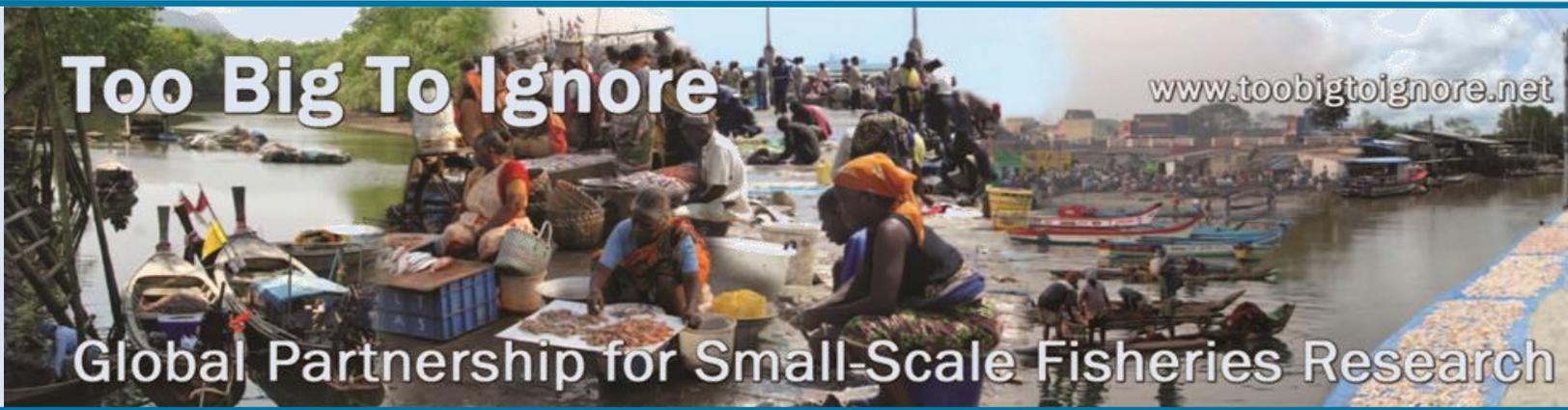


Too Big To Ignore Report

Number 08.1/2015



Too Big To Ignore

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Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

The 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress
“Options and Opportunities”
Report

September 21-26, 2014, Merida Mexico

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RESEARCH

POLICY

MOBILIZATION

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**Prepared by
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**Too Big To Ignore Congress Report
Number 08.1/2015**

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Summary

The 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (2WSFC) attracted great interest among academic and non-academic communities resulting in more than 400 attendees from over 50 countries, many of them students and early career scientists. In comparison, there were around 250 participants at the first WSFC held in Bangkok in 2010. The 2WSFC featured around 300 presentations distributed over 44 different sessions. Some of the issues that caught the most attention included ocean grabbing, health and well-being of small-scale fishers, cultural and social values of small-scale fisheries, governability of small-scale fisheries, transdisciplinary research etc. The wide spread of themes and topics is proof that there is a strong and ever bigger contingency of researchers and civil society organizations that are committed to fight against the demarginalization of small-scale fisheries and are open to explore and implement innovative options and opportunities to secure their future.

The congress aimed to improve information exchange among fishers, and between fishers and other participants in order to widen the range of small-scale fisheries options and put the opportunities within reach. Fishers participated in a number of formal and informal activities that were tailored specifically for them. One of the main activities was the “Fisher’s Perspectives” panel in which fishers not only talked about the challenges they are facing but just as importantly, showcased their success stories. For the first time, fishers had the leading role within the discussions about small-scale fisheries at a global scientific event. This successful experience is intended to be expanded upon in the future, not only by including more fisher-folks in this type of meetings but also by giving them the possibility to be active agents in the knowledge generation and in addressing small-scale fisheries issues.

The congress demonstrated that the time is right for innovate solutions to deal with the challenges and problems in the small-scale fisheries. While we must strive to preserve culture and heritage of small-scale fisheries, greater efforts must also be put towards creating markets, technology and governance in order to assure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. One such innovation is the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations' Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. Too Big To Ignore project (TBTI), which has been involved in the development of the guidelines, together with FAO, organized a plenary session at the congress whose aim was to facilitate discussion about the guidelines and gather valuable insights intended to help shape the implementation process of the guidelines.

During the congress, TBTI launched the Information System on Small-scale Fisheries (ISSF) available at <https://dory.creat.mun.ca/>. ISSF is the first interactive global

repository of small-scale fisheries information on key characteristics of this sector in various locations around the world, as well as synthesized knowledge about their importance, contributions and potential. This open-source online system offers anyone interested in the small-scale fisheries around the world to collaborate and share data. In addition to providing an opportunity to demonstrate the ISSF's current capabilities, the congress facilitated an arena for discussion of further expansion and fine-tuning of the system.

We are glad to see that the interest in and research of small-scale fisheries is gaining such a momentum. Thanks to all for making the 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress a success!

Message from Co-Chairs

Merida, Mexico, September 2014

Dear Congress Participants,

Since the first congress held in 2010 in Bangkok, the world's small-scale fisheries have seen major surge in policy and research interests. On the former, FAO has been coordinating the development and implementation of the "International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries," endorsed in June 2014 by the Committee on Fisheries. On the latter, several large-scale projects focusing on small-scale fisheries, such as *the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) partnership*, have been launched. Both efforts have resulted in enhancing the visibility of small-scale fisheries and creating opportunities for building knowledge and research network and collaboration. Together, they provide an important platform for setting policies and actions to support small-scale fishing people and their livelihoods around the world.

With these efforts, it is time to shift our focus from discussing 'Issues and Solutions,' the topic of the first congress, to exploring 'Options and Opportunities' at the 2WSFC. The unique nature and characteristics associated with small-scale fisheries call for different thinking about how the sector should be economically and sustainably developed [**Theme 1: Economic Viability**]. The connectivity of small-scale fishing people to community wellbeing implies that livelihood options need to be broadened and explored, beyond fisheries into other sectors [**Theme 2: Livelihoods and wellbeing**]. While ecological impacts from fishing may not be avoidable, they can be reduced through sustainable fishing and stewardship. The role of small-scale fishing sector in promoting these practices needs to be understood [**Theme 3: Ecosystem stewardship**]. Further, other development in coasts and oceans adds pressure on resources that small-scale fishing people rely on, and in some cases, displace them altogether. Securing access and rights of small-scale fisheries to their fishing places and fishing livelihoods is an important condition for their sustainability [**Theme 4: Rights and access**]. Indeed, the 'human' rights-based approach to small-scale fisheries governance underlies the majority of passages in the FAO guidelines, which also call to our attention different consideration about institutional arrangements and principles suitable for small-scale fisheries. In this context, discussion about food security and food sovereignty is timely [**Theme 5: Food security and food sovereignty**]. All of the above links back to issues of governance. Deliberation about what governing system(s) for small-scale fisheries should look like and how to make it happen is therefore a key element in the discussion about this sector [**Theme 6: Governance and governability**]. Finally, governance quality can be improved with good information and knowledge about the complexity and dynamics of the fisheries system. Appropriate

methods to assess and monitor sustainability of small-scale fisheries, and how well we are doing, are therefore important [**Theme 7: Assessment and monitoring**]. There are over 300 presentations addressing these topics at the congress, in plenary and concurrent sessions.

In addition to research to explore options and opportunities for small-scale fisheries, we are aware of the current needs related to information and capacity development. Developing an information system that captures the key essence of small-scale fisheries and that allows us to assess and compare their values and importance is a major task that TBTI has taken on. We are launching the **Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF)** at the congress, as a community tool to enhance our knowledge about this important sector, and to build research and governing capacity along with it. Such progress requires thoughtful consideration and planning about needs and mechanisms to deliver training and sustain the built capacity. Innovative thinking like those promoted in transdisciplinary research will be explored in the congress at the **Transdisciplinary training and capacity development workshop**. All of these cannot happen without the help of young scholars and without active involvement from fishers and fishers' organizations. Thus, the congress provides an avenue for students and early career scientists to exchange ideas and discuss issues at the **Students Forum**. We will be hearing their perspectives throughout, given the large number of students participating in the congress.

With respect to fishers and fishers' organizations, we are very pleased with a good turnout and encouraged by the enthusiasm expressed thus far. The special plenary session on **Fishers' Perspectives** is certainly one of the highlights of the congress. We are excited to hear stories, experiences, lessons, and future vision from fishers coming from all corners of the world. The **Field Excursion** on Wednesday is another opportunity for fishers to interact with each other, with local fishers, and with other congress participants, in an informal and relaxed setting.

Finally, the congress is closely linked to the TBTI project (<http://toobigtoignore.net/>), which will hold a general meeting on Friday. **TBTI general meeting** is opened to anyone interested in an interactive discussion about options and opportunities for better future of the world small-scale fisheries. Be part of the network, join the conversation, and contribute your idea about what we can do to support small-scale fisheries around the world.



We hope you enjoy the congress.
Ratana Chuenpagdee and Silvia Salas
Congress Co-Chairs

Program agenda

	Sunday Sept 21	Monday Sept 22	Tuesday Sept 23	Wednesday Sept 24	Thursday Sept 25	Friday Sept 26
8:00	Registration	Registration	Registration			
8:30		Opening ceremony	Special presentations			
9:00	Portugese/Spanish Sessions	Plenary session (1) Viability, livelihoods & well-being	Plenary session (3) Food, rights & governance	Filed excursion	Concurrent sessions (5)	Too Big To Ignore general meeting
9:30						
10:00		BREAK	BREAK	Fisher to fisher Talk circle	BREAK	
10:30	Student Forum	Concurrent sessions (1)	Concurrent sessions (3)	Indigenous talk circle	Concurrent sessions (6)	
11:00						
11:30		LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
12:00						
12:30	Transdisciplinary Workshop	Plenary session (2) Assessment, sustainability & stewardship	Plenary session (4) Fishers' perspectives	Sea cucumber circle	Plenary session (5) FAO SSF Guidelines	Too Big To Ignore general meeting
13:00						
13:30		BREAK	BREAK		BREAK	
14:00		Concurrent sessions (2)	Concurrent sessions (4)	SSF guidelines circle	Plenary session (6) Reflection & looking forward	
14:30						
15:00						
15:30						
16:00						
16:30						
17:00	Fishers meet & Greet					
17:30						
18:00						
18:30			Movie night			
19:00	Ice breaking	Opening reception			Closing dinner	
19:30						





Plenary session 1: : Viability, livelihoods & well-being

Plenary speakers

Juan Carlos Seijo

Universidad Marista de Mérida, Mexico

Community co-management of metapopulations with source-sink configuration: The small-scale spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fishery of Punta Allen, Mexico



Talk: Management and conservation of the spiny lobster fisheries of the West Central Atlantic involve the following complexities: (i) it is a transboundary resource, (ii) it is characterized by a metapopulation with source-sink configuration, (iii) gears and fishing methods are heterogeneous with differing effects on population structure, and (iv) the heterogeneity in management strategies, regulations (including differing legal sizes and trade restrictions), and enforcement. The metapopulation connectivity imposes management difficulties because not all of the countries involved in the Caribbean ecosystem implement the same regulatory strategies for responsible use of this resource over time. Within this complex context, the Punta Allen fishing community has co-managed the resource with a history of sound decision making. Factors identified to explain the relative success of the Punta Allen spiny lobster fishery will be presented and discussed.

Bio: Juan Carlos Seijo is a Professor of fisheries bioeconomics, and natural resource economics at Universidad Marista de Mérida, (founding President of this University, 1996-2004), and FAO consultant for 25 years. He has taught fisheries bioeconomics courses in Chile, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Panamá, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Taiwan. He has also been visiting professor of the University of Stirling, The University of Delaware, and Oceanic University of Taiwan. He has participated by invitation of FAO, UNESCO, National Geographic, and other institutions in scientific expert consultation and meetings in Sweden, Australia, Italy, Mauritius, Barbados, Cambodia, Denmark, Norway, and USA. Dr. Seijo has been the President of the North American Association of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE-2011-2013), and a Board member of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET-2008-2012). His academic interests and publications deal with fisheries bioeconomics, decision theory and risk analysis, and spatial modeling and analysis of small-scale fisheries.

Christina Hicks

Stanford University's Center for Ocean Solutions, USA, and James Cook University's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Australia



Social, institutional, and knowledge access mediate diverse ecosystem service benefits in small-scale fisheries

Talk: Fisheries management often results in trade-offs that influence who benefits, or what they benefit from. An understanding of when and why these trade-offs in ecosystem services occur can contribute towards effective and equitable fisheries management. Using examples from coral reef fisheries in the western Indian Ocean, Christina Hicks' research explores the following questions: 1) what trade-offs emerge among people and ecosystem services? and, 2) what influences who can benefit from these ecosystem services? Her results identify common trade-offs across stakeholder group (managers vs fishers), scale (local vs national benefits), and category (cultural vs provisioning). Further, she shows how access, and in particular social, institutional, and knowledge mechanisms (rather than rights or economic mechanisms), influences who is able to benefit and what benefits they perceive.

Bio: Christina is an interdisciplinary social science fellow at Stanford University's Center for Ocean Solutions and James Cook University's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. Christina's research examines how resource dependent communities value and benefit from their environment (popularized as ecosystem services). By taking people's values, and other social characteristics into consideration, this work develops an understanding of how people are likely to respond to environmental and policy change. Christina earned her PhD from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, JCU, Australia, and her MSc from Newcastle University, UK. Christina has previously worked as a research associate in the UK and a fisheries scientist in Kenya; she now has more than 10 years of experience working in small-scale fisheries, predominantly in the developing world.

Tim Acott

University of Greenwich, UK



Understanding the importance of small-scale fisheries

Talk: The livelihoods of small-scale fishermen are under threat in many places across the world. This threat is set against a backdrop of a reported global fisheries 'crisis' with 73% of marine stocks reported as either fully exploited, overexploited, depleted or recovering. The focus of fisheries management has often been on the biological and economic dimensions and arguably not enough attention has been given to socio-cultural issues. Capturing the importance of small-scale fisheries from a socio-cultural perspective is not an easy task and requires a range of epistemological perspectives and methodological approaches. Using examples from the development of '21st Century Catch' (a toolkit developed to help understand the importance of small-scale fisheries¹) Tim Acott will present insights into developing and using multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary perspectives for capturing the value of fisheries for the well-being of coastal communities. For such initiatives to succeed, from grassroots to strategic policy planning, attention needs to be given to epistemological considerations of acceptable evidence that in turn means addressing issues of the relationship between nature and culture. Tim will address these issues with a focus on small-scale fisheries, cultural ecosystem services and sense of place.

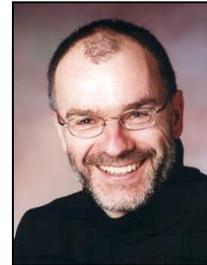
Bio: Dr Tim Acott is a Principal Lecturer in Environmental Geography at the University of Greenwich in the Faculty of Science and Engineering. He graduated with a BSc Hons in Environmental Science from the University of Plymouth in 1989 and subsequently completed a PhD at the University of Stirling. His academic interests revolve around social science perspectives on environment and sustainability issues. Tim has led work on three major EU funded fisheries projects, CHARM, GIFS and TourFish, and is a lead author on the recently published toolkit for inshore fisheries called '21st Century Catch'. Tim is currently working on new ways to understand inshore fisheries through cultural ecosystem services and sense of place from a co-constructionist perspective.

Plenary session 2: : Assessment, sustainability and stewardship

Plenary speakers

Dirk Zeller

Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia,
Canada



Small-scale fisheries: A global reassessment of their catches

Talk: It is widely understood that the only global fisheries statistics that are currently available, i.e., the data submitted by member countries to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) underestimate the contribution of small-scale fisheries (artisanal, subsistence and recreational), but the extent of this underestimation has never been rigorously assessed. The Sea Around Us, as part of its goal of quantifying human impacts on global marine ecosystems undertook, and has now concluded, a twelve-year activity wherein the fisheries catches by sector of all maritime countries of the world were reconstructed from the bottom up, for the years 1950 to 2010. Dr. Zeller will present selected results from this effort, which allow for re-assessments of the global role of small-scale fisheries in contributing food security, and their relationship vis-à-vis industrial fisheries.

Bio: Dr. Dirk Zeller is the Senior Researcher and Project Manager of the Sea Around Us. He directs research activities and co-directs strategic research and funding decisions with the Project Principle Investigator, Prof. Daniel Pauly. Dirk leads research on global catch reconstructions and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and engages in research on coral reef fisheries, ocean governance and fisheries policy. He collaborates closely with the Fisheries Economics Research Unit on issues in resource economics, with the Changing Ocean Research Unit on issues of climate change and fisheries, and with the UBC Faculty of Law on issues related to international maritime boundary law and the UN Law of the Sea Convention. Dirk has a background in tropical marine biology and fisheries ecology from James Cook University, Australia, and has professional interests in sustainability, strategic global policy developments and resource economics, as well as marine reserves and coral reef ecology.

Derek Armitage

The Environmental Change and Governance Group
University of Waterloo, Canada



Governance and community conservation in coastal-marine contexts and the implications for small-scale fisheries

Talk: New ways of governing in relation to the environment are emerging with important implications for the practice of conservation. In particular, understanding how community conservation is influencing and being influenced by emergent hybrid (e.g., public-private) and network governance arrangements is particularly important. In his talk Dr. Armitage will explore: 1) how different and hybrid governance arrangements might promote community conservation in ways that sustain in particular the well-being of small-scale fishers and the ecosystem services upon which they depend; 2) whether the interests of local resource users (e.g. small-scale fishers) in conservation practices are matched by meaningful involvement in decision processes at multiple levels; and 3) how governance processes emerging in complex conservation situations might be adaptive to social-ecological change and uncertainty.

Bio: Derek Armitage is Associate Professor, University of Waterloo where he directs the Environmental Change and Governance Group (<http://ecgg.uwaterloo.ca>). He serves as an editor for Conservation Letters and Ecology and Society and is a Senior Fellow with the Earth Systems Governance Project.

Karin Fernando

Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka



How BIG are small-scale fishers in the Port 2015 development agenda

Talk: On the road to designing and deliberating the next development framework that will replace the existing Millennium Development goals (MDGs) in 2015, a lengthy consultative route is underway. The objectives of these discussions have been to propose an “ambitious” and “transformative” agenda by which the world can tackle poverty eradication. The main thrust of the overall framework and goals is based on bringing about a sustainable development model. It is currently at the final stages of formulation before the United Nations convenes the negotiation process with the Governments in September 2014. From this point on it is vital that stakeholders and lobby groups work with their governments to include areas of vital importance into the agenda especially to ensure that “no one is left behind” and that the frame is truly transformative. This presentation will provide a snap shot of the proposed goals (both the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable development Goals) and discuss how small-scale

fishers, their needs and issues are being incorporated into this framework. It will also bring out positions made by groups or others who are working on fisheries related issues. The presentation will be based on the ongoing debates and position papers related to the MDG and SDG processes. It will focus more on concerns for small-scale fishers in developing countries, particularly South Asia.

Bio: Karin Fernando (MA Brandeis), is a Senior Professional at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) where she leads the Poverty Impact Monitoring programme and the thematic work on the Environment and Poverty. Her interests are in natural resource management, sustainable development and poverty.

Session highlights

- The available data underestimates the contribution of small-scale fisheries (including artisanal, subsistence and recreational), in particular the contribution of inland small-scale fisheries. This serious problem requires proper lobbying in order to persuade governments to recognize this issue and start reporting data from the inland fisheries. The conservation literature is also predominantly focused on marine fisheries. Another challenge is a lack of data on the women contribution in small-scale fisheries;
- In regards to the question of how much could small-scale fisheries actually catch, the focus should not be on the amount of the catch but on the number of people involved;
- Even though it is quite evident that the small-scale fisheries are part of the culture, they are still not receiving enough attention. It's not only the matter of thinking bigger, we need to start thinking differently;
- Small-scale fisheries have always been perceived as an activity done by uneducated people and as a result, small-scale fishers have not been included in the decision-making process. Given the great contribution of small-scale fisheries for peoples' livelihoods, small-scale fishers should be involved in decision making. We should always keep in mind that, when combined, small-scale fisheries are big enough!;
- One of the biggest weaknesses regarding small-scale fisheries data is that the data that was collected in the past is much less accurate. Ideally, once the data from The Sea Around project is released, people will be interested in it and aim to improve the quality of the data that is collected. The goal is for people to take ownership of this data.

Plenary session 3: : Food, rights and governance

Plenary speakers

Alejandro Flores

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Chile

Rights to food, food security and small-scale fisheries: Concepts and linkages



Talk: The right to food was reaffirmed by heads of states and governments in 1996 through the declaration of the World Food Summit, stating that it is everyone’s right to be free of hunger and to have access to safe and nutritious food. This summit also recognized the urgent need to advocate and make every effort to reach food security, which was defined as the condition in which all persons have permanent access to sufficient safe and nutritious foods to satisfy daily dietary needs to have a healthy and active life. Within the context of improving food security, the provision of fish as a main source of protein already plays a paramount role in many countries around the world, particularly those of Asia and the Pacific Island States. Other regions such as Africa, where undernourishment is still a major problem, small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture though offering a high potential for its reduction, still face many technical and legal problems. In Latin America, where some 47 million people are still chronically hungry, the potential of small-scale fisheries is still hampered by weak institutional sectorial arrangements. However, increased recognition of the importance to safeguard food rights and food security in these regions is beginning to include small-scale fisheries and small-scale aquaculture within right to food and food security legislations and policies.

Bio: Alejandro Flores has a degree in Fisheries Engineering from Veracruz, Mexico, Msc in Aquaculture and Fisheries Management and a PhD in Aquaculture, both from University of Stirling, UK. He has been a Full Professor; Head of the Marine Resources Department and Director of the Center for Research and Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV), at Merida, Mexico. He is the founding Director of the School of Natural Resources and Rector of the Marista University of Merida, Mexico. He has been a representative of FAO-UN in Argentina and Chile and the Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer of FAO’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Tanya King

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Chile



The health and well-being of fishers in Australia

Talk: The health and well-being of fishers in Australia - as elsewhere - is complicated by many factors that are specific to the industry. This presentation describes a research project in which the industry attitude to physical and mental health issues are explored. The project makes a number of distinctions that help to clarify the challenges to fisher health and well-being, including the difference between 'symptoms' and 'stressors', as well as between stressors that are 'traditional risks' and those that are 'modern uncertainties'.

Bio: Tanya King is a maritime anthropologist who works with small-scale Australian commercial fishermen. Her focus is on the creation, implementation and justification of natural resource management policy, and how this is encountered by those who make a living from the sea. Her current research explores the relationship between policy tools and fisher mental health outcomes.

Hugh Govan

Locally Managed Marine Areas Network, Fiji



'Co-management of coastal fisheries in the Pacific Islands: Defining roles and prioritizing actions to move forward'

Talk: The importance of coastal fisheries in the Pacific Islands, while self-evident, is only slowly being recognized in regional and national policies. Community-based management has long been identified as a fundamental building block and large scale uptake of these approaches have been demonstrated by the LMMA Network across more than 500 communities. But in a region with nearly 10,000 such communities there is an urgent need for coherent national approaches to small-scale fisheries management. While lack of policy, capacity and finance are often proposed as obstacles to progress this presentation explores experiences in strategic implementation that look promising for providing core national fisheries management services within existing constraints.

Bio: Hugh was born in Scotland, raised in Spain and has lived in Solomon Islands, Central and South America, and currently, Fiji. He advises the Locally Managed Marine Area Network in Asia and the Pacific and works free-lance on policy as well as practice to develop appropriate collaborative management approaches and build institutional and human capacity. His current interests are developing national and provincial government

systems to supported decentralized natural resource management and improving his surfing.

Session highlights

- Decision makers put greater importance on agriculture than on fisheries. Therefore, we need to do a better job in making the contribution of small-scale fishers known to decision makers;
- Fishers are concerned that the promotion of aquaculture increased importation and caused competition of cheap fish imported from other countries;
- There is a great variability in how leadership in a small-scale fishing communities is developed; in some cases it happens organically and in others it is incentivized by facilitators;
- One of the main reasons why LMMAs work is because they are flexible in space and time;
- Research should be better aligned with practice. For example, we should place a greater effort towards understanding what fisheries departments can and cannot do. Before deciding what information they need, people too often fail to understand how exactly decisions are made.

Plenary session 4: Fishers' perspective

Panelists

[Margaret Stevenson](#), Women's Industry Network Seafood Community, Australia

[Juan Ramon Roger](#), Cofradía de Gran Tarajal, Spain

[Jose Luis Carrillo](#), Federación Centro Poniente, Mexico

[Mitchell Lay](#), Caribbean Network of Fisher folk Organizations, Antigua and Barbuda

[Naseegh Jaffer](#), Masifundise Development Organization, South Africa

[Tony Doyle](#), Fish Food and Allied Worker, Canada

Session highlights

- Fishers are often the first to observe a change in fish stock and habitat but even when they report this to the governments, it's frequently ignored. They are also often the first to be blamed for declines in fish stock, leaving some fishers wondering whether fisheries managers are actually there to manage the fisheries or just control the fishers. Managers should keep in mind that fishing is not the only activity impacting the fisheries and that fishermen are not all "greedy capitalist criminals";

- Our responsibility to future generations is to keep healthy, abundant habitats for repeated succession recruitment. In addition, regulations should not be set in stone but allow for flexibility and traditional knowledge should be integrated into fisheries management;
- Fishers alliances such as confradias in Tenerife, allow for fair prices and improved transport of fish. They manage the marketing of fisheries from the small-scale fleet, ban destructive fishing gear and provide a good model of central management. Confradias in Tenerife focus on improving the coordination of regional confradias, creating a unified group that communicates with the government, establishing an effective control of poaching and assessing the growth of recreational fishing impacts;
- Caribbean Network of Fisher folk Organizations focuses on nutrition, human well-being and dignity, collaboration with other sectors, policy advocacy and representation. They argue for governance through an ecosystem approach. Great effort is put towards information sharing, although this can be quite challenging due to the remoteness of fishing communities;
- Fishing people do not consider SSF Guidelines as voluntary guidelines but as necessary regulations which must be built on values and principles. The main challenge in implementing the SSF Guidelines is how to make them accessible at the national level. TBTI researchers can help by making the SSF Guidelines accessible in different cultural and indigenous settings;
- There are serious concerns of governments giving misleading reports to the FAO. Fishers would like to see the small-scale fisheries data being reported by an independent organization, comprised of small-scale fishers, whose reports would be accepted as a legitimate by the FAO;
- If fishers want their voices to be heard, media exposure, especially on TV, is essential;
- We need to establish alliances among fishermen, middlemen, authorities, researchers, and the society in search of common objectives.

Plenary session 5: Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Too Big To Ignore

Synopsis

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were recently endorsed at the 31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in June 2014. The SSF Guidelines will only be effective if they are widely known by stakeholders and systematically applied in accordance with the guiding principles they establish. To support the implementation of the guidelines, a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) is established. This special session informed about the history and content of the SSF Guidelines as well as about the GAP.

Taking advantage of the ample expertise at the Congress, the session invited participants to actively provide recommendations and inputs to the development of the GAP.

To read the collection of ideas and recommendations from this session, visit:

http://toobigtoignore.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/GAP-recommendations-on-SSF-Guidelines_Report-from-the-2WSFC-session.pdf

Plenary session 6: Reflections and looking forward

Panelists:

Naseegh Jaffer, Masifundise Development Organization, South Africa

Rolf Willmann, former Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations staff

Madeleine Hall-Arber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Session highlights

- Small-scale fisheries have many faces and different aspects; “small-scale” is not the same everywhere, and it is not really small;
- Fishers, both small and large scale are marginalized in the global political world. The issue is not about a struggle to defend fishing rights, but about trying to change the world to bring back equity. It is important to study fishery issues in the context of equity;
- Researchers can play an important role in achieving a better legal empowerment for fishers. We should develop a global alert system for cases when fishers’ rights are violated. The need to defend fishers’ rights should become a collective effort;
- The implementation SSF Guidelines is going to be an exciting and long-term process. To ensure success, we need to have a baseline that will allow us to measure and evaluate the changes. Implementation at the local level is essential, especially in developing countries;
- Researchers need to disseminate their findings to a broader audience, and return to the communities they worked in to share the research findings. It is not enough just to do the research, the key is to make a meaningful contribution for the community;
- It is important to get a wider understanding of cultural and social values of small-scale fisheries, increase their visibility and incorporate a variety of approaches in their study, including arts;
- Data we rely on, even that of FAO, is of unreliable quality and quantity. We need to translate data in a format that policy-makers can efficiently use;
- Whisperers were crucial for a fuller engagement of fishers at the congress. At the future congresses, there should be even more fishers. Future congresses could

also have different format and perhaps include more art. We should use creativity to enrich people, break down the barriers and allow for a cultural interexchange;

- Fishers stressed how it's fundamental to have a clear definition of artisanal fisheries and how more emphasis should be put on the issue of overexploitation and conflict with industrial fishing;
- We need to think more about ways of incorporating computer science, smart phones, and other technologies into small-scale fisheries research;
- To deal with issues such as climate change, it's essential to work together, include physical scientists and insist on the transdisciplinary approach.

Transdisciplinary training and capacity development workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to lay the foundation for future work in the development of a transdisciplinary fisheries course as well as to discuss lessons learned from various capacity development initiatives around the world.

Approximately 75 people participated in the workshop.



During the first part of the workshop (**Exercise 1**), participants shared their knowledge and experiences as they discussed questions related to small-scale fisheries. Participants were put in smaller groups and were asked to consider the series of questions through a transdisciplinary lens and identify what they would need to know and need do to address these issues, as well as identify best practices. Key terms that helped the group identify the characteristics of transdisciplinary research were listed and shared with the entire group on a living document (wall) that continued to evolve over the duration of the workshop. Participants clustered posted key terms which resulted in themes including: Context, Gender, Bias, Empathy, Competing Interests, Participatory, Integrative, Stewardship, Succession Planning, Values, Governance, Empowerment, Economics, Rights, Well-being, Scale, Spatial Dimensions. Time scale, and Education / Learning.

In the second part of the workshop (**Exercise 2**), core principles of transdisciplinarity and guiding messages were generated and denoted as core or peripheral. Participants were asked to consider what principles or guiding messages are core to transdisciplinary research.

In the final part of the workshop participants were asked to consider components of either a Transdisciplinary Fisheries Course or a Capacity Development Toolkit. The groups provided goals, topics and educational strategies for a transdisciplinary fisheries course, and both processes and approaches for the implementation of capacity development initiatives.

The report from the workshop is available at:
<http://toobigtoignore.net/transdisciplinary-workshop/>.

Students forum

The forum was organized by students from six different universities located in Barbados, Canada, Mexico and the USA. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide students and recent graduates with the chance to discuss issues relevant to their research and career goals in small-scale fisheries. The forum was composed of two workshops and a career panel discussion, which allowed participants to connect to a larger network and explore career opportunities in the field of small-scale fisheries. The purpose of the **first workshop** was to help students and recent graduates think about strategies to overcome communication barriers when undertaking and discussing interdisciplinary research. In the **second workshop**, students focused on (1) sharing advice, resources, and details on activities and outputs from existing student-focused groups, (2) building and enhancing student-focused research groups, and (3) fostering links across student groups, as well as other research entities. The **career focused panel** explored options and opportunities for careers in small-scale fisheries. Four young career scientists were invited as featured speakers who represented different career stages and sectors of small-scale fisheries research.

The forum was attended by approximately 40 young scientists from around the world with a background in the social sciences, economics and natural sciences.

The report from the workshop is available at:

<http://toobigtoignore.net/report-student-forum-at-the-2wsfc/>

Special sessions: Portuguese/Spanish Sessions

Due to a high number of papers from Mexico and Brazil, four special sessions were organised specifically for these papers. Presenters were able to present their work in either Spanish or Portuguese. The sessions, which took place on Sunday, September 21, 2014, covered a large spectrum of topics including: integrated management, sustainable fishing practices, vulnerability of small-scale fishery to land-use changes, monitoring, governance, fishing rights and others.

Fishers' participation at the 2WSFC

One of the key goals of the congress was to improve information exchange among fishers, and between fishers and other participants, in order to widen the range of small-

scale fisheries options and put the opportunities within reach. To facilitate such interchange, the following activities took place during the congress:

Sunday, September 21: “*Fishers meet and greet*” - an informal session to introduce fishers with their peers along with hosts from Mexico and TBTI organizers.

Monday, September 22: Fishers joined other participants in listening, learning and outlining a big picture of small-scale fisheries from a global to local level by attending different sessions. Whisperers were available to help with translation and question/discussion period.

Tuesday, September 23: A *fishers’ focus plenary session* took place featuring six fishers from different regions of the world who presented their views and experiences related to small-scale fisheries options and opportunities.

Wednesday, September 24: *Field trip to Progreso and Chuburna ports.* The fishers at the congress had the opportunity to talk with each other and the local fishers about the various issues in small-scale fisheries. Four ‘discussion circles’ have been designed to encourage fisher’s interaction: a) *Fisher-to-Fisher talk circle*; b) *Indigenous SSF learning circle*; c) *Sea cucumber fisheries circle*; and d) *Small-scale fisheries guidelines circle*.

Thursday, September 25: Using information from the discussion circles and other congress discussions, several fisher leaders shared with the entire congress the key points to consider and lessons learned.

Friday, September 25: Fishers were invited to participate in the TBTI general meeting held on Friday. The aim of the meeting was to continue the conversation and take part in the planning of the future activities (research, training, capacity development, and policy intervention) of TBTI.

Field trip to Progreso and Chuburna ports

The field trip was an opportunity to get a glance of coastal development, Mayan ruins, and observe fishing landing sites of artisanal and industrial fleet of Yucatan. The congress attendees had also the opportunity to participate in four ‘*discussion circles*’ whose aim was to encourage fisher’s interaction and facilitate the dialogue between the fishers and other participants.

(a) Fisher-to-Fisher talk circle

This circle explored “Options and Opportunities for Small-Scale Fisheries”, through the seven main themes of 2WFSC and any other themes suggested by fisher participants. Among others, fishers talked about the problem of not having their voices heard at the

regional and national levels. They stressed the importance of establishing networks and alliances among small-scale fishers as well as with other groups on a broader scale. At the same time, they cautioned against the current trend of establishing a number of smaller alliances, since these are too weak to address the real issues. Fishers also called for governments to put greater effort towards regulating illegal and unregulated fisheries.

(b) Indigenous SSF learning circle

The struggles of Indigenous small-scale fisher peoples are central to the global movement of small-scale fisheries. Whether for food, ceremony, livelihood or commercial enterprise, Indigenous fisheries share the challenges and issues of all small-scale fisheries. In addition they face all the threats that are faced by Indigenous people around the world: loss of customary tenure, colonization, ethnocide, deracination and, in some cases, genocide. At the same time, Indigenous small-scale fisher people and their communities are responding to these multiple challenges with a great diversity of grassroots strategies for resistance and innovation, reflecting their great cultural, economic, ecological and political diversity.

The purpose of the Indigenous Small-Scale Learning Circle was to begin to create a way for Indigenous small-scale fisher people to share the stories of their struggles and strategies. It was also a shared space for identifying common issues and actions, and framing research questions.

(c) Sea cucumber fisheries circle

This circle centered around sea cucumber fisheries in the Galapagos, Ecuador and Yucatán, Mexico exploring the lessons that could be drawn from these fisheries. One of the recommendations was to use concessions and a bottom-up, community-based management that is well aligned with the economic aspects, regulations and restrictions of the market. Participants stressed that it takes many years to see the results of management actions and for the stock to recover since it depends on environmental conditions and fishing pressure. Engaging fishermen in the decision-making process and incorporating their input into management plan, as in the case of Galapagos sea cucumber fishery can help decrease the fishing pressure. Fishers also argued that sound scientific research must be at the core of the management plan, to avoid resource overexploiting. However, this is not going to be achieved easily since it requires strong coordination among fishermen and the institutions. Another challenge is the high cost of monitoring and surveillance, which can exceed the value of the fishery.

(d) Small-scale fisheries guidelines circle

After a long and challenging road, Member States of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) finally adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The discussion was led on what the SSF Guidelines are exactly, how they can be promoted, and more

importantly what we can do now that they exist. This was also an opportunity to discuss experiences in small-scale fisheries and review the actions that we need to take so that: (1) Everybody learns about the SSF Guidelines; and (2) We take concerted action to improve the sector.

Movie night

Tuesday September 23, 2014

The aim of the 2WFC movie night was to highlight the nature of small-scale fishing and of small-scale fishing communities, reflecting the social, cultural and economic importance of this sector to securing viable and sustainable livelihoods. The movies were pertinent to the main theme of the congress: options and opportunities for small-scale fisheries.

Screening order

Community Voices in the Sea of Cortez by Julia Goss & Liza Hoo

Duration: 5'25 minutes

Region/Country: LAC /Mexico

Language: Spanish

English subtitles: Yes

One Catch by Liza Hoos & Xavier Basurto

Duration: 8'4 minutes

Region/Country: LAC/Mexico

Language: Spanish

English subtitles: Yes

3. A Sal y Sol. Hombres a la Mar. by Juan Carlos Reyes

Duration: 14 minutes

Region/Country: LAC /Mexico

Language: Spanish

English subtitles: Yes

4. The last fisherman by Greenpeace/Contented Productions

Duration: 5'35 minutes

Region/Country: EUR/UK

Language: English

5. A new system using raised racks to dry fish is changing the way processors of Lake Tanganyika go about their business by Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi

Duration: 7'43 minutes

Region/Country: AFR/ Burundi

Language: English

English subtitles: Yes

6. Follow the Tide by Thomas Szacka-Marier

Duration: 30 minutes

Region/Country: AFR/Senegal

Language: Wolof

English subtitles: Yes

**** We thank UADY for providing the venue. The event was hosted by Alfonso Aguilar-Perera of UADY and Rolf Willmann ****

Photo contest

As part of 2WSFC, we were running a photo contest. Numerous photos were submitted and the shortlisted ones were displayed in Hyatt Regency 1, Merida, for the duration of the congress. The photos were related to congress themes and reflected small-scale fishing and fisheries in all dimensions, both natural and human, while making visible the fishing activities itself throughout the value chain. The aim was to showcase the diversity, beauty and the efforts involved in this activity, and the specificities of fishing communities.

Vanessa Jaiteh, best photo by public choice



Photo description

Afternoon Tea: A young bagan (liftnet) fisher shares his catch of baitfish with a young whale shark. The eco-tourism potential of this relationship did not escape visiting entrepreneurs: today a growing number of people travel here to swim with whale sharks, supporting alternative livelihoods for local communities. Cenderawasih Bay, Papua, Indonesia; April 2013.

Gayathri Lokuge, best photo by judging panel

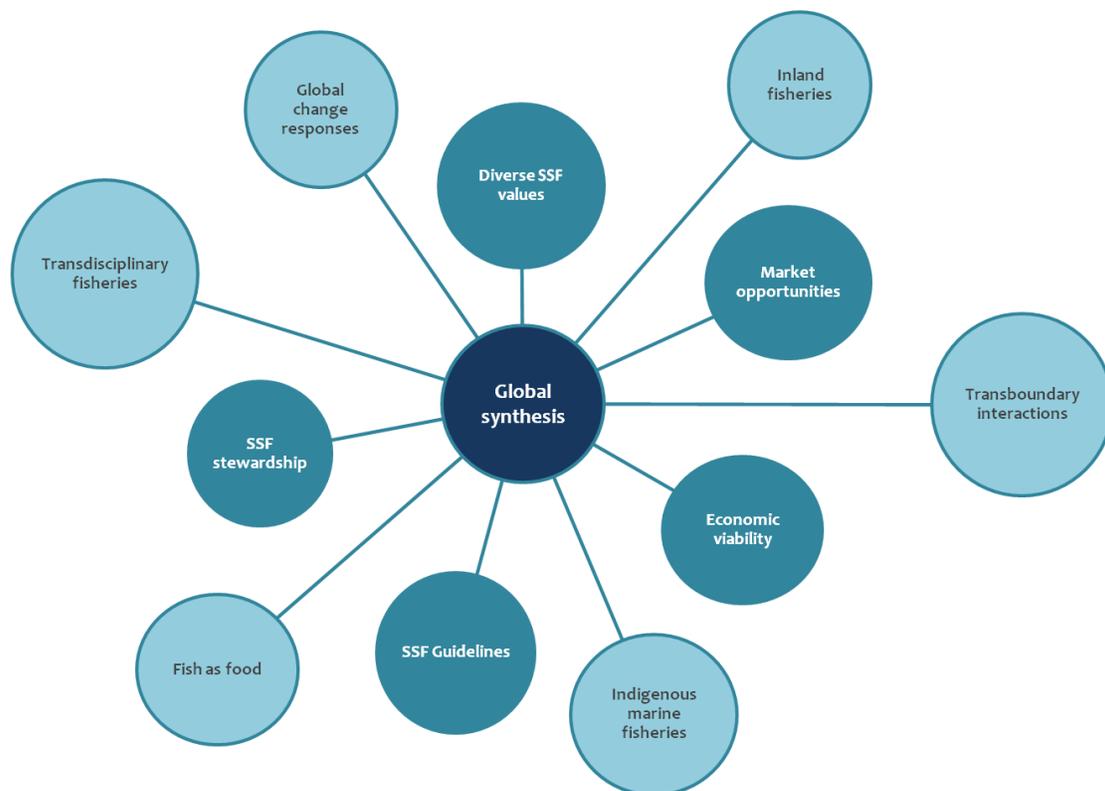


Photo description

A men's world: People will not take the girls in the boats, they don't even allow the women to touch the boat. They say that there won't be a fish catch if the women touch the boat, women, they say bring *tharthiriyam* (acute destitution)'. However, we saw women up to their waist in lagoons, sometimes in canoes, gleaning. Trincomalee-Sri Lanka; August 2013.

TBTI Reserach clusters

During the last day of the 2WSFC, TBTI project (<http://toobigtoignore.net/>) held a general meeting whose purpose was to encourage interactive discussions about the project and about the options and opportunities for a better future of the world small-scale fisheries. Based on the input from the meeting, TBTI decided to re-organize the project's activities in the next two years around twelve new 'research clusters'. The main idea behind each cluster is to do a 'rapid' study/assessment related to the cluster topic in as many small-scale fisheries around the world as possible. We want to make sure that we have 'products' that are visible, relevant and that would create impact at various levels, including at policy and decision-making. For more detailed information about the clusters and the cluster activities, visit <http://toobigtoignore.net/research-cluster/>.



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Fauna & Flora International

Federación de Cooperativas del Oriente de Yucatán

Federación Regional de Sociedades Cooperativas de la Industria Pesquera Zona Oriente

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano

Fundación Nicaragüense para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Galletera Dondé

Gran Museo del Mundo Maya

Instituto de Historia y Museos de Yucatán

Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

Memorial University of Newfoundland

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Secretaría de Fomento Turístico. Gobierno del Estado de Yucatán
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