

CELEBRATING SOUTHERN AFRICAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

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Abstract

In Africa at least 10 million people depend in fisheries. 90% of fish is from the continent is landed by small-scale fishers. The value of landed catch from the continent is estimated at \$2.7 billion annually. In southern Africa, the main fishery resources range from inland lake and river systems to marine systems. Over 95% of catch from these systems is landed by small-scale fishers. This review celebrates' the value and benefits deriving from Southern African fisheries such as employment, income, food security, cultural, etc., among others. What should also be notable is the welfare function that fisheries play in most fishing communities, thereby contributing to community resilience and stability, despite the low priority accorded to the sector by most governments in the region. By demonstrating the value of the sector, it is envisaged that governments and donors would begin to see the sector in better light and give it due consideration in future policies and development planning.