

Too Big To Ignore Report

Number R-03/2017



Governability and Sustainability of European Small-Scale Fisheries

Discussion Forum

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toobigtoignore.net

RESEARCH

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List of Acronyms

AKTEA - European network of fisherwomen's organizations in Europe

EFF – European Fisheries Fund

EMFF - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

EU - European Union

CLLD - Community-Led Local Development

ISSF – Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries

FARNET - The European Fisheries Areas Network

FLAGs - Fisheries Local Action Groups

LIFE - Low Impact Fishers of Europe

LSF - Large-Scale Fisheries

TBTI - Too Big To Ignore research network

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

SSF - Small-Scale Fisheries

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

I. Summary

The Discussion Forum on Governability and Sustainability of European Small-Scale Fisheries was organized by the Too Big To Ignore project (TBTI, www.toobigtoignore.net), a global research network aiming to elevate the profile and importance of small-scale fisheries (SSF) around the world. The half-day meeting attracted interest of about 30 scholars and practitioners on SSF across Europe and beyond.

The main purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and knowledge about SSF in Europe, as well as to discuss the regional synthesis and the 'SSF Governability Index', a new assessment tool developed by TBTI to help countries gauge what needs to happen in order to improve governance and to achieve SSF sustainability.

The event was free and open to everyone interested in TBTI and SSF, especially for those who are involved in SSF research and practice in Europe. During the first part of the forum, the audience was introduced to the *Regional Synthesis Report Europe* and the *Governability Index* and were invited to share their comments and suggestions. In the second part of the event, representatives of four European initiatives that work closely with TBTI and on SSF introduced their programs, providing examples of the types of approaches that can enhance SSF governability and sustainability in this region.

Overall, the forum provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences on issues affecting the sustainability and governance of SSF in Europe and discuss the opportunities that are being implemented in dealing with these challenges. Participants also discussed the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, and shed light on the way forward in terms of SSF research and capacity development programs in the European region. The outputs of the discussion forum will be incorporated in the forthcoming TBTI European regional synthesis report.

II. Program Agenda

13:00-13:15	Welcome and introduction
13:15-13:45	Presentation of the Regional Synthesis about SSF in Europe and 'Governability Index'
13:45-14:45	Questions and discussion
11.00-11:30	Break
15:15-16:15	Presentations about SSF related initiatives in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Marja Bekadam – AKTEA➤ Gerbrand Haverkamp – Index Initiative➤ Jeremy Percy – LIFE➤ Gilles van de Walle – FARNET Support Unit
16:15-17:30	General discussion "Future of SSF in Europe: Research, Policy and Engagement Activities"
17:30	Adjourn

III. Presentation of the Regional Synthesis of SSF in Europe and ‘Governability Index’

Welcome

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 for SSF 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 (TBTI) is one such effort that aims at conducting local research, improving regional and global governance, and providing information about SSF of the world.

TBTI aims to elevate the profile of SSF and address key concerns. The project started in 2012 with five key research questions, which resulted from a participatory process. These questions deal with the viability of SSF, livelihoods and wellbeing, stewardship, access and rights, and governance. Since then, TBTI has evolved and now encompasses 14 research clusters that deal with the most pressing issues on SSF globally. The key deliverables of TBTI include the [Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries \(ISSF\)](#), an online crowd-sourcing and interactive platform for SSF data sharing and integration; the *Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries training course*, which aims at enhancing capacity in SSF research and practice; and research publications, including books (e.g. [The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation](#) book launched at the MARE Conference 2017), articles, special issues, reports, and regional synthesis.

3.1 Regional Synthesis Report Europe

The Regional Synthesis Report Europe is the first in a series of five reports that bring together information on SSF, drawing from TBTI’s global repository of SSF data (ISSF) and research publications, both within and outside TBTI. The synthesis report is divided in four main sections: Importance of SSF; SSF Characteristics; Issues and Challenges; and Prospects and Opportunities.

3.2 *Governability Index*

Ratana started the session by introducing the governability concept, and the governability assessment framework as a system analysis. She explained how diversity, complexity, dynamics and scale contribute towards making a system more or less governable. She explained that when looking at SSF, we need to understand the quality of interactions, the system properties, and the capability of the governing system in order to intervene in terms of enhancing the governability of the system. Thus, the governability index would involve various attributes from the natural, social, and governing systems.

The attributes from the natural system would include the number of species fished by SSF based on the presumption that a high diversity of target species implies low governability. Also, it would include the percentage of SSF catches in relation to LSF, with a high percentage meaning a greater contribution and lower governability. The magnitude of the inshore fishing area would also have an implication on governability, with a negative relationship between area and governability.

From the governing system perspective, the attributes for analyzing governability would include the amount of subsidies allocated to SSF presuming that the higher the amount, the higher the governability. Same applies for the percentage of subsidies allocated to SSF in comparison to LSF. The transparency score that reflects the level of corruption in a country could also be used as an indicator, with the assumption that there is a positive relationship between level of transparency and governability. From the governing interactions, the attributes analysed would include the number of publications on SSF, reflecting the attention given to the sector: the higher the attention to SSF, the higher the governability. And finally, the higher the Human Development Index in a country, the higher the SSF governability is.

IV. Presentations about SSF related initiatives in Europe

4.1 *AKTEA*

Marja Bekadam

Chairperson for AKTEA - European network of fisherwomen's organisations in Europe-

Marja Bekadam presented the work that has been conducted since 2006 by the Aktea network, a network that recognizes the value of women in SSF and their contribution to the sector. Unfortunately, despite the progress, women's contribution to fisheries is still not recognized and often remains 'invisible'. Marja highlighted that women should be organized so that they can claim their rights and they should also be part of the SSF statistics.

In many countries, women do not have benefits such as maternity leave or rights to own quotas; quotas and licences are linked to the person or to the boat. In the instances when a woman owns an enterprise together with her husband, she does not have the rights to go fishing. If women are not working on-board and are a co-owner of the boat, they must pay to be recognized through co-ownership. Problems like this deserve greater attention and organizations like TBTI could help women to organize, obtain rights, and receive the much needed recognition.

Other difficulties in the EU include finding a job on a boat, especially if woman is not married to a fisherman. Marja concluded her presentation by calling for collaboration from other networks, giving the example of LIFE, which now has a women's section together with AKTEA.

4.2 Index Initiative

Gerbrand Haverkamp

Executive Director of Index Initiative

Gerbrand Haverkamp presented the Seafood Stewardship Index, which builds a benchmark to define whether companies meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key SDGs for the seafood industry are the goals 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15 and their linkages. The index allows for comparison in the performance of companies in relation to these goals, with the aim of bringing clarity on the expectations, role, and leadership towards the SDGs. They work with a number of partners, including Aviva, the biggest insurance company in the UK, towards creating corporate benchmarks such as seafood index.

The way the index works is that they collect what others think and expect from the industry (e.g. the seafood industry), with the index development trajectory encompassing stakeholder dialogue and company outreach. They then include companies that are in the scope of the benchmark and later they assess how these companies perform in relation to each other. Gerbrand also presented the rationale for the Seafood Stewardship Index and mentioned that it includes 30 of the world's biggest seafood companies. Potential measurement areas that the index will encompass in the future include: 'Governance, measurement, and stakeholder

engagement'; 'Ecosystems'; 'Human rights and labor practices'; 'Fair operating practices'; and 'Local communities'.

4.3 LIFE

Jeremy Percy

Executive Director of LIFE - Low Impact Fishers of Europe

Jeremy Percy shared his experience working with LIFE, which was created in 2009 with the goal of influencing the Common Fisheries Policy. LIFE is formed by a total of 7,000 fishers with 5,000 boats, as an organization of organizations run by fishers for fishers. It acts as a champion for the low-impact fisheries conducted by the SSF fleet across Europe, working in partnership with FARNET and FLAGS. LIFE has a *"good story to tell, and the data to back up that story"*, and the organization is *"stubborn and independent"*.

The major challenges for LIFE include the landing obligation, which is going to have huge impacts to SSF. Another challenge is funding as LIFE is in disadvantaged position in comparison to LSF. For the future, Jeremy remarked that LIFE needs to build capacity.

4.4 FARNET Support Unit

Gilles van de Walle

Team Leader of the FARNET Support Unit

Gilles van de Walle explained the role of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) as part of the Community-Led Local Development program (CLLD). FLAGS were funded by the EFF (2007-2013) and successively by EMFF (2014-2020) with the objective of promoting balanced and inclusive development of areas with fisheries and aquaculture. FLAGS can facilitate decentralisation of the EU fisheries and aquaculture management through local-based governance. The CLLD looks at issues in an integrative manner in which each member state decides on whether they want to implement the CLLD, in which case they open a call for interest for FLAGS and select the fitting FLAGS.

By default, FLAGS are open to everyone: at the moment, around 2,700 projects are targeted at SSF (23% of the total project and 40% in areas with commercial fishing activities). The projects are usually about product promotion and diversification of activities in SSF.

Appendix – List of participants

Name	Surname	Affiliation
Tim	Acott	Greenwich Maritime Centre, UK
María José	Barragán-Paladines	Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research – ZMT, Germany
Liliana	Bastian	University of Washington, USA
Tony	Charles	Saint Mary's University, Canada
Ratana	Chuenpagdee	TBTI, Canada
Raquel	de la Cruz Modino	University of La Laguna, Spain
María José	Espinosa-Romero	COBI, Mexico
Laurence	Fauconnet	University of the Azores, Portugal
Katia	Frangoudes	Université de Brest, France
Gerbrand	Haverkamp	Index Initiative, The Netherlands
Julián	Idrobo	Los Andes University, Colombia
Moenieba	Isaacs	University of the Western Cape, South Africa
Svein	Jentoft	The Arctic University of Norway, Norway
Derek	Johnson	University of Manitoba, Canada
Matthias	Kaiser	University of Bergen, Norway
Vesna	Kerezi	TBTI, Canada
Arne	Kinds	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Belgium
Mimi	Lam	University of British Columbia, Canada

Mirella	Leis	TBTI, Canada
Patrick	McConney	CERMES, Barbados
Prateep	Nayak	University of Waterloo, Canada
Jose	Pascual	University of la Laguna, Spain
Jeremy	Percy	LIFE, UK
Evelyn	Pinkerton	Simon Fraser University, Canada
Cristina	Pita	University of Aveiro, Portugal
Toni	Pitcher	University of British Columbia, Canada
Alicia	Said	TBTI, Canada
Milena	Schreiber	Göteborg University, Sweden
Lisa	Soares	CERMES, Barbados
Kumi	Soejima	National Fisheries University, Japan
Adam	Soliman	Fisheries Law Centre, Canada
Andrew	Song	James Cook University, Australia
Annisa	Triyanti	University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Gilles	van de Walle	Farnet Support Unit, Belgium

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