



# BANGLADESH

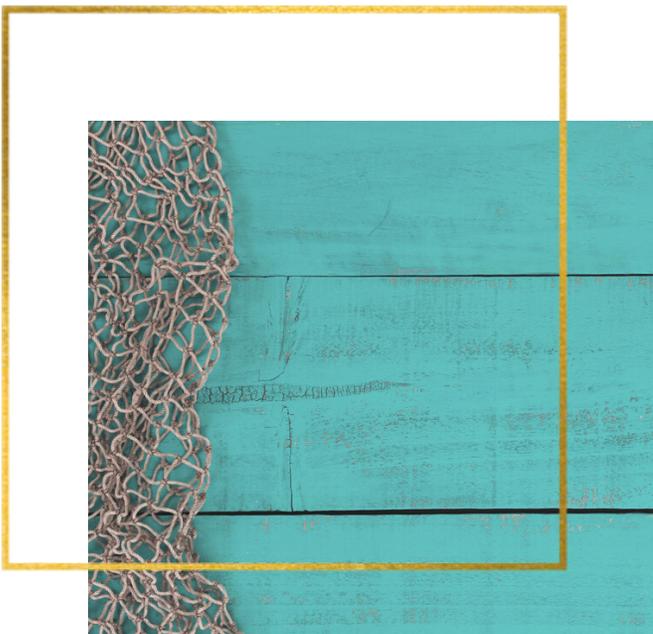
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# Why SSF?

While there is no established definition of small-scale fisheries (SSF), the term 'artisanal' is often used in Bangladesh to specify the fisheries that are small-scale in their attributes. The artisanal fisheries in Bangladesh exists in a mosaic of aquatic habitats including rivers (479,735 ha), estuarine areas (551,828 ha), permanent and semi-permanent filled depressions (beel and haor: 114,161 ha), inundated floodplains (5,486,609 ha) mangrove ecosystem, Kaptai lake, as well as coastal and inshore waters up to 40m depth. Of these fisheries, inland fisheries sector of Bangladesh is one of the richest fishery resources in the world and ranked 3rd in terms of production. Overall, the fishery sector provides full-time employment to an estimated 2 million fishers; many more are involved in small fish trade, fish transport, packaging and other related activities.

Fisheries sector supplies 60% of the most important, cheaper and affordable animal protein sources. The sector contributes about 1.51% to the total export earning, 3.61% to the GDP and 24.41% to agriculture sector. The artisanal coastal sector is the most productive, contributing 83% of volume of the total landings. While SSF hold diverse values, they also face various threats and pressures. SSF are susceptible to over-fishing, habitat destructions by a combination of obstructions in migratory routes, siltation, pollutions, illegal uses of banned fine-meshed fishing gears, increased numbers of fishers, over capitalization, conflicts over resources and spaces, climate change and variability, and globalization, to mention a few.

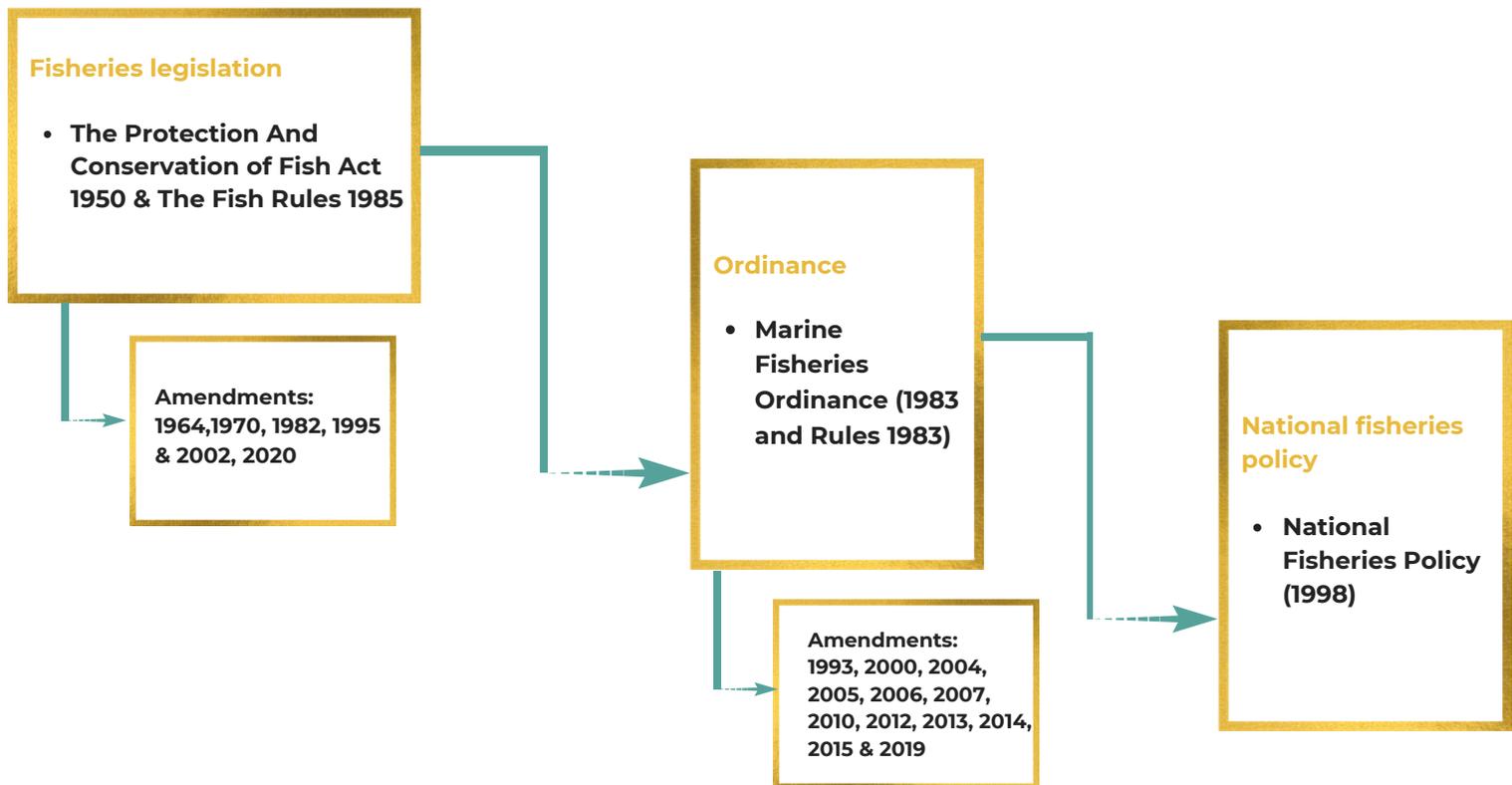
## What are SSF?



Small-scale fisheries are NOT defined in the Constitution, Law, or Act.

However, they are referred to in the National Fisheries Policy (1998), Section 8.3 - More priority on small-scale fisheries sector.

# How are SSF governed?



## Who governs SSF?

### National authorities in charge of fisheries governance:

- I) Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
- II) Department of Fisheries
- III) Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
- IV) Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC)

### Responsibilities:

I)

- Increase fishery resources and production
- Enhance the export of fish, fishery, and livestock products
- Maintain ecological balance, conserve biodiversity and improve public health
- Prevent and control fish diseases
- Generate employment towards poverty alleviation

II)

- Formulates and implements development programs for the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources
- Assists the concerned ministry to formulate policies
- Disseminates improved technologies through training and extension services, enforces quality control and health safety measures for fish products
- Facilitates credit and income-generating opportunities for fishers

III)

- Carry out basic and adaptive research for development and optimum utilization of all living aquatic resources & coordinate fisheries research activities
- Experiment and standardize techniques for maximizing productions and better management
- Identify new production opportunities
- Develop skilled research manpower
- Transfer technologies to users
- Advise the government in all matters relating to research and management of living aquatic resources

IV)

- BFDC has established fish harbour, landing and distribution centres, ice plants and processing plants, auction houses, and transportation centre for fishes in Bangladesh
- Helps to harvest fisheries resources and develop marketing facilities
- It owns a large portion of the sea going fishing boats and ships in Bangladesh
- Plays a role in the marketing and sales of fish from government owned water bodies.

# What principles govern fisheries?

Legislation - Yellow    Blue: Policy

Yes  

No  

Not clear  

Not specific to fisheries  

Human rights & dignity		
Respect of cultures		
Non-discrimination		
Gender equality & equity		
Equity & equality		
Consultation & participation		
Rule of law		
Transparency		
Accountability		
Economic, social & environmental sustainability		
Ecosystem approach to fisheries		
Social responsibility		
Other SSF relevant principles		

# What legal and policy instruments are SSF specific?

## Specific provisions for SSF

- **Exclusive fishing area or priority access to fishery resources for SSF**
  - National Fisheries Policy (1998)
- **Registration requirements for SSF**
  - Various: Marine Fisheries Ordinance (1983); The Bangladesh Merchant Shipping Ordinance (1983)
- **MCS measures and others aimed to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU applying to SSF**
  - Marine Fisheries Ordinance (2010)
- **Special treatment to women in SSF**
  - Coastal Zone Policy (2005)

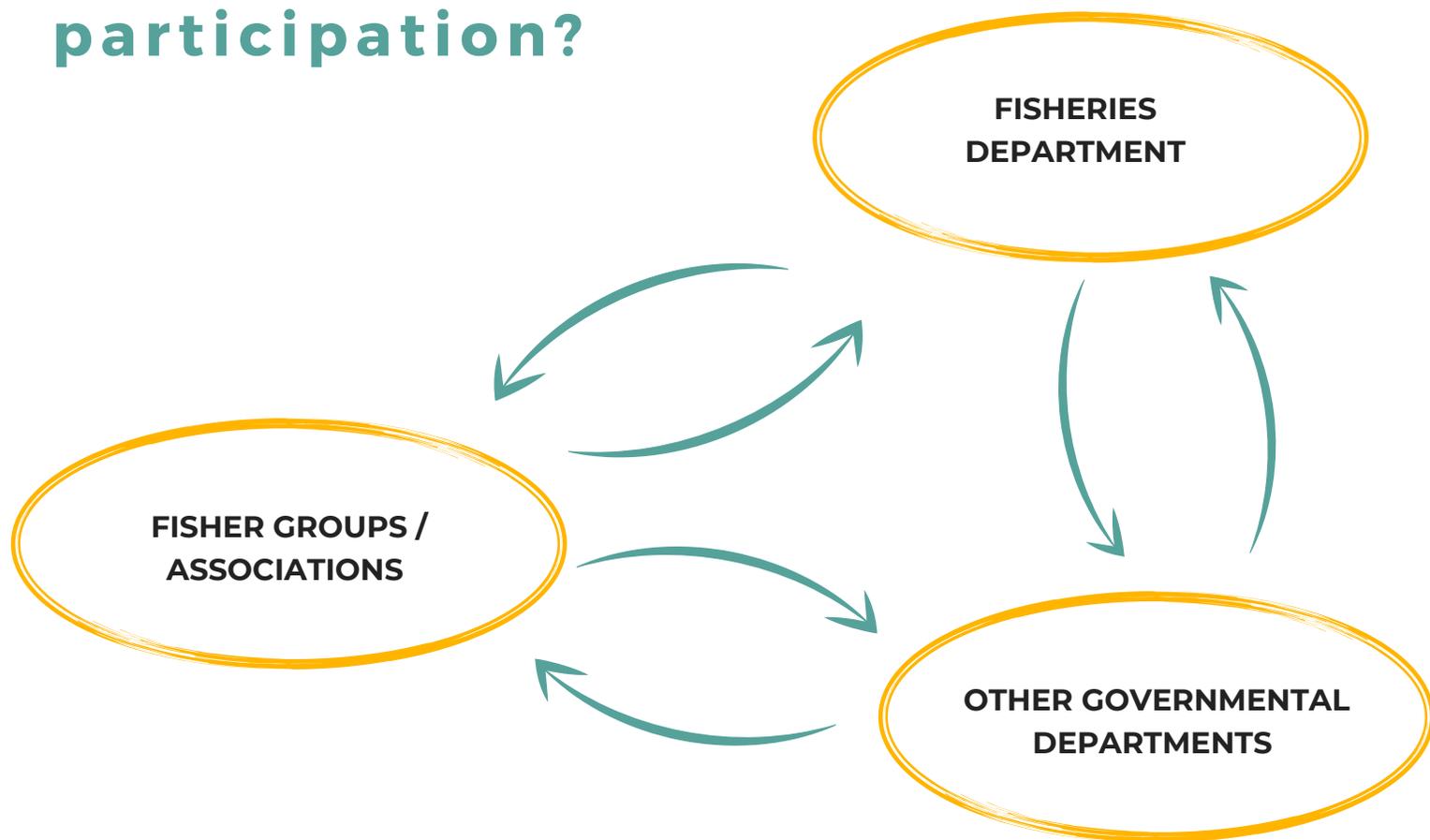
## No specific provisions for SSF

- Social development, employment and decent work for SSF along the value chain
- Recognition of SSF as professional workers, along the value chain
- Responsible trade in fish and certification of fishery products from SSF, including sanitary and safety standards for domestic vs. export markets
- Legal protection of women in SSF, along the value chain
- Protection of SSF from disaster risks/ climate change, and/or recognition of SSF vulnerability in disaster risk/climate change policies and strategies

## Not clear

- Tenure and related rights for SSF
- Labour rights or social benefits for SSF along the value chain
- Capacity building program for SSF

# What are opportunities for interaction & participation?



## Representation of SSF in governance

It is not clear whether participation of SSF is legally required.

## Fishers' participation in management, including co-management or decentralised fisheries management schemes

NA

## Holistic form of governance or reform

There is interest for a more holistic governance or reform. This will be addressed in the Marine Fisheries Policy that is currently under development.