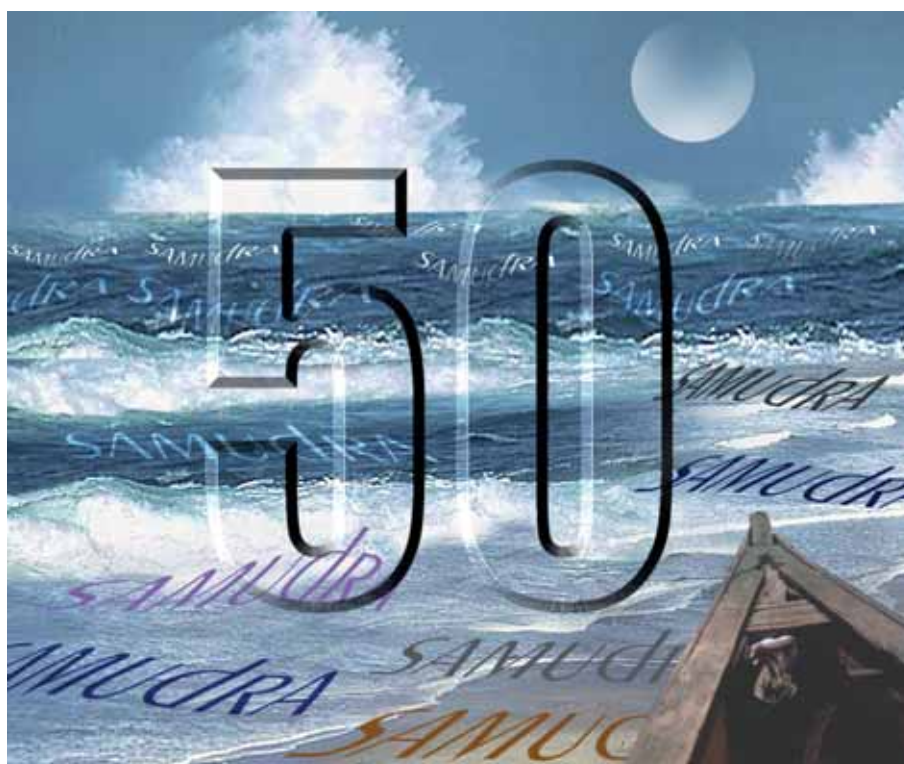


# SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS



## **The Zanzibar Workshop**

**Senegal's Artisanal Fishing Sector**

**Fisheries, Subsidies, Fuel Prices**

**Chile Workshop on Artisanal Fishing Rights**

**India's Coastal Management Zone Notification**

**COP9 of the Convention on Biological Diversity**



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.

The opinions and positions expressed in the articles are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily represent the official views of ICSF.

All issues of SAMUDRA Report can be accessed at [www.icsf.net](http://www.icsf.net)

# Damai untuk laut kita...

# ikan untuk kita semua...



15 Agustus 2008

Lomba Mewarnai

Untuk "HARI PERDAMAIAN ACEH"

REZKY SYAHREZAL

# SAMUDRA

REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

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The service often features exclusive, original stories on small-scale and artisanal fisheries, particularly in the regions of the South, as well as issues that deal with women in fisheries and safety at sea. Apart from news and stories on fisheries, the service also focuses on environmental and oceans issues. Please visit <http://www.icsf.net> to subscribe to SAMUDRA News Alerts.

## BACK COVER



A fisherman from Sierra Leone  
hauling in a net full of bonga

Photo: Romain Le Bleis  
Pêche et Développement



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ROMAIN LE BLEIS/PÊCHE ET DÉVELOPPEMENT

Fishermen from Matakang, Sierra Leone, fishing from a *pirogue* with a purse-seine net

# Voices of Small-scale Fisheries

The recent Zanzibar Workshop on coastal and fisheries management in eastern and southern Africa sought to define the contours of a 'rights-based' fishery for traditional, small-scale and artisanal fishing communities

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word 'right' has four meanings: the standard of permitted and forbidden action within a certain sphere; one's duty; that which is consonant with equity or the light of nature; and that which is morally just or due.

The Zanzibar Workshop, "Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Eastern and Southern Africa" (see page 4), had participants from both coastal and land-locked countries coming from a backdrop of diversity, ranging from open-access fisheries to quota-based fisheries; from commercialized fisheries to fisheries that act as social-safety nets; from indigenous communities in remote lakes to urban settlements; and from areas where fishing communities are marginalized by the tourism industry and the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs), to fishing spaces where they are threatened by destructive bottom trawling or distant-water fishing operations.

The Zanzibar Workshop participants also came from lakes where women are forced to barter sex for fish and from fishing communities where fishing assets are forcefully taken away from them when their husbands die. Some of them came from communities where livelihood and food-security interests take precedence over fishery conservation.

The Zanzibar Workshop had participants who complained of total exclusion from decision-making processes; of fisheries in which they had responsibilities but no rights; of coastal areas where they had no ownership rights to land; of poor working conditions; of gender inequalities; and of lack of awareness about their existing rights.


The participants asked for a definition of fishers to include those who are employed in harvesting and

pre- and post-harvest activities. They said women's rights to participate in decisionmaking should be recognized along with that of men. A rights-based approach to fisheries should be a community-based approach, they asserted.

Without recognizing their rights, it was futile talking about their responsibility to protect and conserve fisheries resources, some participants

observed. They wanted their values and traditions to be recognized. There were cautioning remarks about too much pressure on fishing communities to be responsible towards conservation and management. It was equally important to discuss the responsibilities of others towards fishing communities, they argued.

A responsible 'rights-based' approach to fisheries, they held, should ensure participation of fishing communities in decision-making processes; recognize preferential access of traditional, indigenous, and small-scale, artisanal fisher people to inland and marine fishery resources; support equitable, labour-intensive fisheries; be against privatization of fishery resources; integrate traditional ecological knowledge systems into decision-making processes; offer safe working and living conditions; seek a balance between livelihood rights and conservation goals; and recognize the rights of women to make a decent living from fisheries, for themselves and their children, irrespective of whether they actually fish or not.

The full range of the dictionary meaning of 'right' was implicit in the articulation of a rights-based approach to fisheries made at the Zanzibar Workshop. It is high time to pay heed to this rich understanding of rights and to transform the meaning of a rights-based approach to fisheries from only property rights and territorial use rights, to a broad, rights-based approach for sustainable, equitable and just fisheries. 



## 50th ISSUE OF SAMUDRA Report

This is the 50th issue of *SAMUDRA Report*, which began publication in March 1988. Over the 20 years of its existence, *SAMUDRA Report* has managed to carve out a unique niche in the world of fisheries, both as a source of information and perspectives on small-scale and artisanal fisheries and coastal communities as well as a forum for discussion and exchange of views on issues relating to fisheries, communities and livelihoods. On this occasion, we would like to thank our readers, contributors, supporters and well-wishers for their long-standing backing and encouragement. We hope that this support will continue in the years to come. For a cross-section of readers' views and opinions on *SAMUDRA Report*, please turn to page 26.



# Flagging Rights, Realizing Responsibilities

The recent Zanzibar Workshop on coastal and fisheries management in eastern and southern Africa sought to flag the concerns of small-scale fishers

**B**etween 24 and 27 June 2008 a workshop titled “Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Eastern and Southern Africa” (ESA Fisheries Workshop II or the Zanzibar Workshop) was jointly organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Masifundise Development Trust (MDT), South Africa, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Tanzania, in collaboration with the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

One key objective of the four-day workshop was to discuss how access

and comprised representatives of fishing communities, fishworker organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and the FAO.

Introducing the Zanzibar Workshop, Jackie Sunde, Member, ICSF, said fishing communities and their supporters should discuss and develop strategies on how to ensure that the small-scale fishing communities in the region could access fisheries resources, and enhance their access and user rights to fishing grounds and fishery resources. Sunde recalled that the idea behind bringing together communities and countries that share common borders and common water sources originated in the Indian Ocean Conference, 2001, organized for Indian Ocean partners jointly by ICSF and the Indian Ocean Institute (IOI). In 2004, the Masifundise Development Trust (MDT) had organized a small-scale fisheries conference in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

These workshops led up to the ICSF workshop titled “Fishing Communities and Sustainable Development in Eastern and Southern Africa: The Role of Small-scale Fisheries” (ESA Fisheries Workshop I), held from 14 to 17 March 2006 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. While identifying pertinent issues, ESA I had also called for a follow-up meeting for the region, which resulted in ESA II, the Zanzibar Workshop.

Ian Bryceson, Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway, added that the workshop was also meant to help fishers generate more ideas to make their work and struggles more effective.

**One key objective of the four-day workshop was to discuss how access to resources could be maintained or enhanced by securing access and user rights at various levels.**

to resources could be maintained or enhanced by securing access and user rights at various levels. The workshop was also aimed to enable participating organizations to arrive at common positions on this issue at the forthcoming Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, titled “Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries”, to be organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 17 October 2008. The participants of the ESA Fisheries Workshop II were drawn from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia,

*This report has been prepared by **Sebastian Mathew** (icsf@icsf.net), Programme Adviser, ICSF, and **Neena Koshy** (icsf@icsf.net), Programme Associate, ICSF*

In the country presentations that followed, Letisia Chakumba, a fisherwoman from Tanzania, said the most important consideration was recognizing the right of fishers to participate in decision-making processes. She complained of lack of consultation with fishing communities in, say, establishing marine protected areas (MPAs). The government, she said, had the duty to protect the rights of fishing communities.

Solene Smith, a fisherwoman from South Africa, said traditional fishers are totally excluded from decisionmaking on what happens at sea or how their spaces are used in South Africa. For example, she said, during Hobie Cat (a type of catamaran) competitions, usually organized for rich South Africans, fishers cannot venture out to sea to make their daily living. This clearly shows how they are excluded from the process that decides about their living/working spaces. Lack of access to resources led to larger problems like increased poverty, which, in turn, resulted in gender-based violence, domestic violence and lack of self-esteem, she said. This has caused fishing communities to insist that they be involved in decisions and management plans that affect their lives and livelihoods, which will then help them decide how, where, when and what to fish.

Florence Okoth Nyalulu, an NGO activist from Uganda, pointed to the cultural belief among the country's fishing communities that a woman touching a fishing boat would bring bad luck. Such beliefs deny women access rights to resources. Most talk about women's rights is mere tokenism, she added, and women are still denied equality in inheritance of property. Women should be trained to manage economic enterprises so that they have alternative sources of income.

### Tenure laws

Christiana Saiti Louwa, a member of the Elmolo tribe of Lake Turkana, Kenya, said the country's current land tenure laws are not in favour of fishing communities and other indigenous peoples owning resources. Fishing communities are not aware enough of their human rights. They are

marginalized from decision-making structures. Women are not allowed to own fishing equipment and cannot venture along the shores for fear of harassment, she said.

Farouk Bagambe, an NGO activist, from Uganda, pointed out that in the country's beach management units (BMUs), often considered vehicles for co-management, fishers are held accountable for the state of fishery resources; yet they have no rights to the resources. Bagambe said it is important to strengthen community fishing rights. The promotion of human rights was critical for the social development of fishing communities, he added. These rights included legally mandated rights to decent working conditions, gender equality, children's rights and the rights of other potentially vulnerable groups.

Mainza K Kalonga, representing the government of Zambia, said that the country's fisheries have long been open-access. With the collapse of many hinterland businesses and companies, fisheries activities provide a social safety net. Although women were once not allowed to fish due to traditional beliefs, both men and women now have equal access to fishery resources, he said.

Friday Njaya, representing the government of Malawi, said that the country's small-scale fisheries operate under a common-property regime, with rights and responsibilities assigned to



The participants of the Zanzibar Workshop were drawn from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

specific groups of fishers. Although some informal traditional customary laws exist and are still practised in Malawi, they are not legally recognized by the government, he said. Gender discrimination results from socio-cultural influences. Women are prohibited from coming near newly built canoes. Women are involved mostly in traditional fish processing and marketing.

Sebastian Mathew, Programme Adviser, ICSF, said a whole gamut of fisheries scenarios, ranging from an open-access fisheries regime to a highly regulated quota-based fisheries regime, can be observed in the ESA region. He flagged the following as relevant issues: how to protect the access of artisanal fishers to fishing grounds and thereby to fishery resources; how to eliminate destructive fishing gear and practices; how to manage fisheries in inland

**In the final analysis, in countries with poor capacity to invest in fisheries management, the success of fisheries management lies perhaps in the moral realm and not in the legal domain.**

and marine waters, especially in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs), by ensuring an appropriate management regime; how to ensure the participation of communities in decision-making processes; and how to integrate elements of local/traditional knowledge into fisheries management regimes. There is also a need to ensure a bottom-up perspective on conservation and allocation of fishery resources.

The forthcoming FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries will focus on securing user and access rights, Mathew said. A rights-based framework would involve a proper realization of both rights and duties. In an open-access system, where fishing spaces and resources are limited, a community may have to develop rules to govern access to the limited fishery resources through a rotational access system. Developing such rules was part of many traditional community management systems. The crux of the rights-based approach to fisheries management should be how to negotiate how much of ones' own rights has to

be given up to accommodate the rights of others.

Exploring the space for coherence is the essence of adopting the rights-based approach to fisheries, Mathew said. It was time to recognize fishers and their fishing practices and to come to an understanding about developing the fishers' own system of a rights-based framework. A rights-based regime for fisheries management could essentially mean that one is aware of one's obligations and duties as a fisher, he said. The rights-based approach should be appropriate for the fishery and the community in question. The challenge would be to develop the elements of such a framework based on already existing structures.

Christiana Saiti Louwa of Kenya commented that effective solutions should be found for the immediate problems of fishers, and that they should not unnecessarily wait for longer periods to gain recognition for their rights. Momade Bacar, a fisherman from Mozambique, agreed with Christiana, and added that there were severe conflicts between resident and migrant fishers who move across zones in Mozambican waters without actually respecting, or even being aware of, the rules and regulations. He said an immediate solution needed to be found for such transgressions.

Issa Ameir, a fisherman from Tanzania, observed that all countries that were represented at the workshop had some kind of management regime in their fisheries. Still, destructive or illegal fishing continued. Fishers were quite unaware of their rights or responsibilities and would also be unaware of the status of their fishery resources. Livelihood and food-security issues often come before conservation issues, he said. These, together with weak enforcement of management measures, breed illegal fishing.

### **Socially responsible**

It was pointed out that although effective enforcement is crucial to fisheries management, a socially responsible approach can help improve management. Referring to a study done by Ian Bryceson, Kassim Kulindwa, Albogast Kamakuru, Rose Mwaipopo



and Narriman Jiddawi from Mafia Island, Tanzania, it was pointed out that the spurt in illegal fishing in the island coincided with the reopening of village schools. There was thus a clear link between illegal fishing and the need to meet the costs of school education, a human rights issue. If the government can provide financial assistance for children of fishing communities to buy schoolbooks and pay for school fees, a possible reduction in illegal fishing could be achieved, it was observed.

In the final analysis, in countries with poor capacity to invest in fisheries management, it was observed, the success of fisheries management lies perhaps in the moral realm (for example, peer pressure) and not in the legal domain. It was difficult to implement fisheries management only through command-and-control structures, and they would not succeed if communities did not take any responsibility for their implementation. If the needs of the poor in the community are addressed, there is a greater chance of them taking responsibility to conserve fishery resources.

Issa Ameir, a fisherman from Tanzania, said that it is easier to earn a living from fishing than from agriculture since a farmer has to wait long to harvest and sell his produce. If fishers are still poor, it is because they do not manage their finances well and often squander their money on alcohol and other vices. It is the responsibility of fishers to use less destructive gear and sustainable methods of fishing for the benefit of future generations. Fishers all over the world should have one common goal to help future generations earn respectable livelihoods, he concluded.

Hahn Goliath, a fisherman from South Africa, said it was difficult in his country to talk to fishers about their responsibility to protect and conserve resources for sustainable use, when the rights of fishers were not recognized. The small-scale fishers cannot be asked to practise sustainable fishing, he said, when the big companies are taking what they want. The argument of the small-scale fishers is that they are taking what rightfully belongs to them to put the days' food on the table.

A rights-based approach should legally and formally recognize the rights of small-scale fishing communities to practise their livelihood, he said. It is common for the tourism industry in South Africa to use pictures of traditional fishers carrying baskets of catch for sale at tourist cottages. While this may promote the tourism business, in reality, traditional fishers do not even have the right to put fish in their baskets.

One needs to be careful in criticizing fishers for spending their money on alcohol, he said. Fishers' dignity is violated when they go back to their respective homes empty-handed. They feel helpless for being unable to put food on the table for their children. The value of their livelihood and tradition is not recognized.

### Responsibilities

Chief Chipepo, a traditional tribal chief of Zambia, said that though the meeting was focusing on the rights of fishers and fishing communities, their responsibilities were not discussed. It is important for governments to demarcate areas where fishers can fish, and areas on land that could be used for drying and processing fish. Once these rights are in place, fishers should accept the responsibility for managing the resources.

NEENA KOSHY/ICSF



Florence Okoth Nyalulu of Uganda, Friday Njaya of Malawi, Jackie Sunde of South Africa and Narriman Jiddawi of Tanzania at the Zanzibar Workshop

The chief gave an example from Zambia of hunters informing him beforehand about the animals they would hunt. The hunted animal is brought back to be shown to the chief, an act that would be recorded. Chief Chipepo added that resources should be used and not abused. Almost all the lakes in Zambia have been overfished. So it is the responsibility of fishers to look after the fish in the river and avoid destructive gear like mosquito nets.

Commenting on the intervention made by the chief, Sebastian Mathew of ICSF said that responsibility is indeed an important issue but one should be cautious to avoid putting the onus or responsibility only on fishing communities. It is equally important, while discussing rights and responsibilities, to keep in mind the responsibilities of others in society—including the government—towards fishers.

When a fisher is asked not to use a particular fishing gear or to fish in a particular fishing ground or not to catch a particular fish, it is the responsibility of the larger society to offer an alternative so that the children of the fishing community can go to school and be fed. Were the fishers to comply with all regulations and manage a catch after a huge effort, the returns they receive from marketing the catch

may be meagre. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of the government to make sure that fishers' get good prices for their catches.

The tourism industry, which makes huge profits, should be taxed, and the revenue thus earned should be redistributed for the benefit of the community. This money can be pooled together as a community fund and used to establish schools, hospitals and other public amenities for the community.

It is not right, or practicable, to see everything as fishers' responsibility. The fishers and their communities are sometimes made victims of conservation efforts. If the larger society opts for conservation, it should make sure that it pays for the consequent loss of livelihood of the fishing community. There should be some mechanism for redistribution of profits. Facilities could be created in coastal areas so that the community feels their needs are looked after by the larger society in response to conservation measures that disrupt their fisheries. It is important to deal with responsibility within this framework, Mathew concluded.

Jackie Sunde of South Africa said that conventional definitions of small-scale fishers took into consideration only the harvesting aspect of fisheries, and not the pre- and post-harvest activities; hence, by default, it is quite a male-dominated definition, which fails to value the activities of women prior to the fishing, which include nurturing, producing and reproducing their families and households, and also engaging in a range of post-harvest activities in the fisheries.

### Empowering women

The perceptions about empowering women in the region through a rights-based approach must be stated very clearly, Sunde continued. It is important to focus on the need to recognize women's rights within the sector, especially their right to participate in the fisheries decision-making processes, which, in general, is reserved for men. For a rights-based approach to be effective in management regimes, it should be a community-based rights approach, she added.

NEENA KOSHY/ICSF



Christiana Saiti Louwa of the El Molo tribe, Lake Turkana, Kenya, at a session on community organization at the Zanzibar Workshop

An individualized, privatized sort of fisheries needs to be strongly opposed. Even within the community-based approach, women's voices should be heard. There is need for specific measures to ensure that within a community-based, rights-based approach, women are protected.

A code of conduct or set of technical guidelines needs to be developed for those community entities (whether it is a BMU or any co-management institution) to ensure that women enjoy equal benefits as men. Equal benefits do not necessarily mean exactly the same thing but the ability to avail of similar and matching benefits all along the entire fish supply chain, Sunde said.

A range of issues related to implementing supportive measures to promote value addition, income generation and redistribution of benefits through processing, marketing and trade needs to be looked at because women are located at specific points in these sectors. Therefore, in a rights-based approach, it is important for government to provide incentives that promote labour-intensive local trade that supports women. Governments should be asked to put more money into research to deepen understanding of the roles of women and what would empower them and enable them to become more economically independent. This could change the material basis of their oppression, Sunde added.

It was important to call on FAO and governments to dedicate resources for capacity building to make women aware of their rights and thereby realize, their rights. It is also necessary to develop indicators that will track some of the tangible facts of discrimination that women experience so that when the rights-based approach is evaluated, it would be possible to measure to what extent women in small-scale fisheries are benefiting from more egalitarian imperatives.

'Gender equity', 'gender mainstreaming' and so on are terms generally used in an instrumental fashion in technical, donor-driven programmes merely to add some gender spice into the pot of development and stir up a bit of interest and appetite. What is more pertinent is to really work towards

gender-just fisheries and recognize that women have rights and also the right to realize these rights. A rights-based approach needs particular focus and thought on how women will benefit from it in practice and not just on paper, Sunde concluded.

Hahn Goliath, the fisherman from South Africa, raised some serious concerns on gender equality, based on the South African experience. In South Africa, women never went to sea. The new fisheries policy, which gives fishing rights to women, insists that to obtain fishing rights, women need to go out to sea. As a result of this forced entry, some other traditional fisher will be denied a traditional right of access to the sea. In such a context, what would the term 'equal' mean, he asked.

**It is important to focus on the need to recognize women's rights within the sector, especially their right to participate in the fisheries decision-making processes, which, in general, is reserved for men.**

Most of the small-scale boats in South Africa are small undecked vessels. Women on these vessels could face problems like the lack of toilet facilities. What are the implications for their families and households if women were to go out to sea to fish, he asked. What would it mean for a mother who cares for her children and their security? Particularly if the children are girls, what are the implications in a country like South Africa, which reports one of the highest rates of rape in the world? What would it mean, in terms of potential sexual abuse, for both parents to go to sea? In such circumstances, the implication of any policy on equality needs to be thought through, Goliath said.

### **New positions**

Solene Smith, the fisherwoman from South Africa, said that women are indeed moving into new positions. For example, Sea Harvest, one of the largest seafood companies in South Africa, employs 64 women in important positions as captains, skippers and other workers on board larger vessels. There are other women whose men drowned



## The Zanzibar Statement

### *Preamble*

We, 45 participants from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, representing small-scale, artisanal and indigenous fishing communities engaged in inland and marine fisheries; fishworker organizations and non-governmental organizations; researchers; activists; as well as some representatives of government institutions from the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) region;

*Having convened* at a Workshop 'Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management', in Zanzibar from 24 to 27 June 2008, to develop a shared perspective on the rights-based approach to fisheries in the context of the FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, Bangkok, from 13 to 17 October 2008;

*Being concerned* about the negative impacts of globalization such as threats arising from indiscriminate industrial shrimp-trawling and distant-water tuna-fishing, tourism development, and industrial aquaculture; safety of fishers and fishing operations in marine and inland waters; the creation of non-participatory and exclusive marine protected areas, inland and coastal pollution, discrimination against women and high incidence of HIV/AIDS in fishing communities; and lack of respect for customary land rights of fishing communities;

*Being aware* of responsible fishing practices and customary rights of coastal and inland fishing communities as well as local and traditional knowledge of fishers in the region;

*Affirming* that fishing is a way of life for coastal and inland fishing communities who are the custodians and responsible users of marine and inland fishery resources; and

*Believing* that dependence of fishing communities on fishery resources and associated and dependent ecosystems is shaped by the need to meet livelihood requirements and food security in the struggle to eradicate poverty, as well as the need to recognize cultural and spiritual values;

*Hereby, adopt* the following Statement addressed to our governments and the FAO:

### **Rights of Fishing Communities**

1. The fishing communities should have the full enjoyment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law. The indigenous fishing communities should have the full enjoyment of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).
2. The rights of fishing communities to safe drinking water, sanitation, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services, and education and training, should be recognized.
3. A rights-based approach to fisheries should recognize the customary rights, local knowledge, traditional systems and practices, and the rights to access marine and inland resources of small-scale, artisanal and indigenous fishing communities, as well as the right to land for homestead, fishery-related, and other livelihood-related activities. Furthermore, such an approach should enhance collective, community-based access and management regimes.
4. All the rights and freedoms that are agreed to as relevant for rights-based approach to fisheries, should apply equally to all men and women of fishing communities.

### **Fishing Rights**

5. The fishing rights should not be treated as a tradable commodity and they should be seen as an integral part of human rights. A rights-based approach to fisheries should not lead to the privatization of fisheries resources.
6. Efforts should be made to improve the safety of small-scale and artisanal fishing operations and to ensure safety of fishers in marine and inland waters. Labour rights and safe working and living conditions of fishers should be guaranteed by the ratification and implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007, and by extending its relevant provisions to inland and shore-based fishers and fishing operations.
7. Mechanisms for the monitoring and review of the legislative framework

for the effective implementation of this rights-based approach should be developed and implemented.

8. Financial and capacity-building support should be made available to recognized fishworker organizations, community-based, non-governmental organizations and research institutions to implement programmes to promote fishing communities' awareness of rights and to strengthen capacity to lobby and advocate for their rights.
9. Specific measures to address, strengthen and protect women's right to enable them to participate fully in the fishery should be developed. These measures should work towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and should secure their safety against sexual abuse.
10. Conservation initiatives, including MPAs, coastal area management programmes, tourism interventions and industrial aquaculture should respect the rights of coastal communities to unhindered access to beaches, landing sites and fishing grounds.

#### **Fisheries governance**

11. The management of inland and marine fishery resources should be devolved to the local level in the region. Programmes for devolution of fisheries management should be preceded, and accompanied, by capacity-building programmes for fishers' and fishing community organizations to enhance negotiating power as well as to build up capacity for responsible fisheries management.
12. The decisions affecting the access and use of land or water bodies currently enjoyed by, or of benefit to, fishing communities, should be made with the full and effective consultation and involvement of the fisher people and should proceed only with their full, prior and informed consent.

#### **Conflict resolution**

13. Mechanisms should be developed to resolve and mitigate conflicts between industrial and small-scale, artisanal fishing, as well as between different fishing groups and interests. Particular attention should be given to mitigating conflicts between industrial bottom trawling and small-scale non-trawl fishing.

#### **IUU and industrial fishing**

14. Effective and timely initiatives should be undertaken to combat the incidence of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the lakes as well as in the South and East African exclusive economic zones, which impacts the viability of the small-scale fisheries.

#### **Post-harvest issues**

15. Measures should be developed to provide access to infrastructure and access to credit to local processing, trade and marketing initiatives. In this context, greater emphasis should be placed on local, national and regional markets within Africa. Further, measures should be put in place to ensure that the benefits of value addition along the fish supply chain are enjoyed by local fishing communities and that vulnerability to middlemen, transporters and global trade processes is minimized.

#### **Coastal and inland pollution**

16. Measures should be developed to address all forms of pollution that are degrading the marine and inland aquatic environment and thus progressively destroying the livelihoods of marine and inland fishing communities.

#### **In conclusion**

17. For the effectiveness of a rights-based fisheries approach we recognize the indivisibility of: (i) fishery access and user rights, (ii) post-harvest rights and (iii) human rights, and we believe that the development of responsible and sustainable small-scale artisanal and indigenous fisheries is possible only if they are addressed in an integrated manner.
18. We call upon governments and FAO to ensure that the principles, mechanisms, and measures proposed in this Statement are recognized in the development of a rights-based approach to small-scale, artisanal and indigenous, inland and marine fisheries in the ESA region.

—*This Statement is from the workshop, "Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in Eastern and Southern Africa" 24 to 27 June 2008 (Zanzibar Workshop)*

NEENA KOSHY/ICSF



The Zanzibar Workshop called for international alliances to synthesize the voices of fishers around the globe into one single clarion call

at sea and who have inherited their boats and gear and now want to go out to sea. Such women cannot be stopped; rather, they need to be empowered to go fish. Meanwhile, the cultural and personal preferences of those women who do not wish to go to sea should be respected, even as those who want to go out, encouraged, said Smith.

Goliath said it was important to see what fishers would like to assert in a rights-based approach in terms of coastal development, alternative livelihood options, land issues and conservation initiatives like MPAs. Drawing on the earlier suggestion to tax the tourism industry to plough back part of its profits to the larger community, similar arrangements should be worked out for conservation and related endeavours, he said. The community's right to participate in the planning of some of these development efforts should also be ensured, Goliath added.

Jackie Sunde of South Africa summed up the issues that were beginning to emerge for securing the access rights of small-scale fishers in the ESA region:

- greater definition and articulation of small-scale fishers' rights in legal and policy frameworks;
- the need to define the right to preferential access to resources (with associated restrictions on industrial/commercial vessels);
- introduction of zonation and vessel/gear/effort controls as mechanism to secure these rights;
- recognition, and integration, of indigenous and traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge systems;
- improvement of research on the status of fish stocks and developing a joint decision-making mechanism on sustainable levels of fish harvesting;
- introduction of a consultative process to initiate restrictions on fishing craft and gear, also based on indigenous knowledge; and enforcement of regulations related to destructive gear and fishing practices;
- ensuring the right to participate in decisionmaking through structures such as co-management committees or BMUs, to move towards a greater balance between conservation goals

and livelihood rights, and to ensure sustainable rights to access and use in the context of resource management tools like MPAs;

- ensuring access to adequate credit and financial support; and
- introducing and protecting measures to promote and protect women's access to resources and assets.

Christiana Saiti Louwa of Kenya said that the way forward was to create awareness of the plight of fishing communities, in the context of the denial of their rights. Talking about rights was the first step towards internalizing these issues, she said. It is important to formulate a vision, as fisherfolk, about what to achieve, and a commitment to attain the goals and rights. Another crucial step was to educate governments on these issues from the perspective of fishing communities, through meetings and interactions, she said. It was also important to network and communicate with other fishing communities and organizations working on coastal, inland and fisheries issues.

It was clear from the Zanzibar Workshop that international alliances need to be formed to synthesize the voices of fishers around the globe into one single clarion call that will potently flag the concerns of small-scale fishers to the world. **3**

#### For more



[icsf.net/icsf2006/jspFiles/eastAfrica/index.jsp](http://icsf.net/icsf2006/jspFiles/eastAfrica/index.jsp)

**ICSF website on ESA Workshop**

[4ssf.org](http://4ssf.org)

**FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries**

[www.masifundise.org.za/](http://www.masifundise.org.za/)

**Masifundise Development Trust**

[www.sadc.int/fanr/naturalresources/fisheries/index.php](http://www.sadc.int/fanr/naturalresources/fisheries/index.php)

**Fisheries page of the Southern African Development Community**

[www.swiofp.net](http://www.swiofp.net)

**South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project**



# A Health Check

**Going by the experience of Senegal's fishing communities, there is urgent need to promote decent working conditions in west Africa's artisanal fishing sector**

In mid-July 2008, the Galician Association of Women Shell Collectors (AGAMAR) hosted an international Forum on Risk Prevention and Workers' Health in the Fishing Sector (Foro Internacional de Prevención de Riscos e Saúde Laboral no Sector Pesqueiro). Apart from the different representatives of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), participants included various artisanal fishing organizations from India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa, Uganda, Guinea, Senegal, Guadeloupe, France, Canada, Honduras and Spain, who shared their experiences and concerns on the issues that affect their fisheries, communities and livelihoods.

Dao Gaye, a fisherman leader from Senegal and President of the Conseil National Interprofessionnel de la Pêche Artisanale au Sénégal (CONIPAS, the National Inter-professional Artisanal Fishing Council of Senegal) made a presentation on "Health and Working Conditions in Artisanal Fishing in Senegal". He began by emphasizing, "If we add to the 60,000 Senegalese fishermen, women fish processors and traders, wholesale fish merchants, exporters, carpenters and transporters, our sector accounts for more than 600,000 people who depend on fish for their livelihoods. And, it is thanks to artisanal fish catches that every Senegalese is able to consume 27 kg of fish per year. Our fish contributes to improving nutrition and public health."

Dao Gaye asserted: "As in Spain, our sector must face a future full of challenges. Like you, we are confronted with declining fish resources, rising fuel prices, and are offered ridiculously

low prices for our fish, which are then sold on your European markets...But we must also face the massive arrival of newcomers in our sector, of people who have fled the countryside because there is no future for them there; more than ever, artisanal fishing has become the last recourse for many Senegalese. This massive arrival of newcomers in our sector has had a dramatic impact on the living and working conditions in our communities. The over exploitation of the resources has worsened, while incomes have decline because more fishermen must share whatever fish we can catch...The fishermen must also go farther out to sea, which increases the risks of fishing activities."

**...we are confronted with declining fish resources, rising fuel prices, and are offered ridiculously low prices for our fish...**

"At sea, all the fishermen are exposed to the abrupt changes of the weather, and have to confront changes in temperature, the rain, high winds and very strong waves. Indeed, our pirogues are open-decked, and we really do not have a place to shelter from the inclement weather. Fishermen, especially those new to the profession, are not always well-trained to face these difficult weather conditions. Thanks to public awareness campaigns and also because of frequent accidents that result in loss of life, the use of life jackets is increasingly being accepted by the fishermen. There are also regular sea weather bulletins on

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EL HADJI COUME



Unloading of fish from *pirogues* off M'bour town, Senegal

For them too, working conditions are difficult and precarious, and questions of health are central to their concerns. First and foremost, there is the general exhaustion that results from housework and providing care to the family as much as by the fish-related work; tiredness is their daily bread. That has an impact on their health conditions. I must say here that in several Senegalese villages, because of tourism development projects, the processing sites have been pushed away from the beaches: the smoke, the smells, are apparently not attractive for tourists. The women must leave earlier to reach the sites where they process the fish, which increases the costs of transport.”

“Even when the processing is done close to the beaches, health and hygiene conditions remain an important issue for the women since they have to work close to wastewater from the trucks, amongst garbage dumps that litter the beaches, breathe smoke all day long, and suffer from the lack of toilets. All these influence the health of the women.”

“I must also talk about our children. Some of them have been involved in artisanal fishing from the age of ten. They go fishing on the pirogues. Sometimes up to a third of the crew is of school age, and little girls help with fish processing. In spite of remuneration, the working conditions are difficult and can compromise the schooling and health of the children who face night-work, accidents and risks of drowning. Our fishermen families are also affected by AIDS. Crowded conditions and migration leads to risky sexual behaviour. Infected fishermen pass on the disease to their wives, and the entire community becomes a victim of this plague.”

### ILO Convention

Dao Gaye concluded: “Although advances are being made at the international level on the issue of safety at sea, for example, through the International Labour Organization’s Work in Fishing Convention, much remains to be done at the national and local levels to improve the health and working conditions of our fishing communities.”

the radio, which make it possible to better prepare for the fishing trips.”

“In some cases, particularly for migrant fishermen, the fishing trips last for long periods and the pirogue becomes not only the fishermen’s working place but their home. In Senegal we have what is called ‘mothership fishing’ (*bateaux de ramassage*), where a collecting boat takes on board 40 pirogues and their crews—about 200 people, mainly from the region of Saint Louis—to fish outside Senegalese waters. The voyage lasts several months and the living conditions on board are horrendous: only a few litres of water are given per day to each fisherman, and this must be used for washing and drinking; working hours are very long; food is rationed and not very varied; and the crowded conditions on board are unbearable. These conditions affect the health of the fishermen. Despite this, sanitary and medical equipments are reduced to the bare minimum.”

Dao Gaye then highlighted the plight of women in the artisanal fisheries sector: “Without the women, artisanal fishing cannot exist. As pillars of our sector, they are present on all the landing beaches, waiting for the arrival of the pirogues. They are present at the fish-processing sites, and many of them go far to sell their products.

## CONIPAS

The Conseil National Interprofessionnel de la Pêche Artisanale au Sénégal (CONIPAS, the National Inter-professional Artisanal Fishing Council of Senegal), created in 2003, unites the five organizations from the artisanal fishing sector in Senegal:

- (1) Fédération Nationale des GIE de Pêche du Sénégal (FENAGIE-Pêche, the National Federation of Economic Groupings of Independent Fishermen);
- (2) Collectif National des Pêcheurs artisanaux du Sénégal (CNPS, the National Collective of Senegalese Artisanal Fishermen);
- (3) Fédération nationale des Mareyeurs du Sénégal (FENAMS, the National Federation of Senegalese Fishmongers);
- (4) Union Nationale des GIE de mareyeurs du Sénégal (UNAGIEMS, the National Union of Economic Groupings of Independent Fishmongers); and

- (5) Fédération nationale des femmes transformatrices de produits halieutiques et micro-mareyeuses du Sénégal (FENATRAMS, the National Federation of Women Fishery Product Processors and Petty Fish Traders).

The objective of CONIPAS is to intervene on issues such as resource management (regulation of access to resources, etc.), working conditions (safety at sea, etc.), professionalization and improvement of performance in the processing and marketing sectors. Together with the Mauritanian artisanal fishing organization FNP, and the Guinean artisanal fishermen's union UNPAG, CONIPAS will organize a regional meeting of artisanal professionals, at the end of 2008, in which professionals from 10 west African countries will discuss, amongst other things, how to promote decent working conditions in west Africa's artisanal fishing sector.

J F HELLIO AND N VAN INGEN



Artisanal catches contribute to Senegal's per capita fish consumption of 27 kg

### For more



[www.icsf.net/SU/Bk/EN/5](http://www.icsf.net/SU/Bk/EN/5)

**ICSF Guidebook: Understanding the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007**

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/papers/maritime/c188-brochure.pdf>

**ILO Work in Fishing Convention: Decent Working Conditions, Safety and Social Protection: Working in Fishing Convention No.188**



# Fishing in Times of High Prices

Recent events show how vulnerable world fisheries are to increases in fuel costs, but those most affected personally are the small-scale fishing people of the South and their families

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**D**uring the first decades of the second half of the 20th century, 'appropriate technology' for fishermen of developing countries had become a big issue. The various bilateral and international development agencies, busy at that time in 'technology transfer' projects, became eventually aware that large chunks of the machinery and equipment they were introducing in Third World countries had turned into rusty heaps. Still, such projects that mainly benefited the equipment

materials, and installed OBMs in their canoes, *kattumarams*, *janghadas* and other traditional craft, and small diesel engines in their various boats, dories, skiffs and *dhow*s. Perhaps they did all this too fast, equally quickly doing away with their sails, oars and paddles. With the passing of years, increasing numbers of sea-going fishermen began shifting from OBMs to diesel engines.

One consequence of the motorization of small craft has been an increase in the loss of life at sea; with motorized crafts, fishermen tended to travel greater distances offshore, which put them at greater risk if the engines failed. Those who once employed sails stopped taking them to sea, while most of the younger fishermen—of the second and third generations of engine users—were never trained in sailing and would hardly know how to handle sails in an emergency. Thus, the art of sailing, an important skill, has been lost in the fisheries of many developing countries.

The other consequence of motorization of craft is a new one: dwindling of fishing people's incomes due to the spiralling rise in fuel prices, the cost of fuel being, in most fisheries, the main financial factor of production. In the North, fishermen have been holding strikes in protest against rising diesel prices, which have increased by 240 per cent since 2004. While the recent events in the North show how vulnerable world fisheries are to increases in fuel costs, those who are the most affected personally are the small-scale fishing people of the South and their families. Let us not forget that

**The other consequence of motorization of craft is a new one: dwindling of fishing people's incomes due to the spiralling rise in fuel prices, the cost of fuel being, in most fisheries, the main financial factor of production.**

manufacturers and their agents, but hardly the local 'recipients', have been promoted for years. The artisanal and commercial small-scale fishermen were often blamed for being conservative, stubborn and dumb not to embrace the technology wonders parachuted upon them by the well-meaning development agents.

But this allegation has been belied by the swift adoption of synthetic twines and nets and outboard motors (OBMs) throughout the small-scale fisheries all over the Third World, an expansion that occurred both with and without outside technical assistance. As it appears, fishermen were wise and fast enough to grasp the economic benefits of motorization and advanced

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about 40 mn small-scale and artisanal fishermen—whatever term we choose to use—represent some 90 per cent of the people employed in the fishing trade worldwide.

All over the world, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolk are now also hit by the rising prices of food. While this problem is not specific to fishing peoples and their communities, it certainly does not miss them out.

In South Africa, small-scale fishermen, including about 30,000 subsistence fishermen who rely exclusively on the sea to survive, and already struggling with uncertain catches, tougher fishing policies and quotas, have been hit hard by the rocketing fuel prices. The surge in both diesel and petrol prices is adding to their woes, making it difficult for them to earn a living. Although most attention has been given to diesel fuel prices, it is petrol that runs the OBMs of most of the artisanal fishermen worldwide.

Petrol prices have risen at a rate parallel to that of diesel. In Australia, for example, two years ago it used to cost around A\$12.50 to fill a tank of fuel for an OBM; last June, a full tank cost A\$40. Fuel price rises forced many artisanal fishermen throughout the world to work closer to shore and try to scrape out a living with meagre catches. In industrialized countries, some fleets that use less fuel and can charge higher prices for fish may just about cope...so far. But in countries where hundreds of thousands of fishermen beach their craft to deliver their catches to fish-processing women and market fishmongers, often far from the end consumer, price increases, as a rule, dissipate among the intermediate stages. Thus, many small-scale fishermen have recently decided to fish with hooks-and-line from shore or from small paddle boats, and keep their larger fishing craft beached or in the harbour. Others have just given up fishing to wait for better times.

Artisanal fishermen have never been spoiled by their governments, though recently fishermen in Thailand have been promised some discount on fuel price by their government. In many countries, fleets of local and foreign industrial fishing vessels that

are supposed to be fishing offshore are considered, for the purpose of fuel pricing, as merchant fleets and enjoy tax-free or discounted-tax fuel prices. Not so local small-scale fishermen who have to purchase fuel, especially petrol for their OBMs, at the same prices as private car owners. For example, during the introduction of the 'deep-sea fishing policy' in India in 1991, the government made it possible for foreign vessels to avail diesel fuel at the rate of Rs 2 per litre whereas domestic fishermen in Kerala in south India had to pay Rs 7.62.

The situation of fishing people in the developed North is anything but bright. In Europe, some of their representatives are saying that chunks of the fishing fleet may increasingly be forced to tie up at the dock because of fuel costs.

### Standard of living

Fishworkers in industrial fleets are more sensitive to such crises. Most of them do not have the 'African option' of boarding old, small dugouts and paddling out to handline for fish, even if only to feed their families. They are living at quite a different—and much higher—standard of living, which makes them quite alarmed at any threat to their material comfort.

MENAKHEM BEN-YAMI



A fishing boat in South Africa's Calk Bay. Increasing diesel and petrol prices are adding to the woes of South Africa's fishermen

The cost of diesel fuel for fishing vessels is the burning issue of the day. A couple of years ago, owners of a small 'artisanal' shrimper would spend 30-40 per cent of their total running expenses on fuel. Today they would have to spend twice as much. Yet the prices of their shrimp catches have not increased proportionally, due to the ever-increasing supply of farmed shrimp in the market. Fishermen thus

**...many fishing people who depend on fishing as their only income, say that they can no longer afford to fuel their boats and cannot earn a living.**

have to deduct the cost of fuel spent on the fishing trip from the money earned from selling their catches and search, often in vain, for what is left. Reports from south and southeast Asia and even from Japan, where the price of fuel oil is 2.7 times the price it was five years ago, talk of hundreds of small-scale fishing vessels, including diesel-powered trawlers and shrimpers, tied to the dock, because they could not go on fishing viably. Fishermen are getting bitterly angry and frustrated as they are forced to stay at home, deprived of their ability to make a living.

A report from Florida, United States (US), says that up to 80 per cent of shrimp fleets are tied up at different ports and every water-related activity is suffering because of the sky-rocketing price of diesel fuel. Soaring prices are also hurting North Carolina's commercial fishermen, squeezed by low dockside prices for catches and mounting fuel bills. The Statewide average price of a gallon of diesel was up 65 per cent from what it was a year ago. Although fishermen were getting better prices for some of their fish, most prices have not kept pace with fuel costs, which is why shrimpers, crabbers and gillnetters are staying in port, waiting for better times. All along the east coast of the US, 20 to 40 per cent of the commercial fishing boats have been tied to the docks from the beginning of the year.

The situation on the west coast and Alaska, where diesel fuel prices have increased more than 50 per cent over the past year, is not any better. In the meantime, many fishing people who depend on fishing as their only income, say that they can no longer afford to fuel their boats and cannot earn a living. However, in the US, they know exactly whom to blame, when they turn to the Congress for legislative help: the speculators and the owners of, and lobbyists for, the oil companies. American legislators obliged and introduced The Fisheries Fuel Tax Relief Act of 2008, which, if approved, is supposed to go a long way towards helping fishermen.

In the European Union (EU) fisheries provide a livelihood for some 400,000 people, mainly in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal. In numbers they make up fewer than one per cent of the world's fishing people, but in terms of fish catches, their share of value in the world's fish yield is much higher.

In Britain, between 2007 and 2008, the cost of diesel fuel doubled and is expected to rise further as analysts predict crude oil prices rising to US\$150 per barrel, and possible spikes up to US\$200 per barrel. Consequently, fish prices on British markets would increase between 7 and 50 per cent, with the average price increase across all species being 23 per cent.

Europe's angry fishermen have staged protests against the increasing fuel prices. Demonstrations turned violent at the EU headquarters in Brussels. The European and American fishermen's advantage over their poorer brethren in the South consists of their strong organizations, electoral power, and physical presence and protest actions in the ports of their countries.

### **Ports blocked**

In some 20 ports, fishing vessels plugged harbour entrances and blocked oil tankers and other ships from loading or unloading, while on land fishers blocked roads. Their main grouse is that their governments are taxing fuel at the same rates as they did before the shattering price rises, which gives the governments enormous financial gains, but offers only losses for the fishers.



The protests spread to ports in the Atlantic, the English Channel and the Mediterranean. Fortunately, these fishers live in countries where such protesters are not fired on or incarcerated without proper trial.

The Northern governments are sticking to the notion that any reduction of taxes is tantamount to a subsidy; they hope to use the fishing industry's financial difficulties to reduce fishing effort and capacity, in a kind of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)-induced fishery management. According to EU's Fisheries Commissioner, Joe Borg, it is illegal for the EU to subsidize fuel. This "would do nothing to solve underlying problems", according to Borg. And the solution? Shrink the fleets. So the EU Fisheries Commission has already proposed a package of assistance to fishermen who stop fishing or modernize their boats with fuel-saving equipment. There will be no tax reliefs, but there is talk about short-term financial assistance, which may not be immediately forthcoming, of course.

The well-organized Japanese fishermen submitted a petition to their government seeking fuel cost subsidies, easier terms for new loans, and tax breaks. Though the government originally refused to subsidize the increases in fuel costs, it now appears that the government is likely to extend emergency financial aid to fishery operators to alleviate the impact of soaring oil prices. This is not very surprising, in view of the protest actions taken by thousands of Japanese fishers and their boats, and the incessant daily demand for fish in this avidly fish-eating nation. The Japanese government may also consider an expansion of funding for fishery businesses that introduce energy-saving measures.

The upsurge of fuel prices worldwide has thrown diverse fishing people into a single common dilemma: how to keep making a living under drastically changed conditions? And this is not the first time that people are wondering how to reduce the use of fossil fuel by the fishing industry.

The solutions to this dilemma would differ with various types of

fisheries—small-scale, medium-scale, industrial—and according to the countries or regions they are based in, and the natural and socioeconomic conditions under which they operate. There are some obvious solutions like using lower horsepower (hp) engines or using existing engines at moderate revolutions per minute (rpm). Other solutions could be:

(1) the use of auxiliary sail-power to get to, and from, fishing areas;

(2) shifting to any passive fishing methods that are less fuel-guzzling than trawling, dredging, etc. Purse-seining, for example, although a very active fishing method, does not need to consume heavy amounts of fuel, if the fishing operations take place close to fish-landing centres;

(3) navigating only at cruising speed, except in emergency;

(4) trawlers should use the benefit of the increased towing power of propeller nozzles to save fuel rather than increase the towing speed; shift to drag-reducing fishing gear/methods: hydrodynamic trawl-boards (for example, cambered, oval, slotted); stronger but thinner twine in netting (for example, Dyneema); two-boat trawling and Danish seining instead of otter trawling; shift to double-rig trawls (using only one pair of doors);

**The solutions to this dilemma would differ with various types of fisheries—small-scale, medium-scale, industrial—and according to the countries or regions they are based in, and the natural and socioeconomic conditions under which they operate.**

(5) keep in mind that smaller catches nearby may be sometimes more economic than larger catches in distant fishing grounds; and, finally,

(6) don't fish on your Sabbath—spend the time with your family.

### **Rule-beating**

The folly of regulating fishing capacity by boat length results in 'rule-beating'—10-m-long monsters that are almost half as wide and deep as they are long. Wiser regulation would force boat designers to consider the physical law that

MENAKHEM BEN-YAMI



Using lower horsepower (hp) engines or using existing engines at moderate revolutions per minute (rpm) can cut fuel costs

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length/displacement is proportional to speed/hp; in other words, with other parameters remaining constant, the longer the boat, the less power it needs to attain the same speed.

The measures taken by fishermen to cope with the rise in fuel prices include an increase in the use of static gear like gillnets, pots and traps, longlines and handlines, which do not require the fishing vessel to tow gear through the water; more fuel-efficient engines; and less trawling. Measures such as these can improve the ratio of fish caught per unit of fuel used, making fishing financially more efficient.

Trolling, in most cases, is fuelwise an inefficient method, except for some more expensive and abundant fishes. Fishermen who power their canoes and other displacement-hull craft with OBMs and small diesel engines should keep in mind that each boat has a cruising speed at which the distance-to-fuel consumption ratio is best. 'Speeding up' the engine beyond cruising speed results in relatively small gains in speed and great waste of fuel. Increasing the speed of a large canoe from, say, 7 knots to 9 knots may raise fuel consumption by more than 50 per cent.

Fuel can be saved not only in running engines. In Africa's Lake Victoria, for instance, fishermen from Mbita, a small fishing centre on the Kenyan side of the lake, who use light bulbs to attract fish,

can now recharge batteries for fishing lamps and other electrical appliances at low cost at a solar energy station set up by the company that sells energy-saving lamps. For the fishermen this offers a great potential for saving both fuel and money, and for the company, it is an opportunity to make profits because around 175,000 fishermen currently use kerosene lamps in night fishing.

Incidentally, this is not the only recent case in which the interests of fishing people and equipment companies coincide; the introduction of mobile phones to inshore and coastal fishermen in several parts of the world, including many developing countries, has considerably improved both safety at sea and fish-marketing opportunities.

The spiralling increases in the cost of energy in fisheries in the last few years have produced a chain of consequences that were hardly possible to envisage some time ago. One can only hope that the world's small-scale fishing people—who constitute over 90 per cent of the manpower in fisheries worldwide and provide over half of the world's food fish—and their communities will somehow manage, with or without much help from their governments.

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#### For more



<http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=37816&userType=&fromPage=>

#### Japan fishermen strike over fuel

[www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=38139&userType=&fromPage=](http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=38139&userType=&fromPage=)

#### More Japanese fishermen go on strike over fuel prices

<http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=38104&userType=&fromPage=>

#### Diesel price hike leaves Indonesian fishermen high and dry

# Mother Earth, Mother Sea

In managing resources, indigenous peoples, like those in the Kuna Yala region of the northeast of Panama, have long recognized and respected the interrelationship between species

According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a marine protected area is “any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment”.

Biological, geographical and ecological criteria, such as exclusivity or rarity of species, threat of extinction, and habitat and biodiversity status, are used to delineate protected areas. Little, if any, consideration is given to other important criteria, such as the sociological and cultural characteristics of the communities in protected areas or the traditional knowledge systems of indigenous people. Ironically, effective action by indigenous peoples to conserve and manage natural resources in a balanced manner has made them the target of protected areas, whether coastal or terrestrial.

The creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) without taking into account people’s alternative visions or points of view might directly or indirectly affect the natural dynamics of indigenous peoples. Excluding, prohibiting or conditioning the use of marine systems not only restricts the right of people to food, but also often restricts their right to garner natural resources that have traditional medicinal and spiritual significance. As a result, the traditional, sustainable models of resource extraction that indigenous peoples have developed are in danger of being degraded. Many indigenous people have established their own protected areas (sacred sites or grounds) in ac-

cordance with their customary law and their traditional wisdom. Today, many of these traditional protected areas are not respected by industrial fishermen or by the tourism industry, which often masquerades under the misnomer of ‘ecotourism’.

It cannot be accepted that MPAs be established merely for the sake of conservation or protection of species and habitats. Natural resources and species and habitats can be protected and conserved only by a holistic and comprehensive management of diverse elements (humans, nature and other related components). It is unacceptable that indigenous peoples are unable to access or manage the natural resources that they have had access to, and managed in a sustainable manner, in the past.

One example is Kuna Yala, an indigenous region located in the extreme northeast of the Republic of Panama, where both marine and terrestrial natural resources are used and managed by the indigenous peoples. This region represents one of the most diverse marine areas of the Panamanian Atlantic. Approximately 93 per cent of the 88 species of marine hard corals in the country are found in Kuna Yala.

The Kuna people believe that Mother Earth and the sea are indivisible elements, that are intertwined and have a spirit, and, therefore, any action that affects the sea will have its consequences on land. Thus, beyond their economic and cultural aspects, these marine systems hold a special spiritual significance. Many of the Kuna people’s traditional practices not only protect and shape fisheries

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management in the region but also contribute to their social organization.

Taboos and traditional methods of fishing help to protect and manage the fisheries of the region. One example is the prohibition on fishing shark. According to the Kunas, sharks cannot be consumed because whoever consumes shark meat will acquire the ill temper of the species. It is that traditional belief that prevents the Kuna from consuming shark.

Despite such traditional beliefs and resource management, the Kuna Yala region has not managed to remain isolated from the rapid and constant changes generated by globalization. Ecotourism, trade and local development initiatives are fast degrading the culture and traditional indigenous systems of this millennial people.

It is of vital importance that the customary rights of indigenous peoples like the Kuna are respected in marine, coastal and terrestrial systems. In those indigenous regions where MPAs already exist or are intended to be established, it is necessary to respect the rights of indigenous peoples to manage their territories or marine systems. They should be provided the necessary mechanisms for full and effective participation at all levels of resource management programmes. An open and continuing dialogue as well as a transparent exchange of information should be established between conservationists and indigenous peoples.

To get a better vision of what can be achieved, it is necessary to go beyond biological, ecological or biogeographic criteria and encompass social, cultural, anthropological, indigenous, traditional, spiritual and socioeconomic criteria. These will help in better understanding the consequences of actions carried out within protected areas, as well as in exposing the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to development and management efforts. They will also help them learn about the impact of global processes like tourism, trade and climate change. Indigenous peoples can then adopt measures to face these problems.

While providing training for the indigenous peoples living inside protected and sustainable-use areas, it is

necessary to take into account their indigenous traditional knowledge systems for natural resource management, rather than risk mistakes by introducing new external mechanisms for development.

Such development is often transferred from industrialized countries or non-indigenous sites without any modification and without taking into account the distinctive factors or elements of indigenous peoples. Such practise will eventually erode not only the culture and traditions of these people but might also lead to environmental problems. In this sense, it is necessary that training and management actions are aimed at strengthening the already existing sustainable environment management systems, since that will not only fortify marine-coastal management systems, but also build up the social, cultural and spiritual aspects of indigenous peoples.

Finally, development efforts in indigenous communities must consider the close ties between natural systems and indigenous communities, and the close links among the marine, coastal, freshwater and terrestrial systems. Habitat fragmentation must be avoided in order to recognize the interrelationship that exists between species that depend on coastal and marine waters and those that depend on terrestrial areas, a relationship that has been assumed, recognized and respected by indigenous peoples for generations. 3

#### For more



[www.itmems.org/itmems3/NEW%2004%20FISHERIES/03%20T4%20CASE%20STUDIES/T4%20Promoting.pdf](http://www.itmems.org/itmems3/NEW%2004%20FISHERIES/03%20T4%20CASE%20STUDIES/T4%20Promoting.pdf)

#### **Promoting The Sustainable Use of Marine Resources in Kuna Yala, Panama**

[www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg\\_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm) [www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg\\_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ceesp/Wkg_grp/TILCEPA/TILCEPA.htm)

#### **IUCN-CEESP-TILCEPA**

[www.Immanetwork.org/](http://www.Immanetwork.org/) [www.Immanetwork.org](http://www.Immanetwork.org/)

#### **Locally-managed marine areas**

# A Restless, Throbbing Ballet

**A variety of cinematic approaches characterized a recent film festival in France that explored the lives and cultures of fishermen of the world**

From 19 to 22 March 2008, a film festival called 'Fishermen of the World' took place in Lorient, France. It was organized by the non-governmental organization (NGO), Collectif Pêche et Développement, in collaboration with various local associations and administrative entities (regional, departmental and community). The idea for the event stemmed from a reflection on how issues related to oceans and fisheries are being increasingly debated in the media, which convey the image of a deep crisis plaguing the marine environment and its resources. The general public is fed on pictures and films that often attain widespread distribution, like *Darwin's Nightmare*, *We Feed the World*, and Greenpeace and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) documentaries on dolphins, tortoises, sharks... Amidst this visual abundance, the voices of fishermen are rarely heard. These actors occupy centrestage only in times of deep crisis. And the media usually prefer to circulate pictures of doom rather than focus on alternatives, which need time and sustained effort to both materialize and get expatiated. In this context, fishermen tend to appear as senseless predators, a far cry from the reality of courageous men engaged in an occupation that is both captivating and dangerous. They are often portrayed as the main villains in the drama.

These days, images are essential for shaping public opinion. The Lorient film festival aimed, therefore, to provide a forum for fishermen (most of them owner-operators) to counterpose their vision of the situation in fisheries against the perception of film producers. It was also an effort to focus the debate on the

human aspects of fisheries, and to bring fishermen and their families under the spotlight. Yet in no way was the intention to minimize the problems of resource availability or degradation, nor to shirk the responsibility of fishermen in the generation of the crisis in world fisheries. It is important that these men and women be brought centrestage, even while recognizing that other actors (consumers, environmental NGOs, scientists) also have roles to play in finding solutions to the crisis.

Right from the start, the organizers of the film festival strived for an international vision since the future of fisheries worldwide is being discussed

**...the organizers of the film festival strived for an international vision since the future of fisheries worldwide is being discussed at international forums, given that the sector is highly globalized.**

at international forums, given that the sector is highly globalized. The event had the indispensable elements of any film festival, complete with an organizing committee, a selection committee, a jury and awards. In order to promote a diversity of outlook and fruitful dialogue, the committees included specialists on art, fishermen and fisheries, as well as NGO representatives.

## Documentaries

Fourteen films were selected; one day was set aside for schoolchildren; and in one room, visitors could view videos produced by fishermen themselves as well as documentaries from film archives.

*This review is by **Alain Le Sann** (ad.lesann@orange.fr) of the NGO, Collectif Pêche et Développement*

In retrospect, the objectives of the festival were, by and large, attained. At the time of the festival the local fishermen in Lorient were completely mobilized on another front, demonstrating against the high cost of fuel. The festival organizers and participants were impressed by the vividness, quality and duration of the debates that took place after each show. And the audience appreciated the variety of approaches in the films presented: reportage, *cinéma verité*, cartoons, personal narratives, documentary analysis...Uniformity was not the byword: the new filmmakers have really creative talent. Some go deep into analysis, others dwell on the words and personalities of the men and women they show, raising a good measure of empathy among the audience. The jury seemed to appreciate that type of documentary and awarded top honours to *Le Bateau de Gaëlle* by Philippe Lubliner, which presents a fisherman and his wife from Le Guilvinec, France. They are about to retire from fishing and, in spite of it all, they express their strong attachment to their way of life, and their love for their boat which is bound for destruction. The jury also recognized *Men on the Edge*, by an Israeli producer. The film narrates the evolution of relationships, over a period of four years, among a crew of Palestinian and Israeli fishermen. The festival jury also praised *M'bissa*, a

film by two young Senegalese, for its originality and rendering of women's feelings and points of views.

Among the 14 selected films, those that won awards had one thing in common: they all put women at the centre of the stage. In *Men on the Edge*, the characters are essentially men, but the co-producer casts a clearly feminist eye on an otherwise macho society. The festival has certainly contributed to documenting the important role played by women in the fisheries sector. The selected films show that the fisheries crisis is a worldwide phenomenon, that fisherfolk (men and women) are deeply rooted in their type of life and livelihood. Fishing is not just another trade: it is a way of life, with a particular tempo, and calls for specific knowhow and keen knowledge of the environment. Through their constant interaction with nature, fishermen have evolved a set of observations that are alien to people not familiar with the maritime world. Fishermen know a lot about the sea bottom and the diverse behaviours of different fish species.

Will they be able to pass on that heritage to the next generation? From a number of films screened at the festival, it appeared that the children are reluctant, or unable, to follow the path of their fathers. In Senegal, they are fleeing to Europe; in France, those who remain on the job shy away from becoming owner-operators, which would be too much trouble (as revealed in the film, *Le Bateau de Gaëlle*).

The selected films also outlined some emerging issues, such as the marine protected area (MPA) concept, which, in practice, may badly affect fishermen. In India, the creation of some MPAs has had dramatic consequences on neighbouring communities. In Senegal, fishermen try to make the best of such new developments by playing the ecotourism card. The film *Accrocs sur le poisson* underlines the problems created by the increasing spaces occupied by pleasure boating and sport fishing. In the debate that followed the show, some fishermen commented vividly on these aspects. In southern Brittany, France, as on the Mediterranean coast, pleasure boaters are steadily encroaching on the space

ARIEL NATHAN



Philippe Lubliner with Mamayawa Sandouno, Member, ICSF, and James Smith, Honorary Member, ICSF, at the 'Fishermen of the World' film festival



traditionally occupied by bona fide fishermen.

The rich documentaries at the festival generated strong emotions, vivid debates and sharp analyses, which led to productive, albeit at times conflicting, exchanges. Above all, it testified to the negative effects of the worldwide fisheries crisis on fishermen and their families.

In particular, it showed that ill-thought, badly implemented protective measures may have dire consequences on communities when they do not integrate the views and concerns of the local populations. The resource crisis is also a deep social crisis. If one is to see an end to the resource crisis, the social aspects have to be addressed. Otherwise things will get even worse.

The programme on the special day for schools and apprentices was drawn up by Pierre Mollo, a scientist and expert teacher and filmmaker. In the first film—*Namouic* by Gilles Capelle—these young people were introduced to the severe crisis of the 1990s, which saw dozens of boats being dismantled and burned, and young fishermen battling to refund loans in a context of increasing fish imports and expanding pleasure boating/fishing. Real fishermen took part in the making of the film, with real-life episodes feeding into the scenario. Throughout the film, these fishermen are indeed the main actors. This creative and emotional production appealed to the younger audience, budding fishermen and high-school students.

Then Pierre Mollo presented his own films on the wealth of the oceans, in particular the planktonic elements. *La mer féconde* (1981) shows how the traditional salt-marshes enhance the vitality of that environment, and favour shell culture and coastal fisheries. By fighting for the survival of their traditional spaces against encroaching real-estate projects and the tourism industry, the *paludiers* (salt workers) were able to save their livelihoods and the livelihoods of hundreds of fishermen. On the same subject, *Planctonique*, made by a young producer in collaboration with Pierre Mollo, is a sparkling and pregnant presentation of



The rich documentaries at the 'Fishermen of the World' film festival generated strong emotions, vivid debates and sharp analyses

the fact that plankton is the source of life in the marine world.

After that, scientists from the Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER, the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea) and the Centre de Culture Scientifique, Technique et Industrielle (CCSTI) made slide presentations of their research on fish resources and fishing gear. They also conducted a role-playing game with the fishermen and a WWF representative.

### Warm collaboration


At the end of the day, there was a presentation of a development project initiated by the *paludiers* of Guérande, Brittany, in collaboration with women salt producers in Benin. In order to protect the mangroves, they showed them how to make salt through solar evaporation instead of burning a lot of wood to concentrate the brine. The film *Houla Ko* outlines the complexity of the technological transfer process on the ground, and notes the warm collaboration that prevailed between these partners.

As one journalist in the audience put it, Pierre Mollo succeeded in turning the humble plankton into the star of the Fishermen of the World film festival. This is apt praise for a man on the verge of retirement. The programme he drew up testifies to his deep attachment to

the sea, the plankton and the men and women who depend on them for their livelihoods.

“Displaying something is the first stage for making it understood,” says Pierre Mollo. “The images I produce, I offer them to the coastal communities who, in the course of time, shaped my mind and made me a man of the sea. My research in the field of marine biology led to an encounter with minute things, called planktons, for which I developed a passion. By observing and deciphering the processes in the ecosystems, one is able to comprehend more fully the dysfunctions of marine life. With the camera secured to the tip of a microscope, I enter a lilliputian world and share with others the excitement of the visit. The world

Through the lens of Pierre Mollo’s camera, “the tiny people of the sea are engaged in a restless, throbbing ballet, with a real sense of drama”, to quote a journalist who viewed *Planctonique*, a short film produced by Eric Billon, one of Pierre Mollo’s students. When drawing attention to the importance of plankton, Pierre Mollo refocuses the debate over the future of the oceans and their resources. There is a pressing need to question the acceptability of some fishing practices. But, in fact, the degradation of plankton, in terms of quantity and quality, is even more worrying than the decline of fish stocks. There are occurrences of toxic plankton, which is difficult to get rid of. The degradation, which may go unnoticed, disrupts the very base of the food chain. The blame cannot be put on the fishermen; it rests on the multiple terrestrial activities that send chemicals, heavy metals and fertilizer and pesticide runoff into the sea. There is a lot of talk about the scarcity of fish; little is said about the degradation of the planktonic populations. It is, of course, easier to point an accusing finger at specific operators instead of questioning the validity of production and development processes that deliberately tend to sacrifice marine life and environment.

The eye can see the progressive demise of a forest, not so the alteration of the planktonic populations, where 50 per cent of the earth’s oxygen originates. With the help of a microscope, Pierre Mollo’s camera gently leads the audience to take cognizance of that aspect. Everyone must ask: “What part have I played in that situation?”. We must thank Pierre Mollo for his demonstration of humanistic ecology. 

**“Documentaries differ from reportage in the sense that they tell a story based on reality, but with an added backdrop. It is more than a mere transcript of realities.”**

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is mirrored in a single drop of water, which is proof of the throbbing vitality of the oceanic expanse. That wealth must be preserved, for the future of our planet is at stake.”

“Documentaries differ from reportage in the sense that they tell a story based on reality, but with an added backdrop. It is more than a mere transcript of realities. Documentaries need colours, a conducting thread, a plot. I don’t make scientific films, I add a degree of emotions to my work by playing with the colours, the light. Far from trying to impose a particular point of view on the audience, I just put forward a number of items from which people may derive their own opinion. There is no search for sensationalism, no mind bashing. But naturally there are some signboards, and one may point gently to a number of unsavoury aspects. The images and the emotion are the things that matter. When I make a film, I don’t aim at trumpeting a message: the film must be quietly self-explanatory.” (from *Festival Imagimer*, September 2005).

#### For more

[www.peche-dev.org](http://www.peche-dev.org)

**Collectif Pêche et Développement**

[www.ifremer.fr/anglais](http://www.ifremer.fr/anglais)

**IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea)**

# Readers' Responses to *SAMUDRA Report*

In my opinion, *SAMUDRA Report* is an essential and extremely important tool for the leadership of fishermen's associations. In this era of globalization, it is crucial for us to be able to form opinions on the vast array of issues that affect fishing at the international level and place our own particular situations against this context, so as to develop practices and initiatives that serve our members better. Increasingly, *SAMUDRA Report* continues to provide a formula for forcing our gaze away from purely local or national questions, and allows us to incorporate internationally applied approaches.

Finally, the *SAMUDRA Report* perspective, which touches as well on social justice and philosophies fundamentally associated with fishing and other primary industries, engenders an absolutely necessary reflection on the 'big picture', and in this way, on the well-founded, and sometimes very difficult and opposing, claims that must continually be put into practice by many fishers' associations.

*SAMUDRA Report* helps me to reflect on matters that, given the nature of my organization, would not form part of my daily routine if it did not exist.

*SAMUDRA Report* is a fundamental tool for provoking reflection on the state of things in the fisheries world on this increasingly small planet. At each reading, I rejoice in finding similar, if not identical, cases to ours in North Africa, in Viet Nam, or in the European Union, which puts my work into perspective on a much larger framework and which directs it towards a more global objective.

—Christian Brun,  
Executive Secretary,  
Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU),  
CANADA



We have been working with *SAMUDRA Report* for so many years that it has now become a fundamental part of the artisanal fishermen's struggles at the global level. For us, it is a basic tool that disseminates knowledge for an important group of fishermen and scientists, and allows us here in Chile to use this knowledge for the defence of our sector. The articles in *SAMUDRA Report* dealing with trawling and ITQs, among others, have enabled us to discuss these issues more clearly, using the examples provided.

For us, there would be no discussion on fishery issues without a means of communication like *SAMUDRA Report*.

—Cosme Caracciolo,  
General Secretary,  
Confederación Nacional de Pescadores  
Artesanales de Chile  
(CONAPACH, National Confederation of  
Artisanal Fishermen),  
CHILE



As part of the team of CONAPACH professionals, I can say that *SAMUDRA Report* is something we constantly review, and through which we compare the various global realities that apply to fisheries issues and to artisanal fishing communities. It is most useful as its analysis, in general, is made from a highly critical perspective, which questions the models of fisheries management being pushed under the neoliberal agenda, responsible, to a large degree, for the problems of marine resources and ecosystem sustainability, as well as the quality of life that fishing communities

## On the Origins of *SAMUDRA Report*

When *SAMUDRA Report* was conceived over two decades ago, it was meant to be a biannual publication of ICSF, primarily intended for ICSF Members interested in defending the way of life of fishworkers around the world, especially in developing countries. It was also meant to be a forum for dissemination of news about how individuals, organizations and institutions were supporting fishworkers' struggles in different parts of the world. *SAMUDRA Report* was intended to be a clearing house for ideas about the development of fisheries and fishworkers.

The first issue of *SAMUDRA Report* saw the light of day in March 1988. Pierre Gillet, an engineer from Belgium, who was also an accomplished boatbuilder with rich experience in working amongst the traditional fishing communities of India, was the first editor of the journal. Pierre was fortunate to have the advice and guidance of Michael Francis Belliveau, an ICSF Member from Canada, who helped especially with the layout of the journal in its formative days.

François Bellec, a French activist-cum-journalist, edited the second and third issues of *SAMUDRA Report*, before the mantle of editorship fell on Héctor-Luis Morales, a sociologist and Member of ICSF from Valparaiso, Chile, who oversaw publication during the period 1991-1992.

Since 1993, *SAMUDRA Report* has been published by the ICSF Secretariat out of the Indian city of Chennai (erstwhile Madras). The journal has been coming out regularly thrice a year since then. The journey of *SAMUDRA Report* over the past 50 issues could not have taken place without the unstinting support and encouragement of several people. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them.

For help with designing *SAMUDRA Report*, from its first makeover in 1993 and its more recent redesign last year, we owe special thanks to Satish Babu, who has also guided all the technology-related initiatives of ICSF. For all that and much more, thanks, Satish.

For translating *SAMUDRA Report* into French, *merci* to Gildas Le Bihan, Pierre Gillet, François Bellec, Françoise Wautier, Evelyne Briffault, Alain Le Sann, Radha Ramakrishnan, Malavika Shivakumar and Danièle Le Sann.

For the Spanish translation, *muchas gracias* to Aida Martínez Prat, Mercedes Rafael Ramos, Alejandro Bertrand Y Jorge Cambias, Patricia Labrana, Jorge Cambias, Elba Zamalloa, David Diegues, Ernesto Godelman, Nuria Gregori, Luz Pisúa, Anna-Rosa Martínez Prat and Juan-Pablo Morales.

We also remember with gratitude Clothilde de Jamblinne, for her support, and Julica Werry, who offered voluntary translations during 1986-1989. Among those who provided valuable support in those early days were the Orients Association and Ms and Mr Pierrard, who offered us the use of the Brussels premises free of cost.

In carving out a unique niche in information resources on fisheries, *SAMUDRA Report* owes a wealth of gratitude to all its contributors—writers, photographers, illustrators and printers—as well as donors, editors, translators and designers, and, most importantly, our readers, some of whose responses can be found in these pages. More significantly, perhaps, for constantly maintaining the focus and coverage of the journal, we are indebted to ICSF Members, who have long kept a keen and unwavering interest in the publication.

To all of you who have made *SAMUDRA Report* what it is, our heartfelt thanks.

—The *SAMUDRA* Team



have, placing special emphasis on the very rights of these communities.

In this way, several times we have been allowed to visualize the effects that certain fisheries policies have had in other parts of the world, and in this way strengthen our points of view, arguments and capacity for action.

It is for this reason that we constantly use and diffuse articles from *SAMUDRA Report* to artisanal fishery specialists, government fishery services and parliamentarians.

Another important aspect is that through the work done by ICSF and *SAMUDRA Report*, one can access a large and valuable network of contacts with institutions, organizations and people from the artisanal fishing sector or who are connected with it.

Finally, it remains for me to thank and congratulate ICSF for its important commitment and for the work it undertakes through *SAMUDRA Report* and through other means, which is always of great help to understand the complex problems facing the Chilean artisanal fishing sector, as well as in other parts of the world. I hope that you will be able to continue your important work, with ever greater success.

—Jorge Pereira,  
Adviser,  
CONAPACH,  
CHILE



*SAMUDRA Report* is very important for me because it shows that it is not only in the Var that small-scale fishers exist; that problems are similar in the North and the South, despite vast differences in regulations, support, society, policies, etc.

It's difficult to get this message across to our members because sadly, solidarity between them and, to an even greater extent, between them and fishers elsewhere, is less and less present. "Each for his own" is the practice, and sometimes, at our level, that is discouraging!

Justly enough, *SAMUDRA Report* gives back to us, the staff, balm for our hearts! So come what may, please continue! It seems that perseverance will pay one day or another! Much courage! There is much to do!

—Dominique Saux,  
General Secretary,  
Local Sea Fisheries Committee, Var,  
FRANCE



*SAMUDRA Report* provides a means of communication and union between fisher peoples. It is an informative report and well set out. Frankly, its readership here is limited only because we don't yet have a library where those interested could access it.

The content of *SAMUDRA Report* is good, up-to-date and informative, and stimulates reflection on what goes on in different latitudes. It inspires struggles for improving the quality of life through its analyses of the fishery situation, and threats and possible solutions. The translation in Spanish is good.

—Jorge Adalberto Varela Marqués,  
Comité para la Defensa y Desarrollo de  
la Flora y Fauna del Golfo de Fonseca  
(CODDEFFAGOLF, Committee for the  
Defence and Development of the Flora and  
Fauna of the Gulf of Fonseca),  
HONDURAS



*SAMUDRA Report* is a very useful and informative publication for fishers' organizations. Reading its articles provides an opportunity for better understanding of contemporary and contentious issues in fisheries. It is a good forum for glimpses of different trends prevailing and emerging in the fisheries sector worldwide. Between its covers, *SAMUDRA Report* gives readers a good idea of the world fisheries situation.

Maintaining regularity in publication of such periodicals is always a challenging task. The *SAMUDRA* Team deserves genuine appreciation for standing the test of time.

We appreciate *SAMUDRA Report* as an important source of information dissemination and a good medium of debate. On several occasions, it has helped national or local fishers' struggles reach out to larger circles and has also provided scope for sharpening arguments and fortifying stands on different issues.

I think *SAMUDRA Report* will remain an outstanding publication in the world of fisheries if it can steadily maintain its 'bias' towards the traditional, small-scale and artisanal fisheries.

—Harekrishna Debnath, Chairperson,  
National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF),  
INDIA



*SAMUDRA Reports* have been very informative. Reading them is the best way I come to know of what is happening in the world of fisheries, fishing and fishers. It helps us to act. It builds within us a

confidence to go forward because others are acting in a similar way.

What is needed more is information on how the traditional, beach-based fishers can act and fight for their survival. There is a need for these fishers to become self-sufficient, both financially and in terms of skills, to fight for their livelihoods. Examples of struggles are needed that will help others. The struggles of fishers in Pakistan, for example, are political and need to be reported more. The fishers' struggle in Chile is another example. The fight of fisher people against individual transferable quotas (ITQs) in Iceland is another. One area to ponder is how we can help each other through communications.

—Thomas Kocherry,  
Fisheries Activist,  
INDIA



If my modest contribution on traceability is today known about and appreciated by many people, it is thanks to *SAMUDRA Report*. I encourage you to persevere with your activities and know that their value is appreciated in the fishing sector, in general, and in the artisanal fishing sector, in particular. *SAMUDRA Report* is a tool that permits communication with others to develop and share information about the communities that we represent.

—Gaoussou Gueye,  
Vice President,  
Conseil National Interprofessionnel de la  
Pêche Artisanale au Sénégal (CONIPAS,  
National Confederation of the Senegalese  
Artisanal Fishing Sector Organizations),  
SENEGAL



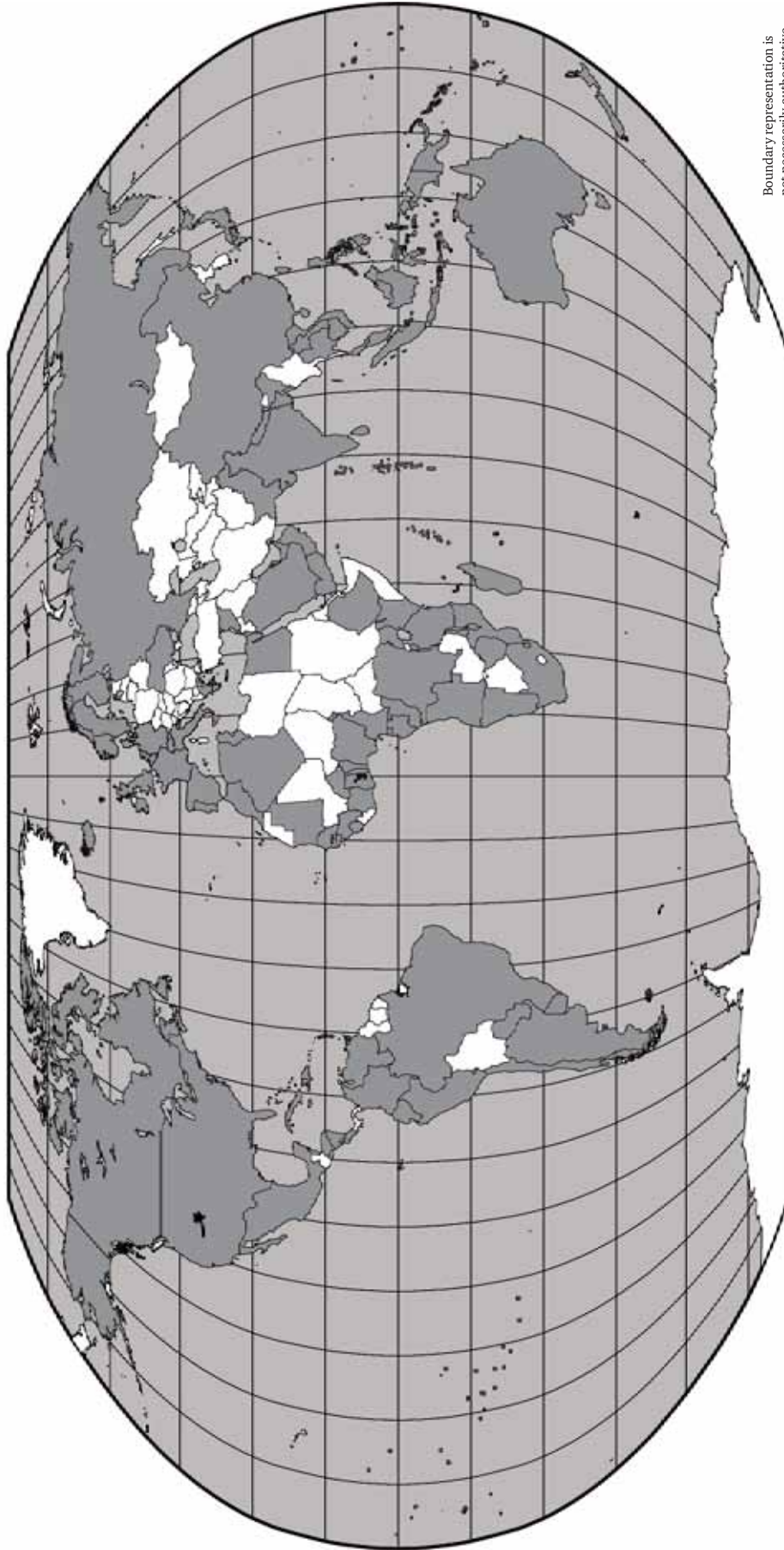
*SAMUDRA Report* is invaluable to us, providing indepth and comprehensive reporting.

Here in the United States, our news sources, even the best, tend to be America-centric, so having *SAMUDRA—SAMUDRA Report*, and the *SAMUDRA News Alerts*—helps us in better understanding what our fellow fishing men and women throughout the rest of the world are facing. It helps us put our problems in perspective and gives us insights on how to deal with the issues confronting the fishing community globally.

—Zeke Grader,  
Executive Director,  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's  
Association,  
UNITED STATES

(...contd. on Page 6)

Where SAMUDRA Report goes...



Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative

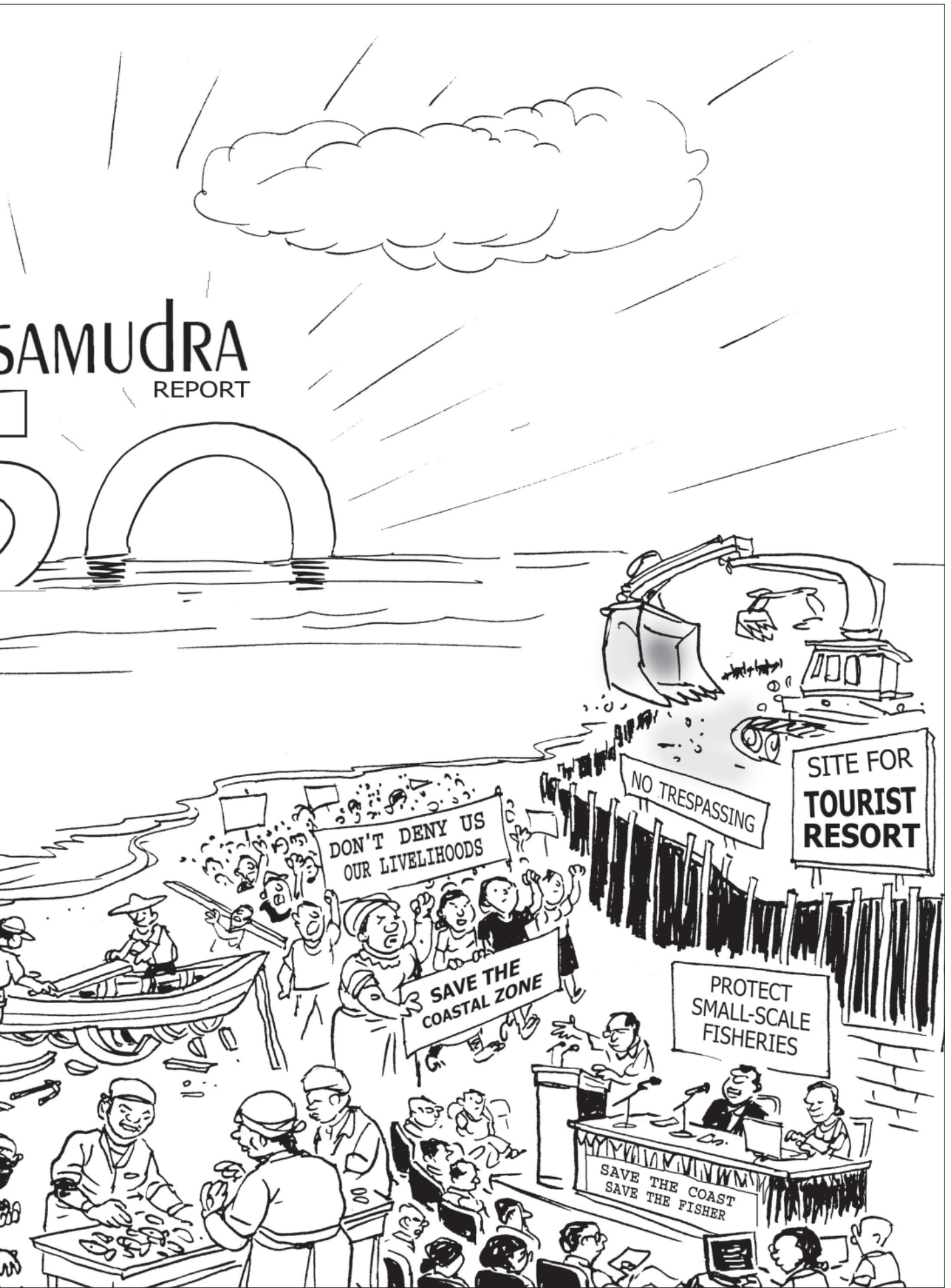
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# SAMUDRA

REPORT





(...contd. from Page 2)

*SAMUDRA Report* provides information on timely and emerging issues pertaining to fisheries, artisanal fishers and fishworkers. It is easy reading, and its analyses assist us in developing a perspective to better understand issues in the international fisheries arena.

—Tambuyog Development Centre,  
PHILIPPINES



To me, *SAMUDRA Report* is a close friend and information source for fisher people. It provides information of struggles, organizations and their achievements, and the inter-connections of fisher people throughout the world.

*SAMUDRA Report* has helped enhance my knowledge in vast areas of fisheries activities, and has strengthened relationships and our efforts in the local, national, regional and international levels. I get new dimensions on fisheries through the articles of *SAMUDRA Report* and we congratulate the *SAMUDRA* Team for its good work in educating our fisheries organizations.

—Herman Kumara,  
Convener, National Fisheries  
Solidarity (NAFSO),  
SRI LANKA



*SAMUDRA Report* puts forward varied views on fisheries at the international level, and provides a space for sharing experiences through articles that are independent and, in general, of good quality.

In our case, *SAMUDRA Report* is useful for obtaining information on global processes in industrial and artisanal fishing. It also provides a lot of statistical information. I access the articles through the ICSF website.

The quality of the translation is very good, and the content of the articles is also good, and reflect the reality of each country discussed. While it is always possible to improve, I think that *SAMUDRA*

*Report* is a good journal that offers knowledge of fisheries at the international level.

—Oscar Galli,  
Red de Ecología Social - Amigos de la  
Tierra (REDES),  
URUGUAY



*SAMUDRA Report* is an excellent and informative journal on fisheries in general and small-scale fisheries, including aquaculture, in particular. While it is essential for us to know the reality in the field in order to formulate global fisheries

### A tribute to a regular, oldtime reader of *SAMUDRA Report*

At the age of nine, Armand Féchant boarded a sailing boat on a tuna trip off France. At 14, as an apprentice, he journeyed to Mauritania to target lobsters. Then came longlining operations in the Channel: a tough job. And on to sardine fishing around Belle-Île island, where he met Mimi, his wife, and settled for good. They bought a small boat, called *L'Indépendant*, and went for longlining throughout the year. Mimi would sell the catch: beautiful bass, seabream, pollack... Armand made a name for himself as a thinking man in the Bay of Quiberon.

During the 1970s and 1980s, an increasing number of pelagic trawlers came into the fisheries. With small-mesh nets, meant for blue fish (sardine, anchovy, sprat), they also targeted white fish (hake, seabream, bass). The small-scale fishermen often had face-offs with these new operators. Armand and his son were among those from Houat island and Quiberon who blockaded the Quiberon harbour, demanding rules to be established to ensure an equitable share of the fish resources. But their efforts were in vain...

Throughout his life, Armand would lament over the rampant plundering of fish stocks, and the consequent mortgaging of the future. Yet he always maintained his sing-song way of speech and the witty parlance typical of his birthplace, Douarnenez, which was then still a thriving fishing community. A regular reader of *Pêche et Développement* and *SAMUDRA Report*, he found comfort in the fact that many people worldwide upheld the social and economic rationale and values of artisanal fisheries as reflected in the pages of *SAMUDRA Report*.

Armand Féchant died on 29 March 2008, aged 82.

—Emmanuel Audrain, *Pêche et Développement*,  
No. 79-80 (journal of the non-governmental organization,  
Collectif Pêche et Développement, Lorient, France)

and aquaculture. For example, *SAMUDRA Report* No.47, July 2007, well covered the Siem Reap Meeting that I contributed to as a keynote speaker. I also particularly appreciate the timely covering of events and other news in relation to FAO. For example, in *SAMUDRA Report* No. 49, the most recent issue we have received, the information provided on the upcoming Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries, to be held in Bangkok, October 2008, was highly appreciated. Such publicity is of great importance and contributes to the success of our conferences.

*SAMUDRA Report* is a kind of window through which we can gather important experiences and stories from the field in relation to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Furthermore, *SAMUDRA Report* provides valuable information on the opinions of small-scale fishers and fish farmers. As you are well aware, the small-scale fisheries issue is one of the emerging issues we address during the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meetings. The forthcoming Global Conference in Bangkok is one of the consequences of such discussion and will further enrich the deliberations during the forthcoming Session of COFI, scheduled to be held in March 2009. Therefore, it is essential for us to be well informed on small-scale fisheries, and *SAMUDRA Report* is an indispensable tool, being one of the best sources of information on the topic. The journal is always well appreciated and circulated by the officer in charge of NGO matters in the Department through members of the FI Task Force on Co-operation with NGOs.

—Ichiro Nomura,  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Department, FAO,  
ROME, ITALY



policy and assure its implementation at global, regional, national and local levels, it is rather difficult for us working at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome to keep up with the latest developments in the field with regard to small-scale fisheries

*SAMUDRA Report* offers a useful perspective on small-scale fisheries and the issues facing them. For my purposes, a hard copy version is perhaps not as important as an e-version that could be more widely disseminated electronically.

*SAMUDRA Report* has helped in the past to get a broader and more grass-roots appraisal of issues from the small-scale fisheries perspective. A good example is the *SAMUDRA Dossier* on marine protected areas that I have just received with thanks! This is an excellent summary of opinions which would be almost impossible to obtain through any other mechanism.

—Simon Funge-Smith,  
Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC),  
**THAILAND**



*SAMUDRA Report* tends to give readers a different take on major societal and resource problems in fisheries and aquaculture around the globe. The usually well-researched articles often contrast information from the institutional or 'official' media. They are, therefore, a valuable stimulus to public debate, and give a voice to people and perspectives, which might otherwise not be heard sufficiently or at all. That is a very important function other media cannot easily fulfil. It is particularly interesting to get a sense of the capacity to reflect and put forward alternatives to many unsustainable practices. Clearly, different perspectives and ethical behaviour towards fellow citizens and nature are essential to finding robust solutions to the current crisis.

*SAMUDRA Report* helps inform my own monitoring of developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and has also enabled me repeatedly to draw other people's attention to additional sources of information, which they had not been aware of. That has sparked them to take note, stimulated some questioning and debate, and helped to broaden perspectives. To quote just two examples: Sergi Tudela's article about tuna fattening in the Mediterranean, and Brian O'Riordan's article about practices in the Chilean aquaculture industry.

—Cornelia Nauen,  
Principal Policy Officer,  
European Commission, DG Research,  
**BELGIUM**



*SAMUDRA Report* brings me hope, through accounts of initiatives in other parts of the world that promote equity and link the artisanal fisheries sector with endogenous development and the recovery of cultural identity, which is so important for communities in the developing world.

The lessons learned from other countries allow us to share this hope at the local and regional levels. CoopSolidar R.L. is linked to CoopeTarcoles R.L., an artisanal fishing community on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, and we share interesting articles from *SAMUDRA Report* with the community and discuss the lessons learned at our meetings. *SAMUDRA Report* articles have also been shared with members of our co-operatives.

The *SAMUDRA Report* content is excellent. We also find the translation excellent, which makes it easy to share the journal's contents with others.

—Vivienne Solis Rivera,  
Chair,  
Board of Directors,  
Cooperativa Autogestionaria de  
Servicios Profesionales para la  
Solidaridad Social R.L.  
(Coope Solidar R.L.)  
**COSTA RICA**



*SAMUDRA Report* provides information on artisanal fishing at the global level, with first-hand information and anecdotes on projects and conflicts in artisanal fisheries. *SAMUDRA Report* provides a critical analysis of problems related to artisanal fisheries, and what's more, it is open to reports from anywhere in the world.

*SAMUDRA Report* is useful for keeping me informed about events happening elsewhere and comparing them with what's happening here. I use *SAMUDRA Report* in my work and I also diffuse some of its articles amongst people working in fisheries. It also gives me information about events that I share with others. Its articles cover a very wide range of artisanal fishing issues, which is good. Equally, the quality of the translation is good, and both the editorial and articles are easy to read.

—Marco Oviedo Barreno,  
Director,  
Presidencia De La Republica Instituto  
Nacional Galapagos, (INGALA,  
The Galapagos National Institute),  
**ECUADOR**



*SAMUDRA Report* is more than a report; it allows us to get to know about the activities at local, regional and international levels. *SAMUDRA Report* allows us to see and understand how people go about their business in their

communities. It also allows exchanges and contacts to be made by giving an opportunity to each organization to learn about its weaknesses and through such an experience, to try and correct certain weaknesses. It also gives an opportunity to learn of solutions and stories that can equally contribute to the qualitative valorization of our organizations.

—Mamayawa Sandouno,  
Chief Fisheries Inspector,  
Ministry of Fisheries, Guinea,  
and President, ADEPEG-CPA (Association  
for the Development of Artisanal Fishing  
Communities in Guinea),  
**GUINEA**



I have been receiving every issue of *SAMUDRA Report* since the very beginning of its publication and have kept every issue. I think that says a lot about how much I value this publication. It is the most authoritative and balanced reporting in the world on the state of the small-scale fisher.

I believe *SAMUDRA Report* has helped me primarily in providing the basis for doing some fresh thinking and stimulating new approaches in my work.

—John Kearney,  
Independent Researcher,  
**CANADA**



Thank you for sending me *SAMUDRA Report* regularly all these years. I am able to get the opinions of stakeholders from different countries on some of the current issues in the fisheries sector. The stakeholders are from different levels and their views are valuable.

I refer to the articles appearing in *SAMUDRA Report* for my own interpretation of research findings and also for preparing policy briefs. For instance, I extensively used the article published by V. Vivekanandan on the listing of sharks in India's Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 to present a Shark Management Plan in Colombo at a meeting organized by the Bay of Bengal Programme in March 2008.

I appreciate and congratulate the efforts of the *SAMUDRA Team* and wish them all the best as *SAMUDRA Report* celebrates its 50th issue. I look forward to your continued good efforts.

—E. Vivekanandan,  
Marine Scientist,  
**INDIA**

*SAMUDRA Report* is like the grain of salt that makes the food for thought tastier. *SAMUDRA Report* is like the grain of sand that blocks the blind machinery of conventional thinking, and helps us take a refreshing look at fisheries issues.

*SAMUDRA Report* is like the tide, coming precisely three times a year, bringing in its waves a bounty of experiences, ideas and stories that can only be seen by people who take the time to walk along the beach...

**Solutions:** Thanks to the indepth analysis of issues provided, and first-hand testimonies, *SAMUDRA Report* helps to go further than just examining problems, and helps design solutions that are workable for small-scale fishing communities.

**Advocacy:** Thanks to its wide readership, *SAMUDRA Report* helped our campaigns to get a wider audience.

**Monitoring:** *SAMUDRA Report* provides excellent and regular monitoring of international developments that I would not otherwise be aware of.

**Understanding:** *SAMUDRA Report* has helped me to better understand the complexity of situations, and develop a more balanced approach, including to aspects of gender in my work.

**Dreaming:** *SAMUDRA Reports'* beautiful cover pictures often make me dream...

**Reading:** I often give out *SAMUDRA Report* to visitors, students and others as reading material, as a way for them to get to grips with artisanal fisheries issues, and now it's also possible to send them the links to the online Web version.

**Admiration:** The *SAMUDRA Report* production team is an example for us all!

—Beatrice Gorez,  
**BELGIUM**



I wish to refer back to your first issue in 1988, which reported on a seminar that discussed depleting fisheries resources and picked up the situation in Kerala, India, as an example. Indonesia is also struggling with a similar situation.

*SAMUDRA Report* inspires me, and brings complicated matters into sharp focus and in a manner that is easy to understand. During my time as Director of Fisheries Resources, your reports, together with other important sources, served as the basis for my policy papers.

To me, *SAMUDRA Report* is unique. It is internationally oriented, while also focusing on domestic issues. Most importantly, it addresses grass-roots matters, both positive and negative, that help us create a better world.

For me, *SAMUDRA Report* is very meaningful. One of my books, published in 2007, deals with the issue of sustainable fisheries development, which was first raised by *SAMUDRA Report*.

—Suseno Sukoyono,  
Fisheries Adviser,  
**INDONESIA**



I have enjoyed *SAMUDRA Report* for many years now, both as a reader and as a contributor. As a reader, it has helped me to get a feel of the problems and challenges that fishing people around the world are confronted with. As a contributor, it has provided me with an opportunity to communicate to a broad international audience on issues that have interested me as a social researcher.

—Svein Jentoft,  
**NORWAY**



I have been reading *SAMUDRA Report* since 2000 and for the last four or five years, I have consulted it on the Internet. I find it an appropriate, opportune and needed publication. It holds special significance for artisanal fishers. It is the only report on artisanal fishing that is widely diffused in three languages and comes from an organization that supports and defends the sector.

*SAMUDRA Report* reflects different perspectives on problems. Its clear language encourages people to read it. It is a journal for both experts and for people from the artisanal sector.

*SAMUDRA Report* provides me with an up-to-date understanding of the different problems at the global level. For me, it also provides material for reflection.

The *SAMUDRA Monograph* series is really excellent and encourages reflection by going into great depth on different topics.

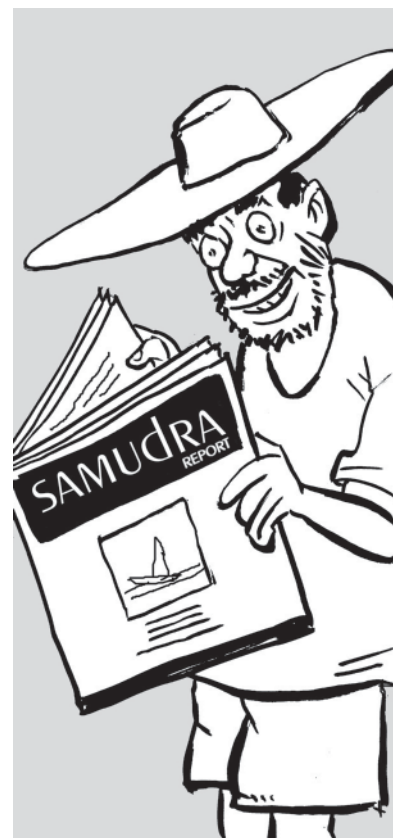
I believe *SAMUDRA Report* is the only journal in the entire world dedicated

exclusively to addressing artisanal fishing from a critical and constructive perspective.

If it were not for *SAMUDRA Report*, there would be no way of knowing about the specific problems of fishing communities in different parts of the world. It is arguably the only source that makes visible and lets the world know about the situations of injustice that face many artisanal fishermen who lack a voice and the means to inform the world of their situation.

While it is technical and specialized, *SAMUDRA Report* is very informative. The translation seems excellent to me. It is easy to understand and I have not come across significant errors in the Spanish version.

—Antonio Garcia Allut,  
Anthropologist,  
University of La Coruña,  
**SPAIN**



# Skimming the Cream

**Norway can realize a substantial reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the fishing fleet through changes to the current subsidy regime for fuel and emissions for fishing vessels**

In Norway the tax system for fossil fuels is a 'green' tax and encompasses most petroleum products through the petrol tax and the tax on mineral oil. Both these taxes have a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) element. In May 1988, the Norwegian Parliament (the Storting) resolved that fishermen should be exempted from paying the basic tax on mineral oil (diesel). The exemption covers the CO<sub>2</sub> tax and the basic tax on mineral oil that is supplied for use on board the fishing and hunting vessels listed in the vessel register.

The fishing fleet's emissions are not insignificant and have increased per catch unit. The Norwegian government's climate report contains a special chapter on the fisheries sector. It shows that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Norwegian fishing fleet have been between 1.2 mn and 1.5 mn tonnes during the past 25 years. The fishing fleet is thus responsible for 2.5 per cent of Norway's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The fishing fleet is exempt from the basic tax and the CO<sub>2</sub> tax on mineral oil through the establishment of a special reimbursement scheme administrated by the Guarantee Fund for Fishermen. The scheme allows Norwegian fishing vessels and foreign fishing vessels that refuel in Norway and fish in the Norwegian zone to apply for reimbursement in line with fixed rates of the tax they have paid when refuelling. The rate for reimbursement corresponds to the actual tax, and for 2007, per litre it was 96.9 øre (the one-hundredth subdivision of the Norwegian kroner (NOK); currently, NOK1 = US\$0.2), of which the basic tax amounts to 42.9 øre and the CO<sub>2</sub> tax to 54 øre. Norway is not the only country that subsidizes fuel for its fishing fleet.

The table below is sampled from a 2006 study from the University of British Columbia.

**Table:** Estimates of fuel subsidies/fuel tax exemption

Country	US\$/litre
Denmark	-
France	0.14
Germany	-
Greece	0.20
Iceland	0.18
Norway	0.18
Poland	0.18
Portugal	-
Spain	0.10
Turkey	0.09
England	-
Canada	0.18
Japan	0.25
New Zealand	-
Russia	0.18
Senegal	0.22
Thailand	0.13
US	0.06

Source: Sumaila et al., 2006

The overview is accurate for Norway—US\$0.18 corresponds to the more than 90 øre Norway has granted in tax exemption during the past few years. In 2008, the Norwegian taxes have been increased to 139 øre per litre. The Norwegian subsidy for the fishing fleet is thus US\$0.25, and therefore the highest in the world, alongside Japan.

Differences in fuel consumption between the different fleet groups—and thereby the scope of the fuel subsidy—are interesting since there is a constant debate on the distribution of

*This article is by **Gunnar Album** (album@online.no) of the Barents sea office of Friends of the Earth, Norway*



SELFA 2008



A 12-m long vessel, which is part of Norway's coastal fleet

Halstensen, Chairman of the Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association, said, "The fisheries business is a subsidy-free business and wishes to remain so. In addition, the Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association does not want the business to be given any special treatment. On the contrary, at the top of the Association's wish list is the message to the powers-that-be that they must treat the fishing fleet in line with other businesses."

According to a brochure published jointly by the Ministry of Fish, the Norwegian Fishermen's Association and the Norwegian Seafood Federation, "In recent years the Norwegian fisheries business has shown an incredible development. It has become subsidy-free, the profitability in part of the fleet has improved, and the fisheries sector is regarded as a business with a considerable value creation potential." And Report No. 20 (2002-2003) to the Storting states: "The Norwegian fisheries business is currently almost subsidy-free and stands for considerable value creation in Norwegian society."

As mentioned above, this is not correct. The fishing fleet is subsidized through exemptions from the basic and CO<sub>2</sub> taxes on fuel. The two taxes vary somewhat from year to year, but during the past few years, they have together amounted to approximately 95 øre per litre of fuel, and have approached NOK1 per kg of fish. Fishermen have these taxes reimbursed through the Guarantee Fund for Fishermen with an interest compensation of three per cent. The total amount paid out in 2005 was NOK254 mn.

The subsidies have two effects that we will examine more closely. In the first place, energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are subsidized. In the second place, these subsidies are unequally distributed among different fisheries and fishermen and, therefore, appear to distort competition. Since the different fleet groups have different fuel consumption per tonne of catch, the subsidies are also distributed unevenly. In the smallest coastal fleet in the period 2003-2006, the subsidy amounted to NOK162 per tonne of cleaned and headed fish. Fresh-fish trawlers had their fish subsidized by

the quotas among these fleet groups. They thus compete against each other on investments, crews and rights. Our calculations for 2003-2006 show that the trawling fleet consumes most fuel per kilogramme of cod taken. Small coastal fishing vessels are more than five times more fuel-efficient.

The figures also show a decline in fuel consumption per cod in all fleet groups. There can be grounds to assume that the generally increasing fuel prices have affected the fleet's operating pattern. As an example, in 2006 shrimp trawlers spent 39 per cent

### The fishing fleet is subsidized through exemptions from the basic and carbon dioxide taxes on fuel.

of their catch income on fuel, while fuel tax amounted to less than 20 per cent for vessels in the bottom-trawling cod fishery. Higher fuel prices will cause shifts in profitability among the various fisheries and a change from shrimp fishing to cod fishing.

The fisheries organizations and the authorities like to give the impression that the fisheries sector receives no subsidies. For example, Inge

NOK898 per tonne, that is, for each kg of cod they deliver, the trawlers receive 75 øre more in support from the State than small fishing boats.

There is also reason to note the difference between the subsidies in fleet groups that compete more directly with each other for labour and, to some extent, also for quotas. The big coastal fleet is given subsidies that are twice as large per tonne of fish than those granted to the smallest coastal fleet, and the trawlers receive around 40 per cent more than seagoing vessels with conventional gear (autoline).

The coastal fleet employs more crew per tonne of catch and has a lower consumption of energy per tonne of catch. The result is that the subsidies per man-year in the trawling fleet are many times higher than those in the coastal fleet. The subsidies per man/man-year in the two smallest coastal-fleet groups amounted to between NOK4,500 and NOK8,800 per year in the period 2003 to 2006. In the seagoing trawling fleet, the subsidies are between NOK95,000 and NOK170,000 per man-year, and between NOK55,000 and NOK95,000 per employee in the same period.

The number of small vessels has been substantially reduced in the past few years through natural wastage and through the structure fund, a fund intended to adapt the capacity of the fishing fleet and to promote the necessary structuring of the various vessel groups. From 1995 to 2006, the number of vessels under 15 m in length has been almost halved, while the number of coastal vessels over 21 m has increased by 45 per cent. These are vessel groups that compete with each other for crew and fishing grounds. In 2006, a man-year in the Danish seine fleet received more than four times as much in subsidies as a man-year in the fleet of boats under 10 m.

### Tax-free fuel

If we now look at the seagoing fleet, the discrepancies are much greater. Each man-year in the trawling fleet is supported by between NOK100,000 and NOK170,000 in the form of tax-free fuel. This amounts to between a quarter and a third of the share in these fleet groups. The same can be

seen in the relationship between sea and coast in the pelagic sector. Each man-year in coastal seine fishing is subsidized by between NOK15,000 and NOK30,000, while in the seagoing fleet, the subsidies are between NOK80,000 and NOK240,000.

Fuel subsidies are unequally distributed among the shipowners. In 2006, a one-man enterprise with a

**The coastal fleet employs more crew per tonne of catch and has a lower consumption of energy per tonne of catch.**

9-m fishing boat received a subsidy of NOK6,400, while the trawler owners receive more than NOK2 mn per vessel. As a percentage of operating revenues, this amounts to less than one per cent for the fishing boat, while for the trawlers, it is between four and five per cent of the operating revenues.

In his speech to the the Board of the Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association, the Chairman, Inge Halstensen, said, "The fisheries business is a subsidy-free business and wishes to remain so." Halstensen owns the three purse-seine vessels *Gardar* (75-m long), *Manon* (70-m) and *Slåtterøy* (67-m). According to the Norwegian fishermen's journal,

AKER 2008



Norwegian fishing vessel *Saga Sea*, a former pollock trawler, now fishing for krill

*Fiskaren*, in 2005, *Gardar* had a turnover of NOK119.1 mn. The average length for this fleet group was 68 m, and the average operating income was NOK50 mn. If Halstensen's three purse-seiners consume the average amount of fuel for his fleet group, his shipowner company received around NOK4.5 mn in subsidies in 2006—a decline from almost NOK6 mn in 2005. *Fiskaren* reports that *Gardar* is running at a loss, but if we still regard it as an average vessel, this NOK1.5 mn per vessel constitutes 14 per cent of the operating profit, a decline from 16 per cent in 2005.

When a fishing fleet is run on subsidized fuel, it means that the power used by the factories on board is also subsidized. One litre of diesel generates 10 kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy. The tax exemption thus corresponds to approximately 10 øre per kWh. The factories and freezers on board the fishing fleet are in direct competition with the industry on shore, a fact that came to light in the summer of 2007 when Geir Ove Ystmark of the Norwegian Seafood Federation then asked the purse-seine boat *Gardar* to halt its purchase of seine-caught saithe in Andfjorden. "The fishing industry has the capacity to cope with the saithe that is fished," Ystmark points out. According to the President of the Norwegian Seafood Federation, there is no need at all for purchasing vessels to operate. He describes the activities of *Gardar* as "skimming the

cream off" the seasonal fisheries, and turns the rhetoric of Helga Pedersen, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, on her: "It doesn't give us 'lights in the houses' in the rural districts when purse-seiners are permitted to buy seine-caught saithe in competition with the local fishing industry that operates year-round."

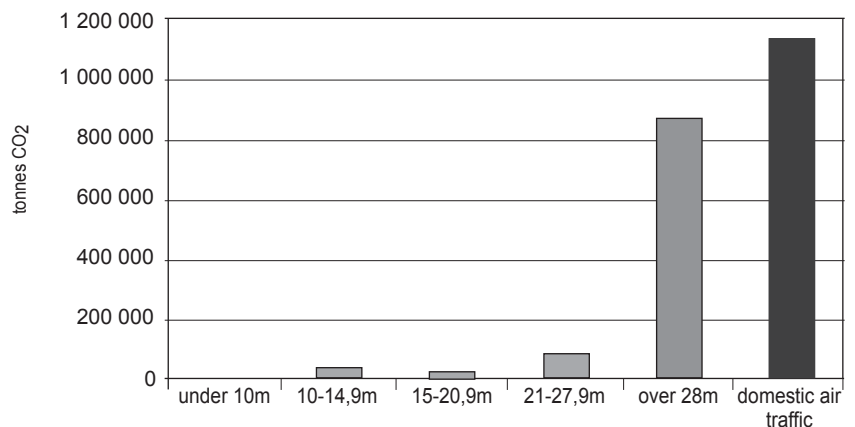
In addition to skimming the cream, the energy that is used is subsidized. The same logic also applies to other processing activities on board, which often take place in competition with the industry on shore. This applies not only to energy-consuming processes such as freezing, but also to other processing such as producing fillets in some parts of the trawling fleet. In 2008, the fishing fleet will be exempt from the basic tax and the CO<sub>2</sub> tax, which together amount to NOK1.39 (the basic tax is 84.5 øre and the CO<sub>2</sub> tax is 55 øre). In other words, the subsidies will increase by 40 per cent.

**Subsidies**

The figure below shows the assumed subsidy level in 2008. At the 2006 level of consumption, the subsidies will constitute around 1.4 per cent of the operating income for boats under 15 m, and between 5.8 per cent and 7.3 per cent of the operating income for trawlers.

The Norwegian government's climate report confirms that the fishing fleet is exempt from the CO<sub>2</sub> tax and

**Figure:** Emissions from different length groups in the year-round fishing fleet and from domestic air traffic



Source: Directorate of Fisheries' profitability survey on taxes for fuel for the individual fleet groups

the basic tax. The effect this subsidy may have is not discussed, and no justification is given for the scheme. The description of measures to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases includes the following: “For several fleet groups, the reduction in fuel consumption can correspond to around 10-15 per cent with the correct use of an adjustable propeller. Both shrimp-freezing trawlers and cod trawlers can reduce fuel consumption by approximately 10 per cent with energy-efficient trawling. Other fleet groups, such as purse-seiners and seiners that fish saithe, herring and mackerel, can reduce their fuel consumption by 10–15 per cent by running at optimal speed.”

It is also mentioned that changes in fleet structure is the measure that could have the greatest effect, but this alternative has not been investigated: “A different fleet structure or a change in operating pattern and catch areas may well have a favourable effect on the emissions of greenhouse gases... but this should not necessarily be a governing consideration.”

The potential reductions are not quantified, and neither is there any mention of the fact that a continuous change in the opposite direction in fleet structure is taking place, partly through State-approved structural measures: from small, energy-efficient boats to vessels that are large and energy-consuming.

What is so strange about the inadequacies of the government’s climate report is that most of the measures that will produce a more climate-friendly fleet structure will also generate more jobs, better profitability and a more ecological taxation scheme. Since the potential returns from technical solutions are so small (10-20 per cent), while the returns from a change in operation pattern are so large (up to 80 per cent), there is reason to include in the estimates the fact that small shifts in resource distribution between small vessels with passive gear and large vessels with active gear will have a greater effect than extensive technical advances. Another point is that the changes that have taken place in the past few years have generated a

move from the most energy-efficient vessels to the most energy-consuming. This should indicate a reassessment of the subsidized fuel scheme.

According to the climate report, in its mitigation analysis the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority estimated the technical emission reduction potential for the fisheries sector in 2020 at 50,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents, which corresponds to a four per cent reduction, compared with today. The climate report also states: “The government assumes that part of the reduction potential will be released by means of current policy instruments. In addition, the government proposes the following measures:

Promoting and facilitating greater energy efficiency and technological advances in the fishing fleet, and

**...the potential emission reductions achieved through such measures—and particularly through removing fuel subsidies—can be up to 20 times higher than the estimates of Statistics Norway’s for the climate report.**

31

reviewing the possibility of switching to alternative energy carriers.

Encouraging the inclusion of requirements for low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions when new investments are made in the fishing fleet.”

In this report, we have shown that the potential emission reductions achieved through such measures—and particularly through removing fuel subsidies—can be up to 20 times higher than the estimates of Statistics Norway (the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Norwegian government) for the climate report. Earlier, we mentioned that there are signs in the trawling fleet that the reaction to the higher fuel prices of recent years has been a move from fuel-demanding shrimp trawling to cod fishing.

#### **Similar trend**

If the calculations are correct, a similar trend can be seen for the fishing fleet as a whole. In parallel with a general increase in fuel prices, fuel consumption and thereby CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have already been reduced by 20 per cent, or more



SELFA



In the past few years Norway's coastal fleet has moved from the most energy-efficient vessels to the most energy-consuming vessels

hours and long trawling tracks, thereby also threatening stocks through undesired bycatches and overfishing. 3

than 200,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, between 2003 and 2006.

A high oil price has a positive effect on the fishing fleet's willingness to reduce climate emissions. The policy of subsidizing fuel when the aim is to encourage operations that are based on fuel economy is hardly conducive to goal achievement.

An alternative to subsidizing fuel is to raise the special tax deduction for fishermen. An increase from the current permissible deduction of NOK80,000 to NOK120,000 will give the fishermen in the smallest coastal-fleet groups more or less the same benefits as those existing today. With a tax rate of 30 per cent, this will cost the State approximately NOK100 mn, which will be recouped by the termination of the fuel reimbursement scheme. A change of this type will encourage employment on board rather than fuel consumption, and will be more in line with the official targets for both the fisheries and the environmental policies.

The change will reduce the subsidies for several of the trawling fisheries and for some shipowner companies that are not operated in a sustainable manner. It will become unprofitable to use too much fuel on the harvesting of fish. This will also mean cuts in the distribution of subsidies to the fisheries enterprises that cause severe ecological harm to the sea bottom by their many trawling

#### For more



<http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=38031&userType=&fromPage=>

**High fuel costs prompt the European Commission to increase fisheries subsidies**

<http://www.icsf.net/icsf2006/ControllerServlet?handler=EXTERNALNEWS&code=getDetails&id=37818&userType=&fromPage=>

**EU fisheries ministers agree on aid package**

# Save the Coast, Save the Fishers

A campaign by the National Fishworkers' Forum of India focused on the problems with the proposed Coastal Management Zone Notification

**M**arine fishing communities in India, the traditional inhabitants of the approximately 8,000-km long coastline of the country, have fished for generations along the coast. For them, the coastal area is as much a lived space as an occupational space, encompassing both the land and the sea on which they live and work. The beach has been the space used for landing fish; selling, salting, smoking, curing and drying fish; and tying up boats and fishing implements and doing maintenance work on them, among other day-to-day activities, which makes the shore as much a working space as the sea.

According to the recently conducted Marine Fisheries Census, 2005, there are 3,202 marine fishing villages and 756,212 households—a total of 3.52 mn people—along mainland India's coastline of 6,002 km. (The total length of the country's coastline, including the islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep, is 8,118 km.). Nearly half of this population (over 1.6 mn people) are engaged in active fishing and fishery-related activities. The maximum number of marine fishing villages is in the State of Orissa (641), followed by Tamil Nadu (581), Andhra Pradesh (498), Maharashtra (406), West Bengal (346), Gujarat (263), Kerala (222), Karnataka (156), Goa (39), Puducherry (28) and Daman and Diu (7).

The inland and marine fisheries sector of India contributes enormously to employment, livelihoods, food security, and the rural and national economy, with comparatively little

support from the government. This contribution, unfortunately, remains highly undervalued. Given the present context of the global food crisis, the role of the fisheries sector in providing fish as food—essential and relatively inexpensive animal protein for millions of people in India, particularly the poor—must be recognized and supported. To cut off the hand that feeds, to make way for illusionary economic growth, would be nothing but foolhardy!

**For the fishing communities of India, the coastal area is as much a lived space as an occupational space, encompassing both the land and the sea on which they live and work.**

Yet, today fishing communities in India are under serious threat of being displaced from the coastal spaces they have occupied, to make way for tourism, ports, urban growth, industry, intensive aquaculture, airports, special economic zones (SEZs), and top-down conservation projects. These developments disrupt their access to the sea and water bodies, destroying their sources of livelihood. Traditional fishing communities are finding it difficult to survive, in a context where their rights to coastal lands and fishing grounds are not clearly recognized by the State.

## Critical phase

The lives and livelihoods of millions of these marine fisher people have been passing through a critical phase

*This article is by **Harekrishna Debnath** (nffcal@cal3.vsnl.net.in), Chairperson, National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), India*

in recent years. The steady increase in the price of fishing inputs, depletion of fish resources, growing tensions due to stiff competition over better fishing grounds, and declining incomes from fishing have combined to make fishing a failing occupation. The new era of globalization is further complicating the situation. With the entry of mightier forces into their traditional abodes, the fishing community has been engaged in continuous struggles to protect their traditional sources of livelihood.

In this context, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) constituted the M.S. Swaminathan Committee to 'review' the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification of 1991, which was intended to protect India's coastal zone from destructive activities. In spite of several inadequacies in the CRZ Notification, the traditional fishing communities regard it as one of the very few 'good things' that has happened to them. The Swaminathan Committee submitted its report to the MoEF in 2005. The report reflected the naked bias of the committee towards accommodating the desire of global capital to exploit the country's coastal land and natural resources in the name of 'development'. The committee blatantly recommended measures to dilute the prohibitory character of

the CRZ Notification by introducing a Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification. The fishing community of India, the largest stakeholder in the coastal zone, has, along with other coastal communities, voiced very strong protests against the report. Numerous environmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) have also expressed their reservations about the report. However, the MoEF has not heeded these protests and seems to have accepted it in toto.

In 2005 and 2006, the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) organized several mass protests against the Swaminathan Committee recommendations. Hundreds of mass petitions, fax messages and letters of protest were sent to the MoEF. In spite of such a large scale of protest, the MoEF came up with a draft CMZ Notification in May 2007, expressly based on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee, to replace the CRZ Notification of 1991. The draft Notification, which was leaked out, appeared to be the death warrant for India's fishing community and an open general licence for privatization and vandalism of the coastal zone in the name of investment and development. A fresh wave of protests began. All the concerned organizations came together under one umbrella, called the National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC), to challenge, in one voice, the MoEF's move. NFF spearheaded two massive national action programmes in 2007—on 9 August (Quit India Day) and 21 November (World Fisheries Day). The MoEF has refrained from notifying the CMZ draft for the time being.

### National campaign

Although the Indian fishing community, together with their NGO and CSO allies, has unequivocally opposed the draft CMZ Notification, certain sections of the media, social elites, intellectuals and politicians—even in the coastal States—have remained lukewarm or indifferent to the proposed legislation. This is a matter of concern. The NFF General Body met in Visakhapatnam in December 2007 and decided to organize a national campaign in 2008 to press

PRADIP CHATTERJEE/DISHA



Protesting fishermen and their supporters in Orissa, India, symbolically burning the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification

for the realization of the outstanding demands of the fishing community. By early March 2008, indications were trickling down that the MoEF, under pressure from the big business lobby and also allegedly from an international agency, was gearing up to issue the CMZ Notification officially. The NFF Executive Committee met in Kolkata on 28 March 2008 and decided to launch the 'Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan' (National Campaign for Fisher Peoples' Rights) from Jakhau, Kachchh, Gujarat, on 1 May (International Workers' Day), with the motto "Save the coast—save the fishers". The campaign was conducted along the coastline of all the maritime States of mainland India and culminated in Kolkata on 27 June 2008.

The campaign provided an opportunity to gain valuable experience and insight about the realities prevailing on the ground in the coastal fishing communities of India. The traditional fishing communities have been living a life of agony and fear. In the overwhelming majority of fishing villages, there are no roads, schools, primary healthcare facilities or drinking water.

Women have to fetch water from long distances, sometimes walking up to five km on foot. In the absence of transportation, they have to walk five to 10 km to sell their fish in the market. In many places, they live in shanties. They do not have legal rights or title deeds to the land on which they live.

Many tourism projects, commercial harbours, chemical plants, SEZs and various other industrial estates are coming up in the coastal zone. These projects not only occupy coastal lands but also pollute the coastal waters and jeopardize the marine ecology and fish resources on which the fishers depend to make a living.

Many fishing villages have had their residents evicted and many others are waiting for their turn to make way for these projects. There is an unbelievable race among the coastal State governments to attract more and more investment in the coastal zone. The CRZ Notification of 1991 is an impediment to these investment intentions, and hence the urgency

of sending it to oblivion. The CMZ Notification of the MoEF is a move in that direction.

The most important dimension about these two Notifications is the intention that lies behind them. Neither the CRZ nor the CMZ Notification is a complete piece of legislation. As Notifications, they comprise subordinate law made under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986. Though there are inadequacies in the CRZ Notification, there has never been any doubt about its intent—to protect the coastal zone from destructive activities by prohibition of a varied number of activities. The CRZ Notification recognized the traditional and customary rights of the fishing community. It hampered the interests of the moneyed and powerful

**The impending threat of displacement is looming large over the populations in the coastal zone. A state of uncertainty and anguish prevails almost everywhere.**

elites, especially those in the tourism, industrial and real-estate sectors. These are the forces that have engineered the annulment of the CRZ Notification by changing the regime from one of regulation to one of management. The very intent of the CMZ Notification is distinctly different and clearly against the purpose of the principal EPA. It deserves nothing less than complete rejection. Hence the NFF demands the withdrawal of the CMZ Notification and implementation of the CRZ Notification of 1991 in its original form until complete legislation is enacted for the coastal zone, by which the fishing community will be recognized as the rightful custodians of the coastal zone.

#### **State of uncertainty**

The impending threat of displacement is looming large over the populations in the coastal zone. A state of uncertainty and anguish prevails almost everywhere. The fisher people have found the NFF campaign to be an opportunity to voice their grievances at the national level and press for





Children from the fishing community flocking around the National Fishworkers' Forum campaign vehicle in the State of Orissa, India

their rights. Fisher people rallied around the campaign unitedly, cutting across sectoral, regional, political, religious and gender barriers. During the two-month long campaign, the fisher people demonstrated a total rejection of the CMZ Notification, and expressed unequivocal support for the NFF demands through public meetings, rallies, seminars, village meetings, group discussions, street plays, and so on. There was hardly any opposition to the campaign from anywhere.

Now the biggest challenge before the NFF is to live up to the expectations of the fisher people and strive to achieve their demands through sustained struggles. Another important challenge is to sustain, with a long-term perspective, the fighting spirit and enthusiasm created by the campaign among the fishing community.

**The campaign has succeeded in making the draft CMZ Notification an issue in the coastal States. It sent out a loud and clear message that the fishing community of India does not want the CMZ Notification.**

The younger generation in the fishing community is as concerned about these issues as the rest of the community. There is a growing consciousness about the community's

rights over the resources on which they depend for their livelihoods. Having witnessed the plight of traditional peoples caused by the intrusion of big businesses in the coastal zone, they want a strict regulation regime in the coastal zone. In many places along the coast, youth and students from outside the fishing community too participated in the national campaign and collaborated with NFF.

The campaign has succeeded in making the draft CMZ Notification an issue in the coastal States. It sent out a loud and clear message that the fishing community of India does not want the CMZ Notification. At least four State governments, namely, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Maharashtra, have now raised the matter with the Central government, asking for further discussions on the draft Notification. Politicians in coastal States are taking more interest in the CMZ issue. The campaign has also been fairly successful in building up awareness among civil society actors about the issues involved. The campaigners have built fairly satisfactory linkages with all potential allies and have managed to get the environmental groups to also back their stand on the withdrawal of the CMZ Notification.

The social history of coastal India is replete with incidents of traditional fishers' struggles against coastal encroachment, pollution and destructive fishing gear and methods. We know harvesting nature's bounty can only be sustained if the resource base is conserved. Hence, the traditional fishers' struggles for the right to fish have always been intertwined with attempts to conserve resources. That is why Indian fishers, under the aegis of NFF, conducted the historic 'Kanyakumari March' in 1989, with the famous slogan "Protect waters—protect life".

### **Kanyakumari March**

In a way, the Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan 2008 was an extension of the Kanyakumari March of 1989. Whatever was achieved by the Kanyakumari March is facing catastrophic reversal today. Our coasts, our waters and our livelihoods are

seriously threatened. That is why NFF reinvented the spirit of the Kanyakumari March and extended it to the present-day context. We started the Abhiyan with the slogan “Save the coast—save the fishers” on the same date (1 May) on which the Kanyakumari March ended exactly 19 years ago.

This time, however, only one core group campaigned along the whole mainland coastline, from Jakhau to Kolkata via Kanyakumari, for 58 days, without any rest or break. For the 1989 Kanyakumari March, two core groups campaigned simultaneously along the east and west coasts of India for 28 days, and converged at Kanyakumari. Together, they covered about three-fourths of the coastline. This time around, the core campaign team traversed more than 12,000 km and addressed 194 meetings at important fishing centres and fishing villages. It held 22 press meets and four State-level seminars, apart from many roadside receptions and briefings. Showing great resilience, the affiliate unions organized and conducted the campaign meets in their area; in 1989 most of the State-level unions were still in the formative stage.

As a trade union, NFF represents the aspirations of the fishing community of India and works to secure their traditional livelihoods. NFF has led many struggles in the past, with laudable success. Unfortunately, in recent times, many of our hard-earned achievements are being systematically sent to oblivion.

As a consequence of globalization, the proponents of ‘growth and development’ have started privatizing our rivers, coasts and seas, squeezing out the fishers from their traditional sources of livelihood. A sense of frustration has started creeping into the community and its organizations.

It was at such a crucial juncture, when the pressures of privatization, commercialization and globalization are undermining the livelihoods of traditional communities and destroying their natural resources, that the NFF campaign “Save the coast—save the fishers” focused on traditional livelihoods and rights of fishing communities, and brought

their grievances to the forefront. The campaign has rejuvenated the organization and galvanized the fishers along the entire coastline of India, from Kachchh to Kolkata. It has reinforced the trust of the community in NFF. **3**

**The campaign has rejuvenated the organization and galvanized the fishers along the entire coastline of India, from Kachchh to Kolkata. It has reinforced the trust of the community in the National Fishworkers’ Forum.**

#### For more

[www.coastalcampaign.page.tl](http://www.coastalcampaign.page.tl)

**Macchimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan (National Campaign for Fisher Peoples’ Rights)**

[keralafishworkers.org](http://keralafishworkers.org)

**Kerala Independent Fish Workers’ Federation**

[www.trinet.in](http://www.trinet.in)

**TRInet (The Resource and Information Network: for the coast)**

# Common Concerns, Lasting Bonds

A recent workshop in Chile witnessed great debate on consolidating and securing rights for small-scale fishers in Latin America

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The Latin American workshop on artisanal fisheries, “Consolidating and Securing Artisanal Fishing Access and Use Rights”, held from 4 to 8 August in Punta de Tralca, Chile, was long in the planning. Building on discussions initiated in 2005 at the Santa Clara Workshop in Argentina, the organizers of the event had been discussing and making detailed plans for the Chile workshop since April 2008. Four days of intensive discussions at the workshop provided the basis for a rich interchange of views and experiences, and some animated exchanges. Agreement was reached on many issues of common concern among the 80-odd delegates from the 12 countries representing the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In the end, the participants concluded the workshop by delegating the work of drafting a common position to a virtual editorial panel. This ‘wise panel’ will draft a joint declaration on small-scale fisheries in Latin America, with concrete proposals to be presented at the forthcoming World Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, to be organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 17 October 2008.

The Chile workshop was the third in a series of workshops organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and its partners, designed to focus discussions, and reach some common understanding, on the rights and responsibilities of

## Observations 1

An important lesson from the Chile Workshop arises from the evident heterogeneity within the artisanal fishery of Latin America. Various political and commercial agenda are being developed in parallel towards controlling the organizations that represent fishermen. These agenda appear opportunistic and short-term in nature but with far-reaching implications for artisanal fishermen, coastal communities, indigenous peoples and democratic organizations.

They seek to create a situation of dependency on, and linkage with, neoliberal policies and strategies at the government level (privatization of

rights, divisions within organizations, encouraging competition amongst artisanal fishers and with other sectors and social actors); with the fishing industry (control of access to fishery resources, low costs and seasonal labour); with the real-estate industry (to control access to coastal areas); large retailers (sourcing/supplying low-cost ecolabelled fish); and international NGOs (linked to the interests of large retailers).

Given these tendencies, consolidating, securing and protecting artisanal fishing access and use rights by coastal and inland fishing communities should be seen as the vital priority.

*This report is a personal account compiled by **Brian O’Riordan** ([briano@scarlet.be](mailto:briano@scarlet.be)), Secretary, ICSF Belgium Office, from various sources, with special thanks to Patricio Igor of Centro Ecoceanos, and to CONAPACH ([www.conapach.cl](http://www.conapach.cl)) and Ecoceanos ([www.ecoceanos.cl](http://www.ecoceanos.cl))*

coastal and artisanal fishing communities whose livelihoods depend on access to, and use of, resources in marine and inland fisheries. It followed on from earlier workshops that focused on Asia (Siem Reap, Cambodia, May 2007) and eastern and southern Africa (Dar es Salam, Tanzania, March 2006 and Zanzibar, Tanzania, June 2008).

The workshop was launched by the principal host, Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH, the National Confederation of Chilean Artisanal Fishermen), with a presentation in Chile's National Parliament, the Congreso Nacional in Valparaiso. CONAPACH President, Zoila Bustamante, highlighted many of the issues of common concern due to be addressed by the workshop. The fact that globally fish resources are in sustained decline is putting the future of Chile's coastal communities at risk, she observed. At the same time, she criticized the way that a regional fisheries management organization for the South Pacific was being set up, considering only the interests of the industry and excluding participation by artisanal fishers. She accused fisheries reform in Chile of being turned into a "laboratory" for fisheries and aquaculture policies, and called for the individual transferable quota (ITQ) system to be evaluated as a matter of priority. The implications of the ITQ system for resource conservation and sustainability need to be addressed, and the social and economic impacts of the system on artisanal fisheries and coastal communities must be evaluated, she insisted.

"ITQs will have far-reaching repercussions on the policies for access to, and use of, fishery resources in Latin American coastal countries," she said. Furthermore, she accused the Chilean State of facilitating the accelerated and massive expansion of industrial aquaculture, causing sanitary, environmental and social impacts on coastal communities in the south of Chile. This has radically changed the way shellfish divers and beach gatherers organize their activities, due to the pollution of natural (shellfish) beds, leading to serious social impacts. CONAPACH has demanded that the Chilean State suspend temporarily all further salmon conces-



The participants of the Chile Workshop, Consolidating and Securing Artisanal Fishing Access and Use Rights, held from 4 to 8 August in Punta de Tralca

sions, so that a re-evaluation can be made of the use of coastal spaces destined for salmon aquaculture, to ensure that the industry respects the working conditions of the labour force, and that the marine environment, public health and the rights of coastal communities are protected.

Zoila Bustamante warned: "Today, in Latin America and the Caribbean, States are in a race against time, and urgent decisions must be taken, in a participative and well-informed manner, that assure the political governance, protection and sustainable management of coastal resources and ecosystems, as well as national food security, decent work, and the strengthening of the social and economic

**The Chile workshop was the third in a series of workshops organized by the ICSF and its partners, designed to focus discussions, and reach some common understanding, on the rights and responsibilities of coastal and artisanal fishing communities...**

dimensions of coastal communities. As a basic principle, States should establish access, use and allocation systems for marine resources in both coastal and oceanic areas, with preference afforded to artisanal fisheries, coastal communities and indigenous peoples."



In response, the Fisheries Subsecretary, José Chocair, second in the chain of command in the Chilean fisheries administration, after the Minister of the Economy, referred to the 1970s' law of Salvador Allende that established a Marine Ministry. He gave assurances that under President Verónica Michelle Bachelet Jeria, the current government is committed to addressing issues of

ment and Sustainable Fishery). Some historical context was provided on the process subsequent to the March 2005 Santa Clara Workshop, which had seen the establishment of an electronic discussion forum on artisanal fishing in Latin America.

The introductions were followed by formal presentations by fishworker and coastal community organizations. These highlighted the key problems facing artisanal fishermen and coastal communities in the region, and the ways in which the various organizations are addressing them.

After lunch, FAO Consultant Andres Mena Miller gave a presentation on the planned FAO World Conference on Small-scale Fisheries (4SSF). Interviewed subsequently by Patricio Igor de Centro Ecoceanos, Miller highlighted that “problems of access and use rights, and social problems of artisanal fishing are a global concern, even for developed countries”, and that “even in developed countries, artisanal fishing is underdeveloped.”

On Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, participants discussed fisheries management and globalization. Issues presented included the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) framework and fisher-

**The introductions were followed by formal presentations by fishworker and coastal community organizations. These highlighted the key problems facing artisanal fishermen and coastal communities in the region.**

social security for artisanal fishers. Discussions towards creating a Marine Ministry would include the rights of access to, and use of, marine resources, coastal marine zones, food sovereignty of coastal communities, and local and regional economies, he assured.

The workshop itself started on Tuesday, 5 August, with introductions from representatives of the four partner organizations staging the event—ICSF, CONAPACH, Centro Ecoceanos, and Centro Desarrollo y Pesca Sustentable (CeDePesca, Centre for Develop-

## Neoliberal Policies and Artisanal Fishing in Latin America: Some Voices

**T**he Chile Workshop shows us that fishermen in Latin America share many common problems. To a greater or lesser extent, all are affected by the application of the neoliberal capitalist model in the artisanal fishing sector. It is a disgrace that our country, Chile, heads the league table ranking on environmental degradation, the erosion of community rights, and the ever-greater concentration of property into fewer hands. All this started after the government of Ricardo Lagos initiated the regulation on catch quotas that we are now exporting throughout Latin America.

– *Cosme Caracciolo, General Secretary, CONAPACH*

This meeting is taking place at a key moment as regards the future of artisanal fishing rights, and those of coastal communities and democratic organizations. These are threatened by the imposition of neoliberal policies based on the implementation of the exclusive system of ITQs. In the case of Chile, ITQs have resulted in the progressive exclusion of artisanal fishermen from access to the main fisheries and to coastal areas, weakening their organizations, undermining food security and marine biodiversity, increasing concentration of wealth and the transnationalization of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

– *Juan Carlos Cardenas, Director, Centro Ecoceanos*

## “Rachel Doesn’t Exist”: Field Trip Notes

On Wednesday morning, participants visited the renowned artisanal fishing port and fish-landing centre in San Antonio, where they were able to observe a range of fisheries-related activities. Among those present were people unloading catches, beach-side vendors, women gatherers, and fishermen recently returned from fishing. Fishing in San Antonio has been particularly hard hit by the demise of the hake fishery, and by the upsurge in squid, a species that now dominates the catches. San Antonio has been in the forefront of advocating a ban on trawling, with local fishermen blaming the trawl gear for the demise of hake. The town has a bleak air about it, with the prevalence of black flags, paltry landings, and a partially deserted, brand new artisanal port installation. Women from Brazil were particularly impressed by the work of the men and women who prepare the longlines for fishing. Rachel, a woman *encarnadora* (hook baiter), was amazed to see the official professional

fisherwomen’s registration cards from Brazil. The workshop participants asked Rachel if women in Chile were recognized in the artisanal fishery. Rachel told them that as far as the fishing unions, the State and the services providing social security were concerned, she did not exist. Rachel then showed her hands to the visitors and invited them to look at her fingers, and to note that she had no fingerprints. These had vanished under the scars and wounds inflicted by the hooks. The *encarnadora’s* work involves cleaning hooks, and then arranging them and making them ready for baiting one by one, on a line that contains around 1,000 hooks. For this, they get paid roughly US\$4 or 5. “Rachel doesn’t exist” is a phrase that highlights but one of the many struggles facing the small-scale fishing sector as it strives to survive with autonomy, retaining its own culture, and displaying a long-standing commitment to defending its rights.

ies management regimes for international waters, which are of particular significance in the Latin American and Caribbean region, given the low level of ratification of relevant international treaties. Likewise, the region is highly affected by globalization, and the policies of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with a significant number of bilateral and regional free trade agreements signed with the world’s major economic powers.

On the third day of the workshop, some fishworker representatives asserted that insufficient opportunity had been given for them to voice their concerns and exchange views. CONAPACH President Zoila Bustamante addressed the issue and proposed that the afternoon be given over to a roundtable discussion among fishworker representatives, with the other participants observing, facilitating and recording the proceedings. This resulted in a rich and spirited exchange that lasted for about three hours.

Many issues of concern were voiced, which fed into the discussion groups that were subsequently formed. Among

the topics discussed were the following: the fishmeal reduction industry; the relationship between fishworker organizations and other social actors; the impact of intensive shrimp and salmon aquaculture; conflicts with, and displacement of fishers by, other sectors, like aquaculture, tourism, industry, sport fishing, and real estate; privatization of coastal areas; creation of marine protected areas that prohibit fishing; encroachment into exclusive artisanal fishing zones; and illegal activities,

**In Chile, operators who qualify as ‘artisanal fishing vessel owners’ use powerful vessels and industrial fishing techniques to catch small pelagic resources that are sold to the reduction sector.**

including piracy, drug smuggling and illegal fishing.

Particular points of contention arose over fishmeal. In Chile, operators who qualify as ‘artisanal fishing vessel owners’ use powerful vessels and industrial fishing techniques to catch

small pelagic resources that are sold to the reduction sector. Vessels up to 50 gross registered tonnage (GRT) and 18 m in length qualify as 'artisanal'. Such vessels operate in significant numbers in Chile's northern and central southern regions. There was also heated debate among the workshop participants on the role of other social actors in the artisanal fishery, notably non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and indigenous peoples, and linked to this was the issue of establishing a pan-Latin America artisanal fishermen's organization, which could exclude other social actors.

While it may have been disappointing that conclusions were ultimately deferred, the Chile workshop did offer grounds for optimism. The virtual committee or 'wise panel' formed at the end of the workshop has a wealth of texts to draw on. With time, tensions will hopefully be forgotten, and the high spots reached during the four days of discussion, and the friendships and bonds formed will be remembered. 🐟

**For more**

[http://icsf.net/icsf2006/jspFiles/cedepesca/background/english/background\\_2008.jsp](http://icsf.net/icsf2006/jspFiles/cedepesca/background/english/background_2008.jsp)

**ICSF workshop: Consolidating and Securing Artisanal Fishing Access and Use Rights, held from 4 to 8 August 2008 in Punta de Tralca, Chile**

<http://www.ecoceanos.cl>

**Ecoceanos**

<http://www.cedepesca.org.ar/>

**Centro Desarrollo y Pesca Sustentable**

<http://www.conapach.cl/>

**Confederacion Nacional De Pescadores Artesanales De Chile**

# Ring of Fire

**If it is not substantially changed, Indonesia's Law No. 27 of 2007 will only lead to the commercialization of coastal fishing rights in the archipelago**

Over the last few months, a controversy has been raging in Indonesia about Law No.27 of 2007, which deals with the management of coastal and small islands. As the national debate continues, the government's position seems to provide legal surety for business people in fisheries, hoping, in return, that the State will get income from the resultant activities in the small islands and coastal areas. Civil society organizations are hoping that the bad past experiences in management policies from the mining and dredging and forestry sectors will not be repeated in the management of the small islands and coastal areas of Indonesia. The promulgation of Law No. 27 was preceded by the Law of Investment, which offered, as it were, a bargain price for a coastal package offered to investors, including those from abroad. Indeed, considering the provisions in Law No. 27 that would permit the commercialization of coastal zones (classified as HP-3), the public concerns for a thorough review of the law do not seem exaggerated.

Article 16 of Law No. 27 affords the right to commercialize coastal zones for a 20-year period, which, under Article 19, can be renegotiated for an extension. This is the first time in Indonesia that the State has laid a legal foundation for the development of fisheries in coastal and small islands.

There are three fundamental areas of concern with the legislation. The first deals with the critical issue of threats from natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis. It is well known that the Indonesian archipelago lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an area of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the basin of the

Pacific Ocean. The archipelago is also subject to shifts of the earth's tectonic plates, making Indonesia naturally vulnerable to disasters like tsunamis (as happened in Aceh and Jogjakarta) and floods and tidal waves in nearly all the coastal areas and small islands.

Any law should thus take into consideration, on a priority basis, the principle of special treatment and protection for small islands and coastal areas, keeping in mind the rights of citizens to safety of life and property, while containing losses after natural disasters. The HP-3 provision is counter-productive from the point of view of ensuring the safety of citizens and providing civilians a degree of protection.

**Civil society organizations are hoping that the bad past experiences in management policies from the mining and dredging and forestry sectors will not be repeated in the management of the small islands and coastal areas of Indonesia.**

Handing over vulnerable coastal areas to business interests will only restrict the ability of the government to fulfill its roles and responsibilities in guaranteeing civil safety. There is no guarantee that the HP-3 licence holders will fulfill their social, economic, cultural and environmental responsibilities, going by the country's experience in other extractive sectors, such as mining and forestry.

## **Certification process**

The second area of concern relates to the HP-3 certification process itself. The predominant poverty and relatively

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KPNPI (NATIONAL PREPARATION COMMITTEE OF INDOONESIAN FISHERFOLK'S ORGANIZATION)



A protest meeting in front of the Marine and Fisheries Department, Jakarta, Indonesia that drew attention to the limitations of Law No. 27 of 2007, which deals with the management of coastal and small islands

low levels of education automatically render HP-3 certificates irrelevant for fisherfolk and traditional cultivators. Only well-off business authorities can handle the bureaucratic culture of the State, and fulfill the technical, operational and administrative requirements needed for HP-3 certification.

Thirdly, conflicts in fisheries are related to property rights in terms of the legal and historical aspects of access and control of resources, and whether they feature open-access, centralized management, rights-based area management, community-based management, individual quotas and/or privatization. HP-3 certification will only exacerbate conflicts related to property rights.

Given these facts and the social and geographical realities of the Indonesian archipelago, it is imperative that the government reviews legislation related to coastal areas and small islands. If, in spirit, the law is meant to protect and secure the sustainable livelihoods of fisherfolk and coastal communities, it should not throw open the coastal waters of the country to the private sector. Without these changes, Law No. 27 of 2007 will be the starting point for the massive destruction of the coastal areas and small islands in Indonesia. ❧

#### For more



[www.eng.walhi.or.id](http://www.eng.walhi.or.id)

**WALHI (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia)**  
(Indonesian Forum for Environment/  
Friends of the Earth Indonesia)

[www.dkp.go.id](http://www.dkp.go.id)

**Indonesia's Ministry of Marine  
Affairs and Fisheries**

# Breaking Away from Tradition

**The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) saw calls for a balance between the objectives of biological conservation and social justice**

**T**he Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008. Participating at this meeting were more than 4,000 delegates, representing State Parties and other governments, United Nations (UN) agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous and local community representatives, academia and industry.

Several of the agenda items were of interest from a small-scale fisheries perspective, including those on Protected Areas (Agenda Item 4.7), Coastal and Marine Biodiversity (Agenda Item 4.9), Biodiversity of Inland Waters (Agenda Item 4.8), and the Ecosystem Approach (Agenda Item 3.6).

Under the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity item, Parties agreed to adopt criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs), including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats, as recommended by the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection.

This decision is being hailed as providing a sound scientific basis for MPA identification, while clearly acknowledging the division of responsibilities between the CBD and the UN General Assembly, which has

been addressing MPAs and related issues of marine biodiversity under its Working Group on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Prior to COP9, indigenous peoples and groups working on small-scale fisheries issues expressed reservations about the fact that they had not been represented in the Expert Workshop that had proposed the criteria. They pointed out that CBD documents described open oceans as a “legal term

**Small-scale and indigenous communities have a wealth of cultural practices and traditional knowledge which should have been incorporated into any scientific criteria finalized.**

commonly understood by scientists to refer to the water column beyond the continental shelf” and that “open oceans may occur in areas within national jurisdiction in States with a narrow continental shelf”. Given that in many parts of the world, open waters, or areas beyond the continental shelf, are fished by small-scale and indigenous fishing communities, this representation was important, they pointed out. Small-scale and indigenous communities have a wealth of cultural practices and traditional knowledge, which should have been incorporated into any scientific criteria finalized, they stressed.

*This report is by **Chandrika Sharma** (icsf@icsf.net), Executive Secretary, ICSF*

Thus the civil society statement to the opening plenary of COP9 noted: The process of preparing the criteria for the protection of marine areas in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats regrettably failed to include the knowledge and participation of indigenous and other artisanal fishers. While Parties must adopt the criteria tabled, they must urgently work to complement them through the full and effective participation of these communities.

### The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) highlighted their negative experiences with MPAs.

In their Statement on this agenda item, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) highlighted their negative experiences with MPAs, and re-affirmed their opposition to the establishment of more marine and coastal protected areas unless they can fully participate in these projects, and unless their rights to territories, coasts and seas are fully recognized and respected.

They also noted that “criteria for establishing protected areas beyond national jurisdiction are solely biogeographic and based on scientific criteria and ignore indigenous traditional knowledge systems to manage our marine biodiversity. They requested that both these criteria and the ecosystem approach itself must be enriched to include social, cultural and spiritual criteria. They also pointed out that the terms ‘open ocean’ and ‘deep sea’ are unclear and could mislead or confuse the negotiations.

The World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), in their intervention on this Agenda Item, also highlighted the negative impact of MPAs that, in many countries of the developing world, are displacing, excluding and alienating fishing communities, and violating their basic rights to life and livelihood. They urged delegates to adhere to principles of prior, informed consent, and prioritize the implementation of Programme Element 2 of the Protected Area Programme of Work (PA PoW) on Governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing. WFFP and ICSF also stressed the importance of the scientific, technical and technological knowledge of local and indigenous communities, and of ensuring the integration of social and cultural criteria, for the identification of marine areas in need of protection.

It is worth noting that a new paragraph was included in Decision IX/20 on this Agenda Item, as proposed by the government delegate from Honduras. According to this, the COP “calls on Parties to integrate the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, consistent with Article 8(j) of the Convention, and to ensure the integration of social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the identification of marine areas in need of protection as well as the establishment and management of MPAs”.

Under the hotly debated Agenda Item on Protected Areas, delegates addressed the recommendations of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas, held in Rome from 11 to 15 February 2008. The Decision IX/18 adopted contains two sections on: review of implementation of the PA PoW; and options for mobilizing, as a matter of urgency, through different mechanisms, adequate and timely financial resources for the implementation of the PoW.

#### Indigenous peoples

Among indigenous peoples and several civil society organizations, such as those representing and supporting fishing communities, the issue of protected areas was one that generated considerable anxiety. The IIFB Statement to the COP9 opening plenary noted: “Indigenous Peoples are

OMKAR GOPALAKRISHNAN



Naseegh Jaffer of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (in front), and Riza Damanik of KIARA, Indonesia, at the ICSF-WFFP Side Event

very concerned about the continued expansion of protected areas. What we want is the recognition of indigenous biocultural territories and community conserved areas and their importance for the maintenance of cultural and biological diversity. We do not want the establishment of any new national protected areas in indigenous lands and territories until our rights to our lands, territories and resources are fully recognized and respected.”

The joint civil society Statement, while expressing concern over the continued loss of biodiversity, pointed out that some of the most effective means to halt biodiversity loss are contained in the PA PoW, especially in Element 2. However, unfortunately, reporting and implementation, especially of Programme Element 2, remain weak. Concern was also expressed about the rush to meet targets, and in the process, short-circuiting participatory processes, alienating communities, and violating human rights. The Statement also stressed the need to recognize the diversity in protected area governance, and the need to recognize and support indigenous and community conserved areas.

Another concern expressed by civil society groups related to the “innovative financing mechanisms”, such as carbon trade and biodiversity offsets, being considered by the COP to finance protected areas. Groups pointed out that such mechanisms could provide a

convenient escape route for those responsible for biodiversity loss, and lead to alienation of lands away from indigenous and local communities. They stressed the need for governments to commit public funds, including by linking protected area work with poverty eradication schemes.

The decisions under this agenda item took into account some of these concerns. Notably, the COP invited Parties to: give special attention to the implementation of Programme Element 2 of the PA PoW; improve and diversify and strengthen PA governance types, in accordance with appropriate national legislation, including recognizing and taking into account, where appropriate, indigenous, local and other community-based organizations; and recognize the contribution of co-managed protected areas, private protected areas and indigenous and local community conserved areas within the national protected area system.

The COP also asked Parties to ensure that conservation and development activities in the context of protected areas contribute to the



Jorge Varela from Honduras, representing CODDEFFAGOLF/WFFP, at the ICSF-WFFP Side Event

## Side Event

### MPAs: Protecting or Ignoring Livelihoods?

ICSF and WFFP organized a Side Event at COP9, on Wednesday, 21 May 2008. Chaired by Naseegh Jaffer of WFFP, this well-attended event had four presentations: (1) “Experiences from the Biological Reserve of Cayos Cochinos” by Jorge Varela from Honduras; (2) “Experiences from Marine National Parks of Wakatobi, Bunaken, Togian, Komodo and Taka Bonerate” by Riza Damanik from Indonesia; (3) Indigenous Knowledge and Marine Biodiversity” by Jorge Luis Andrerre Diaz from Panama;

and (4) “Case Studies of MPAs and Fishing Communities from Brazil, India, Mexico, South Africa, Tanzania and Thailand” by Chandrika Sharma of ICSF. Several of the presentations highlighted the negative social impacts of MPA implementation, while pointing out that community-led processes, which integrated traditional and indigenous knowledge and values, and recognized the rights of communities to lead management, were most effective. The discussions that followed the Side Event also touched upon these issues.



## The Life Web Initiative

A major initiative on protected areas—the Life Web Initiative—was launched at COP9 by the German government. The Life Web Initiative aims at supporting the implementation of the CBD PA PoW through enhancing partnerships at a global level. In a letter dated 5 April 2008, several signatories, including the Forest Peoples Programme, IIFB, ICSF and the IUCN Theme on Indigenous/Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA), expressed several concerns about the rapid expansion of protected areas without paying full attention to issues of rights, participation, governance, equity and benefit-sharing.

Pointing out that protected areas should be considered as one of the many tools available for the protection of biodiversity, rather than the most important tool, and that more emphasis should be placed on the sustainable use of biodiversity across the planet, not just limited to protected areas, it provided several suggestions to ensure the success of the Life Web initiative, including:

(1) Indigenous and local communities' representatives and representatives of civil society organizations that are familiar with the CBD PA PoW and with situations at the local and national levels, should be involved in the planning and decision-making process of Life Web.

(2) The Life Web Initiative should have, at its core, issues of governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing (Programme Element 2), in addition to the necessary issues of ecological representation, management effectiveness, and so on, so that it will concretely contribute to the effective implementation of the PoW.

(3) The Life Web Initiative should be developed and implemented to achieve all the three objectives of the Convention (conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits) in protected areas, and in accordance with the ecosystem approach.

(4) The Life Web Initiative must look beyond government-designated and controlled protected areas, to all other governance types as mentioned in the PA PoW, and, in particular, community conserved areas (CCAs), encompassing indigenous protected areas, biocultural heritage sites, and so on, where indigenous peoples and local communities are conserving and managing ecosystems and wildlife populations.

(5) Funds from the Life Web Initiative must be available not only to governments, but also directly to civil society organizations, including those of indigenous peoples and local communities.

eradication of poverty and sustainable development, and that benefits from the establishment and management of protected areas are fairly and equitably shared in accordance with national legislations and circumstances, and with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities.

The decisions on financing protected areas recognized that innovative mechanisms, including market-based approaches, can complement, but not replace, public funding and development assistance.

### Traditional knowledge

The need to support capacity building for indigenous and local communities to participate in the establishment and management of protected areas, and to support the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the management of protected areas, was also recognized.

Another positive development was that Parties at COP9, led by African countries, Ghana in particular, agreed to a *de facto* moratorium on ocean fertilization—dumping chemicals,



Podium at the closing session of COP9 of CBD, May 2008, in Bonn, Germany

such as iron and nitrogen into the open ocean, to artificially encourage growth of microscopic ocean plants called phytoplankton, as a way of enhancing the amount of carbon the oceans can absorb.

In the tradition of CBD meetings, COP9 too was lively and very well attended, indicating perhaps the growing importance being attached by governments and civil society to issues of biodiversity and biodiversity conservation. It is only to be hoped, though, that there is a breaking away from the tradition of weak or non-existent implementation of the decisions adopted. For, if indeed decisions are implemented by national governments, and if indeed the balance between the objectives of conservation and social justice is achieved, we will all be the beneficiaries. 3

#### For more



[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

[www.cbdalliance.org](http://www.cbdalliance.org)

**CBD Alliance**

[www.undercovercop.org/media/english\\_presspack.pdf](http://www.undercovercop.org/media/english_presspack.pdf)

**CBD Alliance Media Advisory**

[iifbmedia.blogspot.com/2008/05/iifb-opening-statement-in-cop9.html](http://iifbmedia.blogspot.com/2008/05/iifb-opening-statement-in-cop9.html)

**International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) Statement**

[www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/hls-cop-09/other/hls-cop-09-lifeweb-de-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/hls-cop-09/other/hls-cop-09-lifeweb-de-en.pdf)

**Life Web Initiative**

SAFETY AT SEA

## Racing to the bottom with fishing crew safety

The Irish branch of the International Transport Federation (ITF) has warned of a “race to the bottom” which is jeopardizing the safety of fishing crews in Irish and European waters, reports *The Irish Times*.

Federation inspector and Siptu official Ken Fleming said serious loss of life could have occurred on two British-registered Spanish vessels working in Irish waters, due to poor conditions on board which contributed to marine emergencies. He was commenting on the publication of British investigations into rescue of 34 crew in total from two British-registered Spanish vessels which got into difficulty off the southwest and northwest Irish coasts earlier this year. In the case of one of the two vessels, none of the 18 crew had a common language and the Portuguese skipper and mate could not understand safety notices published in English and Spanish.

The British Marine Accident Investigation

Bureau (MAIB) said it was so concerned about the common issues raised by both inquiries that it decided to issue a joint report, which includes recommendations for British authorities and Spanish owners. As both vessels were of British registry,

averted serious loss of life on these vessels,” Mr Fleming said.

In the first incident, the British-registered Spanish-owned vessel was fishing 120km northwest of Malin Head, Co Donegal, on January 19th, 2008, when a fire broke out, causing extensive damage.



the official inquiries were its responsibility. The MAIB has already recommended that an urgent programme of inspection of foreign-controlled British-registered fishing vessels be conducted in relation to survey. “It was pure luck, plus the prompt response of the Naval Service and a nearby French trawler, that

The Naval Service flagship LE Eithne managed to extinguish the blaze and rescue the skipper and 15 crew. The vessel was also towed to Killybegs for inspection. It is understood that the Naval Service personnel have been nominated for a State marine award later this year for their actions. The British inquiry found that the

fire was probably caused by the improper use of electrical equipment and chafed wiring.

VENEZUELA

### Venezuela bids goodbye to trawling

Trawl-fishing is on its way out in Venezuela, amid demonstrations by artisanal fisherfolk who support the new law as amended by President Hugo Chávez, reports Inter Press Service (IPS).

“Trawling is killing off fish species. In our case, we fish with hooks, catch a ‘pargo’ (sea bream), try again, catch a ‘mero’ (grouper), and clean them as we go. We used to fill the boats in a single night, but for years now that hasn’t happened, and sometimes we come back empty-handed,” said Manuel González, a veteran member of the Fishers’ Association of Río Caribe, a town on the Caribbean coast 550 km northeast of Caracas.

Fisherfolk have been marching in the capital, some of them driving trucks carrying their boats, to show their support for the Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture, amended by Chávez in March by a decree-law banning trawl-fishing.

The previous law only prohibited trawling less than six miles (10 km) from the mainland or less than 10 miles (16 km) from island shores. But the amended law bans trawl-fishing in all Venezuelan waters, where González said “Italian and Spanish ships used to trawl, not only Venezuelan fishing vessels.”

Franklin Hernández of the Socialist Fishers’ Front in the state of Sucre, where Río Caribe is located, said that “we artisanal fisherfolk are the ones who really supply the country. There will be no shortage of fish, and we support the new law 100 per cent.”

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

## Sustainable Development Foundation Thailand

The Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) was established to promote and expand sustainable development ideas and approaches. Its mission is to support and strengthen non-governmental organizations, peoples’ organizations and local groups by promoting sustainable development, learning through doing, developing holistic visions, improving understanding of development, and strengthening the co-operation between various groups in society. Sustainable development tries to bring benefits to the most disadvantaged in society, especially to those who lack opportunities, with the goal of strengthening the self-reliance of the community.

SDF works with the Asian Forest Network (AFN) in participatory forest management, with

a specific focus on capacity building. SDF also partners with the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), focusing on women and natural resource management. SDF is also supported by the Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN) to work on women’s labour in fishery and agriculture.



The foundation brings out a quarterly publication, the SPARK newsletter, produced in Thai, Bahasa and English. The newsletter is aimed at practitioners of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The newsletter is intended to serve as a networking tool to encourage the sharing of knowledge, experiences, ideas, and co-operation among different groups implementing CBNRM activities. For more information, visit [http://www.sdfthai.org/web\\_pages\\_index/index.html](http://www.sdfthai.org/web_pages_index/index.html)

EXCERPTS

# Who is a fisher?

Some are born fishers, some become fishers. The sons of fishermen as a rule become the fathers of fishermen to be. Among us we have a whole caste of them. Once of the fisher caste always of the fisher caste, no matter whether you fish for fish or you fish for bigger fry. There are certain characteristics of the caste perpetuated from generation to generation. For an island race fishing as a pursuit is inevitable, but it would be interesting to know how far back fishers became a caste. The question becomes all the more interesting because, unlike the fisherman in India, the fisherman in Ceylon is also a farmer-man.



your voice across the defile of a forest is an act of conformity with Nature. To drown the day long moan of the sea and to slice through the roar of the wind you must condemn the elements. That is why our fisher-caste people are so loud voiced. It has now become a national custom to subdue an angry person by asking him not to shout like a fisherman.

Their loud-voiced speech, the coiffure of the women arranged high up on the nape of their necks, the profiles of both men and women betraying more virility than classicism; these are the distinguishing marks of our fisher caste. Though not so rooted to the soil as the farmers they are an equal part of our island

heritage. An island's foster-mother is the sea. Those of her foster-children who frolic with her become thereby her favourites, and these are the born fishermen.

The fisherman who makes himself a fisherman is, I believe, a very recent phenomenon. He is a commercial product as much as the fishing tackle and the fishing "literature" which turns him into a fishing enthusiast. He is a much written of person and I do not intend to glorify him.

But as with the growth of every other caste, it is easy to imagine how the men who dwelt by the sea perfected their pastime until it became a traditional pursuit, ending up as a profession. It is also easy to imagine how these people became bolder and more enterprising and voyaged further and further away from their coasts until they touched the Maldives and Malabar and even Arabia. People who live by the sea naturally tend to raise their voices in speech. Shooting

— from *Grass for My Feet*, a little book of short stories by Sri Lankan author, J Vijaya Tunga, published in 1935



VERBATIM

Today in Gloucester an old proverb has a new twist. They now say, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him. If you teach a man to fish, he will starve."

MARK KURLANSKY  
IN *THE LAST FISH TALE*

MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES

Rough Estimate of Some Aspects of The Economics of Operation of Marine Fishing Crafts in India (2004)

ESTIMATED ITEMS	LARGE-SCALE	SMALL-SCALE	
	Trawlers, Gillnetters etc.,	Motorized	Non-Motorized
No. of Units <sup>1</sup>	 58,349	 74,937	 104,059
Investment <sup>2</sup> (In mn US\$)	 2,524.99	 476.29	 86.58
Total Crew <sup>3</sup>	 379,158	 261,110	 253,533
Reported Catch <sup>4</sup> (tonnes)	 1,736,910	 618,686	 182,509
Discards	Occasional	Negligible	Negligible
Own Consumption <sup>5</sup> (estimated in tonnes)	 17,369 (1%)	 43,168 (7%)	 12,775 (7%)
Estimated Catch (tonnes)	 1,754,279	 661,854	 195,284
Value of Catch <sup>6</sup> (In mn US\$)	 2072.00	 738.06	 217.71
Operating Costs <sup>7</sup> (In mn US\$)	 745.49	 207.39	 43.48
Of which Fuel <sup>8</sup> (In mn US\$)	 300.38	 173.29	nil

<sup>1</sup> CMFRI and GOI 2006

<sup>2</sup> Estimated from South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) data. Also data from Depts. of Fisheries of the Indian maritime States

<sup>3</sup> Calculated based on field knowledge

<sup>4</sup> CMFRI data for 2004

<sup>5</sup> Based on Kurien & Willmann, 1982

<sup>6</sup> Calculated from CMFRI, 2005 and GOI, 2007

<sup>7</sup> Estimated from data maintained in SIFFS. Operating costs, which include fuel costs, are shared between crew and owners. Crew shares are paid out from the Gross Value Added (Divisible Earnings)

<sup>8</sup> Estimated from FAO and SIFFS data

—This table has been compiled by John Kurien, Member, ICSF, using data from the abovementioned sources.

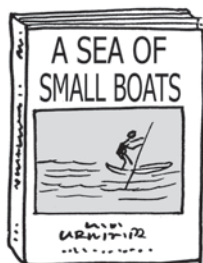


## BOOKSHELF

### Sea tenure systems

A SEA OF SMALL BOATS  
Cultural Survival Report No. 26,  
Edited by John Cordell, Cultural  
Survival, Inc., Cambridge, Mas-  
sachusetts, US. 418 p. 1989.  
ISBN 0-939521-31-8

In this collection of readings about various community sea tenure systems around the world, the authors present a new perspective on the significance of marine territory. They offer an insightful look at inshore sea rights issues from the inside—from the standpoint of local communities whose sense of belonging to a seascape and territorial behaviour cannot be explained by conventional Western economic models of fisheries.



The editor's overview of sea tenure studies focuses on problems of cross-cultural interpretation and explains why prevailing common property management and limited entry paradigms are inappropriate for developing or regulating many Third World and indigenous fishing systems. As the book documents the extent and variation of informal property relations in fisheries once thought to be unknowable, it simultaneously encourages planners and governments to take heed of the logic and benefits of preserving traditional sea rights.

## FLASHBACK

### Basing it Just Right

Rights-based approaches to development that use human rights—economic, social, cultural, civil and political, as established by international law—as the framework to guide development agendas, have been increasingly adopted in recent years and particularly in the last decade, including by the United Nations and its agencies. In essence, it is recognized that all development initiatives should contribute directly to the realization of human rights.

In this context, the paper prepared by the Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the Agenda item on “Social Issues in Small-scale Fisheries” (COFI/2007/6), stressing a human-rights perspective to foster social development and effective resource management, is timely and needs to be welcomed. The paper notes that a rights-based approach to development in fisheries needs to focus as much on promoting human rights, raising living standards and addressing the vulnerability and social exclusion of fishing communities, as on improving management of fisheries resources. A narrow focus on the latter may be ineffective if undertaken in isolation from the broader social and cultural conditions in fishing communities and societies at large, it stresses. In a context where fishing communities in some parts of the world, and particularly in countries



of the South, are known to live in poverty, with minimal access to basic services or representation in decision-making processes, there is no denying the essential logic and desirability of this approach. Viewed through the lens of equity and poverty reduction, certain fisheries-management measures, such as the creation and effective enforcement of artisanal trawl-free fishing zones—long demanded by artisanal and small-scale fishworkers from countries like Peru, Chile, Thailand, India and Indonesia—would make sense, particularly if accompanied by measures like ensuring gear selectivity and use of labour-intensive techniques, among others.

-- from “Basing it just right”, Comment in SAMUDRA Report No. 46, March 2007

## WEBSITE

### FAO and CITES

The CITES-Fisheries website ([www.fao.org/fishery/cites-fisheries](http://www.fao.org/fishery/cites-fisheries)) intends to provide selected and updated information on the work undertaken by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department on the main issues raised by the harvesting and trade of commercially exploited aquatic species listed in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendices.

FAO and CITES have jointly addressed some of the technical

difficulties of countries in fulfilling the requirements of a CITES listing and in an attempt to reconcile some differences of opinion regarding the role of CITES as a complementary fisheries management tool.

A number of the FAO activities reported in this website have been funded by Regular Programme funds and, since 2005, also by the Japan funded Trust Fund Project on “CITES and commercially-exploited species, including the evaluation of listing proposals”.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFERENCE

**CZAP 2008**  
**Coastal Zone Asia-Pacific Conference**  
**19-22 October 2008,**  
**Ocean University of China,**  
**Qingdao, Shandong Province, China**

The first CZAP Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2002, explored ways of ‘Improving the State of the Coastal Areas’.

In Brisbane, Australia, ‘Improving Quality of Life’ was the focus of CZAP 2004, while CZAP 2006, in Batam, Indonesia, attempted to

make the connection between natural and social systems by ‘Linking People and the Coasts’.

The upcoming fourth CZAP will emphasize the importance of sustainable development of coastal resources towards a better future for the people.

The main theme for CZAP 2008 is ‘Sustainable Coast and Better Life’, with a focus on how to manage coasts to cope with climate change and expanding populations.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Human Dimensions of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries: An Overview of Context, Concepts, Tools and Methods** by A Charles, C De Young and A Hjort. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 489. Rome, FAO. 152 p. 2008.

This document aims to provide a better understanding of the role of the economic, institutional and sociocultural components within the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) process and to examine some potential methods and approaches that may facilitate the adoption of EAF management.

### CONGRESS

**Fifth World Fisheries Congress**  
**20-24 October 2008,**  
**Yokohama, Japan**

The five-day Congress will focus on current global aquatic issues and sustainable fisheries, including, among other topics, fish habitats and ecosystems (marine and freshwater), and the effective utilization of fish, shellfish and algae resources.

[www.5thwfc2008.com/index.html](http://www.5thwfc2008.com/index.html)



## Endquote

*I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face and a grey dawn breaking.*

*I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.*

*I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.*

— John Masefield



