

Latin American and the Caribbean Workshop - IYAFA 2022 Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries

Report



2 - 5 November, 2022

State Park of Cardoso Island, Cananéia, São Paulo, Brazil

Report prepared by **Ligia M. Rocha, Sivaja K Nair and Janani Ganesan**

Organized by

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Comissão Nacional de Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas (CONFREM)

Instituto Linha D'Água and

Associação de Moradores Itacuruçá Pereirinha (AMOIP)





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Front Cover

Artisanal fishermen from communities of Itacuruça and Pereirinha, on Ilha do Cardoso harvesting the fixed seine, demonstrating the fishing gear application to the workshop participants

Front Inside

Participants at the Latin American and Caribbean Workshop – IYAFA 2022, Cananéia, São Paulo, Brazil

Back Inside

Juliana Greco, a sociotechnical advisor for social movements on the south coast of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, producing the graphic facilitation panel for the seminar discussions

Back Cover

Viviane Machado Alves, an artisanal fisherwoman from the Lagoa dos Patos region, in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, fishing using a surface gill net

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List of Abbreviations

ACTIC	Articulation of Traditional Communities at Cardoso Island
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
AMOIP	Association of Residents of the Itacuruçá Pereirinha Community
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
ANP	National Association of Fisherwomen
APA	Environmental Protection Area
BCFA	Bahamas Commercial Fisher Alliance
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolks Organizations
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
CONAPACH	Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile
CONFEPESCAR	Confederation of Caribbean Artisanal Fishermen
CONFREM	National Commission for the Strengthening of Marine Extractive Reserves
CONMECOOP	Mexican Confederation of Fishing and Aquaculture Cooperatives
COP	Conference of Parties
CPP	Fishermen's Pastoral Council
EBSAs	Marine Areas of Biological or Ecological Importance to the Oceans
FACOPADES de RL	Federation of Associations of Artisanal Fisheries Cooperatives in El Salvador
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEDEPESCE	Federation of Artisanal Fishermen and Environmentalists of the Department of Cesar
FENACOPEC	National Federation of Fishing Cooperatives of Ecuador
FENAPESCA	National Federation of Artisanal Fishermen of Guatemala
FIUPAP	Federation for Integration and Unification of Artisanal Fishermen of Peru
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
LDA	Linha D'Água Institute
MPF	Federal Public Ministry (Brazil)
MPP	Fishermen and Fisherwomen Movement
NUPAUB	Center for Support to Research on Human Populations and Brazilian Wetlands

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NFO	National Fisheries Organization
OMECE	Other Area-Based Conservation Measures
RDS	Sustainable Development Reserves
RENAMUPES	National Network of Women Confederation of the Fishing Sector, Aquaculture and Water and Culture Defenders
RESEX	Extractive Reserve (Brazil)
SITRAMAR	Workers' Trade Union of the Sea
SNUC	National System of Conservation Units (Brazil)
UAPA	Argentine Union of Artisanal Fishermen
UC	Conservation Unit
ULAPA	Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishers
UPESABD	Union of Bocatoran Artisanal Fishers
USP	University of São Paulo
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples

DAY 1: 02 NOVEMBER 2022

1. Opening Session

The opening session of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) Latin America and the Caribbean workshop consisted of two activities—the Mystique and Opening Table.

1.1. Mystique

In the Mystique, a ceremonial session, all the participants were asked to stand in a circle and representatives of the local community from the Association of Residents of Itacuruçá Pereirinha Association (AMOIP) guided the participants through the ceremony. The participants had been asked to bring items representing small-scale fisheries (SSF) in their region, and they brought maps



The mystique ceremony from IYAFA LAC opening session

marking local communities, miniature fishing gear, vase with traditional plants, etc. AMOIP invited the participants to introduce themselves, their organization and the objects they had brought to the group. The ceremony represented the unity and diversity of the workshop with representation from 16 different countries.

1.2. Opening Table

The Opening Table served as an official welcome to all the participants. Sergio Carlos Neves, a resident of Cardoso Island and president of AMOIP, opened the session with a welcome address. He introduced the participants to the Itacuruçá Pereirinha on Cardoso Island, which has 11 communities, 9 of which are *caiçara*¹ and indigenous. He was followed by Henrique Kefalás, the coordinator of the Linha D'Água Institute (LDA). Henrique stated that the workshop was an opportunity for AMOIP to reclaim their territory and showcase the potential for communities to do so. He shared his hope that the workshop would allow for productive interactions for the growth of artisanal fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Vivienne Solis Rivera, representing the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), highlighted the global struggle of small-scale artisanal



IYAFAC 2022 Opening Table with Mr. Sergio Neves (AMOIP), Mr. Henrique Kefalás (Instituto Linha D'Água/ ICSF) and Mr. Flavio Lontro (CONFREM) from Brazil, Ms. Vivienne Solis Rivera (CoopeSoliDar/ICSF) from Costa Rica and Ms. Nadine Nembhard (CNFO/WFFP) from Belize

fisheries. Vivienne affirmed that fisherfolk have fundamental rights, such as the right to land, social development and decent work, along with emphasizing that women in the community have rights too. For fisheries, the focus needs to shift from the economy to creating growth in an integrated manner, considering the lives of the families and the collectives who work in the sector. The fight for fishers' rights also has to do with ensuring food security in Latin America and the Caribbean. While criticizing the blue economy agenda, she stated that it didn't prioritize artisanal fisheries. This workshop, Vivienne said, would facilitate and help reinforce that thought. Vivienne thanked her colleagues from Brazil and the local community before inviting Nadine Nembhard, representing the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organization (CNFO) to address the participants

As leaders in SSF, said Nadine, they need to be aware of the challenges of fighting for their rights and for food security in the community. Talking about the challenges of marine pollution, she said that small-scale fishers owe their tools and lives to the ocean, and therefore it was up to the up to them to restore the ocean's dignity. In the felicitation, Flavio Lontro, President of the National Commission for the Strengthening of Marine Extractive Reserves (CONFREM) shared his renewed hope for SSF in the backdrop of political changes in Brazil. Flavio said that IYAFAC 2022 provided a unique platform to the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishers (ULAPA) to continue the fight for fishers' lives. Despite the language differences, he said, ULAPA was there to listen and support all, including the Caribbean delegation. Flavio said that they had recently formed the Ibero American Small-Scale Artisanal Fishery Network, thus expanding the participation of artisanal fishers in the European Union. CONFREM, ULAPA and the Ibero American Network would help create rules that work for Latin American and the Caribbean small-scale fishers, he added.

2. Workshop Guidelines, Programme and Records

In this session, the participants were made aware of the workshop's guidelines and structure. They highlighted the two innovative strategies that were to be used in the coverage of the workshop: Collaborative Audiovisual Coverage (CAC) and Graphic Facilitation. These methods would complement the translation and the production of the final report to make the discussions from the workshop accessible to all.

The CAC is an educational teaching-learning tool that helps build audiovisual products to document arenas where knowledge is shared, gathered and disseminated—in this case, the IYafa 2022 workshop. The CAC’s objectives are:

- to encourage cultural production related to themes discussed in the workshop through a participatory process
- to propose practices that promote active learning, so that participants systematize the knowledge generated in the workshop through audiovisual products.

The CAC training consisted of three skill development modules. The first module dealt with research, script and planning. The second elaborated on production, direction and recording, and discussed the technical knowledge required to execute skills developed in the first module. The third focused on the creation of the final product—the editing and publishing processes to get the video ready for broadcast.

In graphic facilitation, ideas and information discussed in participative gatherings are transformed into visual imagery to help systematize content for easy understanding. The facilitators guided the creation of two real-time narrative panels throughout the workshop, capturing the essence of the discussions visually in real time.

3. Session 1: Small-Scale Fisheries – Context and IYafa 2022 Workshop Expectations

To accommodate the large number of participants and the diversity in languages, participants were split into three groups—Portuguese, Spanish and English speakers. Then, they were asked to share their expectations, main challenges and strategies needed for small-scale fisheries.

3.1. Group Presentations

The Caribbean Group (English)

The Caribbean representatives focused on six main points: women in fisheries, youth in fisheries, recognition of SSF, education and training, networks and governance, and information sharing.

Although women fishers play a big role in fisheries, argued the group members, their contributions are not recognized. This should be corrected and women fishers should be appointed to higher levels in management, roles that are currently held largely by men.

There is a need to create strategies to ensure youth are interested and involved in artisanal fisheries. The profession needs to be incentivized and awareness spread via education and technical schools. It is necessary to highlight the role SSF play in the population’s food security; this will also help overcome cultural stigmas which devalue the profession. During the pandemic, SSF was the only industry operating and generating income, and fishworkers were considered key to ensuring food security. But, when the pandemic subsided, they were forgotten again.

Training and fostering of various skills—including business accounting and management—must be provided to fishers.

It is important to attract women into businesses, foster governance and maintain organizations that represent fishers and create alliances in the region. These networks, partnerships and alliances should extend beyond the IYafa. Organizing SSF on local, national and regional scales to influence governments and public policies is a prime necessity. But the representatives insisted that CNFO should remain apolitical.



The representatives from the Caribbean group makes their presentation in the first session of IYAFA LAC 2022

The representatives hoped that through more workshops like these they would be able to share information on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fishers in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) with fisherfolk across regions. They especially hoped that the workshop would help create a stronger collaboration between the Caribbean and Latin American fisherfolk.

Brazilian Group (Portuguese)

The Brazilian group elaborated on the following themes: political action, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries, privatization, and strengthening the SSF community through alliances, skills training and ground-up policy making.

Contrary to the position of the Caribbean group, the Brazilian representatives emphasized the need for political action. They contextualized the current political climate and how it might affect the artisanal fishing communities in the country. Although the recent election of the new president in Brazil could provide space to artisanal fisheries to air their needs, they have to keep in mind that the Congress and the Chamber of Deputies have a conservative majority, who are likely to support corporatization and homogenization, which exploit artisanal fisheries and destroy their ways of life.

The presenters shared various ways to strengthen the artisanal fishing community:

Training local communities to grow as a group, as opposed to training individuals, is important, which includes education facilities in local communities. In Brazil, the community had learnt a lot during the pandemic and had built a solidarity network to help each other for food and other essentials. It is necessary to ensure these practices are carried forward, shared the participants. The other way to strengthen the community is by promoting alliances and through information dissemination. The presenters encouraged expanding the existing networks and movements throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. They also spoke of the need to promote conversation at different levels, within local communities, small-scale fishers' organizations and others.

Brazil has several organizations that help articulate the needs of artisanal fishers, like the Fishermen and Fisherwomen Movement (MPP) and CONFREM at the national level, and AMOIP and the



The Brazilian group representative shares the group's discussion points in the session

Articulation of the Traditional Communities of Cardoso Island (ACTIC) at the regional and local level. But, the presenters argued, it is also necessary for these organizations to help influence policy at the institutional level, involving governments and universities, among others. The participants argued for institutional political support to be restored and expanded.

This influence on policy making and governance should be achieved through collecting information from the fishing communities to promote a ground-up approach, as opposed to the current policy-making strategies that are divorced from the needs of artisanal fishers.

Moreover, they argued, territorial governance helps protect the interests of communities as well as against exploitation by enterprises like large-scale aquaculture farms and ports, among others. Protected areas, which can be better managed through territorial governance and the participation of local communities, play an important role in confronting major crises, such as the oil spill in 2019, and hence must be promoted.

The participants called out privatization in the country for destabilizing SSF territories and their governance. The workshop, in fact, was conducted in an area that had faced a similar threat, and if not for the intervention of AMOIP, would be under the control of a private company. The community would have had no rights over their own territories. The participants expressed that the workshop was being conducted at the right time and would help build knowledge and solidarity within the community.

The Brazilian participants also raised concerns about aquaculture. Although many conversations in the IYAFAs discuss aquaculture as a solution for the sector, discussions on what this actually is and its impact on the environment has been rare. Merely promoting aquaculture in isolation would not suffice; small-scale fisheries need to be preserved too. It is necessary to talk about sustainable fisheries in alliance with small-scale fishing communities.

Discussion

Maria Aparecida Ferreira from CONFREM agreed that it is necessary to listen to the community's voices and suggested that the community identify leaders who would represent artisanal fishers.

Addressing the movement of community youth away from fishing and to cities, Marly Lúcia da Silva Ferreira from CONFREM recommended boosting the image of the sector within and outside the community, alongside skills training for the community youth.

Speaking of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Vivienne Solis Rivera pointed out that in Latin America and the Caribbean, traditional communities are often not consulted and left out of the governance of MPAs. As the current plan involves a large portion of MPAs being managed by private players, the traditional communities are likely to lose their rights over their territories. Vivienne strongly recommended that the communities demand either shared governance or the right to self-management to remedy this. Elaborating on Brazil's National System of Protected Areas, Maria Aparecida Ferreira from CONFREM listed three main categories of Conservation Units (UC) for sustainable use: Extractive Reserves (RESEX), Sustainable Development Reserves (RDS) and Environmental Protection Areas (APA). The first two are specifically for traditional populations, who had demanded that RESEX be managed and run by them. This model forced them to organize. While still fragile, the APA could work well with good management, she added.

Meanwhile in Colombia, said Livia Esther Arciniegas Liñan from Confederation of Caribbean Artisanal Fishermen (CONFEPESCAR)/National Network of Women Confederation of the Fishing Sector, Aquaculture and Water and Culture Defenders (RENAMUPES), protected areas are created to cater to foreigners and tourists rather than artisanal fishers, who are never consulted on maritime issues. Often, the restrictions mean that the original inhabitants cannot fish in these areas.

A similar situation prevails in the Bahamas too, according to Adrian Bradford La-Roda from CNFO, Bahamas. The Bahamas government has been considering turning 30 per cent of their marine territory into MPAs, areas in which many families had fished for over a century.

Katia Barros from CONFREM, Brazil, shared that in Brazil, the MPA—specifically the Extractive Reserve/RESEX—were built in the Amazon, and implemented in coastal and marine areas. The SSF community there face countless challenges when it comes to claiming their rights.

Spanish Speakers' Group

The Spanish group too echoed the salient points of the groups that had already shared and spoke about: building solidarity, problems with MPAs, problems of industrial fishing, demanding territorial rights and using documentation to procure rights.

The presenters agreed that it is necessary to join hands to strengthen organizations and build solidarity. Fishers need to exchange knowledge and discuss problems across countries, and come up with ways to solve issues related to territorial rights and social security. The youth need to be educated to be mobilized in the struggle and be given incentives to continue working in the sector. Dignifying the profession and participating in the political space is also important.

Problems with MPAs are common across territories. They argued that there is a need for specific laws which deal with the issues of protected areas and artisanal fisheries. While Brazil has protected area legislation that takes into consideration the traditional communities, other Latin American countries do not.

The group said that problems with industrial fisheries are not limited to the coast. Environmental impacts are huge and many within the sector need to evolve better practices. Violence, drug trafficking, expulsion of fishers from fishing areas, invasion of exotic species due to aquaculture, and the consequent extermination of the native coastal fauna are threats to small-scale fishers' way of life. Climate change and major conflicts within territories has created more problems.

To address these issues, it is essential to preserve territorial sovereignty. Communities need to be consulted before decisions are made about their territories and future. Scientific knowledge needs to be tempered with fishers' knowledge. There are very few regulated fishers. Documentation is



Presentation of Spanish speakers group results by the representative

important to ensure fishers are represented and recognized, given social protection and guaranteed their rights.

Discussion

Adrian Ribaric from the Centre for Support to Research on Human Populations and Brazilian Wetlands (NUPAUB)/University of São Paulo (USP) said that workshops like these allowed for fisher people to come together and share ideas. He also propagated for rethinking the mould in which artisanal fishers are seen—not as poverty stricken but as enablers of food sovereignty, not as small-scale but as those who feed the world.

Alejandro Bravo Avalos from the World Forum of Fisher people (WFFP)/ULAPA, Peru, pointed out that while Peru subscribes to the SSF Guidelines, it does not implement them and stressed on its implementation in all the countries around the world.

¹ Caiçaras are traditional inhabitants of the coast of the Southeast and South regions of Brazil, formed from the miscegenation of Indians, whites and blacks, who have, in their culture, artisanal fishing, cultivation of small gardens, hunting, vegetal extraction, handicrafts and, more recently, ecotourism.

DAY 2: 03 NOVEMBER 2022

4. Session 2: Social Security, Education and Health

Katia Barros from CONFREM, Brazil, began by outlining the day's sessions. Session 2 would pick up on the most discussed topics from the first day—social security, education and health.

The participants were again split into groups for detailed discussions, with the Spanish speakers forming two groups. The guiding questions were: (a) what are the good practices in social security (even if there are some problems) that are underway in the country? and (b) What are the issues in education?

4.1. Groups Presentations

Brazilian Group (Portuguese) – presented by Tatiane Cardoso, ACTIC, and Gilberto Ribas, CONFREM, Brazil

SOCIAL SECURITY

Tatiane and Gilberto began by outlining the history of the struggle for fishers' rights in Brazil, which had begun even before the creation of the country's constitution. This long history of struggle helped in the creation of a specific legislation for fishworkers. However, this law is still linked to agriculture and it is necessary to establish policies exclusively for fishing. A campaign to highlight fishworkers' rights and their need for social security is essential. This should include ensuring that the social security staff treat fishers with respect. Campaigns should be expanded to other countries to help build public policies.

EDUCATION

The presenters argued that traditional knowledge should be a part of formal education systems. As in policy making, in education too, programmes must be adapted exclusively to fisheries, delinking it from agriculture. Exchange of knowledge between small-scale fishers across countries too would be beneficial.

HEALTH

The presenters covered various aspects of health:

They stated that mental health of fishworkers should be prioritized. In addition to that,, occupational diseases in artisanal fisheries should be recognized by the national health system. Accidents at work—during fishing and on boats—should be registered and paid special attention to. Antidotes to fish poisons need to be developed.

While some advances have indeed been made for specialized care of fishworkers, the presenters said, more needs to be done. For instance, there is lack of information and data on the types of diseases that artisanal fishworkers contract. Here too, having adequate public policies to assist fishworkers will help attend to their health needs.

Given most of the above issues stem from a lack of visibility and recognition of artisanal fishing activities and indigenous peoples, both the education and health systems need to complement each other. Policy decisions should respect and include local knowledge. Hence, it is also important to recognize and value traditional medicines.



The Brazilian group shares their views on social security, education and health for artisanal fishers

Caribbean Group (English) – Presented by Glaston Albert White, Jamaica, and Devon Stephen, Saint Lucia

SOCIAL SECURITY

The presenters spoke of the need to have exclusive social security schemes for artisanal fishworkers. It is also necessary to help fishworkers be aware of the importance of social security. They stressed on the importance of strengthening artisanal fishers' organizations for better representation and for demanding rights. Although there is a retirement plan assistance fund for men and women in the Caribbean countries, it does not apply to fishers. There is an ongoing struggle to remedy this.

EDUCATION

For this theme, the presenters focused on awareness creation among fishworkers. They said that National Fisheries Organizations (NFOs) should educate small-scale fishers about their social rights and encourage members to avail of social security services. The Caribbean has private social security agencies. Since all countries do not have this, best practices should be shared and followed among NFOs. Social media, billboards and workshops can be used for information sharing across countries. Meanwhile, NFOs need to partner with educational institutions to create more awareness.

The representatives also felt that educational programmes need to include new methodologies and language accessible to fishers. Besides the specific jargon of small-scale fisheries, local languages must also be accommodated in communication. Creole, for example, is the language that most fishers speak in Jamaica, not English.

HEALTH

The presenters argued that NFOs also have a role to play in the regulation of health initiatives. In St. Lucia, for instance, a specific month is dedicated to healthcare, during which health professionals



The participants sharing their diverse views on social development for artisanal fishers in South America

screen for diseases, exchange information and understand the health status of fishworkers at no cost.

Healthcare education also needs to cover safety at sea, and fishers should be trained to use safety equipment, in first aid and to assist in case of emergencies.

Partnerships with academia must be forged to study health issues related to artisanal fishing and document them. This will help in getting official recognition for these health issues, which would in turn ensure insurance coverage.

Disease prevention is also a necessity, which can be encouraged by spreading awareness on preventive measures like healthy diets and active lifestyles.

Spanish Speakers, Group A – Presented by Marta Machazek de Serrutt, Panama

SOCIAL SECURITY

Given small-scale fishers play an important role in food security, Marta argued that it is important to create an exclusive social security system for them, which should include benefits related to disability, old age and death and is accessible/affordable.

Social security schemes differ across countries. In Panama, for instance, social insurance exists only for companies and the registration fee is very high—about 30 per cent of the work salary—which prohibits small-scale fishers from accessing it. Meanwhile, social security schemes in Costa Rica, Chile and Brazil are more advanced.

One of the strategies to strengthen social security for small-scale fishers is to set up a corporate system in collaboration with small-scale fishers' organizations, so that it caters to their needs. Another strategy is to have a model in which the government, boat owners and fishers share the amount to be paid, so that social security becomes accessible to small-scale fishers.

EDUCATION

Educational programmes should include information about fishing activities and ancestral culture in their courses. Establishing strategic partnerships with universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide courses, training on fishing and on the issues of the fishing community is important. Awareness should be dispersed to fishing communities via social media and radio stations, the latter being an important medium for fishers. Special programmes for adult literacy and education must be created, as many fishers are still unable to read and write.

HEALTH

Marta stressed on the importance of going beyond treating illnesses to focus on preventive healthcare and on accounting for occupational health hazards. Accidents are rife in the sector and it is necessary to train people to tackle them. For example, though fishers risk contact with poisonous fish, there are no health protocols in place to treat a fishworker who has been poisoned.

In addition to prevention and recognition of occupational diseases, it is also essential to provide working health centres in local communities. There are no medical care facilities available for communities, and the sick or injured often have to travel two–four hours to receive treatment.

Spanish Speakers, Group B – Presented by Mayela Quispe Gamarra and Alejandro Avalos, Peru, and Norberto Romero Palacio, El Salvador

Recognizing that the SSF Guidelines already cover salient points related to health, social security and education, the participants argued that governments have to be pressured to implement the Guidelines and this demand has to come from within the communities.

EDUCATION

The presenters strongly recommended that the SSF Guidelines be effectively implemented in all Latin American and the Caribbean countries. In addition, they need to be disseminated in all languages, including in those of the native peoples. The Maratons, for example, are very vulnerable, and it is essential to provide them with translated version of the agreement in their own language.



The participant shares their thoughts on social development challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities

Although all the issues brought up by the representatives so far were already mentioned in the Guidelines and have been around for close to a decade, fishers are still unaware of it, the presenters pointed out. Norberto shared the example of El Salvador, where there had been an effort to publish the Guidelines and distribute it to fishers, which would be one way to help bridge this awareness gap. In Central America, although 200 copies were printed and given to each federation, this only reached the leaders of fishworkers' organizations/unions and the information did not reach a wide number of fishworkers on the ground as planned.

Apart from disseminating the SSF Guidelines, it is also necessary to skill fishworkers in the use of new technologies. In El Salvador, for example, fishers are sent to Peru to learn satellite fishing in the open seas. Another area of skill that needs to be addressed in El Salvador is of repairing motor boats.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Alejandro argued that governments across the world are largely indifferent towards artisanal fishers. He used the example of Peru to illustrate this: the country faces rampant corruption, and despite having a new president who expresses a desire for change, the legislature does not allow it, much like what the participants from Brazil had shared.

Like previous participants, he argued that the role played by fishers in ensuring food security during the peak of the pandemic must be recognized, which should in turn lead to legislative protection for small-scale fishers.

The participants also requested a special panel on social security at the next Committee of Fisheries (COFI) meeting.

5. Session 3: Challenges and Strategies to Confront the Blue Economy

5.1. Preliminary Considerations

The presenters shared notes on key international processes that directly affect SSF, then focused on blue justice in artisanal fisheries in Latin America. The participants were subsequently divided into groups to discuss in detail the challenges and strategies that confront the Blue Economy.

Alfonso Simon Raylan, Workers' Trade Union of the Sea (SITRAMAR), Panama

Alfonso stressed on the need to say 'we' when talking about artisanal fisheries. He shared a brochure on the SSF Guidelines that had been signed by 13 international fisheries' organizations. The brochure listed five issues of immediate concern for artisanal fishworkers across the globe:

1. Urgently ensure preferential access and collaborative management of 100 per cent of the coastal zone,
2. Ensure women's participation and support their role in innovation,
3. Protect small-scale fisheries from competing sectors of the Blue Economy,
4. Be transparent and accountable in fisheries management, and
5. Build resilient communities to address climate change and provide prospects for young people.

Vivienne Solis Rivera, CoopeSoliDar, Costa Rica

Vivienne shared that fellows from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean presented the SSF Guidelines at the UN Ocean Congress in Lisbon this year. She stressed the need for the SSF Guidelines to be taken up at the upcoming meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is necessary to place the SSF Guidelines in context with ground realities and for the

demands of artisanal fishers to be taken to a global stage to force national governments to pay attention to SSF.

Vivienne focused on the CBD, which is a global biodiversity framework. A total of 196 countries had signed the CBD as on the day of the presentation. There were three new issues to be approved by countries for the next 10 years (2020–2030), which were to be addressed at the Convention of Parties 15 (COP 15) in Montreal in December 2022.

Next, Vivienne spoke of the recently created category of protected area for the oceans—the Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). EBSAs' environmental criteria include unique or rare areas and prioritize endangered, threatened or vulnerable species. These EBSA criteria may be used to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). In addition, there also exist Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). An example of OECMs are the marine fishing areas in Costa Rica. While not recognized as MPAs, they are a form of governance between fishers and government.

However, said Vivienne, some questions on protected areas remain unresolved. What, for example, would happen to the decision-making process if existing fishing areas are categorized as protected or conservation areas?

Then, Vivienne spoke of some of the recommendations from civil society and small-scale fishers on protected areas. The first is the need for prior and informed consent from fishing communities and acknowledging the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional communities. Territorial decisions can have a serious effect on a country's use of resources and its economic development. Biodiversity and the Blue Economy are interlinked. The interests cannot only be economic or biological, but must also be concerned with communities, cultural heritage, and the rights of native peoples and artisanal fishers. Local communities and indigenous and Afro-descendent communities must also have their human rights respected. The needs and rights of women and girls must also be considered.

Nestor Edgardo Roche, Argentine Union of Artisanal Fishermen (UAPA), Argentina

Nestor spoke of COFI, an entity within the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dedicated to fisheries. Although COFI is concerned about world fisheries and fishers believe that they have rights under COFI, few were able to enter the conference this year (2022), participate as listeners and avail of a chance to speak. Those who managed to get in only got three minutes to speak, because of which they were forced to use English to ensure clarity and quick communication.

After the COFI meeting, Nestor said, although WFF, WFFP and other organizations had prepared a combined statement on SSF they could not present it at the COFI meeting, however, it was uploaded in the website. (But it was included in the final document.)

5.2. Baffling Shades of Blue: Addressing the Impacts of the Blue Economy on Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America – Presented by Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger, Brazil

The presentation was related to the ICSF report published recently under the same name. International agencies are developing campaigns focused on addressing the marine environment as a space for economic development. The report focused on a survey of investments and conflicts that occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a perspective towards better understanding the Blue Economy in this regional context.

The World Bank defines Blue Economy as the sustainable use of resources for economic growth while preserving the health of the marine ecosystem. The term was first coined during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 or Rio + 20.

The ICSF report focused on 10 countries that are important for small-scale fisheries. In the Caribbean, studies involving West Indies and Barbados were ongoing at the time. In Central and South America, the study focused on 10 sectors that compete with small-scale fisheries: aquaculture, resource management/nature conservation, tourism, transportation/infrastructure/logistics, agriculture/livestock, energy matrix, mining, coastal development/disorganized land use, public policies and other industries. Across the 10 sectors, there were 541 investments made from 2012 to 2020 and 192 conflicts were documented. Most investments were in environmental conservation, coastal development, energy, agriculture and tourism. Most of the investments come from the Inter-American Development Bank and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The conflicts were mainly due to coastal development and poorly implemented public policies.

It is important that the conversation shifts from Blue Economy to Blue Justice. The latter would allow people to address issues beyond the economy of fisheries.

5.3. Group Presentations

Each of the four groups discussed the sectors of the Blue Economy that exist in their regions, the models of political organization for decision making and the strategies used to confront large international processes. Participants were requested to focus on the possibilities and coping strategies rather than the problems themselves.

Spanish Speakers, Group A – Presented by Norberto Romero Palacios, Federation of Associations of Artisanal Fisheries Cooperatives (FACOPADES de R.L.), El Salvador

The presenters expressed disappointment that artisanal fishers' voices are so underrepresented globally. Although one of the key features of the European treaties regarding Central America was preventing European ships from exploiting the region's resources, with globalization, this has been disregarded. Industrial fishing is a huge problem for fisheries as a whole. Artisanal fishers are depleted of resources. Artisanal fishers have to take charge of their resources. There are 249 artisanal fishing communities in El Salvador, said Norberto. The country's 28,700 fishers conduct fishing activities only in the Pacific. These resources need to be conserved.



The participant from IYAFAC LAC shares his thoughts on the impact of blue economy on small-scale fisheries

Spanish Speakers, Group B – Presented by Marta Emelda Machazek de Serrutt, Union de Pescadores Artesanales Bocatoreños (UPESABO), Panama

Marta strongly argued that the Blue Economy is not a solution for fishing communities. Large tourist complexes, a feature of the Blue Economy, displace fisher communities. They also rarely buy the local community's products, as artisanal fishers face difficulties in acquiring sanitary certification for their products.

Resort complexes also block access for fishers, as often these areas are designated to the private players by governments. Even in extreme situations like storms or hurricanes, fishers cannot stop at beaches owned by hotels, said Marta.

Sport fishing, which is also part of the Blue Economy, also works against artisanal fisheries. Sport fishers are not regulated—there is no limit on fishing volume, leading to extraction without any control. They fish for species that artisanal fishers cannot and have access to areas that artisanal fishers do not.

STRATEGIES

Communities need to be empowered to manage coastal resources. It must be made mandatory for tourist complexes to buy products from local fishers to generate income for the community.

Alejandro Avalos added to the presentation by emphasizing some principles to be taken into consideration. In Peru, for instance, fishworkers are allowed free transit, access and use of the beach. These are based on the principle of ancestral rights, which should be emulated in other countries too.

The Caribbean Group (English) – Presented by Adrian Bradford La-Roda, CNFO, Bahamas

Adrian opened strongly with the statement that the Blue Economy is a misleading and is false propaganda, designed to monopolize the fishing industry in the name of sustainable development, conservation and alternative livelihoods, without consulting or involving small-scale fishers.



The participants engaged in discussions on blue economy and SSF

So far, he noted, there has been no one definition of what small-scale actually means. It could involve varied definitions, ranging from the size of the boats to the size of the economy. Nevertheless, he argued that the Blue Economy approach is a strategy to minimize the real contribution of small-scale fisheries, their catch and their contribution to the economy.

As representatives of small-scale fisheries, he argued for everyone to come together to highlight that they are sustainable, responsible and essential, said Adrian. Although small-scale fisheries continued to operate during the pandemic despite all other industries shutting down, thereby ensuring food security, post the pandemic, they were invisibilized and pushed into other occupations because of losses. While import of marine products is encouraged in his country, artisanal fishing isn't.

To strengthen SSFs, it is necessary for fishers to sit at the table when decisions are being made. They cannot allow others to make decisions for them, especially those influenced by big businesses and corporations. Workshops like this are important to align different voices and create collaboration, he said.

Brazilian Group (Portuguese) – Presented by Sra. Josana Pinto da Costa, Fishermen and Fisherwomen Movement (MPP)/ National Association of Fisherwomen (ANP), Brazil

CHALLENGES

Brazil has protected areas that place importance on traditional communities, said Josana, which has helped prevent tourism and the establishment of Blue Economy enterprises.

However, Josana highlighted a number of other issues. First, fishworkers' participation in meetings and debates, including in the management councils of protected areas, is restricted in the country. When it comes to environmental impact, movement of ships has caused the erosion of the coast. Dredging of the sea to berth ships has also led to the formation of huge waves, which have ruined the coast, estuaries and mangroves. Big industries and projects on the coast, such as construction of ports, not only cause environmental damage but also displace local communities. Industries like mineral extraction, carciniculture, aquaculture, had come up by promising employment opportunities to the local communities, but they not only reneged on this promise but also caused the loss of traditional rights to local fishing communities.

So, the Blue Economy has indeed led to loss of rights, removal of populations from their territories and erasure of traditions. Josana too argued that it was but a way to take away fishers' rights.

STRATEGIES

Josana focused on strategies of shared governance and claiming rights.

The model of popular tribunals, which has seen success in Asian countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, need to be embraced. It is necessary for fisherfolk to follow the environmental impact assessment process. A committee on artisanal fisheries should be formed to enter into dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and the new Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the country. In addition to this, public hearings—which give fishers a voice—should also be encouraged.

It is also important for fishers to organize themselves, especially in anticipation of large industrial projects. Josana stated the example of the Cajueiro community in Maranhão state, whose lack of organization led to them being removed from their traditional territories. Fishing territories should be legally demarcated and protected. It is essential to promote protected areas that are geared towards the strengthening of sustainable traditional communities, Josana said.

6. Field Visit 1: Mangrove Trail and Meeting the Dolphins

The participants were taken for a field visit to the Mangrove Trail in the Cardoso Island State Park. They then went to see dolphins which arrived near the beach in the late afternoon to feed. AMOIP's local guides accompanied the participants, sharing local knowledge with everyone. An official group photograph was taken.



IYFA LAC 2022 participants on a mangrove trail guided by the AMOIP representative to gather information and exchange knowledge with the local community

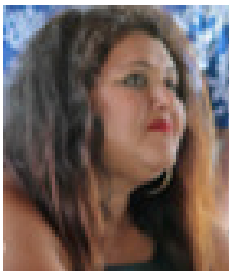
DAY 3: 04 NOVEMBER 2022

7. Session 4: Women in Small-Scale Fisheries and Gender Equity

7.1 Initial Reflections on Women in Small-Scale Fisheries

The session began with an exhibition of images of women in fisheries. The images had been submitted by participants in advance of the workshop. Seven fisherwomen shared their experiences with the group.

Aracelly J. Mora, President, Coopemoluschomes R.L., Costa Rica



A lack of visibility among women shell fishers in Costa Rica had led to the formation of Coopemoluschomes, a cooperative to fight for their rights, in 2013. There are 45 women and 5 men in it. They created a participatory utilization plan, bringing together traditional and scientific knowledge. The women received benefits for the work they did.

When the lack of support from the government during the pandemic demoralized women fishers, they decided to make four groups to ensure all members of the cooperative could participate. This has given them renewed energy to interact, work and take care of their mangroves.

In Costa Rica, when the women wanted to start a small restaurant to supplement their income, private donations helped them to set up the infrastructure and buy equipment. But a private company was against them opening their business and strong-armed the local authorities in the area. For instance, the women were denied a license for electricity. Despite losing motivation, they found new initiatives to engage with. Aracelly shared this example to show that unity can help get through difficult circumstances.

Nadine Nembhard, Secretary, CNFO, Belize



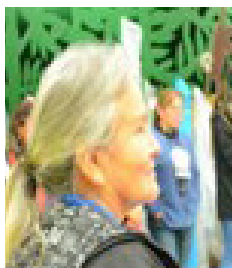
Activities focused on issues regarding women in fisheries began in 2014 in the Caribbean. Two years after that, Nadine said, Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) was launched. The organization focuses on gender in the Caribbean region, has 15 members and is open to all.

Before the SSF Guidelines were released, the Caribbean had never discussed gender issues in fisheries. Various activists, organizations and academics collaborated to propose ways to include gender in policies. Even now, there is very little women leadership and few opportunities for women in the Caribbean.

When women speak, Nadine said, they don't feel heard. Belize's minimum wage is set at US\$ 1.65 per hour and their monthly salary is meagre. In most artisanal fishing communities in Belize, shared Nadine, it is men who go out, fish, sell the catch and bring income back home, while the women stay at home and manage the money. Their research found that in fishing communities, women wanted to have more money and income generation opportunities. Fishing organizations need to support this, she said.

Highlighting the work done in the Caribbean so far, Nadine shared that on International Women's Day, to promote women in fisheries, a day of training day was organized. On St. Peter's Day, Belize also hosts a Women's Forum to emphasize their role in the sector. Her organization also collaborated with ICSF and two export companies to discuss various issues, many of which were never discussed before.

Marly Lucia da S. Ferreira, National Secretary for Fisherwomen at CONFREM, Brazil



Marly said that the sector could progress only if the women are supported and encouraged in their growth. CONFREM's Women's Secretariat plays a big role in strengthening and empowering women in the fight for their rights and for visibility as food producers in protected areas and traditional communities, she said. This is important in a country where gender-based violence is high and is often entrenched in systemic structures.

During the pandemic, femicide rates had risen by 20 per cent during that time. There were various reasons for this. Isolation, lack of resource and lack of government protection had led to more violence against women. But the group was able to be productive even during the pandemic using social media to communicate.

She said they had analyzed how women had organized themselves to explore their full economic potential. For 14 years, women had worked in networks on the southern coast of Bahia state successfully. This was replicated in other coastal states in Brazil, such as Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro and Pará. The Bahia network went on to expand from the coast (with more than 6,000 women participating) to the whole state (with 19,000 women). They also launched a campaign on 25 November 2021, the International Day for Combating Violence against Women.

It is necessary to educate and make women aware of their rights, said Marly. Today, CONFREM's Women's Secretariat is part of the largest movement of women and feminists in Latin America called the March of the Daisies. Since 2019, fisherwomen have agitated for social rights, food sovereignty, recognition as guardians of their environment and the right to produce food sustainably. They hope to deliver an agenda of their demands to the country's president, Luiz Inácio *Lula* da Silva, in August 2023.

Maria Martilene R. Lima, MPP/ANP, Brazil



Maria started by discussing the photo she had brought, that of fisherwomen fishing for lobster in the high sea, which is a rare occurrence. Women fishers contribute to family economies in a big way, but they rarely get recognized for it. Although the Ministry of Fisheries was created in President *Lula*'s previous term, women are still invisible within it, said Maria. At national conferences, she shared, they often encountered discussion tables filled with men. Moreover, even the few women fishers who were present were rarely given an opportunity to speak.

All the above reasons of invisibilization are why the women organized themselves to form the National Association of Fisherwomen to discuss their identity, roles as fisherwomen, access to healthcare and other issues.

In training sessions they had conducted, shared Maria, they came to understand how men perceived women. In one workshop, fishermen were asked if their wives worked, to which they said no. However, when women and men's work hours were plotted on a graph, it was found that the women worked more than the men. Women do housework, have jobs in the community and in the church. They wake up early and sleep late. Women take care of their children, family and the community. It is important for fishermen to recognize the importance of women in the sector, concluded Maria.

Líbia Esther Arciniégas Liñan, Federation of Artisanal Fishermen and Environmentalists of the Department of Cesar (FEDEPESCE)/RENAMUPES, Colombia



Libia is from continental Colombia and leads a federation of men and women who work on the issue of women's rights in fisheries. RENAMUPES was created in July 2022 with men and women representatives from different fishing organizations as a space for reflection and discussing measures to aid fisherwomen in Colombia. Its general objective is to promote, carry out and develop women's artisanal fishing activities across the value chain (fishing, processing, management and commercialization).

Tatiane M. Cardoso, ACTIC, Brazil



Tatiane comes from a community of fish driers, a legacy that can be traced back to 1845, she shared. With the passing of her grandfather in 2010, that knowledge was lost. While the knowledge of drying fish itself is still alive—because of the women in her own family—the knowledge for managing the enterprise was gone with her grandfather.

So, in 2011, Tatiane came together with other women to create an association, initially consisting of women artisans who decided to rescue the drying process as an economic, feminist activity. Throughout history women have always processed fish, but in exchange for their work they received only food, while men received the money. When the group decided to restart this drying process, they had no money. They needed fishers to sell to them, trust them to process it and then pay them back. In two months, the group processed four tonnes of mullet, producing six months of minimum wage for each of the women involved in the production.

But, they faced challenges too. Men held autonomy within communities. Women were seen as catchers, not producers. Where women's share existed, it was smaller. They suffered prejudice and had problems with middlemen. Tatiane's grandmother, upon receiving her first payment, wanted to share it, not understanding that all of it was her share.

During the pandemic, the group bought fish, processed it and donated it to families. They processed 22 tonnes of fresh fish, which generated 11 tonnes of dried fish, ensuring people did not starve during the pandemic.

Marta Emelda Machazek de Serrutt, Panamá, UPESABO/ULAPA, Panama



Marta said that the discussions earlier and her own experience had shown that women had a place in management positions and can be more productive administrators than men.

7.2. Group Presentations

Rights, healthcare, gender-based violence, economics and knowledge were the main themes that came up when discussing women in small-scale fisheries. Participants randomly divided themselves into four groups and circled between the themes every 15 minutes. Each group had to continue building the action plan based on what the previous group had done for that specific theme. Given its sensitivity, the men skipped the discussions on violence against women and instead gathered with Leopoldo to discuss masculinity. This allowed the women and men to address sensitive issues separately and express themselves without embarrassment or intervention. The group responses led to the creation of the Action Plan for Women in Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Group 1: Rights

Women need to be recognized as an important part of small-scale fisheries. The group discussing rights listed the following recommendations to achieve this. It is important: to promote knowledge of women's rights through SSF organizations; for governments and labour institutions to recognize the rights and work of fisherwomen across the value chain (for instance, peeling shrimp, while a valued profession, is not recognized as work); to demand and get equal pay; to strengthen women's organizations and networks; to increase women's roles in leadership and promote capacity building and training among them; to improve working conditions specific to women; to teach children about women's rights from an early age, emphasizing that men and women have equal rights; and to provide security for women in order to avoid femicide.

Group 2: Knowledge

The group which discussed knowledge observed that women: bring with them traditional and ancestral knowledge, including of medicine; have a natural aptitude for organization, management and political action; are more observant and have the ability to look at things in a broader context; and are a vital part of ensuring food security. Nowadays, younger women are more adept at handling technology when compared to fishermen. Women in general are: gaining more political space and



The participants discuss the role of women along the fisheries value chain during the photo exhibition session during the workshop

desire equality in working conditions; are increasingly making, maintaining and using fishing tools and gear, which have been traditionally the domain of men; and are part of the production chain, processing and marketing in some countries, even though the extraction process is considered a male activity. Given all this, women’s achievements must be considered equal to that of men. Chile has set a great example of promoting equality in the fisheries sector by making boats that are more comfortable for women to handle and other countries should follow suit.

Group 3: Economy

Latin America values women more than other regions, the group shared. But despite this, more can be done to empower and encourage fisherwomen’s participation in the economy, who add value to resources in the fishing chain. Some of the recommendations were that women: should be put in charge of administrative institutions; be heard and seen for their experiences; and should be given more platforms to share their experiences. There also has to be an equitable division of labour, and domestic work must be paid for. Myths about women in fishing—for example, that women cannot fish during their periods—should be demolished, and media should play a role in highlighting the role of women in fisheries. In terms of policies, specific programmes and projects for women should be promoted; the SSF Guidelines should be implemented; and banks should provide financial schemes that cater to women. In order to build collective empowerment, exchange of knowledge between women should be promoted and their networks expanded.

Group 4.a: Health and Violence

The group on health and violence had many proposals to improve the health of fisherwomen and protect them from domestic violence.

Many studies have shown that artisanal fishing directly impacts women’s bodies. There are also additional impacts from water pollution and infections. These must be considered while formulating health policies for fisherwomen. Women-specific diseases need to be recognized as work-related diseases. There is also a need for home-based psychological care. Healthcare needs to be preventive, addressing risks as well as sexually transmitted diseases. Traditional knowledge and medicinal herbs must be valued. Women fishers must be provided personal protection equipment.



Towards the Gender Equity Action Plan: The participants share their discussion points on women in SSF

Fisherwomen who are victims of domestic violence must be addressed. First and foremost, all kinds of violence should be recognized and addressed, including sexual violence and violence due to men's alcoholism. Women who face violence should be able to access justice, like public defenders, and support networks—that provide shelter, financial support, protection for their children and psychological care—at no cost. Moreover, preventive measures have to be taken, such as self-defence training, to keep fisherwomen safe from violence.

All these have to go in hand with changes in policy making and State action. Ministries that govern women's issues must have a specialized secretariat to represent artisanal fisherwomen and this should be managed by a woman leader. Government employees must be sensitized about gender issues. Women fishers need to be provided social security and their rights respected even if they do not have documentation.

Group 4.b: Masculinity

The group agreed that it is necessary to create a strategic plan for gender equality at all levels, in communities, institutions, organizations and even among authorities. There has to be specific training for sexual violence, drugs, alcoholism and conflict resolution. Technologies need to be adapted for women. Unwritten traditional rights need to be recognized. Men should be supportive of women's rights and struggles.

7.3 Gender Equity Action Plan for Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean

GENDER EQUITY ACTION PLAN

Artisanal fishworkers' representatives from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries convened on Ilha do Cardoso Island (State of São Paulo, Brazil) for the regional workshop organized by ICSF in collaboration with CONFREM as part of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa-2022) to discuss the regional challenges and strategies for the sector.

During the "IYafa 2022 Workshop in Latin America and the Caribbean: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries"—fishers, both men and women, jointly crafted an action plan for gender equity in the region, following the provisions for implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines).

The participants acknowledged that public policies for gender equity are not on the same level of implementation across Latin America and the Caribbean. Where legal systems are lagging, efforts must be made to advance new legislation, projects and actions to support women's rights and protect their mental, physical and occupational wellbeing. The importance of safeguarding women's traditional and customary knowledge and practices, vital to sustaining economic and social welfare, was highlighted, along with the way of life of traditional fishing communities. It is critical that women's contribution to fisheries management and environmental governance be fully recognized, and their role in food security acknowledged.

The participants highlighted the following strategies, to be further developed by fishermen and fisherwomen's organizations, supporters and policymakers:

- Create or resume public policies for women, with efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms demanding effective implementation of these policies;
- Ensure that all fisherwomen know their rights and protection laws from their childhood onwards, and promote training in women's rights themes, which must be implemented as government public policies in all spheres and also by artisanal fishing organizations;
- Make sure governmental and non-governmental organizations gain capacity and full appreciation of fisherwomen's protective laws and rights, their application and the formulation of new regulations;

- Strengthen the debates on violations of women's rights in the region in order to foster new paths towards a new culture of respect and appreciation of women;
- Recognize the customs and rules established by the communities as traditional rights and guarantee that customary and traditional tenure systems accommodate constitutional or legal reforms that strengthen the rights of women;
- Advance projects and norms securing women's participation and leadership capacity in decision-making roles in fishers' organizations and other decision-making arenas;
- Make women's work in artisanal fisheries' value chains more visible and valued, compensate them for their domestic services and support their economic diversification if needed. The various stages in the value chain should guarantee equal payment for women and men for the same work;
- Promote peer-to-peer learning among women about egalitarian integration of women in fisheries-related work and to mutually support their economic activities;
- Develop strategies for valuing and developing knowledge and skills of fisherwomen, who take care of the household finances, with a broad vision of their engagement in the fisheries value chain;
- Create and implement strategic plans for gender equality at all levels (community, organizations and public authorities);
- Discuss and implement division of tasks in the communities' work routines, with the objective of avoiding work overload on fisherwomen;
- Provide economic instruments (programmes and projects) exclusively for women, according to their interests and capabilities;
- Negotiate with the banking systems for favourable treatment of women, with differentiated financing which prioritizes women and supports women-led initiatives.
- Ensure gender equity as a fundamental criterion in the design and support of all initiatives to be implemented in artisanal fishing territories across Latin America and the Caribbean. Programmes and projects exclusively designed to support gender equity in artisanal fisheries should be prioritized;
- Promote advance learning on gender equity for all generations through family education programmes and school curriculums;
- Build capacity and develop educational strategies directed towards men on sexual violence, drug abuse, alcoholism and conflict resolution, highlighting the impact of alcoholism on violence against women;
- Promote adaptation of new technologies by women and secure adequate access to these (such as fishing craft and gear, personal safety equipment, infrastructure);
- Mobilize the media to communicate about the importance of women's participation in artisanal fisheries and help to end existing taboos and resistance in regard to the participation of women in harvesting or any other role along the fisheries' value chains;
- Contribute information to dispel myths and stigmas that disadvantage women (e.g., menstruating women cannot go fishing);
- Promote sharing of information and learning in schools about the role of women in artisanal fisheries;
- Demand specialized and humanized health services and programme implementation, highlighting that women fishers are subject to specific occupational health risks in artisanal fishing (e.g., to their skin, uterus, ovaries, and in terms of infections, etc.), as evidenced by studies that indicate the diseases caused by fishing activities that directly impact women's health;
- Combat water and air pollution to promote fisherwomen's health;
- Protect social security rights of all women fishers and fishworkers, whether documented or not;

- Denounce all forms of violence and the culture of violence against fisherwomen. Femicide must be firmly dealt with at all levels of society;
- Disseminate information about legislation, psychological services, self-defence, specialized legal protection to women and their families, and for victims of violence, implement fisherwomen support networks, with shelter, financial support and protection for their children;
- Highlight the institutional violence that affects women fishers and the need to ensure protection of children and provide maintenance to affected families of fishers;

Ensure conflict resolution training for fisherwomen and young women for conflict arising from any type of violence;

- Guarantee access to counselling services for fisherwomen, assuring home or community-based care;
- Ensure psychological care for women who suffer any type of violence, in connection with their gender roles in productive, reproductive and care labour;
- Promote access to justice system and its services (public prosecutor) in cases of violence against women;
- Facilitate access to organizations that provide preventive health and legal services to women;
- Promote gender training to governmental or civil society agencies that serve women;
- Promote educational programmes to advance sexual self-care and support in all artisanal fishing territories;
- Deepen discussions about women's bodies, health and reproductive rights as well as violence;
- Preserve and value women's traditional knowledge on medicinal plants in public health policies;
- Create new laws and policies on gender equity in solidarity with fisherwomen;
- Establish regular exchange of information and specific training to empower fisherwomen to exercise their rights as well as disseminate lessons learned on the implementation of different national strategies in relation to gender equity (e.g., gender quota in Mexico, food security initiatives in several countries), thus ensuring the development of adequate tools for women and capacity building for fisherwomen leaders.

8. Session 5: Empowering Latin American Organizations: ULAPA

Office-bearers of ULAPA introduced the organization and its objectives to the workshop participants.

The first in-person meeting of ULAPA was conducted in November 2022 and was attended by representatives from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Flavio clarified that ULAPA would grow and soon all Latin American countries could be part of the organization. Marta Machazek, ULAPA's secretary, presented a summary of the organization's work, the movement's history and its creation.

Representing El Salvador, Norberto Palacios spoke about the division in world forums and said he would present the problem at the Central American Integration System (SICA) to seek solutions. There is a need, he said, to maintain unity and solve problems, many of which are common across borders.

Referring to the workshop, Flávio pointed out that it is important to have actual fishworkers represent small-scale fisheries.

DAY 4: 05 NOVEMBER 2022

9. Field Visit 2: Traditional Fisheries in Cardoso Island

The AMOIP team proposed that the participants get a chance to see artisanal fishing processes that are traditionally carried out on Cardoso Island. The visit began at a kiosk with a presentation on the fishing gear used, the setting up of the seine and the process of harvesting. There was also a playful demonstration on how to use the *tarrafa* net.



Small-scale fishing gears and other materials demonstration for the IYFA LAC 2022 participants by local communities in Cardoso Island, Cananéia, Brazil



Rescue and release of sea turtle entangled in the fishing net during the demonstration to the workshop participants

The group was then taken to the pier and belvedere to follow the harvesting. While they watched, fishers gathered fish with their nets. To the surprise of the participants, a small turtle entered the seine and the fishers released it. The participants took back some fish and oysters collected in the nearby mangroves to the restaurant to be part of the menu.

10. AMOIP's Farewell

On the last day, the AMOIP team made a final presentation to all the participants, thanking them for their patience and trust. The team thanked LDA, and all the organizers and participants of the IYafa 2022 workshop for their efforts. They concluded the session by holding a raffle contest for a handmade tarrafa net. Alfonso Simon Raylan from Panama won it.



Vote of thanks and closing ceremony presentation by AMOIP

11. Session 6: IYafa Latin America and the Caribbean 2022 Workshop Statement and Closure

The last session involved the drafting of the workshop's statement. The vote of thanks was given by Beatriz Mesquita, Fundação Joaquim Nabuco (FUNDAJ)/ICSF, Brazil, who thanked everyone for their participation and their effort in creating the final document.

National Commission for the Strengthening of Extractive Reserves, Traditional Coastal and Marine Extractive Peoples and Communities (CONFREM)

Linha D'Água Institute (LDA)

Latin America and the Caribbean Workshop IYafa 2022: Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Artisanal Fisheries

2–5 November 2022, Ilha do Cardoso State Park, Cananéia-SP Brazil

Annexures

Annexure 1

CANANEIA STATEMENT

We, the representatives of artisanal fisheries, from 16 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis;

Gathered in Cananéia City, São Paulo State, Brazil, among the Caiçara community of Itacuruçá Pereirinha on Cardoso Island, a traditional fishing community that has been resisting against conservationist policies for decades while continuing to fish and work with community-based tourism;

Reaffirming our essential role in producing healthy and nutritious food from the seas, oceans, rivers and lakes, intrinsic in the fight against hunger and food security, as was attested during the Covid-19 pandemic, when we provided fresh seafood on the table to the country's population;

Ensuring international and regional cooperation principles, human rights standards, ancestral rights as well as all forms of collaboration among fishers' organizations and supporting institutions, guaranteeing their rights and "place of speech";

Recognizing the knowledge of traditional fishing communities, Afro-descendants and all indigenous peoples and respecting their cultures, ways of life and different realities;

Recognizing the importance of women in the development of artisanal fisheries;

Recognizing the importance of both national governments and international organizations such as the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

Concerned with the loss of rights, alongside adverse socio-environmental impacts on artisanal fisheries' territories and "mareteries"² arising from globalization as well as from predatory, exclusionary and polluting economic activities encouraged by development projects announced under the label of Blue Economy in our region;

Also concerned about the worsening climate change from anthropogenic activities and its negative impacts such as rising sea levels, the intensification and greater frequency of extreme weather events (hurricanes and floods), invasion of exotic species such as lionfish, and the outbreak of pandemics;

Drawing attention of all stakeholders interested in artisanal fisheries' sustainability to the scant progress made to date in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines);

Reminding that the lessons learned from the pandemic that resulted in a greater network of solidarity between communities, from social movements of artisanal fishing and family farming workers, and from new marketing strategies, among other initiatives, not be forgotten;

Identify, after four days of intense debates, the following areas and priorities for action across Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the continuity, development and well-being of our families, communities and livelihoods:

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

It is important that education be a priority. Encourage differentiated and contextualized education that incorporate traditional knowledge into formal education, and support adult literacy programmes;

Promote educational projects for fishers that take into account their local needs;

Strengthen the role of youth to improve the future viability of artisanal fisheries;

Undertake training and capacity building of artisanal fishing communities to improve their understanding of technology (e.g., satellite-based navigation and communication systems), social media, fisheries management, bookkeeping and accounting;

Develop and disseminate promotional material on artisanal fisheries at the national level to educate fishers;

Inform society about issues related to artisanal fishing through the use of social networks, media and others;

Pay attention to local languages, translating communication material in order to democratize information and knowledge;

Promote science that recognizes the knowledge of fishers, both men and women, and is guided by their demands and needs; and

Document the knowledge and history of artisanal fisheries.

HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

Foster preventive health, recognize relevant traditional medicine and promote fish and fish products as healthy food;

Develop database on occupational diseases in artisanal fisheries, implement public health programmes to deal with them, including through community-based health centres; and

Adopt policies to fight violence, exposure to delinquency, drug trafficking and other pressures that affect our communities and artisanal fishers.

COALITION BUILDING

Promote coordination of different institutions, between fishers' organizations, and between governments, universities, networks, and others at local, regional and international levels; and

Strengthen the Latin American and the Caribbean representation of fishers in regional and global coalitions in artisanal fisheries.

MANAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

Recognize and respect the ancestral rights of traditional communities (e.g., language), and recognize, regularize and register fishers' territories;

Build, strengthen, structure and recognize databases and information that can support decision making and the management of fishing activities by fishing communities;

Ensure the visibility and recognition of artisanal fishers in Latin American and the Caribbean public policies of relevance;

Empower fishers, both men and women, to manage fisheries resources;

Define small- and large-scale fishing at the national level;

Develop national action plans in all Latin American and the Caribbean countries to implement the SSF Guidelines;

Call for more equitable distribution of time for fishers to make interventions on agenda items related to marine conservation and fisheries, especially during the sessions of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI); and

Support the strengthening of fishers' actions and initiatives such as "A Call to Action" initiative presented at the Ocean Conference in 2022, and develop an advocacy process in the various world meetings that influence our livelihoods.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Adopt social security protection in artisanal fisheries, independent of agriculture, including an early retirement age and life and health insurance coverage for all fishers and fishworkers, including women, along the value chain under public and private schemes.

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

Implement closed-season insurance as a conservation strategy, where the State pays for temporary fishing moratoriums to protect species during their reproduction;

Uphold shared governance and sustainable use of marine protected areas based on the Extractive Reserves and the Sustainable Use Authorization Terms (TAUS) of Brazil and Responsible Fisheries Marine Areas of Costa Rica and other examples in the area of shared governance, fisheries co-management and territorial autonomy;

Request States to implement international instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity such as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM), or Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), or to participate in international initiatives such as the High Ambition Coalition 30 x 30, by ensuring the effective participation of fishers, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and local communities in the decision-making processes related to their marine and coastal territories, and after obtaining their free, informed and prior consent consistent with the ILO Convention C169;

Valorize marine conservation efforts carried out by ancestral, traditional and indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities and fishing organizations, and uphold other State governance models that adopt a diversity of Protected Areas, that act as a defence of territories, communities and indigenous heritages and that conserve resources under a human rights-based approach;

Ensure shared governance and the sovereignty of fishing and indigenous territories in protected areas established by governments, especially where proper participation of the communities have not occurred, resulting in fishers' exclusion from their traditional fishing territories; and

Regulate and supervise the removal of shellfish seeds by fish farmers from natural banks for aquaculture initiatives.

CONFLICTS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Establish popular courts/tribunals to address conflicts that are collective in nature;

Strengthen fishing communities in the face of environmental assessment processes in their territories and these processes need to include fishers, both men and women holding public hearings and

others, applying the principle of free, prior and informed consent, consistent with ILO Convention C169.;

Prevent eviction of artisanal fishers by development projects and tourism;

Promote alternative sources of livelihoods, such as family-based aquaculture and tourism, in consultation with fishing communities;

Review, in favour of artisanal fishers, unjust public policies that grant the concession of public waters for aquaculture; and

Review and/or regulate sport fishing that competes with artisanal fishing in fishing and protected areas, especially without adequate measures to monitor their catches and their destructive fishing methods and practices.

WOMEN

Recognize and disseminate information about the importance of women in fishing and ensure that women have freedom, are listened to attentively and have equality to participate in the entire fisheries' value chain from fish harvest to the organization and management of fisheries institutions;

Strengthen communication and partnership among women in fisheries (women's networks, exchanges);

Promote recognition of work of female fishworkers by formal bodies such as Ministries of Labour and others and implementation of public policies aimed at women;

Ensure differential treatment for women by designing productive projects and offering financial assistance to support entrepreneurship skills;

Recognize and respect the right to day-care facilities, considering long hours of work of women in fisheries;

Adapt productive and public health policies to address specific challenges faced by women in fisheries (e.g., sanitation facilities in fishing vessels); and

Undertake campaigns to combat stigmas against fisherwomen (e.g., painted nails and makeup).

1 The concept of "place of speech" appreciates the speaker's social, cultural and economic realities while participating in a debate on a specific topic.

2 "Maretories" are places of tidal flows, coastal and marine areas of collective use of natural resources, of food sovereignty, composed of people who traditionally live there and is based on the premise of consumer goods production, sustainable economy, decent work, care for heritage/socio-biodiversity, recognition and valorization of knowledge/actions, and discoveries and relationship of affection with nature and ancestry.

Annexure 2

GRAPHIC FACILITATION

RESOURCE PERSONS

Camila Mello, educator, consultant and geographer

Gabriele M. Santos, pedagogy student and researcher at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR)

Juliana Greco, educator, researcher and PhD student at UFPR.

The two panels created during the workshop highlighted the following central themes through visualization:

- lack of visibility of artisanal fishing,
- marginalization due to existing stigmas and prejudices,
- food and economic insecurity,
- socio-environmental impacts,
- conflicts with industrial fishing,
- intergenerational succession,
- need for specialized education that takes into account traditional knowledge and tidal time,
- need for special social security for fishworkers
- role of women in artisanal fishing,
- conflicts of aquaculture and water privatization, and
- violation of rights that arise from lack of prior consultation with coastal communities.



Panel created through graphic facilitation. The present panel portrays main challenges and threats for small-scale fishers in Latin America and the Caribbean



Panel depicting discussions on women in fisheries. The panel demonstrates main demands & challenges and the priority actions in the Action Plan for Gender Equity, elaborated during the Workshop

The first panel visualized the main challenges and threats for small-scale fishers in Latin America and the Caribbean. The second panel focused on the demands of artisanal fisherwomen and their priorities highlighted in the Action Plan for Gender Equality created in the workshop.

AUDIOVISUAL COLABORATIVE COVERAGE

RESOURCE PERSONS

Coordinator – João Ricardo Cararo Lázaro, educommunication artist

Technical support – Adayse Bossolani da Guarda and Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger

Claudia Chow, LDA

Gabriela Mendonça das Neves and Jorge Antonio Cardoso, AMOIP

Helia Farias Espinoza and Maria Rita Olyntho Machado, IYafa 2022 participants

The audiovisual activities across the four days of the workshop are listed below:

- Day 1: Recording and photography.
- Day 2: Creation of a script for video coverage and planning of recordings. This included speeches by representatives of organizations responsible for the workshop as well as participants' testimonies.
- Day 3: Conclusion of interviews and testimonies from the previous day. A video clip of a local musical group, Fandangueiros de Itacuruçá, was recorded.
- Day 4 and last day: The final sessions and the field trip were recorded. The video was presented to participants.

The final product from the audio-visual collaborative exercise of the IYafa Latin America and the Caribbean workshop 2022 are available on ICSF (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pZ8-H54lzw>) and AMOIP's official YouTube channels respectively

Annexure 3

CONCEPT NOTE

Context

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa 2022), with FAO as the lead agency. This provides an opportunity to further reiterate the objectives and promote the implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines.

Approximately 90% of the 140 million people engaged in fisheries globally work in the small-scale fisheries sector, predominantly, but not only, in the Global South. These small-scale fisher people (men and women) catch half of the world's seafood and provide over 60% of the fish destined for direct human consumption. For each fisher person in the small-scale sector, at least four other people are engaged in related land-based activities, such as the preparation of equipment, fish processing, and marketing. In total, more than 500 million people are estimated to depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. As a family-based activity, fishing makes a direct contribution to household food security, where women play a particularly important role both as the link with the market and as the provider of food in the household, in addition to their reproductive role. This significant contribution to food security, livelihoods and to local and national economies is expected to improve through the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Small-scale fisheries provide the first and most important link in a long chain of social, cultural and economic activities that contribute to the health and well-being of local communities and wider society. Fishing constitutes far more than merely an economic activity, but rather forms part of the culture, identity and way of life of fishing communities, marine and inland, with customs, food habits, rhythms of life, rituals, spiritual beliefs, value systems, traditions and social organization closely linked to fisheries, and to the aquatic milieu on which their livelihoods depend. The provision of fish and fishery products by small-scale producers also plays an important role in food sovereignty, enabling low-income consumers for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily accessible, to enjoy their right to food and other human rights. Often, small-scale fisheries have been the only form of social protection available and accessible to many marine and inland fishing communities.

Women play a vital but largely unrecognized and undervalued role in realizing the right to food by supplying fish and fishery products. The FAO estimates that in 2018, 59.5 million people, at least 14% of whom were women, were directly engaged either full time, or more frequently part time, in capture fisheries or aquaculture. This is likely to be a gross underestimate given that women's work in the fisheries sector is often unpaid and unrecorded. The most significant role played by women in fisheries is at the processing and marketing stages. Active in all regions of the world, women have become significant entrepreneurs in fish processing. In fact, most fish processing is performed by women, either in their own household or as wage laborers in the large-scale processing industry. However, despite their entrepreneurial success, women often have to deal with considerable hardships and adverse working conditions. They may also face unequal competition for accessing raw materials for their processing and trading activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the lack of social protection and the disproportionately negative impacts of pandemic control measures on the small-scale fisheries sector. While reducing the supply of fish to the post-harvest sector, and diminishing access to fishing grounds and resources, including of migrant fishers, the pandemic control measures have exacerbated poverty in the small-scale sector, the burden of which is disproportionately shouldered by women.

Objectives of the Workshops

In this context, ICSF and its members are organizing four regional workshops and women's exchanges in 2022 in Asia¹, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Africa, in partnership with fishworker organizations globally.

The Latin America and Caribbean workshop will be held in São Paulo State, Brazil from 2-5 November. The overall goal of the workshop is to strengthen the recognition of small-scale fisheries' crucial contributions to global food security and nutrition, the importance of tenure rights in the sector, and social development. The objectives of the workshop are:

- To increase international engagement of fishworker organizations regarding food security, tenure rights and social development issues.
- To deepen cooperation between fishworkers and like-minded organizations regarding food security, tenure rights and social development.
- To amplify the voices of women in the inclusive development of small-scale fisheries.

The workshop is also an opportunity to take stock of how the SSF Guidelines are being implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and nutrition, and promote the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities.

Participants

The workshop will include 45 participants from community-based organizations, national and international fishworker organizations, networks of women in fisheries, and civil society organizations from across Latin America and the Caribbean. The target groups will primarily be drawn from organizations involved with the preparation, negotiation and implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2011, such as the IPC's Latin America and Caribbean Regional Group, as well as fishing communities and organizations that ICSF members work with in their local and national contexts.

Methodology

The workshop will be four days, and will focus broadly on discussing the obstacles small-scale fishworkers face in accessing resources and fishing areas, how communities and organizations mobilize to address these challenges, and a range of social development issues. Fishworkers' inputs to the preparatory process will be important for determining the questions and specific topics that will be discussed in the workshop. ICSF will share a questionnaire to collect inputs and country fact sheets with participants beforehand.

Some of the sub-themes that may also be addressed in the workshop, and which are central to the work of ICSF and its fishworker partners, include: human rights of fishers, fishworkers and fishing communities; social protection; impacts of 'blue economy' agendas on small-scale fisheries; impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation initiatives on small-scale fisheries; roles of fisheries organizations, associations and cooperatives; decentralization of fisheries governance structures; mainstreaming gender equality/equity in fisheries; and promoting decent work and social development of fishing communities.

The workshop involves:

- Collaborative discussions and activities in which fishworkers are able to share their experiences and perspectives, learn from each other, and develop collective strategies and plans of action for addressing these issues in their local and national contexts.

- Open, inclusive spaces for fishworkers and like-minded organizations to meet face-to-face and deepen their cooperation on advocacy work related to food security and tenure rights.
- Exchanges between Women in Fisheries, which highlight their experiences, the challenges they are facing, and the creative approaches they use to address these challenges.

The general structure of the workshop includes:

- Day 1: Discussions on access to fisheries resources and areas.
- Day 2: Discussions on social development for sustainable fisheries, food security and poverty eradication.
- Day 3: Exchanges on women and gender in fisheries.
- Day 4: Development of a collective declaration on specific themes that participants want to prioritize, and an Action Plan for addressing challenges in the region.

1 The Asia workshop took place from 5-8 May in Bangkok, Thailand and included 60 participants from 11 South and Southeast Asia countries – Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. More information on the workshop can be found here: <https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/>

Annexure 4

Programme

Day 1 – Quarta-feira, 02 Nov 2022	
Opening Ceremony:	
9:00 – 13:00	Mystique
	Coffee break
	Opening Table
	General Information
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 18:00	Session 1: Small-Scale Fisheries Context and Workshop Expectations
	Coffee break
	End of session
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner
	Local Music Presentation
Day 2 – Quinta-feira, 03 Nov 2022	
9:00 – 13:00	Session 2: Social Security, Education and Health
	Coffee break
	End of session
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 18:00	Session 3: Challenges and Strategies to Face Blue Economy
	Fieldwork 1: Mangrove trail and meeting the dolphins
	End of session
19:30 – 20:30	Dinner

Day 3 – Friday, 04 Nov 2022	
9:00 – 13:00	Session 4: Gender Equity in Small-Scale Fisheries
	Coffee break
	End of session
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 18:00	Session 5: Empowering Latin American Organizations and ULAPA
19:30 – 22:00	Dinner
	Local Music Presentation
Day 4 – Saturday, 05 Nov 2022	
9:00 – 13:00	Fieldwork 2: The Traditional Fisheries at Cardoso Island
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	AMOIP's Farewell
14:30 – 15:00	IYAFA 2022 Workshop Statement
	Coffee break
17:00 – 19:00	End of session and closure

Annexure 4

List of participants

- | | | | |
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Organized by



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
Comissão Nacional de Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas (CONFREM)
Instituto Linha D'Água and
Associação de Moradores Itacuruçá Pereirinha (AMOIP)

Latin American and Caribbean Workshop – IYafa 2022 **Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries**

International collective in support of fishworkers (ICSF) in partnership with Comissão Nacional de Fortalecimento das Reservas Extrativistas (CONFREM), Instituto Linha D'Água and Associação de Moradores Itacuruçá Pereirinha (AMOIP) organized an International Workshop titled “IYafa 2022-Celebrating Sustainable and Equitable Small-scale Fisheries: Latin American and Caribbean” from 2 to 5 November 2022 at São Paulo, Brazil. The Latin American and Caribbean workshop was the second of the series of four regional workshops planned by ICSF in connection with the proclamation of 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYafa) by the United Nations. The workshop revolved around discussions on the SSF Guidelines implementation and monitoring and specifically focused on the themes of tenure rights, social development and gender and women in fisheries. The workshop had a diverse group of 54 participants from CSOs, CBOs and FWOs from 16 participating countries namely- Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia. The discussions of four-day workshop resulted in the formulation of ‘The IYafa LAC Statement’ and ‘Gender Equity Action Plan’.

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