

# Small-scale fisheries and human rights: Recent trends and developments

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‘Human rights, livelihood and dignity of small-scale fishers’

SSF Open House: World Ocean Week 2021

3 June, 2021



# Small-scale fisheries

- 90 percent of the 38 million people employed in the capture fisheries (marine and inland) primary sector are small-scale fishers.
- Globally, 120 million people depend on capture fisheries; women make up half of the workforce (even more in post-harvest fisheries).
- In developing countries, SSF produce more than half the fish catch, 90 percent of which is consumed locally
- SSF encompass full-time, part-time, occasional, subsistence, formal, informal, migrant fishers and fishworkers, including women, Indigenous Peoples and other the vulnerable and marginalized groups, and their families and communities

# Human rights and dignity for SSF: Challenges

- **Poverty:** Multidimensional
- **Vulnerability:** Low HDI; inadequate access to health, education and other social services; fragile ecosystems and climate
- **Marginalization:** Non-participatory and centralized management; unequal power and access in decision-making
- **Decent work:** Hazardous; informal; inadequate social protection
- **Tenure rights:** Insecure access; mismatch between formal and customary rights; competition between users
- **Gender iniquity:** Women's roles are not recognized, and are often unstable and poorly paid
- **Access to markets:** Highly volatile; complex value chains; tariff and non-tariff barriers in international trade

# Human rights and dignity for SSF: Opportunities

- **ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188)**: 18 ratifications, including Angola, Congo, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand.
- **SSF Guidelines (2014)**: Human rights-based approach; social development closely linked to realization of human rights; an ecosystem-based approach with the complexity of livelihoods in the SSF subsector
- **Sustainable Development Goals (2015-20)**: Integrated and indivisible; all are relevant to SSF. (SDG 14.b: Provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets)
- **Increasing visibility and recognition of low income, resource-poor fishers and fishworker livelihoods in international policy and processes, including on biodiversity, climate change, food systems.**