

Too Big To Ignore Report

Number R-01/2017



## TBTI Symposium on European Small Scale Fisheries and Global Linkages

June 29 – July 1, 2016, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

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**Too Big To Ignore Research Report  
Number R-01/2017**

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## List of Acronyms

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EBM - Ecosystem Based Management

EU - European Union

CSO - Civil Society Organization

CSFs - Community Supported Fisheries

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FLAGs - Fisheries Local Action Groups

ITQs - Individual Fishing Quotas

LIFE - Low Impact Fishers of Europe

LO - Landing Obligations

MPAs - Marine Protected Areas

TBTI - Too Big To Ignore research network

SSCF - Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries

The SSF Guidelines - The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Symposium on European  
Small-Scale Fisheries  
and Global Linkages



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Universidad  
de La Laguna  
Instituto Universitario de  
Ciencias Políticas y Sociales



## I. Summary

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The *Symposium on European Small-Scale Fisheries and Global Linkages* attracted great interest among academics and non-academics across Europe. The three-day symposium was jointly organized by the Too Big To Ignore project (TBTI, [www.toobigtoignore.net](http://www.toobigtoignore.net)), a global research network aiming to elevate the profile and importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) around the world; the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of the University of La Laguna and the GOBAMP II Project (CSO2013-45773-R). The University of La Laguna and the Oceanographic Centre of Canary Islands of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography hosted the symposium.

In total, 80 people attended this event in order to share and discuss issues affecting the sustainability of SSF in Europe and explore linkages to global SSF, especially through markets and stewardship efforts. The symposium covered the following topics:

- Current knowledge on SSF in Europe;
- Governance challenges for SSF in Europe (in the context of the new Common Fisheries Policy, Blue Growth Agenda and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines), including issues related to tenure and access rights;
- European small-scale fishing communities, with a focus on diversity, livelihood diversification and tourism, roles of women, and engagement of youth in fisheries;
- Market opportunities for SSF within a global context; and
- Synergies between SSF, marine protected areas, stewardship, and other conservation efforts.

The event was an opportunity for researchers and SSF practitioners from Europe to discuss capacity development to address issues related to SSF in the region and to build networks. One day of the symposium was specifically dedicated to activities related to fishers and fisher's organizations, showcasing a strong interest in building local research and governance capacity for fishers, fisher's organizations, and fishing communities in Europe and beyond. There were also specific sessions for the researchers and practitioners interested in improving market access for SSF worldwide, as well as those interested in enhancing stewardship in SSF.

In that light, the symposium demonstrated that:

- The SSF in Europe remain a relevant sector;
- The challenges threatening this sector can only be tackled from a transdisciplinary approach;
- There is an urgent need to provide the support and enabling conditions this sector deserves; and

- There are many opportunities to take advantage of at the European scale.

One of the highlights of the symposium was the successful engagement of researchers, politicians, small-scale fishers, fishing companies, and practitioners who expressed diverse interests and who actively participated in the discussions about the current and future possibilities for this sector at the European scale. The event proved to be an ideal venue to highlight the existing synergies among the SSF practitioners and to identify other potential channels of cooperation and collaboration.

The event illustrated that the interests and efforts to advance research, which can improve SSF practices and policies, remain to be strong. Some interesting initiatives, despite the various challenges and threats the sector is currently facing, are being implemented. By taking a regional approach to support local fisheries (e.g. developing local market initiatives), it is possible to create opportunities that can enhance the sector's profitability and its viability. One of the main messages was that it is essential to translate the work of TBTI and other research initiatives into policy and practices that will lead to real changes.

## II. Message from the Symposium Chair

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**San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, June 2016**

**Dear Congress Participants,**

Similar to other regions in the world, SSF are extremely important in Europe. They provide employment and welfare, while increasing food sovereignty and supporting communities in coastal areas. SSF are also distinguished from large-scale fisheries in that their activities and practices contribute significantly to environmental sustainability and stewardship. In Europe, about 80% of the fishing fleet (approx. 85,000 vessels) are SSF. They employ over 40% of EU fishers (90,000) and landings from EU-SSF are worth around 2 billion euros annually (25% of the total revenue generated by EU fisheries) (Macfadyen et al., 2011; Guyader et al., 2013). The SSF sector is characterized by its diversity and capacity to adapt to a wide range of challenges. Competition with larger fleets for resources and markets is one of these challenges, as too frequently they share the same stocks and the catches of both fleets enter undifferentiated into the market. Competition with recreational fisheries for resources is also an issue, as they target similar species and fishing areas. Further, urban and tourism development affect many activities along the coast, in beaches or harbour areas, thus influencing fish stocks and potentially taking over areas previously used almost exclusively by SSF, resulting in displacement and a situation referred to as 'ocean and coastal grabbing'. Many other challenges to SSF exist in European coastal areas, and one of the purposes of this Symposium is to show just how numerous and diverse they are.

The European fishing sector has always been deeply affected by public policies. National states have influenced the development of fisheries with a variety of subsidies, laws that promote or restrict specific fishing strategies, market interventions, amongst others. Food security concerns and industrial development priorities have frequently contributed in shaping these policies. More recently, sustainability considerations have taken center stage in these national policies. For many years, especially since the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, European fishing policies focused on increasing productivity and making the development of capital-intensive fisheries easier with larger and more productive vessels. By contrast, SSF have rarely received the same degree of attention, and many policies appear to have been developed in favour of larger fleets. European Union policies have had similar shortcomings. The lobbying capacity of large-scale fleets may explain this privileged focus, but perhaps we need to take also into account the lack of visibility of SSF. Some measures, like the scrapping funds, have tried to diminish the capacity of European fleets, taking into account the difficult situation of many species in European waters. Even though small-scale fleets had, in general, little impact on these



stocks in danger, they were affected by the same scrapping policies, increasing the difficulties for young people to enter the activity, as many local boats were scrapped. SSF are also especially sensitive to the increased focus on conservation in Europe. The implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and networks of MPAs specially affect SSF due to their low mobility capacity. This is an example, like many others, of how policies have been frequently focused on large-scale fleets, but their consequences have affected fisheries as a whole, including small-scale. The voice of these fishers has traditionally been barely heard at the regional, national or European level; particularly as in most countries SSF are not well organized. The reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) invite us all to think about how SSF in Europe are being influenced by public policies at different levels (regional, national or European). The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4356e.pdf>), the first international piece of legislation on SSF, further put SSF at center stage; now it is necessary to analyze how EU or national policies comply with these guidelines.

The objective of this Symposium was to highlight the diversity of European SSF, and to present examples of how fishing communities show their strengths and develop adaptive strategies and synergies with other sectors, as well as illustrate cases of failure of collective action and policy. The Institute of Social and Political Sciences of the University of La Laguna, in conjunction with the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) partnership<sup>1</sup> and GOBAMP II Project<sup>2</sup>, were pleased to host this Symposium in Tenerife, and we welcome researchers, decision makers, fishers' organizations and other stakeholders to this event.

*José Pascual-Fernández*

*Profesor Titular, Institute of Social and Political Sciences - Universidad de La Laguna  
Main Researcher - GOBAMP II Project and TBTI European Regional Co-coordinator*

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<sup>1</sup> *Too Big To Ignore: Global partnership for small-scale fisheries research* (TBTI) is financed by SSHRC Canada (895 – 2011-1011). Project Director and Principal Investigator is Ratana Chuenpagdee. TBTI activities in Europe are co-coordinated by University of Amsterdam and University of La Laguna.

<sup>2</sup> *Retos para la gobernanza de unas pesquerías artesanales sostenibles: creando sinergias con la conservación marina y el turismo*, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, Ref. CSO2013-45773-R

### III. Program agenda

Hour	Wednesday 29.06.	Hour	Thursday 30.06.	Hour	Friday 01.07
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	08:30 – 09:00	Organization issues	08:30 – 09:00	Organization issues
09:00– 09:30	Welcome and Introduction	09:00– 10:00	Individual paper presentation: “ <i>Market opportunities for small-scale fisheries in Europe (1)</i> ”	09:00 – 09:30	Keynote presentation: Svein Jentoft – “ <i>Small-scale fisheries governance and the roles of the Voluntary Guidelines for small-scale fisheries sustainability</i> ”
09:30– 10:00	Keynote address: Ratana Chuenpagdee - “ <i>Think local, link global for sustainable small-scale fisheries</i> ”	10:00 – 10:30	Keynote presentation: Jose Pascual Fernández – “ <i>Enhancing small-scale fish produce markets: the case of Tenerife under the European perspective</i> ”	09:30 – 11:00	Individual paper presentations: “ <i>Governance challenges in small-scale fisheries (1)</i> ”
10:00 – 10:30	Break	10:30- 11:00	Break	11:00 – 11:30	Break
10:30 – 12:15	Multi-stakeholder panel presentation: “ <i>Current situation and prospects for small-scale fisheries in Europe</i> ”	11:00 – 13:	Panel Presentation: “ <i>Local branding and marketing initiatives in small-scale fisheries in Europe</i> ”	11:30 – 13:00	Individual paper presentations: “ <i>Governance challenges in small-scale fisheries (2)</i> ” and “ <i>Synergies between Marine Protected Areas, small-scale fisheries and stewardship</i> ”
12:15- 13:00	Transfer to the Spanish Oceanographic Institute- Canarian Oceanographic Center (IEO-COC)				
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Key note presentation: Miguel A. Peña Castellot - “ <i>SSCF in the UE: a perspective from the European Commission</i> ”	14:00 – 14:30	Key note presentation: Katia Frangoudes – “ <i>Landing obligation: origins and implementation for EU Small Scale Fisheries and evolution of its impact on community level</i> ”	14:00 – 15:30	Poster Sessions: “ <i>European small-scale fishing communities</i> ” and “ <i>Synergies between Marine Protected Areas, small-scale fisheries and Stewardship</i> ”
14.30 – 15:45	Individual paper presentations: “ <i>Current knowledge about small-scale fisheries in Europe (1)</i> ”	14:30 – 16:00	Round table discussion: “ <i>Collaboration and partnership for sustainable small-scale fisheries</i> ”	15:30 – 16:00	Break
15:45 – 16:10	Break	16:00 – 16:30	Break	16:00 – 17:00	Wrap-up Session “ <i>Reflections on the current status and prospects for Small-Scale Fisheries in Europe: the way forward</i> ”
16:10 – 17:10	Individual paper presentations: “ <i>Current knowledge about small-scale fisheries in Europe (2)</i> ”	16:30 – 18:30	Individual paper presentations. “ <i>European small-scale fishing communities</i> ”	17:00 – 18:00	TBTI Webinar: “ <i>Small-scale fisheries in Europe: role of markets, communities, and organizations</i> ”
17:10- 18:30	Poster Sessions: “ <i>Governance challenges in small-scale fisheries</i> ” and “ <i>Current Knowledge about small-scale fisheries in Europe</i> ”			18:15	Closing ceremony
19:00	Reception (hosted) Rest. Cofradía de San Andrés	19:00	City tour in La Laguna city and dinner (individual)	19:00	Symposium dinner (hosted)

## IV. Symposium sessions – highlights

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### 1. Keynote addresses

#### *1.1 Think local, link global for sustainable small-scale fisheries*

**Ratana Chuenpagdee**

Too Big to Ignore

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

The importance of SSF is recognized around the world. Yet, knowledge about this sector is neither comprehensive nor systematic, making it difficult to realize their potentials. A large-scale effort is required, not only to understand SSF in their own context but to connect them globally, in order to elevate their profile and to strengthen their contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and ecosystem stewardship. The ‘Too Big To Ignore’ partnership is one such effort that aims at conducting local research, improving regional and global governance, and providing information about SSF of the world.

#### *1.2 SSCF in the EU: a perspective from the European Commission*

**Miguel A. Peña Castellot**

DG MARE European Commission

Small-scale, coastal fishing fleets are a fundamental part of the EU fishing fleet and for the coastal areas dependent on them. Starting from the numbers and situation of the SSCF fleets, the possibilities for public support under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund are explored and some conclusions are highlighted.

#### *1.3 Enhancing small-scale fish produce markets: the case of Tenerife under the European*

**José Pascual-Fernández**

Instituto de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales

Universidad La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain

Several factors affect the ability of SSF to secure their livelihoods. Particularly relevant is SSFs’ capacity to sell their fish, receive fair prices, and to add value to their catches. SSF catches have a superior quality and freshness, in general, but this does not always facilitate a better price or higher demand. In this context, we have recently carried out detailed research into SSF strategies to add value and improve the market penetration of their catches. The capacity of innovation in this area seems to be linked to the strength of SSF organizations, and this poses interesting governability challenges.

Additionally, it was found that in Tenerife local fishing catches are not sufficiently differentiated in the market from those coming from other islands or even from abroad, such as the catches from the West African coast, or from furtive fishing. Learning from a diversity of experiences, new fish marketing strategies are being developed in Tenerife (Spain) including a SSF branding initiative. The situation in Tenerife is not so different to other areas of Europe, and thus this issue constitutes a challenge for fisher organizations in the whole continent.

#### *1.4 Landing obligation: origins and implementation for EU Small Scale Fisheries and evolution of its impact on community level*

##### **Katia Frangoudes**

Université de Brest, UMR AMURE  
OSU-IUEM, France

The last reform of the Common Fisheries Policy banned the practice of discards for all EU fishing fleets by creating a Landing Obligation (LO) on all species caught under the TAC system. The pelagic fleet and all the Baltic Sea fleet were the first to follow the LO (January 2015); and since January 2016 all others fleets targeting demersal species have to adapt gradually to the rule within the next four years. The main argument used by the European Commission to explain this radical decision was that European civil society considers discards as unacceptable behaviour. Implementation of LO represents one of the main social transformations for EU fisheries and fishers over the recent years. LO requires a shift in the whole social ecological system of EU fisheries, the social and economic system (with changes of practices), the governance system (mainly quota allocation and distribution), including values and, of course, the natural system. Qualitative data gathered through interviews and focus groups conducted with French small-scale fishers will be used to outline how fishers view the regulation and also the causes of discards, how this regulation impacts the social, economic and natural systems, how their values prompt them to accept the rule. A discussion on the main changes of EU governance system will also be presented.

#### *1.5 The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: how they challenge all of us*

##### **Svein Jentoft**

Norwegian College of Fishery Science  
UiT – The Arctic University of Norway

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication is an impressive accomplishment of FAO and the thousands of stakeholders who were taking part in the process of developing them. Even more remarkable, perhaps, is the fact that 144 member states endorsed them. For

any negotiated document of this nature, agreement requires willingness to compromise. Still, the near 100 paragraphs that came out of these negotiations reflect a consensus and ambition, which if implemented might become a watershed for millions of people around the world who are directly or indirectly dependent of this sector for their livelihood. That, however, depends on whether those who gave their support are willing and able to follow them up in practice. Given the fact that they are 'voluntary', states have no more than a moral obligation for follow them up. The implementation process has already started, but will take years. In the meantime, the Guidelines represent both a challenge and an opportunity for governments, civil society, fisheries stakeholders and the academic community to engage. The Guidelines speaks for the 'why' a broad involvement would be necessary, whereas the 'how' needs critical reflection for the implementation to be effective. This talk is primarily about the latter.

### *1.6 Highlights from the keynote presentations*

- We must tackle **the most important and pressing questions** about SSF that still remain unanswered so that we can identify potential strategies for dealing with the shortcomings of SSF governance;
- **Political will** dictates the trends in SSF on global, regional, and national levels. The European Common Fisheries Policy, for example, has negatively impacted SSF, threatening both the sustainability of fisheries resources and the viability of small-scale fishing communities;
- **Women in SSF**: Not enough effort has been put towards exploring the role of women and their involvement with SSF. However, it's been clearly demonstrated that women play a transcendental role in the fishing practices, and that they can be principal stakeholders in addressing the sector's shortcomings;
- **Proper inclusion in the decision-making**: Fishers and fishing communities have been left out from the decision- and policy-making. Nevertheless, there are examples that the successful integration can be achieved when fishers and fishing communities take part in the high level decision making;
- **Achieving sustainable SSF**: Strategies to improve SSF governability vary greatly. One relevant mechanism are the recently approved SSF Guidelines, which were endorsed by the FAO member States in 2014. The SSF Guidelines can, in fact, lead towards sustainable SSF through the implementation of principles and practices within the SSF Guidelines.

## 2. Panel sessions

### *2.1 Multistakeholder Panel: Current situation and prospects for small-scale fisheries in Europe*

#### **Panellists**

Fernando Gutiérrez (President, The Canarian Federation of Cofradías)

Jeremy Percy (Low Impact Fishers of Europe - LIFE)

Nicole Franz (Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO)

Svein Jentoft (The Arctic University of Norway - UiT)

Marja Bekendam (Aktea, Women in Fisheries)

#### **Session highlights**

- **Taking a global perspective:** Addressing SSF issues requires that we look not only at the local issues interrelated with SSF, but also take into account global issues and aspects that go beyond the local circumstances, such as social justice, climate change, ethics, poverty, food sovereignty, lack of access to the fishing grounds, and others;
- **Political agendas:** The willingness (or lack of it) within the political agendas to deal with SSF issues has a direct impact on the kind of instruments and tools used in decision- and policy-making. Fisheries management mostly relies on technical solutions, and disregards the fishers' role in using, protecting, and managing the natural resource. Such lack of attention for the capacity building of fishers undermines the empowerment of SSF;
- **Discrepancy between policy discourses and the practical implications:** The lack of consistency between the policy discourse and the practical implications of these decisions and policies continues to be a major issue. It is hard to imagine that the current actions at a policy level may lead towards sustainability of fishing resources and the viability of fishing communities. This contradiction is evident in the increasing support provided to the industrial-based, extensive, and intensive aquaculture initiatives by the authorities that claim this to be the solution for all SSF challenges;
- **Successful SSF initiatives:** The initiative in El Hierro Island is a good example of how to reverse overfishing by shifting interests and positions of the SSF sector towards more collective-based initiatives. The unsuccessful initiatives fail to take into account various other factors linked to viability and sustainability of SSF, such as cultural aspects, social bonding elements, historical context, customary practices, and others;
- **SSF not an occupation of the last resort.** The new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) has been launched recently, and in it, Article 14 includes a section on the

access to markets. Now is a moment to engage the entire SSF sector in achieving successful outcomes, and leave the many assumptions and myths about this sector behind. For instance, the assumption that *as long as poverty prevails, SSF will prevail*, has shown to be inaccurate in Europe where SSF demonstrated to be more resilient than was expected. Another misleading assumption is that *lifting fishers from poverty will automatically keep them from doing hard work*. We must recognize that SSF is not an occupation of last resort. If small-scale fishers decide to stay, rather than leave their occupation, it is not because they do not understand what's in their best interest, but because this is their preferred livelihood, and a viable way of living;

- **Time to look at ethical aspects of SSF:** Ethical aspects of SSF have not been taken sufficiently into account, despite the fact they are explicitly mentioned in the Common Fisheries Policy (Article 17): “contribute to a fair standard...” The mandate included in this normative instrument (and in others like the SSF Guidelines, the Code of Conduct) is not only a legal requirement but an ethical imperative to identify how and who should be made accountable for its implementation;
- **Implementing the SSF Guidelines:** One of the most positive things for SSF at a global scale is the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines in June 2014. Now the States must take the lead and enable the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, even if it clashes with their dominant political paradigm. The SSF Guidelines advocate for a massive paradigm shift, and implementation will likely not be an easy process. The paradigm shift calls for a move away from the ‘privatization’ scheme that has widely dominated the sector with the ITQs model. Until SSF are no longer treated as excluded and marginalized, even in regions that are not perceived as poor (e.g., Europe), we will not advance in addressing the SSF challenges. As such, it is essential to recognize that small-scale fishing people in the North have the same rights and comparable concerns as people in the South. Additionally, researchers and academics must investigate to what extent this implementation has taken place, and if not, what are the reasons behind it?

#### **Major issues threatening the long-term viability of the SSF:**

- **The indifference of fisheries policy to the fishers’ voices.** Still, the existence of projects like LIFE is a positive step forward. LIFE’s engagement in the European fishing decisions clearly illustrates the need for a dedicated voice that can specifically represent SSF;
- **The lack (or inadequate) statistics on SSF,** which are critical for a proper characterization of the SSF sector on a regional level;
- **The reduction in income, profits, viability, jobs, and many other aspects of SSF.** Meanwhile, the incomes of the large-scale fisheries (LSF) are steadily increasing. This has much to do with the fact that “SSF have no voice”. Some of the main

factors that prevent collaborative initiatives among small-scale fishers include a lack of trust, capacity, and resources.

- **The inequity of fishing rights:** The concentration of fishing quota in the hands of only few shows the imbalance of fishing rights, which privileges the large-scale fishing activities and enables a dominance of foreign ownership. It is necessary to renegotiate the rights of SSF and take on the responsibility of implementing these rights;
- **Insufficient recognition of women in SSF.** As one participant said: *“We should realize that behind every boat there is woman and family. Women can be a spokesperson because their husbands are busy fishing. Wives can collect info and represent the enterprise. Women have other qualities that should be better utilized - not better qualities but different ones”*.
- **Ageing population of fishers, and various obstacles preventing younger generations to build a career in fisheries;**
- **The decline of fish biomass** over the last decades for a variety of reasons, not only due to fisheries, and the consequent massive reduction in the numbers of fish;
- **Ocean grabbing, access to resources and fishing grounds;**
- **The lack (or inadequate) provision of facilities at the landing harbours** (e.g., lack of cooling mechanisms for handling the fish);
- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** between Europe and the U.S. and its impact on SSF and the fishing communities;

## *2.2. Local branding and marketing initiatives in small-scale fisheries in Europe*

### **Participants:**

Nicolás Fernández (Cofradía de Conil)

Carlos Montero (Marine Stewardship Council - MSC)

Pedro Jiménez (Islatuna)

David Pavón (Pesca Restinga, I. El Hierro)

Jorge Bosch (Restaurante La Bola)

Rafael González Martín Servicio Ganadería y Pesca (Cabildo de Tenerife)

Jose Pascual-Fernandez, Universidad de La Laguna



## Session highlights

- **Defining SSF:** A critical issue in dealing with SSF is the inability to define what “small-scale fisheries” are. The broad definition used to define the sector is rather inadequate, since SSF vary so greatly depending on the location;
- **The value of SSF:** To ensure the sustainability of SSF, we must understand the real value of SSF. Fishers are not only responsible for fishing, but also to what happens with the fish before and after it is landed and traded;
- **Globalization and SSF:** While the officials from the European Union claim that the international trade agreements would not cause a significant damage to the SSF sector, globalization can increase the vulnerability of SSF. One of the reasons is that the SSF catches are not adequately differentiated in the markets;
- **Branding:** One way to enhance the value of the SSF it to specifically brand the SSF products. Successful branding will require a creative, regional approach, supported by the technology. At the same time, we need to be aware that branding is based on the hypothesis that consumers don’t know enough about fish (lack of awareness) and that the SSF catches are not adequately differentiated in the market, which creates disadvantages in the selling process. However, the current political system supports an unfair market based on cheap food coming from all over the world. Researchers need to challenge this political system and study this economic-political problem;
- **Building a narrative around SSF:** Parallel to branding, one way to promote the value of SSF is by putting a greater emphasis on the narrative around SSF – by focusing on sustainability, history, and culture, and not only on a brand. For this, we need the inclusion of non-economic social sciences in the SSF discourse;
- **Illegal fishing:** Illegal fishing is one of the biggest challenges for SSF and a major threat to their viability. More direct channels between producers and consumers could mitigate the large number of illegal fish that enters the market. Above all, the governing bodies must do a better job in effectively addressing the issue of illegal fishing.

### 3. Wrap-up Session

#### *Reflections on the current status and prospects for small-scale fisheries in Europe: the way forward*

The purpose of this session was to highlight the main issues discussed during the symposium and provide insights that could guide current and future initiatives on SSF led by European researchers, practitioners, and fishers.

The attendees were asked to reflect on the following questions:

- 1) **What are some of the most exciting/positive things about SSF in Europe?**
- 2) **What challenges/issues need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable SSF in Europe?**
- 3) **What are some of the steps in moving forward?**

The excerpts from the attendees' responses are listed below:

#### **1) What are some of the most exciting/positive things about SSF in Europe?**

- SSF and the values that the general public holds are starting to be studied, recorded and communicated at a European level through policy instruments and organizations such as LIFE;
- Recognition of SSF under the new Common Fisheries Policy, while also acknowledging that this recognition is still limited in scope and requires further attention;
- Increasing recognition of the importance of SSF. For scientists, NGOs, and even fishers' organizations it is important that we pay more attention to SSF specificities, emphasizing the socio economic benefits of SSF;
- The possibility to increase fishers' income by marine based income sources (e.g. "pesca turismo");
- SSF provides fresh, local food that is not kept in a freezer, nor transported all over the world (e.g. decreased carbon footprint);
- The lives/stories of the fishermen;
- The individualism and self-reliance of fishers and fishing communities, that are, at the same time, able to build and participate in organizations capable of taking part in governing the fisheries and marketing the catches.

## 2) What challenges/issues need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable SSF in Europe?

- Marine spatial planning and the Blue Growth Agenda continue to marginalize fishers. The representation of fishing communities is poor and their value in terms of job and the wider economy, let alone their wider social value continue to be missed;
- While gender has been legally mainstreamed in fishery policy and research, intergenerational aspects of fisheries and barriers faced by young people in fishing pose a huge threat to the social sustainability of SSF;
- We should realize that behind almost every boat there is a woman – a collaborative spouse, and a family. Women can collect information and be the spokespersons of their enterprises;
- Getting small-scale fishers involved into decision making process;
- Designing legislature and financial infrastructure for fisheries management plans;
- Striking a balance between conservation and keeping fisheries operating;
- Designing and implementing management strategies that are developed together with fishers;
- The drive for privatization and commodification of access of the resource (e.g. ITQ's);
- Administrative inertia for effective and dedicated representation of SSF.

## 3) What are some of the steps in moving forward?

- More research in collaboration with policy makers and governments to communicate the real value of SSF so that they can be part of governance;
- Policy and initiatives, which support SSF and especially young people who work in SSF;
- We should be aware of the importance of the social aspects of SSF. Sometimes there is more attention for the wellbeing of animals, than for people. Fishers are part of the ecosystem as well;
- Wholesalers have too much power and SSF are too vulnerable. Small-scale fishers need to create organizations to improve fish marketing, differentiate their catches and reach consumers as directly as possible;
- To create concrete, clear practices in SSF where fishery is managed well and then replicate this model adapted to local circumstances;
- All SSF areas should be declared as specially protected areas for SSF;
- Bring the stakeholder out of their comfort zone: scientists and managers should spend more time out of their offices and in the fishing communities / out at sea. Fishermen should spend more time with other stakeholders aiming to strike balance and find solutions.

- Providing solid evidence that shows the benefits of supporting SSF;
- Providing a range of support mechanisms for effective representation of SSF;
- Building capacity and ability of SSF organizations.

### Quick overview of the main SSF topics and issues discussed during the symposium

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SSF Guidelines</li> <li>▪ LO, FLAGs, SSCF</li> <li>▪ CSFs</li> <li>▪ EBM, MPAs, ITQs</li> <li>▪ Historical perspective</li> <li>▪ Gastronomy</li> <li>▪ Branding &amp; marketing</li> <li>▪ SSF footprint</li> <li>▪ Visibility/invisibility</li> <li>▪ Recreational fisheries</li> <li>▪ Social transformation</li> <li>▪ Refugee crisis</li> <li>▪ Northern-Middle-Southern Europe</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Branding (collective, quality, private)</li> <li>▪ Fishing pathways</li> <li>▪ Synergies</li> <li>▪ Livelihoods/wellbeing</li> <li>▪ Economic/technical efficiency</li> <li>▪ Empowerment</li> <li>▪ Embeddedness</li> <li>▪ Interactive governance</li> <li>▪ Co-management</li> <li>▪ Marginalization/de-marginalization</li> <li>▪ Organizations (fishers, producers, FAO, EU, TBTI, CSOs, others...)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## V. TBTI Webinar

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### SSF in Europe: Roles of markets, communities, and organizations

**Presenters:**

José Pascual-Fernandez, University of La Laguna, Spain  
Cristina Pita, University of Aveiro, Portugal  
Jeremy Percy, LIFE, UK

**Chair:** Vesna Kerezi, Memorial University of Newfoundland

The presenters discussed main issues, opportunities and challenges for SSF in Europe as well as the role of markets, communities, and organizations. The webinar provided insights about the upcoming book 'Small-Scale Fisheries in Europe: Status, Resilience and Governance', a collaborative work of authors from more than 20 coastal European countries. Audience was also able to learn more about LIFE, an umbrella organization run by fishermen for fishermen whose goal is to provide a clear and coherent voice at the EU level.

The recording of the webinar and the PowerPoint presentation can be seen at <https://goo.gl/ia48GX>



## VI. Fishers' participation at the Symposium

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One of the goals of the symposium was to facilitate the participation of fishers to these kinds of events, and to enhance the information access and exchange among fishers, as well as between fishers and other attendees. Below is a short summary depicting fishers' participation at the Symposium.

### **Multi-stakeholder panel presentation: Current situation and prospects for small-scale fisheries in Europe - Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The panel included representatives of the Canarian Federation of Cofradías, LIFE Project, and of AKTEA (the organization of European women involved in SSF). The panellists expressed their concerns about the current and future developments of the SSF sector in Europe. They illustrated the effect of the current European Common Fisheries Policy on the ability of fishers to be active agents in the sector. They also discussed the future prospects for this sector, especially when taking into account the threats caused by the free trade agreements between Europe and North America (e.g. TTIP).

### **Roundtable discussion: Collaboration and partnership for sustainable small-scale fisheries - Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Representatives of the Canarian Federation of Cofradías and the LIFE Project showcased how fishers, represented by these institutions, perceive their status and the challenges they are faced with. The speakers also provided opinions about the most important aspects that the sector needs to address.

Additionally, on the same day, representatives of Cofradía de Conil, Islatuna, and Pesca Restinga-El Hierro Island participated in the **Panel Presentation: Local branding and marketing initiatives in small-scale fisheries in Europe**. The fishers provided examples of successful initiatives that were planned, developed and carried out by SSF in order to improve the sector's status at economic, social, and community level.

### **TBTI Webinar: SSF in Europe: Roles of markets, communities, and organizations - Friday July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017-02-06**

Jeremy Percy, Executive Director of LIFE illustrated how the project is taking part in the decision-making processes at the European Union level and how it has become an important player for the SSF sector within European Union. He emphasised that, overall, the SSF sector has started to receive greater attention than in the past.



## Acknowledgments

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We would like to sincerely thank all individuals, organizations and committees who made the Symposium on European Small-Scale Fisheries and Global Linkages possible.

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## **Supporting Organizations**

We are grateful for the support and assistance of many people, organizations, and sponsors who have contributed to making this congress possible. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the support of the following **organizations**.

**Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Aguas, Gobierno de Canarias**

**Cabildo Insular de Tenerife**

**Ayuntamiento de Santa Cruz de Tenerife**

**Concejalía de Turismo, Ayuntamiento de La Laguna**

**Turismo de Tenerife**

**Islatuna, Organización de Productores de Túnidos y Pesca Fresca de la Isla de Tenerife**

**LIFE, Low Impact Fishers of Europe**

**Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Gobierno de España**

**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada**

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