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SAMUDRA REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Safety and Health in Fishing

Fisheries Co-operatives

Labour and Human Rights

Weather Forecasting

SSF Guidelines

Fisheries, Communities, Livelihoods

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

As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, **ICSF**'s activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well as communications. ***SAMUDRA*** *Report* invites contributions and responses. Correspondence should be addressed to Chennai, India.

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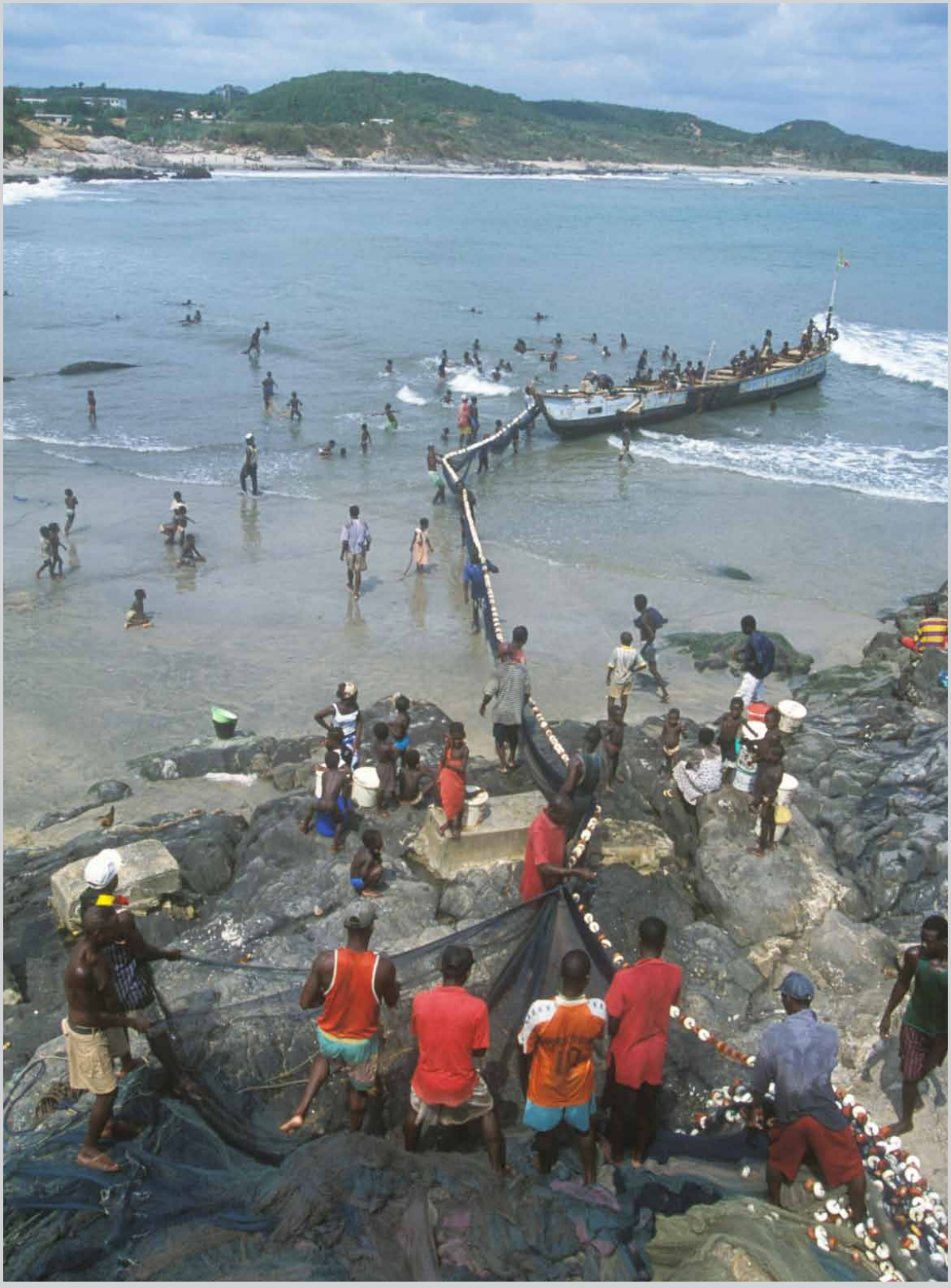

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SAMUDRA REPORT

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ARTISANAL SARDINE SEINER / GILDAS

FRONT COVER

The sea is made of coal, sand and shells
by Eli Smith
famsmith@olivant.fo

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International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust
No: 22, First Floor
Venkatrathinam Nagar
Adyar
Chennai - 600 020
Tamil Nadu
India
PHONE: (91) 44–24451216 / 24451217
FAX: (91) 44–24450216
EMAIL: icsf@icsf.net
WEBSITE: www.icsf.net

EDITED BY
KG Kumar

DESIGNED BY
MS Vasanth Christopher

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
Sandesh

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BACK COVER

Fishermen in the port of Ajim, Djerba Island, Tunisia

Photo : Nikos Economopoulous/Magnum Photo/FAO

FAO/SIA KAMBOU

Fishermen offloading tunas, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

From Rhetoric to Reality

As the implementation of the SSF Guidelines gets under way, it is imperative to lobby for policies and processes that will empower small-scale fishing communities

The Thirty-third Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Rome in July 2018, proved to be a watershed for small-scale fisheries. This COFI discussed, among other things, several exciting initiatives for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) (see article, page 39).

These initiatives, focusing on men and women from small-scale artisanal fishing communities and indigenous peoples, were reported by delegates from both developed and developing countries, including Small-Island Developing States (SIDS). It was gratifying to note that some countries that had not been so enthusiastic during the negotiation stage, are now actively promoting the SSF Guidelines at various levels.

While some of these initiatives focused on integrating the SSF Guidelines into national donor policy, national plans of action on small-scale fisheries, and national legislation on small-scale fisheries, others aimed at realizing regional strategies to ensure the sustainability of fishery resources as well as improving data on small-scale fisheries at the global level. Most, if not all, of these initiatives upheld the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines, such as participation in decision-making processes and the need to stand up for human-rights principles and standards.

Considerable support was expressed for the civil society-initiated SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF GSF) to facilitate interaction between COFI Members and interested State and non-State actors to promote the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at all levels. Significant enthusiasm was shown in celebrating 2022 as the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture", as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, and in developing a road map towards it. There was eagerness to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 14.b to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. In addition, delegates solidly backed the proposal to establish a new sub-committee on fisheries management under COFI, also with a focus on small-scale fisheries.

We hope these initiatives to strengthen small-scale fisheries will transform into policies and processes that will empower small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples who are dependent on small-scale fisheries for their life, livelihood and cultural wellbeing, at both the local and, particularly, the national level. The stories of displacement and loss of adjacency rights of indigenous peoples dependent on coastal, riverine and other inland water fisheries, as well as denial of their legal rights to territory, are many (see article on page 4, for example). Disruption of the land-sea interface by reclamation projects, which negatively impact the livelihood of local small-scale fishing communities through pollution and destruction of coastal biodiversity as well as the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals, are all real threats that hang over small-scale artisanal fishing communities.

We at ICSF have been following COFI meetings since 1995, and are pleased to note that, for the first time, COFI has swung the spotlight onto small-scale fisheries. The SSF Guidelines have suddenly woken up the global community to the potential of small-scale fisheries in eradicating poverty, in enhancing food security and in securing sustainable fisheries.

Evidently, now is the time to move from rhetoric to reality. We hope there will be global support to assist small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples to address, in a coherent and consistent manner, local and national threats challenging their existence. In this connection we do need to be cautious that the economic, social, cultural and environmental conditions essential for the wellbeing of small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples are not forgotten. Prudence is required to ensure that small-scale fishing communities are understood to be integral to small-scale artisanal fisheries, and that the SSF Guidelines implementation process protects their interests in all time frames across the world.

Shoved Out

The Guaranis, indigenous people of Morro dos Cavalos in Brazil, are being displaced from their lands to satisfy the interests of politicians and businesses

The current Brazilian political situation is very worrying as far as the indigenous problem is concerned. It is even more worrying if we consider Brazil's ethnic diversity, with 305 ethnic groups that include 896,000 people declared as indigenous, according to the 2010 demographic census carried out by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Besides the prejudice, injustice and the insufficiency of public policies, indigenous people must struggle every day to secure their lands. These struggles have become increasingly difficult because of the current government's political maneuvering. On 19 July 2017, a legal opinion issued by Attorney General Grace Mendonça (opinion 001/2017/AGU) was endorsed by President Michel Temer, which aims at reassessing indigenous land demarcations and restricting their land rights.

Indigenous people have been in the area claimed for decades, including in 1988, and the demarcated land never ceased to have the indigenous presence.

According to opinion 001/2017/AGU, the demarcated lands can only be considered indigenous lands if they are under the possession of indigenous people before 5 October 1988 – the day the Federal Constitution was promulgated. Despite the reference to the Federal Constitution, the "time reference" contradicts the premise of the indigenous rights in the Constitution, which states that the rights of indigenous people over their lands are defined as original rights, which go back even before the formation of the State of Brazil. The land rights are original and, therefore, cannot be restricted to any "time reference".

The "time reference" is contrary to the Federal Constitution, as it breaks with the indigenous rights, requiring proof of indigenous possession over that territory, without considering the fact that many indigenous people were violently expelled from their lands and would not be occupying them before 5 October 1988. Opinion 001/2017/AGU – known as the "anti-demarcation opinion" by indigenist and indigenous people – opens the possibility of re-discussing the lands already demarcated, and expelling the indigenous communities from their lands, as well as hindering and paralyzing new demarcations. The cut-off date also contravenes the Union's duty to protect indigenous lands, as well as Article 231, paragraph 5, of the Federal Constitution, which forbids the removal of the indigenous people from their lands.

The Brazilian Public Federal Ministry, through a technical note (No. 02/2018-6CCR), requested the annulment of opinion 001/2017/AGU, stating that it is unconstitutional, being "a deliberate denial of rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic, in international human rights law and infra-constitutional legislation". In the note, the Federal Public Ministry also states that the opinion is used as an artefact to evade the rights of indigenous people to their territories, and implies a "paralysis of

*This article is by **Ana Paula Rainho** (anap.rainho@gmail.com), Member, ICSF, and a doctoral student at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil*

the demarcations of indigenous lands, generating risks and legal uncertainty of repeal of acts already constituted, of potentiating conflicts between indigenous and non-indigenous (people)". The Federal Public Ministry mentions more than once in its technical note how the opinion violates international human rights law, which can lead to a risk of abrogating the international responsibility of the Brazilian State.

Contrary to the technical note of the Federal Public Ministry, the Minister of the Federal Supreme Court, Alexandre de Moraes, issued an opinion stating that indigenous Guarani lands in the state of Santa Catarina should be reviewed on a "time reference" basis. On 6 June 2018, federal and state deputies appealed to the Minister of Justice and National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) to request that they re-evaluate the demarcation of the Guarani indigenous lands, specifically the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos, based on the "time reference" and on the opinion of the Minister, Alexandre de Moraes. However, the survey conducted by FUNAI shows the opposite: Indigenous people have been in the area claimed for decades, including in 1988, and the demarcated land never ceased to have the indigenous presence. According to the Guaranis of the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos, there have always been Guaranis in this land, not only before 1988, but before the arrival of the colonizers in 1500.

On 19 April 2004, Brazil ratified the International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 (C169), through Decree 5051. However, the "time reference" does not comply with many of the fundamental points of the Convention. One of them is the emphasis on the participation of indigenous people in national and local policies that affect them directly. At no time were the indigenous people consulted during the formulation of opinion 001/2017/AGU. This opinion also grossly disregards the whole of C169 relating to land tenure, as mentioned in article 14, paragraphs 1 and 2: "1. The rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognized. In addition, measures shall be taken in appropriate cases to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use lands not exclusively occupied by them, but to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities. Particular attention shall be paid to the situation of nomadic peoples and shifting cultivators in this respect. 2. Governments shall take steps as necessary to identify the lands which the peoples concerned traditionally occupy, and to guarantee effective protection of their rights of ownership and possession".

The "time reference" disrespects the C169 because it not only prevents new demarcations but also opens the way to re-discuss land that has already been demarcated. It thus fails to guarantee property rights and land tenure, and removes lands already demarcated and guaranteed for indigenous people. In article 16 of C169, it is mentioned that indigenous people: "... shall not be removed from the lands which they occupy" (paragraph 1), but under exceptional circumstances (paragraph 2), they may be relocated, with their free and informed consent. Thus, the decision of Minister Alexandre de Moraes not only violates the first paragraph of the above article 16 but also the second paragraph, since at no

JEKUPE MAWE

Guarani women and children. The Guarani of the subgroup Mbyá have lost access to sea fish when their boats were burned, but they can still fish in the river as long as they have their land guaranteed

time was the decision taken jointly with the Guarani indigenous people. They do not wish to leave their territory at all.

Besides all these happenings, the Guaranis of the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos resist, in spite of the strong pressures that they are suffering on their land, pressures that occur beyond the juridical front. In 2017, their boats were burned in a criminal fire that was never investigated. The intention was to set their villages on fire, but because of the direction of the wind, only some trees caught fire. The Guaranis who inhabit the Morro dos Cavalos are of two subgroups: Mbyá and Ñandeva, which have as food source, fishing, hunting, and products derived from their fields. Unfortunately, they have lost access to sea fish when their boats were burned, but they can still fish in the river as long as they have their land guaranteed.

The fish is responsible for nourishing the souls and raising the spirituality of the Guaranis.

The guarantee of access to the river and the sea is very important for the Guarani people of the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos. According to the anthropologist Mártin César Tempass, the Guaranis of the subgroup Mbyá present a very special relationship with the fish, since the fish serves as food, not only material but also spiritual. The fish is responsible for nourishing the souls and raising the spirituality of the Guaranis. To attain such spirituality, which they call "soul perfection", the Mbyá Guarani are dedicated to a series of rules established according to their cosmological foundations. The food rules are decisive to the construction of this spirituality they wish for. The fish are indicated for the construction of bodies and perfect souls, showing the importance of fish and fishing for the Mbyá Guarani people. However, to continue to have access to the fish, the Mbyá and Ñandeva need the guarantee of their land. Thus, opinion 001/2017/AGU, together with the decision of the Federal Supreme Court Justice, puts them at risk of losing the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos, denying these indigenous communities access to their food security and reproduction of their cultural, social and spiritual practices.

Opinion 001/2017/AGU aims to remove indigenous people from their lands to satisfy the interests of the wealthy agribusiness, mining interests and politicians, who, in the case of the Indigenous Land Morro dos Cavalos, have already consolidated their interests in building a railroad within the territory of the Guaranis. This unconstitutional opinion seriously violates indigenous rights in accordance with national and international law. The current government has the distiction of demarcating the least number of indigenous lands in the history of the country since democratization; not only did it not demarcate, but it is also creating precedents, through the "time reference", to do something that has never been done before – to remove the indigenous people from their already demarcated lands. However, the Guarani people are resisting and together with them, we will support the struggle for the rights of indigenous people.

For more

http://www.stf.jus.br/repositorio/cms/portalStfInternacional/portalStfSobreCorte_en_us/anexo/Constitution_2013.pdf
Constitution of the Federative Republic of Brazil 1988

https://www.socioambiental.org/sites/blog.socioambiental.org/files/nsa/arquivos/2017apib_report_indigenous_situation_brazil.pdf.
Michel Temer's government acts to violate indigenous peoples' territorial rights

http://www.agu.gov.br/atos/detalhe/1552758
A legal opinion issued by Attorney General Grace Mendonça (Parecer nº 001/2017/GAB/CGU/AGU, dated July 19th, 2017)

Towards Healthy Work

An FAO project examines global occupational health and safety policies, practices, standards, problems and challenges in aquaculture occupational safety and health (AOSH)

The plight of millions of aquaculture workers across the world, in terms of working conditions and basic health and safety, is often neglected, if not ignored altogether. They are frequently invisible to governments and regulators, and can all too often be forgotten or neglected by local and national health and labour services. They may also be lost under an 'agricultural' occupational health and safety umbrella which is meant to cover aquaculture but may not.

New efforts to address these problems at an international level have begun with an initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to start scoping out activity, data gaps, problems and, finally, successes across the globe in tackling the health and safety problems of these workers. They include fish farmers onshore and offshore, prawn and shrimp farmers, oyster, mussel and other shellfish farmers, seaweed farmers and other aquaculture workers. The search for practical solutions to removing or reducing hazards and risks in numerous and varied settings across the globe is the focus of the project.

Global polices

The project looked at global occupational health and safety policies, practices, standards, problems and challenges in aquaculture occupational safety and health (AOSH) along the primary supply chain, in marine and freshwater locations, and in a range of employment settings. The project examined material on the hazards contributing to occupational health risks that result in occupational injury and disease as well as risks from high-risk activities such as diving, construction works, feeding, harvesting, processing and transport of produce. Some information was also gathered on women workers, migrant workers and child labour in the context of human rights linked to worker health and safety. Welfare conditions and work-related factors contributing to occupational injury, disease and ill-health have been included, such as low wages, insecure work, housing, access to healthcare, and transport. Whilst recognizing the varied and, at times, complex economic, social and political as well as geographic and climatic settings in which aquaculture can operate, the research focus was on trying to identify evidence of effective AOSH systems and practical and simple solutions to AOSH problems.

The project looked at global occupational health and safety policies, practices, standards, problems and challenges in aquaculture occupational safety and health (AOSH).

The desk-based project, drawing on expertise from the team, used peer-reviewed and grey literature on AOSH. Key factors affecting AOSH were explored, such as the social organization of work, regulation and non-regulation, and the role of industry, government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and labour. National and regional profiles on AOSH from around the world were then produced using a standard template for key countries where information was readily available. Profiles generated included those from Africa to Australasia, and Europe to

*This article is by **Andrew Watterson** (a.e.watterson@stir.ac.uk), Occupational and Environmental Health Research Group, Centre for Public Health and Population Health Research, Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport, Pathfoot Building, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland*

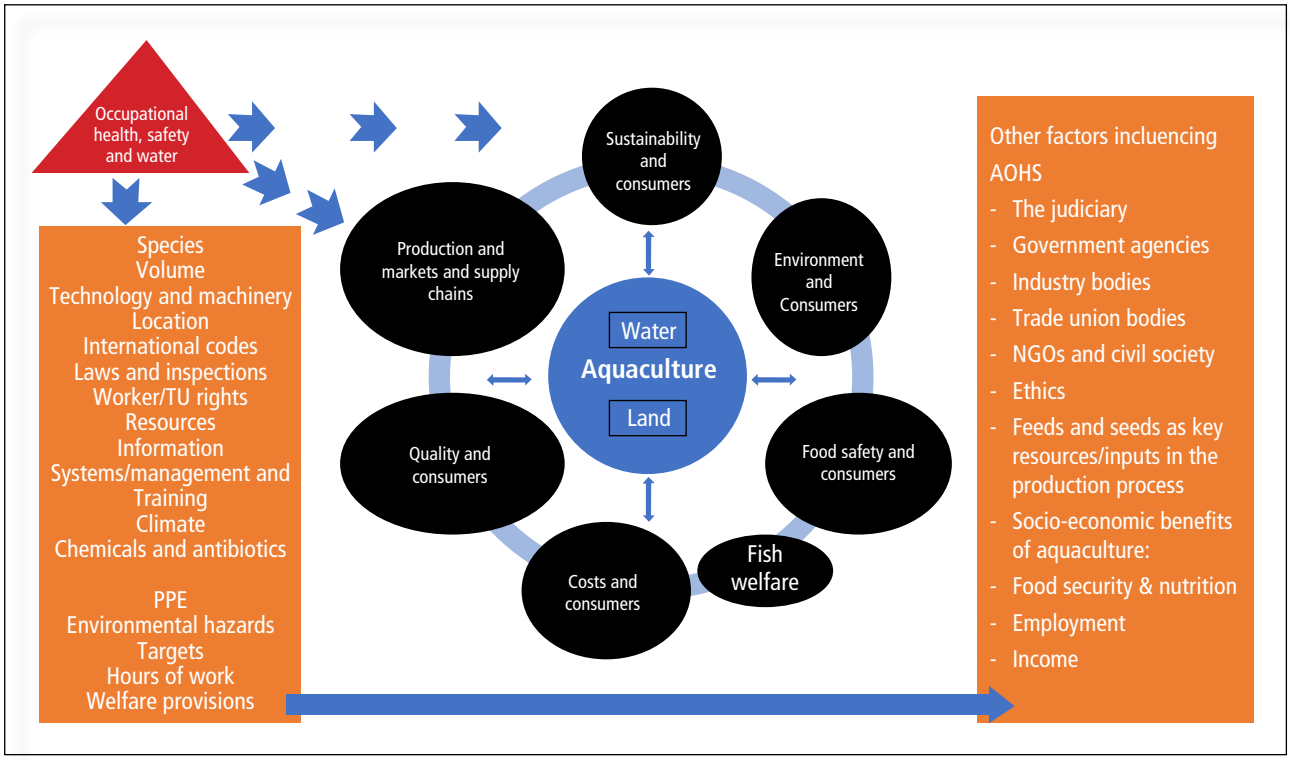
North and Latin America. In addition, relevant global legislation, national laws, international codes, labour practice guidance, industry standards and NGO and trade union initiatives were examined. The national and regional profiles will shortly be made available for workers to access and use the findings, if relevant to them.

Several major issues emerge from the report. Many gaps have been discovered in our global knowledge of the working conditions of upwards of 18 mn aquaculture workers. This relates not only to documenting the hazards they face but the injuries and diseases they suffer. There is also much we do not know about the different regulatory and risk management systems that may or may not be in place to protect them.

Independent analyses of the extent and the effectiveness of existing prevention and risk-reduction strategies adopted are limited. These findings emerge across all the national and regional profiles compiled for this report, although in a few countries more is known about AOSH than elsewhere.

All too often, AOSH is marginalised or 'lost' by government, industry and, sometimes, labour organizations dealing with agriculture or fisheries as there is usually little specific focus or attention paid to aquaculture. Yet priority and investment are given to production, processes, cost, food safety, sustainability and wider environmental issues within the sector by industry and government. This contrasts starkly with under-funded NGOs, including trade unions and other civil society groups, who do work on aquaculture and fishing, who are often best placed to reach such workers and who use innovative and accessible social media and networking tools. Yet these organizations often have very limited resources and staff to reach large numbers of the most vulnerable of workers in rural communities.

The human, social and economic toll of poor AOSH is considerable and often externalised by industry and government, and is likely to be borne by the workers and communities affected directly through occupational injuries and diseases and indirectly through low wages, long hours, job insecurity



The current location of aquaculture occupational safety and health in aquaculture. The diagram identifies issues affecting AOSH and how it has been marginalized

and, in many contexts, poor welfare and social security. OSH hazards in the sector are all too often associated with other labour exploitation issues such as forced labour, child labour, debt bondage, discrimination, and denial of rights to association and collective bargaining negotiations and labour agreements. While some aquaculture workers are highly trained and in secure jobs globally, most are from these vulnerable populations in precarious work – women, indigenous people, children, seasonal workers, migrant workers, rural and remote workers.

Monitoring and inspection of AOSH in the sector based on effective regulations are certainly needed but are patchy globally and may not exist at all. Healthy work is good for business and communities, but the message is still often misunderstood or deliberately ignored. Guidance usually comes from general agricultural or OSH rules and codes. These may be useful in providing a broad health and safety framework within which to control and remove risks. However, they can lack specific and more detailed information and standards directly relevant to the aquaculture industry. Efforts of mainstreaming and applying OSH policies and practices in the aquaculture sector face many challenges, given the complexity of issues involved and the diversity of contexts of aquaculture development. The diagram identifies issues affecting AOSH and how it has been marginalised.

The good news is that there has been some increase in AOSH research and prevention initiatives in recent decades, driven in different locations by the state, regulators, civil society and consumers, in particular. Solutions – technical and organizational – have been mooted, with the potential to remove or reduce some risks from known hazards. So good regulations, monitoring and enforcement underpinned by effective industry, community and labour engagement, surveillance, research and knowledge transfer may help to guide strategies to improve AOSH. All such strategies and initiatives require thorough research and evaluation not always currently available.

Successes include: (i) workforce OSH agreements with European aquaculture companies operating in developing countries such as Ghana; (ii) extension services in some parts of the United States (US); (iii) technological innovations and hazard assessment in Norway linked to regulation; (iv) Canadian technology innovations in reducing hazardous exposures; (v) changed South African occupational health and safety management improving practices; and (vi) Scottish and United Kingdom (UK) tripartite body initiatives improving knowledge exchange.

...small-scale interventions in rural communities, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are drawing on barefoot and participatory action research to improve AOSH.

Solutions to OSH issues, based on standard health risk assessment and risk-management techniques are relevant to large, small and medium-sized enterprises. Many will be equally applicable to family and village production units. Trade unions and NGOs can also provide important information and advice, and trigger action.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and FAO codes on occupational health and safety, human rights and 'Decent Work' programmes provide some of the most effective models for addressing and raising weak AOSH standards. When linked to initiatives in other Ministries – Labour, Health and Social Security – adoption and implementation of these codes and programmes can ensure progress happens and is monitored over the years. The approaches appear to operate relatively well in parts of Asia and Latin America. They could provide a benchmark for international agencies, funders and non-governmental agencies in their efforts to improve working conditions in aquaculture.

Good AOSH practice

Aquaculture certification schemes that include OSH as well as training,

Core FAO project team

The following comprise the core team: Lissandra Cavalli (Brazil), Mohamed Jeebhay (South Africa), Rebecca Mitchell (Australia and New Zealand), Barbara Neis (Canada), Andrew Watterson (Scotland: Project co-ordinator).

National profiles/authors: Australia and New Zealand (Rebecca Mitchell and Reidar Lystad), Brazil (Lissandra Cavalli and Flavielle Marques), Ghana (Mohamed Jeebhay and Dorothy Ngajilo), Canada (Barbara Neis and Christine Knott), Norway (Ingunn Marie Holmen and Trine Thorvaldsen), South Africa (Mohamed Jeebhay and Dorothy Ngajilo), UK (Andrew Watterson), US (Michael Barnes, Jill Voorhees and Nancy Barnes).

Regional profiles/authors: Asia (Andrew Watterson), Europe (Andrew Watterson), Latin America (Lissandra Cavalli and Flavielle Marques), Sub-Saharan Africa (Mohamed Jeebhay and Dorothy Ngajilo).

quality, sustainability and food safety elements may also help to raise awareness and standards in the sector, especially in countries and regions where regulation, monitoring and enforcement structures are just developing. There is some limited evidence to support this from around the world, and more independent evaluation is needed.

Generally, there are significant needs and opportunities for multi-stakeholder and inter-agency collaboration involving interested workers' representatives, aquaculture producers and industry, fish value chain actors, government authorities (health, OSH, aquaculture, agriculture, fisheries, etc.), NGOs, OSH research and academia and others to further mainstream and implement OSH issues and management practices in the aquaculture sector.

The project identified global, regional and national initiatives contributing to greater awareness of OSH in the sector, better information dissemination approaches, raised standards and inspections, good quality advice and effective interventions. Globally, ILO and FAO, through the 'Decent Work' programmes and support for developing governmental OSH frameworks in various countries, have produced the most important recent initiatives, especially influential in Asia, South America and some African countries.

Regionally, Europe and North America contain examples of good practice through government, state and academic research and advice services, regulatory standards, tripartite initiatives and monitoring policies. However, even within these regions, between and within countries, activity and information on AOSH are patchy. The US, Norway and Canada have the longest history of research and consultancy on AOSH, with Norway having probably the most advanced standards and practices. Some countries in Africa and Asia (India, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh), Australia and the UK have also done some research work on AOSH either through government departments, consultancies or universities that has further promoted improved industry practice.

Vulnerable groups

International funder policies may have a major impact on AOSH. There are global trends of de-regulation and reduced support to public authorities – resulting from policy, practice and regulation through economic controls or cuts on public services such as health and OSH inspectorates. These trends could be reversed to the benefit of improved OSH coverage in aquaculture and other sectors.

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) and other international trade secretariats can promote good AOSH practice and monitor and raise awareness of bad practices. NGOs like the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) could have important roles in reaching and supporting vulnerable

FAO/GIUSEPPE BIZZARR

A farmer fishing in a pond, Konu Gyi, Myanmar. Efforts of mainstreaming and applying OSH policies and practices in the aquaculture sector face many challenges, given the complexity of issues involved and the diversity of contexts of aquaculture development

groups of aquaculture workers by providing information, education and support, and using social media.

Along with macro-level national interventions through comprehensive laws and their effective monitoring and enforcement, small-scale interventions in rural communities, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are drawing on barefoot and participatory action research to improve AOSH. These small-scale initiatives could prove very important in raising awareness about AOSH and providing available simple low-cost solutions to major hazards. This is the other end of the spectrum from the types of extension services available and dominant in North America and Europe.

Progressive multinational companies and consultancies can provide another arm of effective intervention work on AOSH through application of existing laws in their own countries and transfer of good practice and technology elsewhere in the world. In 2011, FAO issued the 'Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification'.

Effective intervention

Certification using international standards is gradually increasing in the aquaculture industry. Schemes like the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), the Global Good Agricultural Practice (Global G.A.P.) and Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) are including OSH issues and may merit independent evaluation of OSH impacts. While efforts to improve quality management such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 still dominate, OSH remains relatively neglected in most aquaculture industry schemes. However, both ISO 14001 (Environmental management) and British Standard Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (BS-OHSAS) 18001 are now being implemented by some aquaculture companies.

Understanding the complex social, cultural, economic and political inter-relationships and weighting of factors influencing AOSH in different countries and different settings will be the key to effective action. All these elements need to be considered if there is to be a successful introduction of risk assessment, risk management, information and training, risk removal and technical solutions to industry risks from multinational fish farms to community and family aquaculture ponds.

For more

https://www.seafoodsource.com/features/new-report-to-highlight-dangers-facing-aquaculture-workers
New report to highlight dangers facing aquaculture workers

https://www.stir.ac.uk/news/2018/06/urgent-action-on-risks-to-aquaculture-workers-needed-study-finds/
Urgent action on risks to aquaculture workers needed, study finds

https://www.stir.ac.uk/news/2017/12/drive-to-improve-health-and-safety-for-global-aquaculture-workers/
Drive to improve health and safety for global aquaculture workers

http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2296t/i2296t00.pdf
Technical guidelines on aquaculture certification

http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5980e.pdf
Scoping study on decent work and employment in fisheries and aquaculture: Issues and actions for discussion and programming

Wellbeing Aspirations

Fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka need to be restructured into true co-management platforms to ensure the sustainable use of coastal zone resources

It is now recognized that fishing is not simply catching fish and earning an income, but a way of life which is especially true with small-scale fisheries, which comprise nearly 90 per cent of all fisheries in developing countries. All activities in fishing are firmly embedded in culture, values, customs and traditions of fishing communities, and thus the decisions concerning fishing are generally sociocultural constructs rather than those based on profit-maximizing rational choices. For natural scientists, fishing is an issue of ecosystem health; for social scientists it is a case of social welfare and wellbeing, while for governors and managers, it is policies, laws and management mechanisms for sustainable resource use. However, for fishers it is a particular way or life which meets their wellbeing aspirations – a much broader composite goal. The oft-noted complaint of fishers is that their diverse wellbeing aspirations are not properly understood by the state actors, who often manage fisheries from the top, with little contact with those at the bottom.

Co-operatives have won the faith of the fishers, and their membership has grown to include even the majority of the women fisherfolk.

In such a context, the fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka can be considered as true community institutions, catering to the varying needs of the fishers – from the provision of technical and financial services to meeting their diverse wellbeing aspirations. Co-operatives have won the faith of the fishers, and their membership has grown to include even the majority of the women fisherfolk. However, one of the serious weaknesses of the co-operatives has been their failure to play any significant role in resource management, especially in controlling entry into fisheries. On another front, it is to be noted that fishers form only one type of stakeholders using resources in the coastal zone. The others are farmers, industries, tourism stakeholders, etc., whose decisions concerning resource use are often in conflict, requiring cross-sectoral collaboration. Given the dominant position enjoyed by fisheries co-operatives in the coastal zone, restructuring of fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka is needed to organize them into true co-management platforms towards attaining the goal of sustainable use of coastal zone resources.

Fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka have a post-independence origin. They have been initiated by the government and are organized with the intervention of two government departments, the Department of Co-operative Development and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which make them a particular type of 'formal organizations'. This is often perceived as a crucial weakness, and even contrary to the essence of the co-operative movement. The Overseas Co-operative Development Council thus concludes flatly that: "government-controlled parastatals are not true co-operatives". Yet, these 'formal' types of organizations performed a number of functions during the Blue Revolution era (1950-1970), when the new fishing technology was channelled to the asset-poor fishers through the fisheries co-operatives

This article is by ***Oscar Amarasinghe*** *(oamarasinghe@yahoo.com), President of the Sri Lanka Forum for Small-Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF), Sri Lanka*

with financial assistance in the form of subsidies including subsidized credit. What is important to note is the fact that membership in co-operatives is, in principle, voluntary, and that individual co-operatives enjoy great freedom in planning, organizing and implementing activities aimed at meeting the diverse needs of the community. As it will be shown in this article, Sri Lanka's fisheries co-operatives have a history of being true community organizations, performing an array of functions towards meeting the wellbeing aspirations of their membership: the fishers and their families.

Fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka can be traced to 1912, when the Rural Credit Societies were established. Then the Department of Co-operatives, which was established in 1930, took a new interest in the development of credit societies into co-operatives. The first fisheries co-operative was established in 1942, with the objective of providing credit facilities to fishers to acquire craft and gear, and to facilitate fish marketing. From 30 registered societies in 1945, the number grew to 292 by 1972. A complete re-organization of co-operatives was done in that year, when village-level co-operatives were amalgamated to form primary co-operative societies serving a larger area.

The activities of these co-operatives are guided by the Co-operative Societies Act No. 5 of 1972, and the Fisheries Co-operative Constitution. From 45 of such primary societies in 1973, they increased to 845 by the year 2016, with a membership of 95,891. However, only 596 co-operatives remained active, with around 70 per cent of them being concentrated in the north and the east of the country, which were heavily affected by the civil war during the 1983-2009 period. Many of the fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka can be characterized as multi-purpose, combining functions such as the provision of credit, technology and insurance; and occasionally, the organization of marketing. Their importance was strongly felt in early 1960s when the government introduced the new capital-intensive Blue Revolution technology: mechanized boats, nylon nets and outboard motors. These were channelled to asset-poor fishers through fisheries co-operatives with subsidies, including subsidized credit. Group guarantees by fellow members resolved the collateral problems and formation of crew groups under a caretaker owner who provided access to large mechanized craft with easy repayment schemes.

By investing in bridging and linking social capital, co-operatives have formed strong social networks horizontally and vertically, to do favours for their membership: training, capacity building, procuring funds for infrastructural development, community welfare, etc. Many a co-operative in Sri Lanka organizes all village cultural and religious events, provide tents, chairs and buffet sets for weddings and for funerals, operate pre-schools and children's parks, organize private tuition classes for school children, etc., thus facilitating the achievement of diverse wellbeing aspirations of their membership.

However, fisheries co-operation also had its drawbacks. From his studies in southern Sri Lanka, the author has shown that co-operatives were used in early days (1960s and 1970s) by politicians to provide favours to their political clientele by fraudulently channeling public goods. When governments changed, new office bearers having political links to the

OSCAR AMARASINGHE

Women from a fisheries co-operative cleaning the garden around the fisheries office near Kalametiya Landing Site, Hambantota, Sri Lanka. The co-operatives' membership has grown to include even the women fisherfolk

party in power were elected, who had easy access to public goods through the political clientele system of the ministers and their aides-de-camp. Thus there have been incidences of collapse of certain co-operatives, due to such political interference and corruption.

The fisheries co-operatives in Sri Lanka were subject to several threats in the past. The first threat was the withdrawal of state assistance and patronage to fisheries co-operatives in 1994 because of the prioritization of defence expenditure over others, which was huge during the 30 years of civil war in the country. This move made some co-operatives defunct or dormant. The second type of threat emanated when the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) introduced a new type of community organization called the 'Landing Site Management Committees' (LSMCs) in 2004, with the aim of bringing in management functions into community-based organizations at the landing site level.

Some of the cooperatives in the south are completely run by women, leaving the men to concentrate on fishing.

About 1,000 such committees were established in the country, and some of the co-operatives were disassembled to join these LSMCs, which were pledged with an initial capital of LKR 1 mn (USD 6214). The LSMCs never functioned and no funds were allocated to them. The third threat came in 2010, when the Ministry of Fisheries established a multi-layered system of Rural Fisheries Organizations (RFOs), and announced that state assistance to small-scale fishers would only be channelled through RFOs. The RFOs functioned only under the MFARD, without any involvement by the Department of Co-operative Development. The MFARD thought that such a format would make things easier in channelling public goods to the 'needy' fishers, and also as a means of controlling community organizations to meet the short-term goals of the political party in power.

By 2017, there were 1,127 such RFOs (both marine and inland) with a membership of 98,748. Although, it has now taken almost eight years since their establishment, the RFOs still remain quite dormant, with no apparent role to perform. They have no clear vision and mission and, so far, have not performed a single function that fisheries co-operatives used to perform. Yet, they are the agents of the state, who grant approval for various requests made by the membership and recipients of any public goods channelled to fisheries. In fact, what has happened in many parts of the country was that, the existing co-operatives have assumed the name RFO, with the same membership and same office bearers. Thus, while co-operatives and RFOs are different by name, the membership remains the same in most areas.

Nevertheless, in the minds of many fishers, fisheries co-operatives still remain the most dominant type of community organization in coastal areas. Many continue to function in an environment of zero state assistance, but as strong social networks based on trust and reciprocity among people. Quite interestingly, the co-operatives, as against RFOs, have a strong involvement of women. Some of the co-operatives in the south are completely run by women, leaving the men to concentrate on fishing. By providing group guarantees, they have invested in plant nurseries, boutiques, organic farming, etc., earning supplementary incomes. In short, fisheries co-operatives still function as the only form of fisheries community organization that represent the interests of fishers and their families and work towards meeting their wellbeing aspirations.

While fisheries co-operatives have performed fairly well in meeting an array of wellbeing aspirations of the fisherfolk, they have failed tremendously in managing the fisheries resources, especially in controlling entry.

Bioeconomic modelling studies in the southern marine fisheries of Sri Lanka have shown that high rates of resource exploitation (higher levels of effort) occurred in fishing villages which had well-functioning co-operatives (Bata Atha South Fisheries Co-operative in the Hambantota District

is an example). In fact, in these villages, fishers have entered the fishery quite freely and have exploited the resources heavily. Co-operatives have contributed to this situation by providing fishers with the means to access natural resources and the required livelihood capitals to facilitate this access. This has to be related to the origins of the fisheries co-operative movement in the early 1940s, when co-operatives were expected to provide the membership with credit facilities to purchase craft and gear, which is a function tantamount to 'facilitating entry'. Thus, fisheries co-operatives became lending institutions with a diversity of credit schemes, lending money not only to acquire fishing equipment, but also to meet consumption needs and insurance needs (through instant loan schemes). The well-functioning co-operatives, in this respect, were even elevated to the status of Fisheries Banks ('Idiwara Banks').

The restructured primary fisheries co-operatives that were born in 1972 had assumed a large array of functions to improve welfare facilities for the fishing populations. They were totally welfare-centric, with hardly any concern for resource management. Note should also be made of two important principles of the peasants in rural Sri Lanka – the principle of equality and the right to subsistence. All who are born in the village have a right to live and, should enjoy equal rights of access to resources. The fisheries co-operatives, as true community organizations, are expected to abide by these principles of the peasantry. Thus, even when the current fishing pressure is high, they are forced to assist whoever wants to fish. Although this weakness is understood by co-operatives, they are not in a position to introduce entry controls, which will challenge the very basis of the establishment of fisheries co-operatives.

Given that fisheries co-operatives command a high degree of confidence and faith among the membership as their true representatives, the fisheries co-operative format could be made use of in introducing measures that will also ensure a healthy ecosystem, with appropriate restructuring to achieve these ends. But fisheries form only one component of the coastal ecosystem, and fishers are only one stakeholder group in the coastal zone, with farmers, tourism stakeholders, industries and others forming a group of multi-stakeholders exploiting the same bundle of coastal resources. Therefore, decisions regarding coastal zone management need cross-sectoral collaboration to avoid conflicts among stakeholders having different interests and different legal orders. Although they remain latent, conflicts among diverse stakeholders in the coastal zone exist. Yet, attempts at resolving conflicts through cross-sectoral collaboration, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, are hard to find.

The recently developed Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) provide a good starting point, with their emphasis on holistic, inclusive, participatory and integrated approaches to fisheries management.

Recent studies in south Sri Lanka provide evidence of the very strong position enjoyed by the fisheries cooperatives...

Recent studies in south Sri Lanka provide evidence of the very strong position enjoyed by the fisheries co-operatives in comparison to other community organizations in the coastal zone, with respect to the provision of livelihood capitals, transparency and accountability of operations, and willingness and capacity to adopt some of the key SSF Guidelines.

Leadership role

It is also interesting to note that all non-fisheries stakeholders in the coastal zone believe that fisheries co-operatives could take the leadership in making decisions concerning the management of resources in the coastal zone. Evidently, due to the diverse tasks and uncertainties inherent in fishing – seasonality, high incidence of damage to, and loss of, craft and gear and fishing days, need for supplementary income, etc. – fisheries co-operatives have risen

up to provide a host of services to the membership, including the provision of livelihood capital, which is not the case with other community institutions like the agricultural co-operatives or rural development societies.

Moreover, through the experience they have gained in managing fisheries co-operatives to provide the above services to the membership, the co-operative leaders have become very strong and powerful individuals in making decisions concerning coastal resource use. Yet, the latter necessitates that fisheries co-operatives function as true interactive management platforms, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. Such a change requires the incorporation of concerns of resource management into the constitution of fisheries co-operatives, assuming the role of a cross-sectoral collaborative body to perform the required management functions.

Entry into coastal fisheries is now made fairly difficult by the recent state regulations banning the construction of small fibreglass boats, which are the mainstay of coastal fishing in Sri Lanka. Following this ban, some co-operatives, like the Godawaya Fisheries Co-operative in Hambantota district, have already taken steps to set limits on all types of coastal craft operating in its landing site. The co-operative is also controlling the entry of tourists into the Godawaya beach, fearing that tourism would have adverse influences on the youth, culture and traditions of the village.

...fisheries co-operatives have risen up to provide a host of services to the membership, including the provision of livelihood capital...

On the one hand, the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996, provides for the establishment of Fisheries Management Areas and Fisheries Committees within such areas, which are entrusted with management decisionmaking. In fact, the MFARD has started establishing co-management platforms for export-oriented fisheries, with the participation of all stakeholders in designated fisheries management areas in a number of districts. The process has been facilitated by funds provided by international donors. But these committees became defunct after some time for a number of reasons: withdrawal of foreign assistance; absence of a leader organization to work towards achieving the goals of co-management; and the apathy of the state authorities to continue with the process. In this whole process, the fisheries co-operatives have been relegated to the background because of the government's lack of interest in empowering them. On the other hand, the RFOs remained outside the mainstream of activities because they commanded no faith or trust among people, and did not enjoy a dominant status among diverse stakeholders in the coastal zone.

The focus group discussions held recently revealed that the whole process of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) could be organized under the leadership of the fisheries co-operatives, which could function as co-management platforms with the participation of all coastal resource users, state actors, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other parties, including women and marginalized groups. The mere formation of such platforms itself will not resolve management issues, unless the management process is made integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic. This requires, among other things, the government's will to recognize the important role played by fisheries co-operatives as a dominant actor in the coastal zone, the will to empower them and abolish the dormant RFOs. A change of this nature will not only put under way a strong process of ICZM, but also introduce a mechanism to resolve conflicts among coastal resource users.

For more

http://www.coop.gov.lk/web/images/acts/1972-5/1972_05_E.pdf
Co-operative Societies Law No. 5 of 1972

Don't Jump Ship

The Seafood Slavery Risk Tool helps inform businesses about abuses of labour and human rights in their seafood supply chains

Myint Naing, held captive for 22 years after being trafficked onto Thai fishing boats, never thought he would see his family in Myanmar again. Joshua, and three other Filipinos, escaped from a United Kingdom scallop dredger after enduring violence and death threats to keep them working up to 22 hours a day. But another Filipino, Eril Andrade, did not survive his enslavement on a Taiwanese tuna longliner. Neither did Supriyanto, an Indonesian trafficking and forced-labour victim, who also died on a Taiwanese longline vessel. These men's stories, and those of others, including the thousands we will never hear, are why the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool exists.

Until a few years ago, the labour- and human-rights abuses in the notoriously opaque global fishing industry had remained largely invisible to the outside world. But a series of high-profile investigations reported by the Associated Press (AP), *The Guardian* and *The New York Times* in 2015 and 2016 created a heightened awareness, leading the business partners of the California-based Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch programme (Seafood Watch) and the environmental non-governmental organization (NGO), Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), in Hawaii, to seek out information on how to identify affected fisheries and help drive positive change.

It soon became clear that it would be no easy task to gauge the risk of forced labour, human trafficking, or hazardous child labour in seafood supply chains. Reliable, publicly available resources for this purpose simply did not exist. The available studies and tools tend to focus on whole sectors or countries, instead of individual fisheries. A new risk assessment tool was needed – one based on credible, public information and a clear and robust methodology – that informs due diligence and spurs remedial and transformative action.

After two years of hard work and extensive consultation with business and human-rights experts, a coalition comprising Seafood Watch, SFP and Liberty Global/Liberty Asia, a Hong Kong-based NGO working to prevent human trafficking through legal advocacy and technological interventions, launched the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool in February 2018.

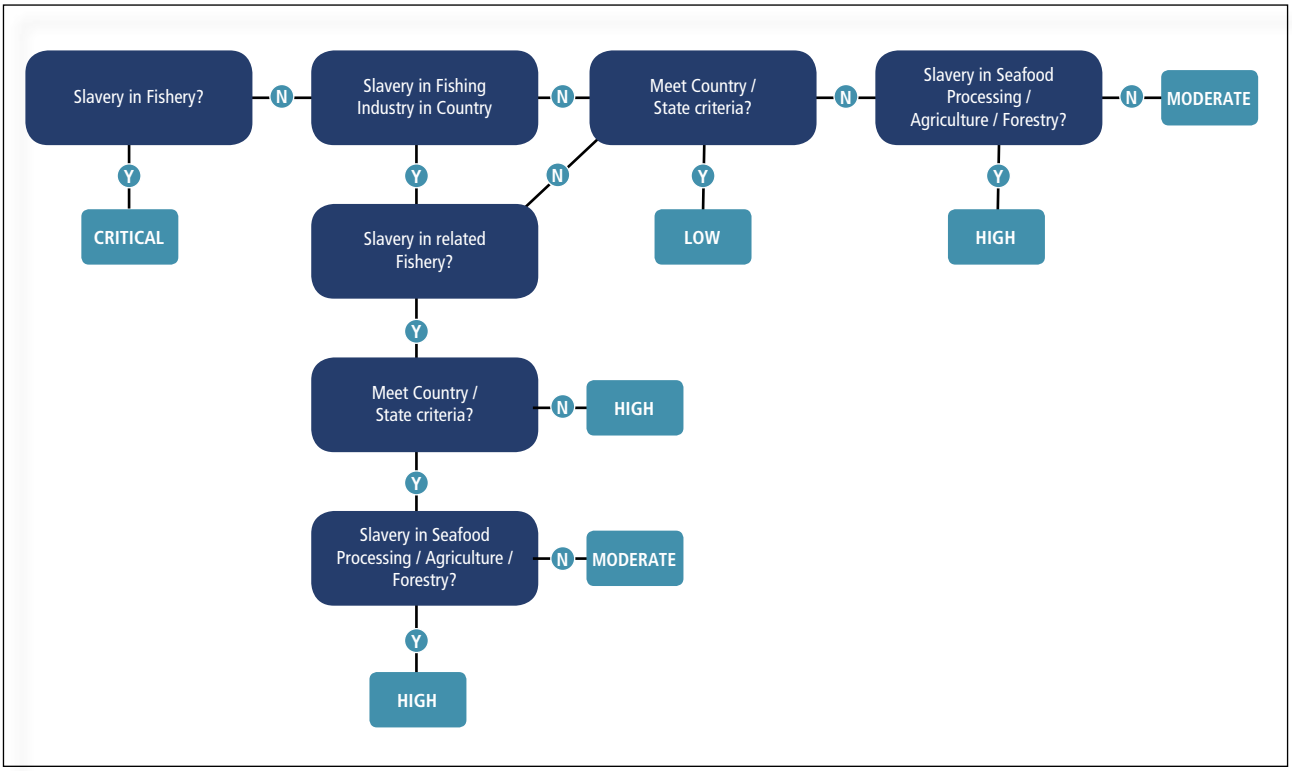
It soon became clear that it would be no easy task to gauge the risk of forced labour, human trafficking, or hazardous child labour in seafood supply chains.

Following a rigorous decision-tree-based methodology, the Risk Tool assesses if there's a Critical, High, Moderate, or Low Risk of forced labour, human trafficking, or hazardous child labour in the wild-capture stage of a fishery. To do so, first, analysts document any publicly available evidence in the profile fishery. If evidence is found and deemed credible – gathered from reports and publications by authoritative institutions, including media, governments, academia and civil society – the fishery is assessed as Critical Risk, period.

Methodology

If there is no evidence in the fishery, the Risk Tool team then looks for any evidence in the country's other

*This article is by the **Seafood Slavery Risk Tool Analyst Team** (http://www.seafoodslaveryrisk.org)*



The path a profile fishery follows depends on the evidence in fisheries, the country criteria evaluation and, if relevant, evidence in related or similar renewable resource industries

fisheries. Where evidence is found, it is categorized as either related or unrelated to the profile fishery (that is, similar species, gear type, and/or location) or as unspecified, if the nature of the fishery is not reported. The absence of evidence does not automatically equate to Low Risk. The Risk Tool's decision tree also treats evidence in unspecified fisheries the same as related fisheries because the former's relation to the profile fishery is unknown.

Next, Risk Tool analysts evaluate the relevant legislative framework and enforcement effectiveness of the country responsible for regulating the fishery or where the product is landed, whichever is most appropriate. This portion of the assessment – called the country criteria – does not result in a country rating. Rather, the findings inform the assessment by providing greater context about the risk environment within which the fishery operates. This precautionary approach is needed because labour conditions in the fishing industry are often not well documented. Indeed, Risk Tool analysts have thus far found a glaring lack of information published by the fishing industry on labour issues, though evidence from governmental, media and civil society organizations is mounting.

In certain circumstances, evidence of forced labour, human trafficking and hazardous child labour in a country's related or similar renewable resource industries – seafood processing, forestry, agriculture and aquaculture – may be examined as indicators of high or moderate risk in the profile fishery. For example, in situations where there is no evidence in fisheries and country criteria have not been met, evidence in one or more of the above industries indicates a high risk for the profile fishery.

Finally, all assessments are carefully reviewed by external experts who are asked, among other things, to judge the credibility and validity of the sources.

Due diligence

The Risk Tool is intended to inform due diligence by companies, by highlighting where risks may be most significant. It is important to note that the Tool provides contextual information for particular fisheries, but cannot replace

robust supply-chain management by businesses.

As illustrated by the Risk Tool's conceptual model (see diagram), there are multiple paths to High, Moderate and Low Risk. The path a profile fishery follows depends on the evidence in fisheries, the country criteria evaluation and, if relevant, evidence in related or similar renewable resource industries.

If a fishery is assessed as Critical or High Risk, it does not necessarily mean that forced labour, human trafficking or hazardous child labour is pervasive in the fishery. Also, if a risk exists in one fishery, it does not necessarily mean a country's other fisheries are likely to have the same risk.

The Risk Tool coalition does not advocate for a "Do Not Buy" approach when a fishery is assessed as Critical or High Risk. Indeed, quite the opposite reaction should happen. The Risk Tool recommends engaging and supporting improvement efforts because there is a real danger that jumping ship could drive the problem further underground, placing affected fishermen or children at even greater risk of abuse.

In addition, disengaging from fisheries with human and labour rights issues will ultimately lead to a landscape where ethically minded and law-abiding firms compete in an increasingly uneven playing field with unscrupulous businesses that are willing to purchase seafood caught by slaves or children. The industry's lack of transparency about its risks and challenges also encourages this kind of competitive business environment.

The coalition thus advocates the identification of source fisheries and their assessment for social and environmental risks, using the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool and other resources. In tandem with environmental sourcing policies, companies should create a Human Rights Policy that all suppliers must follow.

If forced labour, human trafficking or hazardous child labour is discovered in the supply chain, the Risk Tool coalition advises creating and implementing a Corrective Action Plan with the help of on-the-ground organizations and other key stakeholders, including those whose livelihoods depend on the fishery.

Lastly, businesses should document their efforts, evaluate their impacts, and share lessons learned so that others can avoid similar mistakes, and good practices can be replicated. To fully address these human-rights issues, the seafood industry also needs to become more transparent. There are many organizations and resources available for assessing, preventing or correcting human- and labour-rights abuse, some of which are listed on the Risk Tool website for informational purposes.

The Risk Tool recommends engaging and supporting improvement efforts...

Myint Naing was freed and went home to Myanmar, thanks to the dogged AP reporters who tracked him and more than 2,000 other victims to an island in Indonesia. Joshua and his Filipino crew mates were able to go home too, but Joshua later learned that his family never received a penny for his work on the scallop dredger. The road to sustainable, socially responsible fisheries that provide safe and secure livelihoods is long. It will take multiple stakeholders, working together, to change the global fishing industry's labour practices. When the risks remain unknown, the lives, health and safety of thousands of men, women and children around the world are also at risk.

For more

http://www.seafoodslaveryrisk.org/
Seafood Slavery Risk Tool

http://www.seafoodwatch.org/
Seafood Watch

https://www.sustainablefish.org/
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership

https://www.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/EN/139-933-Summary.html
Report of the Proceedings Enhancing Capacities of Fishing Communities: ICSF-BOBLME Sub-regional Dialogue on Labour, Migration and Fisheries Management, 11 to 13 December 2013, Thailand

https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/detail/EN/3893.html
Forced into Slavery

https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/detail/EN/4161.html
Better Fishing, Better Living

Building Back Better

A workshop on Cyclone Ockhi, which swept through parts of south India, discussed ways to make coastal fishing communities more resilient to natural disasters

On 29 November 2017, a deep depression, detected in the Indian Ocean southwest of Sri Lanka, rapidly intensified into a cyclonic storm off the coast of Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands in India. Cyclone Ockhi, as it was named, took the life of over 350 people – nearly all fishers from the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala – injured many others and damaged fishing vessels and gear. Unlike previous cyclones, Ockhi's impact was felt almost entirely at sea.

The workshop was also meant to examine the impacts of Cyclone Ockhi on the marine fishing community, especially from Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust conducted a study on the impacts of the cyclone on small-scale fisheries and the policies and plans in place to manage disasters and disaster risks, at all levels. The study employed a human-rights-based approach to evaluate vulnerabilities, specifically of small-scale fishermen, and recommended improvements in safety of fishers; communication and collaboration between agencies and governments; and the integration of disaster-risk management and fisheries management, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

On 29 and 30 May 2018, ICSF organized a national workshop, with the support of FAO, to share the findings of the study with the community, government agencies at all levels and other stakeholders, and to take their feedback. The workshop was also meant to examine the impacts of Cyclone Ockhi on the marine fishing community, especially from Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The workshop, on "Small-scale Fisheries, Cyclone Ockhi and Disaster Risk Management", was held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Participants at the workshop included fishworker organizations, government and multilateral agencies, academics, non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as members of the disaster affected fishing communities, who had been interviewed for ICSF's study. The workshop was contextualised in light of the SSF Guidelines and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), focusing on the organization, planning and application of measures preparing for, responding to, and recovering from, sudden-onset disasters. Concepts like 'relief-development continuum' and 'build back better' to strengthen resilience of small-scale fishing communities, including women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, were to be considered.

Introductory remarks

The workshop opened with introductory remarks by P H Kurian, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, Government

*This article is by **Ahana lakshmi** (ahanalakshmi@gmail.com), Independent Researcher, Chennai, India*

ICSF

Fishers catch a light moment before setting out to sea in Marianad, Kerala, India. The collection of information on fishing activity, particularly in the small-scale sector, is a challenge because most fishers directly leave from their villages each day, and not from harbours

of Kerala. A message from Shyam Khadka, FAO representative in India, was presented by C M Muralidharan, Consultant on Fisheries for FAO. Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), Anthony Adimai, Chairman, South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS), and John Kurien, Managing Trustee, ICSF Trust, spoke briefly. They drew from their diverse experience in fisheries and disaster management to highlight the importance of sea safety, collaboration between institutions and the community, and the need for timely warnings to fishers on cyclones and other natural disasters. P H Kurian said that because cyclone activity was so rare on the southern Arabian Sea coast of India, everyone was focused on the storm's landfall. But Ockhi's impact at sea was an eye-opener, which would definitely be a lesson while going forward.

The opening session was followed by the presentation of ICSF's study, Cyclone Ockhi: Disaster Risk Management and Sea Safety in the Marine Fisheries Sector, by Manas Roshan, an independent researcher and consultant with ICSF Trust. The sessions and group discussions over the two days explored various aspects of disaster-risk management that emerged in the context of Ockhi: early warning systems and the communication of warnings; institutional collaboration and the role of various agencies; sea safety and fisheries management; and climate-change impacts on the environment and fishers' livelihoods.

In the first panel, fishermen and fisherwomen from the Ockhi-affected villages shared their experiences of the disaster. The speakers, representing both the nearshore short-haul fishing operations and the long-haul mechanized fishing vessels, described the socioeconomic and psychological impacts of the cyclone, not only on the men but also the women and families in the community. It emerged that the nearshore fishers in Kerala could have been saved had the initial weather advisories of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) reached the coastal villages in time. It was pointed out that although the government had

It emerged that the nearshore fishers in Kerala could have been saved had the initial weather advisories of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) reached the coastal villages in time.

Saving Lives, Protecting Livelihoods

National Workshop on Small-scale Fisheries, Cyclone Ockhi and Disaster Risk Management

Thiruvananthapuram, India

29 and 30 May 2018

STATEMENT

We, participants at the National Workshop on Small-scale Fisheries, Cyclone Ockhi and Disaster Risk Management, held in Thiruvananthapurm, India, on 29th and 30th May 2018;

Concerned that Cyclone Ockhi brought unprecedented fatalities to fishers, including migrant fishers, all along the entire range of their fishing operations, both in inshore and offshore waters;

Further concerned about the impact of Cyclone Ockhi on the women and children of the affected families of fishers;

Mindful that natural disasters have differential impacts and therefore need a differentiated approach at all levels;

Recognizing the need for a national perspective, legal and policy framework that integrate on-land and at-sea disaster management and disaster risk management;

Fearing that climate change impacts can enhance the intensity of cyclones in future in the Arabian Sea, in addition to the Bay of Bengal, and would have disastrous consequences for coastal communities and fishing communities;

Being aware that better disaster management and disaster risk management can contribute to mitigating new disaster risk and associated economic, environmental and social consequences;

Recognizing that the quality and success of disaster management and disaster risk management can be greatly enhanced through consultation and participation, applying a human rights-based approach within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines);

Further recognizing that coastal fishing communities often have their own mechanisms, processes and institutions relevant for disaster preparedness that can effectively complement governance mechanisms under the jurisdiction of the State; and

Taking note of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 1.5 "[B]y 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters",

Recommend the following measures to the appropriate authorities at various levels and other relevant stakeholders:

I. Disaster management authorities

1. Reduce the number of deaths and number of people affected, including migrant fishers, and reduce the direct economic losses caused by disasters;
2. Integrate fishers' knowledge into search and rescue operations at sea at all levels;
3. Ensure that emergency relief and rehabilitation measures are expeditiously delivered without further aggravating economic, social and psychological distress of affected families;
4. Take care that relief and rehabilitation measures in a post-disaster scenario are proportional to the needs of affected men and women in fishing and post-harvest activities, including of those directly and indirectly affected;
5. Safeguard maternal health and education for children of affected families;
6. Develop, in consultation with fishing communities, appropriate mechanisms for disaster relief and rehabilitation in the fisheries sector and apply standardized protocols to promote coordination and cooperation at all levels;

7. Build and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale fishing communities and reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters;
8. Make adequate budget provisions to support disaster risk management at all levels;
9. Ensure that disaster management and disaster risk management measures applicable to the fishing sector are informed by reliable information regarding fishing fleets, fishing gear and fishing operations in cooperation with the relevant fisheries departments and the Coast Guard;
10. Develop baseline information on marine and coastal habitats (natural reefs, coral reefs, sandy beaches, etc.) to assess damages to these habitats and dependent species from natural and manmade disasters consistent with Article 7 (adaptation) and Article 8 (addressing loss and damage) of the 2015 Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
11. Promote public awareness about natural disasters like cyclones, among other means, through school curricula reforms, school clubs and through ocean literacy programmes;
12. Strengthen the capacity of local self-governments to enhance community participation in disaster risk reduction;

II. Early warning and prediction authorities

13. Improve accuracy of cyclone prediction and efficiency of its dissemination among coastal fishing communities, and among nearshore and offshore fishers;
14. Develop innovative new approaches (e.g. earmarking 'dynamic cones of uncertainty' as potential cyclone zones) for cyclone prediction, along with multichannel communication, to rapidly disseminate cyclone alerts to local communities (community radio, VHF, HF, satellite phones, etc.);
15. Integrate safety of fishing vessels, vessel navigation and operations as well as occupational safety of fishers into disaster risk reduction protocols to reduce the number of fishers losing their life during cyclones, including through the provision of financial incentives;

III. Fisheries authorities

16. Recognize the role and responsibilities of the fisheries authorities in monitoring fishing activity and safeguarding sea safety and ensure them an active role, along with other agencies, in search and rescue operations as well as in relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery efforts; in this context, coastal state/union territory fisheries authorities and the fisheries department at the centre should collaborate;
17. Provide effective and appropriate communication equipment to all fishers and registered fishing vessels at sea;
18. Develop awareness of small-scale fishing communities and provide training about adoption of effective sea safety procedures including use and maintenance of communication equipment;
19. Enforce sea safety norms and integrate sea safety into fisheries management and governance for short-haul and long-haul fishers, consistent with the recommendations of the SSF Guidelines, employing the "relief-development continuum" and "build back better" principles and a human rights-based approach;
20. Build capacity, including through pre-sea training, to deal with fishing in rough sea conditions and working for excessive periods of time, after an assessment of the risks concerned;

IV. Fishing communities

21. Improve the efficiency of cyclone alerts dissemination among coastal fishing communities, and among nearshore and offshore fishers, using the most cost-effective means of communication (e.g. community radio);
22. Encourage traditional and local knowledge and use of traditional protocols to predict disasters and to reduce disaster risks, and to promote community-based disaster risk management planning;
23. Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations, including women's organizations, to deal with disaster risk management, particularly at the local level;
24. Propose 'green zones' under coastal disaster preparedness programmes to reduce the vulnerability of small-scale fishing communities to sudden-onset cyclones; and
25. Integrate sea safety into community-based initiatives for fisheries development and management.

In conclusion, building resilience to natural disasters and climate change of coastal communities requires coordination at all levels and open consultation with, and participation of, all stakeholders. This includes an awareness of the responsibilities of the community in ensuring an overall culture of safety at sea and on land.

initiated projects to distribute warning and distress-alert devices for fishers, voice communication was prized by the community. The women described the hardships of the families of dead and missing fishers, whose livelihood needs had not been addressed, despite the generous compensation paid by the government.

The second panel on "Disaster preparedness at sea: ensuring credible early warning and better prediction of cyclones" dealt with the technology options available with meteorologists and disaster managers. S Balachandran, Director of the Chennai IMD Area Cyclone Warning Centre, explained the analytical models employed by the IMD for cyclone prediction. Pointing out that Cyclone Ockhi was unique, both in its rapid intensification in the Comorin Sea and its unusual track along the Arabian Sea, he said that climate change had increased the probability of such severe cyclones in this basin. Recognizing that fishers need warnings specific to their fishing times and geographical zones, and the limitations of most warning systems, Balachandran recommended the use of innovative means like dynamic cones of uncertainty in the IMD bulletins.

...fishing had always been considered an unsafe occupation, but the dare-devilry of fishers had to be complemented with safety precautions and reliable equipment, gear and vessels.

Abhilash S, Assistant Professor at the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Cochin University of Science and Technology, spoke about the need for coupled atmospheric-ocean models for cyclone prediction. Sajan Venniyoor, a community radio consultant, said that the use of multiple low-cost technology and media channels, including community radio and television, was essential to put the community at the centre of effective communication strategies.

The third panel on "Improving institutional co-ordination and collaboration in disaster response and relief" consisted of presentations by three agencies crucial to the disaster-management sequence in Kerala: the State Disaster Management Authority, the Indian Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries. S. Venkatesapathy, Director of Fisheries, Government of Kerala, stressed the importance of boat registration and data on the movement of fishers and fishing vessels. He said that the collection of information on fishing activity, particularly in the small-scale sector, was a challenge because most fishers left directly from their villages each day, and not from harbours.

V K Varghese, Commanding Officer, Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Thiruvananthapuram, presented videos of search and rescue (SAR) operations to describe the challenges faced by rescue forces during the cyclone. Responding to the affected community's grievances concerning the operations, Varghese clarified that the ICG protocol allowed it to even cross international boundaries for SAR. Shekhar L Kuriakose, Head, State Emergency Operations Centre, Government of Kerala, said that, post-Ockhi, the government had decided to change its warning protocol so that even 'depression' warnings by the IMD would now completely halt all fishing operations in particular areas.

The fourth panel on "Integrating sea safety into fisheries management and governance" addressed issues of sea safety; the working conditions of fishers; boat manufacturing and design; and the need for monitoring, control and surveillance measures in the Indian marine fishing sector. It was pointed out that fishing had always been considered an unsafe occupation, but the dare-devilry of fishers had to be complemented with safety precautions and reliable equipment, gear and vessels. This required consultations with, and the active participation of, the fishing community.

Final panel

The final panel was on "Building back better, keeping nature and people in mind." C M Muralidharan, Fisheries Consultant with the FAO, said that rehabilitation and reconstruction should aim at long-term sustainable

MANAS ROSHAN / ICSF

Vallavilai fishing village, Tamil Nadu, India. During discussions in the first panel of the workshop, fishermen and fisherwomen from the Ockhi-affected villages shared their experiences of the disaster

development, integrating fisheries livelihoods, fisheries management and disaster preparedness. T Peter, Secretary of the National Fishworkers' Forum, said that traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge should be integrated to make coastal fishing communities resilient to disasters. It was also pointed out that Ockhi had caused unprecedented changes in the marine ecosystem, which had not been studied. In this context, strong measures had to be taken for the protection of the coast, including ocean literacy programmes; mapping of fragile reefs and biodiversity hotspots; and the preservation of traditional knowledge about local ecology and sustainable fishing practices.

Four group discussions at the end of Day One dealt with several issues raised in the panel discussions, adding a community and multi-stakeholder perspective. The group presentations on the second day evoked lively discussions which enriched the Workshop Statement (see Box). It made several recommendations towards disaster preparedness and disaster-risk management to build the resilience of coastal communities to cyclones, natural disasters and climate change, stressing on the need for co-ordination at all levels and open consultation with, and participation of, fishing communities, applying a human-rights-based approach within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 and the SSF Guidelines.

For more

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Connecting the Dots

The largest conference on occupational safety and health in the fishing industry returns after a gap of nine years

In June this year, the city of St. John's in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, played host to the largest gathering of fishing, aquaculture and seafood-processing safety and health professionals: the Fifth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH 5), the only conference dedicated to improving safety and health in the fishing industry.

...the Fifth International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference (IFISH 5), the only conference dedicated to improving safety and health in the fishing industry.

Held from 10 to 13 June 2018 in the picturesque campus of St. John's Memorial University, and blessed – contrary to gloomy weather forecasts – by a few days of unexpected sunshine between rainy ones, IFISH 5 explored the latest research on occupational safety and health; discussed current fisheries policy and regulations; and showcased best practices for keeping workers safe and healthy.

Earlier editions of the conference were held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States (US) in 2000; Sitka, Alaska, in 2003; Mahabalipuram, India, in 2006; and Reykjavik, Iceland, in 2009. The present conference was taking place after a long gap of nine years.

The conference was sponsored by the Center for Maritime Safety and Health Studies at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the SafetyNet Centre for Occupational Health and Safety Research, Memorial University, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Other donors included Fishing Partnership Support Services, Ocean Frontier Institute and Workplace NL.

A three-member conference planning committee, consisting of Jennifer Lincoln of NIOSH, Barbara Neis of SafetyNet, Julie Sorensen of the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety, was in charge of planning and curating the conference. The three members were also part of a larger expert scientific committee, which included leading figures in the fields of occupational health and safety, representing a wide range of stakeholder interests, including research, academics, fishers and community organizations, who were responsible, among other things, for approving abstracts from the hundreds of submissions received.

Proceedings began with a pre-conference workshop on Sunday, 10 June, a day before the official start of the conference, which explored recent global initiatives related to fishing vessel design, fishing safety, sustainable fishing practices and fisheries management, and their relationship to safety and working conditions in fisheries from different regions of the world.

Presentations

Brief presentations were made by Brandt Wagner of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Sandra Allnutt of the International Maritime

*This article is by **Nilanjana Biswas** (nilanjanabiswas@gmail.com), Independent Researcher, Bengaluru, India*

Organization (IMO) and Raymon VanAnrooy and Ari Gudmundsson of FAO. Their presentations covered a wide range of instruments, tools, agreements and guidelines which mark milestones in safety and health in the fisheries sector, such as the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007; the completion of the FAO/ILO/IMO Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 metres in Length and Undecked Fishing Vessels in 2010 and the FAO/ILO/IMO Implementation Guidelines in 2011; and the Cape Town Agreement on the safety of fishing vessels in 2012, amongst others. These were followed by presentations based on field experiences with these instruments and agreements, which highlighted the wide divergence of issues and challenges in their implementation between developed and developing countries.

The afternoon session of the pre-conference workshop began with a presentation by Jennifer Lincoln of NIOSH on the results of an FAO initiative she had worked on. Several interesting points of critique were raised in the sub-group discussions that followed this presentation, highlighting the adverse effects of quota-based management systems on fishers' livelihoods and ecosystems; issues related to vessel stability; the need to include fishers at the very start of fisheries decision-making processes; the need to collect occupational safety and health data in industrial seafood processing where women are widely employed, and so on. This was followed by panel presentations covering various aspects of recent research on fisheries management and fishing safety.

The formal conference was held over the next three days with presentations organized around four themes – developments in fishing, occupational health and safety concerns, seafood processing and aquaculture, and worker safety interventions and training – running concurrently in parallel sessions. The parallel sessions covered 60 hours of presentations and discussions in a packed schedule, which often spilt out onto lunch and tea breaks. Keynote addresses by distinguished speakers marked the start of all three days and also the closure of the first day of the conference.

These keynote addresses were organized in ways that suggested careful planning, and allowed participants to connect the dots, for example, between the local and the global or an individual story and a universal one. They receive special emphasis in this article because they appeared to lay the tone for the rest of the conference, where presentations ranged from local case studies to global research and policy around occupational safety and health in fisheries.

Day Two started with two keynotes addresses that, between them, raised a comprehensive spectrum of issues. Jennifer Lincoln's talk on "What I've learnt about safety from listening to fishermen" focused on trauma and injury among US seamen, and Sandra Allnutt's addressed global fisheries regulation, in the light of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 and its role in improving fishing vessels' safety. That afternoon, the address by the internationally acclaimed occupational medicine specialist, Mohamed Jeebhay, offered a developing-country perspective on occupational health and safety based on South Africa's seafood industry. The next speaker, Ingunn Marie Holmen of SINTEF, a technology and applied research organization, offered a contrasting view from the developed world in her talk on health and safety measures in the Norwegian fishing fleet.

...the role of women in fisheries, and particular issues related to their occupational health, remained, as is often the case, relatively eclipsed.

Contrast, continuity

The keynote addresses on Day Three offered similar pictures of contrast as well as continuity. Regional issues in occupational health in aquaculture were explored by Robert Durborow

of Kentucky State University, who, presenting on behalf of keynote speaker Melvin Myers, a leading public health specialist, covered research on safety and health among seafood harvesters in the Gulf of Mexico. Next, global issues in aquaculture occupational health and safety were addressed by Andrew Watterson of the University of Stirling, who presented key findings from an FAO-funded scoping study on global aquaculture.

The keynote addresses on Day Four, the last day of the conference, were a journey from the personal to the political. Writer Jim Wellman, known for his popular column Final Voyages, talked about the devastation that follows when "people go to sea and don't come home". Next, Christina Stringer of the University of Auckland, gave a searing report on slavery in New Zealand's offshore fisheries, which was also an account, albeit under very different circumstances, of people who go to sea and often do not return.

...participants were taken on a field trip to the Offshore Safety and Survival Centre, Foxtrap, at the Marine Institute, where they were treated to exciting demonstrations of noise and vibration simulation techniques and fire extinguishment drills.

Presentations under the first of the four overarching themes, "New Horizons in Fishing", were organized under the following sub-themes: weather and fishing safety; effects of fisheries management measures on risk-taking and safety in commercial fishing; policy and regulation; obstacles to performing occupational safety and health research in commercial fishing; the need for a public-health programme in commercial fishing; latent and active causes of vessel losses; and a session on health and safety, education, and social contract with collective financing in the Danish fishery.

Under the second theme, "Health and Safety – A Changing Landscape", presentations explored topics such as understanding and tracking injuries in the fishing sector; regional approaches to commercial fishing safety; commercial fishing and processing health and safety surveillance; risk analysis and tested prevention solutions for crews and their boats; and changing commercial fishing personal flotation use behaviour.

The third sub-theme was "Aquaculture/Seafood processing/ Quick Takes". The presentations under this theme covered the following topics: regional approaches to aquaculture and seafood processing; seafood processing, hazards and interventions; safety and health in aquaculture; exposure assessment and health effects of seafood bioaerosols in the fishing and seafood-processing industries; and safer, healthier work places in aquaculture. The 'Quick Takes' under this theme consisted of short talks on a variety of topics.

Presentations under the fourth theme, "Worker safety interventions and training," covered medicine at sea; fishing safety; utilizing an industry-led integrated approach to advancing safety and reducing injuries, illness and fatalities in commercial fishing; prevention of chronic injury and illness; health and safety interventions; evaluation of fishing-safety interventions; and workplace injuries. There was also a session on safety and survival training in New England.

The conference presentations were complemented with a poster exhibition, imaginatively showcasing research and technology innovations in occupational health and safety in fishing and aquaculture. On Day Three, participants were taken on a field trip to the Offshore Safety and Survival Centre, Foxtrap, at the Marine Institute, where they were treated to exciting demonstrations of noise and vibration simulation techniques and fire extinguishment drills. In addition, a social event was organized that evening, which provided a welcome break from conference proceedings for networking and informal exchange.

Perspectives

A post-conference workshop on national and international perspectives in global aquaculture occupational health and safety marked the end of the proceedings. The workshop opened with a series of short presentations of

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IFISH5 delegates and their presentations explored the latest research on occupational safety and health, discussed current fisheries policy and regulations, and showcased best practices for keeping workers safe and healthy

findings from an FAO-funded scan of the global, regional and national terrain of aquaculture/fish farming occupational health and safety and related social and welfare impacts, and ended with small group discussions on future priorities for research and action in the field of aquaculture occupational health and safety.

The conference was superbly organized. No aspect – whether pre-conference communication and outreach or accommodation for the many participants or attention to administrative detail – was in any way lacking. The scope of the conference was ambitious and extensive, both geographically and in covering various aspects of work in the supply chain. This was made possible by having a large number of sessions running concurrently each day. Perhaps, the long gap of nine years between the last IFISH conference and this one meant that a large number of developments in research, regulation and policy that had accumulated in the interim, needed to be accommodated. However, as a result, one sometimes had the feeling that simply too much was going on and there was not enough time for meaningful discussion.

The large majority of the sessions represented experiences of industrial fishing from developed countries, in particular the US, Canada, Norway and a few other European countries. Further, the role of women in fisheries, and particular issues related to their occupational health, remained, as is often the case, relatively eclipsed. It is hoped that future editions of IFISH will offer greater space to the small-scale fisheries of the developing world, with necessary attention to gender issues in occupational health and safety.

For more

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The Spirit of Diversity

A review of *The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation.* Jentoft, S., Chuenpagdee, R., Barragán-Paladines, M.J., Franz, N. (Eds.)

People, not profits, or even fish, are the fundamental feature of artisanal and small-scale fisheries throughout the world. This self-evident truth has for too long been absent in many policies dealing with fisheries or coastal management and development plans, to the detriment of not only people, but also ecosystems and the economic viability of what are critical industries at local and global scales. A shift towards a human-rights-based approach is thus required to adequately address small-scale fisheries, where states and other actors involved in fisheries do not only have the responsibility to regulate activities, but to ensure that fundamental human rights to freedom, adequate food, health and education are prioritized within economic and environmental management plans.

...the discussions highlight the links between intergovernmental agreements and policy documents, and the contexts and realities of artisanal fishing communities with unique goals and aspirations.

These central themes are echoed throughout the book, *The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation*, an edited volume showcasing case studies of small-scale fisheries from around the world. Edited by Svein Jentoft, Ratana Chuenpagdee, María José Barragán-Paladines and Nicole Franz, and including work from almost 100 authors, this book is an essential read for any academic, manager, or policymaker concerned with improving the performance of small-scale fisheries and the wellbeing of associated fishing communities. In particular, the discussions highlight the links between intergovernmental agreements and policy documents, and the contexts and realities of artisanal fishing communities with unique goals and aspirations.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and consolidation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (2003) injected and cemented important principles–respectively, fundamental guidelines for sustainability across governance contexts, and the integration of ecological rather than single-species considerations–within global fisheries management. The endorsement of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) could similarly prove to be a game changer in creating solutions for the millions of women and men that make up the vast majority of fishery-dependent people worldwide. However, true benefits from the SSF Guidelines will depend on the adequate implementation of the principles agreed within, and this is the vital issue addressed within this publication's chapters.

Community focus

Perhaps the greatest strength of this book is its focus on communities and case studies with unique social, cultural, environmental and economic contexts from around the world, even as general themes are expanded on in integrated discussions. This admirably

*This article is by **Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor** (a.cisneros@oceans.ubc.ca), Programme Manager of the Nippon Foundation Nereus Programme, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada*

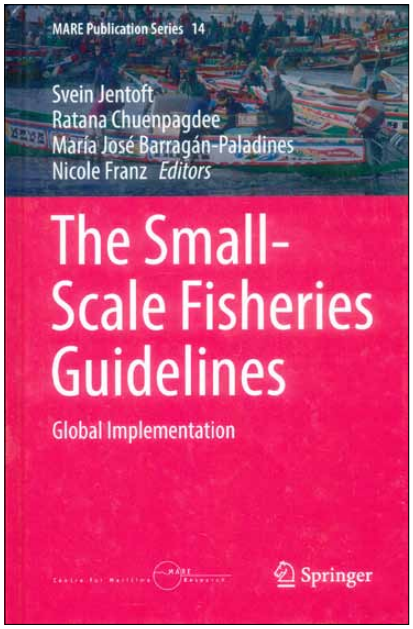
reflects the spirit of diversity contained within the SSF Guidelines, and small-scale fisheries. Chapters include cases that truly span the globe from South Africa to Greenland, Japan to Mexico to Europe, and islands in the Pacific to the Indian Ocean and to the Caribbean Sea – all with deeply nuanced discussions captured by authors from similarly diverse backgrounds.

Still, it is clear that there are overarching issues in small-scale fisheries, regardless of specific contexts. Perhaps the most important challenge for small-scale fishers, from which many others stem, is their relative lack of power to participation in the policy-making processes that directly affect them. From seemingly secure fishers in developed countries such as Canada, Japan, Norway and Sweden, to those facing poverty in Latin America, Asia and Africa, there is a pervasive sense of marginalization from the more 'formal' systems of more industrialized fisheries and corresponding regulatory frameworks. In this sense, the SSF Guidelines provide an essential road map for eliminating this disparity and for collaboratively developing policies that are appropriate to the needs of the small-scale fishing sector, which are more likely to be effectively implemented. Importantly, as highlighted in multiple contexts throughout the book, this relationship change can be effected jointly by various stakeholders, or spearheaded by fisher groups themselves when states lack the capacity or initial interest to do so. Civil society organizations have become key facilitators of this process, particularly when, in cases like Mexico, the Caribbean and Brazil, they expand their focus from conservation advocacy to sustainable livelihoods by improving governance, co-operation, and management capacity at multiple levels.

A very interesting progression in shared benefits from implementing the SSF Guidelines can be seen running through the chapters from different countries. For example, an initial positive step in Senegal, Sri Lanka and Caribbean nations is the recognition that the perspectives and knowledge of fishing communities are valid and important. This can then be extended to co-management efforts that actively strengthen community resource access and tenure in specific programmes (for example, in marine protected areas in Spain, Costa Rica and the Bahamas), or to help guide culturally appropriate policies to address specific issues [for example, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) in Lake Victoria and Iran]. Governments whose existing legal systems already align with these principles are better able to further implement them to the benefit of community fisheries. Yet, even here the crucial step is to create policies that are coherent with the small-scale fishery contexts.

...the SSF Guidelines provide an essential road map for eliminating this disparity and for collaboratively developing policies that are appropriate to the needs of the small-scale fishing sector...

Throughout this push for implementation of equitable policies, it is important to not consider the SSF Guidelines in isolation, but rather to connect them with existing national and international fisheries legislation and agreements that closely support, but may transcend, their scope. For indigenous fisheries, for example, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples already provides an in-depth view of the issues faced by these particular communities, and solutions necessary to ensure their rights. Similarly, the push for gender equality in fisheries is paramount, but its consideration is certainly not specific to fisheries agreements or regulations. More broadly, issues of food security, state of the environment, human rights, equity, and others, are comprised within the 2015 UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/70/1) that includes the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which also refer to marine resources for sustainable development that specifically mention increased benefits to developing nations and small-scale artisanal fishers. These, and many other operational and aspirational instruments, must be used in concert to hold responsible



The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation. Jentoft, S., Chuenpagdee, R., Barragán-Paladines, M.J., Franz, N. (Eds.)

parties accountable and to further the rights of small-scale fishers throughout the world, no matter their political, environmental or economic context.

An issue that perhaps requires more discussion is the power of language in shifting perceptions about fishing communities within policy debates. For example, the now well-established term 'small-scale fishery' can sometimes work against arguments to increase their visibility among policymakers and their recognition within relevant policies and regulations, particularly when policymakers are new to fisheries discussions and specific terms. 'Small-scale' can imply that the sector is less important, provides less economic benefits, or employs fewer people – all three of which are clearly false assumptions. It may be time to begin reassessing our own use of language, perhaps by using (when appropriate) terms such as 'artisanal', 'subsistence' or 'indigenous', instead of 'small-scale', which convey the distinction from industrialized fisheries and to the need for a different management approach, while not implying a comparison of scale or importance.

States by themselves may not be able to adequately address all issues embedded within small-scale fisheries, but they need not have to. There is a large and growing number of non-state actors, including civil society, industry groups, and intergovernmental institutions such as the FAO, the United Nations Development Programme or UNDP (including through its Equator Initiative highlighting sustainable community efforts), and others engaged in achieving sustainable and equitable fisheries policies that integrate human rights and strengthen co-operation between various stakeholders. This support network extends to academic efforts throughout the world, including the Too Big To Ignore Project (TBTI), which works to raise the profile of small-scale fisheries, including through the publication of this essential book under review.

Small-scale and artisanal fishers and workers across the world need not apologize for seeking to continue their traditional ways of life and livelihood. Their practices are intertwined with cultures that emerged within unique landscapes and seascapes, from Arctic fjords to tropical lakes and lagoons, and enrich our understanding of social-ecological systems and our own place within the world. The SSF Guidelines may prove, as extensively showcased throughout the chapters of this book, to be the catalyst for a global attitude and policy shift to finally recognize the rights of fisherfolk throughout the world, and ensure that their work and ways of life are not only tolerated, but cherished.

For more

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SSF Guidelines

A Fishbowl Approach

An overview of the Danish Institute for Human Rights' international expert meeting on the contribution of human rights to the sustainable development of fisheries

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted its resolution, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," for the overarching goal of poverty eradication and the realization of the human rights of all. Of the 17 Goals and 169 targets – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – it set for the global community, the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources (Goal 14) has acquired renewed urgency, especially in light of the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference, which highlighted both deteriorating marine resources and the range of human-rights issues pertinent to the fisheries sector.

In this context, the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), supported by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), has initiated a three-year project to document and address the human-rights implications of fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh and Chile. The work of DIHR, an autonomous state-funded institution, was previously oriented towards promoting human-rights education, capacity building of national human-rights institutions (NHRIs) and strengthening the human-rights compliance of businesses in 15 countries worldwide. As an initial step towards realizing its objectives in the project countries, DIHR organized an international expert meeting, titled "The Contribution of Human Rights to the Sustainable Development of Fisheries," held at the DIHR office in Copenhagen from 19 to 20 June 2018.

Bringing together diverse representation from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as from academia, civil society, industry and NHRIs, the meeting sought to identify key human-rights impacts associated with fisheries, globally and in the two project countries, and to discuss strategies to address these at multi-stakeholder forums at the national, regional and global levels. The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was invited to the meeting to share its most recent work on disaster risk management and climate change, and their intersection with small-scale fishing communities' right to a healthy environment.

...a three-year project to document and address the human-rights implications of fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh and Chile.

The organizers applied the Chatham House rule to the entire programme to provide anonymity to speakers and to encourage openness during the discussions. Therefore, this report will not reveal the identity or the affiliation of any participants.

Topical presentations

The introductory sessions on the first day set the stage for topical presentations by identifying key

*This report is by **Manas Roshan** (manas.roshan@gmail.com), Programme Officer, ICSF, Chennai, India*

international instruments, both universal covenants and sector-specific adaptations of human-rights norms, such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, ILO Convention No. 188 and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines). Given DIHR's experience with the private sector, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were also identified as a useful resource to specify the roles and responsibilities of businesses in the seafood value chain.

These instruments were then used to plot a number of issues pertaining to the right to food; the right to a healthy environment; indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources; labour rights; and the right to equality, non-discrimination, in the fisheries sector. Several obstacles to the realization of these rights in fisheries were identified, such as the extraterritorial aspect of fishing; the marginalization of fishing communities, particularly small-scale fisheries, from decision-making roles; value chain and traceability complexities; and the limited capacity of many NHRIs to engage with the sector.

Participants got a chance to delve deeper into these issues in a cleverly designed session, consisting of presentations on three cross-cutting themes...

There was a consensus among participants that the SSF Guidelines were best suited to articulate and advocate for human rights in fisheries, albeit from a small-scale perspective. But it was recommended that they be translated into actionable points for the private sector, for example, on documenting working conditions and value chains, and promoting consumer awareness. It was also pointed out that the challenge of balancing conservation and human-rights imperatives in small-scale fisheries was a common theme in both SDG 14 and the SSF Guidelines.

Participants got a chance to delve deeper into these issues in a cleverly designed session, consisting of presentations on three cross-cutting themes – gender and other vulnerable groups; climate change, disaster risk management and the marine environment; and labour issues – followed by group discussions (led by the presenters) on the same themes. The discussion points were then shared in the plenary, using the 'fishbowl' method, allowing diverse perspectives to emerge.

The second and final day of the meeting had two goals: to develop a human-rights perspective on responsible business in the fisheries sector; and to explore the issues discussed over the two days through the project countries, Bangladesh and Chile. On the business side, participants were given an overview of platforms and initiatives that engage the private sector in promoting sustainable ocean businesses. The UN Global Compact brings together a large number of corporations, including ocean businesses engaged in transport, energy, minerals and seafood, who have volunteered to implement sustainability principles in their operations. The Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS) is an initiative resulting from a series of Keystone Dialogues between the scientific community and the largest global seafood companies. The Seafood Slavery Risk Tool informs businesses about the risks of forced labour, human trafficking, and hazardous child labour in their fisheries value chains. A DIHR presentation explained how the Institute provides businesses with guidance and tools to conduct human-rights and sector-wide impact assessments.

Specific challenges

The country-specific presentations gave participants a chance to hear directly from fishworker and labour organizations in Bangladesh and the NHRI in Chile on specific human-rights challenges in their fisheries. While the focus in Bangladesh is on recognizing the rights of small-scale capture fishing communities, in Chile, aquaculture is

FAO/PIETRO CENINI

Women preparing fish for smoking on a modern Chorkor oven, Yeji, Lake Volta, Ghana. One key outcome of the DIHR expert meeting was a plan to map the main components of the fisheries and aquaculture value chains along specific clauses in human-rights instruments and guidelines

the priority area, particularly conflicts over the country's salmon farms, where labour rights and the exclusion of artisanal fishers are thorny issues.

While the meeting recognized the enormous complexity of the sector and the obstacles impeding concerted efforts towards the sustainable development of fisheries, several actions were proposed to forge partnerships between human rights and fisheries actors, and to participate in global and regional processes and initiatives. One key outcome was a plan to map the main components of the fisheries and aquaculture value chains along specific clauses in human-rights instruments and guidelines, resulting in an online "fish and human rights dictionary". Another was capacity building for NHRIs, who can use their mandate to promote human rights in fisheries at the country level.

The meeting concluded with a look ahead to upcoming processes, platforms and events where the human-rights-based approach can be advocated: the FAO Committee on Fisheries and Committee on World Food Security; the Our Oceans Conference, 2019 and UN Ocean Conference, 2020; and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2022.

For more

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Danish Institute for Human Rights

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ICSF Note for CSOs: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Small-scale Fisheries

http://www.un.org/en/index.html
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Small-scale Fisheries

https://www.icsf.net/images/what%20is%20new%20page/Voluntary%20commitment_1393%20by%20ICSF%20Trust.doc
Voluntary Commitments for the Ocean Conference at a Glance: 1395 total commitments As on 14 July 2017 - Compiled by ICSF Trust

Reclaiming Rights

Problems of access and control over food, and changes in consumption and distribution patterns are behind the poor nutritional intake in Indonesia's coastal communities

In 2016, five infants in Aru Island, Maluku, Indonesia, suffered from malnutrition. The five had to be intensively treated in the Regional Hospital of Cendrawasih Dobo, the capital city of Aru Island Regency. The patients were from poor families who suffer from poor nutritional intake.

One of the causes of malnutrition in Indonesia is limited access to food in several regions. Problems related to access and control over food, and changes in consumption and distribution patterns are behind the poor nutritional intake.

Nutritious food not only comes from the paddy fields, of ladangs or forests, but also from the sea and coastal areas.

Meanwhile, the dependency on a certain commodity such as rice also places further limitation on access to local food. Nutritious food not only comes from the paddy fields, of *ladangs* or forests, but also from the sea and coastal areas.

The article 1 paragraph 1 of Law no. 18/2012 on Food defines food as anything that originates from biological sources as products of agriculture, plantation, forestry, fishery, livestock, waterworks and water, both processed and unprocessed which are intended as food and beverage for human consumption, including food additives, raw materials, and other materials utilized in the process of preparing, processing, and/or making of food or beverage.

According to this definition, the wide range of the meaning of food includes not only food but also beverage. Based on the above Law, the origin of food is not limited to land-based (agriculture and forestry) sources, but also waters, both freshwater (river, pond and lake) and salt water (sea).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that fish provides about 3.2 bn people with almost 20 per cent of their average per capita intake of animal protein. In the Indonesian context, seafood consumption, in particular from wild sources, is growing constantly, according to available data with Koalisi Rakyat untuk Keadilan Perikanan (KIARA). In 2015, the domestic fish consumption was around 38.14 kg per capita per year, and it has increased to 41.11 kg in 2016, showing a growth of 7.79 per cent.

Behind the significant increase in people's need for seafood and fish consumption lie several big challenges threatening the sustainability of marine fishery resources in Indonesia. There are serious challenges originating from some of the government policies that threaten the sovereignty and sustainability of seafood, related to reclamation, mining, coastal tourism and conservation. This article examines the impact of reclamation and mining on coastal communities.

Development policy

KIARA records that, of late, the development policy of marine and coastal areas is directed toward more industry, tourism, extractive businesses, property, infrastructure and

*This article is by **Susan Herawati Romica** (guisusan98@gmail.com or kiara@kiara.or.id), General Secretary of KIARA (Koalisi Rakyat untuk Keadilan Perikanan), Indonesia*

blue carbon. The development trends basically point to a grab of marine space. Today, the coastal and fishery resources are at a nadir due to the extractive and exploitative nature of development. Indonesia's coastal, marine and small island areas are subject to capitalization by interested parties that are keen to control and extract benefits from these areas. An increasing trend in coastal area reclamation projects between 2015 and 2016 is a source of worry. In 2015, there were 16 coastal areas that were reclaimed. These have jumped to 160 projects in 2016, spread between Sumatra and Papua Island.

The sea reclamation projects pose a serious threat to the future of Indonesian coastal and marine fisheries. Reclamation is an irony in this nation, blessed with more than 17,000 islands. The reclamation projects are destroying, instead of improving, the lives of coastal communities along Indonesian waters.

From a legal perspective, the reclamation projects are clearly contrary to the 1945 Constitution that says Indonesia is an archipelagic State with 'Nusantara' as the main characteristic with boundaries and rights of the territory to be established by law. The Indonesian identity as an archipelagic country militates against the concept and practice of artificial islands.

Besides contradicting the 1945 Constitution, the reclamation projects are also inconsistent with the Law No. 5/1960: Basic Regulation on Agrarian Principles, which observes that the Indonesian people are united as the Indonesian nation and the earth, water and airspace, including the natural resources contained therein, in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, constitute the wealth of the nation (Article 1). The water includes the territorial sea of Indonesia. We are of the view that reclamation separates the long-lasting relationship of the Indonesian coastal communities with the waters or sea which serve as their locus of existence. It is a violation of the substance of Law No.5/1960.

Besides reclamation, the practice of marine spatial grabbing, which has been done in a structured manner, can be seen in coastal and marine mining projects. KIARA has recorded (in 2017) that 18 coastal areas have been shifted to mining sites. These projects violate the constitutional rights of coastal communities, who are also losing their healthy and clean coastal areas to mining activities.

KIARA

Dolulong reclamation project in Indonesia. Sea reclamation projects pose a serious threat to the future of Indonesian coastal and marine fisheries

In the Indonesian coastal areas, the expansion of coastal mining is spreading on a massive scale. In Bangka Belitung, off the east coast of Sumatra, there are 1,085 mining business licences (called, Izin Usaha Pertambangan or IUPs), comprising 947 IUP metallic mineral mines and 138 IUP non-metallic mineral mines. The impacts on Bangka Belitung waters from heavy pollution, abrasion, limitation of livelihood, damages to the marine ecosystem and the mangrove belt, are severe. Besides, there are other issues such as the forced eviction of local communities from their livelihood sources, decreasing fish stocks and the crisis of freshwater shortage.

Mining projects

Besides Bangka Belitung, coastal mining projects also damage the eastern part of Indonesia. In early 2016, villages located in Buli Bay, East Halmahera Regency in North Maluku, which is known as the 'Teri' (anchovy) village, were damaged once a nickel mine started operating

there. Besides Halmahera, coastal mining is also taking place massively in Sulawesi, East Nusa Tenggara and Papua provinces. A particular example of extensive authority enjoyed by a mining company is PT Freeport – a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan, a leading international mining company with headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona, the United States – in Papua, which seems to be far above law, despite practices of dumping huge amounts of copper and gold mine waste into rivers that empty into the Timika Sea.

KIARA would urge the Indonesian government to fulfill the right to food as part of the constitutional rights of coastal communities...

The traditional community of Mimika Wee in Papua is one of the many communities affected by PT Freeport Indonesia's waste that pollutes their waters and causes sedimentation and harmful contamination. It is reported that a few endemic species of fish have disappeared from the waters.

KIARA records that there are 6,081 coastal villages whose waters are heavily polluted from mine wastes. If the destructive projects are not stopped immediately, there will be more damage to coastal villages from pollution. We believe there are no developed and wealthy countries that rely on destructive mining that kills the communities' livelihood. The Indonesian government is urged to immediately close all exploitative projects that have a negative impact on coastal communities and the ecosystem.

In 2017, KIARA also recorded 979 coastal villages suffering from freshwater pollution, 204 coastal villages from land pollution and 125 villages from air pollution. Most of the pollution is from factory emissions, or from companies that explore and exploit marine and coastal resources. Multiple sources of pollution have been lowering the quality of Indonesian waters. Not only is the ecosystem damaged, but there are also threats to the future of the coastal community which relies on the sustainability of coastal and marine resources.

Due to the magnitude and seriousness of the issues facing the Indonesian coastal communities, KIARA would urge the Indonesian government to fulfill the right to food as part of the constitutional rights of coastal communities, which is also a basic human right. The government, both at the national and regional level, is urged to enforce legislation to prohibit actors from damaging the coastal and marine ecosystems, which are harming the livelihoods of coastal communities. The government, in this context, should evaluate all permits issued to companies that have been proven to damage marine and coastal ecosystems. In cases where supportive evidence is presented, the government should immediately withdraw the company's permit to operate. The government is also requested not to renew or issue new permits to extractive and exploitative industries that destroy marine and coastal resources.

Last but not least, the government should employ the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) as a reference in the making of sovereign, just and sustainable policy to benefit coastal fishing communities.

Constitutional rights

We believe the State should ensure the fulfillment of the constitutional rights of the fisherfolk. These are their rights to access, manage and utilize the coast and the living resources, and the right to enjoy a healthy and clean aquatic environment.

For more

http://www.kiara.or.id/
The People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA)

http://knti.or.id/
Kesatuan Nelayam Tradisional Indonesia (KNTI)

Not a Small Focus

With a record participation, the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) managed to integrate small-scale fisheries issues into almost all agenda items

The Thirty-third Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in July 2018, saw a record participation. There were 760 delegates representing member countries, and many representing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). Small-scale fisheries issues were integrated into almost all agenda items of the meet.

Soon after the presentation of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report 2018, Norway drew attention to how discussions at COFI on technical issues have become more intense of late, and to alleviate pressure on COFI, proposed establishing a new sub-committee on fisheries management. It sought inclusion of a paper on the proposed sub-committee to be discussed at the thirty-fourth session of COFI. The sub-committee, in the Norwegian view, would discuss matters related to policy development and principles, on the one hand, and address and review small-scale fisheries, especially the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), on the other. The proposed sub-committee was supported by Senegal, Japan, India and the United States (US).

Many delegations participated in the discussion on agenda item "small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance" (Agenda Item 8.2) in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Speaking on behalf of the African regional group, Côte d'Ivoire highlighted the importance of small-scale fisheries, particularly inland fisheries, for Africa.

Costa Rica said the highest incidence of poverty and diseases was in the indigenous territories along the Caribbean coast, and observed that adopting a human-rights-based approach would bring greater dignity to small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples. Attention was drawn to a bill tabled in its Legislative Assembly, which hoped to strengthen small-scale fisheries, and sought support in effectively implementing the SSF Guidelines. Costa Rica welcomed the United Nations General Assembly resolution proclaiming 2022 the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" (IYAFA).

...adopting a human-rights-based approach would bring greater dignity to small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples.

Strong focus

The European Union (EU) said it is fully committed to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and drew attention to the Mid-term Strategy (2017-20) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, which has a strong focus on small-scale fisheries. The EU said the small-scale subsector needed: better representation and

*This article is by **Sebastian Mathew** (icsf@icsf.net), Executive Director, ICSF*

participation in decision-making processes; strengthened support to women and secure equal participation of women in decision-making processes; a participatory mechanism for sharing of traditional knowledge; support and training to build capacity within small-scale fisheries; access to new technologies with a view to improving safety, as well as monitoring, control and surveillance; and fighting against illegal fishing. The EU further observed that tenure is a key feature of fisheries management, including transboundary resource management. The EU further drew attention to the High Level Conference on Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, to be held in Malta on 25 and 26 September 2018, which is expected to adopt a Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (RPOA-SSF). A Ministerial Declaration on the RPOA-SSF is expected to be signed at the end of the high-level event, setting forth SSF actions to be carried out over the next decade (until 2028) to strengthen and support sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Implementing the SSF Guidelines would lead to improved access to resources and markets, better provision of social security and financial inclusion of the small-scale subsector, and would lead to inclusive governance.

The Republic of Korea (RoK) referred to SDG 14 – in particular 14.b – on small-scale artisanal fisheries. RoK said it is co-organizing a conference with FAO – Tenure Rights and User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, in Yeosu in September 2018. In the context of IYAFA, RoK supported developing an information baseline and assessing the contribution of small-scale and artisanal fisheries in marine and inland waters.

India supported implementation of the SSF Guidelines and recalled proposing a sub-committee on small-scale fisheries at the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI in 2011. Implementing the SSF Guidelines would lead to improved access to resources and markets, better provision of social security and financial inclusion of the small-scale subsector, and would lead to inclusive governance. However, implementing the Guidelines in a federal and diverse country like India is a challenge. Several elements of the Guidelines are outside the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and calls for inter-ministerial consultation and co-ordination, it was observed. The governance of small-scale fisheries required achieving a fine balance between socio-cultural security, livelihood security and resource management.

Canada said inshore fishery is a social thread that keeps people together and brings prosperity to the coastal rural communities. Canada is developing a new legislation to strengthen the policy framework for sustainable inshore fisheries by paying attention to economic, social and cultural factors. The indigenous communities were to articulate their preferred means of fishing consistent with their cultural values and relief system. Canada would participate and support the Friends of the SSF Guidelines under the SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF GSF), and welcomed celebrating 2022 as IYAFA.

Vietnam said the SSF Guidelines principles are integrated into its legal framework, and requested FAO support to develop indicators to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines.

St. Kitts and Nevis informed the Committee about the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) integrating the SSF Guidelines into a regional protocol. Stakeholder awareness about the Guidelines, however, was to be improved.

Effective implementation

Japan said it is committed to the effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines and was of the view that FAO's work in relation to tenure and rights-based approaches to fisheries also gave an opportunity to implement the SSF Guidelines.

FAO/GIULIO NAPOLITANO

The opening session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, Thirty-third Session, 9-13 July 2018, Rome, Italy. Small-scale fisheries issues were integrated into almost all agenda items of the meet

Thailand spoke of its intention to formulate an action plan in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Thailand drew attention to the 3rd World Small-scale Fisheries Congress to be held in Chiang Mai in October 2018 in collaboration with Too Big to Ignore (TBTI), a global research network.

Norway said there was little value if the SSF Guidelines were not implemented, and informed the Committee of its support to the FAO Umbrella Programme for the Promotion and Application of the SSF Guidelines, and to an updating of the Hidden Harvest study. The latter would improve statistics on small-scale fisheries. Attention was drawn to many types of conflicts facing small-scale fisheries across the world. It was hoped that the State of Fisheries and Aquaculture report of FAO could better reflect the state of small-scale fisheries as well. Norway highlighted the role of gender-equitable small-scale fisheries and the role of women in providing nutrition and food security. The SSF Guidelines offered a platform for women in fisheries, said Norway, and observed that small-scale fisheries organizations should be invited to participate in decision-making processes. Norway added that more countries should contribute to the Umbrella Programme.

South Africa said it now recognizes the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and poverty alleviation. Although the small-scale fishers were earlier marginalized from the fishing rights allocation process, they now enjoy legal access rights after a recent amendment to the Marine Living Resources Act. This is regarded a major milestone. South Africa has several mechanisms to support small-scale fishing communities, including schemes to benefit small-scale fishing communities in regard to storage, processing and marketing of fish, and local labelling to market fish as environment-friendly.

Sustainable Development Goals

Argentina said the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.b recognizes the fundamental role of small-scale artisanal fisheries, and urged the Committee to continue its activities to disseminate the SSF Guidelines and to raise awareness. It welcomed observing 2022 as IYAFA and supported participation of fishers in decision-making processes. The use of the term 'governance', however, was opposed by Argentina on the ground that it could only apply to an area under national jurisdiction. Neither the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, nor the 2001 International Plan of

Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, use the term governance, said Argentina, and sought replacing it with 'sustainable management'.

Chile welcomed the proclamation of 2022 as IYAFA. It sought reducing gender inequality in fisheries and promoting greater participation of women in fishing activities.

The US, while welcoming 2022 as IYAFA, urged FAO to develop a road map to IYAFA. Attention was drawn to gathering enhanced data on small-scale fisheries to better understand women's role as well as other diverse elements in small-scale fisheries. The US supported implementing the SSF Guidelines in a fair and effective manner, adopting a rights-based approach and recognizing the role of governance institutions. The US supported the FAO Umbrella Programme and informed the Committee that the SSF Guidelines have been incorporated into the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) country projects in Indonesia, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The updating of the Hidden Harvest study, said the US, could assist in better understanding and improvement of small-scale fisheries.

The Norwegian proposal to establish a sub-committee on fisheries management, with a focus on small-scale fisheries, was discussed...

Senegal supported the statement made by Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African regional group and welcomed 2022 as IYAFA. Governance of tenure in fisheries is a matter of concern for Senegal and it drew attention to its Maritime Fisheries Code (2015). It was hoped that the proposed sub-committee on fisheries management could also deal with small-scale fisheries issues.

Brazil was in support of SDG 14.b. Drawing attention to a growing trend in illegal fishing, It was keen to register and license all artisanal fishers, and agreed with Argentina's preference for using the term 'management' over 'governance'.

Indonesia said it supported 2022 as IYAFA and informed the Committee about hosting the Fifth Our Ocean Conference in Bali on 29 and 30 October 2018. Indonesia welcomed the SSF GSF and its willingness to be part of the knowledge-sharing platform, and highlighted access to resources, markets and gender equality as central to the SSF Guidelines. Inclusion of social and economic practices along the value chain and recognition of local wisdom were also to be recognized.

China said protection of the interests of small-scale fisheries will be given due consideration and said it is keen to co-operate with FAO and other member States to develop its small-scale fisheries in future.

Mexico said it was keen to eradicate poverty through sustainable management of fisheries resources, and it supported the SSF Guidelines.

The Norwegian proposal to establish a sub-committee on fisheries management, with a focus on small-scale fisheries, was discussed again under any other matters (Agenda item 14). Norway said the FAO secretariat, in close collaboration with the Bureau of COFI, should develop the proposal for the establishment of a new sub-committee. The proposal was to be circulated six months before the Thirty-fourth Session of COFI. The US reiterated its support. Argentina, Canada, Pakistan, Sudan, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Brazil, St. Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Belize, Iceland, South Sudan and Guatemala also extended support to the proposal.

For more

http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/en/
Thirty-third Session Committee on Fisheries, 9-13 July 2018, Rome, Italy

http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6882e.pdf
Report of the Thirty-second Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 11-15 July 2016

A Fishers' Forecaster

Action research by the University of Sussex is bringing fishermen and scientists together to track wind, and waves and save lives

Seen from the air, Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala state in south India, looks like a magic carpet – a long strip of golden sand separating a vast green canopy of coconut palms and the turquoise shimmer of the Arabian Sea. These sandy shores are home to the largest concentration of artisanal marine fishers in this part of the world – 42 villages spread along a 48-mile coastline. Many of these fishers are poor.

Marine fishing in the tropical seas off Thiruvananthapuram (8° 31' N 76° 56' E) is an adventurous affair, especially during the monsoon season that begins on 1 June and lasts till September. During these months, fishers brave high waves, buffeting winds, swift ocean currents, thunderstorms and low visibility, but even today, they have no easy access to regular marine weather forecasts.

The research here by the University of Sussex seeks ways to make marine weather forecasts more accurate, accessible and actionable in line with the risk culture of the fishers. We work in collaboration with state officials and forecasters – mainly our research partners, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). Our team, led by Professor Filippo Osella, an anthropologist, comprises another senior anthropologist, an integration design expert and two of us geographers. We design model forecasts and weather alerts with the local fishers, and help them disseminate these bulletins over many channels such as mobile phones, radio and loudspeakers. It is a trial-and-error process and we call it, "Co-production of knowledge and communication tools for safe and sustainable artisanal fishing."

We focus on two fishing villages. The first is Anchuthengu in the north of the district and part of a barrier island, where the British East India Company built one of its first forts in 1695. It is a thin strip of land between the Arabian Sea and a lagoon. It is losing part of its seaward edge, especially after the groynes laid for a fishing harbour built on a nearby estuary has changed wave and current patterns and worsened coastal erosion. In bad weather, fishers find it risky to enter and exit the sea mouth as high waves overturn their small craft or hurl them against the granite structures. People have died in such accidents and the fishers consider it the biggest risk they face.

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Visual communication

In our risk communication workshops, Anchuthengu fishers preferred to address the harbour-related risks first. So they focused on visual communication, designing a set of signals marking safe channels for navigation to the harbour. While the fishers negotiate with the district authorities to install this signal system, they have also requested the SDMA

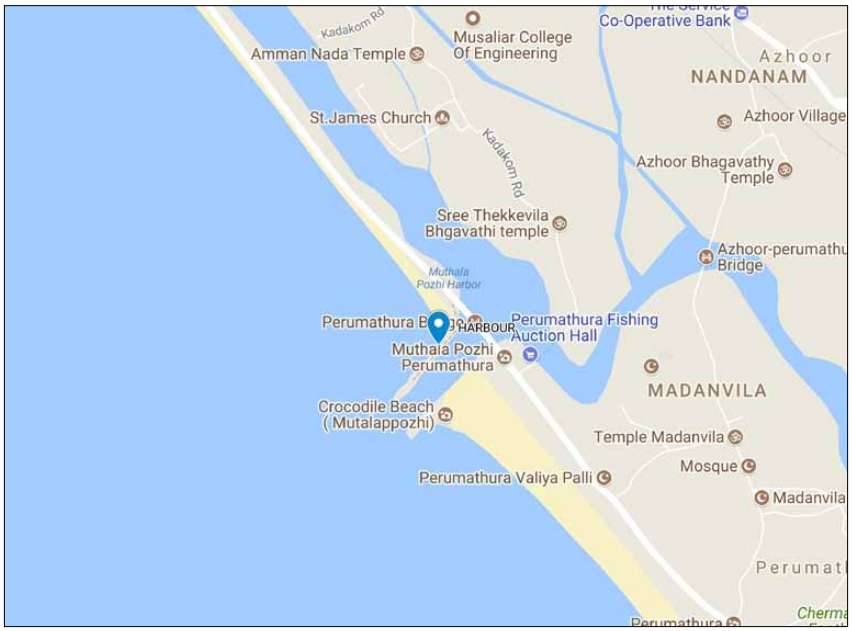
*This article is by **Max Martin** (Max.Martin@sussex.ac.uk), a research fellow engaged in field work in Thiruvananthapuram, India as part of a Sussex Sustainability Research Programme study aimed at better risk communication for local fishers*

to provide another set of signals to give rough weather alerts. Experts of the Kerala State Institute of Design in nearby Kollam district are helping the fishers in the process. As I write this article, the fishers are looking for brighter light-emitting diode (LED) lamps to replace a set they had installed on their own as part of a test signal system. Anchuthengu fishers are also exploring better ways to share marine weather forecasts – through mobile phone calls, social media and loudspeaker announcements.

A small group in the nearby Puthukurichy village called Radio Monsoon is offering marine weather bulletins in Malayalam over phone lines and WhatsApp, based on an INCOIS service. The fishers like to hear it over small loudspeakers, along with other useful information such as availability of fish and market trends. On 13 June, we tested a set of public address systems to disseminate these messages at places where the fishers dock their boats. The fishers said the bulletins, based on INCOIS and Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts, were accurate most of the time. They are now trying to set up a small studio to record audio programmes.

Our other field study site is Poonthura, close to the city and 20 miles south of Anchuthengu. The two villages are connected by a canal built in the early 19th century by a queen of the erstwhile Travancore kingdom. The canal, once a trunk route, is now in disuse, but fishers frequently move between the two villages by road and sea, and find partners in business and life. Poonthura was one of the villages worst hit by Cyclone Ockhi, which led to many fishers dying or going missing at sea. The storm system had formed in the southern Bay of Bengal and caused damage in Sri Lanka on 29 November, only to intensify the next day off the coasts of Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, sinking dozens of boats. Fishers were already out at sea when the storm rapidly gained strength, and were unable to access forecasts. The event itself was not classified as a cyclonic storm (wind speeds greater than 39 miles per hour) till 30 November.

MAX MARTIN



Muthalappozhi harbour, three miles south of Anchuthengu village in Kerala and connected through a lagoon, is hazard-prone in rough weather

Faced with weather-related risks at sea, the local fishers of Poonthura are demanding two interventions. First, they need a clear forecast dissemination system accessible on the sandy seashore and a local estuary where they launch their boats. They prefer loudspeaker announcements and voice calls over currently available text messages that INCOIS provides. Second, they want a system that is reliable when they are fishing offshore. Fishers here often go 25 nautical miles and beyond, moving north or south, where the wind patterns can be dramatically different from what they experience closer to home. Younger fishers already share weather, fish and navigation information over their own informal networks of mobile phones (range of up to 10 nautical miles offshore) and wireless sets. What they want is a wireless base station that can give round-the-clock weather information and a way to connect it with formal weather forecast systems. Another idea is to set up their own community frequency modulation (FM) radio station, which can beam forecasts, songs and talk shows. The radio station is taking time to materialize amidst deliberations about who should own and run it.

Meanwhile, we join the discussions amongst fishers, technologists and

regulators as part of our research, looking at the feasibility of various locally owned risk communication options. In our workshops, the fishers said that marine weather forecasts need to be more local, accurate and timely, and must have a clear focus on conditions offshore. The weather bulletins currently available over radio and television are largely land-based. Offshore wind patterns are of particular interest to the fishers. However, they have no access to services such as Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) that informs the maritime industry over specialized equipment and the Internet. Ongoing experiments such as Radio Monsoon include GMDSS information.

At the same time, the government agencies are listening to the fishers and offering support to some of their local, last-mile communication initiatives. In March, when a storm system gained strength off the Kerala coast, the IMD issued warnings which were relayed over loudspeakers by the SDMA, which also banned fishing activities for a few days. Fishers welcome such alerts, though they are concerned that fishing restrictions cover a large swathe of the sea, and false alerts adversely affect their livelihoods. They demand more precision in terms of time and space. Such concerns about accuracy, accessibility and actionability of the forecasts became the focus of a research meeting we hosted in Thiruvananthapuram on 11 June, for our stakeholders and a group of scientists and experts who collaborate with us.

As the fishers and forecasters continue their debate and dialogue, they have already started taking precautions in anticipation of the rough sea conditions during the monsoon season. For our part, we are conducting more 'co-production' workshops and field trials of various modes of risk communication. We are tracking small fishing vessels and mapping their forays with the aid of global positioning system (GPS) devices, which several fishers carry on board, and then comparing these tracks with potential fishing grounds shown in satellite images. Once they return, we share notes on the accuracy of the forecasts at different points. The idea is to look for novel and better ways of risk communication for safe and sustainable fishing. We share this data with the forecasters, contributing to better models and future research. Our in-house philosophy remains: "Save one life and it will be worth it."

KEVIN JULIUS

Sorting fish at Anchuthengu, Kerala, India. In our risk communication workshops, Anchuthengu fishers preferred to address the harbour-related risks first

For more

https://www.icsf.net/en/occasional-papers/article/EN/149-some-aspects-of.html?limitstart=0
Eyes on their fingertips: Some aspects of the arts, science, technology and culture of the fisherfolk of Trivandrum, India

https://www.facebook.com/RadioMonsoon/
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Twitter: Radio Monsoon

https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/78-4347-Comment.html
On Land, at Sea, Lives Matter

http://sdma.kerala.gov.in/
Kerala - State Disaster Management Authority

Cinema and Resistance

This year the *Pêcheurs du Monde* film festival, which turns 10, was held between 19 and 25 March 2018, in Lorient, France

Filmmakers have always been fascinated by the sea, and the lives and work of fishermen. In the course of its 10 editions, the *Pêcheurs du Monde* (Fishers of the World) film festival has screened hundreds of films of all kinds – features, documentaries, reports, etc. Each year, the festival gives audiences the opportunity to rediscover exceptional achievements in cinema on fishers, both new and old, giving visibility to the forgotten individuals and communities who strive to protect the oceans.

Each year, the festival gives audiences the opportunity to rediscover exceptional achievements in cinema on fishers, both new and old, giving visibility to the forgotten individuals and communities who strive to protect the ocean

Marine conservation has become a major theme in the media and in film, but if we forget the men and women who make a living from the seas, this priority may turn against already fragile communities and their human rights. Indeed, behind some of the memorable campaigns to protect the marine environment, are banks intent on the valuation and extraction of marine wealth. Every year, the festival evokes the risks of such campaigns and this time it is the film, *Angry Inuk* which won two jury awards. The film tells the story of the human disaster created in Inuit communities by campaigns against the misunderstood practice of seal hunting. This and other films at the festival, which are rarely screened elsewhere in Europe, stun spectators by documenting the contempt and cynicism of organizations that claim to defend the environment but refuse to recognize the rights of the communities living off these marine resources. The age-old relationship of fishermen with the ocean cannot be perpetuated without a love for nature.

Many films at the festival testify to this relationship. In *Los Ojos del Mar*, directed by Jose Álvarez, the wife of a Mexican fisherman who has been missing at sea for 10 years invents a ritual: She embarks on a fishing boat and on reaching the spot where her husband disappeared, she throws overboard an illustrated box containing objects that reconstitute a link with him. She mixes Indian and Catholic rites before displaying a frenzy of life in a sensual dance.

Unique knowledge

This particular relationship with the marine world endows fishing communities with unique knowledge. Two films – *Enquête sur ma Mer* and *Un Monde Relationnel* – show the richness of the knowledge accumulated through tradition and the daily experience of observing fish behaviour. The directors, Elisabeth Tempier and Philippe Houssin, a photographer-animator pair, document the *Prud'homies* of southern France, which are ancient systems of collective fisheries management. Local fishermen must constantly change the position and colour of their nets because the

*This article, by **Alain Le Sann** (ad.lesann@orange.fr), founder and president of the international* Pêcheurs du Monde *(Fishers of the World) film festival, was translated by Danièle Le Sann*

ALAIN LE SANN

André Menras receives his price from students for his film, *Les chevaliers des sables jaunes,* about Vietnamese fishermen who employ an amazing fishing technique, using electric poles that stun reef fish, which is very selective but also exhausting and dangerous for the diving fishermen

fish adapt to the gear over time. These observations open up interesting new fields of research. Fishermen also analyze the species diversity and try to control the proliferation of certain fish, for example, small pelagic species, that threaten their traditional resources of rock fish, by consuming their eggs. We see that resource management is not simply 'maximum sustainable yield' (MSY), but a process that requires a thorough understanding of prey-predator relationships. A film shot covertly in Vietnam, *The Knights of the Yellow Sands*, by director André Menras, shows an amazing fishing technique, using electric poles that stun reef fish, which is very selective but exhausting and dangerous for diving fishermen. The young students who were invited to a jury at the festival were manifestly seduced by the skill of the fishermen, who work in very perilous conditions.

Undoubtedly, it is important to preserve and transmit this unique knowledge – that of Inuit seal hunters, Vietnamese pole fishers, artisanal fishermen of the Mediterranean or women divers in Japan. Everywhere, the passing of each generation of fishermen threatens such transmission. Often, as shown in Claudia Neubern's *Il Canto del Mare*, there remains only one fisherman in ports that once had dozens; when they die, their knowledge will disappear. Some traditions help maintain the link between society and the increasingly marginalized fishermen. In Norway's Lofoten Islands, where the cod fishery is still flourishing, children from seven to 12 years are encouraged by their parents to work for two weeks, cutting cod tongues in a factory. They make good money and look forward to it.

In Solveig Melkeraaen's film, *Tungeskjærerne*, a young girl, raised in the rich, urbanized society of Norway's Oslo, decides to try it. She finally succeeds and passes this rite of passage, which goes to the roots of Norwegian society. It is also an opportunity to discover the autonomy these children acquire through the experience.

In *Ama-San*, directed by Cláudia Varejão, we see the pleasure that

Japanese women divers derive from their vocation. Through their fishing co-operative, older women pass on their traditional skills to the few young women who agree to continue this exhausting activity. This film won the Chandrika Sharma Award for highlighting the role of women in fisheries.

This year, many films reflected the importance of women in fisheries. In Senegal, they control processing activities, as they do in Mexico's freshwater fishery (*Les femmes de Petatan* by Carmen Pedroza Gutiérrez). A fisherwoman from Le Guilvinec, Scarlett Le Corre, took part in a lively discussion on the film dedicated to her (*Scarlette, une Femme sur le Pont* by Leslie Benzaquen, Henri Desaunay and Nicolas Berthelot). The audiences also got an opportunity to rediscover a film made 30 years ago by Yolande Josèphe, president of the jury in 2018. Her film, *La Mer à L'Envers*, portrays the life and work of a fisherman in the 1980s, the heyday of industrial fishing, from the point of view of his wife and children – a modern look on a world perceived as very masculine.

As it does every year, this time too the festival showcased films on the various facets of Big Business's grab of oceans, lakes and coasts. Risteard Ó Domhnaill's *Atlantic* explores a heretofore unknown impact of offshore oil exploration: the shock to cetacean and fish populations caused by explosions on the seabed. The threat of extractive industries is also depicted in films such as Veronica Quense Mendez's *La Ultima Barricada*, on mining in Chile, and in *Angry Inuk*, which is set in Arctic Canada. The ravages caused by illegal fishing in Asia and Africa are denounced in the investigative documentary, *Mafia des Océans*. In Lebanon (*Wled Bayrout*, directed by Sarah Srage), fishing villages are displaced to make way

ALAIN LE SANN

Young fish processing and selling apprentices associated with the festival, which gave visibility to the forgotten individuals and communities who strive to protect the oceans

for private real estate interests, and fishing areas devastated by pollution – a threat faced by many Mediterranean countries.

No matter how grave the threat, coastal communities continue to resist, especially when their cultural roots are strong, as in the case of indigenous people. *Angry Inuk*, the award-winning film about the struggle to carry on the traditional Arctic seal hunt, is also a tale about the resilience of an indigenous culture as new oil and mining interests threaten their lives and autonomy.

Yet, resistance is not easy when the adversary is powerful and the struggle deepens divisions within the community. In *Poisson d'or, Poisson Africain*, Thomas Grand and Moussa Diop subtly analyze the internal tensions within a fishing community in Casamance, Senegal. In Chile, salmon farm workers, shellfish gatherers and artisanal fishers do not always have the same interests, even if they all fight a common enemy – large salmon farms (*La Ultima Barricada*). When there is unity, as amongst the fishermen of the Indian Ocean islands (*Unis pour Durer* by Mathilde Junot), it is easier to be heard.

The films presented at this year's festival show that fishermen are at the heart of the big forces sweeping over the planet: the environmental crisis, of course, but also China's growing footprint in the world (*The Knights of the Yellow Sands* and *Golden Fish, African Fish*).

Each year, the theme of migration comes back with greater force. Fishermen are often migrants themselves, as in Charlie Petersmann's *Deltas, Back to Shores* or *Lebous, Labous: Une Histoire de la Mer*, by James Labous.

This year, the festival screened an exceptional film by José Leitao de Barros, *Maria do Mar*, shot in Nazaré, Portugal, in 1930. This silent film was presented in a cine concert, with Roberto Tricarri's quintet playing alongside. All the spectators were dazzled by the exceptional images, music, and the discovery of the fishermen's world of that time in Nazaré.

Thanks to these films, universal problems are perceived in their singularity and humanity.

ALAIN LE SANN

Thomas Grand receiving an award for his film *Poisson d'or, Poisson Africain,* which subtly analyzes the internal tensions within a fishing community in Casamance, Senegal

But if these films evoke the problems experienced by fishermen and fisherwomen, they also show images of happiness in work, nature and community life: whether it is in Norway, Canada, Japan, Vietnam, Senegal or France. It is these images that viewers will remember – a tribute to the lives of the men, women and children at the heart of the films.

For more

http://webdoc.france24.com/odyssey-senegal-fishermen-france/index.html
The Fishermen and the Sea: The Odyssey of Senegalese fishermen from Lorient to Joal-Fadiouth

http://www.pecheursdumonde.org/
Pecheurs du Monde (Fishers of the World) Festival International de Films, Lorient

FISHERIES LEGISLATION

New laws in Canada for habitat protection, indigenous participation

A bill currently before the Canadian senate being heralded by environmental and Indigenous rights groups doesn't go far enough, according to the organization that represents commercial fish harvesters in Labrador.

Bill C68 seeks to amend the Fisheries Act and other laws to increase protection of fish and fish habitats. If passed, it will, among other things, also explicitly require the minister to take into consideration the protection of Indigenous rights prior to making any decisions on fisheries law and incorporate traditional Indigenous knowledge into the decision-making process...

https://www.cbncompass.ca/news/regional/new-fisheries-legislation-looking-to-increase-habitat-protection-and-indigenous-participation-230224/

BIODIVERSITY

A vanishing way of life

Plenty of studies have shown how mainstream conservation aims to protect 'biodiversity hotspots' but undermines the knowledge and culture of the people, often the poor and marginalized, who inhabit such hotspots. Indigenous fishing communities of Nepal provide just one example...

The Sonaha are a minority fishing community spread across Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur districts. Their total population is just over 1,200. Most of them live in villages along the Geruwa River, a branch of the Karnali that marks the western boundary of Bardiya National Park, the largest protected area in the Tarai.

(http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-03-27/a-vanishing-way-of-life.html)

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Mwambao Coastal Community Network

Tanzania's long Indian Ocean coastline, and the offshore islands of Zanzibar (Unguja) and Pemba, are home to rich marine ecosystems. The fish and other aquatic resources of the coastline also support the livelihoods of millions of Tanzanians and are critical to local and regional food security, besides sustaining the tourism industry. Although fisheries in the region is largely small-scale – using canoes, basket traps, handlines and longlines – in recent years, the demand for high-value species like octopus, squid, marlin and kingfish, and the arrival of outboard motors has led to an unsustainable exploitation of fish stocks. Moreover, destructive practices like the use of dynamite have been so prevalent that local fishers said they would hear between 20 and 50 blasts a day in many locations

The Mwambao Coastal Community Network helps Tanzanian communities to strengthen local fisheries-management systems and conservation practices for the marine resources. This includes developing village-level management committees; establishing temporary and permanent closures or fishing ban periods and other regulations to better manage high-value species such as octopus; and improving collaborative management with the government, particularly in marine protected areas (MPAs).

Mwambao is based in Zanzibar and supports a growing network of coastal communities that can learn from one another through peer-to-peer exchange, and work together on shared interests such as fisheries policy and legal reform. Supported by partnerships with Fauna and Flora International, Blue Ventures, the Indian Ocean Commission and other international organizations, Mwambao is quickly developing into a leading grassroots institution in fisheries management and marine conservation in Tanzania.

MWAMBAO COASTAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

As a starting point, Mwambao has successfully developed a local model for fisheries management using tempo¬rary octopi closures or seasonal bans, where communities agree to 'close' their fishery for a three-month period. This allows octopi stocks to recover, to grow rapidly and to reach the size necessary for breeding, resulting in a significantly larger harvest when fishing resumes. Many villages go on to repeat this regime every three months, with only two or three days when the area is 'open'. After starting with a pilot project in 2015, these closure areas have rapidly expanded to villages on Pemba and Unguja, which adopted the model in order to improve local management.

Capitalizing on the success of these octopi closures, villages are encouraged to introduce more ambitious management measures. For example, in Kukuu village on Pemba Island, Mwambao has supported the community in establishing a permanent 'no-take zone' within a larger temporary fishing closure area. The management of this area is regulated through Kukuu's own local plan, the first to be devel¬oped by a community in all of Zanzibar. Kukuu's model has set a strong example that can be emulated across Zanzibar and Tanzania.

Kukuu is also a part of the 1000-sq km Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), where Mwambao is working to improve local fisheries-management institutions and collaboration with the government. This expansive MPA is home to several important marine species, in addition to mangroves, seagrass beds, and coral reefs. Nine thousand local fishers also depend on the area for their livelihood. A four-year project funded by the Government of United Kingdom's Darwin Initiative, provides a critical opportunity for Mwambao, the lead implementation agency, to scale up the impact of its work.

Tanzania is one of the very few African countries where dynamite fishing is commonly practiced. Mwambao has been working with two leading non-governmental organizations, using local networks, to address this incredibly destruc¬tive practice. The past two years have seen significant progress in combating this threat, as demonstrated by new information collected by Mwambo.

Mwambao has played a key role in introducing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in Tanzania's marine fisheries, working on the national team for the implementation, and facilitating an initial workshop in 2015. Communication and collaboration is not easy, given Tanzania's 1,424-km-long coastline and large population engaged in fisheries. Mwambao is exploring how best to support fishing communities, through existing and new activities for the progressive implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Tanzania.

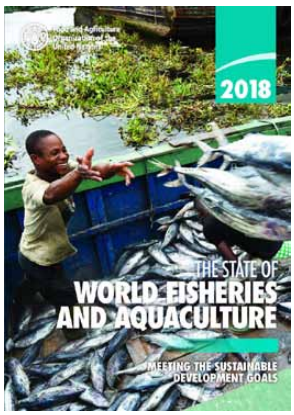
– by Lorna Slade, Executive Director and Ali Thani, Country Co-ordinator, of the Mwambao Coastal Community Network (www.mwambao.or.tz)

Estimate of global fishing fleet size and distribution

The total number of fishing vessels in the world in 2016 was estimated to be about 4.6 million, unchanged from 2014. The fleet in Asia was the largest, consisting of 3.5 million vessels, accounting for 75 percent of the global fleet. In Africa and North America the estimated number of vessels declined from 2014 by just over 30 000 and by nearly 5 000, respectively. For Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania the numbers all increased, largely as a result of improvements in estimation procedures.

Globally, the number of engine-powered vessels was estimated to be 2.8 million in 2016, remaining steady from 2014. Motorized vessels represented 61 percent of all fishing vessels in 2016, down from 64 percent in 2014, as the number of non-motorized vessels increased, probably because of improved estimations. Generally, motorized vessels make up a much higher proportion in marine operating vessels than in the inland water fleet. However, data reporting was not of sufficient quality to disaggregate marine and inland water fleets.

The motorized fleet is distributed unevenly around the world, with Asia having nearly 80 percent of the reported motorized fleet in 2016 (2.2 million vessels), followed by Africa with about 153 000 powered vessels. In



Europe, the fleet capacity has continued to decline steadily since 2000 as a result of management measures to reduce the fleet capacity. This region has the highest percentage of motorized vessels in the overall fleet.

The largest absolute number of unpowered vessels was in Asia, with over 1.2 million in 2016, followed by Africa (just under 500 000 non-motorized boats), Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, North America and Europe in descending order. These undecked vessels were mostly in the length overall (LOA) class of less than 12 m and included the smallest boats used for fishing.

Size distribution of vessels and the importance of small boats

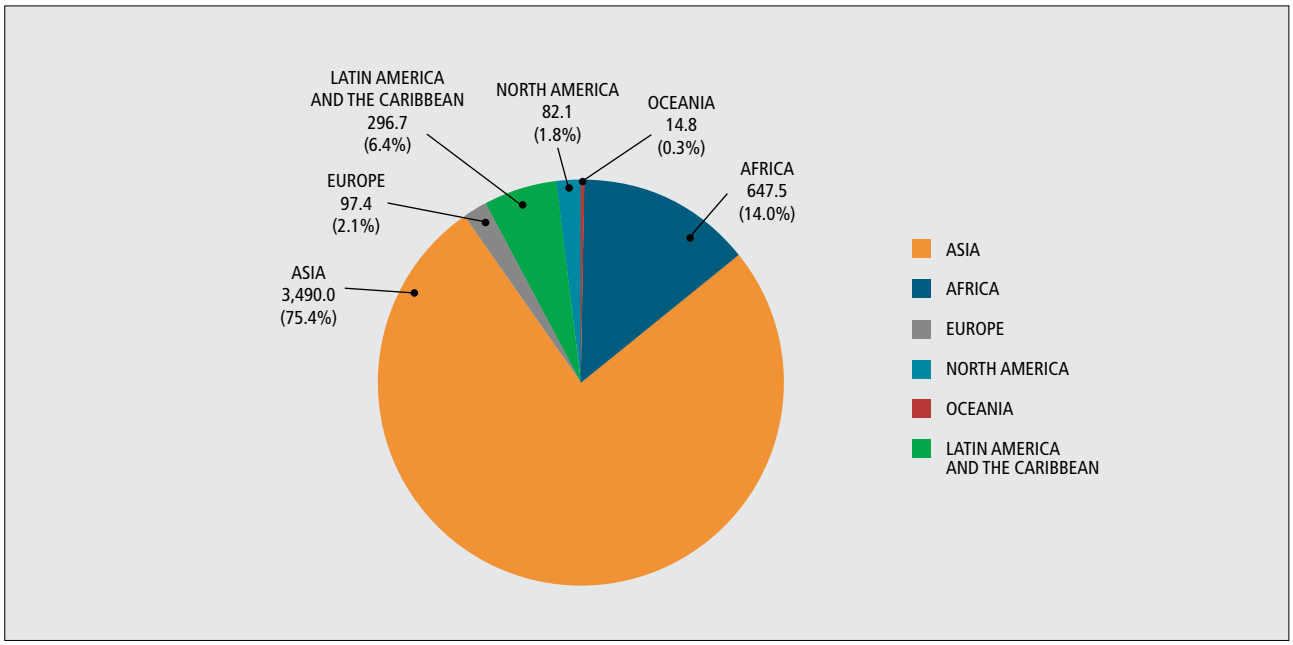
In 2016, about 86 percent of the motorized fishing vessels in the world were in the LOA class of less than 12 m, the vast majority of which were undecked, and those small vessels dominated in all regions. Asia had the largest absolute number of motorized vessels under 12 m, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Only about 2 percent of all motorized fishing vessels were 24 m and larger (roughly more than 100 gross tonnage [GT]), and the proportion of these large boats was highest in Oceania, Europe and North America. Worldwide, FAO estimated about 44 600 fishing vessels with LOA of at least 24 m for 2016.

Despite the global prevalence of small vessels, estimations of their numbers are likely to be less accurate, as they are often not subject to registration requirements as larger vessels are, and even when registered they may not be reported in national statistics. The lack of information and reporting is particularly acute for inland water fleets, which are often entirely omitted from national or local registries.

Usually the non-motorized vessels are a minor component of the total national fleet; exceptions include Benin, where they constituted the large majority, and Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, where they represented up to 50 percent of the total. In the selected countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania, the great majority of the vessels were motorized. Information on vessels is essential for effective performance-based fisheries governance. It is therefore a serious concern that data on vessels are often most lacking for small-scale fisheries, which are typically a key source of livelihoods and nutrition for coastal communities.

– from *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2018. FAO.*

http://www.fao.org/state-of-fisheries-aquaculture



Distribution of motorized and non-motorized fishing vessels by region, 2016 (thousands)

INFOLOG: NEW RESOURCES AT ICSF

ICSF's Documentation Centre (dc.icsf.net) has a range of information resources, which are regularly updated. A selection:

Publications

The Fishermen and the Sea: The Odyssey of Senegalese Fishermen from Lorient to Joal-Fadiouth

http://webdoc.france24.com/odyssey-senegal-fishermen-france/index.html

Fishermen throughout time have crossed the sea in search of more bountiful waters. They set sail from Brittany, Norway, the Basque country, Galicia, and now, Senegal… Those featured in this book hail from the small sliver of coast that stretches from the Senegalese capital of Dakar to the coastal town of Joal-Fadiouth.

Salas, Silvia, Barragan-Paladines, Maria Jose, Chuenpagdee, Ratana (Eds.). Viability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Springer. 2018

https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319760773

Case studies in this work offer lessons learned in terms of vulnerability concerns, market dynamics, social capital, and institutional and legal frameworks of small-scale fisheries, which is a priority for many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a useful contribution to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region.

What gender mainstreaming in agriculture means in practice: Cases from selected countries of the European Union. FAO. 2018. 112p.

http://www.fao.org/3/i8958en/I8958EN.pdf

This publication focuses on case studies from five member countries of the European Union. These illustrate how gender equality issues can be addressed in agriculture and rural development policies (including fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock), programmes and practices.

What does the fisherman want?: Report on the survey among fishers around Lake Nokoué and Porto-Novo Lagoon in Benin by Ben Sonneveld et al.

https://www.aced-benin.org/sites/default/files/publications/report_fishermen_benin.pdf

This study analyzes a survey of 839 fishermen active in Lake Nokoué and the Porto-Novo Lagoon in Benin. The survey focuses on the regulations among fishermen of sharing the common water resources, and evaluates whether these customary rules can cope with new challenges.

Videos

Ghana: A Fishing Nation in Crisis

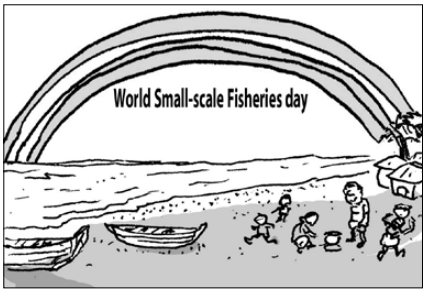
https://vimeo.com/271532956/0e956e5214

A new film has been released on the crisis in Ghana's fisheries and the illegal practice of 'saiko' – where industrial trawlers sell fish to local canoes at sea. This is driving the collapse of Ghana's inshore fishery, on which millions of Ghanaians rely for food security and income.

FLASHBACK

Now Walk the Talk

The tenth of June ought to be celebrated as "World Small-scale Fisheries Day" since it was on this historic day in 2014 that the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) formally endorsed the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).



In adopting the Guidelines, COFI also honoured Chandrika Sharma, former Executive Secretary of ICSF, for her invaluable contributions to small-scale fisheries.

By adopting these Guidelines, the international community has lent its weight to the struggles of fishers, fishworkers and their communities in the small-scale sector, as well as to indigenous peoples worldwide to defend their right to secure life and livelihood from fisheries-related activities, both marine and inland. The adoption of the Guidelines marks an expression of support to a politically and economically marginalized people, beleaguered by, among other things, pollution, displacement, conflicts over space and resources and climate-change impacts, and poor access to education, health and housing facilities.

The Guidelines represent the first formal attempt to talk in the same breath about equitable development of fishing communities and sustainable small-scale fisheries. They recognize small-scale fishing communities as a subsector that demands multisectoral and multistakeholder solutions. The Guidelines are couched in the language of a 'rights-based approach', where human rights take priority over property rights. Developed in an inclusive, ground-up and participatory manner, the Guidelines weave together international human-rights standards and soft and hard legal instruments that deal with fisheries, labour, women and gender, land, food, nutrition, ecosystem, trade and climate change. They deal substantially with most of the concerns of small-scale, rural and indigenous communities worldwide, as articulated through a raft of workshops of civil society organizations (CSOs), held in Africa, Asia, Central and Latin America since 2011, in preparation for the FAO technical consultations in May 2013 and February 2014.

The Guidelines will now have to move into the implementation mode. In this context, firstly, they should be made relevant for all vulnerable and marginalized groups who depend on small-scale fisheries.

– from SAMUDRA Report No.68, August 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 10-14 September 2018
http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/user-rights

The 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), Chiang Mai, Thailand, 22-26 October 2018
https://toobigtoignore.wixsite.com/3wsfcongress

GAF7 – the 7th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 October 2018

https://genderaquafish.org/2017/11/28/save-the-date-gaf-7-18-20-october-2018-ait-bangkok/

WEBSITES

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA)
http://www.alfafish.org
Founded in 1978, ALFA has successfully represented longline fishermen in securing sustainable access to healthy halibut, sablefish and rockfish stocks. ALFA supported an aggressive rebuilding schedule for depleted sablefish stocks during the 1980s, and led the battle to eliminate trawling from southeast Alaska waters during the 1990s. ALFA also supported the implementation of an individual quota system for North Pacific halibut and sablefish stocks, successfully campaigning for measures to protect the independent, community-based fleet critical to the economic health of Alaska's coastal communities.

The Women's Industry Network (WIN)

http://winsc.org.au/

The Women's Industry Network (WIN) was formed in 1996 by a group of women fishing in south Australia. In 1998 the Women's Industry Network Seafood Community (WINSC) developed into a national body with organizations in each state. WINSC is the only national organization in Australia that represents women in the seafood industry.

SHIBANI CHAUDHURY

Endquote

Fishermen's nets hung on great stripped tree trunks buried among the rocks at the edge of the river (rocks like those that, in the river, created the rapids). At one end of the cleared area were thatched huts; the place had become a fishing village again. The sinking sun shot through layers of grey cloud; the water turned from brown to gold to red to violet. And always there was the steady noise of the rapids, innumerable little cascades of water over rock. The darkness came; and sometimes the rain came as well, and to the sound of the rapids was added the sound of rain on water.

– from *A Bend in the River* by **V. S. Naipaul**