

No. 81 | June 2019

ISSN 0973-1121

SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



Fisheries Forum in Cuba

Small-scale Fisheries in the Pacific

Waterfront Communities in Nigeria

The Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival

Impact of Trawlers in Penang, Malaysia

Implementation of the SSF Guidelines



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

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

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NO.81 | JUNE 2019

WADE FAIRLEY

FRONT COVER



Keroman, engraving
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PUBLISHED BY

International Collective in Support of
Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust
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Fishers returning to shore at the Veraval
Fishing Harbour, Gujarat, India
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CUBA

Netting Fishers.....4

A Fisheries Forum discusses how to make
fisheries in Cuba more sustainable

THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Ways.....8

The geography, history and cultures of the
Pacific region represent unique challenges

NIGERIA

Fear of Flight.....13

Waterfront communities in Nigeria live under
constant fear of eviction

REPORT

The Many Lives of Fishers.....16

The Pêcheurs du Monde film festival reminds
us that there are still signs of hope

REVIEW

A Brave Start.....19

The Pacific Handbook argues for Gender Equity
and Social Inclusion in Fisheries and Aquaculture

OBITUARY

Remembering Rambhau22

Rambhau Patil was an energetic and committed
worker for the cause of fishers in India

MALAYSIA

About to Disappear.....25

Under the impact of trawlers, a fishing village
in Penang struggles to sustain livelihoods

INDIA

Some Grains of Salt.....28

The 2019 Draft National Policy on Inland Fisheries
and Aquaculture, though ambitious, is limited

BRAZIL

Kickoff Time33

Fishers from the Amazon region discussed
challenges in the light of the SSF Guidelines

SSF GUIDELINES

Amplifying Fishers' Voices38

Environmental NGOs can partner with fishing
communities to secure vibrant fisheries

REPORT

A Time for Transformation.....42

The 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress
was a forum for the voices of small-scale fishers

REPORT

Expanding the Horizons46

On the 7th Global Conference on Gender in
Aquaculture and Fisheries held in Bangkok

REPORT

Catch this Moment50

On the 'Towards an Inclusive Blue Economy'
conference held in London in February 2019

REPORT

A Heavy Price54

Cyclone Fani, which swept through the shores
of the Indian state of Odisha, razed livelihoods

CHILE

Paradise Lost?56

Unbridled expansion of salmon farming in Chile's
Patagonia could threaten relations with Norway

INDIA

Welcome, JOHAR! 59

A World Bank-funded loan project in Jharkhand,
India, aims to enhance and diversify incomes

REPORT

Ecology and Equity..... 64

The 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference and the
road ahead for coastal fishing communities

COMMENT..... 3

ROUNDUP 68



Turn the Tide

Subsistence fisheries are an important source of nutrition, culture and welfare for communities in the Western and Central Pacific region, and ought to be protected

No other part of the world has a small population dispersed over such a vast ocean area. In the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, 11 million people live in 14 independent countries and eight territories, spread over 28 million sq km of ocean space. Their total land area is less than 2 per cent of the combined ocean area. Subsistence, coastal, artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries coexist in the region, harvesting species ranging from sedentary molluscs to shared, highly migratory tuna stocks. The fishing areas range from lagoons, reefs, shoals, archipelagic, internal and territorial waters, to the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the high seas.

Distant-water and national offshore fishing fleets dominate in terms of employment, revenue, income and foreign exchange in this region. They contribute 90 per cent of the fish catch in the region. Coastal commercial and small-scale fisheries (or subsistence coastal fisheries) are no less important.

Lagoons, reefs and shoals—the gleaning ground of subsistence fisheries—are significant sources of food and nutrition for the coastal population. Less than 4 per cent of the total land area is arable. In countries in the region with relatively large populations, over 80 per cent of the coastal catch is used for subsistence. In some remote atolls of the region, per capita consumption of fish, for example, is as high as 250 kg—all of it sourced from subsistence fisheries.

Subsistence fisheries are an important source of nutrition, culture and welfare in the region, and are not marginalized in the Western and Central Pacific as they are in many other parts of the world. In fact, there are secure customary tenure rights to lagoons, reefs and shoals in many of these islands.

As the article on page 8 demonstrates, the coastal fisheries are depleting. Sea cucumber, trochus, pearl oysters, corals and live reef fish species are increasingly being harvested and exported to rich Asian markets, interfering with traditional food sources. Urbanization and siltation from mining and logging are degrading fisheries habitats of subsistence fishers. These small island economies are fragile; they cannot cope with the burgeoning demographic pressures.

Several regional agreements exist for fisheries management and sustainable coastal fisheries in Pacific islands; the 2008 Apia Strategy is an example. Despite these instruments, the governments in the region, sadly,

are more focused on distant-water and national offshore fishing fleets, and less on managing coastal fisheries.

What is required to stem the decline of coastal fisheries resources and related ecosystems? How to improve the lot of subsistence fishers? We believe the course of action for the region is outlined in the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). These provide a roadmap for the region. They need to be integrated into regional strategies and processes, such as the 2015 Noumea strategy: A New Song for Coastal Fisheries of the Pacific Community, as well as worked into national legislation and policies. To benefit from a human rights-based approach, as promoted by the SSF Guidelines, all countries in the region may be encouraged to ratify the United Nations treaties that protect all human rights.

While customary rights are enshrined in the constitutions of some countries of the Pacific region, the holders of customary rights are hardly represented in any of the regional policy initiatives. We recommend the formation of a regional association of customary rights holders, to uphold equitable and gender-just tenure rights, to engage with this process, supported by civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the Locally Managed Marine Areas

(LMMAs) network and other major non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representing coastal communities. We urge the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Office in Samoa to promote the participation of CSOs/NGOs in regional fisheries-governance processes, consistent with the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines.

To fully benefit from the provisions of the SSF Guidelines, the purview of fisheries ought to be broadened to improve the working and living conditions in coastal subsistence and commercial fisheries as well as to realizing non-fishery objectives in the Pacific region, such as improved access to drinking water, sanitation, housing, health, education, social protection, gender equity, justice to resolve disputes, and human rights institutions. Countries in the region could include, for example, the human-rights landscape of fishing communities in the Universal Periodic Reviews they submit to the UN Human Rights Council.

Protecting subsistence fisheries and the human rights of fishing communities can definitely turn the tide and make coastal fisheries sustainable. **3**



Netting Fishers

A Fisheries Forum in Cuba brought together stakeholders from coastal communities to examine opportunities and challenges to make fisheries more sustainable

Fishermen from across Cuba gathered for the first time in September 2018 at the Fisheries Forum called EncuentroPesquero. For three days, 55 stakeholders, including 21 fishermen from 10 coastal communities, joined heads to diagnose the status of fish populations and priorities for their management across Cuba's four fishing zones. They examined opportunities and challenges for sustainable fisheries and developed a shared vision for the future.

Fishing is vital for Cuba's economy and the livelihoods of its coastal communities. Fisheries here are highly diverse and small-scale, for the most part. Boats are typically less than 20 metres in length, with the exception of some shrimp vessels. The total annual harvest averaged around 21,500 tonnes between 2013

17,600 fishermen on 5,400 vessels and includes subsistence and sports fishing.

Scientists and managers acknowledge that a majority of fisheries in Cuba are fully exploited or overexploited. Cuba has responded by applying various fisheries management measures based on the best science available, a strong regulatory framework and the growing participation of fishermen and fishing communities. As part of these efforts, the DRPC-MINAL held its first EncuentroPesquero to consolidate the multiple fisheries-related networks already present throughout the island.

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) worked alongside DRPC-MINAL to help organize and implement the event. The objective was connecting different fisheries groups. Fishermen and staff of different ports, who operate their fleets in shared waters, sat across the table to discuss the state of the island's four fishing zones. For each zone, the participants reflected on new scientific results to identify the species most vulnerable to overfishing, recognizing that they have to work together to recover declining fisheries. Fishermen like Gerardo Mollineda López, a skipjack tuna fisherman from Carahatas on the north coast, and Hipólito Arévalo Martín, a fisherman from the Isle of Youth on the south coast, interacted with their counterparts from opposite coasts, discovering that although they face similar challenges, many people like them are working to improve fisheries and fishing jobs across the country.

Scientists and managers acknowledge that a majority of fisheries in Cuba are fully exploited or overexploited.

and 2018. The government regulates commercial fishing through the Office of Fisheries Regulations and Sciences of the Ministry of the Food Industry (DRPC-MINAL) under Decree Law 164 of 1996. The law calls for science-based management for sustainable harvests. The commercial fishing sector is divided between the state commercial fleet, which employs around 14,000 fishermen on 600 state-owned vessels, and the private commercial fleet with 18,600 fishermen working 3,100 private vessels operating under contract with state-owned seafood enterprises. The non-commercial sector comprises

Challenging conversations

The Encuentro put everybody in someone else's shoes, setting off challenging conversations that identified values common to

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NOEL LÓPEZ FERNÁNDEZ.



Goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) at Gardens of the Queen National Park in Cuba. In 2018, Cuba banned entirely the harvest of this iconic finfish species that can weigh as much as 800 pounds. This is part of Cuba's strategy to conserve vulnerable species and focus fishing effort

5

fishermen, scientists, conservationists and managers. For example, María Rosa García Hernández, Conservation Specialist at the National Center of Protected Areas or CNAP, facilitated a discussion with the fishermen and heard their perspectives on marine protected areas (MPAs). She responded to questions about how certain protected areas allow fishing and other areas do not. The connections that formed across fishing zones and stakeholder groups also crossed borders at the Encuentro with the participation of US and Mexican scientists, NGO staff and a fishing industry leader. They shared experiences of small-scale fishermen groups working together to ensure healthy fisheries for the future, learning from Cuba's successes.

The Encuentro highlighted the recent success in the recovery of one of Cuba's most important individual finfish fishery, the lane snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*). Fishermen harvest this iconic snapper of great social and commercial importance throughout the island, but mainly in the southwestern fishing zone, where it congregates in large numbers to spawn between

April and July in the Gulf of Batabanó. This phenomenon, called a '*corrida*' in Cuba, has attracted significant fishing activity for decades. However, starting

It was in this dire situation in 2016 that managers implemented a catch limit and quota system for the lane snapper fishery.

in 1975, this fishery began to show serious signs of overfishing. Over time, Cuba adopted several management measures, including the prohibition of less selective gear, seasonal and spatial closures; their success, however, was not enough to recover the fishery. It was in this dire situation in 2016 that managers implemented a catch limit and quota system for the lane snapper fishery. This measure, approved by the DRPC-MINAL and based on studies carried out by the Center for Fisheries Research (CIP) and other institutions, is the first catch limit for a finfish fishery in Cuba. Now, its population is showing signs of recovery in the

EDUARDO BONÉ MORÓN



Cuban fishermen at the fishing port of Cojimar, 10 miles from Havana. Fishermen are the main stakeholders in the upcoming Learning Network for sustainable fisheries in Cuba

6

Gulf of Batabanó, an achievement made possible thanks to the country's scientific and participatory processes. The lessons learned from the lane snapper fishery can inform actions to recover other small-scale fisheries in Cuba and around the world.

The dialogue and exchange at the Encuentro inspired a new, structured platform: the Learning Network. This can bridge existing networks and upscale lessons learned, like those from the lane snapper fishery and from past projects like SOS Pesca. A community-based initiative, SOS Pesca is funded by the European Union, with matching funds from philanthropic donors; the National Center for Protected Areas in Cuba and COSPE, and led by an Italian NGO. From 2012 to 2016, the project focused on making fisheries more sustainable, conserving marine habitats and improving the quality of life in two small fishing communities off Cuba's southeast coast. Over the course of the project, the two communities interacted extensively and participated in international exchanges in the US, Mexico and Colombia. Fishermen from other

fishing communities convened for capacity-building workshops on adaptive fisheries management, sea safety, data collection and other issues. Overall, SOS Pesca succeeded in making science and management more participatory—involving fishers, their families and communities in finding sustainable solutions. The network resulting from the project remains active, providing a strong foundation to develop a more formal Learning Network at regional and national levels.

The Learning Network can strengthen the 12 fishing enterprises led by the Fisheries Division of the Food Industry Enterprise Group (GEIA). These enterprises operate through 35 ports strategically distributed across the four fishing zones.

Sustainability goals

GEIA uses this structure to conduct annual workshops in co-ordination with the CIP, with the fishermen, managers, enforcement officers and scientists from around the island. Such diverse entities put their heads together to analyze the results of

fishing activity and habitat conditions from the previous years; they then decide—jointly—what, where, how and how much will be fished in the next season to reach the nation's production and sustainability goals.

The Learning Network for Sustainable Fishing in Cuba will take advantage of the communication and governance mechanisms of these and other existing networks for three objectives: facilitate the flow of information and knowledge; align common interests; and promote joint actions.

In addition to the lane snapper, Cuba has other examples of how the country is exploring strategies to achieve its objectives of food security, economic performance and sustainability for important species and ecosystems. The catch of the Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) has remained stable since 2006 after strong management helped the population recover after a pronounced decline in the 1980s. Their success was built on regulation of the size of the catch, temporary closures, licences and annual quotas. Likewise, the sea cucumber (mostly from the species *Isostichopus badionotus*) is uniquely managed, using measures such as minimum size, size of bag opening, temporary closures and site-specific quotas obtained from rigorous stock assessments. The pink shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus notialis*) has been subject to spatial management of territorial use rights in fisheries (TURFs) since 2004, which assigns territorial rights by distributing a total allowable catch (TAC) within 158 fishing squares of 13 sq km each among 50 vessels.

These cases illustrate some principles the Learning Network will promote, based on science-driven adaptive management, a strong regulatory framework and increased fishermen involvement. However, the ongoing challenge for Cuba and many other small-scale fisheries throughout the world is the management of multi-species finfish fisheries. The high marine biodiversity in Cuba creates a tendency for fishermen to catch dozens of different species with multiple gear types at the same time; this makes their management more complex.

Cuba approved a new Fisheries Policy in 2017; its first Fisheries Law—stronger than its current Decree Law—is in the works; it will advance sustainability across all resources, especially finfish. The Learning Network aims to address the finfish management challenge and support the implementation of the forthcoming Fisheries Law. Cuba has had a lot of success. We hope the example of the lane snapper and other management achievements will continue to feed the early stages of the Learning Network.

Staying united

The network is being designed as a tool to translate science and politics into fisheries management. Reynaldo Pino Álvarez, Director of Platform Fisheries of the Fisheries Division of GEIA, remarked at the end of the Encuentro: “We are a family with conflicts that we can resolve together. We are building a Learning Network to help us make decisions about fishing and to stay united.” 🐟

For more



www.researchgate.net/publication/319039729_An_overview_of_Cuban_commercial_marine_fisheries_the_last_80_years

An overview of Cuban commercial marine fisheries: the last 80 years

www.edf.org/oceans/securing-sustainable-future-cubas-fisheries

Environmental Defense Fund

www.minal.gob.cu

Director of the Office of Fisheries Regulations and Sciences of the Ministry of the Food Industry (DRPC-MINAL)

The Pacific Ways

The geography, histories and cultures of the Pacific island region, and its 14 small island developing states, represent unique challenges and opportunities

8

Situated within a vast ocean area of over 28 mn sq km in the western and central Pacific Ocean, the Pacific Islands region consists of 14 independent countries and eight territories. They have a collective population of approximately 11 mn. The combined land area is only 553,000 sq km (less than 2 per cent of the total ocean area under their jurisdiction), of which 90 per cent is under customary ownership.

In the Pacific Islands region, small-scale fisheries—generally called ‘coastal fisheries’ here—is very much a subsistence activity rather than commercial. The annual subsistence catch of 102,780 tonnes in 2014 was more than double the commercial catch of 46,288 tonnes in the 14 Pacific Island countries. Of the total fisheries production, the combined coastal catch accounts for only about 7.5 per cent; offshore-based large-scale fisheries account for the rest. Over 80 per cent of the coastal catch is used for subsistence in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, which together account for 87 per cent of the region’s population. In Kiribati, the annual per capita fish consumption is estimated at 181.6 kg; in some remote atolls, this exceeds 250 kg. Subsistence fishing is a significant part of the gross domestic product (GDP), accounting for about 22 per cent of the GDP from the whole of the region’s fishing sector. Fish caught in lagoons, reefs and shallow sea areas are thus an important source of nutrition, culture, welfare and employment.

Regrettably, the coastal fishery resources in the Pacific Islands are showing signs of depletion, especially in areas close to population centres. The volume of fish trade is increasing, in general, as a means of generating cash income. A few key species

from the coastal catch are sold as high-value marine products to the rapidly growing Asian economies. This includes dried sea cucumber (*bêche-de-mer*), estimated at 1,500 tonnes per annum, trochus (roughly 2,300 tonnes annually), live reef fish species (considerably less than 1,500 tonnes), pearl oysters and corals. As the incentive to export has intensified over the years, some of these export-oriented fisheries have interfered with traditional sources of food (for example, giant clam) or even been destructive (for example, of both live reef food fish and aquarium fish trade). In some cases, the benefits of export fisheries are concentrated in a few individuals, while the adverse side-effects may be experienced by many. For instance, fishers tend to only capture a small percentage of the end retail value, with middlemen and exporters reaping a higher portion of the benefit. Therefore, although fisheries exports provide important opportunities for income generation, there are trade-offs with local food provision or protection of communities’ social and cultural ways of living, and could work to reinforce power asymmetry among different market actors.

Expanding population

Coastal fisheries are also increasingly affected by habitat degradation from urbanization and siltation from mining and logging. Facing a rapidly expanding population, too, which is likely to place excessive demands on a stagnant or decreasing amount of food and employment from coastal fishing, it is important to balance newer pressures, challenges and opportunities brought by economic, infrastructure and market developments.

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The governance of coastal fisheries in the Pacific is characterized by two different management systems – local management in rural areas driven at village level (and often with customary origins); central government management through formalized fisheries laws and instruments designed and enforced by national and provincial/island-level agencies; and emerging from these two realities is what might be described as a hybridised approach of community-based management (prominently documented by the works of Bob Johannes and Ken Ruddle), where pre-existing knowledge and resource ownership systems are locally negotiated and combined into a modern set of management practices and processes. Coastal fisheries, therefore, represents a fluid and complex space to govern and offer formidable challenges to national ministries, fishing communities as well as civil society organizations (CSOs) and regional bodies active in the fisheries sector.

Against this backdrop, the introduction of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (or the SSF Guidelines) is an ambitious global-level policy pledge designed to provide overarching guidance towards improving the governance of small-scale fisheries around the world. But how relevant are they for the Pacific Island coastal fisheries? What do policy actors in the region think of them? Will they be implemented, and if so, which elements will receive most attention?

Fresh guidance?

The SSF Guidelines were developed through an elaborate and intensive consultative process involving numerous—over 20—national and regional stakeholder meetings between 2011 and 2014. Since receiving endorsement in the 31st session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in June 2014, the SSF Guidelines have been enthusiastically promoted by a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of NGOs, CSOs, fisher



At the 3rd WSFC, seven representatives of civil society, government, research and inter-governmental organizations gathered at Chiang Mai to discuss the way forward for Pacific Island fisheries

organizations, intergovernmental organizations, development funders, academic researchers and the fisheries ministries of several countries such as Norway, Canada, Tanzania, Indonesia and Peru.

In comparison to other regions, however, excitement about the SSF Guidelines has been slow to reach the Pacific Islands. In the 2014 COFI meeting, only four Pacific island states (Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu) were members of the Committee and

The SSF Guidelines were developed through an elaborate and intensive consultative process involving numerous—over 20—national and regional stakeholder meetings between 2011 and 2014.

were on hand to physically endorse the SSF Guidelines. Likewise, an independent study by Zaidy Nisa found that Pacific representation was sparse from the zero draft process and the many consultations. Furthermore, some of the bigger and well-integrated regional CSOs such as the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) network and other major NGOs representing coastal communities were notably absent from the one consultation held in the Pacific region (co-organized by the Pacific Community, SPC, in Noumea in 2012).

The relative lack of awareness about the SSF Guidelines and their

national implementation is, in fact, not unexpected for at least two reasons. Externally, the Pacific Islands are geographically distant from the policy centres of the world like the European Union and the United States, which host the FAO, the World Bank as well as many influential universities, think-tanks and donor agencies, creating a relative difficulty in being included in global forums. Unless a policy initiative is driven, or strongly backed, by the Pacific actors themselves, including governments, regional bodies and major CSOs (as was the case regarding the establishment of the exclusive economic zone in the 1970s and in the climate-change-related negotiations in present times), or unless a rigorous effort is applied by extra-regional actors to elevate Pacific representation (particularly challenging in the case of coastal fisheries, given that customary owners of coastal areas reside at the local community level), the region will likely remain on the margins of global policy discussions.

The Pacific Island region has developed a number of coastal fisheries policies internally, including the 2003 Strategic Plan for Fisheries Management and Sustainable Coastal

The Pacific Island region has developed a number of coastal fisheries policies internally...

Fisheries in the Pacific Islands, the 2008 Apia policy, the 2015-2024 Melanesian Spearhead Group Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development, and the 2015 Noumea strategy: the 'New Song', and Future of Fisheries: A Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries. A certain familiarity with regional processes and more contextualized policy products (that is, national fisheries agencies have been part of drafting these documents) have likely contributed to the awareness of regional guidelines over the SSF Guidelines so far. As a result, many government fisheries officers in the region have not heard of the SSF Guidelines, let alone have been

using it to guide their countries' coastal fisheries management programmes. This was evident from our first-hand experiences as well as a recent study in which some of the authors were involved (see 'Multi-scale policy diffusion and translation in Pacific Island coastal fisheries in the 'For more' box below for more details). What is encouraging, though, is the high degree of thematic overlap, or policy coherence, between the SSF Guidelines and the region-specific documents mentioned above (see Figure 1). In fact, that the SSF Guidelines should be actively linked to the existing regional and national policies is a point explicitly made as early as in the 2012 FAO-SPC-led consultation held in Noumea, and similarly at the SPC Heads of Fisheries meeting in 2015.

Towards integration and implementation

The 3rd World Small-scale Fisheries Congress held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2018 presented an opportunity to draw together the expertise of community practitioners, civil society, government, research and intergovernmental actors from across the Pacific region. They reflected on the values of global, regional and national policy instruments—on their use in an integrated and complementary way—for supporting communities and governments. The Congress hosted a panel with seven senior representatives from the Fiji LMMA network, the international LMMA network, WorldFish, the Fiji Women in Fisheries Network, FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands and the national government fisheries agencies of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The insights from the panelists are summarised below, and provide the Pacific ways forward in benefiting from the SSF Guidelines.

Opportunities for walking the talk

As mentioned earlier, recognizing the high degree of concordance with the existing array of Pacific regional coastal fisheries policies will be the first crucial step for supporting a more robust and seamless integration of the SSF Guidelines. It is worth keeping in mind that regional policies are usually

developed with the direct involvement of national fisheries officers (with the presence of NGOs) and thus based on country experiences and fisheries officers' priorities. In the case of Kiribati, the Noumea Strategy (the New Song) is, at the time of writing, the only commitment being utilized, as its national fisheries ministry works in close collaboration with SPC and a donor-funded community-based fisheries management project supported by the Australian Centre of International Agricultural Research (see 'Pathways project' in the reference list below for more information). The identified coherence of the SSF Guidelines with existing regional policies will help minimize the implementation burden the countries may be under owing to the presence of a number of comparable policies. As such, the practical approach to generally support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines would be through these existing regional platforms.

New benchmarks and focus areas

Prioritising the use of the regional policies, such as the Noumea Strategy, will offer sufficient basis for delivering on many key focus areas. Yet there are themes that the SSF Guidelines emphasise better and uniquely, such as human rights, the impact of climate change, gender, fisher and community representation and the benefits of post-harvest activities and international trade. This provides opportunities for partner organizations such as FAO and individual NGOs to strengthen contributions of these themes, while adding value by creating synergy and generally supporting the momentum of the regional and national policies.

Bottom-up responsiveness and innovations together with top-down guidance and principles

There has been considerable progress in the production of national fisheries policies and related instruments. Solomon Islands, for example, has the 2015-2018 Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Corporate Plan, a revision to the Fisheries Management Act 2015 and associated Fisheries Management Regulations; these include provisions in line with the SSF

		SSF Guidelines	New Song
(a)	Strong in both policies	Tenure rights Gender and social equality Equitable access to resources and benefits Co-/community-based management Human and social development Political recognition and will	
(b)	Strong in New Song	Institutional coordination and strengthening Monitoring, research, awareness raising integrated approaches	
(c)	Weak in New Song	Post-harvest economic development Fisher participation	
(d)	Absent from New Song	Human rights Impacts of climate change Impacts of international fish trade Management for sustainability	

Figure: Thematic overlaps between the SSF Guidelines and the Noumea Strategy (the New Song)

Guidelines (see the above-mentioned article 'Multi-scale policy diffusion and translation in Pacific Island coastal fisheries' for more details). Also in draft form are the Solomon Islands Fisheries Sector Policy and the National Ocean Policy.

Yet the actual work plan of the coastal fisheries staff in many Pacific Island countries is often determined less by the overarching 'top-down' guidance of policy necessary for principled governing, and more by reacting to stimuli and on-ground circumstances that warrant immediate, though measured, responses. This can include requests of support in letters from the communities themselves, for instance, to assist with curbing destructive fishing practices. Another ad hoc trigger that influences a work plan can come via political interventions, for example, when a Member of Parliament makes a direct request to the fisheries office for a certain action.

Outcomes of marine and socioeconomic surveys and gender-disaggregated data collection are designed to shape the direction of policy contextualization. For instance, Vanuatu is implementing an app-based data collection system called 'Tails Plus', which collects data on catch, market and consumption from fishers and traders to provide a statistical

basis for management decisions. It is not the lack of policy that constrains the governments per se, rather the abundant operational and political issues that arise from time to time, not the least of which is the insufficient capacity and resources to implement policies. Consider the example of the average annual government expenditure on coastal fisheries management; it is US\$ 1-2 mn in the Pacific Island countries combined. All these point to the need to consider the in-country implementation feedback and hurdles that inevitably shape the strategic adoption of policies.

Support of partner organizations

Since its inception in 1971, SPC has been the major provider of technical assistance on the development and management of coastal fisheries. The FAO is another example of partner support for the 14 Pacific Island countries. The FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, through its five-year Multi-Country Programming Framework for the Pacific, facilitates in-country, multi-stakeholder consultations to identify focus areas for technical assistance to address food security and nutrition challenges in the region, including issues related to small-scale fisheries and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. A greater role and place for CSOs in the national and regional policy-making processes is also strongly encouraged. Synergistic support, meshed with existing regional characteristics, diverse needs and a co-operative spirit will likely offer the most achievable and meaningful way of creating a lasting impact.

Securing the benefits of coastal resources for the well-being of the Pacific people—now and into the future—will require a concerted effort from the national governments, based on their firm resolve and the ongoing promotion of communities to be the stewards of fisheries resources in a changing world. At the same time, targeted support by the global, regional and national-level and civil society partner organizations that enhances the Pacific ways of advancing coastal fisheries. This contribution will be crucial. There will be much to gain

from seeking complementarity in the existing policies and also understanding the way policy implementation actually takes place in-country. 3

For more



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Multi-scale policy diffusion and translation in Pacific Island coastal fisheries

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<https://www.facebook.com/Pathwayscbfm>

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Entry Points for Gender by Aliti Vunisea, Samudra Report No.77, September 2017

Fear of Flight

In Nigeria, waterfront communities, whose livelihoods are predominantly dependent on fishing and related activities, live under constant fear of eviction

Fisherfolk are often counted among the poorest of the poor. More than half of the Nigerian population is classified as multidimensional poor in the 2016 Human Development Report. An estimated 25-30 per cent of Nigeria's population lives within 100 km of the Atlantic coastline, spread across 850 km. More than 70 per cent of Nigeria's fisherfolk live in minor fishing settlements and camps within one km of the coastline and also in major fishing communities situated five km from the coastline. Poverty is particularly pronounced in rural areas where the bulk of local fish production takes place; among the poorest are those living on the fringe of the coastline and in the mangrove swamps. Here the levels of deprivation, marginalisation and vulnerability—to stresses and shocks associated with negative environmental and social changes—are correspondingly high.

The metropolitan centres of Lagos and Port Harcourt have their own share of the poor. The acute housing crisis amid a drive for urban development is the underlying cause of the proliferation of unplanned, sprawling informal waterfronts and floating shanty slums. In the waterfront communities, livelihood is predominantly dependent on fishing and related activities. People here live under the constant fear of eviction, despite the assurance to accessible and secured tenure to land for all in the extant Land Use Act of 1978. Waterfronts and floating slums are generally associated with illegal squatters, poor quality housing, overcrowded situations, unsanitary conditions and exposure to environmental hazards.

State authorities harp on obligations to the larger public to rid waterfronts of environmentally injurious, unsanitary habitations, rampant kidnappings and crime that emerged during the height of Niger Delta development. Land-use administration and progressive

expansion of coastal development by other resource users, engulfed some waterfronts. In Lagos, the entire Maroko community was sacked in 1990 and more recently Ilubirin (in 2016) and OtodoGbame (in 2017) were forcefully evicted, while Makoko, a major fishing community and one of the world's biggest floating slums, survived a demolition attempt in 2012. Similarly, in the oil city of Port Harcourt, residents of Njemanze waterfront and Abonnema Wharf were forcibly evicted between 2009 and 2012 as part of the urban renewal programme.

Fishing communities face inherent challenges of natural disaster; the risks are magnified by climate change. Given the low elevation—about three metres above sea level—and the coastline's topography, many fishing settlements are highly vulnerable to flooding, inundation and erosion. These often cause the loss of secure rights to permanent land for settlement, leading to proliferation of temporary, minor settlements and fishing camps. The original site of Awoye, once a prosperous shrimping village, is now deep inside the Atlantic Ocean at a distance of three km from the present shoreline. Ocean surges are gradually swallowing up communities lying below sea level. Secure land tenure is also threatened by frequent communal clashes between communities that have lost parcels of land due to erosion, or because adjacent communities extended the frontiers of their land, or due to the emergence of new fishing camps from deposition of eroded sediments.

Rights to resources

The Land Use Act vests the rights to subsurface minerals with the State, overriding the customary tenure rights of the communities. Consequently, massive crude oil production in the Niger Delta has caused loss of secure rights to land, as also the rights to other

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SAMUEL OROPO



Fish landing site at Ebute Oluwo in Epe, Lagos State. Waterfront communities, whose livelihoods are predominantly dependent on fishing and related activities, live under constant fear of eviction, despite the assurance of secure tenure to land in Nigerian law

14

natural resources including fisheries. Accumulated impacts from oil exploration and production, dredging and gas flaring aggravate disaster risks and cause far-reaching degradation of the natural resources that sustain livelihoods. Mangrove forests are natural barriers to storm surges and

Legal pluralism is a prominent feature of law in the Nigerian state, which affects small-scale fisheries governance.

wind breakers; their destruction decreases resilience of ecosystems. Overall, there is poor integration of many low-income communities into disaster-risk assessments, except where local adaptation strategies exist.

Inland fishing communities are not spared from the vagaries of climate change. Several communities in the proximity of River Niger, Benue and Kaduna, respectively, have been displaced from the combined impacts of seasonal flooding during heavy rains and the release of water from hydroelectric dams. The greatest impact

of cyclical drought is experienced in the northeast. Lake Chad, once considered one of Africa's largest freshwater lakes with major inland fisheries, has shrunk significantly, while river flow-ins are reducing. Recession of the lake and low fish catch has heightened tension over territorial rights between fishermen, farmers, cattle herders and farmers of other countries. Lately, the Boko Haram invasion brought fisheries production to a near standstill. Shrinkage is expected to worsen in the coming years; on the heels of this is the gradual disappearance of the lake, its fisheries resources, fisheries-dependent communities and livelihoods, which will affect national and regional food security.

Formal recognition of legitimate customary tenure rights to land is often context-specific. Legal pluralism is a prominent feature of law in the Nigerian state, which affects small-scale fisheries governance. Though legislation relating to inland and marine small-scale fisheries is within the purview of the state and federal governments, respectively, governance is through customary norms, particularly for inland fisheries. In most inland small-scale fisheries, inclusive of lagoons, creeks and estuaries, *de facto* common-

property regimes or customary tenure rights to fishing grounds and adjacent lands, norms and taboos of age-old fishing practices are still very prominent. Access to fishing grounds is prescribed according to gear, and fishing grounds are co-owned by those operating similar fish gear technologies. Inland fisheries serve multiple uses; regardless of whether they are big or small, they face serious challenges from the impact of competing uses, especially from power generation, industrial waste spillage, sand dredging, domestic and industrial water supply, agriculture and also from externalities. Edicts and regulations for inland fisheries of most states in the federation are outdated and seldom enforced due to poor infrastructure and logistics.

Nigeria lacks a fisheries co-management policy. The Kainji Lake Fisheries Management and Conservation Unit (KLFMCU), a fisheries community-based management within a donor-funded project, failed following the expiry of the project cycle. There is little interaction between the governing system and system to be governed; fisheries are managed by top-down, government-controlled systems, with little or no participation of fishers, except such as the mixed systems of fisheries governance at village levels in some major fishing communities of Kainji/Jebba and Chad basins, the confluence of the Niger/Benue, and Nguru-Gashua wetlands in northeast Nigeria.

Traditional norms are virtually absent in the coastal small-scale fisheries where the regime is open-access. Economic benefits have remained the single most important factor that determined entry and exit into the fishery in the absence of strong cultural factors to promote resource management. From the 1980s, overexploitation of near-shore fisheries drove many fishermen to cover longer distances in search of more productive fishing grounds. As a result, it became increasingly difficult for communities to control access to fisheries resources and also to limit fleet size, thus undermining the efficacy of customary systems.

Legally, the first five nautical miles (7898.78 sq km) of the coastal waters is ceded to the small-scale fisheries in the extant Sea Fisheries Act of 1992. However, the preferential access has not solved the problems of conflicts between the small-scale fishers and

large-scale fishers; trawlers still frequently infringe upon these tenure rights, destroying the latter's nets and increasing the mortality of juvenile fish. Regulations to control activities of small-scale fisheries in the coastal and brackish water are also inadequate. A number of the fishing settlements are inaccessible to monitoring by the state, which itself is constrained in logistics and human resources. There are no specified gear restrictions for the small-scale fishers in the exclusive fishing zone that constitutes the most productive patches, being the shallowest portion of the continental shelf and, therefore, accounting for a high probability of juvenile catches.

In the absence of an international consensus that a tenure right is a human right, the Nigerian state must still respect the human dignity of indigenous and waterfront communities. Customary tenure

Decentralization of small-scale fisheries governance is the key to resource management.

systems of indigenous communities must be recognised, accepted and protected as legal by the state. The conditions of existing waterfront communities must be upgraded to improve living conditions and general community well-being, just as it was done in Singapore; parallel measures must be adopted to provide planned, legal and affordable housing for the low-income people to prevent growth of new informal settlements.

Decentralization of small-scale fisheries governance is the key to resource management. Tenure security and rights to fishery resources in the exclusive zone must be improved for small-scale fishers by strengthening enforcement and facilitating access to justice. To avoid or minimize the disruption of livelihoods to natural disasters, adaptive capacities must be strengthened to improve the resilience of affected communities, and adequate alternative housing, resettlement or access to land and fisheries resources must be provided where expropriation of land and fishery resources have occurred.

For more



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Cheaper, safer processed fish underway in Nigeria

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Coastal protection imperative for sustainable fishery economy

www.lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/S4.pdf
Sea Fisheries Act, Nigeria 1992

The Many Lives of Fishers

With over 40 films from 16 countries, the Pêcheurs du Monde film festival reminds us that despite the severity of various crises facing fishers, there are still signs of hope

The 11th Festival Pêcheurs du Monde was held at Lorient in France under a renewed team. It kept its promise of quality audience and quality films. The festival, once again, showed that it could address questions about fishing with high-quality films, many of which had never before been screened in France. The theme of the lives of fishers and their communities highlighted remarkable films that often go unnoticed at more general festivals. The Lorient festival thus plays an important role in making

in a corrupt society facing permanent scarcity; he can at least benefit from the friendship of his neighbours and the beauty of the sea. His wife, on the contrary, wants a better future for her children and she wants to attempt once more the passage she had already made to follow her former husband who disappeared at sea. She is surrounded by relatives and friends who keep dreaming of passing through Florida to escape a regime that leaves them no hope. Director Kim Hopkins dives into the intimacy of a warm couple.

These two award-winning films represent the spirit of the festival; they depict social problems as experienced and perceived by fishermen and their communities, their problems and hopes.

Fishermen often migrate with the fish. Now there are other reasons driving their migrations, including environmental degradation, resource depletion, and political and economic crises. The difficulties in renewing fishermen and retaining young people also require the use of migrant fishermen, not only in many countries of the North but also in the South, as shown in the film *La vague à l'âme*.

Fishing remains one of the world's most dangerous occupations. Even if conditions have improved in the North, a crew is never safe from an accident. The spectators at the Lorient festival were able to experience first-hand, from inside a ship, the anguish of a crew stranded in a raging sea, 500 km off the coast of Ireland.

Climate change

Young high school students and the public were touched by Frédéric Brunnquell's film *Hommes des tempêtes*. In addition to these conventional dangers, there are now new threats

The festival, once again, showed that it could address questions about fishing with high-quality films, many of which had never before been screened in France.

French audiences discover heartfelt award-winning foreign films that depict the lives of fishers.

A quarter of the films presented at the festival addressed the issue of migration, including two feature films awarded by the two juries. *Old Marine Boy* by the Korean Moyoung Ji delves into the life of a fisherman who fled North Korea with his family and fishes very spectacularly and dangerously with an antique diving suit. If he earns his living by risking his health every day, he faces difficulties in integrating into a society based on networks that are difficult to penetrate.

Voices of the Sea has a Cuban fishing couple torn apart by the opposing choices of the woman and her partner. The fisherman refuses to take the risk of crossing borders to become a marginalized worker in a concrete city in the United States. He prefers to continue his life of a poor fisherman

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related to climate change, as shown by *In Ockhi's Wake*, which analyzes the origins of the appalling toll of the Ockhi cyclone off the south Indian state of Kerala in November 2017. There were nearly 400 deaths in an area that had never experienced a cyclone before.

One impact of climate change is the coastal flooding in fishing villages. In *Casamance*, Ghanaian migrant fishermen are forced to abandon an island where they have lived for decades. In France, it is the 1,000-year-old salt marshes that are in danger of disappearing; the fishermen have, nevertheless, withstood the pressure of real estate and tourism. But they cannot do much in the face of the rising sea level.

Every year, films alert us to marine pollution, revealing unexpected aspects and new threats. In the North Sea, millions of tonnes of toxic gases and explosives from the two World Wars, abandoned and buried under the sea, threaten to spread under the effect of corrosion. They pose a serious threat to marine life and fishermen are already suffering their harmful effects when they bring them back in their nets. In Tunisia, the Gulf of Gabes is ravaged by pollution from a chemical plant that has been dumping its waste in the sea for decades. Only crabs that swarm and devour each other succeed in surviving; the fishermen call them 'daesh' or terrorist crabs.

The degradation from decades of pollution, as in the Mediterranean, is very difficult and costly to stop



ODILE MALARDÉ

The jury members announcing the awards of the Pêcheurs du Monde film festival, 2019. With more than 40 films, the festival painted a layered picture of the fishworkers situation

because important industrial activities that create jobs must be challenged. Through tenacity, however, fishermen and elected officials have been able to restore certain stretches of the coastal environment, at least partially, as seen in a remarkable documentary on the Etang de Berre, near the largest industrial area in France.

Fishermen not only suffer from various crises but they are also actors in the defence of the oceans, their resources and their environment. While they may have acted recklessly at times, they are also among the first to react. In her highly anticipated film *Oceans 2: The Voice of the Invisible*, Mathilde Jounot gives a voice to fishermen involved in the defence of their resources and environment in France, Senegal or the

Swiss film bags Chandrika Sharma Prize at film festival in Lorient, France

The Swiss film *Ligne Noire*, a 10-minute production that has garnered many awards at film festivals, has won the Chandrika Sharma Prize at the Festival Pêcheurs du Monde, held in Lorient, France.

(Chandrika Sharma, then Executive Secretary, ICSF, was on board the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 that disappeared on 8 March 2014 en route to Beijing, China, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Chandrika was on her way to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to attend the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, representing ICSF. The location of the aircraft is, to date, not known.)

In the award-winning film, shot in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh, the director first immerses his camera in the lush vegetation of the mangrove swamps. Then a woman appears who walks into the water, pulling a large net and fishing for shrimp larvae. The film is built around a long silent journey that follows the woman in muddy waters along a mudflat. The silence is broken by an announcement to the inhabitants of the village asking them not to use the water from the ponds. Then the woman meets men covered in oil who are collecting all sorts of debris dripping with fuel oil. Nevertheless, she continues her walk in the water and mud, in vain. We understand that she will not be able to fish anything. All mangroves, mudflats, trunks and tree roots are steeped in oil, up to a black line showing the upper limit reached by the oil-polluted sea during high tide.

The film ends with a wide shot of the mangrove swamp, apparently still lush, but marked at its base by this black line. Without any comment from the director, these simple images show us how the basic resources of the people of this region, especially those of the women who make a living collecting shrimp larvae, are being threatened.

DANIÈLE



Participants at the Pêcheurs du Monde film festival, Lorient, France, 25 to 31 March 2019. It plays an important role in making audiences discover foreign films that depict the lives of fishers


Indian Ocean. After having shaken up some ideas about large environmental NGOs, the film presents a plea for the recognition of fishermen's knowledge, shaking up preconceptions and clichés about destructive fishermen, unable to react to the various crises that threaten them. It also shows, as do the other films, that fishermen know how to combine local management with regional networks and at global forums such as the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP).

As in each year, the Pêcheurs du Monde festival showcased how women are doing their bit to defend the future of fishing. Short films have described how women are getting involved in fishing—in Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico and France—out of concern for the abandonment of this activity by young people in regions with a long tradition of fishing. Of course, it is in post-harvest activities that their commitment is most recognized. The organization 'Women in Seafood Industry' presented the winning films from its international video competition.

Finally, the Chandrika Sharma Prize was awarded this year to a short Swiss film *Ligne Noire*, directed by Mark Olexa and Francesca Salisi. It strongly shows the consequences of pollution for women in Bangladesh who fish for shrimp larvae in the Sundarbans. The directors immerse their camera in the lush vegetation of the mangrove

swamp. A woman appears on foot, enters the water and pulls a large net, fishing for shrimp larvae. The film is built around a long silence that follows the woman in muddy waters along a mudflat. The silence is broken by an announcement to the inhabitants of the village asking them not to use the water from the ponds. The woman meets men covered in oil from a spill, collecting all sorts of debris dripping with fuel oil. She continues her walk in the water and mud, in vain. We realize that she will not be able to fish anything. All mangroves, mudflats, trunks and tree roots are covered in oil, up to a black line showing the upper limit reached by the oil-polluted sea during high tide. The film ends with a wide-angle shot of the mangrove swamp, apparently still lush, but marked at its base by this black line. Bereft of any comment, these simple images show us how the basic resources of the people of this region, especially those of the women who make a living collecting shrimp larvae, are being threatened.

Layered picture

With more than 40 films from 16 countries, the Pêcheurs du Monde festival painted a layered picture of the situation of fishworkers around the world. Despite the severity of pollution and overfishing, there are still signs of hope, the films remind all. 

For more



www.pecheursdumonde.org/
11th edition of the Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival from 24 to 31 March 2019

www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/79-4361-Cinema-and-Resi.html

2018 edition of the Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival

www.icsf.net/en/samudra/detail/EN/4315.html

2017 edition of the Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival

www.icsf.net/fr/samudra/article/EN/56-3486-A-Fisheye-View.html

2010 edition of the Pêcheurs du Monde Film Festival

A Brave Start

Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture
 Barclay K., Leduc B., Mangubhai S. and Donato-Hunt C. (eds.). 2019. First edition Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community. 80 pages

Published by the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), this handbook was jointly produced under the direction of the SPC Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division and the Social Development Programme. The target readership is the staff of fisheries agencies in Pacific Island countries. The leaders of these agencies discussed the handbook on the occasion of its release in March at the biennial regional Heads of Fisheries meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia.

The Handbook's seed lay in a development research task involving Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu; WorldFish commissioned it as part of a project of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Subsequently, the SPC decided to produce the first edition of the handbook, modelled after the Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit; it was developed through a workshop with broader participation from country gender experts and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The handbook is a welcome sign that women are now receiving more attention in the SPC fisheries policy, after only intermittent efforts starting from about 1989. The 2015 New Song for Coastal Fisheries (SPC 2015) did include the need to address women's issues but tended to weaken the focus by referring repeatedly to women along with youth and marginalized groups. A recent study of new fisheries strategies in Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu showed that minimal attention is yet to be given to gender and human rights in these strategies as in the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of

Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), despite promising uptake of other measures like the ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

The handbook is structured into five modules: (1) Introduction; (2) Gender and Social Inclusion Analysis; (3) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning; (4) Government Processes; and (5) The Policy Cycle. Each module can be accessed separately, leading to a small amount of redundancy. The whole is lavishly illustrated with coloured graphics, tables and excellent photographs interspersed in the text.

Each module begins with key points and contains examples, authorities and tables. For example, Table 1.1 is an

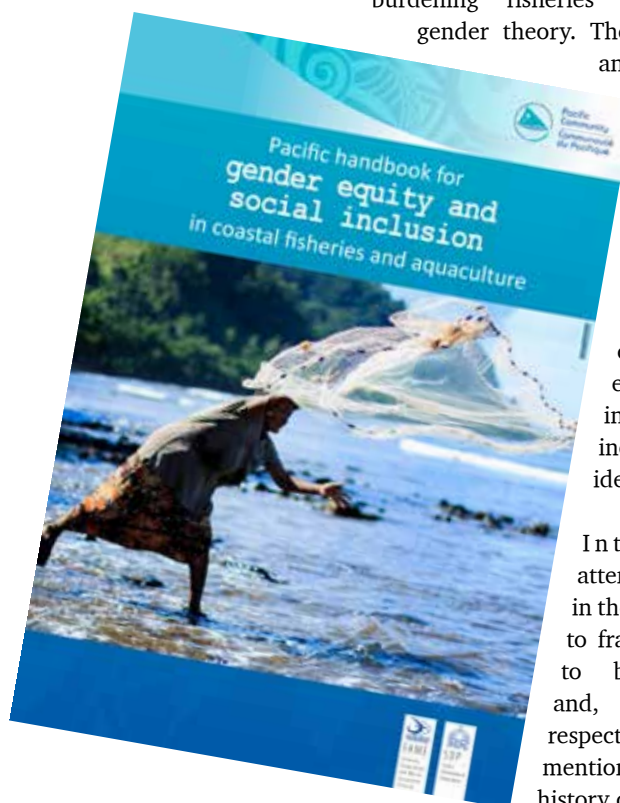
The handbook is a welcome sign that women are now receiving more attention in the SPC fisheries policy, after only intermittent efforts starting from about 1989.

extensive list of the policy instruments that Pacific Island governments have committed themselves to in order to promote gender equality and social inclusion, showing how each is relevant to coastal resource management and development. Fisheries officers might not be familiar with many of these instruments.

Gender equality

AM Song and colleagues had shown in 2019 that officers in the three countries they studied were unfamiliar with the concept of gender equality in fisheries, that they were ambivalent towards

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the need to include it in fisheries policy because to them it appeared as the remit of the social and welfare ministries.

Given the handbook's target readership, the authors have avoided burdening fisheries officers with gender theory. They do provide

and discuss, however, the basic terms chosen to structure the handbook's message. They focus on social exclusion as the inverse of social inclusion and the idea of norms.

Module 1, Introduction, attempts to bring in the salient points to frame the issues to be addressed and, in many respects, succeeds. As mentioned above, the history of SPC's efforts to address women's conditions in fisheries has been intermittent. But the brief historical reference does not match the evidence, as the more concerted efforts occurred in the 1990s, rather than in the 1980s.

It is laudable that the handbook is by far the most advanced effort by the SPC to engage with the task of

work and almost totally lost the focus on women. Women-only projects caused some negative reactions. In the early 2000s, 'community fisheries' became 'coastal fisheries management'.

Although the PROCFish Project of 2002-2009 produced much detailed sex-disaggregated fisheries data, by the time its reports were published, the SPC had finished mentioning women or gender, and the WPC Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin was the only remaining vestige of gender work. The vision and endeavours of the New Song and the handbook are going right to the foundations of the need for gender equity and social inclusion in fisheries. Will this new cycle be more successful in engaging fisheries officers—women and men—in understanding the economic, social and community benefits or will resistance again wear down the efforts?

As Module 1 explains, the themes can be confronting, from the marginalization of social exclusion to the need to address gender-based violence in fisheries when, for example, attempts to help women through fisheries projects can lead to violence against them in the household (pg. 6). This module also situates this and other issues in the broader Pacific context with facts that may be new to fisheries officers.

This Module does lack a conceptual map outlining the handbook's structure, clarifying its overall logic, positioning it relative to other related materials. This could have explained, for example, where implementation fits into the process of supporting greater gender equity and social inclusion.

It is laudable that the handbook is by far the most advanced effort by the SPC to engage with the task of recognising and explicitly including women's work...

recognising and explicitly including women's work, their access and benefits into the fisheries and the aquaculture sector. The first efforts were technically targeted to post-harvest processing, then became focused on women-in-development approaches that transformed into 'community fisheries'

Current realities

Module 2 deals with Gender and Social Inclusion Analysis. It makes the case for the importance of performing the analysis to establish the current realities, and to form a baseline to enable the performance of monitoring, evaluation and learning covered in Module 3. Without the conceptual map mentioned above, however, the level of detail in Module 2 seems variable. The tips were useful; for example, on pg. 8 the suggestion of engaging a gender specialist is excellent, as too often



Fisher woman at Suva fish market, Fiji. The vision and endeavours of the New Song and the Handbook are going right to the foundations of the need for gender equity and social inclusion in fisheries

biologists will take on social analyses, even though most are untrained in social sciences and lack the depth of understanding for the task. On the other hand, the topic areas listed in pp. 9-11 seemed redundant and the handbook could have proceeded to the Gender Analysis Checklist (pp. 13-15). The two tools presented are useful—division of labour and activity matrix and time use survey—but they appeared to take the handbook to a new level of detail.

Module 3, titled Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, addresses the themes of its title but may leave the reader wondering what sort of implementation is being monitored. In the second edition of the handbook, fisheries officers may appreciate having useful examples of designing and choosing interventions and programmes, leading into the monitoring, evaluation and learning phase.

Module 4 on Government Processes brings the handbook back to the target readership in fisheries agencies. The module is strong on how inclusion could proceed in government processes, right up to the scale of international

negotiations. This module particularly emphasises the importance of the capability of government agencies to undertake the gender mainstreaming work, going beyond training needs for staff to the importance of organisational culture, systems, commitment and leadership. The module concludes with a list of the gender-aware outcomes of the New Song and the SSF Guidelines to which agencies can contribute.

Climate of misunderstanding

Module 5 is called Policy Cycle and it draws attention to the policy initiatives proliferating since 2010. Being rather free of gender theory and methodological references, the handbook is a good, even a brave, start, given the climate of misunderstanding and past history. It is well worth looking forward to the second edition, which will hopefully be produced with the involvement of more fisheries officers.

For more



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Remembering Rambhau

An energetic and committed worker for the cause of fishers, he was a lighthouse for the fishworkers' movement

22

Rambhau Patil, an enterprising member of the fishing community of Maharashtra in India, was 79 years old when he left us on July 29, 2018, for his final journey. Born Ramchandra Patil, he received the affectionate moniker of Bhau, or Rambhau, due to his benevolence and his always-on smile. Almost always dressed in a *khadijhabba*, a traditional pyjama-like loose-fitting shirt and trousers, he was never seen without his bag full of books and documents hanging down his shoulder. Rambhau was born in the village of Mahim in Wadrai, Maharashtra. Although fishing was his family's ancestral trade, he was brought up and raised in an educated environment. Rambhau completed his primary and secondary education at the block headquarters in Palghar.

Almost always dressed in a khadi jhabba, a traditional pyjama-like loose-fitting shirt and trousers, he was never seen without his bag full of books and documents hanging down his shoulder.

a co-operative of fishermen. Fishing gear, at necessity for fishing, was made available to the village through this co-operative, along with essential items like food grain and kerosene.

The co-operative also took efforts for children's education to address the illiteracy in the village. These efforts included the opening of a Rashtra Seva Dal centre for adolescents and youth. This centre conducted recreational activities like sports and singing sessions in order to bring about social and political awareness.

Rambhau actively participated in all such events. Therein lay the strong foundation of his future socio-political activities. After completing his education, Rambhau took up a job at the famous Haffkine Institute, a biomedical research centre. He was also deeply interested in art and architecture. This drew him towards a diploma course in architecture, for which he studied after his working hours. He could not complete this course; family responsibilities forced him to give up his job and assume the family's fishing business.

He began an independent fishing business in 1969. He also tried trawling, a new business in Mumbai at that time. Subsequently, over the next two to three years, he tried his hand at a fishing business at Satpati, a place known for the trade. He could not land much success. He began to think through the problems in the fishing business, the risks and their solutions. This is what later led him to join the fishermen's movement. Undaunted by failure, he refused to sit quietly. He became the sarpanch (head) of his village at the behest of the people there. He remained in that position for a good 15 years.

The village had produced several freedom fighters; its inhabitants came from various tribal groups, a fishermen's community and small farmers. After being released from jail, these freedom fighters strove to unite these underprivileged communities through a socialist movement. They began working for their economic empowerment by creating co-operatives and social organizations. The fishing community was in dire straits then. They were severely exploited by the traders and agents in their business. Rambhau's father, the late Kanha Patil, took the initiative in forming

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Tireless work

Rambhau worked tirelessly to make housing available to the fishermen and to establish their rights over it. Another important issue was housing for the tribals. The village was spread over a large area, the tribal hamlets were remotely located. He hence prioritized the building of roads, and the creation of drinking water facilities, followed by a health centre and a school. He managed to get these facilities executed despite the fund crunch. He used his architectural/engineering knowledge—and his aesthetic sense—in the construction of the structure and in the design of a water scheme.

His work was widely celebrated, extending his social and political circle.

He continued to read extensively, consulting with experts and those who had experience in the fishing business. He ended up joining the Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti (MMKS), an organisation fighting for the rights of fishermen.



This was a period of change; with mechanization of the fishing industry had begun and other several new schemes had been introduced in the coastal areas. Moreover, the country was also going through the phase of economic restructuring and globalisation. This had created large industrial settlements in the coastal regions for improving employment opportunities. The period also saw introduction of commercial ports, atomic energy plants and chemical industries, which would release their toxic wastes into the rivers, bays and seas nearby.

Increasing pollution in the coastal villages endangered fishing activity. MMKS began organizing protests around these issues. The founder of MMKS, Bhai Bandarkar, along with Moreswar Mistry, who formed the union of sailors, and Motiram Bhawe had organised protests against mechanization and environmental pollution. They also campaigned in

Mumbai and Delhi to obtain diesel subsidies as well as tax rebates on the equipment necessary for the fishing business. They were fairly successful.

In the 1980s, Rambhau was introduced to Thomas Kocherry, who was leading a campaign to organise the fishermen in Kerala and Tamil Nadu to fight for their rights. In 1989, he had organised the Kanyakumari March around the slogan “Save Water, Save Life”. Rambhau had joined this March along with several of his colleagues. Thus began his association with the National Fishworkers’ Forum (NFF). This was a turning point in his life. At this stage, he met several leaders from across the country, including Harekrishna Debnath of West Bengal and Nalini Nayak of Kerala. Although Rambhau was already sensitive to women’s issues, the objectives of NFF gave him the scope to incorporate women into the union and to develop an appreciation of women’s contribution in this field. He

used to enthusiastically elaborate upon the importance of using the term “fishworkers” in the title of NFF. Incorporating women into the movement was not an easy task, as he explained later. He served as President and Secretary of both MMKS and the NFF over several years. This was a time when several important leaders of the organization died one after another—Thomas Kocherry, Harekrishna Debnath, Mathai Saldanha and MD Koli, an important leader from Maharashtra. Rambhau did not allow a leadership vacuum. He kept the organization stable and held its components together. During this period, he faced disappointment, too.

Significant struggles

The significant protests and struggles Rambhau helped organize include:

- The struggle against foreign fishing vessels: This struggle continued for a long time. Participating in a hunger

strike along with Thomas Kocherry, he fasted for nine days.

- The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 1991: He travelled throughout the country to raise awareness about the Notification and organised several awareness campaigns.
- He campaigned to acquire subsidy for diesel fuel, which is essential for operating fishing vessels. He subsequently also succeeded in increasing the subsidy amount.

Rambhau was fond of writing. He used simple language which could be easily understood by the common fishworker. He translated into Marathi the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and also the booklet about the recommendations of the Murari Committee. Another concern of his was the relationship between mangrove forests (Tivarvane) and the fishing occupation. He composed songs for the worship and celebrations held on the Fishworker's Day every year, encouraging everyone to sing along.

He spoke incessantly of the importance of preserving and protecting the rivers, bays and salt marshes in the villages. Rambhau made a major contribution in the protests and campaigns for laws regarding marine biodiversity, environmental protection and conservation. He traversed the country while working for MMKS, the NFF as well as the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), with which he was associated. His family responsibilities did not hold him back from his social activism. He found several colleagues, friends as well as mentors among these three organizations. He always felt grateful for this. He was very appreciative of the fact that he met activists from all castes and religions while working with these three organizations.

Rambhau had the good fortune of Sane Guruji's company during his youth. He always upheld the values and principles of peace and democratic socialism, working for the greater common good. He would always assert, while addressing public meetings, that in the coastal fishworkers' communities, there were activists from different background, and yet there never was

any dispute on the coastline. In his four decades of public work, he always received great support from his loving family, his brothers, his wife Lalita, his sons Jivitesh and Prashant and daughter Vandana; their co-operation and contribution to his achievements is by no means insignificant.

Rambhau, the energetic activist and a lighthouse for the fishworkers' movement, left us on 29th July 2018. 3

For more



<https://indianfisheries.icsf.net/images/stories/indian/FULL-NFF-BOOK121208.pdf>

Save the Coast, Save the Fishers: Report of "Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan", May - November 2008, National Fishworkers' Forum

About to Disappear

A field trip to Teluk Bahang, a fishing village on the northwestern tip of Penang in Malaysia, shed light on the lives of small-scale fishers

Malaysian fisherwoman Ani Zubaida did not mince words when she spoke about the adverse impact of trawlers on her life: “Trawlers are stealing our fish. They should not be allowed to fish in the territory of small-scale fishers. Else, we will be forced to quit this job.”

What provoked Zubaida was the abysmally low catch she got in February this year. The average daily income of the 52-year-old from Teluk Bahang, a fishing village in Malaysia’s Penang state, fell from Malaysian Ringgit (RM) 200 (about US\$50) to RM 50 (less than US\$15).

The dwindling catch is a result of indiscriminate trawling; Teluk Bahang has a large concentration of small-scale fisherpeople, who have been seriously concerned about the trawlers for a while now. In February, they interacted with journalists, members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), policymakers and researchers from six Asian countries—they had gathered in Penang for a week-long workshop on ‘small-scale fisheries, food security and wholesome nutrition’, organized by the WorldFish in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

For the 400-odd small-scale fisherpeople in Teluk Bahang, trawlers are the biggest adversaries because of their unscientific fishing practices. “Trawlers are not supposed to fish between 14.8 km and 28 km from the shore. But they often violate the practice, denying us our livelihood,” complained Zubaida.

Zubaida, one of the two fisherwomen in Teluk Bahang, started fishing at the age of 20 after her marriage with Rahim. “I turned to fishing to support my family,” she said. “Now, my husband does not have

to employ a helper. It helps us save money,” she said.

Of late, the reduction in catch has cut a hole in the family’s revenue. Zubaida and Rahim said they may be forced to quit fishing if the government fails to take action. “What is the point in continuing in this job without getting decent returns for your effort?” she asked. “Only the government can help us now,” she said.

Persatuan Pendidikan dan Kebajikan Jaringan Nelayan Pantai Malaysia (JARING), the Malaysian Inshore Fishers’ Association for Education and Welfare, estimates that trawling has caused a 50 per cent drop in fishers’ income in Malaysia.

Besides, said the organization’s chairman, Jamaluddin Mohamad, the trawlers are causing large-scale environmental damage. “The trawl gear traps juvenile fish during their sweeping action. In the process, they destroy mangroves and the marine ecosystem,” he said.

“Juvenile fish should be left to grow in the sea. Trawlers have to catch 92 juvenile fish to make one kg of fish. If the fish is left to grow, each fish may attain an average weight of 12 kg. We are losing huge quantity of marine wealth because of trawlers,” he said. Jamaluddin added that the government should allow trawl gear only in ‘Zone C’ fishing area that lies beyond 28 km from the coast.

Abundant commodity

Fish was an abundant commodity in Teluk Bahang until a few years ago. It was a time when small-scale fishers never ventured too far to get a good catch.

Sixty-five-year-old Nurdin Hussein, one of the oldest fishermen in the village, said his village is experiencing

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T A AMEERUDHEEN



A small-scale fisherman in Teluk Bahang on the island of Penang in Malaysia. The dwindling catch – a result of indiscriminate fishing by the trawl boats – has been a major cause of concern for the small-scale fishers in Teluk Bahang

26

the adverse effects of trawling now. “The fish came to us when I started fishing 35 years ago. We had to put in little effort then,” reminisced Hussein. “But we have to search for fish now. Fish wealth has dwindled because of trawlers.” The fishers said indiscriminate development activities too have destroyed marine life.

Thirty-six-year-old fisherman Faisal said jellyfish population is on the rise in Teluk Bahang. And he believes it is linked to the extinction of sea turtles. “Turtles eat jellyfish. The number of turtles decreased drastically due to nonavailability of nesting space and this caused an increase in the jellyfish population,” he said.

The Resonance of MuSIC

The capture fisheries of Bangladesh comprise nearly 70,000 fishing boats, offering livelihood to about 3.3 million artisanal fishers. They catch nearly 1.8 million tonnes of fish, which is almost 80 per cent of the total capture fisheries production of the country. Despite such a large contribution, the fishers and their livelihoods have been given scant attention by the authorities concerned, including the national policymakers.

The Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) Workshop, jointly organized by the WorldFish Center and FAO in late February 2019 in Penang, Malaysia, gave an opportunity for some Bangladeshi government organisations (GOs), NGOs and communication personnel to share their understanding and views with some of the regional country representatives, including international agency personnel and experts.

The workshop, designed with a high degree of professionalism, could establish a common platform for the respective stakeholders who are expected to act as the forerunners for the betterment of small-scale fisheries in their own country. To this end, WorldFish Bangladesh has organised some formal and informal consultation meetings/discussion sessions on small-scale fisheries, where the participants shared their experiences and took the learning back to their respective countries. Meanwhile, WorldFish Bangladesh has taken the initiative to design a future project that will address issues related to the small-scale fisheries of the country. In this regard, the MuSIC participants are trying to contribute in designing the project with the knowledge and learning.

The MuSIC platform requires further strengthening with the facilitation of the organisers. WorldFish and FAO can organise similar refresher workshops in regional countries with GO/NGO support. 3

– by **Masood Siddique**,
Natural Resource and Fisheries Expert, CNRS, Bangladesh

Man-made Islands and the Future of Penang's SSF Communities

The Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) Workshop was held in Penang, Malaysia, on February 18-23, 2019, with the objective of sharing and learning more about small-scale fisheries (SSF). It was co-hosted by WorldFish and FAO.

The MuSIC Workshop involved journalists, NGO activists and fishery researchers from six countries, namely, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Malaysia and the Philippines.

There are 4,817 licensed fishermen in Penang island and most of them are small-scale fishers. Currently, the main challenge for the SSF community in Penang, apart from decreasing fish catch, is coastal development and reclamation. Starting a few years ago, a few fishing grounds in coastal areas have been reclaimed by the state government for housing, most of it for luxury housing projects that locals cannot afford to participate in.

Affected by these reclamation activities, the SSF community in Penang began losing their fishing grounds. Pollution from reclamation forced fishers to travel far away to fish, increasing their cost of operation. As the amount of catch shrinks, they find it difficult to continue as fishermen. Slowly, Penang island is losing its SSF community.

The Penang state government plans to reclaim 4,500 acres south of Penang island. The proposed Penang South Reclamation (PSR) Project involves the creation of three islands stretching from the south of the Penang International Airport. The main rationale for the PSR is to create land banks to finance the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP), another controversial project.

PSR will have a tremendous impact on fisheries. In all, 4,817 fishermen in Penang will be directly affected by the project. Fishing activities are conducted extensively within the proposed PSR area as well as in the surrounding sea. The proposed reclamation project will lead to the total loss of mudflats, hitting the marine food chain and the fishing industry. Loss of coastal habitat due to this proposed project is a major environmental blow.

The mining of marine sand and aggregates used for reclamation and development projects is also increasing, affecting the seabed flora and fauna. Millions of tonnes of sand must be mined, and rocks quarried to create new land.

Dredging and extraction of aggregates from the benthic (sea bottom) zone destroys organisms, habitats and ecosystems—the impact is deep on the composition of biodiversity. This leads to a net decline in faunal biomass and abundance or a shift in species composition, research shows.

The Environmental Impact Assessment report of the PSR states that the wholesale value of fish landed at the study area was an estimated RM42.09 million, which amounted to 12.4 per cent of the total wholesale value of fish landings in Penang Island in 2015. Adding on to the downstream activities, this multimillion-ringgit fisheries sector, on which thousands depend, is being traded off for development. Fish are being wiped out, as will the fishermen as they lose their fishing grounds. Is that the intention of the state government?

Hopefully, the MuSIC workshop will be a starting point for the SSF community in Penang to join together and fight for their future. 🐟

— by **Azrilnizam Omar** of Persatuan Pendidikan dan Kebajikan Jaringan Nelayan Pantai Malaysia (JARING), Malaysia

Little wonder, then, that the small-scale fishery has become a less attractive profession for youngsters. Moreover, fisher parents do not encourage their wards to pursue fishing. “I don’t want my children to pursue fishing. Let them get a good government job,” said Rahim.

Statistics reveal that the number of fisherpeople has been dwindling in Teluk Bahang. Of the 7,000 residents, only 10 per cent pursue fishing full time now. “There is apathy among youngsters for fishing,” said Shadier Iman, a State Fisheries Department official.

However, Jamaluddin said the lives of small-scale fisherpeople have improved after they started lobbying. “Our elders didn’t demand anything from the government,” he said. “But things began to change starting from 2008. We began to raise our voice, and the government began to implement welfare schemes for us.”

The small-scale fishers now enjoys fuel subsidy, a monthly allowance of RM 200 and personal accident insurance of RM 50,000.

Trawl ban

That is why Jamaluddin believes that the government will definitely ban trawlers entering into the territory of small-scale fishers. “Small-scale fishers contribute heavily to the gross domestic product of Malaysia. The government cannot ignore our demands. So I hope the government will enforce a ban on trawl fishing by 2020,” he said. 🐟

For more



<https://www.worldfishcenter.org/events/worldfish-hq-events-multi-stakeholder-information-and-communication-music-workshop>

WorldFish HQ events: Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) Workshop

<https://dc.icsf.net/en/component/dnews/article/detail/13301-World-News-In-.html>

World News: In Focus: Small-scale fisheries in Asia

Some Grains of Salt

India's 2019 Draft National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture is an ambitious effort but limited in depth and vision

28

The Draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP) is an important and welcome development on the manifold issues of managing inland fisheries. It was prepared in March 2019 by an expert committee appointed by the Government of India. The need for such a policy stems from two important features of inland fisheries. One, they are a sprawling, heterogeneous, and ambiguous bricolage of diverse ecologies, institutional regimes and cultural practices. As a result, the administration of these systems is inherently complex and perhaps in need of an umbrella policy. Two, due to the boom in freshwater food fish, especially carp, aquaculture in India—economists call this chimera the ‘inland fisheries sector’—is big and growing; it warrants efficient, revenue-oriented and sustainable management by the state. Both aims are difficult to achieve, and make the draft NIFAP an ambitious attempt.

The policy remains limited in its depth and vision, however, and can benefit through a more thorough engagement with inland capture fisheries by recognising:

- The ecological declines facing inland capture fisheries and fisher livelihoods;
- The complexities of fishing rights and access conflicts; and
- The political constraints to implementation of fishery policies in capture systems at large.

This article attempts to discuss these three main limitations and identify where we have to take this well-meaning policy on freshwater fishes—with some grains of salt—while engaging with its broad vision.

Inland fisheries in India comprise capture fisheries (mostly in rivers and streams, floodplain wetlands, estuaries,

etc.), culture fisheries (intensive pond-based fish aquaculture), and mixed capture-culture systems, in which fish seeding is practised and wild fish are also harvested in, for example, dam storage reservoirs, tanks, ponds and other wetlands. Each of these systems is linked with different ecological conditions and social settings. The dominant contribution of culture and mixed systems to India's total revenue from inland fisheries (over 90 per cent) biases the understanding of the word ‘inland’ in a way very unfair to river-floodplain capture fisheries. Capture fisheries in natural water bodies may have a negligible revenue share, but are immensely important in sustaining the protein needs and livelihoods of millions of people across India. Further, due to the degraded and altered state of river flows and water quality in most parts of India, capture fishery yields are reducing in both quantity and quality. Hence, assessing the so-called ‘potential’ of river/wetland fisheries in terms of their area and length is not enough. The ecological and social health of these fisheries needs to be the primary variable of management, not just revenues and stocks.

General neglect

But, unfortunately, it appears that the general neglect of concerns related to capture fisheries has also carried over into the NIFAP, which discusses these aspects only in a cursory manner. The emphasis of the policy framework on intensive aquaculture fisheries and comprehensive state control of inland fisheries is problematic. By privileging state control and focusing mostly on aquaculture systems, the NIFAP downsizes the relevance of reviving community-based fisheries management in riverine and wetland capture fisheries. This has implications

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NACHIKET KELKAR



Fishermen take their boat out to use a multi-mesh drag-net in the Ganga river, India. Capture fisheries in natural water bodies may have a negligible revenue share, but are immensely important in sustaining the nutritional needs and livelihoods of millions of people across India

29

not only for equity and justice, but also for food security, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, water quality, and alternative-sustainable-water management scenarios.

The NIFAP's classification scheme of 'Inland Fisheries' appears artificial and arbitrary. Capture and culture fisheries have also not been properly distinguished in relation to the geographic categories, despite their divergent characters. This is important because the management practices and governance structures are entirely different in these two modes of fish production. Another example of the arbitrary classification is in 'recreational fisheries', which does not sit together with the other geographical categories like river, reservoir, wetland or cold-water. Recreational fisheries are minor, but exist across rivers, wetlands, reservoirs and even cold-water streams in India. A composite and nuanced scheme of classification would have been excellent, integrating institutional management categories, capture/culture practices and geographical attributes. But the opportunity to frame helpful distinctions of types of inland fisheries systems has been missed.

To date, a reasonable estimate of livelihood dependence of people on inland capture and mixed fisheries remains wanting. With successive

A comprehensive fishery census and stock-revenue assessment of capture fisheries can provide a strong baseline for further implementation, monitoring and adaptive management guidelines...

inland fisheries interventions at the state and national level being strongly biased towards aquaculture over the last few decades, the neglect of capture fisheries has compounded. An effort to co-ordinate countrywide intensive data collection for the quantification of fishing effort and nature of dependence is much needed in riverine capture fisheries. A comprehensive fishery census and stock-revenue assessment of capture fisheries can provide a strong baseline for further implementation, monitoring and adaptive management guidelines, before the NIFAP recommendations are operationalized.

Ecological flows are not only important for biodiversity, they are critical for riverine capture fisheries as well. The NIFAP's emphasis on river and wetland ecology is weak although it aligns with the 2012 National Water Policy's recommendation for 'minimum' ecological flows. Strengthening the focus on optimal water allocations for ecological needs and to maximize ecosystem services, which include capture-fisheries yields, needs to be a component of greater significance. The minimal right to water for fisheries is undoubtedly important, but one worries that the minimal right should not merely translate to the dated idea of 'minimum flow' in rivers. The right to water for fisheries can be supported in the true spirit only when ecologically adequate flows are provided, which can mimic natural seasonal variability in river flow.

From the early 1900s, with plans for the commercial development of fish aquaculture, rivers were merely seen as a stock for spawn collection, especially of the Indian Major Carps or IMC species that now dominate all pond-based carp culture. Excessive and unregulated collection of spawn through the 1950s and 1970s directly affected riverine fish stocks of IMCs and other species as well. With this history, restocking of inland water bodies with seed of native fish species is an interesting suggestion in the NIFAP. Yet, it might be difficult to link seed production units with actual success in the restocking of any native species. Restocking success will be predicated upon maintenance of near-natural flow regimes in regulated

Feedbacks between intensive aquaculture and river flows, especially in semi-arid regions, also deserve careful attention. The NIFAP glosses over the key distinction that, while capture fisheries are non-consumptive water users, aquaculture is often a consumptive water user. With intensive carp culture in regions such as Andhra Pradesh or Rajasthan, large chunks of inland aquaculture in India depend on extraction of groundwater or surface water. The quality of water extracted from these sources might then deteriorate with the continued use of weedicides and pesticides in aquaculture ponds, and even affect the soil health of catchments. Therefore, organic practices and improvement in aquaculture efficiency—akin to irrigation efficiency and crop water use improvement—need to be integrated in aquaculture and mixed fisheries. Such practices can also help protect natural water bodies in the vicinity from pollution and degradation. Another factor contributing to declines of native fish species has been the wanton introduction of exotic fish populations. While the NIFAP recognizes that the entry of exotic species is to be regulated, the policy should recommend bans on any further additions of species or populations of exotic alien fishes to inland fisheries in India.

The NIFAP emphasizes the vesting of leasing and management rights in state departments, and supports the entry of private businesses to develop inland fisheries. This is to be done while retaining the trusteeship and custodial rights of respective local agencies and institutions. Yet such an arrangement may become contested without exact guidelines on implementation. Frictions between local non-state institutions and state departments invested in fisheries are not new. Conflicts between local communities, state agencies, and third parties—private players, contractors, NGOs, etc.—are common over issues of hierarchy, control and benefit sharing.

Big question

As for the NIFAP, are local agencies and institutions to be recognized by the state as trustees, or participants, or as equal partners in fisheries management?

...organic practices and improvement in aquaculture efficiency—akin to irrigation efficiency and crop water use improvement—need to be integrated in aquaculture and mixed fisheries.

rivers. Growth and survival bottlenecks of fish larvae/fry are influenced by the timing and duration of river flow across different seasons. To ensure population recruitment and survival towards stock enhancement, such restoration measures will need to depend on major, radical changes to existing paradigms of river water management in India.

How they interact across hierarchies and scales is a big question, given that local agencies would inevitably be nested underneath government structures. The same question applies to the revival of functional fishery co-operatives, which the NIFAP emphasizes, while retaining all leasing and licensing powers with the state at the same time. The potential of fishery co-operatives in managing fisheries has been limited in many regions due to state or elite interference. So, reviving community-based and local co-operative institutions that work with state agencies, and not under them, is critical. In fact, consolidating state control over riverine or reservoir fisheries might lead to erosion of local institutions that have demonstrated effective fishery management through community-based interventions, for example, tribal groups in Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

Active participation of fisheries governance in management of river systems is also identified as an important area, but what organization models might work in rivers is not addressed. The political dimensions (especially with regard to caste and access) also impinge on making state control effective beyond a point. As river fishers generally receive little consideration in matters of inland fisheries, it seems unlikely that their inclusion in river management strategies will be easy or even acceptable across many quarters, including state agencies themselves. Acknowledging these systemic conflicts and seeking ways towards their resolution or management is an aspect missing from the NIFAP, which, while not ignorant about them, appears to wish away these problems.

The NIFAP's emphasis on the state becoming almost the sole controller and regulator of fisheries affairs may work well for intensive, organized and high-revenue aquaculture systems. But its application to river-floodplain capture fisheries is questionable, for various reasons. In Bihar, for instance, all river fisheries on flowing waters are open-access and state involvement in managing river fisheries is almost non-existent because there is no revenue to be extracted. The hands-off approach of the state fisheries department for

riverine fisheries has led to near-total control of access to fishing grounds by mafia-style gangs and other 'anti-social' elements that regularly exploit local fishers through violence and threats. These are ground realities along many rivers of north India where gangs or bands maintained by strongmen or fishery contractors work as a 'shadow state' ruling the fisheries. Criminal control of fisheries has serious implications for fishing rights as well as human rights, but these have not been acknowledged in the NIFAP. A steady trend of exit has also been noted from such areas. Fishers forced to continue fishing in these regimes have limited choices, and often involve compromises with the gangs in order to maintain access to fishing grounds. In such situations, it appears impossible that state agencies will even consider—let alone be proactive—about assuming control of risky, scattered and low-revenue yielding capture fisheries.

Even if state interest in managing capture fisheries may be low, state agencies cannot avoid engaging with fishers' development and well-being issues. State-led incentives to better organization and development of capture fisheries are very important. To improve and sustain revenues

...there is also room to change the approach towards capture fisheries, by focusing on their food security, livelihood and conservation dimensions rather than profitability.

obtainable from capture fisheries, state funding channels and investments towards improving market access and fish price regulations are much needed. In the absence of financial incentives and support structures, local fishery institutions may find it difficult to manage their fisheries. At present, the primary way to revive state interest in capture fisheries is, it appears, to make it more revenue yielding and commercially viable.

However, this would need radical changes in river water management. Given these complications, there is also room to change the approach towards capture fisheries, by focusing


on their food security, livelihood and conservation dimensions rather than profitability. Open-access regimes, despite being riddled with pernicious conflicts over fishing rights and access, continue to provide a safety net to the most marginalized fisherfolk. For the poorest of the poor, the space offered by free entry and exit helps ensure some continuity in basic incomes and independent decision making by fishers. State control and regulations in such contexts may end up excluding from fishing the most vulnerable groups such as the landless, economically backward, or Dalit fishers.

That said, the NIFAP's point about updating fishing regulations is of utmost importance. Currently, the focus of regulations is on fishing practices—limits to mesh sizes, bans on destructive methods, for example. But there is a need for more nuanced regulations on spatio-temporal fishing behaviour, catchability and effort applied for gears used in fishing. A systematic revision of existing ad hoc regulations and management guidelines might thus be an important step towards implementing fishery regulations to foster sustainable fisheries. Fisher mobility allows for some buffering capacity against external social and environmental shocks. But mobility is also a hurdle to organizational management of fisheries and a reason for inter-sectoral/institutional conflicts. Thankfully, inter-sectoral co-ordination receives adequate attention in the NIFAP. Reservoir fisheries above dams or barrages, for instance, often overlap with the boundaries of protected areas managed by the state environment/forest departments. In such settings, forest and fisheries departments need to work together to plan fisheries development as well as minimize impacts of fishing on wildlife and vice versa. Access to fishing is also affected by conservation and protection laws and entry restrictions in protected areas. There seems no way other than inter-departmental co-ordination to manage such boundary conflicts. Conflict management is thus central (albeit neglected in the NIFAP to the objective of balancing livelihood needs and developing

fisheries production alongside ecological conservation priorities. NIFAP neglects this aspect.

Given the complex nature of inland capture fisheries, NIFAP's vision of 'pluralistic and participatory systems' is the ultimate challenge and deserves continued engagement. This calls for expanding the scope of inland fisheries research and management in India to socio-political and cultural dimensions. This requires going beyond the biological heuristics of fish stock assessments, the technical calculations of intensive fish culture, and the economic forecasts of fishing revenues and 'potential', which have so far dominated the discourse on inland fisheries.

Beyond regulations

In summary, the NIFAP offers hope, but also lets loose several uneasy questions. As a set of guidelines, it appears distanced and sanitized from ground realities in capture fisheries that are murky, difficult and even unsettling. It is hoped that it can see beyond regulations and revenues, and grapple more with contestations that are like the clockwork of India's inland capture fisheries. 

For more

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/75-4258-Tempered-Down.html>

Tempered Down

<https://www.atree.org/users/nachiket-kelkar>

Nachiket Kelkar's page

http://dacf.gov.in/sites/default/files/NIFAP%20%28English%29%20%28merged%29_0.pdf for more

Draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP)

Kickoff Time

Fishers from the Amazon region gathered to exchange ideas about common challenges and opportunities to sustain and develop indigenous fisheries in the light of the SSF Guidelines

Indigenous peoples of several Amazon regions came together in Manaus in Brazil on March 27-28, 2019, to learn about national and international small-scale fisheries policies at a seminar titled 'Indigenous Fisheries in Amazon State and the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)'. The meeting also helped create bridges between indigenous and coastal-marine artisanal fishers' organizations that have already been consistently discussing the SSF Guidelines for years. Indigenous communities of Amazon had not been involved in previous co-ordinated discussions, even though the fishing activity is considered fundamental to hundreds of ethnic groups in the region.

Fish is a very important source of protein-rich food in interior watercourses. It is a core element of the cosmologies of various indigenous groups. For some, fishing commences with the careful manufacturing of traps. For others, fish are central to rituals of social exchange and for nurturing the spirit. However, several conflicts involving indigenous territories and associated fishing resources have been increasingly reported in relation to non-indigenous production sectors. Various sustainable fisheries initiatives are already under way, guided by a human rights approach, as recommended by the SSF Guidelines.

The Manaus seminar was co-organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and the NGO, Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the NGO Social Environmental Institute (Instituto Socioambiental or ISA), in partnership with the National Indigenous Foundation (Fundação Nacional do Índio or FUNAI) and the

Sea Memories Collective network (Coletivo Memórias do Mar or CMM). The objective was to share the contents of the SSF Guidelines and to discuss fishing rights, including those derived from indigenous policies and beyond. The seminar also aimed at recording the reality of indigenous fisheries in the Amazon state, through oral reports of 25 participants from 16 ethnic groups. They included the Apurinã, Baniwa, Baré, Deni, Desano, Kambeba, Kanamari, Kokama, Kulina, Mundurucu, Mura, Paumari, Piratapuia, Tenharim, Tikuna and Tukano.

Amongst other topics, the participants shared knowledge and experiences about their fishing and fisheries management practices in rivers and lakes for species such as the huge fish 'Pirarucu' (*Arapaima gigas*) and

Various sustainable fisheries initiatives are already under way, guided by a human rights approach, as recommended by the SSF Guidelines.

'Tambaqui' (*Colossoma macropomum*), and about fishing tourism. They also discussed and reported extensively on the array of threats to their traditional territories and livelihoods.

True partners

Representatives of various governmental and non-governmental social movements and indigenous organizations were also present, and, as true partners of the seminar, contributed with their rich understanding of challenges and opportunities facing indigenous fisheries. Among them were FUNAI, the Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries (Secretaria de Aquicultura

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DAFNE SPOLTI



Indigenous peoples of several Amazon regions came together in Manaus in Brazil during 27 to 28 March 2019 to learn about small-scale fisheries policies at a seminar on 'Indigenous Fishers in Amazon State and the SSF Guidelines'

34

e Pesca) from the federal and state government, ISA, Centre of Indigenist Work (Centro de Trabalho Indigenista or CTI) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The seminar began with a presentation of the SSF Guidelines in the morning by ICSF Members and by the representatives of the small fishworkers' movement in Brazil (CONFREM and MPP). In the afternoon, four groups were formed with representatives of several Amazon

based tourism and aquaculture. All the participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn about the SSF Guidelines and acknowledged the need for additional seminars to advance their knowledge and actions on such matters.

On several occasions, one participant, Kora Kanamari, appealed for support to Javari's Valley (Vale do Javari), which is the largest indigenous land in Brazil where many indigenous peoples live, including recently-contacted and isolated groups in the frontier between Brazil, Peru and Colombia. This is one of the most critical hotspots of overwhelming violations, promoted by illegal fishing and other resources extractions and violent conflicts brought on by illegal timber felling, mining, oil drilling, and drug trafficking activities. "What makes us sad is that the government has everything in terms of budget, resources, but so many people in Javari's Valley are suffering", said Kanamari. One of the suggestions of indigenous participants was the organization of a seminar at Javari's Valley. At the end of Day One, Kanamari invited the seminar's organizing team to present the SSF Guidelines to his village.

Several demands were brought to the table, including the need to enable more opportunities for indigenous communities to participate in fisheries management, community-based tourism and aquaculture.

watershed basins present at the seminar. Supported by voluntary facilitators of participant organizations, every group discussed the problems, opportunities and demands of indigenous peoples in relation to fisheries. Several demands were brought to the table, including the need to enable more opportunities for indigenous communities to participate in fisheries management, community-

On the second day, participants worked in thematic groups around the most recurrently discussed issues of the first day, including fisheries management and commercialization; sport fishing; tourism; and aquaculture. A vibrant exchange of experiences and ideas followed throughout the day. The management of the 'Pirarucu' fisheries was one of the most highlighted issues during the seminar. Most participants chose to enrol in the fisheries management and commercialization working group, to exchange experiences and benefits, hearing and learning with their parents.

Fisheries management started to gain force in Amazon in the region of Tefé in 1999, in the middle of the Solimões river among riparian communities which gained technical advice from the Mamirauá Institute of Sustainable Development. Ana Claudia Torres, the Fisheries Management Programme Co-ordinator for the Mamirauá Institute, was present at the seminar. She explained that now other indigenous villages and communities are also developing fisheries management programmes in their lakes, with the support of OPAN and FUNAI. Fisheries management refers here to self-organized control of certain species in particular territories, including the observation of rules to achieve sustainable fisheries. Communities that opt for the management have to undertake the counting of Pirarucu populations, and to promote community vigilance of their territories to inhibit invasions that public authorities are not able to control. Other measures are also taken such as rules for minimum capture sizes and quotas that are assigned by the governmental agency for federal nature conservation and protected areas (Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade or ICMBio).

Indigenous groups that had not yet enrolled in fisheries management schemes also took part in the working group, given their manifest interest to kick-off management processes in their own territories. "To us who are initiating Pirarucu fisheries management, the seminar, principally, was an opportunity to acquire more knowledge", said Rogério Fleuri Dutra Caldas, who lives in the Indigenous Land of Itixi-Mitari and is the regional co-ordinator of the Federation of

Organizations and Communities of Indigenous Peoples of Mid Purus River (Federação das Organizações e Comunidades dos Povos Indígenas do Medio Purus or FOCIMP). He highlighted the potential brought by the SSF Guidelines to support indigenous fisheries: "We believe that these (SSF Guidelines) can strengthen our reserves, through dialogue with prefectures, other governmental organisations, and also with NGOs."

OPAN's indigenist, Felipe Rossoni, a specialist researcher in participatory fisheries management, highlighted the existence of a direct link between Pirarucu management and the SSF Guidelines: "Food security needs to be put in first place—security in the sense of safeguarding access to food and securing food sovereignty so that you have the right to choose what to eat, involving cultural and ethnic issues," observed Felipe. He also mentioned other points of affinity between Pirarucu management and the SSF Guidelines, such as territorial rights, the value of traditional knowledge, self-esteem, conditions for gender equity and greater marketing autonomy. "Management is an example of citizenship," stressed Ana Claudia Torres of the Mamirauá Institute. She acknowledged the power of Pirarucu

Fisheries management refers here to self-organized control of certain species in particular territories, including the observation of rules to achieve sustainable fisheries.

fisheries management to activate collective action around cross-cutting issues affecting the livelihoods of local fisheries communities, such as the key role of women in organizing activities.

Pioneering regulation

The working group discussing sport fishing tourism activities in indigenous villages delved into the experience of the Baré people in the mid-Rio Negro region, downstream of the São Gabriel da Cachoeira settlement. They have initiated pioneering regulation of formerly illegal and destructive Tucunaré (*Cichla spp.*) sport fishing activities conducted by tourism boats in indigenous rivers.

Ever since 2014, an initiative facilitated by FOIRN, ISA and FUNAI have established contracts with interested companies, in order to generate income to local communities while respecting and abiding by social and ecological rules and norms. This process flourished to successfully inspire communities in other subsidiary rivers of Purus. During the working group discussions at the seminar, the indigenous Tenharim of the South Amazon state (Humaitá city) became interested in learning details of such regulations, given that they had already initiated some fishing accords in their territories.

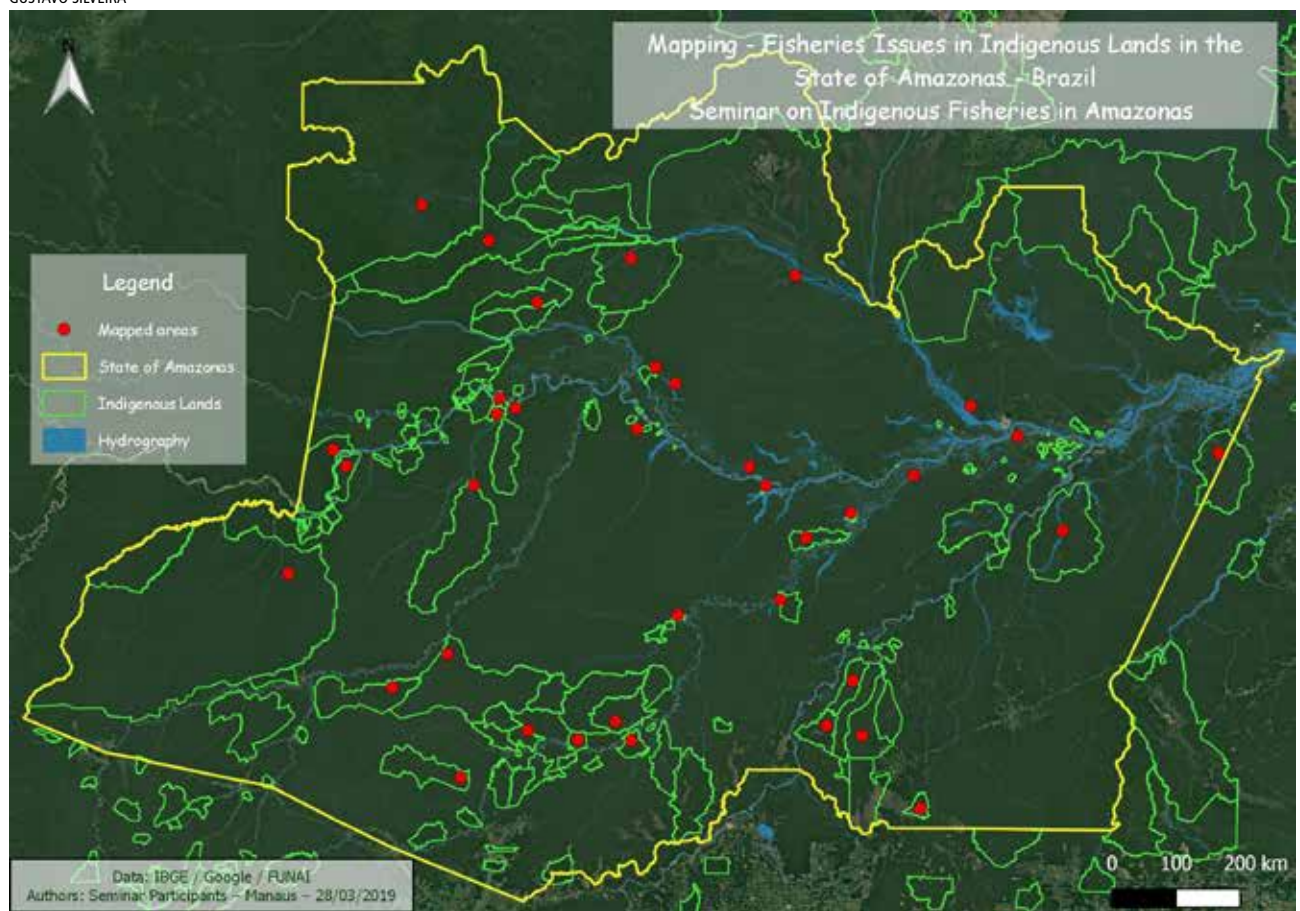
The aquaculture working group, in turn, started with criticisms of conventional commercial aquaculture, which is not friendly to indigenous communities' realities and demand a high dependency of external subsidies from non-indigenous institutions. Paulo Adelino de Medeiros, a researcher based at the Amazonian Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology (Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia do Amazonas or IFAM) in

the city of Maués, shared his research findings on the viability of family-based aquaculture, which aims to support the demands of local and traditional communities. Paulo has been working with the Sataré-Mawé to develop a family approach to aquaculture that promotes low-cost production practices and minimum fish-food usage, with simple measures that can give communities higher autonomy from continuous technical advice. Participants of this working group were very enthusiastic in following up with discussions about the development of family aquaculture in other rivers, and agreed to build a participative project to take this opportunity forward.

Indigenous participants

At the end of the day, participants gathered in a final plenary to decide about future steps. At this stage, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Secretary of Amazon state showed up and talked about their interest to deal with the demands brought up by the indigenous participants at the seminar. A representative from the federal-level

GUSTAVO SILVEIRA



Map showing the territorial range of qualitative data recorded during the seminar



Presentation of the results of the working group of Purus River and Juruá River who believe that these (SSF Guidelines) can strengthen their reserves, through dialogue with prefectures, other governmental organizations, and also with NGOs

counterpart Secretary of Aquaculture and Fisheries said she would take the results of the seminar back to Brasília where it would be discussed with her superiors in the context of fisheries policies for North Brazil. Participants expressed their desire for the conduct of other seminars to disseminate the SSF Guidelines. They also delineated a list of villages interested in fisheries management and family aquaculture. They highlighted the need for greater participation of women in events and issues related to fisheries in the region. They also expressed their desire to connect with international indigenous movements to discuss the SSF Guidelines.

As a first experience in bridging the world of Amazonian indigenous fishers with the principles and vision of the SSF Guidelines, the seminar revealed that while most participants had no background information about the Guidelines, places exist where sustainability measures are being taken up along the lines of the SSF Guidelines.

The leader of the National Fisherwomen Articulation, Josana Pinto da Costa, emphasized: "Indigenous and traditional communities already promote the Guidelines, but with

another name." Indigenous fishers also realized how their practices, such as Pirarucu management, already anticipate several of the objectives and principles of the SSF Guidelines. Nevertheless, considering that various peoples and regions live under unfavourable conditions, there is a great interest among indigenous fishers to know more about their rights. There is also a huge demand for expanding participatory fisheries management in regions with a lot of potential, but where access to information has been scant and/or collective action has not already been initiated.

Important instrument

Governmental and non-governmental organizations also did not know much about the SSF Guidelines, and they expressed their interest in taking information back to their own circles. Evidently, the SSF Guidelines can become an important instrument to strengthen the organization of fishers and empower indigenous movements to fully become sovereign agents in the promotion of fisheries resources sustainability and food security, and hence realize and reaffirm the very nature of their territorial rights.

For more



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

Brazil National Seminars - June 2016

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/80-4378-Roundup.html>

Organizational Profile: Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/77-4305-A-Backbreaking-.html>

A Backbreaking Struggle

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

OPAN-Operação Amazônia Nativa

Amplifying Fishers' Voices

Environmental non-governmental organizations can work in partnership with fishing communities to secure vibrant fishing communities and thriving marine ecosystems

38

Abundant, biodiverse oceans and increased food and prosperity for small-scale fisheries are within our reach. There is an incredible groundswell of people and organizations working to realize the vision set forth in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines), with small-scale fishing communities taking the lead in designing and implementing solutions. Environmental NGOs, including the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), share the vision of thriving, healthy oceans and small-scale fisheries that provide sustainable and stable livelihoods for coastal communities, essential nutrients and a secure source of food for millions. Much has already been accomplished, yet it is clear that in order to achieve widespread impact, more could be done to amplify the efforts already underway by fishing communities.

Partnerships among small-scale fishing communities, NGOs, local governments and scientists can capture existing solutions and experiences, create new solutions together and broadly disseminate them. Environmental NGOs can help support the growing momentum for sustainable small-scale fisheries by bringing experiences, lessons learned, skills and connections to support other fishing communities in working towards the conservation of our oceans. Drawing from experiences from a few fisheries we work in, we share here our ideas on how environmental NGOs can work in partnership with fishing communities to secure vibrant fishing communities and thriving marine ecosystems.

Environmental NGOs working in fisheries can play an important

role in helping bring often unseen and historically disenfranchised small-scale fishing communities and vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous peoples to the decision-making table. Experience shows that fishery-management solutions are most durable when local fishers and fishworkers lead the way. We have seen first-hand how fishers can be powerful agents of change when they are at the forefront of defining fishery goals and solutions that make sense for their fishing operations. This impact can be even greater when working with local governments, researchers and NGOs. By building mechanisms for community engagement—whether through co-management systems, social media movements, capacity development or institution building—environmental NGOs can help elevate fishers' voices in the decision-making process.

In Belize, for example, a group of local and international NGOs partnered with the government and fishing communities to ensure fishers had a role in designing and implementing Managed Access, the nation's new fisheries management system. This system gives fishers secure rights to fish in designated zones and co-management responsibilities through Managed Access Committees.

Consulting role

These groups are responsible for representing the interests of communities and contributing to local decision making. Each multi-stakeholder committee comprises representatives from each fishing community, representatives from the Belize Fisheries Department and NGOs in a consulting role. Through these committees, local fishers are empowered to contribute their views and act as co-managers for their fishing areas.

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Three fishermen from Lampung in Indonesia setting their gillnets to catch blue swimming crab. Lampung's BSC management plan is the first in Indonesia to empower local stakeholders, including women, fishers, processors and supply-chain workers in the decision-making process

Guiding management decisions with strong science is essential for the long-term viability of fishing communities, especially in the face of climate change. NGOs can help ensure effective management is in place by drawing upon the best available science and engaging fishing communities in the scientific process. This can include supporting fishing communities in contributing to improved data collection and participating in decision making that draws upon local and customary knowledge. By working hand-in-hand with communities, NGOs can help ensure that even fisheries with limited data benefit from science-based decision making that promotes long-term sustainability.

In Spain, for example, EDF and WWF-Spain partnered with fishers to build capacity to improve data collection for science-based decisionmaking. We participate on two co-management committees and have helped build six new co-management processes where fishers, government, scientists and NGOs are working together to establish long-term management plans based on strong science. Drawing from the knowledge of fishers, co-management

bodies established reserves and prioritized species for management. The involvement of fishers has increased confidence in the accuracy of decisionmaking and management measures.

NGOs can work with governments at national and local levels to develop policies that promote thriving small-scale fisheries and communities that

NGOs can work with governments at national and local levels to develop policies that promote thriving small-scale fisheries and communities that depend on them.

depend on them. Policies can help to create the enabling conditions for successful implementation of the SSF Guidelines and establish governance structures that contribute to effective management. Adoption of policy reform at a local level can often motivate changes at broader scales.

Broad coalition

A broad coalition of fishers, seafood buyers and NGOs began working in

JOHN RAE/ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND



40

Women play a central role in Belize's fisheries, selling at the Punta Gorda fish market to communities that cherish the seafood Belize's Barrier Reef provides. Small-scale fishing communities should have secure rights to fishery resources and fishing grounds

the Indonesian Province of Lampung in 2015 to improve management of the blue swimming crab (BSC) fishery, a critical source of livelihoods for thousands of Indonesians. This coalition worked with the provincial and national government to create a brand new process for collaborative management that included the formal establishment of a multi-stakeholder body to design and implement the science-based management plan. Lampung's BSC management plan is the first in Indonesia to empower local stakeholders, including women, fishers, processors and supply-chain workers in the decision-making process. We hope that this plan can serve as a model for other provinces in Indonesia and beyond.

Small-scale fishing communities should have secure rights to fishery resources and fishing grounds. Based on the goals of fishing communities, NGOs can help strengthen the tenure rights of small-scale fishers and support the design of systems that are equitable and socio-culturally appropriate. NGOs can also help ensure that special consideration is given to women and indigenous groups such that their rights are secured. Experience has

shown that fishers with secure rights are champions for sustainable fisheries management because they have a stake in the future of their fisheries and increased stewardship of their resources.

A working group of government and NGO representatives helped guide the design process for Managed Access in Belize, which has strengthened the tenure rights of small-scale fishers and improved fishers' ability to be stewards of the resource. Under this approach, fishers and fishing communities have dedicated access rights to fishing areas they have traditionally used and now feel more secure in the future of their livelihoods. These rights are paired with responsibilities to help manage the areas and observe regulations. Following the implementation of this system, fishers report reductions in illegal fishing, high participation in community-based co-management groups and improvements in ecosystem health.

Knowledge exchange

Small-scale fishing communities are often dispersed and isolated, with little means to share ideas, experiences and solutions with others. By building

platforms for exchange amongst fishing communities, NGOs can create opportunities for knowledge exchange, shared learning and collaboration. Such peer-to-peer exchange allows for fishing community members and leaders to share solutions, which can then be brought back to individual fishing communities and put into action for improved management and conservation. Learning networks and exchanges can often spur collective action towards common goals for increased impact towards sustainable fisheries.

Collaboration between EDF, WWF-Spain and fishers helped to bring small-scale fisheries into the national conversation and the political agenda in Spain. We supported the establishment of a national learning network, which has provided a means for fishing communities and other fisheries stakeholders to share achievements and experiences, as well as resources and tools to help advance their strategies. This learning network is actively collaborating on over a dozen participatory processes, projects and initiatives to establish long-term management plans involving more than 3,500 fishers. By including fishers and other stakeholders such as government officials and NGOs, we have seen increased understanding between groups and improved communication around difficult challenges.

As we look to the future, we believe environmental NGOs can play an additional role in helping fishing communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, enhancing food and nutrition security. Research by EDF and partners shows that it is possible to have increased fish abundance and catch, providing more food and prosperity for fishers if we get good management in place now and keep warming in check. NGOs can partner with communities to ensure they are empowered with the skills and knowledge needed to build climate-resilient fisheries. Furthermore, small-scale fisheries provide critical sources of protein and micronutrients to hundreds of millions of people. By fully understanding and considering the co-benefits and trade-offs between development, food security and conservation outcomes, NGOs and fishing communities

can together optimize fisheries management to meet the nutritional needs of vulnerable communities.

While much progress has been made toward sustainable small-scale fisheries, NGOs can help amplify the scale and pace of fishery reforms. To scale solutions and drive widespread results, local leaders must be further supported and empowered to drive change in their own communities. Environmental NGOs can help document and disseminate lessons, experiences and solutions across regions and countries through development of innovative tools, resources and knowledge-sharing platforms. We can also work to amplify the voices of fishers around the world and elevate small-scale fishery sustainability as a policy priority in order to generate more resources for local leaders and communities.

Think creatively

Local fishers lead the way to ensuring abundant fisheries and thriving fishing communities. As we confront the global and dispersed nature of small-scale fisheries, we are eager to collaborate with others to think creatively about ways to support implementation of the SSF Guidelines. We look forward to working with communities, other NGOs and the FAO to do so. We also welcome further ideas from readers as to how environmental NGOs can further support fishing communities and the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

For more



<http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/resource-subject/small-scale-fisheries>

EDF Fishery Solutions Center

<http://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/sites/catchshares.edf.org/files/Smith%20et%20al%202019%20-%20A%20framework%20for%20allocating%20fishing%20rights%20in%20small-scale%20fisheries.pdf>

A framework for allocating fishing rights in small-scale fisheries

A Time for Transformation

The voices of small-scale fishers and civil society organizations were loud and clear at the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress

42

By all accounts, the past ten years have been truly exceptional for small-scale fisheries. One of the highlights is the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by FAO member states in 2014. As the first international instrument specifically designed for small-scale fisheries, the SSF Guidelines give the much-needed visibility to this important sector, calling all parties to promote small-scale fisheries sustainability through a human-rights based approach. The SSF Guidelines set off waves of excitement and optimism about the new era for small-scale fisheries.

The enthusiasm is shared by several stakeholders—the research community, civil society organisations (CSOs), environmental groups and foundations working to support small-scale fisheries around the world—despite the challenges related to how to ‘walk the talk’. The voluntary nature of the SSF Guidelines is perhaps not as big a hurdle as the lack of capacity among government authorities to carry on the implementation or among other key actors to lend appropriate support. The objectives and the guiding principles underpinning the SSF Guidelines reflect the reality for small-scale fisheries governance; given that they have long been neglected and marginalized, rectifying the situation requires a hard look at how we govern small-scale fisheries. For the most part, major transformation and/or reform of the governing system is unavoidable.

According to the participants at the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2018, this also calls for change in the way we talk about small-scale fisheries, consider their values, conduct research and train

future generations, and take actions to support small-scale fisheries.

Held every four years at a different location since 2010, WSFC is the largest gathering of people with various interests in small-scale fisheries. Although researchers with social science and interdisciplinary backgrounds, and practitioners working in small-scale fisheries form the majority of the participants, the Congress has increasingly become ‘transdisciplinary’, with active participation from natural scientists along with other key actors, including fishers, fishers’ associations, CSOs, environmental organizations, governments and the donor community. The 3rd Congress picked up on the two themes—‘Transdisciplinarity’ and ‘Transformation’—that have been promoted in the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) Global Partnership, the main host of the Congress, in the discussion about the future of small-scale fisheries.

The idea about the TBTI research network was initially discussed at the first WSFC, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2010, to recognize the gap in comprehensive knowledge about small-scale fisheries and the lack of context-specific governance. With major funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), supplemented by contributions from partner and collaborating organizations and team members, the largest research network in small-scale fisheries was then formed. TBTI aims to elevate the profile of small-scale fisheries, strengthen their viability and reduce vulnerability to global change, promote sustainable small-scale fisheries policies, and improve the overall fisheries governance.

Knowledge advanced

Over the years, TBTI has advanced knowledge on issues related to well-

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Participants at the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress, 2019 at Chiang Mai, Thailand. Close to 400 participants from 55 countries participated in the congress to exchange information, share knowledge, discuss issues concerning small-scale fisheries, and articulate their future

being and livelihoods, rights and access, markets, gender, economic viability, inland fisheries, stewardship and governance, among others.

Our governance research, in particular, has resulted into two book-length volumes, each comprising more than 30 case studies, to examine how small-scale fisheries are governed and the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The case studies reveal that several transitions have already taken place in the structure and functions of the governing system, signalling the recognition for involving small-scale fishers and other key actors in participatory governance. The need to broaden the perspective about small-scale fisheries, to incorporate formal and informal knowledge in the co-identification of the problems and the co-implementation of the solutions, and to integrate small-scale fisheries in the development discourse, as with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is also recognized. TBTT's pioneering work on Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance captures the essence of the new philosophy and promotes the practice of it through workshops and training programmes.

About 400 researchers, practitioners, small-scale fishers, CSOs, environmental organisations and government representatives

The current issues and cutting-edge research in small-scale fisheries were captured by five scholars from around the globe...

from 55 countries participated in the 3WSFC to exchange information, share knowledge, discuss issues concerning small-scale fisheries, and articulate future actions to support their sustainability. The Congress took a look back at how things have been with respect to research, policy and actions in small-scale fisheries, with reflections, history and stories told by prominent figures in the field, including Fikret Berkes, Svein Jentoft, Moenieba Isaacs, John Kurien and Rolf Willmann.

Presentations

The current issues and cutting-edge research in small-scale fisheries were captured by five scholars from

JOSE PASCUAL



Svein Jentoft (second from left) with the Friends of Small-Scale Fisheries and TBTI Hero award, with, from left to right, Andrew Song, Mahmud Islam and Alicia Said

44

around the globe, namely, Maria Jose Barragan-Paladines, Mahmud Islam, Ahmed Khan, Alicia Said and Andrew Song, setting the stage for more than 300 presentations during the Congress. The discussion during the science, community and policy days

climate change and environmental variability to issues around rights and access to space, resources and markets. The interplay between vulnerability and viability requires an in-depth investigation to understand the specific contexts for small-scale fishing communities, as well as a comparative analysis to broaden policy and governance.

The voices of small-scale fishers and CSOs working to support small-scale fisheries were loud and clear during the 'Community Day' and throughout the Congress. Nobody could have said it better when they spoke about the intimate relationship that small-scale fishers have to the aquatic environment they depend on, the place they live and the people they interact with. They emphasized the importance of family-based fisheries, highlighting the involvement of women and other family members throughout the entire fish chain. While conflicts with large-scale, industrial fisheries and other ocean users continue, hope and optimism were evident when referencing the SSF Guidelines.

Policy Day

The role of governments and other actors in the implementation of the

The role of governments and other actors in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was highlighted on the 'Policy Day'.

came together on the final day of the Congress, when the participants were encouraged to look into the future by putting together a set of vision and actions for 2022, which has been declared the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), and is also when the 4th Congress is scheduled to take place.

It is clear from the 'Science Day' what research and case studies have illuminated in terms of values, importance and contributions of small-scale fisheries. More efforts are necessary, however, to look at factors affecting their sustainability, from

SSF Guidelines was highlighted on the 'Policy Day'. The multiple demands from within the small-scale fisheries sector and outside—including through the SDGs—for better governance that is inclusive, accountable and transparent add to the multiple challenges that governments at all levels are already facing. Lack of capacity and funding, along with political inertia, do get in the way of progress. Many elements must be in place, and many conditions met, to enable governance reform and transformation, some of which can be facilitated by a transdisciplinary or a 'TD dialogue'.

The Congress was intentionally organized in an inland area, far away from the coast, as a way to give a much-needed spotlight to the inland fisheries sector, which, for the most part, remains under-studied. Inland fisheries are almost entirely small-scale, and more needs to be done to bring up the level of understanding about this sector at par with its marine and brackishwater small-scale fisheries counterpart. The visit to a small freshwater lake in Phayao Province, some 150 km away from Chiang Mai, during the one-day field excursion, brought home this message.

Throughout the Congress, the participants were reminded to keep in mind five cross-cutting questions: (1) What is the major knowledge gap in small-scale fisheries?; (2) What are the major challenges facing small-scale fisheries?; (3) What kind of change in science, community, markets and policy is required to improve viability of small-scale fishing communities, reduce their vulnerability and promote small-scale fisheries sustainability?; (4) What actions are required from CSOs, the research community and policy people in order to implement the SSF Guidelines?; and (5) How to strengthen the policy-science interface?

On the final day of the Congress, several 'action circles' were organized to discuss key topics such as 'The Meaning of Small' to recognize the importance that terminology, concept, definition and language play in the contextualization of small-scale fisheries and the framing of their issues and problems; the 'Multiple Values of Small-Scale Fisheries' and how to enhance the value chain, taking advantage of the Target 14b in the SDGs; and the 'Governance Transformation' required in order

to co-ordinate policies and actions to implement the SSF Guidelines, in concert with other efforts to achieve SDGs, going beyond Target 14b. One of the circles highlighted the need to look at issues related to rights and access of small-scale fisheries, recognizing the current insecurity and the risk of displacement, especially in today's development agenda oriented towards 'blue growth' and the 'blue economy'. The call for 'Blue Justice' was echoed at the Congress, urging all involved actors to critically examine what the current development agenda means to small-scale fisheries and their communities, in terms of distributive justice, community empowerment, human rights, food and nutritional security, gender equity and sustainability.

More discussion and actions are required to follow up on the great energy and ideas shared and fostered during the Congress. The plan for IYAFA 2022 is being developed and inputs are sought from the global community about what should be achieved and highlighted. Many of us are already working in our own networks and in collaboration with our partners to keep the momentum going for small-scale fisheries. We at TBTI are doing the same, and remain committed to play our role in building and sharing knowledge, enhancing research and governance capacity through TD training, and communicating news and information about small-scale fisheries. We are also taking actions with the 'Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries' commitment, which we submitted as a voluntary commitment towards fulfilling SDG14, as well as the 'Blue Justice' campaign, aiming to document threats to social justice and risks associated with the current development agenda on small-scale fisheries.

Conversations

The success of the Congress proved that the time is certainly ripe for a conversation about innovation and transformation in research, training, community engagement and governance for sustainable small-scale fisheries. The outcomes from these discussions lay down the foundation for greater co-ordination across the sector, leading up to the IYAFA 2022 and the 4WSFC.

For more



<http://toobigtoignore.net/>

Too Big to Ignore: A Global Partnership for Small-scale Fisheries Research

<http://toobigtoignore.net/tbti-publishes-book-on-the-transdisciplinarity-for-small-scale-fisheries-governance-analysis-and-practice/>

Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance: Analysis and Practice. Editors: Ratana Chuenpagdee and Svein Jentoft

Expanding the Horizons

Nalini Nayak and Cornelie Quist reflect on the 7th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7), held in Bangkok during 18-21 October 2018

46

Having been pioneers in the setting up of the Women in Fisheries (WIF) Programme of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) 25 years ago, and having been actively involved since then in gender issues in fisheries, we were particularly attracted to GAF7. Its theme was 'Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Expanding the Horizons'. It promised a thinking that will go beyond descriptive papers on what women do in fisheries and gender-disaggregated data, to a more in-depth feminist analysis. We, therefore, decided to organize a workshop and share the long work of ICSF's WIF Programme and the tools of feminist analysis of fisheries we had used. Our proposal to organise such a workshop aimed at deepening feminist perspectives in fisheries was accepted and hence we went to Bangkok.

We were among the 120 participants of the conference, who came from more than 25 countries and from diverse backgrounds, including a woman Chief Executive Officer of the world's largest fish-processing company, representatives of women fishworker organizations, researchers, practitioners, consultants, social activists and media persons.

There were more than 95 presentations and nine special workshops at the conference. Of the many presentations we attended, we would like to mention a few we found inspiring from the perspective of 'Expanding the Horizons'. It must be said that there were several parallel sessions and what we reflect on here might have missed out on other good presentations. Moreover, the time allotted for presentations was generally too short to impart sufficient insights.

One of the inspiring presentations was by Meryl Williams, chair of the Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Society, titled 'Time to Connect GAF Research to the Political Economy of the Fish Value Chain: Revolution that is Shaping Women's Inequality'. She called for setting up "feminist political economy think tanks". She said that using a gender lens is useful but it does not pick up the contextual understanding of women's discrimination. She said that the State and the global market have a persistent focus on fisheries as a foreign exchange-earning sector and on production, while neglecting reproduction, which has a huge impact on the status of women in fisheries, further marginalising them. It is important, therefore, to look at gender through a fisheries political economy lens.

An interesting presentation was by Nadine Vanniasinkam and Nirmi Vitarana of the International Center of Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka, titled 'Lives on the Move: Gendered Aspects of Migration in Fishing Villages in Sri Lanka'. They presented an analysis of a survey of 800 households of a traditional seasonal out-migrating area, Puttalam, and a traditional seasonal migrant-receiving area, Trincomalee.

Development goals

For the analysis, they had used both the Social Well-being Approach, which analyzes the strategies employed by women and men who act on socioeconomic, political and ecological factors to achieve material, rational and subjective well-being goals, and the Social Relations Approach, which analyzes where development goals should increase human well-being and focus on the social—power—relations between women and men, and how

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Cornelia Quist and Nalini Nayak presented the 25-year-long history of the WIF programme of ICSF at the 7th GAF held in Bangkok during 18-21 October 2018. The workshop was attended by 22 participants

they are connected and affected differently. The complementary use of the two approaches ensures they mutually reinforce each other. Interestingly, their study threw up climate change and ecosystem impacts as factors which make the Social Well-being Approach more robust. Regrettably, they had not focused on the impact of the war in Sri Lanka that lasted more than 30 years and created numerous war widows, traumatised people and destroyed livelihoods in the study area. That would have given them another important factor for the analytical framework of the Social Well-being Approach, namely, peace and human security.

Another inspiring research approach was presented by Sarah Harper in her presentation titled 'Indigenous Women Rising: A Spotlight on the Role of Indigenous Women in Transforming Fisheries Governance on Canada's Pacific Coast'. The approach was particularly interesting because it brought together theories of governance transformations in social-ecological systems (SES) and insights from the literature on women in environmental justice activism.

Furthermore, an intersectional lens explored ways in which social identities, such as gender and indigeneity or ethnicity, influence how

...an intersectional lens explored ways in which social identities, such as gender and indigeneity or ethnicity, influence how people experience, articulate and respond to environmental struggles.

people experience, articulate and respond to environmental struggles. With this approach, the researchers were able to identify essential elements for social-ecological system transformation, supported with empirical evidence of how women of the indigenous Heiltsuk community responded during a recent herring fishery conflict to catalyse a system-wide shift in the fisheries governance on the Central Coast of British Columbia, Canada.

Information flow

Heiltsuk women took on key leadership roles, creating intergenerational

solidarity, increasing social cohesion, facilitating the flow of information and negotiations among holders of power, which resulted in transforming fisheries governance in a more socially just and environmentally sustainable way. Women had brought strength and cohesion to the struggle of their community by calling upon both traditional and contemporary roles and responsibilities.

The research project was developed with consent and ongoing input from the Heiltsuk community, thereby demonstrating the value of close collaboration of fisher communities, researchers and policymakers. The research demonstrated the value of strong participation, including leadership by women in fisheries governance transformation, since they are also important agents of change in their communities.

The importance of women as change agents in governance transformation was also demonstrated in the special workshop organized by Editrudith Lukanga and Kafayat Fakoya. Their organization, the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET) has taken the initiative to create a pan-African women's network to collectively raise their voices for the recognition and protection of the rights of small-scale fishing communities and women's rights, in particular, and

with the administration to see that the SSF Guidelines are taken seriously.

The issues addressed by AWFISHNET to improve the quality of life of women in fisheries and their households include: tenure rights and access rights (as well as inter-regional and cross-border trade); decent work; and food and nutrition security. AWFISHNET is now in a process of collecting data through local organizations which will help them inform their governments and strengthen their local base to enable their members to voice their concerns and stand up for their rights. Collaboration of researchers and other organizations in support of the aims and strategy of AWFISHNET will be essential.

In our special workshop, titled 'Deepening Feminist Perspectives in Fisheries', we presented the 25-year-long history of ICSF's WIF Programme, how a feminist perspective in fisheries has evolved within ICSF, and the tools of feminist analysis of fisheries that we used. ICSF's feminist perspective in fisheries connects with the larger feminist critique of development. It critiques development models that are patriarchal and exploitive, that benefit the few at the expense of the majority—particularly poor women—increase the vulnerability of local communities, destroy means of livelihood and undervalue and overexploit natural resources.

We had 22 participants from various backgrounds who contributed to a great deal of discussion. Unfortunately, we could not get into group discussions, as we had planned, and so the discourse lost a clear direction. Nevertheless, there was a consensus that a feminist analysis should be able to address the complexity of today's society, and new ideas should be integrated into old debates that critique development models based on power inequalities. For this, we need to connect with new social transformative movements that address issues of social and environmental injustice in the present global context. Inclusiveness is important, in particular of the most marginalized groups in society such as women migrant workers.

The importance of involving men in the feminist debate in a constructive way was also discussed.

take ahead the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). AWFISHNET was launched in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in April 2017 and has women's organizations from 28 countries of the African Union as members by now. It was very impressive to see how these women's organizations have got together to develop a charter of demands which they use to interact

The importance of involving men in the feminist debate in a constructive way was also discussed. Quite often, men keep away from the debate because they see feminism as a 'women's issue' and not in their interest. There also exists the persistent misunderstanding that feminism is just a vision that demonizes men.

On the whole, we found it encouraging to see so many young women researchers and students enter the arena of fisheries; many of them were aware of the SSF Guidelines, and several more are working closely with women-in-fisheries organizations, supporting their struggles, and a few others are engaging with the ecosystem approach to fisheries.

Most presentations at the conference were micro-studies that presented interesting evidence about the work, lives and long struggles of women in fisheries, making their contribution and potential visible and showing how, when they are empowered, they benefit the community as well as the environment. Broadly, although the presentations reflected progress towards greater attention for gender in more diverse areas of fisheries, most were still primarily descriptive case studies and pieces of framework and approaches that were not well-integrated.

Approaches that are 'disconnected' to the global context give no insights into the causes of the real problems that affect women. They tend to focus on symptoms and/or outcomes rather than address the root causes of inequalities. A sole focus on women also tends to leave out men and masculinities.

We have mentioned only a few presentations that we found inspiring in the light of 'Expanding Horizons'. The approaches put forward at the conference could be integrated to develop a solid analytical framework which would help us to understand the diverse and changing lives of women in fisheries in relation to the impact of unsustainable global fisheries and aquaculture, and help us home in on the approaches and policy measures needed for achieving socially and environmentally just fisheries that sustain life and livelihoods. In this,

it is critically important to bring together, connect with and link, feminist researchers and activists, women-in-fisheries organizations, the global fishworker movements and policymakers. GAF can play a role in this, perhaps in the establishment of a 'feminist political think tank' for fisheries, as proposed by Meryl Williams. This think tank could also draw on the experience and learnings from the 25-year-long ICSF's WIF Programme, and, particularly, its strategies and discourse. 3

For more



www.gafconference.org

GAF7 website

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

Genderaquafish

<https://www.icsf.net/en/paper-presentation.html>

Evolving a feminist perspective in fisheries and the history of the Women in Fisheries Programme (1993-2014) of the ICSF, GAF7 Bangkok 18-21 October 2018

<https://wif.icsf.net>

ICSF Women in Fisheries website

<https://wif.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/45-2028.html?lang=en>

Through the gender lens

<https://www.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/50-2192.html?lang=en>

Widows' struggles in post-war Sri Lanka

<https://www.icsf.net/yemaya/article/EN/57-2315.html?lang=en>

Enablers, drivers and barriers

Catch this Moment

Reflections on the 'Towards an Inclusive Blue Economy' conference organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development in London in February 2019

50

Behind the trendy environmental terms 'Blue Economy' and 'Blue Growth' lies a view that the Earth's oceans promise great untapped economic potential. The unutilized value of the oceans is estimated at US\$24 trillion, including sectors like energy generation, maritime transport, tourism, capture fisheries and aquaculture. Such a Blue Economy is supposed to also cater to aspects of social and ecological sustainability. However, a Blue Economy will not become inclusive nor equitable by default. This was the starting point for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) conference in London titled 'Towards an Inclusive Blue Economy', held on February 25-26, 2019.

The conference touched upon two main topics: the internationally legally binding instrument (ILBI) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), and fiscal reforms to achieve an inclusive Blue Economy. My reflections and reporting back on insights will mainly focus on the legally binding instrument on marine biological diversity.

The purpose of the BBNJ negotiations is to develop an instrument as soon as possible. Actual negotiations started in September 2018 and will end during the first half of 2020. But how do we ensure that future high-seas governance regimes or treaties are equitable and benefit all? That is how IIED framed the discussion question. Throughout the conference there was a genuine focus on the rights of small-scale fishers and vulnerable coastal communities. Even though I would have wished for more, there

were at least two representatives from the small-scale fisheries sector invited as keynote speakers.

A brief insight into the implications of these negotiations shows they are presented as structured around four main areas:

- Marine genetic resources, including issues of access and benefit sharing;
- Area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs);
- Environmental impact assessments, and
- Capacity building and transfer of marine technology.

Areas beyond national jurisdiction are areas beyond the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of nations, also referred to as the high seas or international waters. The 1982 UNCLOS recognizes the area of the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, 'as well as its mineral resources, as the 'common heritage of mankind', and the benefits deriving from these are intended to be shared equitably among people. At that time, however, deep-sea mining was not in any imaginable pipeline. There is, therefore, today a big gap in governance.

Another drawback of the 1982 UNCLOS is that it only covered mineral resources; thus, all living resources, other than straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in the areas of the high seas, are excluded, implying a great risk to the ocean resources; they are up for grabs for all. Unfortunately, the current negotiations do not have the mandate to change this by including living organisms as the common heritage of mankind.

High seas governance

So why would high seas governance be of relevance to the 47 mn people

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IIED/MATT WRIGHT



High seas panel discussion during the conference on Towards an Inclusive Blue Economy, held from June 25 to 26 February 2019. Essam Yassin Mohammed, IIED; William Cheung, University of British Columbia; Ekaterina Popova, University of Southampton; Anca Leroy, Government of France

51

involved in small-scale fishing and trading, out of which a vast majority live in developing countries? It is my impression, and also that of several conference participants, that many governments of developing nations, alongside civil society organizations advocating for the rights of small-scale fisheries, do not prioritize engaging in the BBNJ negotiations. Research also indicates this observation is correct. In the BBNJ negotiations there has been a small group of countries disproportionately active, while least developed countries and small island developing states are significantly under-represented. A skewed negotiation outcome is feared, not contributing to the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing that it was set out to do. My guess is that the reason for this inequality in the engagement in the negotiation probably mainly has to do with the existing economic inequality between nations. But I also sense a certain belief of the high seas to be too far away, something out there that does not impact us significantly. With limited resources, the reasoning of some states

might well be: why should we then involve ourselves? Most likely, they do have to deal with many urgent issues.

One very convincing argument, however, for the least developed countries and the small-scale fishers' advocates to be concerned about the

...the reason for this inequality in the engagement in the negotiation probably mainly has to do with the existing economic inequality between nations.

high seas governance was provided by an ocean modeller, Ekaterina Popova, from the United Kingdom's National Oceanography Centre. She showed convincingly the close connection between the high seas and the coasts. "Ecologically," she explained, "[the high seas] are very much connected to coastal zones.

Nature of species

There are two pieces of evidence for this. One is the nature of species that often migrate through corridors between the

high seas and coastal waters. The other is ocean currents. People don't realize how fast and vigorous these are, and how tightly they connect to coastal waters." She held up a small yellow rubber duck to the audience and said that if a million ducks like that would be released into the high seas, it would take only six months until we would see them pop up on our coasts. Some areas of the high seas are also more strongly connected to coasts, and some coastlines have a stronger connection to the high seas than others. Thus, exploitation of the high seas will have noticeable impacts on the livelihoods of small-scale fishers.

There is also a strong equity aspect to these negotiations since there are only about 10 nations currently catching 71 per cent of the fish in the high seas. Another aspect of equity was a discovery that came from of a colleague of mine at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Robert Blasiak, who found that 98 per cent of all patents originating from marine genes taken in the high seas came from 10 nations.

Other researchers at the conference, associate professor William Cheung and professor Rashid Sumaila from the University of British Columbia, mentioned that if the high seas were to be totally closed off, the impact of fish stocks would be neutral, since it would increase the catches in the EEZs of countries, but it would be a great gain to developing nations, both in terms of catch and biodiversity. From a legal standpoint, however, it seems close to impossible to reach a full closure of the high seas, which is unlikely to happen, but even closing off some parts can still be of high value to enhancing equity.

One of the agenda points for the BBNJ negotiations, as mentioned, is access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. The benefits achieved from the high seas, including from living organisms, should be equally shared. Existing international law under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which has already developed an access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, is proposed to be used. There is also a need for capacity building and transfer of relevant marine technology to developing nations.

What requirements will be made for this co-operation and development assistance are still to be seen. IIED argued that there is need for a kind of clearing house mechanism, implying an independent multilateral institution that would set up "co-operation and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership, and broker technology transfer and capacity building". The developed countries should be obliged to regulate the private sector so that any resource access implies commitments for technology transfer to developing nations.

Thus, both small-scale fisheries and the governments of least developed and small island developing states stand to gain a lot from raising their voices and engaging more strongly in the BBNJ negotiations. Since all exploitative activities in the high seas risk negatively affecting the already vulnerable coastal communities, they should be given a clear voice.

The second topic of the conference was fiscal reform. Fiscal tools include taxes, tariffs, fees, penalties, etc. It was generally agreed that there is a large untapped opportunity to use fiscal tools for enhancing sustainability and environmental stewardship. For instance, policymakers collect taxes as income to the government, rather than to guide a change in behaviour, such as more sustainable and environmentally-sound fishery management. A significant number of alternative measures could be brought in to steer development in a positive direction. For instance, a government can start fairly compensating coastal communities when, for conservation purposes, marine no-take zones are established that negatively affect their livelihoods. Such schemes must, however, be designed carefully in order to care for gender issues and adapt to the local circumstances.

Harmful subsidies

Sumaila opened the discussion with some lucid statistics. Today 86 per cent of the global subsidies to the fishing sector benefits large-scale fishing, 16 per cent goes to small-scale fishers and only four per cent benefit the processing sector that employs women.

Simultaneously, by making use of fiscal tools to enhance sustainability and equity, the harmful fisheries subsidies should be eliminated. Actually, the World Trade Organization has that as one of its tasks under the Sustainable Development Goal 14.6.

The figures provided by Sumaila was used by Editrudith Lukanga, General Secretary of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders network and Co-President of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers. She was advocating for increased subsidies to small-scale fishers and, in particular, to women in the trading and processing sectors. Women play a crucial role in the small-scale fishery sector, and their role should be increasingly recognised. About 47 per cent of those fishers and fishworkers in the small-scale fishery sector are women and in the post-harvest operations, the proportion is as high as 90 per cent. Still, policymakers “look down upon them” since their contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) is negligible. Women in the small-scale fishery sector should also have the right to influence decisions that affect them, Editrudith said.

Laying a puzzle for more sustainable governance of the oceans, one must, however, not forget the importance of succeeding in substantially—and quickly—reducing greenhouse gas emissions. William Cheung mentioned that in a business-as-usual scenario, an estimated 70 per cent reduction of catch in the high seas is projected, which will hit the least developed countries worst. They are projected to lose as much as two-thirds of the economic benefits from the oceans they get today.

IIED's efforts to highlight these crucial ingredients of reaching an inclusive Blue Economy deserve appreciation. There was constant focus on small-scale fishers and equity, which is relevant. The increasing references to a Blue Economy seem to suggest a growing search for returns on investment from the oceans. Unless proactive safeguard measures are taken, there is a risk of increasing the pressure on the livelihoods of small-scale fishers. They are already squeezed from many directions simultaneously—

pressures from large-scale fishing fleets, industrial export-oriented aquaculture, MPAs established in the name of conservation, neglecting the involvement of the users and thus forcing small-scale fishers and fishworkers to lose their livelihoods, other types of infrastructure projects such as building harbours and tourist resorts, and the search for mineral wealth in the seas—pushing them away from their fishing grounds.

We must learn from history and not just start exploiting the ocean resources full-scale without proper safeguards—with social, environmental and benefit-sharing regulations in place. We stand to lose not only one of Earth's most valuable ecosystems and suffer a great deal as a consequence, but also to miss out on the opportunity to make this development contribute to poverty alleviation and improve the livelihoods of those most in need.

All of us working to advocate for the rights of small-scale fishers should seize this unique opportunity to influence all possible spaces where the ocean is discussed; most important of all right now, to influence international legislation. And it is not only the BBNJ negotiations, but also the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework under the CBD that are currently taking place—; there is still room for influencing these.

Fair oceans governance

Share your views with your governments, attend the negotiations, and raise awareness of the significant role of small-scale fisheries. Catch this moment and contribute to a sustainable and fair oceans governance that leaves no one behind.

For more



<https://www.iied.org/event-towards-inclusive-blue-economy>

Towards an inclusive blue economy

<https://swed.bio/>

SwedBio

A Heavy Price

The cyclonic wind that swept through the shores of the Indian state of Odisha in the wake of Cyclone Fani have razed the livelihoods of many fisherfolk

54

On 3 May 2019, as Cyclone Fani swept through the coast of Odisha on the eastern seaboard of India, many homes were either badly damaged or completely shattered. Thousands of trees were uprooted. Most businesses and infrastructure were also destroyed, including the fishing industry, which is the economic backbone of the state's fisherfolk community of around 600,000-strong.

Fani affected over 200,000 fisherfolk. About 11,000 fishing vessels anchored along the Odisha coast were damaged in the gusty winds under the influence of the cyclonic storm. Many fishing vessels collided with one another and many were tossed over, said Prasan Behera, secretary of the Odisha Traditional Fish Workers' Union (OTFWU).

Hundreds of houses in the fishing hamlets were damaged and, as a result, large numbers of fisherfolk are now living under the open sky, added Behera.

"We underestimated the intensity of Cyclone Fani and paid a heavy price," said Apala Raju, a fisherman

Paradip, Kharinashi and other areas. Penthakota, with a population of 15,000, was the worst-affected fishing village in Odisha, said Iswar Rao, a local marine fisherman.

In a bid to conserve fish stocks at sea during the breeding period, the government of Odisha had imposed restrictions on fishing by mechanized fishing vessels from 15 April to 14 June in the state. The 60-day-long fishing ban had stopped all fishing activities in fish-landing centres and fishing hamlets, as large numbers of fishers and fishworkers had gone to their villages in Andhra Pradesh and other areas, leaving behind their fishing vessels and gear in the fishing hamlets. These boats got damaged in the cyclone, said P Aparra, a fisherman of Penthakota.

The Odisha state government has announced a compensation of Rs 9,600 for each damaged boat and Rs, 2,600 for damaged fishing nets. These are not expected to cover the cost of even minor repairs, said M Suribaba, a fisherman of Penthokata.

The gales of wind that swept through the shores have razed the livelihoods of many fisherfolk. Electricity has not been restored and people have very little access to drinking water even a week after the cyclone, said M Jagadish of Penthakota fishing village.

"I renovated my fishing boat by spending around Rs 50,000 two weeks ago during the fishing holiday period. As ill luck would have it, my vessel was damaged in the cyclone," said Ramana Rao, a fisherman of Chandrabhaga fishing village. "Fani damaged my boat and my house all at the same time," said 45-year-old Gopi of Chandrabhaga. "Our thatched house was damaged in the cyclone. Now we are staying in a nearby school," said Durga Ma, a fisherwoman of Penthakota.

A large number of fishermen suffered heavy losses for not taking precautionary measures to keep the fishing boats safely away from the beach.

in Penthakota fishing hamlet in Puri district. Raju was not alone. A large number of fishermen suffered heavy losses for not taking precautionary measures to keep the fishing boats safely away from the beach.

Fishing vessels were damaged in Penthakota, Chadrabhaga, Chilika,

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Cyclone Fani affected over 200,000 fisherfolk. About 11,000 fishing vessels anchored along the Odisha coast were damaged in the gusty winds under the influence of the cyclonic storm

“Cyclone Fani crossed Puri with wind speeds of 175 kmph. On May 3 it destroyed and damaged thousands of fishing vessels and related infrastructure, causing a loss of over Rs 110 million as per our preliminary survey. Up to 6,390 fishing vessels were damaged in the cyclone in the state; 4,620 fishing vessels in Puri, 1,514 in Chilika, 78 in Kendrapara, 76 in Jagatsinghpur, 54 in Balasore and 48 fishing vessels in Bhadrak. About 7,240 fishing nets have been damaged. Fish-landing centres at Markandi in Ganjam district, Saran in Puri district, Bandara in Jagatsinghpur district, the fishing harbour in Paradip, fishing jetties at Jamboo, Kharinashi and Talacua in Kendrapada district have been damaged by Fani. Hundreds of boats are lying scattered on the beach. The fisherfolk are helping us in our work,” said Pratap Ranjan Rout, joint director of Fisheries (coastal) Department of Odisha.

“Our department is preparing support measures for fisherfolk, providing essential fisheries inputs and assisting in the repair of damaged fishing vessels and damaged fishery

infrastructure. It is the fighting spirit and the past experience of the fisherfolk in many seaside fishing hamlets that made them leave their coastal homes to safer places to save their lives. Around 41 persons died in Fani, but no fisherfolk have so far been reported dead in the state in this cyclone.”

For more



<https://www.icsf.net/samudra-news-alert/articledetail/58452:cyclone-fani--the-worst-is-over,-but-picking-up-the-pieces-won%E2%80%99t-be-easy.html?language=EN>

The worst is over, but picking up the pieces won't be easy

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert/articledetail/58431-Cyclone-Fani-hi.html?language=EN>

Cyclone Fani hits Indian coast, a million people evacuated

<https://dc.icsf.net/en/component/dcnews/articledetail/13860.html>

Fishermen vulnerable due to frequent cyclonic events

Paradise Lost?

The hellish expansion of salmon farming in Chile's Patagonia could threaten a hundred years of Chile-Norway relations

56

It is said that if there is such a thing as a salmon farming heaven, it is in Norway; whilst if there is a hell, it is in Chile. The South American country displays the worst labour standards globally for this industry. Between July 2013 and January 2019, it killed 31 of its workers. Its sanitary and environmental records are abysmal, with an abusive use of antibiotic and anti-parasite treatments, a mega-crisis of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) virus, successive noxious and toxic algal blooms, massive dumping of dead fish into the sea and antifouling paints into lakes and rivers, along with the sinking of salmon well-boats, to name but a few of its problems.

King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway visited Chile in March 2019 in response to an invitation of the Chilean President, Sebastián Piñera, to commemorate 100 years of diplomatic relations between the countries.

The monarch arrived with a delegation of 60 investors who, along with the Minister of foreign affairs Ine Eriksen Soreide, and fisheries minister Harald T Nesvik, met with a wide range of state sectors, entrepreneurs and

Chile is Norway's second-most important investment market in South America. The 60 companies in Chile make Norway the largest foreign investor in Chilean industrial fisheries and salmon aquaculture.

Together, both countries control 70 per cent of the world's supply of fattened salmon, giving the Norwegian financial system and companies a major role in the current cycle of salmon farming's territorial expansion, designed to achieve annual production levels of 1.2 mn tonnes of salmon by 2032, concentrated in the biodiversity-rich and pristine ecosystems of Chilean Patagonia.

The visit of the Norwegian delegation included the staging of a Chile-Norway business leaders' summit, which featured Alf-Helge Aarskog, the executive director of the ill-reputed transnational company Marine Harvest (recently renamed Mowi), and José Ramón Gutiérrez, executive director of Multiexport Foods, 25 per cent-owned by the Japanese transnational Mitsui. Also in attendance were the directors of the industry umbrella organization, Salmón de Chile, and the executives of its technical branch, the Instituto Tecnológico del Salmón (Intesal).

King Harald V and Queen Sonja's visit to Chile's Patagonian region—formal protocol, scientific and pro-salmon lobbying aspects aside—is of enormous symbolic and strategic value for Norwegian polar interests and policy.

Currently, the vast salmon industry is in the process of active territorial expansion in the Magallanes region, with an exponential growth in production...

National production

Currently, the vast salmon industry is in the process of active territorial expansion in the Magallanes region, with an exponential growth in production which has risen from 68,000 tonnes in 2016 to 85,000 tonnes in 2018. It is projected to reach 140,000 tonnes in 2014, substantially contributing

eminent persons from the world of culture. They also visited Punto Arenas and Puerto Williams in the Magallanes and Antarctic regions, where Antarctic and oceanic co-operation agreements were on the agenda, which are key areas of Norwegian geopolitical interest in the Southern hemisphere.

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to the goal of achieving the national production of 1.2 mn tonnes by 2032.

In a synchronized manner, the Norwegian state also seeks to extend and consolidate its presence in the waters of Argentina's Patagonian region, as demonstrated by King Harald V's visit to the Casa Rosada. During this visit, a co-operation agreement was signed by the Agro-industry Ministry with Innovation Norway to carry out a feasibility study over 2018 and 2019 on establishing industrial monoculture of salmon in the Beagle channel and the coast of Santa Cruz, Tierra del Fuego.

The salmo-industrialisation of Patagonia seeks to open up new environmentally and sanitary pristine areas to Norwegian investment, allowing this billion-dollar export-oriented industry undisturbed growth, which, in the case of Chile, will rise above 5 bn dollars annually.

As is widely known, these pristine sanitary conditions are being rapidly degraded in the adjoining Lakes (Los Lagos) and Aysen regions, where intensive salmon operations for 40 years have provoked a series of sanitary, environmental and social crises. Annual production today has reached levels of 800,000 tonnes of salmon, of which 98 per cent is exported.

As is to be expected, these dodgy agreements with Norway for salmon expansion are provoking a wide-scale rejection amongst political and social groups, citizens and environmental organizations, and Kawésqar y Yaganes communities, along with chefs and scientists. Both in Chile and Argentina, these groups are warning about the

potential sanitary and environmental impacts that the massive introduction of these carnivorous species from the Northern hemisphere could have on the pristine waters of South American Patagonia, taking into consideration the four decades of disastrous sanitary and environmental experiences in the Chiloé archipelago.

The process of expanding Norwegian investment in the salmon industry highlights the application of double environmental, sanitary, labour and social standards in Chile. A case in point is Mowi/Marine Harvest, the largest producer and exporter of salmon in the world, which acts as if the South of Chile is the 'Wild West'.

In July 2018, from its fattening centre located in Punta Redonda, 670,000 salmon escaped in the commune of Calbuco. The Chilean Economy Ministry pointed out that Mowi/Marine Harvest is the company with the largest number of salmon escapees in Chilean waters, having registered 50 events over the last eight years, involving a total of 2 mn salmon escaping into vulnerable coastal-marine ecosystems and rivers in the Lakes (Los Lagos) region.

Escaped salmon

In the 2018 escape, Mowi/Marine Harvest violated article 118 of the General Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture by not recapturing 10 per cent of the escaped salmon. In parallel, they asked the artisanal fishers of Puerto Montt to catch illegally the escaped salmon that were in the sea, which also violates the fisheries law.

A citizens' campaign to boycott industrially fattened salmon

Citizens' organizations, and coastal and indigenous communities have launched a campaign for an international boycott of the consumption of chemical salmon from industrial fattening in south Chile. Their aim is to defend life in Chilean seas, rivers, fjords and lakes, and to protect public health in the face of the growing threat of bacterial resistance provoked by the sub-standard practices of the salmon industry.

Chilean citizens welcomed the opportunity provided by the visit of King Harald and Queen Sonja to publicize the citizens' fight against the bad practices and double standards of Norwegian salmon companies in Chile.

They informed international public opinion about the urgent need to monitor and scrutinise the unethical behaviour of the salmon industry, as also to press for halting the destruction of aquatic biodiversity in Patagonia, one of the last pristine regions of the planet, home to the last canoeing Kawesqar and Yaganes communities, survivors of the genocide carried out by the nation states of Chile and Argentina about a century ago.

The campaigners reminded that the Nordic royalty, its citizens and its social movements can no longer remain indifferent to this new process of environmental destruction, genocide and cultural assimilation being pushed by large salmon companies in Patagonia owned by Chilean, Norwegian, Japanese, Canadian, German and Chinese capital.

For details see: www.salmonquimicofuera.cl

PATRICIO MELILLANCA/ECOCEANOS



58

March for the Defense of Water and Territories, Santiago, Chile in April 2019. Citizens' organizations, and coastal and indigenous communities have launched a campaign for an international boycott of the consumption of chemical salmon from industrial fattening in south Chile

What is more, they tried to cheat the Chilean government by providing false documents stemming from the irregular payment of 32 mn pesos to leaders and artisanal fishers, who had lied to a lawyer, swearing that they had undertaken an alleged 'recovery' of fish, amounting to 32,000 individual escaped Atlantic salmon from the areas surrounding the Mowi/Marine Harvest fattening centre.

Following denouncements from the Chilean Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (Sernapesca) and the Chilean Navy, an investigation was carried out by the Environmental Authority (SMA) and charges were made against this Norwegian company for infractions classified as extremely serious, constituting irreparable environmental damage.

In its turn, Nova Austral, one of the main salmon operators in the Magallanes Region, owned by Bain Capital and Altor of Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish origin, is in a process of mergers and acquisitions towards doubling its current production to reach 40,000 tonnes by 2021.

Attention must also be drawn to the two audits carried out by the

Comptroller General of the Republic in 2016 for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Subsecretariat (Subpesca), which showed that between 2013 and 2015, up to 53 per cent of the salmon-fattening centres in Magallanes reported a lack of dissolved oxygen in the water around the perimeters of the of the raft-cages, especially those belonging to the company Nova Austral. This problem arises from the excessive nitrogen and phosphorous levels caused by the very high levels of organic pollution generated by the salmon faeces and uneaten feed that builds up on the seabed.

For more

<https://www.eldesconcierto.cl/2019/03/27/amenazara-la-destructiva-expansion-de-la-industria-salmonera-los-cien-anos-de-relaciones-chileno-noruega/>
¿Amenazará la destructiva expansión de la industria salmonera los cien años de relaciones chileno-noruega?

Welcome, JOHAR!

A World Bank-funded loan project has been developed in the Indian state of Jharkhand to enhance and diversify household incomes for targeted beneficiaries through fish culture

Jharkhand is one of India's poorest states. Its poverty rate is the highest in the country after Chhattisgarh's, with 37 per cent of the population below the poverty line. The average rate of decline in poverty in Jharkhand up to 2012 was 0.9 per cent per year—much slower than in the rest of India's rate of 4.8 per cent per year. A female literacy rate of 55 per cent is much lower than the rest of India's rate of 65 per cent. Malnourishment is a serious problem; 47 per cent of the children under five years are stunted, about 42 per cent are underweight and 16 per cent are wasted. More than 70 per cent of women and about 67 per cent of adolescent girls in the state are anaemic. Most households lack basic access to water and sanitation.

Agriculture provides employment to more than 60 per cent of the working population in rural areas; 63 per cent of the farmers have marginal land holding, averaging at 0.52 ha per head.

Agricultural production in Jharkhand can be characterized as poor and marginal. Farmers are unorganised and generally unaware of market opportunities. Most operate at a subsistence level of low surplus and rely on agents in the local markets (*haats*). Most of the marginal and small-scale farmers raise one crop in a year that is rain-fed, leaving them highly vulnerable to climate change. Recent droughts in the state resulted in crop losses of 40 per cent.

It is against this background that the Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth (JOHAR) project was launched. 'Johar' is a greeting in the local tribal language. The project comes under the umbrella of the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society and targets over 200,000 rural households formed into

3,500 farmer producer groups (PGs), based on women's self-help groups (SHGs). The World Bank funds this six-year loan project designed to enhance and diversify household incomes in select farm and non-farm sectors for targeted beneficiaries in the project areas of Jharkhand.

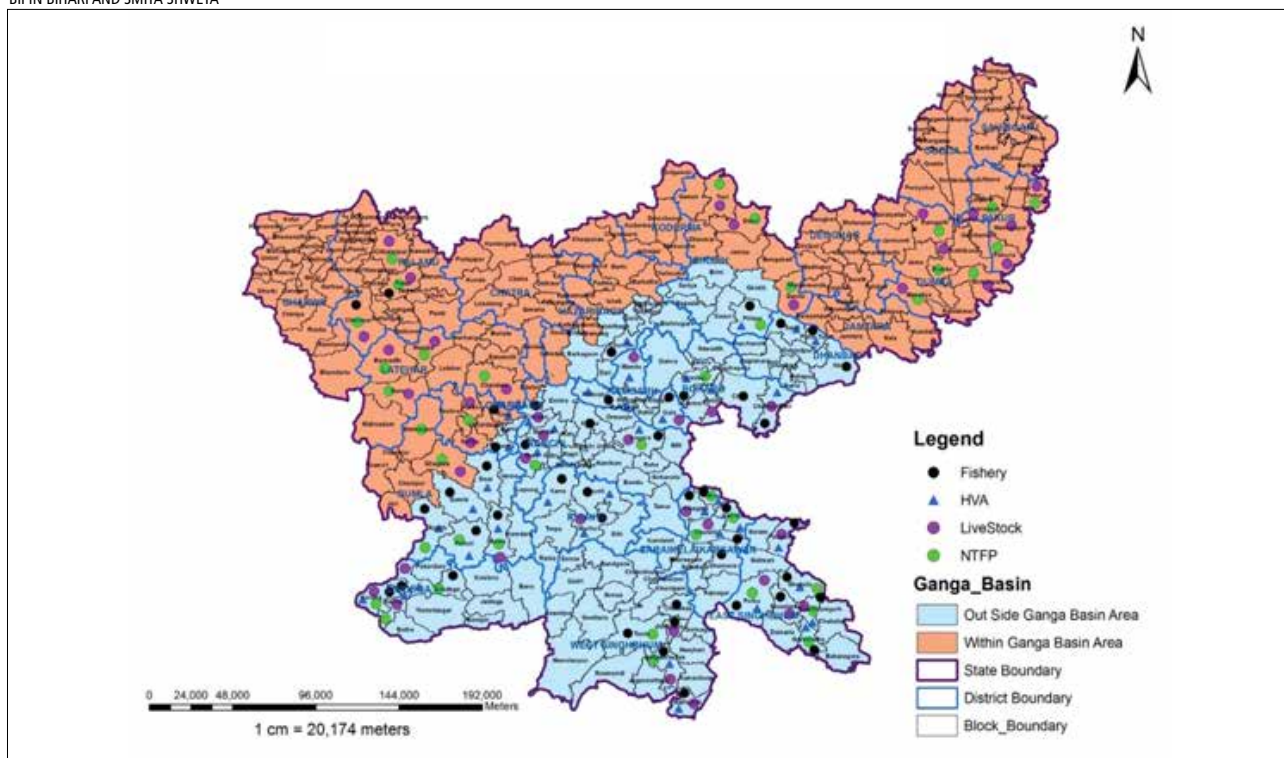
The target households are a sub-set of the SHG households supported by the National Rural Livelihood Programme (NRLP). These women SHG members come predominantly from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households that are either landless or have small land holdings; they are spread across 17 districts and 68 blocks of Jharkhand.

The project aims to help develop climate-resilient agriculture by focusing on year-round cultivation of vegetables, diversifying into new, high-yielding varieties of pulses and oilseeds. The project will also demonstrate resilient technologies for improving productivity and reducing climate risk in paddy cultivation, promote community-based micro-irrigation, and support the PGs to move into value-added sectors like livestock, fisheries and non-timber forest produce.

Water bodies

The fisheries and aquaculture sector in Jharkhand, principally comprising capture fisheries in large water bodies and fish culture, is viable and productive. Despite recurrent droughts, there is a large number of perennial and seasonal water bodies, which are increasing as water conservation programmes construct more small ponds (*dhobhas*) throughout the state. The popular fish species consumed here range from Indian major carp to indigenous species such as the local clarias catfish (*maghur/moghli*) and

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Composite map of revised JOHAR blocks. The 122 blocks in the state were ranked based on a set of criteria that included presence of mature community institutions, intensity of production in selected sub-sectors, proximity to markets, and access to public infrastructure

60

Fish culture provides considerable opportunities for improving the income and livelihood of the rural poor in Jharkhand.

climbing perch (*anabas/koi*). The fisheries sector has significant potential in the form of ponds, tanks, reservoirs, farm ponds and rivers. Enhancing fish

- Access infrastructure facilities for collective actions

In the long term, it is expected that the production surplus from the PGs will be marketed through Producer Organizations (POs). These are formal institutions that provide effective agriculture extension services to farmers, develop processes and systems for collection, processing, value addition and marketing.

Fish culture provides considerable opportunities for improving the income and livelihood of the rural poor in Jharkhand. It is especially suitable for risk-averse, low-income households with access to a water body. There is potential for incremental increases in productivity and profitability, which can be made with relatively simple technical improvements. The turnover in fish culture is rapid, with a seasonal crop taking six to seven months for harvest; monthly crops are possible in seed nursing operations. These production systems are suitable for the seasonal tanks typical in the state. With relatively low investment and high returns, fish culture can strengthen

production can generate employment, improve nutrition and reduce poverty. JOHAR is establishing PGs at the village level. These informal groups bring together farmers to deal with mutual objectives like market access issues, in general, and production-related issues, in particular. The PGs undertake, broadly, the following functions:

- Aggregate the produce
- Generate collective demands for inputs and procurement
- Seek better technology services to enhance productivity
- Source finances, and leverage benefits of government schemes

livelihood sources for the rural poor in Jharkhand.

Despite these opportunities, the fisheries sector in the state faces a number of challenges that constrain fishing and fish culture and, in turn, the development of the livelihoods of the rural poor. They include:

- Low fish productivity of seasonal water bodies
- Limited seed supply
- Large number of private tanks remaining unutilised for aquaculture
- Constraints on accessibility to formulated feed and supplemental agri-byproducts as pond feed inputs
- Weak extension support, especially for technology transfer to fish farmers
- Limited marketing channels and expensive harvesting arrangements
- Lack of access to credit for operational inputs to intensify production
- Lack of insurance support
- Risk-averse nature of poorer farmers and inexperience in entrepreneurship
- Need for appropriate pro-poor policy for enhancing access to, and use of, water bodies for fish production

To meet ambitious fishery growth targets and demand, there is a need to greatly increase the number of ponds being brought under culture and improve productivity from intensified culture. This requires a major boost to ongoing programmes to impact a

broader range of potential fish farmers state-wide. The distributed nature of water bodies in the state offers considerable opportunities to increase rural income generation through improved fish production and more effective marketing of fish products in a relatively low-risk manner.

As part of JOHAR, the goal of the fishery sector sub-component is to increase the capacity of smaller-scale producers and empower them to engage in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities to increase household income and improve the resilience of their livelihoods.

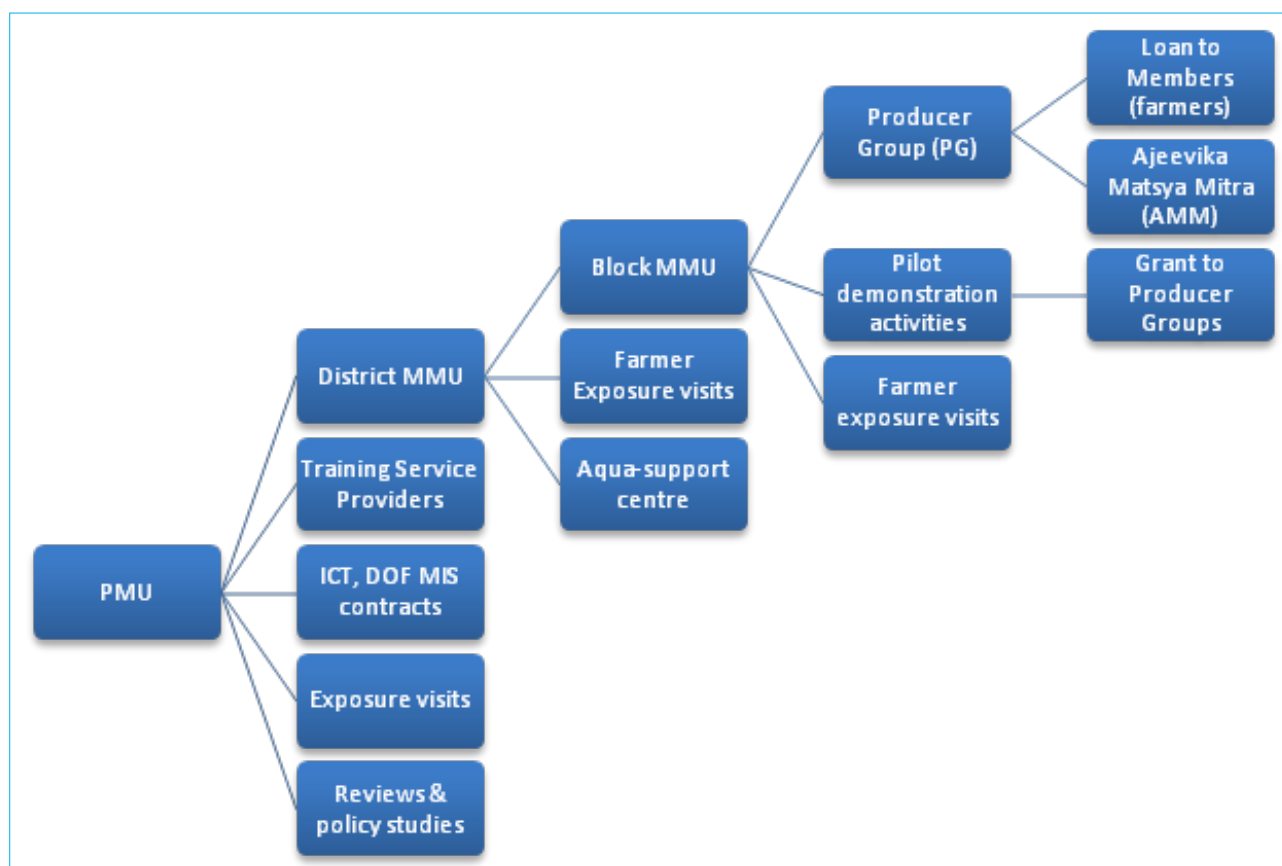
The approach of using PGs linked to savings SHGs as an entry point offers the opportunity to link credit provision to improved production techniques, thereby filling a gap that currently exists in access to rural credit.

The JOHAR objective is, therefore, to promote economic transformation of rural households by enhancing productivity and income generation from fish-production systems. This is sought to be achieved through:

- Strengthening or building robust, sustainable fishery producer groups (Farmer Producer Organisations);
- Introducing improved fish culture techniques and access to credit, which will give incremental increases in production over three crop cycles; and

Particulars	Unit	Unit Cost	Funding arrangement	JOHAR		BEN	
				Per acre	Half acre	Per acre	Half acre
Pond improvement (pond rehabilitation & maintenance)	acre	1250	BANK (63%), BEN (10%)	1125	562.5	125	62.5
Basic pond equipment (Plankton net, pH indicator, Sechhi disc)	farmer	1000	BANK (63%), BEN (10%)	900	900	100	100
Input cost for fish production (Manure, Feed, Seed)	acre	38000	BEN (35%), BANK (45.5%)	24700	12350	13300	6650
Total				26725	13812.5	13525	6812.5
Support for Harvesting & Marketing of produce	PG	20000					

Guidelines for disbursement of fisheries fund in PGs



Operational Structure

- Organising and co-ordinating with markets to improve producers' capacity to market their production so as to ultimately transition towards small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The fisheries sub-component aims to strengthen the capacity of fish seed producers and bring new ponds and farmers into fish production. State-wide bottlenecks in availability of fish seed are also addressed through improving access to seed, development of farmer-based fry production and strengthening the state's spawn production capacity.

JOHAR targets women SHG members who already have existing ventures, or those who express an interest in starting fishery-related livelihood activities. All the direct beneficiaries of JOHAR are women. The project training and capacity building of women's groups will focus on productivity enhancement, sustainable access to credit, and the use of information communication technology

(ICT) for monitoring, improvement in marketing and overall sector development, including policy reforms. Alongside empowering women's groups to enter or improve fish culture, the sub-component also supports the development of technical advisory capacity and enhanced accessibility to state fishery support programmes at district and block levels through improvement of the state Department of Fisheries (DOF) training curricula.

Among the challenges faced by the women PG members are: acquiring ownership of community ponds; theft; seasonality of water bodies; siting of ponds beyond the homestead; and disputes among the members.

Skill development

Aqua-support centres have been developed in district fisheries offices to impart training and upgrade the skills of the community-level fishery para-professionals ('Ajeevika Matsya Mitra' or AMM). The formation of

PGs also enables access to credit, services, training, knowledge and skill development provided by the DOF, other line departments and NGO partners.


The PGs:

- Enable women's groups to organise to access community water bodies and reservoirs for fish culture;
- Help build capacity to act as fry producing clusters to supply advanced fingerlings;
- Build capacity for stocking private and community ponds for improved fish production;
- Use private water bodies, community water bodies and ponds dug under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);
- Facilitate training of members in improved fish culture;
- Assist small producers to access seed for stocking and feeds;
- Act as a linkage to the feed supply chain and procurement clusters, eventually ordering from suppliers of agri-byproducts like oil cakes and rice bran from local SMEs; and
- Act as harvesting/marketing groups to take advantage of the increased production from pond and reservoir cage producers.

After one year of intensive organisation, JOHAR has formed 484 PGs, covering 6,000 households, and 3,500 women have been trained in fish culture at the village-level training programme. Increasingly, pen culture in larger water bodies will be explored as a way of enabling SHG women to access water bodies for fish culture. Models for small pond fish culture are also being developed to increase income from seasonal *dhobhas* (ditches) and small water bodies. The long-term target is to create 1,400 PGs covering up to 34,500 households.

The adoption of methods to improve fish production requires access to zero- or low-interest credit to improve fish ponds and procure inputs. The PGs act as the project vehicle for provision of loans to producers to cover the increased costs of the operational inputs required to improve productivity and increase incomes from fish production.

Ultimately, the JOHAR project, once fully implemented, will:

- Ensure that women are involved, for the first time, in fish farming;
- Utilize 30 per cent of the water bodies/*dobhas* now lying derelict;
- Involve landless and marginal farmers in fish farming, using community pond/reservoir pen culture;
- Double incomes;
- Establish an improved skill base amongst target farmers and fisheries para-professionals (AMMs);
- Strengthen the fishery information system of the DOF and JOHAR to provide post-project support to project beneficiaries for their existing schemes and institutional arrangements; and
- Make fish culture—currently an allied secondary agricultural activity of the farmers of Jharkhand—the primary activity as women's PGs become more confident and realise the potential of fish culture. 

For more



<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/net-profit-52597>

Jharkhand taps its dam reservoirs and ponds to boost fish production as well as livelihood

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/coversage/orphans-of-the-river-14068>

Orphans of the river

Ecology and Equity

The UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, showed that sustainable development of fishing communities and participatory conservation of marine biodiversity are compatible

64

The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held on 17-29 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Being the penultimate conference before meeting the deadline of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted in Japan a decade ago, there was a lot at stake: Could the parties be rallied to deliver on their commitments under the Aichi Targets? Could they start developing an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will not only meet the Convention's objectives of conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing, but also address the challenges presented by climate change to the health of our planet?

The Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets had five broad goals: (i) to mainstream biodiversity across society and sectors; (ii) promote sustainable use; (iii) safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; (iv) enhance benefits to all from nature; and (v) promote participatory planning,

inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The latter target has received more attention, presumably because it is quantifiable and because fisheries management is the mandate of other agencies of the United Nations (UN).

Protected areas currently cover 15 per cent of terrestrial and 7.6 per cent of the seas and oceans/marine areas. A total of 14,830 marine protected areas (MPAs) cover nearly 27.5 mn sq km of the world's seas and oceans, an area larger than the North American continent. But these areas are not evenly distributed, leaving out several important sites for biodiversity. For example, 20 of the largest MPAs cover over 60 per cent of the total protected area.

More importantly, as countries rush to meet percentages, effective or equitable management of these areas has often been lacking, as acknowledged by the recently released Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Indigenous peoples' territories are estimated to coincide with 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and yet, they govern less than 0.6 per cent of all reported protected areas (land and sea). Over time, a large body of research has emerged on protected-area management effectiveness and the need for outcome-oriented targets that ensure the active participation, and the free, prior and informed consent, of indigenous people and local communities (IPLC).

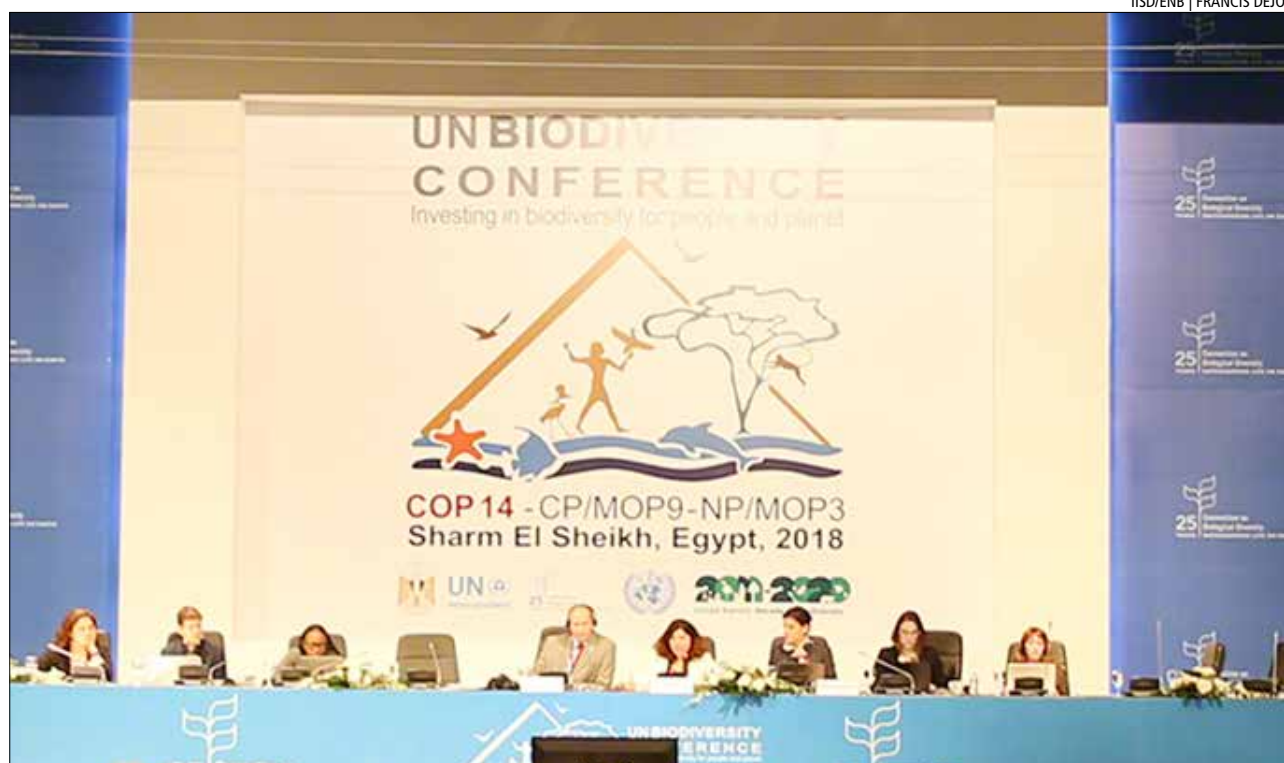
A total of 14,830 marine protected areas (MPAs) cover nearly 27.5 mn sq km of the world's seas and oceans, an area larger than the North American continent.

knowledge management and capacity building. On aquatic biodiversity, there are two concrete conservation targets: Target 6 – to manage and sustainably harvest marine fauna and flora, to avoid overfishing and minimize impacts to species and ecosystems; and Target 11 – to conserve 17 per cent of terrestrial and

SSF Guidelines

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty

*This report is by **Manas Roshan** (icsf@icsf.net), Programme Officer, ICSF, India and **Vivienne Solis Rivera** (vsolis@coopsolidar.org), Member, ICSF and Director, CoopSolidar, R.L. Costa Rica*



Plenary of Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations, Egypt, 2018. In the agenda items on coastal and marine biodiversity, COP14 discussed protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) recommend that communities be involved in the design and management of protected areas.

The gradual recognition of these principles was reflected in the agenda items on coastal and marine biodiversity at the Conference in Egypt: on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM); on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA); and on the impacts of marine litter, pollution and deep-seabed mining on coastal and marine biodiversity.

One of the big decisions at this conference was the adoption of the following definition of OECMs: “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socioeconomic, and other locally relevant, values.”

In fact, the Convention already calls on parties to respect, preserve

and maintain the practices of IPLCs contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Article 8j – in effect, an articulation of customary rights to resources). But States have been sluggish in implementing these provisions. To define OECMs – a term in use since 2010 – is thus to recognize IPLCs as rights holders and actors in the conservation and management of their territories. This can only bear fruit if States create an enabling environment, respect and protect the rights of IPLCs, and recognize and strengthen customary tenure systems. Such a commitment would make the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework truly participatory.

Governance diversity

Thus, it is a positive sign that the decision on protected areas and OECMs contains some of the clearest assertion of tenure rights and equity in the governance of these areas. Criteria developed for the designation of OECMs clearly differentiate them from protected areas – the former can have a wide range of management objectives

so long as the area delivers the effective in situ conservation (in the natural habitat or ecosystem) of biodiversity. The recognition of governance diversity – including by governments, by private entities, co-management arrangements and indigenous territories – allows the designation of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCA) and locally managed marine areas (LMMA), among others, as conserved areas. Specific guidance on effective and equitable governance models gives added recognition to traditional knowledge and its incorporation in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

While this is a step forward, it is unclear how States will identify and designate areas with such social, cultural and managerial diversity. For instance, the recently published draft guidelines of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for recognizing and reporting OECMs recommend the inclusion of LMMAs but rule out other fisheries-management measures such as spatial closures and gear restrictions. Would a

adopted the scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas, defined as “geographically or oceanographically discrete areas that provide important services to one or more species/populations of an ecosystem or to the ecosystem as a whole, compared to other surrounding areas or areas of similar ecological characteristics.” It identified several quantitative and qualitative criteria for selecting such areas and since then, 14 regional workshops convened by the CBD Secretariat have described 279 areas (19 per cent of oceanic area) as meeting these criteria.

Although subsequent COPs have emphasized that the identification of EBSAs is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, and that this is strictly a scientific exercise, the fraught discussions in Egypt on this agenda item highlight the limitations of the CBD in marine environments, particularly in the high seas and areas beyond national jurisdiction. Given that several parties to the CBD are not signatories to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), there was some reluctance to accept UNCLOS as the legal framework for all activities in the sea. At the same time, delegates also debated who can modify EBSA descriptions or describe new areas, particularly when these areas spill over the national jurisdiction of multiple states or the high seas. Despite four meetings of a contact group, informal consultations and long session of a Friends of the Chair group, no consensus could be reached in Egypt.

Although the identification of EBSAs is in the hands of governments, who were exclusively focused on issues of sovereignty at this COP, the final decision did highlight the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge in the process of identification and modification of such areas. At COP11 in Hyderabad, India, parties had welcomed a report by the CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice detailing how traditional knowledge of

...the International Seabed Authority, an intergovernmental organization established under UNCLOS, has released its proposals for a draft Mining Code that would allow for commercial exploitation of deep-sea minerals.

reserved zone for artisanal fishers using small-scale, non-towed gear count?

Second, should fishery-dependent IPLCs be worried that an OECM designation will add another bureaucratic entanglement in the management of their resources – how will fisheries and environment authorities co-ordinate?

Third, will OECM designations be maintained and the capacities of IPLCs strengthened, or will they eventually be changed to more narrowly defined protected areas? The CBD Secretariat and the parties will have to reassure communities that their tenure rights and practices will be protected as they determine how to move forward.

In COP9 of the CBD, held in Bonn, Germany in 2008, the parties



Joe Appiott, Co-ordinator, Sustainable Ocean Initiative at Ocean Voices. ICSF and Coopesolidatr, Costa Rica, jointly organized a segment on coastal fishing communities as a Side Event

IPLCs, and social and cultural criteria can be applied to the identification of EBSAs.

Marine debris

A third and final agenda item saw Parties discuss the impacts of marine debris and plastic pollution on marine and coastal biodiversity. It was decided to increase efforts to avoid, minimize and mitigate the impacts of marine debris. As the Global Assessment Report notes, plastic pollution in the oceans has grown ten-fold since the 1980s. After the Egypt conference, this March, the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, adopted a non-binding resolution on marine litter and microplastics, and on single-use plastics. Sadly, an initial proposal to phase out single-use plastic by 2025 was opposed by several nations.

In this session, Parties also addressed the potential impacts of deep-seabed mining on marine biodiversity, and urged Parties to address the potential impacts of deep-sea bed mining on biodiversity. Since then, the International Seabed Authority, an intergovernmental organization established under UNCLOS, has released its proposals for a draft Mining Code that would allow for commercial exploitation of deep-sea minerals.

Major sections of the Code – on environment impact assessments, fee and royalty payments, and benefit sharing – are yet to be negotiated. Moreover, the full impact of seabed mining on marine biodiversity is still to be studied, considering that only a fraction of the world's deep-seabed has been explored.

For more



https://www.icsf.net/images/resources/statements/statements_icsf/171_Joint_Statement_CBD_COP14_2018.pdf

Joint statement by the ICCA Consortium, Global Forest Coalition, ICSF, Friends of the Earth International, Pro Natura (Friends of the Earth Switzerland), Natural Justice, CoopeSoliDar R.L., and Ecoropa on Agenda Item 24 (Spatial planning, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures)

<http://enb.iisd.org/biodiv/cop14/sustainable-ocean-day/>

For information on the 'Ocean Voices' side event, convened by the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative and the CBD Secretariat, on 23 November, 2019 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

<https://youtu.be/MIG-qY6HSRQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-xny2hrd4M&feature=youtu.be>

ICSF and CoopeSoliDar R.L. videos for the 'Ocean Voices' side event

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/75-4253-Mainstreaming-B.html>

Mainstreaming Biodiversity: CBD COP 13

DEEP-SEA MINING

As bad as land mining, say lawyers

Environmental and legal groups warn of potential huge effects from deep-sea mining on indigenous people and the environment. The 'new global gold rush' over deep-sea mining holds the same potential pitfalls as previous resource scrambles, with environmental and social impacts ignored and the rights of indigenous people marginalized, a paper in the Harvard Environmental Law Review has warned.

A framework for deep-sea mining – where polymetallic nodules or hydrothermal vents are mined by machine – was first articulated in the 1960s, on an idea that the seabed floor beyond national jurisdiction was a 'common heritage of mankind'. But exploration has gathered momentum in the past three years, with licences granted off Papua New Guinea's coastlines, and successful mining off Japan late last year. The International Seabed Authority, which is drawing up a draft mining code, has issued 29 exploration contracts for undersea mining in international waters beyond any national jurisdiction.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/18/deep-sea-mining-possibly-as-damaging-as-land-mining-lawyers-say>

RIGHT TO FOOD

Cheap seafood endangers fishworkers right to food: UN expert

Low wages and horrendous working conditions on fishing vessels, fish farms and in processing factories have a serious impact on the everyday lives of the workers' families, Hilal Elver, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food said during her presentation to the Human Rights Council on 28 February 2019.

"Most of the 120 mn people working in the fisheries sector -- often exposed to dangerous conditions and working up to 20 hours a day -- don't earn a living wage. They therefore fail to fulfil their families' basic needs, including food, clothing, housing, education and healthcare," the expert stressed.

Around 24,000 workers in the fish industry die each year, and many more are seriously injured, even permanently. People working in fish farms often face serious health issues due to exposure to toxic chemicals. Yet, they and their families fail to receive compensation as they tend to work informally outside of national labour and social protection schemes, plunging the families into poverty.

Women and children are invisible in the fishing sector. "Women are employed at fish-processing firms, peeling frozen shrimps without any protection for hours a day, in damp settings for minimal wages, most of the time even as unpaid family members," Elver said. "Children, further, are requested to work to help their families in the pursuit of food, but are often exploited as cheap labour on fishing boats, with no consideration to the dangerous nature of the work."

Cases of physical abuse and of labour exploitation in the fishing sector are widespread.

Migrant workers in particular are frequently trafficked and forced to work on fishing boats. "These workers remain trapped at sea for years, without pay or contact with their families," Elver added. "They barely get enough food to eat, and are beaten if the captain thinks they are not working hard enough, or in extreme cases, abandoned in a foreign port or even thrown overboard."

The Special Rapporteur called on States to abide by their legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food of people working in the fisheries sector. In order to do so, they should strengthen the legal protection of those workers, enhance their labour inspections, properly investigate allegations of abuse and ensure that victims of abuses can get appropriate remedies.

"The increasing worldwide demand for widely available cheap seafood, in particular salmon, tuna and shrimp, is a factor in the continuous hunt for cheap labour in the sector," the expert concluded. "Everyone, including consumers, must help to improve the situation of fishery workers, for example, by buying fish grown or captured locally by small-scale fishers."

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24228&LangID=E>

68

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Tambuyog Development Center

Tambuyog Development Center (TDC) or, simply, Tambuyog, is one of the pioneering and leading non-government organizations working on sustainable fisheries and community-based coastal resource management in the Philippines. Founded in 1984, it started doing research and organizing in coastal communities in Lingayen Gulf in Northern Luzon. Tambuyog initiated a knowledge management and advocacy base in the fisheries sector through the establishment of the Community-Based Coastal Resource Management (CBCRM) School, a capability-building programme that aims to develop resource managers from the ranks of municipal fishers nationwide.



The CBCRM approach centers on the role of communities in the management of their resources—too often overlooked by government programmes—and their rights to enjoy the benefits resulting from their collective action.

In Tambuyog's belief, communities ultimately are the best resource managers because they have the greatest stake in the preservation of resources which they depend on for survival. The gap between the ideal and the present capacities to manage remains, though. But through exchange and synergy of indigenous

or local knowledge with scientific investigation, and continuous capacity building and consciousness raising, communities may be able to slowly manifest ownership of the coastal resources. This assertion to 'ownership', 'claim', or 'entitlement'—called community property rights -- is at the heart of Tambuyog's vision of empowering coastal communities and marginalized sectors of the fishing industry.

Since 2002 Tambuyog has expanded its expertise to include fisheries trade issues. It conducted the Sustainable Fisheries and Trade Campaign Project, which was aimed at influencing fisheries trade policies in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international trade negotiations. For 12 years Tambuyog has been the Regional Co-ordinator and Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fish for Justice Network

(SEAFish-J), a regional alliance of 14 NGOs and two national fisherfolk federations from seven countries. The network proffers its perspective and platform on fisheries and coastal concerns in the region and at the global arena.

Tambuyog continues to mark its name in instituting fisheries policy reforms, including in the recent policy amendments of the Philippine Fisheries Code, otherwise known as Republic Act (RA) 10654, through its strategic representation and participation in institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for participatory fisheries governance, such as in the Philippine Council on Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) and the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC).

— by Dinna Lacsamana-Umengan
(dinnaumengan@yahoo.com)

UNPSA

Sustainable Fisheries

Resolution No. 73/125 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 11 December 2018 on “Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments”.

The General Assembly

Reaffirms the importance it attaches to the long-term conservation, management and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas and the obligations of States to cooperate to this end, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular the provisions on cooperation set out in Part V and Part VII, section 2, of the Convention, and where applicable, the Agreement;

Notes with satisfaction that, in “The future we want”,¹² States addressed the sustainable development of fisheries, recognized the significant contribution of fisheries to the three dimensions of sustainable development and stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people, and encourages States to implement the commitments made in “The future we want”;

Calls upon States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, including Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and recalls that the Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible;

Reiterates, in this regard, the call for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development made in the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”;

Also encourages States to promote the consumption of fish sourced from sustainably managed fisheries;

Further encourages States to consider sustainable

aquaculture, consistent with the Code, as a means to promote diversification of the food supply and of income, while ensuring that aquaculture is conducted responsibly and adverse impacts on the environment are minimized;

Notes the concern expressed by the Committee on Fisheries of FAO, at its thirty-third session, with regard to the vulnerability of fisheries and aquaculture communities to climate change and extreme events and, in particular, the impacts on small-scale fisheries and small island developing States, and urges States to consider appropriate action in this regard;

Also encourages States to apply the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures addressing, inter alia, by-catch, pollution and overfishing, and protecting habitats of specific concern, taking into account existing guidelines developed by FAO;

Calls upon, in this regard, States, individually in line with their national legislation or through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, to take steps as appropriate to ensure the safety of observers;

Calls upon States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to collect and, where appropriate, report to FAO required catch and effort data, and fishery-related information, in a complete, accurate and timely way, including for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks within and beyond areas under national jurisdiction, discrete high seas fish stocks, and by-catch and discards; and, where they do not exist, to establish processes to strengthen data collection and reporting by members of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, including through regular reviews of member compliance with such obligations, and, when such obligations are not met, require the member concerned to rectify the problem, including through

the preparation of plans of action with timelines;

Calls upon States to take immediate and concerted action to improve the implementation of and compliance with existing regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements and national measures that regulate shark fisheries and incidental catch of sharks, in particular those measures which prohibit or restrict fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and, where necessary, to consider taking other measures, as appropriate, such as requiring that all sharks be landed with each fin naturally attached;

Urges States to eliminate barriers to trade in fish and fisheries products which are not consistent with their rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization agreements, taking into account the importance of the trade in fish and fisheries products, particularly for developing countries;

Recalls that, in “The future we want”, States committed themselves to observing the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk and women fish workers, as well as indigenous peoples and their communities, particularly in developing countries, especially small island developing States;

Notes that the Committee on Fisheries encouraged FAO to provide capacity-development and technical support to small-scale fisheries, including by addressing socioeconomic, gender dimensions, and post-harvest and data collection challenges in the sector;

Urges States and relevant international and national organizations to provide for the participation of small-scale fishery stakeholders in related policy development and fisheries management strategies in order to achieve long-term sustainability for such fisheries, consistent with the duty to ensure the proper conservation and management of fisheries

resources, and encourages States to consider promoting, as appropriate, participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries in accordance with national laws, regulations and practices, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication of FAO;

Welcomes action taken by FAO and a number of regional organizations to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication through regional plans of action, dedicated working groups and other initiatives;

Welcomes, in this regard, the initiation of further studies by FAO of the impact of industrial fishing activities on species corresponding to low trophic levels;

Invites FAO to assess and consider the potential risk and effects of genetically engineered fish species on the health and sustainability of wild fish stocks and on the biodiversity of the aquatic environment and to provide guidance consistent with the Code, on managing risk and minimizing harmful impacts in this regard;

Calls upon States to consider potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise from different activities in the marine environment and to address and mitigate such impacts, taking into account the best available scientific information, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches, as appropriate.

Source: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/125>

The ICSF Statement at the 4th Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UNFSA on 2 May 2019 at the United Nations can be accessed at:

https://www.icsf.net/images/resources/papers_presentations/ICSF_statement_ICP_14_New_York_02May19.pdf_130.pdf

INFOLOG: NEW RESOURCES AT ICSF

Publications

IPBES' 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Prepared by 150 leading international experts from 50 countries, balancing representation from the natural and social sciences, with additional contributions from a further 250 experts, working with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will inform better policies and actions in the coming decade.

<https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-preview>

The flexibility clauses of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188): Working Paper No. 315

Flexibility aims at facilitating widespread acceptance of the Convention by permitting to adapt, where necessary and under specific conditions, the level of protection afforded by the Convention to particular national practices and circumstances.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_618563.pdf

Letters from the Mekong: Toward a Sustainable Water-Energy-Food Future in Cambodia

Each year, the entire Mekong Basin produces a 2.6 mn tonnes freshwater fish catch that supports the diets and livelihoods of more than 60 mn people living in the basin. The Tonle Sap Lake alone provides an annual freshwater fish catch of around 500,000 tonnes, which provides Cambodians with 75 per cent of their protein intake.

<https://www.stimson.org/sites/default/files/file-attachments/WEB-FEB-Cambodia%20Report.pdf>

Gender Analysis: Ghana's Artisanal Fisheries 2019

Women play a vital part in Ghana's fisheries as business owners and fishmongers, yet have little say against the illegal fishing methods that are damaging their livelihoods. This gender report, co-authored by Hen Mpoano and the Environmental Justice Fund under the Far Dwuma Nkldo project, provides a close look at the gender dynamics of the artisanal fisheries sector.

<https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/Ghana-GENDER-ANALYSIS-2019-final.pdf>

Report of the Special Rapporteur on fishery workers and the right to food (A/HRC/40/56)

First, the report details the essential role that fishery workers play in contributing to the food security and nutrition of others, thus enabling the greater realization of the right to food. Secondly, it discusses the unique barriers that fishery workers face to the enjoyment of their own human rights, specifically the right to food, with special attention to vulnerable groups of fishery workers, including women, children, migrants and indigenous communities. Finally, it focuses on the obligations of States under international legal frameworks and the potential contribution of the private sector, international and regional organizations and consumers to enabling the realization of the right to food of fishery workers in a changing global food system.

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/40/56>

FLASHBACK

Looking beyond Fisheries

This issue of *SAMUDRA Report* carries seven articles—including two extracts—that report on modest to well-attended workshops for raising awareness and for supporting implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

They were held in different places—ranging from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific—within a time span of eight months during 2015-16 at the regional, national and local levels, and



were organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional bodies, fisheries projects, national governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Nearly 600 participants representing various stakeholders from over 50 countries, mostly developing countries, attended these workshops.

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

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

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

— from *SAMUDRA Report* No. 73, April 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

People and the Sea Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 25-28 June 2019

The Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) is preparing its 10th international People and the Sea Conference that will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on June 25-28, 2019.

<http://www.marecentre.nl/2019-people-the-sea-conference/>

10th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (FI-702), Norway, Trondheim, 22 August 2019 - 26 August 2019

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41140/en>

17th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (FI-709), Spain, Vigo, 25 November 2019 - 29 November 2019

www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41152/en

Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, 25 - 29 November 2019, Montreal, Canada

<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-22>

WEBSITE

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/ecosystem-based-fishery-management-implementation-plans-released>

NOAA Fisheries released nine implementation plans that identify priority actions and milestones for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management nationally and regionally for the next five years. Each plan identifies milestones for a specified geographic area.

These milestones will help the agency meet sustainable fisheries goals under multiple mandates by more holistically considering social, economic and biological trade-offs across fisheries.



Endquote

The Fisherman

*The fisherman goes out at dawn
When every one's abed,
And from the bottom of the sea
Draws up his daily bread.*

*His life is strange; half on the shore
And half upon the sea –
Not quite a fish, and yet not quite
The same as you and me.*

*The fisherman has curious eyes;
They make you feel so queer,
As if they had seen many things
Of wonder and of fear.*

*He knows so much of boats and tides,
Of winds and clouds and sky !
But when I tell of city things,
He sniffs and shuts one eye !*

— Abbie Farwell Brown

