



# Yemaya

ICSF'S NEWSLETTER ON GENDER AND FISHERIES

## From the Editor

**A**s this issue of *Yemaya* goes to press, oil from the BP drill in the US Gulf of Mexico is still spilling out uncontrollably, destroying marine life and habitat at an unprecedented scale. The full environmental, social and economic implications of the oil spill are still to be fully grasped.

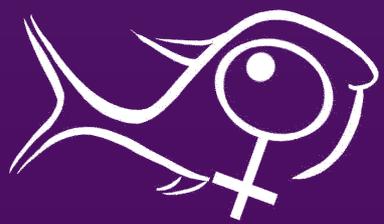
The spill is a grave reminder of the numerous threats facing fisheries and fishing communities today. The commercial exploitation of seas, the pressures of overfishing, technological changes in fisheries, competition over coastal spaces, pollution and the destruction of coastal habitats—fishing communities across the world are being affected by such developments. They strike right at the heart of communities and families, impacting livelihoods, power relations, the gender division of labour as well as food security and community wellbeing.

The workshop ‘Recasting the net: Defining a gender agenda for sustaining life and livelihoods in fishing communities’, being organized by ICSF from 7 to 10 July 2010 in Chennai, India, will seek to understand developments of concern to fishing communities, and their specific implications for women. It will also seek to share local agendas and strategies of women’s organizations in fisheries, taking stock of achievements and obstacles, and try to define an agenda and strategy for sustaining life and livelihood in fisheries into the future. The workshop will bring together researchers, activists and fishworker leaders—both men and women.

The Chennai workshop will draw on the reports from a series of preparatory national/regional-level workshops and consultations that took place in India, Thailand, the Philippines, South Africa, Brazil, Europe and Canada (see articles in this issue as well as in *Yemaya* No.33).

It will also draw on a detailed background study being undertaken for the workshop, based on an extensive review of literature that explores the following themes from a gender perspective: ‘work’ and changes in the sexual division of labour within fishing communities; rights to coastal and fisheries resources; women and fisheries decisionmaking; fish trade; community livelihoods and food security; aquaculture; culture and identity; climate change and fisheries; and organizing women in fisheries.

The picture already emerging from the preparatory workshops and the background study is nuanced and complex. Yet, there are common threads that run through. These will provide the foundation for discussions at the workshop, and for participants to define a ‘shared gender agenda’ for sustaining life and livelihood in fisheries and fishing communities, valuing the roles and contributions of both men and women in producing food, income and social wellbeing from fisheries. ■



Thailand .....	2
What's New Webby? .....	3
Milestones.....	4
Brazil .....	5, 7
Europe .....	9
Philippines.....	10
Profile .....	11
Canada .....	12
Africa.....	13
Q & A .....	15
Yemaya Mama.....	15
Yemaya Recommends.....	16