



**Too BIG To  
IGNORE**

*Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research*

## **NEWS AND UPDATES**

### **JULY 2019**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **New TBTI Book**

Life Above Water  
by Svein Jentoft

### **Call for application**

'Training-of-the-  
Trainers'  
Transdisciplinary  
Training Program

### **TBTI Activities**

Notes and reflections  
from TBTI Blue Justice  
and Gender sessions,  
2019 MARE conference

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries & Ocean Sustainability

*TBTI 'Training-of-the-Trainers' transdisciplinary training program - Apply Now!*



The ‘Training-of-the-Trainers’ (ToT) transdisciplinary (TD) program, developed by TBTI, is an advanced-level training, aiming at people who have expertise and experience in interdisciplinary, TD or participatory action research and practice.

The ToT TD training program is composed of two components: a three-month online course and an in situ workshop. The online course will start on Sept 15 and end on Dec 15 and will require an average of 3 hours per week of self-guided learning.

The second component is an in-situ workshop will be held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on 8-10 November 2019. The location is chosen to coincide with the **72nd annual conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)**, which will take place on 4–8 November 2019.

The training is not restricted to GCFI participants and we welcome anyone interested in being part of the TD online learning platform development, and who’s keen to promote more TD practices for fisheries and ocean sustainability.

There is no lecture fee to participate in the ToT TD training program. Access to the online platform, and the teaching/learning materials will be provided to the participants free of charge.

There is also no additional fee to participate in the 3-day workshop in Punta Cana. Participants will be provided with 'room and board' during the workshop. Participants are, however, responsible for covering their own travel-related expenses to Punta Cana.



Deadline to apply for the TD ToT program: August 15, 2019

For more information about the TD ToT training, **CLICK HERE**.

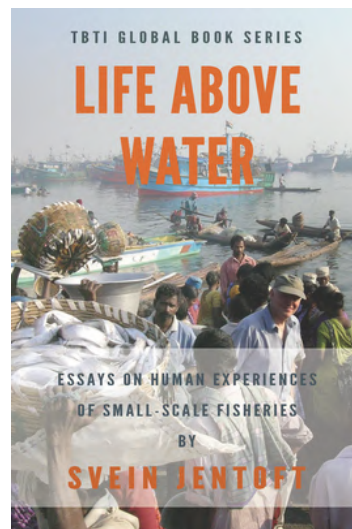
## TBTI PUBLICATIONS

### Life Above Water

*New TBTI book offers thoughtful reflections about small-scale fisheries*

As a global research network on small-scale fisheries, TBTI has produced several books, journal articles, and reports on key aspects of small-scale fisheries, geared mostly to academic audiences, the research community, and policy-makers. It has always been our ambition, however, to publish books and articles for the general public as part of our contribution to raise awareness about small-scale fisheries and elevate their profile in policy discourse.

This book, 'Life Above Water,' written by one of TBTI founding members, Prof. Emeritus Svein Jentoft, offers thoughtful reflections about small-scale fisheries. His essays provide a way to understand the 'why' question of social science research, at the same time encouraging fellow social and transdisciplinary scientists to continue to work towards making real change on the ground while maintaining scientific integrity. For those reading about small-scale fisheries for the first time, 'Life Above Water' brings to the fore the meaning and value of small-scale fisheries and why we should care about them.



Life Above Water is the first book published under **TBTI Global Book Series**, our new publication series. The series will be of use to anyone interested in learning more about small-scale fisheries, especially about their important contribution to livelihoods, well-being, poverty alleviation and food security, as well as to those who are keen to help raise profile of small-scale fisheries in the policy realm.

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Life Above Water is available in the e-book format and can be accessed free of charge. Send a request for a copy to: [tbt.global@gmail.com](mailto:tbt.global@gmail.com).

For more info on the book, **VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**

## TBTI PUBLICATIONS

## Align or mis-align: new article unpacks SDGs in the context of small-scale fisheries in Europe

*Written by Alicia Said (TBTI member) and Ratana Chuenpagdee (TBTI Director)*

*Marine Policy, Vol 107, September 2019*

With the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) paving the research and policy trajectories for the next decade and beyond, a discussion on the sustainability of small-scale fisheries is timely, also to propel a conversation about the integrated role of social and natural science research needed to achieve these ambitious goals. Although often considered as a (fish)ery problem, the sustainability of small-scale fisheries is much more than that, as it is interconnected to various systems including the community, the markets, the political economy, and other structures which although not always visible, have a determinant role in the viability equation of small-scale fisheries. For this reason, a nuanced and principled governance approach—away from the one-size-fits-all technical fixes conventionally used in fisheries management—is necessary to attain not only sustainability of small-scale fisheries but also the viability of fishing communities, their economies, and their socio-cultural contributions.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	FAO SSF Guidelines																	TOTAL
	Principles	3. Guiding Principles	4. Governance of fisheries and aquatic ecosystems	5. Social dimensions: employment and decent work	6. Governance of resources in inland fisheries and aquaculture	7. Gender Equality	8. Decent work and economic growth	9. Infrastructure	10. Reduced inequalities	11. Sustainable cities and communities	12. Responsible consumption and production	13. Climate Action	14. Life below water	15. Life on land	16. Peace, justice and strong institutions	17. Partnerships for the Goals	18. Local governance and monitoring	
SDG1: No Poverty	1	1	1															7
SDG2: Zero Hunger	1	1	1															9
SDG3: Good Health & Wellbeing	1		2	2														6
SDG4: Quality Education	1		3															9
SDG5: Gender Equality	2	4	6	2	4								4	2	2			26
SDG6: Cleaner water & sanitation	1		1															2
SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy	1																	2
SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	1	1	18															22
SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	1		2	2	1	3												8
SDG10: Reduced Inequalities	2	1	1	2														7
SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	2	1	1															6
SDG12: Responsible Consumption & Production	2		1	5														9
SDG13: Climate Action	1																	11
SDG14: Life below water	4	20	2	2														42
SDG15: Life on Land	1	2																6
SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	6	7	4	2	2	1	6	1	2	2								32
SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals	1																	4
TOTAL	30	38	42	18	7	20	23	21	7	10								214

Table 1. Illustrating the complementarities and synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and the SSF Guidelines.

By exploring the mutuality between the principles of the two instruments (SDGs and SSF Guidelines), this article highlights that the sustainability of small-scale fisheries goes beyond SDG14b, and should be incorporated in the plans of decent economic growth (SDG8), community sustainability (SDG11), strong institutions (SDG16) and partnerships (SDG17), amongst others. Focusing on the case of the EU, this article argues that small-scale fisheries in the EU, which represent over 75% of the fleet, would benefit from more and direct attention from the governments.

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The article is available for free for the next 3 months. For details, [CLICK HERE](#).

## TBTI PUBLICATIONS

### Time for transformation

*Making waves: 3WSFC featured in the latest Samudra Report*



TBTI is featured in the latest edition of the ICSF Samudra Report. The article 'A Time for Transformation', co-authored by TBTI Director Ratana Chuenpagdee and Coordinator Vesna Kerezi, presents an optimistic view of what the last decade has represented to small-scale fisheries globally, highlighting major achievements and indicating potential paths for a sustainable and viable small-scale fisheries future.

According to the article, from the adoption of the SSF Guidelines by FAO member states in 2014, to its implementation there is a need, in most cases, for major transformation and/or reform of the governing system. It is no easy task, but one that supporters of small-scale fisheries are willing to take by putting effort into transdisciplinarity and discussing the stepping stones towards transformation.



The 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October 2018 represented a step in that direction, where more than 400 participants from over 55 countries called for change in the way we talk about small-scale fisheries, consider their values, conduct research and train future generations, as well as how we take actions to support small-scale fisheries. The congress certainly paved way for advancing knowledge in the sector, enhancing connections between science, communities and policy, and developing strategies for action leading up to the 4WSFC and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022.



**CLICK HERE** to read the full article.



## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### TD Dialogue at the European Institute for Marine Studies (IUEM) in Brest

*Scientific cafe: Transdisciplinarity for Fisheries and Ocean Sustainability*

*52ème Café Scientifique Underground*

*June 19, 2019, Brest, France*



*Ever wonder why, after all the knowledge and the effort put towards fisheries and ocean sustainability, we are still not there? Worse, we seem to be facing more problems than before. At the recently held transdisciplinary (TD) dialogue at AMURE, Brest, TBTI members and colleagues discussed these and other related issues, through the TD lens.*

Composed of an interdisciplinary group of researchers from economics, political sciences, law, biology and ecology, the TD dialogue was organized by Alicia Said, currently a post-doc in AMURE, hosted by TBTI member Katia Frangoudes (AMURE, France) and facilitated by TBTI Director Ratana Chuenpagdee.

The participants discussed how, historically, due to the institutional structures and disciplinary boundaries collaboration between disciplines has been limited. These obstacles have prevented sufficient cross-fertilization of research methodologies, which have subsequently failed to provide pertinent research questions for resolving complex problems of sustainability.



This observation triggered an important dialogue between the participants in the room, especially the doctoral and early-career researchers, who were intrigued by the relevance that TD can have in setting their research and academic career.

Visit our website for more information about the TD Research Café.

To learn more about the TBTI TD approach and our TD training program, **CLICK HERE.**

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### 'Blue Justice' at the center of the TBTI Special Sessions at 2019 MARE Conference'



At this year's MARE conference, TBTI was focusing on the issue of 'Blue Justice' for ocean users and sustainability within the context of small-scale fisheries. The discussion summary presented below highlights the main issue and take home messages.

*Session #1 'Transdisciplinary fisheries sciences for Blue Justice: the need to go between, across and beyond' [June 25th]*

Bringing together scientists interested in transdisciplinary research, this session explored ideas about how to bridge gaps by going between, across and beyond disciplines in working towards 'Blue Justice' for ocean users and sustainability. Across the presentations, the common threads identified as blue economy issues that require Blue Justice were vulnerability, marginalization, and threats to sustainability. Blue economy/growth, it was stressed, adds more complexity to the existing 'wicked' problems within small-scale fisheries, and it does not result in a 'level playing field' or a 'win-win-win' scenario in terms of economic, ecological, and social outcomes for fisheries and ocean sustainability. Thus, there is an urgent need for directly addressing the justice aspect of this recent agenda for the oceans.

*Session #2 'Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries in the context of fishing opportunities and markets: A lens for SDG14b' [June 26th]*

This session showcased the governance challenges and opportunities concerning the planned or accomplished implementation of SDG14b. Consisting of academics, researchers and NGOs, the session welcomed different cases of resource and market access challenges for SSF in various countries including Portugal, Indonesia, Tenerife (Spain), Malta, France, Denmark, and other international experiences as well as regional and global analysis. The presenters provided theoretical and empirical insights about the governance transformations and challenges that need to be taken into account to inform new policies for facilitating Blue Justice in ocean and resource governance.

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### 'Blue Justice' at the center of TBTI Special Sessions at the 2019 MARE Conference' [continuation]

#### Highlights from the open discussion



Attendees stressed the urgency to recognize and address the injustice issues in small-scale fisheries that emerge from Blue Growth and Blue Economy agendas. They also agreed that Blue Justice conveys a 'powerful' message and brings special attention to 'winners and losers'. Thus, it has merits in terms of branding and communication. It attracts immediate policy and public attention and positions the small-scale fisheries justice issues within the ongoing global discussions around Blue Economy.

The closing part of the June 26th session was reserved for an open discussion about 'Blue Justice' for small-scale fisheries. Since small-scale fisheries are already facing displacement and marginalization, the first step must be to define what Blue Justice means, what the elements are and what the research community can do to promote Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries.



For a full summary of the TBTI 'Blue Justice' sessions at MARE, [CLICK HERE](#).



## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### (En)Gendering Change in Small-scale Fisheries and Fishing Communities in a Globalized World

*TBTI discusses gender in fisheries at the 2019 MARE Conference*

On June 27th, Katia Frangoudes, Siri Gerrard and Danika Kleiber organized a special session at the MARE 'People and the Sea' Conference 2019 titled '(En)Gendering Change in Small-scale Fisheries and Fishing Communities in a Globalized World'. All three organizers are coordinators of the TBTI 'Women and Gender' research cluster.



This session showcased several papers from the Maritime Studies (MAST) special issue, developed through the 'Women and Gender' research cluster. The special issues discusses global topics on women and gender in fisheries, addressing intersecting topics such as labour, migration organizations, participation in the public sphere, property rights in fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, and capacity building. The first special issue was published in November 2018; the second is planned for the end of August 2019.



For more information about the session, [CLICK HERE](#).

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### TBTI students reflect on MARE

#### Jack Daly, MA student

*"Although much work is done in quantitative social science to inform policy makers, with qualitative work digging into the immense nuances of these challenges, the point of conferences such as MARE is to not play by the rules set by the current political system that has produced such failures, but to critically think of why we are in the situation we are in, and to, through rigorous research, explore and elucidate how coastal peoples are living in this globally-changing world. Research presented at this conference foregrounded principles such as sustainability and equity, principles that are informed by a social justice focus. This approach has led to critical examinations of how we govern our oceans at the highest scales and the on-the-ground implications of these decisions."*



Jack's research looks at fisheries trade through the lens of a bilateral free trade agreement between Canada and the European Union. He is in a final stage of completing his MA degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

To see Jack's full reflection piece, [CLICK HERE](#).

#### Brennan Lowery, PhD student

*"It was a real privilege to be in the room as this global and transdisciplinary group asked itself critical questions about what Blue Justice should achieve, how it should be defined, and how it can challenge neoliberal policy agendas like Blue Growth. It was also interesting to consider how communities in both the Global North and South can frame Blue Justice, including the rural coastal communities in Newfoundland I study which are so often labelled as declining and undeserving of support. I felt energized to go to the Northern Peninsula, where my research is taking place, and ask residents how they feel their communities have experienced injustice and what a concept like Blue Justice could mean for them."*



Brennan's PhD research investigates the role of participatory monitoring processes in catalyzing collaborative governance for sustainable development in rural Newfoundland and Labrador. He is part of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program at Memorial University of Newfoundland,

To see Brennan's full reflection piece, [CLICK HERE](#).

## OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

**We are social science researchers first,  
and fisheries researchers second**

*Svein Jentoft gives opening keynote at the  
2019 MARE conference*

*June 25, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

In his keynote at the 2019 MARE conference in Amsterdam, TBTI leader, Professor Emeritus Svein Jentoft showcased how changes in fisheries affect communities, focusing particularly on the fate of coastal communities and their role in small-scale fisheries. He started his talk by saying how *"Small-scale fishers and fishworkers sustain themselves from the life below water, but construct their lives and communities based on what is on land; people who fish depend on their communities as much as on their boats and gear."*

He cautioned that, ultimately, small-scale fisheries won't survive if their communities perish, which is why sustainable small-scale fisheries depend on secure fishing communities. He urged for all of us to do a better job in acknowledging the value of the moral community that helps sustain fishing communities, as well as the needed investments. Prof. Jentoft also stressed that as researchers, we need to draw from a broader range of theories and ideas when we do fisheries research. It is important, however, that we are social science researchers first, and fisheries researchers second.

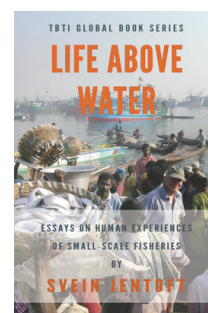


Prof. Jentoft concluded that, too often, we assume that nature and biology determines all else in fisheries, including what happens in communities, but in fact, the causal arrow often goes from the community to the natural resources.

For full summary of the keynote, **CLICK HERE.**



**Want to learn more about  
the issues covered in the  
keynote?**



Check out our brand new book, 'Life Above water', written by none other than Prof. Jentoft. The book has been recently published and is available free of charge. **CLICK HERE** for more details.



## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### TBTI's TD training for small-scale fisheries now an integral part of ECOSUR's Masters' Program in Mexico

*May 20 - June 14, 2019; Chetumal, Mexico*

For the very first time, the graduate course 'Transdisciplinary Approaches Applied to Small-Scale Fisheries Contexts' (Enfoques Transdisciplinarios Aplicados a la Pesca Artesanal) was taught in Chetumal, Mexico as part of ECOSUR (El Colegio de La Frontera Sur) Masters' Program in Natural Resources and Rural Development (Maestría en Ciencias en Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural).

The course instructors were Dr. Minerva Arce-Ibarra and MSc. Francisco Hernández-Ruiz, both professors based at ECOSUR. The course was open not only to those based at the institution, but also international, Spanish-speaking students.



The course curriculum used several TBTI publications as part of the teaching material, particularly those developed during the transdisciplinary training program (from 2015 to 2018), as well as the book 'Transdisciplinarity for small-scale fisheries governance: Analysis and practice', edited by Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee and Dr. Svein Jentoft and published in 2019 by Springer as part of MARE Publications Series.

Now an integral part of the Masters' program, the course will be held annually in four weeks from May to June. Although the first class of this program was delivered in Spanish at ECOSUR, the course is transferable and could be held in English in countries around the globe.

To learn more about the course, **CLICK HERE.**

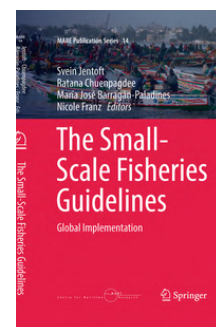


## OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

### TBTI books amongst the top 25% most downloaded Springer books of 2018!

Do you have a copy of TBTI books on *Interactive Governance* and the *SSF Guidelines Implementation*? Both books have been a great success thanks to you, with both ranking amongst the top 25% most downloaded books of 2018! They have been frequently downloaded since publication, reaching over 65 thousand chapter downloads altogether!

Since the publication of the book 'Interactive Governance for Small-Scale Fisheries: Global Reflections' in June 2015, there have been a total of 54,743 chapter downloads, with 10,813 chapter downloads in 2018 alone!



Just as impressive, the book 'The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation' has had 11,205 chapters downloaded since its launching in June 2017, with over five thousand per year!

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

### GLOSS Event: GLocal Ocean Social Sciences

*Brest, France*

*November 5-6, 2019*

Ocean University Initiative is pleased to invite researchers from social sciences for an interactive event aimed at identifying and discussing research priorities in ocean and coastal social sciences for the UN Decade.

The 2 day event will include keynote lectures, 3-min research presentations and collaborative workshops.

The ultimate outcome of the event is to produce a contribution to the planning of the UN Ocean Decade.



- Registration opens in mid-August
- Registration fee is 100 euros

The Ocean University is an initiative of the University of Brest for the establishment of an institute in France of the United Nations University dedicated to "science and governance of ocean and coasts".

For more information about the event, [CLICK HERE](#).



# Too BIG To IGNORE

*Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research*

## 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](mailto: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

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