NEWS AND UPDATES

NOVEMBER 2018

SPECIAL ISSUE ON
THIRD WORLD SMALL-SCALE
FISHERIES CONGRESS
Over 350 researchers, practitioners, small-scale fishers, civil society organizations, environmental organizations, and government representatives gathered last month in Thailand to discuss transdisciplinary strategies to sustain small-scale fisheries as a global food production system, as part of the 3WSFC.

Taking place on 22–26 October 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme ‘Transdisciplinary and Transformation for the Future of Small-Scale Fisheries’, the congress facilitated information exchange, knowledge sharing, and discussion among participants who came from more than 50 countries for the viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries worldwide. The congress’s main theme was addressed by focusing on knowledge, innovation and capacity in the context of science, community, and policy.

For more information about the congress, click here.

The congress was co-hosted by Maejo University and TBTI, in partnership with Department of Fisheries, Thailand, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, the Marine Biodiversity Research Group of Ramkhamhaeng University, and the Marine Science Association of Thailand.

3WSFC offered an exciting program organized around five days, including, among many others, a number of plenary sessions, science cafes, community and regional rountables, fisher-to-fisher talk circles and policy dialogue. In this special issue of the TBCT Digest, we are highlighting some of the most interesting moments from the congress (and believe us, there were many). We hope you will enjoy reading about them!
Debrief from Science Day - Day 1
Monday, October 22 2018

Prepared by Evan Andrews, Jack Daly, Jennifer Beckensteiner, Diego Salgueiro Otero, Carlos Montero-Castaño, Kashiefa Parker, Andrew Song, and Alida Bundy

• Small-scale fisheries are important places (i.e., human rights, food security, and livelihoods)
• Their sustainability is affected by interacting, levelled social and environmental drivers of change including climate change
• Not all small-scale fisheries are the same or similarly affected by these drivers
• Implementing the SSF Guidelines in these dynamic contexts represents scientific and moral imperatives
• Human rights and social justice perspectives are guiding lights for our work
• This includes bringing the research & messages to where the people are and facilitating increased voice for communities
• We also have imperatives for more attention to inland fisheries

To see a full debrief from the Science day, click here.
Debrief from Community Day - Day 2
Tuesday, October 23 2018

Prepared by John Matias Wojciechowski and Silvia and a large team of notetakers

• Small-scale fisheries is not about just fishing. It is about place-making where identities are carved by an intimate relationship with nature. Small-scale fisheries are places where:
  • Entire families are involved in the activity, where women have a key role to play and inter-generational ties are crucial for their survival. It is an intimate relationship with nature that cannot be broken.
  • Transdisciplinary teams need to foresee an active participation of the fisher community along the program/policy formulation cycle as a fundamental element of long-term small-scale fisheries sustainability.
  • From agenda setting to community-based monitoring and evaluation.
• Land use is just as important to small-scale fisheries sustainability as deploying protected areas and management of fishing resources. This is particularly true for indigenous and other traditional communities which are often displaced by aggressive profit-driven development projects.

• The negative impacts of irresponsible industrial fisheries on small-scale fisheries are profound. Just one incident can wipe out an entire sector for years. The good news is that these dramatic scenarios can be reverse with an incredible effort from all stakeholders towards transdisciplinarity.

To see a full debrief from the Community Day, click here.
Debrief from Policy day - Day 3
Wednesday, October 24 2018

Prepared by Milena Arias Schreiber, Madeleine Gustavsson and a large team of notetakers

Roles of Government in the SSF Guidelines implementation

• Describe the complexities and hierarchies involved in the SSF Guidelines implementation associated with governmental and bureaucratic processes.
• Acknowledge the importance of international collaborations.
• Attempt to integrate national targets with local needs.
• Recognize core social principles that go beyond fisheries or resource management alone (e.g. human rights, gender equality, dignity, cultural identity, etc.).
• Highlight the importance of participation of local small-scale fishers representatives and CSOs at the early stages of implementation.

Multiple demands, multiple governance challenges

• Social equity can be an outcome of co-management, and also a tool to reach the outcomes which we desire.

• Governance rules from government to community have to be well applied and at regional scale.
• We cannot let the communities isolated dealing with the problems alone. There is a need for more clear, connected and regionalized regulations.
• Need to think more about the role of markets. Technical solutions about markets, must address the relations that sustain poverty.
• Accommodation of local and scientific knowledge.

To see a full debrief from the Policy Day, click here.
Viability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and The Caribbean - book relaunch

Editors: Silvia Salas, Maria José Barragán-Paladines, & Ratana Chuenpagdee

MARE Publication Series, Vol. 19

- Covers a variety of small-scale fisheries issues in different contexts, from Islands to the continent, offering a wide range of themes that are being discussed by government and non-governmental organizations
- Case studies offer lessons learned in terms of vulnerability concerns, market dynamics, social capital and institutional and legal frameworks of SSF, which is a priority for many countries in LAC and worldwide; contributing therefore to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region
- Contributors to the book are experts and specialists from different disciplines within the Latin America and the Caribbean region who have an extensive experience working in the region

The "Viability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and The Caribbean" book, which came out in June this year was re-launched at the congress.

Developed through TBTI, the volume includes 23 chapters encompassing case studies from more than 14 countries specialists from various disciplines within the region share lessons learned and offer insights about inland and marine small-scale fisheries assessment, monitoring and management, adaptive capacity, stewardship, sustainable livelihoods, market dynamics, food security, as well as institutional and legal frameworks, relevant to Latin America and Caribbean countries and elsewhere.

For more information about the book, visit the TBTI website.
Official launch of the new TBTI book

Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance: Analysis and Practice

Editors: Ratana Chuenpagdee & Svein Jentoft

MARE publication series, Vol. 21

- An exceptional volume of big questions and major concerns in small-scale fisheries pursued in TBTI
- Includes lessons and reflections for improving small-scale fisheries governance and for achieving SDGs
- Presents case studies providing detailed and systematic analysis of wicked problems in small-scale fisheries
- An essential guide for building transdisciplinary capacity in research and governance for fisheries sustainability worldwide

The importance of small-scale fisheries for sustainable livelihoods and communities, food security, and poverty eradication is indisputable. With the endorsement of the ‘Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries’, FAO member states recognize that governments, civil society organizations, and research communities all have a role to play in helping small-scale fisheries achieve these goals.

This book argues that policies targeting small-scale fisheries need to be based on a solid and holistic knowledge foundation, and support the building of governance capacity at local, national, and global levels.

The book provides rich illustrations from around the world of why such knowledge production needs to be transdisciplinary, drawing from multiple disciplinary perspectives and the knowledge that small-scale fisheries actors have, in order to identify problems and explore innovative solutions.

The volume was developed through the TBTI ‘Transdisciplinary Fisheries’ cluster and includes contributions from 70 authors across from multiple backgrounds, disciplines, and geographic regions.

For more information and to order the book, click here.
Best student paper awards

Pesca-Kucha

Best presentation: Evan Andrews for "Human behavior and its implications for the governability of the Northern Shrimp Inshore Fishery, Newfoundland, Canada"

Special mention: Alva Aguión for "The stalked barnacle in Southern Europe: a comparison of bottom-up and top-down management systems of a benthic resource"

Special mention: Mandy Doddema for "Tuna middleman practices: response dynamics to traceability interventions"

Regular presentations

The award for the best paper in this category was split among the following students:

Jennifer Beckensteiner for "Interactions between the Chilean Territorial User Rights for Fisheries (TURFs) network and catch of benthic resources in open-access areas"

Maira Borgonha for "Side by side: fishers and researches building marine conservation together"

Sebastian Tapia-Lewin for "Interplay between different dimensions of adaptive capacity affect fisher’s adaptations to climate change"

Speed presentations

The award for the best paper in this category was split among the following students:

Jack Daly for "Community responses to global trade: CETA, sustainable fisheries, and coastal communities in the Great Northern Peninsula, Newfoundland"

Rizkyana Dipananda for "Drawing Invisible Lines: The Process of Boundary Making in Marine Space - A case study of governing FADs in Labuhan Lombok"

Joseph Ginindza for "Considerations for the future of small-scale fisheries in South Africa"
Reflections from students and early career scientists

By Mbachi Ruth Msomphora
UiT The Arctic University of Norway

"The 3rd WSFC 2018 is one of my best Conference attended so far. I gained a lot of knowledge from the Congress about transdisciplinary research approach in small-scale fisheries, especially when it comes to participation in an interactive way; besides enabling me making some research network which is important for me as an early career researcher...

...Besides, I liked the idea that the Congress had many early/young researchers as keynote-speakers, especially with the aim for dealing with the future of the world’s small-scale fisheries."

By Eva Coronado
CINVESTAV, Mexico

"Como estudiante, participar en el congreso fue muy satisfactorio, ya que tuve la oportunidad de presentar los resultados de mi investigación y obtener retroalimentación y críticas constructivas por parte de los asistentes, estas observaciones, sin duda enriquecerán mi trabajo de tesis. Además, los vínculos de trabajo, futuras colaboraciones y nuevas lazos de amistad forjados durante el evento, representa un aporte invaluable para mi crecimiento profesional y personal."

By Evan Andrews
University of Waterloo, Canada

"...Beyond my doctoral work, the Congress helped to strengthen my own voice. I gained access to a diverse group of people, ideas and research. With encouragement from others, I stepped out of my bubble, reached out, and became more critical about what was said and unsaid... I received master-class on influence from Moenieba Isaacs who flipped a narrative from ‘Blue Economy’ to ‘Blue Justice’ artfully and thoughtfully to encourage us to think about race, class and gender. I hope my voice is strong like that one day."
Reflections from students and early career scientists (continued)

By Wilson Mhlanga
University of Western Cape, South Africa

"The presentations covered experiences from different parts of the world and this helped me to gain an insight into the characteristics of different types of Small Scale Fisheries at a global scale, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing these fisheries. From the presentations, I noted that in many parts of the world, there are several issues in Small Scale Fisheries that are similar, irrespective of geographical location."

For a full account of the reflections, click here.

Svein Jentoft receives special recognition

On the opening day of the congress, Svein Jentoft received a special award "Friend of small-scale fisheries and TBTI hero". The recognition was awarded at the "Emerging leading scholars" plenary session during which the five panelists, all early career scientists, spoke about the impact Dr. Jentoft and his work has had on them and their careers.

Svein Jentoft is a renowned sociologist who has worked extensively on fisheries and coastal issues, including resource management, industrial organization, and community development in his native Norway, as well as in many other countries. He has published more than 25 books and numerous journal articles on fisheries and coastal governance. He is a founding member and cluster leader within the Too Big To Ignore: Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research.
Proceedings

The congress proceedings are now available on the congress website. To download them, click here.

Congress videos

We have recorded and made available online a number of congress sessions. If you have missed part of the congress or would like to re-watch some of your favourite moments from the congress, be sure to check the TBTI YouTube channel.

Synthesis

Stay tuned! The summary of the final day of the congress i.e. Action Day, which includes regional synthesis and the regional roundtables, will be covered in the next issue of the TBTI Digest.
Thank you for making the 3WSFC a wonderful success!

We owe the success of the congress to numerous sponsors, individuals, committees and organizations who helped us turn the 3WSFC into reality. We are especially thankful to the congress participants who have made the time and effort to join us in Thailand to chart together the future of small-scale fisheries.

Click on the video to see the closing congress message from the congress co-chair, Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee.
ABOUT

Too Big To Ignore is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership that focuses on addressing issues and concerns affecting viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

If you have any comments or feedback you would like to share with us, send us an email to toobigtoignore@mun.ca. We also encourage you to visit our website to find out more about the project and how to engage.

Written by: Vesna Kerezi, TBTI Project Manager