

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES OF THE WORLD



VOLUME I



WHO'S WHO

in small-scale fisheries

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Too Big To Ignore (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net) is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership supported by 20 partner organizations and over 200 members from around the world. The network aims at elevating the profile of small-scale fisheries, arguing against their marginalization in national and international policies, and developing research and governance capacity to address global fisheries challenges.

BEHIND THE SCENE

in small-scale fisheries

Numerous people
are engaged to help
enhancing small-
scale fisheries
knowledge

Who are they?

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are traditionally and culturally important to millions of people around the world, who depend on marine or inland resources for employment, income, food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Moreover, to many of them, SSF are a way of life, a part of their identity, culture and heritage. Since more than 90% of the total fishing people in the world is engaged in SSF, and given that they endure many threats such as resource over-exploitation or climate change, knowledge about this sector is crucial.

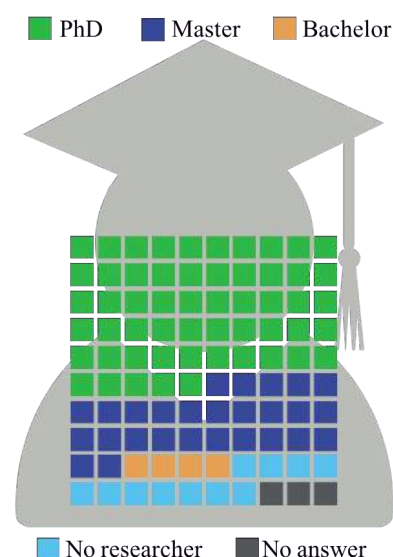
In this context, numerous people around the world are working hard to enhance knowledge about SSF. To recognize who these people are, where they are located, and what issues they aim to address with their

research, we compiled information about them, based on their contribution to the “Who’s Who” and “SSF Organization” layers of the Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF), the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) partnership online crowd-sourcing database.

WORLDWIDE EXPERTISE

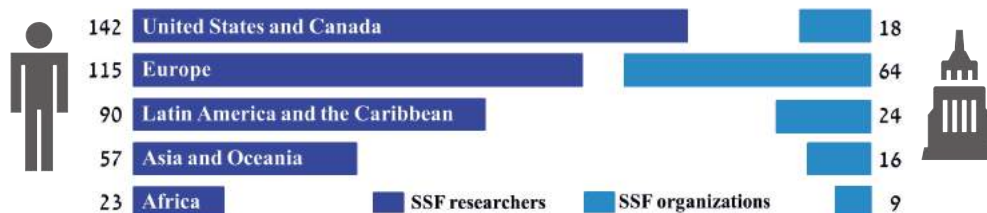
in small-scale fisheries

As of April 2016, 427 people from 62 different countries completed their own "Who's Who" profile, sharing information about who they are and what they do. About 55% of them hold a PhD, 27% a Master degree and 4% a Bachelor degree. However, one-tenth of the people contributing data to ISSF do not consider themselves as "researchers", while holding a Master's or a PhD and working to address issues concerning SSF. Since the overwhelming majority indicated that they invest time in SSF research activities, we refer to all of them as 'researchers' in SSF.

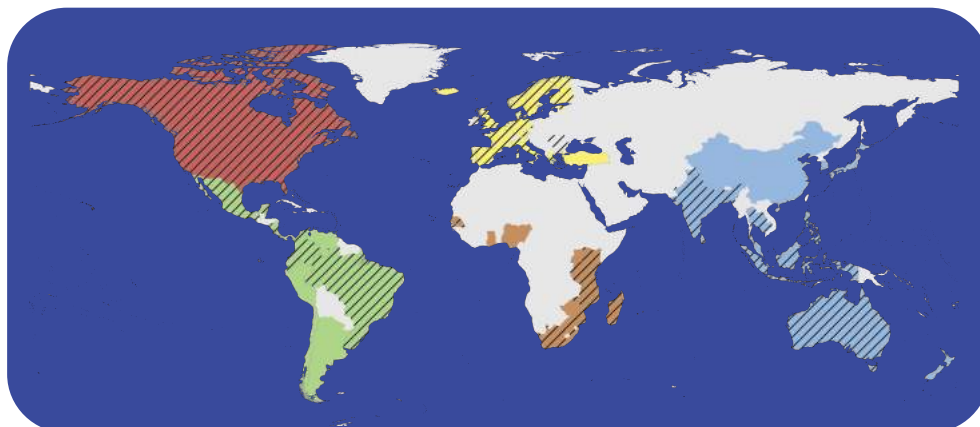


Education level of the contributing SSF researchers.

427
researchers
from
62
countries



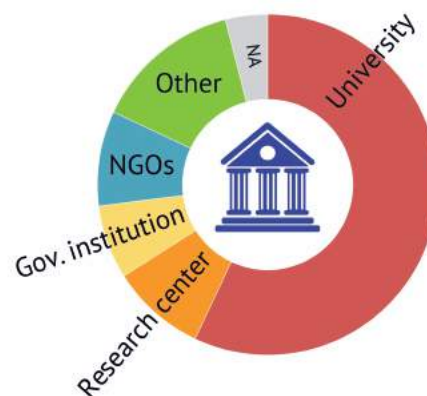
Number of contributing SSF researchers and organizations to the ISSF in April 2016, according to their geographic location.



Countries contributing to the "Who's who" researchers profiles (colour) and to the organizations profiles (lines) in April 2016.

These SSF researchers are spread all around the world, in locations as diverse as Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Malawi, Nicaragua, New-Zealand, Sweden and many more. While the majority of researchers are based in United States and Canada (33% of the contributors), Europe (27%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (21%), the contributors from Africa, Asia and Oceania provided significant and meaningful information about small-scale fisheries in their location.

that they are members of a network.



Affiliations of the contributing SSF researchers.

More than half of the researchers work in universities, while others work in research centers (9%), non-governmental organizations (NGOs; 9%) and governmental institutions (7%). To a lesser extent, SSF researchers indicated that they are affiliated with associations, foundations, education centers, museums, or

The affiliations of SSF researchers according to their geographical distribution show an interesting picture. In all regions, researchers predominantly belong to academic institutions (40% to 57%), but in the United States and Canada, this portion can be as high as 75%. This is not the case in other regions.

55% hold a

PhD

57% work in

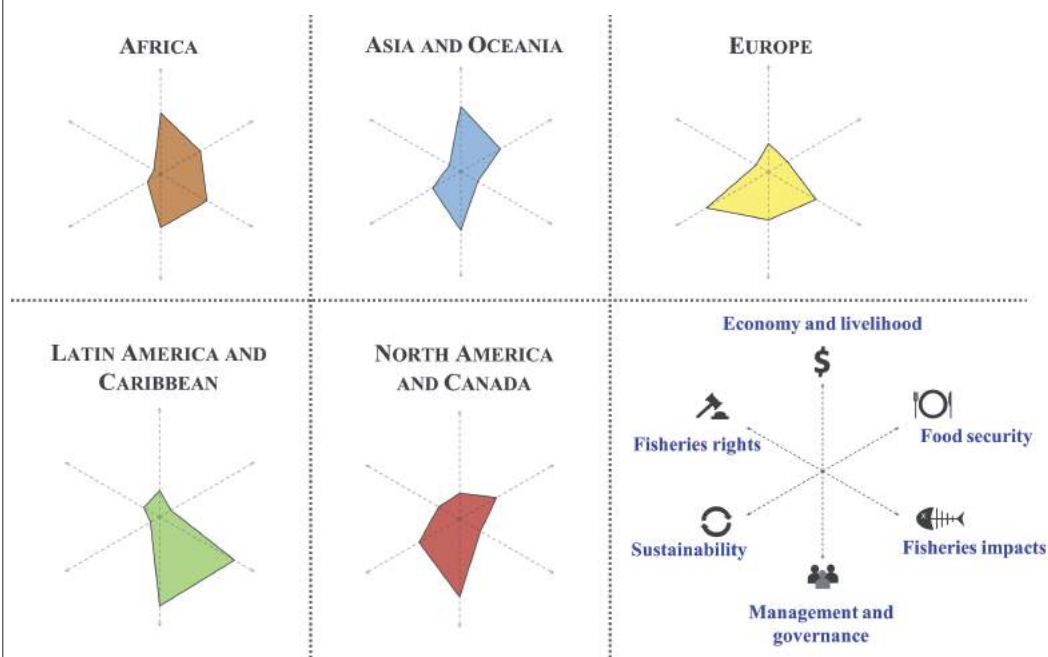
Universities

For instance, in Europe, many researchers are affiliated with research centers while in Africa, they mostly work for NGOs or other non-profit organizations. In Asia, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, about a third of the researchers indicated that they are affiliated with either associations, foundations or are independent.



SSF researcher interviewing small-scale fishers in Thailand.

The issues addressed by the contributing SSF researchers are numerous and various, and include fisheries assessment, sustainability, management and governance, market, livelihood, poverty, food security, well-being, gender issues, biodiversity, fisheries rights and climate change. Issues related to fishing rights are much less considered, representing only about 8% of the whole issues addressed. Again, interesting patterns appear when looking at the distribution of issues according to where the researchers come from. The roles of SSF in economy, livelihood and food security are mostly addressed by researchers located in Africa, Asia and Oceania, while researchers from Latin America



Main issues addressed by the contributing researchers according to their geographic location.



Main research methods used by SSF researchers. The word is big when its frequency in the answers is high.

and the Caribbean mainly focus on fisheries assessment. Management and governance issues are considered in all parts of the world, but less by European researchers, who mostly address issues concerning SSF sustainability and their adaptation to global change.

For addressing these issues, the Who's Who contributors indicated that they use various research methods. Surveys using questionnaires, interviews and focus groups are the main techniques used to obtain information on SSF. To a lesser extent, fisheries monitoring, biological sampling, visual censuses and participant observation are employed. Only a small fraction of researchers reported using local knowledge or innovative research methods, such as game-theory experiments, art-informed research or oral histories in their work as a way to obtain information on SSF.



A small-scale fisher in Newfoundland, Canada, told stories about his fishing livelihoods.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE

of organizations

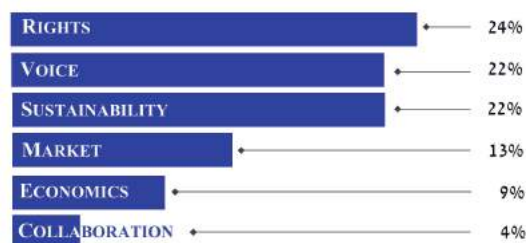
In addition to individual researchers, many organizations are directly involved in elevating the profile of SSF and in contributing to enhancing their knowledge, sustainability and governance. As of April 2016, 132 organizations from 48 countries provided information about the type of organizations they are, as well as their goals and activities. Over half of them offered very detailed information, bringing new and insightful knowledge about their role in SSF around the globe.

Nearly half of the contributing organizations are located in Europe (64 out of 132). The rest are found in Latin America and the Caribbean (24), U.S. and Canada (18), Asia and Oceania (16), Africa (9) and one is global. Of those providing detailed information, 56 are based in 19 countries in Europe. Further analysis is therefore conducted about these organizations to learn more about them.

A great part of the European-based organizations is

structured as a union or association (18) or as a fisheries support organization (12), while a minority are cooperatives (6), Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG, 3) or organized as a network (2). Moreover, 16 organizations identify themselves as a hybrid structure, most commonly a mix of union/association and FLAG types.

With respect to the goals of these European organizations, the top three most frequently mentioned are promoting SSF rights, increasing their voice in decision-making processes, and enhancing SSF sustainability.



Main SSF organizations goals.

To a lesser extent, improving SSF market opportunities and addressing economic concerns

132
organizations

from

48 countries

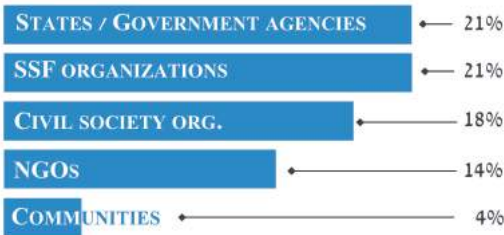
are mentioned, while facilitating collaboration and networking are rarely considered as a goal. While more than half of the organizations (57%) reported having only one main goal, 20 organizations indicated having multiple ones, and the association of these goals is noteworthy. For instance, promoting SSF rights is often associated with increasing their voice in decision-making processes, while enhancing SSF sustainability is mostly associated with improving market opportunities.

When it comes to activities, 78% of the European organizations reported being involved in several of them. The most common ones are the development of network and markets, capacity building, knowledge mobilization and facilitation of collaborations with scientists and/or government officials. While no activity stands out as having more emphasis than other, the promotion of sustainable practices receives a little bit less attention from European organizations in the database at this time.



Main SSF organizations activities.

In addition, many organizations noted a suit of activities including communication, lobbying, promoting SSF fishing rights and fisheries development strategies, pescatourism, and financial assistance as part of their mandates. Multiple partnerships are also common, with 57% of the organizations indicating to collaborate with three or more other organization types.



Main SSF organizations networks and partnership.

The European-based SSF organizations in the database also provided useful information concerning what they consider to be success factors and obstacles they face when working on SSF. The content analysis of their responses shows that the most frequently used terms when speaking about success are collaboration and network. This is followed by the importance of public and stakeholder engagement, good communication and financial support, as primary factors also contributing to success. “Working together”, “Networking, optimism and passion” as well as



"Collaboration, communication, motivation and financial support"

"Collaboration, communication, motivation and financial support" are examples of some of the success factors provided by these organizations. Turning to the obstacles, the more

frequently mentioned ones are the lack of resources (mainly financial and time), the lack of support by the authorities and bureaucracy problems. The change of SSF demographics, characterized by an increase of



"Bureaucracy, isolation, lack of voice, funding"

the average age of fishers, a decreasing number of fishers and a lack of interest from young people, is also viewed as a key obstacle. Some organizations also pointed out

other aspects impeding their success, such as the existing conflicts of interests and the competitions and conflicts with the large-scale fisheries. Phrases such as "Bureaucracy, isolation, lack of voice, funding", "Large-scale fisheries, poor decision-making/governance", and "Divisions and conflict within fisheries" were used to express the main obstacles these European SSF organizations are facing. ■

Information about 'Who's Who' in SSF and SSF organizations, collected through the Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF), provide insights about people working on SSF issues, about who they are and what motivate them. Considering the number of SSF, their diverse nature and characteristics, their social, cultural and economic importance, and issues affecting their sustainability, many more people and organizations need to contribute to enhancing their knowledge and to support them. What is reported here is likely a very small fraction of the actual amount of people and organizations working on SSF. By sharing information about you or your organization through the ISSF platform, you make it possible for SSF people and communities to connect with you, especially when they need your support. Join the community and visit issf.toobigtoignore.net to contribute!

The “Small-Scale Fisheries of the World” publication series presents synthesized information and knowledge about various aspects of small-scale fisheries (SSF) around the world, including key issues pertinent to their sustainability. The synthesis is largely based on available data in the Information System on Small-scale Fisheries (ISSF), an online open-source database developed by the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) partnership, supplemented by findings from SSF research and studies both within TBTI and beyond. This series, composed of several reports, opens a window on the world of small-scale fisheries in ways that have rarely been done.

The “Small-Scale Fisheries of the World” series will be useful for anyone interested in small-scale fisheries and wishing to help raising awareness about their contribution to livelihoods, well-being, poverty alleviation and food security of millions of people around the world.

