

## **Call for contribution:**

## An e-book on 'Fish as Food: The Roles of Small-Scale Fisheries to Food Security and Human Nutrition'

"Fish-as-Food" has been scarcely addressed under the food security and food sovereignty perspectives [1, 2]. Thus, these two critical aspects could be seen as standing points over which the research could elaborate. We are calling for contribution of case studies, addressing the following suggested topics and questions.

- 1. The importance of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition: how do small-scale fishers value the fish?
- a) Allocation of catch (%) for consumption, at household level, and at local and regional scale.
- b) Fish preferences based on the top 3-5 species consumed at household level, locally or regionally.
- c) Access to fish: is there a direct access, through local markets? And how this influences household food security?
- d) Aspects taken into account to value the fish: nutritionally as a source of protein; economically as a livelihood to purchase other food; as a traditionally-used species in certain cultural context.
  - Factors influencing the use of fish as food or as a good to be traded to purchase other food?
  - Catch composition?
  - Seasonality?
  - Access to markets?
  - Availability of other protein sources?
  - Relative price of catch to other protein sources?
- 2. Post-harvest use of fish and the value chain.
- a) Trade of small-scale fisheries: amount and prices at each part of the chain
  - Direct sell at landing sites?
  - At local markets to purchase other food?
  - To regional/national markets?
  - To industry for animal feed production?



- b) Competing uses of fish
- Consumer preferences and consumption of small-scale fisheries catch pattern and change.
- a) The past and current consumer preferences for fish and seafood: species, amount.
- b) Aspects influencing the consumer preferences.
- c) The change of the value chain over time.
- 4. The influence of national and international food policies on small-scale fishers' fish consumption at household level
- a) The influence of food policy on fish species being consumed at household level by small-scale fisher's families.
- b) The influence of food policy on fish price and on the access to markets by small-scale fishers.
- c) The influence of food policy on other consumer preferences of fish?
- d) Factors influencing different fish consumption patterns, regionally, or globally?
  - Liberalization of markets, bi-national trade agreements (e.g., TLC)
  - Legal pluralism
  - Food Policy diversity (regionally, or globally)

## **Suggested Research Methods**

Researching about food security and food sovereignty of small-scale fisheries may embrace a broad range of methods and techniques, including global, regional, or local perspectives, and trans-disciplinary methodological approaches. In that context, research about fish-as-food could address diverse key topics, which can be looked at by varied approaches of collective and/or individual initiatives. The contributions regarding these themes could be, but are not restricted to, ethnographic research, participatory research, case studies, and evaluations, which may consider the social, cultural, and nutritional aspects of fish-as-food. Ideally, the research would involve the participation of key representatives of fishing-, and fisheries-related stakeholders as well as other members of the society, directly (or indirectly) linked to the fish-as-food domain.



We are interested in the fish-as-food system as a whole; thus, we aim to explore small-scale fisheries comprehensively, by paying attention to both the fisheries and food system that are being governed, as well as the formal and informal governing systems. We suggest, as potential study units, the fishing-related communities, civil-society groups, and governmental-, and non-governmental agencies, at global, regional, or national scales.

The e-book "Fish as Food: The Roles of Small-Scale Fisheries to Food Security and Human Nutrition" will be published in 2016/2017.

If you are interested in contributing a case study on any of the topic suggested above, **please send the 500 word abstract**, with information about all authors, as an email attachment to toobigtoignore@mun.ca by **October 31, 2015.** 

## **References**

[1] Loring, P.A., S. C. Gerlach, and H.Harrison. 2013. "Seafood as Local Food: Food Security and Locally Caught Seafood on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula." Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development 3 (3): 13–30. doi:10.5304/jafscd.2013.033.006.

[2] McClanahan, T., Allison, E. H., and Cinner, J. E. 2013. "Managing fisheries for human and food security". Fish and Fisheries 16(1): 78–103. doi: 10.1111/faf.12045