisory Group, composed of representatives from governments, large-scale and small-scale fishing sector organizations, multinational and regional fisheries organizations and civil society groups working on fisheries and marine conservation, has come up with an agreement on what information on fisheries should be published online by public authorities to contribute to more sustainable fisheries management.

This agreement—the FiTI Standard—was adopted at the 2nd International Conference of the FiTI and now enables countries all around the world to start implementing the initiative. The FiTI Standard provides governments, the fishing industry (large-scale and small-scale), and civil society with a comprehensive and credible

way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies. Designed to ensure that any country can implement it, including those



whose resources for collating information are limited, the FiTI Standard is based on the principle of progressive improvement, supporting countries in strengthening their information system overtime.

Yet, the FiTI recognizes that it is not only the availability of information that counts; it is also essential that the information is perceived as credible and useful. And this challenge is unlikely to be met by a

single actor or stakeholder group alone.

The FiTI is built on the principle that relevant, credible and usable information can only be provided if all relevant stakeholder groups work together, contributing their own expertise and skills.

The FiTI is implemented in countries through National Multi-Stakeholder Groups, consisting of representatives from government, business and organized civil society.

These groups make decisions on how the FiTI is implemented in their countries, and must also work collectively to assess whether information in the public domain is perceived as accessible and complete, and make recommendations on how to improve information published by national authorities.

This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that all perspectives are incorporated and that actors who are sometimes excluded, such as small-scale fishers, are associated to the process.

—by Sven Biermann, Director, FiTI International Secretariat

FISHERIES STANDARDS

FiTI Standard

The FiTI Standard is an agreement on what information on fisheries should be published online by public authorities. It provides governments, the fishing industry (both large-scale and small-scale), and civil society with a comprehensive and credible way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies. Specifically, for large-scale fisheries:

Vessel registry

Implementing countries must provide an online, up-to-date registry of all nationally flagged and foreign-flagged large-scale vessels authorized to fish in the country's marine jurisdictional waters, and of all nationally flagged large-scale vessels authorized to fish in third countries' marine jurisdictional waters and on the High Seas, including the following information:

- The name of the vessel
- The legal owner of the vessel, including their address and nationality
- The registered port of the vessel
- The flag state of the vessel
- The unique identification number(s) of the vessel
- The type of vessel, according to fishing gear or fishing method, following the definition set in the country's legislation
- The physical characteristics of the vessel, including length, beam, tonnage and engine power
- The name of the vessel's agent, if applicable
- The access agreement under which the vessel is granted authorization to fish, if applicable
- The type of fishing authorization held by the vessel
- The quantity and names of target species, permissible by-catch and discards that the vessel is authorized to fish, if specified in the vessel's fishing authorization

- The duration of the fishing authorization, indicating start and end date
- The rights holder for whom the vessel is fishing, if applicable, including the name and nationality of the rights holder
- The country and/or regions of the High Seas where the vessel is authorized to fish (applicable for nationally flagged vessels operating in third countries or on the High Seas)

Payments for fishing

Implementing countries must publish accessible and complete information on payments made by each vessel listed under B.1.5 for their fishing activities:

- The name of the natural person or legal entity that made the payment
- The name of the national authority who received the payment
- The date on which payment was received by the national authority
- The purpose of the payment

Information on payments to port authorities must be separated from payments for fishing activities

Recorded catch data

Implementing countries must publish information from vessels listed under B.1.5 (Vessel registry):

- Catches by nationally flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups, disaggregated by fishing authorizations or gear type as well as marine jurisdictional waters, High Seas and third country waters, presented for the flag state
- Catches by foreign-flagged vessels: The quantity of annual recorded retained catch according to species or species groups, disaggregated by fishing authorizations or gear type, presented for each flag state separately
- Landings in national ports: The quantity of annual recorded landings in national ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters, disaggregated by fishing

authorizations or gear types, presented for each flag state separately

- Transshipments and landings in foreign ports: The quantity of annual recorded transshipments at sea or landings in foreign ports according to species or species groups caught in the country's marine jurisdictional waters, disaggregated by fishing authorizations or gear types, presented for each flag state separately

Implementing countries must publish information on recorded quantities of discards according to species or species groups, disaggregated by fishing authorizations or gear types, presented for each flag state separately, if available. Information must be published on how information on discards is gathered by national authorities.

Implementing countries must publish the most recent studies and reports on recorded fishing effort by vessels, disaggregated by fishery or gear type and by flag state, if available.

Implementing countries must publish evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the large-scale fishing sector, if available.

Small-scale Fisheries

Implementing countries must publish information on the small-scale fisheries sector:

- The total numbers of small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing or gear types as set out in the national legislation
- The total number of fishing licences issued to small-scale fishing vessels, disaggregated according to categories of fishing authorizations as set out in the national legislation
- The total numbers of fishers engaged in the fishing sector, indicating the gender of fishers and the proportion that are engaged in full-time work, seasonal or part-time fishing, occasional fishing or recreational fishing
- The total payments made from small-scale fisheries related to fishing authorizations, catches and landings, disaggregated

according to categories of fishing authorizations or gear types as set out in national legislation and indicating the recipient of these payments

- The quantity of catches, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorizations and gear types as set out in the national legislation
- The total volumes of discards, disaggregated according to species, categories of fishing authorizations and gear types as set out in the national legislation

Implementing countries must publish the most recent studies and reports on quantities and species of fish discarded by the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.

Implementing countries must publish evaluations or audits of the economic, social and food security contribution of the small-scale fisheries sector, if available.

Post-harvest Sector and Fish Trade

Implementing countries must publish information on the post-harvest sector and fish trade:

- Total quantity of fish and fish products produced, disaggregated by species and fish products
- The total quantity of imports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their origin
- The total quantities of exports of fish and fish products, disaggregated by species and fish products, indicating the country of their destination
- The total number of people employed in commercial fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors.
- The total number of people employed in informal fisheries sectors, including the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors

Implementing countries must publish reports or studies on wages in the post-harvest sector, if available.

Source: <http://fisheriestransparency.org/fiti-standard>

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

Decent Work for Migrant Fishers: Report for discussion at the Tripartite Meeting on Issues Relating to Migrant Fishers (Geneva, 18–22 September 2017), International Labour Office, Sectoral Policies Department, Geneva. ILO. 2017.

This report has been prepared by the ILO as a basis for discussions at the Tripartite Meeting on Issues Relating to Migrant Fishers to be held from 18 to 22 September 2017 in Geneva. It provides an overview of the issues faced by migrant fishers and relevant work under way to address these issues.

www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_569895.pdf

The Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation. Jentoft, S., Chuenpagdee, R., Barragán-Paladines, M.J., Franz, N. (Eds.). 2017. MARE Publication Series, Springer International Publishing.

This book contains in-depth case studies where authors discuss the extent to which the Guidelines can help improve the realities of small-scale fishing men and women globally and make their livelihoods and communities more secure. This book asks whether states can successfully “walk the talk,” and provides advice as to how they can do so.

Community Fisheries Organizations of Cambodia: Sharing Processes, Results and Lessons Learned in the Context of the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Kurien, John. 2017. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1138. Rome, Italy.

The institution of community fisheries (CFI) organizations in Cambodia provides an interesting case for the empowerment of small-scale fisheries. The document pulls together findings from two activities carried out in the context of the development and implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Cambodia.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7206e.pdf>

Decent Rural Employment in Small-scale and Semi-industrial Fishing Sectors in Costa Rica: Case Study. Solórzano-Chaves, E.; Solís-Rivera, V.; Ayales-Cruz, I. 2017. FAO, Rome.

This case study explores the living and working conditions in the small-scale and semi-industrial fishing sectors in Costa Rica to increase the knowledge base in relation to decent work in fisheries. It draws on a bibliographic review, as well as on focus-group discussions and key informant interviews.

<http://www.fao.org/3/b-i6519e.pdf>

Videos

Climate Justice in Sápmi

The indigenous Saami live in the Arctic regions of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia, at the frontlines of climate change. Áslat Holmberg, a fisherman and politician, explains how this kind of ‘green colonialism’ makes it harder and harder to keep Saami livelihoods, traditional heritage and culture alive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLqx7hYhg8s>

FLASHBACK

Towards Ratification

Considering the need for decent work, sea safety and responsible fisheries, it is time for all ASEAN Member States to ratify the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (C.188)

Indonesia, the home to one of the largest population of active fishers in the world—second only to China—has completed a comprehensive gap analysis of its legislation against those provisions called for in C.188. The Philippines, another important fishing nation, is also undertaking a similar gap analysis. Thailand, arguably the largest employer of migrant fishers in the world, has amended its national regulation using C.188, to bring about unprecedented changes to its regulatory framework in fishing.

The Philippine system to protect the working and living conditions of its migrant

fishers—shared at the Jakarta Meeting—is worth emulating for other labour-supplying States such as Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. The gap analyses have highlighted the need for a co-ordinated mechanism to effectively deal with overlapping issues related

to labour, safety and sustainable fishing at the national level. In this respect Indonesia and the Philippines provide some good examples...

The new legislation in New Zealand, to assert flag-State responsibility, requiring all fishing vessels to fly the New Zealand flag to eliminate time charters as well as exploitative working conditions and illegal fishing sets a good example for fishing vessels in the ASEAN region. The coming into force of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) in three of the ten ASEAN Member countries augurs well for the region, considering that the scope of its application—as clarified during the Jakarata Meeting—includes carrier vessels often used for holding, exchanging and even trafficking fishers at sea. ILO should include working and living conditions on board these carrier vessels in the reporting requirements of States where MLC, 2006, has entered into force, particularly the ASEAN Member States...

We hope C.188 becomes the template for all ASEAN Member States to improve working and living conditions on board fishing vessels and thus to deal effectively with the reported abuse of migrant fishers.

— from *Comment in SAMUDRA Report No. 71, August 2015*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Tripartite Meeting on Issues Relating to Migrant Fishers, 18–22 September 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

The meeting will discuss issues relating to migrant fishers.

http://www.ilo.org/sector/activities/sectoral-meetings/wcms_552792/lang-en/index.htm

The World Forum of Fisher People's (WFFP) 7th General Assembly, 15–21 November 2017, New Delhi, India

The fishworkers' movements like NFF and many other fisher peoples' associations from 50 countries will participate.

<http://worldfishers.org/>

Special Symposium at the 11th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, 21–24 November 2017, Kerala, India

The Symposium on GAF-India will be held as part of the 11th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum.

<https://genderaquafish.org/events/gaf-india-november-kochi-india/>

WEBSITES

IUF: Fisheries and Aquaculture Workers' Network

IUF believes that workers' collective action as the only way to improve working conditions and livelihoods.

www.iuf.org/show.php?lang=en&tid=283

World Forum of Fisher Peoples

WFFP is a mass-based social movement of small-scale fisher people from across the world.

<http://worldfishers.org/general-assemblies/>

Family Farming Knowledge Platform

It provides a single access point for international, regional and national information related to family farming issues.

www.fao.org/family-farming/en/



Endquote

Sense of Place

Alongside the attachments to place, fishing is also an important contributor to the construction of identity in fishing places. For many fishers, fishing is a way of life and they express deep embedded attachment to fishing and their occupational identity as fishers. Those attachments and identity to place are forged through genealogical ties and the co-location of work and home in a place. Identity as a fisher, kinship ties and a long genealogical history provide the basis for social life in fishing communities. Fishing is often at the heart of social organization and provides the setting for social interaction. Alongside the emotional attachments and meaning that people ascribe to places, fishing activity in a coastal town also creates a particular aesthetic that shapes place character. Fishing places are, therefore, sites of cultural expression through a blending of the particular coastal environment, the bringing to shore of marine organisms and the cultural and social meanings that people ascribe to that activity that are either perceptual or manifest as material culture in those places.

—from *Sense of Place and Cultural Values in Inshore Fishing Communities*
by **Julie Urquhart, Tim G. Acott and Amdeep Sanghera**,
Faculty of Science & Engineering, University of Greenwich

