



**Too BIG To  
IGNORE**

*Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research*

## **NEWS AND UPDATES OCTOBER 2019**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **SSF knowledge**

What do we know about small-scale fisheries in Asia and Oceania?

#### **Share your story**

Blue Justice for small-scale fisheries

#### **TBTI Activities**

Join us at the United Nations 2020 Ocean Conference - Register now!

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries - SHARE YOUR STORY



The 'Blue Economy' and 'Blue Growth' initiatives, which frame the oceans as the new economic and development frontier, have entered the international agenda over the past decade. Although some of these development agendas imply an alignment with social objectives and speak to small-scale fisheries concerns, many are oriented towards further technological innovation, industrialization of the oceans, and commodification of the marine resources.

Because these initiatives pose a potential risk to the livelihoods and wellbeing of small-scale fisheries, it is essential to enhance understanding about how they may lead to policies, programs and initiatives that disadvantage the women and men working in small-scale fisheries, threaten their basic rights of access to coastal and ocean spaces, resources and markets, and further marginalize the most vulnerable groups among them.

TBTI is calling for stories and examples of policies, programs, projects, initiatives, regulatory frameworks, as well as other situations that create different types of injustice and inequity on small-scale fisheries.

The stories will be compiled in an e-book volume, published under the TBTI Global Book Series, to be released at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2020. Contributions that are complete, following the template provided, will be included as a stand-alone chapter in the book, and citable as a non-peer reviewed publication.

#### **How to contribute?**

Complete the 'Blue justice for small-scale fisheries' PDF template available on our website and send it to [tbt.global@gmail.com](mailto:tbt.global@gmail.com) by December 31, 2019.

**For details, [click here.](#)**

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### TBTI studies of small-scale fisheries in ASIA AND OCEANIA

Since 2012, TBTI has been conducting in-depth, transdisciplinary research and global analysis, aiming to improve knowledge and understanding of various aspects of small-scale fisheries.

By allocating considerable resources to conduct research, integrate data, and synthesize findings, we have been able to publish many book volumes, special journal issues, articles, e-books and reports, all of which provide concrete evidence about the existence and importance of small-scale fisheries around the world.



To date, our research has covered more than **300 case studies from over 80 countries**. This month, we are highlighting the studies from the Asia and Oceania region.

On our website, you'll find a detail account of our Regional Synthesis Report portraying the small-scale fisheries from the Asia and Oceania, as well as a regional map depicting the various topics that have been explored in the 68 case studies published through our network. And while you're there, check the detailed list of our publications from this region, compiled specifically for this occasion.

For details, [click here](#).



For a quick overview of all of our publications, be sure to check our "TBTI contributions to SSF knowledge' page.

## TBTI ACTIVITIES

### Join us at the United Nations 2020 Ocean Conference - Register now!

TBTI has been promoting the notion of 'Blue Justice' through various platforms, most prominently by the registration of **Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries** as a voluntary commitment to the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14).

The commitment, which is part of our ongoing 'Blue Justice' campaign, calls attention to the current discourse about Blue Growth/Blue Economy, urging for the social justice of small-scale fisheries to be recognized not only as a basic right, but also an important condition for the realization of the UN Sustainable Goals and implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

TBTI will be at the Ocean Conference, bringing attention to small-scale fisheries and the notion of 'Blue Justice' for this important sector.

Join us and encourage your partner organization to participate in this conference to illustrate the role that sustainable small-scale fisheries can play in achieving SDG 14, and beyond!



**Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries**  
by TBTI Global

The majority of the world's fisheries are small-scale. They employ millions of people - men and women, providing them with income, jobs and livelihoods, make significant contribution to local and national food security, and are integral to the social fabric, cultural identity and heritage of many coastal communities around the world. In recent years, the values of small-scale fisheries have increased with the increased public awareness about the benefit of locally sourced and sustainable seafood and the growing interest on cultural or experience-based tourism. Small-scale fisheries are clearly not only "too big to ignore" but are also "too important to fail."

The importance of small-scale fisheries has been promoted in the 'Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication' (SSF Guidelines). Yet, the current discourse about Blue Growth/Blue Economy poses potential risks to the rights of small-scale fisheries to the fishing livelihoods, which include access to fisheries resources, to coastal and ocean space, and to local, national and international markets. As the largest research partnership on small-scale fisheries, Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) is committed to rectify the inconsistency between the development agenda and Target SDG14b through 'Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries' program.

TBTI has developed the online information system (OSIP), conducted in-depth research and built capacity that helps elevate the profile of small-scale fisheries, enhance values, improve visibility, reduce vulnerability, address key concerns affecting fisheries sustainability, and argue against marginalization of small-scale fisheries in policies and governance. For "Blue Justice for Small-Scale Fisheries," TBTI is committed to:

- Share stories and case studies that illustrate how policies, decisions and development agenda affect access and rights of small-scale fisheries and challenge "social justice" principles
- Facilitate science-policy dialogue to recognize the rights, values and concerns of small-scale fisheries in the discussion about sustainable development at all levels
- Build "transdisciplinary capacity" among governments and non-governmental organizations, researchers and community of practices to improve governance of small-scale fisheries, for fisheries sustainability worldwide

### About the conference

The Ocean Conference takes place in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 2020. The conference theme is *"Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions"*.

→ Registration for non-accredited organizations is now opened for those who wish to participate in the conference

→The first round of conference registration is open from 15 September – 15 November 2019.

→Application must be done through the conference website.

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

## UPCOMING EVENT

### TBTI at the GCFI conference

*Punta Cana, Dominican Republic*  
*Nov 8, 2019; 13:30 - 18:00*

On the afternoon of the final day of the 72nd annual conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) TBTI will be hosting an open session that will include a talk by **Maria Pena** on *Gender in Small-scale Fisheries: Caribbean perspectives through the Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT)*, followed by a talk by **Svein Jentoft** on *Unpacking the SSF Guidelines*. The session will conclude with a roundtable discussion on ways to promote implementation of the SSF Guidelines.



→ The session is open for the GCFI participants and everyone interested in the topics

To find out more about the session and the GCFI Conference, [CLICK HERE](#).

## OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

### New paper: Science should not be left behind during the design of a marine protected area: meeting conservation priorities while integrating stakeholder interests

**Authors:** *Manuel Muntoni* (TBTI member), *Rodolphe Devillers* (TBTI cluster coordinator) & *Mariano Koen-Alonso*  
FACETS, 4: 472–492



Marine protected areas (MPAs) design is a complex process that typically involves diverse stakeholders, requiring compromise between diverging priorities. Using the example of the Canadian Laurentian Channel MPA, the authors studied a planning process from initial scientific advice to the final MPA. Results show that reducing the proposed MPA helped reduce the potential economic impact on the fishing industry but it resulted in a decrease in protection of species of conservation priority.

Better integration of science in MPA design is required to help assess the impacts that trade-offs made during stakeholder consultations can have on the MPA ecological effectiveness.

The paper is available for free and can be [accessed here](#).

## OTHER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Presentations: A balanced approach towards sustainable small-scale fisheries in Europe

*Dr. Alicia Said, a member and past post-doc with TBTI, recently participated in two events that focused on the future of small-scale fisheries in Europe*

At the UKFEN symposium on the future of inshore fishery in the UK (Sep 25), Alicia spoke about the need to look at the sustainability of small-scale fisheries not as a 'fishery' problem, but an issue that is interconnected to various social systems. Given this complexity, research that is sufficiently wide and inclusive to cater for these complexities and the various voices within the sector, is necessary to inform governance and policy measures for small-scale fisheries.



At the International Conference on 'Ocean Governance in Archipelagic Regions' (Oct 7-10), she delivered a keynote about the role and suitability of EU policies in the context of archipelagic artisanal and small-scale fisheries. She argued for an alternative governance route embedded in the SSF Guidelines and aligned to the SDGs could provide a more balanced approach towards sustaining small-scale fisheries into the future.

For more details about these events and Alicia's talks, [CLICK HERE](#).

### TBTI Member of the Week



**Brennan Lowery** is an PhD candidate enrolled in the interdisciplinary program at Memorial University, Canada.

His research examines asset mapping and sustainability assessment tools that have been used in rural Newfoundland and Labrador and other rural coastal regions, in which he seeks to determine what role these processes can play in rural governance and sustainable regional development.

For more information about his work, [click here](#).

*"I think it's vital that small-scale fisheries be researched and managed within the context of the communities that they occur in through a multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach...In the context of rural Newfoundland and Labrador, challenges like population decline and dependence on fossil fuels often threaten small-scale fisheries and fishing communities much more than issues within the fishery itself".*



# 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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