Research network and knowledge mobilization partnership
Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) is a network of more than 70 researchers, students and 15 organizations from 30 countries, partnering to do research and capacity building in small-scale fisheries, with $2.5M from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and matching contribution from team members and partners.
Characteristics of small-scale fisheries

- Artisanal fisheries that use relatively small vessels, low levels of technology and capital investments;

- Represent a diverse and dynamic subsector whose characteristics depend on the location;

- Anchored in local communities, reflecting links to fishery resources, traditions and values, and supporting social cohesion (FAO, 2014).
Number of people involved in small-scale fisheries

About 560 million people, or 8% of the global population, directly or indirectly depend on fishing.

FAO, 2012
Distribution of small-scale fisheries in marine and inland fisheries

SSF: Small-scale fisheries; LSF: Large-scale fisheries

Majority of the world fisheries are small-scale, contributing to food security, poverty alleviation, livelihoods, and are of cultural and traditional importance to millions of people.
Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) global partnership aims to:

- Elevate the profile of SSF;
- Argue against their marginalization in national and international policies; and
- Conduct research, build capacity and influence policies to address global food security and sustainability challenges facing fisheries around the world.
The big five TBTI themes

- Economic viability
- Governance
- Rights and access
- Wellbeing and livelihoods
- Stewardship
Three components of TBTI

Global Analysis
- Issue Prioritization
- Gap Assessment
- Information System

Big Themes
- Economic viability
- Wellbeing and livelihood
- Stewardship
- Rights and access
- Governance

Knowledge Integration
- Synergy Creation
- Knowledge Mobilization
- Capacity Building

Year 1 2 3 4 5 6 End
TBTTI research clusters

Global synthesis

Diverse SS values

Global change responses

Indigenous marine fisheries

Market opportunities

Transboundary interactions

Economic viability

Transdisciplinary learning

SSF stewardship

SSF Guidelines

Fish as food
Project highlights

- Information system on SSF (ISSF);
- 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress;
- Voluntary guidelines on SSF; and
- TBTI students.
ISSF

Table view and data export

Dataset selection

Records details

Map view

Advanced search tools

Database and usage statistics

Data entry tools

Start contributing and join the movement

At-a-Glance

Number of boats by region:

Top Contributors

Recent Contributions

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International, transdisciplinary congress on “Options and Opportunities for Small-Scale Fisheries“.

Congress highlights:

- 400 attendees from 50 countries; 80 students; and 40 fishers from around the world;
- Movie night;
- Photo contest;
- Field trip;
- Fisher panel; and
- Pesca – Kucha presentations.
The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

A global consensus on principles for SFF governance and development.

TBTI participated in their development and is involved in their endorsement.

Development and implementation led by FAO.
TBTI & MUN

- TBTI headquarters are situated in the International Coastal Development lab, Geography Department;

- From 20 TBTI research and staff members who are part of MUN, 14 are from the Geography Department:
  - Project Director: Prof. Ratana Chuenpagdee
  - MA students: Mirella de Oliveira Leis, Chloé Poitevin and Victoria Rogers
  - PhD students: Joseph Luomba and Olivier Randin
  - Postdoctoral Fellow: Danika Kleiber
  - Staff: Randal Green, Vesna Kerezi, Andrea Quigley and Eric Rogers
  - Professors: Rodolphe Devillers and Dean Bavington

- Other TBTI members from MUN include:
  - Professors: Reade Davis, Joerg Everman, Kurt Korneski, and Gabriela Sabau
  - MA student: Christopher Baird
  - PhD student: Joonas Plain
TBTI students at MUN

Mirella de Oliveira Leis
MA student
Geography Department

- Mirella studies governability of the Marine National Park of Currais Islands, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Brazil;

- Explores the challenges and opportunities for the implementation of MPAs; and

- Applies the lens of the Interactive Governance Framework and Geographic Information System.
TBTI students at MUN

Chloé Poitevin
MA student
Geography Department

- Chloé studies alternative food networks in the fisheries (AFNs) that include localized markets, sustainable harvesting methods, democratic decision-making processes, etc.

- Examines opportunities for AFNs in Newfoundland's fisheries that embrace alternate means of harvesting, distributing, retailing, eating and thinking about fish and seafood.

Map of the study area
Victoria Rogers
MA student
Geography Department

- Victoria studies the social complexity of multiple-use coastal areas, specifically among tourism, fisheries, and conservation operations in Koh Chang, an island in the Gulf of Thailand; and

- Explores the potential for synergies that are conducive to stewardship and governance of coastal resources.
TBTI students at MUN

Chris Baird
MA student
Geography Department

- Chris studies how escaped farmed salmonids are affecting the experiences of Newfoundland salmon anglers on the island of Newfoundland.

- Utilizes local knowledge of river systems, with a specific focus on the Conne River, to explore the perceived effect of escapees on recreational fishers.
Interested in TBTI?

Join TBTI Listserv to receive news and update;
send request to toobigtoignore@mun.ca;

Join our research team, become a member and contribute case studies;
visit our website: http://toobigtoignore.net/

Help build the information system;
Visit issf.toobigtoignore.net