



**Too BIG To
IGNORE**

Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

NEWS AND UPDATES JANUARY 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

Blue Justice

Stories, videos and pledges collected as part of our 'Blue Justice' campaign

Calls for contributions

TBTI special sessions for MARE People and the Sea Conference, 25-28 June 2019

Opinion piece

'We can eat our fish and fight climate change too'

TBTI ACTIVITIES

Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries

Say yes to Blue Justice. Share your story. Commit today.

"As a small NGO working in this community, we continue to struggle how to assist the community given our lack of financial and human resources. However, we commit to continue helping by providing them with a voice, hopefully loud enough to be heard in the province, the country and someday, in the world." [Jom Acebes, Philippines]

"As a social scientist, Blue Justice in the Baltic Sea means for me, giving back to coastal fishermen their right to decide upon their future and the allocation of fishing resources." [Milena Arias Schreiber, Sweden]



Last November, we asked you to send us your stories, thoughts and reflections regarding the 'Blue Justice' concept. Your many contributions, either in the form of short stories, pledges to the 'Blue Justice' campaign, or videos, are a testament of how relevant 'Blue Justice' is for the small-scale fisheries of today.

All contributions up to now have now been collated and can be seen on our website. We are still collecting contributions so if you would like to add your voice to the conversation, [please click here](#).



TBTI 'Blue Justice' campaign

The November call was first in a series of activities that we are conducting under the TBTI 'Blue Justice' campaign. The campaign, created in response to the growing and concerning popularity of the Blue Economy” and “Blue Growth” initiatives, urges all actors involved in small-scale fisheries to critically examine what these initiatives mean to small-scale fisheries and their communities, in terms of distributive justice, community empowerment, human rights, food and nutritional security, gender equity, and sustainability.

As our upcoming 'Blue Justice' activities, we are organizing two special sessions at the MARE People and the Sea Conference, 25-28 June 2019: “*Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries in the context of fishing opportunities and markets: A lens for SDG14b*” and “*Transdisciplinary Fisheries Sciences for Blue Justice: The Need to Go Between, Across and Beyond*”. If you wish to be part of these sessions, please see page 3 and 4 of the Digest for further details.

And of course, keep an eye out for our next 'Blue Justice' activity!

TBTI ACTIVITIES

Call for contributions

TBTI special sessions for MARE People and the Sea Conference, 25-28 June 2019



Session #1 “Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries in the context of fishing opportunities and markets: A lens for SDG14b”

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has raised the profile of small-scale fisheries through SDG14b, a target that calls for the provision of ‘access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets’. Reaching this milestone requires overhauls in governance structures and management systems that have traditionally favoured other segments of the fishing fleets, mainly industrial and large-scale fisheries supposedly more “efficient”.

This is particularly relevant in the era of “Blue Growth” that in many of its formulations exclude fisheries, and particularly small-scale fisheries, privileging new sectors, potentially increasing the challenges for SSF. Hence, achieving access to fishing opportunities and markets, a.k.a. SDG14b, would require adjustments in resource governance and fisheries management systems in all sectors, and development programs that embed concepts like human rights, social justice and equity as key elements of what we refer to as Blue Justice.

In this session, we seek to provide case studies from around the world to showcase the governance challenges and opportunities concerning the planned or accomplished implementation of SDG14b, along with lessons about the importance of focusing strongly on the issues and concerns related to small-scale fisheries as we strive to achieve the overall SDGs. The session invites experts from different regions to bring together a global discussion on governance transformations in the broader picture to decipher challenges and inform new policies that bring about blue justice in ocean and resource governance.



Organizers: Alicia Said and Jose Pascual

Deadline to submit your abstract to the session: January 25, 2019.

To see the full call for contribution and how to submit, **[click here](#)**.

TBTI ACTIVITIES



Session #2 “Transdisciplinary Fisheries Sciences for Blue Justice: The Need to Go Between, Across and Beyond”

Ocean sustainability has long been a key research agenda for many scientists. Yet, not all disciplines are present at the same scientific conferences to share, exchange and discuss ideas and vision for the ocean. This is the case both at conferences dominated by either social or natural sciences and at interdisciplinary conferences.

It is also notable that such collaboration is also lacking among social scientists interested in ocean sustainability, such as those working on social relations and gender may not be working with those working on marine protected areas.

In the context of “Blue Economy,” which is gaining popularity as observed at the recent conference in Kenya, the looming absence and the lack of integration threaten the viability of many ocean users, especially small-scale fisheries that constitute the majority.

To rectify the situation, TBTI is inviting scientists who are interested in ‘transdisciplinary’ research to present their

ideas about how to bridge the gaps by going between, across and beyond disciplines in working towards ‘blue justice’ for ocean users and ocean sustainability.

In this special session, we want to explore the reasons for the poor scientific collaboration and how it affects fisheries and ocean sustainability, especially how it may exacerbate the marginalization of small-scale fisheries. Further, we are interested in learning about methodological approaches, frameworks and initiatives that have been successful at knowledge integration. Ultimately, we will reflect on the lessons learned and develop strategies for concerted efforts as we move towards the Ocean Decade in 2021.



Organizers: Milena Arias Schreiber & Ratana Chuenpagdee

Deadline to submit your abstract to the session: January 28, 2019.

To see the full call for contribution and how to submit, **[click here](#)**.

PUBLICATION BY TBTI AND MEMBERS

Opinion piece

We can eat our fish and fight climate change too

Written by: Philip A Loring (University of Guelph, TBTI cluster coordinator) and Ratana Chuenpagdee (Memorial University of Newfoundland, TBTI Director)



The Conversation, Nov 27, 2018

Fish are a highly nutritious and, in many cases, a very sustainable source of protein. Following the release of the latest climate change report by the International Panel on Climate Change, many are talking about reducing their meat — and therefore protein — consumption. For some reason, fish and other seafood are repeatedly left out of conversations about how to build more sustainable and climate-friendly food systems.

Globally, fish is among the most consumed and traded foods in the world. It represents about 17 per cent of the animal protein consumed globally. For people in small island nations and the Arctic, fish can account for as much as 80 per cent of the protein being consumed. Fish are also a crucial and accessible source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins and minerals, especially for the world's poorest people. Sardines, for example, are highly nutritious and hugely important to food and nutritional security for millions of people in Africa.



Currently, sardines are mainly used for animal feed and fish oil products. While start-ups and agribusiness giants are clamouring to develop insect- and lab-based proteins, sardines offer an existing alternative that, if developed in a way that empowers local fishing communities and redirected for human consumption in Europe and North America, could help reduce emissions and lift people out of poverty.

The read the full article on how leaving fisheries and fisherfolk out of the discussion limits our ability to find viable solutions to food insecurity, conservation and climate change, [click here](#).

NEW PUBLICATION BY TBTI AND MEMBERS

Article

Mapping fishers' perceptions of marine conservation in Brazil: An exploratory approach

Authors: *Mirella de Oliveira Leis, Rodolphe Devillers, Rodrigo Pereira Medeiros, and Ratana Chuenpagdee*

Ocean & Coastal Management, Vol. 67, 1 Jan 2019, p. 32-41

This paper proposes an 'exploratory mapping' approach that can be employed in the early stages of a marine protected area planning process. While stakeholders' involvement in conservation has increased, it often only starts after the decision has been made about where the protected areas will be located. The lack of proper engagement with resource users raises questions about transparency and legitimacy of marine conservation initiatives, hampering their successful implementation.



The proposed mapping approach offers a simple way to incorporate in the planning process what small-scale fishers consider to be important to conserve, what they value in their fishing livelihoods, and their perception about the likely impact that multiple uses of the area may cause. The paper, written by TBTI Research Fellow Mirella Leis and her co-authors, can be [accessed here](#).

Book review

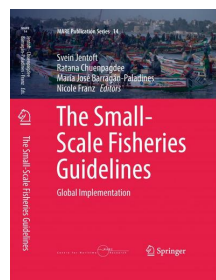
The Spirit of Diversity: A review of 'The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global implementation' book (Springer 2017)

Jentoft, S., Chuenpagdee, R., Barragán-Paladines, M.J., Franz, N. (eds.)

Author: *Andrés Cisneros-Montemayor*

SAMUDRA Report No. 79

The SSF Guidelines provide an essential road map for eliminating disparity and for collaboratively developing policies that are appropriate to the needs of the small-scale fishing sector. The SSF Guidelines may prove, as demonstrated throughout the book, to be the catalyst for a global attitude and policy shift to finally recognize the rights of fisherfolk throughout the world, and ensure that their work and ways of



life are not only tolerated, but cherished. According to the reviewer, one of the greatest strengths of this TBTI book, is its focus on communities and case studies with unique social, cultural, environmental and economic contexts from around the world, even as general themes are expanded on in integrated discussions.

To read the full review, [click here](#).

OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations



This past December TBTI Director **Ratana Chuenpagdee** was awarded the title of 'University Research Professor'. This designation above the rank of professor goes to faculty members at Memorial University of Newfoundland who demonstrate a consistently high level of scholarship and whose research is of a truly international stature.

The nomination of Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee is in recognition of her seminal contributions to the study of global small-scale fisheries governance, establishing a world-renowned and highly respected research program and amassing an impressive and sustained record for knowledge dissemination.

Congratulations to our TBTI student **Wichin Suebpala** from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand for the successful defense of his Ph.D. thesis titled '*Ecological impacts of fishing gears in Ko Chang, Trat Province, Thailand*'! Wichin has been working under the supervision of Prof. Thammasak Yeemin (TBTI member) of Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand, and Prof. Ratana Chuenpagdee (TBTI Director).

To learn more about Wichin and his opinion about what are the two most significant factors for securing the sustainability of small-scale fisheries, check out his profile of the TBTI website.



OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

TBTI Member of the Week



Mbachi Ruth Msomphora holds a PhD in fisheries science from UiT, the Arctic University of Norway. She also holds a Master of Science in Fisheries Management and a Master of Science in Public Health with specialization in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from UiT.

In addition to her everyday work as a senior academic information specialist, responsible for the education and research in Dentistry at the University in Tromsø, she is currently, together with Prof. Emeritus Svein Jentoft, working on a project about stakeholder participation in coastal zone management plans, with special focus where small-scale fisheries and aquaculture coexist in Norway (Coastal fisheries).

For more information about her research, [click here](#).

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 news 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.

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Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research



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toobigtoignore.net
toobigtoignore@mun.ca

