



SRI LANKA

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Why SSF?

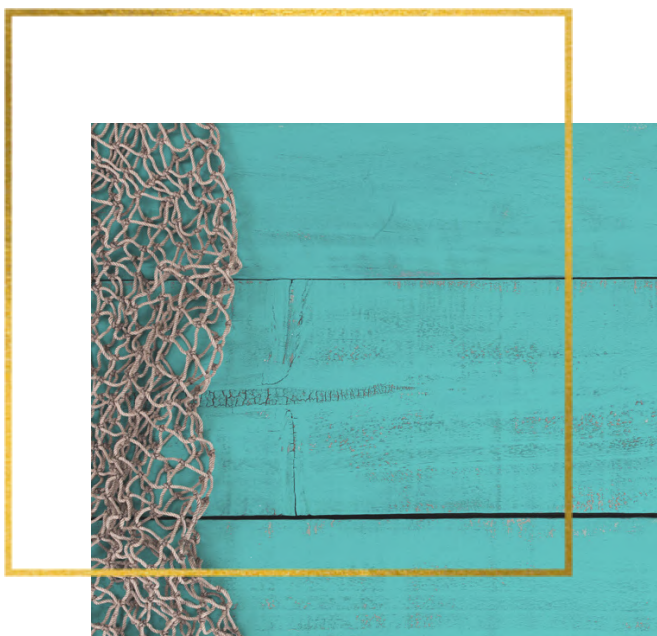
Sri Lanka's small-scale fisheries are organized along a 1,600 km coastline, concentrated in about 900 fishing villages. Fishing is a traditional vocation often passed on through the generations. It is also a occupation in which people have been living in poverty and have experienced considerable vulnerability for hundreds of years. Today, about 15,000 small boats operate in coastal and lagoon fishery in Sri Lanka, half of whom have outboard motors.

From a commercial point of view, the major species harvested include skipjack, yellow fin tuna, mullet, shark, and mackerel. Prawns, lobsters and sea cucumbers provide valuable export-oriented product lines.

The boats, nets, and species caught are regulated but are poorly monitored. IUU fishing has quite a significant presence in the fishery. Small-scale fishing operators compete with large local operators and operators based in India due to close proximity to Indian south eastern shore. As a result, small-scale fishing is vulnerable to incidences of crime and smuggling.

Sri Lanka also features a substantive inland fishery based on human-made reservoirs (260,000 ha of water surface), but inland fishery is not as prominent as the coastal fishery in terms of outputs, revenue or employment.

What are SSF?



"**traditional, artisanal, subsistent**"

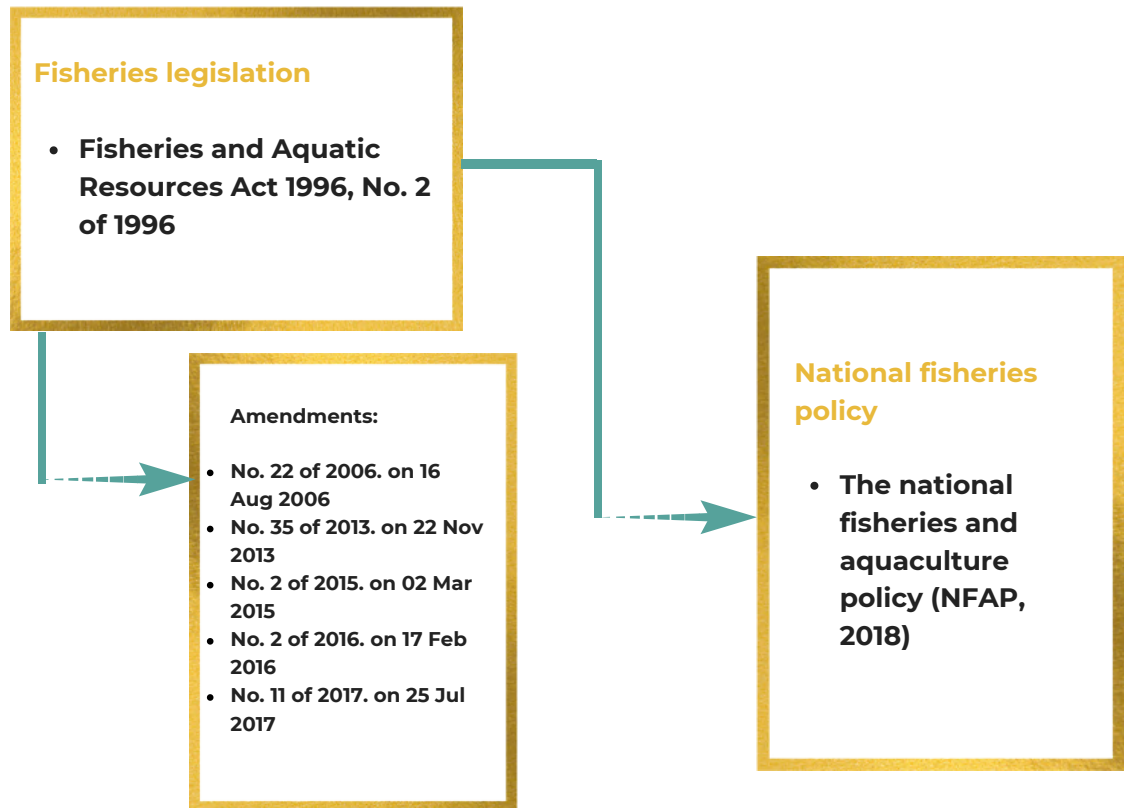
Small-scale fisheries are NOT defined in Constitution, Law, Act or any other legal document.

However, small-scale fishery is mentioned in National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy of Sri Lanka (tabled at the cabinet of ministers in 2018):

"4.5.22. Respect the tenure rights of the **traditional**, migrant, **subsistence and artisanal fishing communities** to land, waters and fish resources."

"4.5.28. Progressively realize rights of the **small-scale fishers** and fish workers to an adequate standard of living in accordance with the national and international human right standards."

How are SSF governed?



Who governs SSF?

National authorities in charge of fisheries governance:

- **Ministry of Fisheries, Department of fisheries and Aquatic resource development (under the Ministry)**

Responsibilities:

- Sustainable management of resources using science-based information
- Compliance with regional and international obligations
- Increased marine fisheries production
- Increased aquaculture and inland fisheries production
- Minimized post-harvest losses and increased value addition
- Increased per capita consumption of fish
- Increased export earnings
- Improved opportunities for leisure, employment and enterprises development
- Improved socio-economic conditions of the fisher community

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?

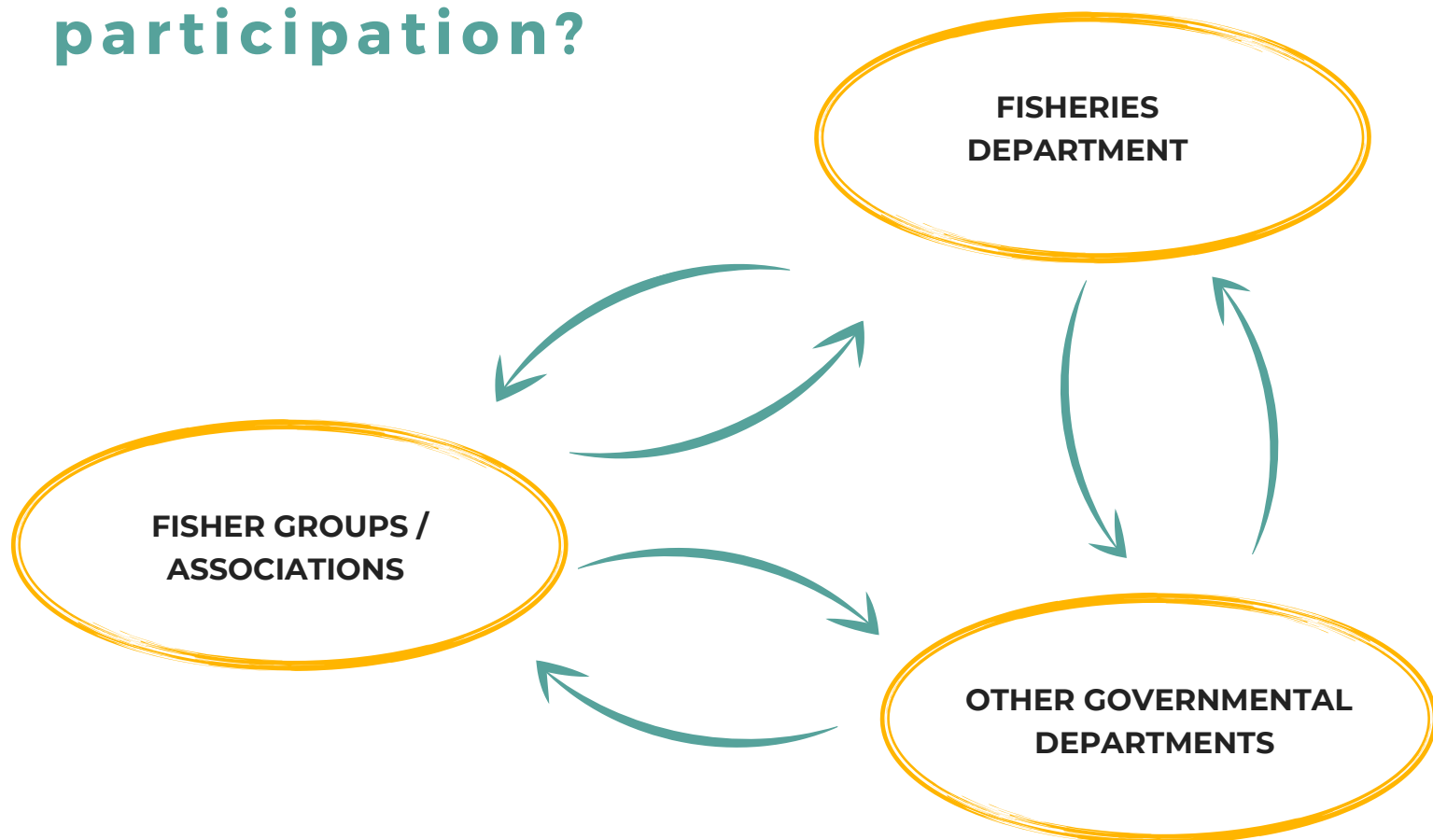
Specific provisions for SSF

- **Exclusive fishing area or priority access to fishery resources for SSF**
 - Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2018
- **Registration requirements for SSF**
 - Fisheries Act of 1996 and subsequent amendments (2006-2018)
- **MCS measures and others aimed to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU applying to SSF**
 - Ten-year development policy framework of the fisheries and aquatic resources sector 2007-2016, (March 2007)
- **Social development, employment and decent work for SSF, along the value chain**
 - National fisheries and Aquaculture policy of 2018
- **Labor rights or social benefits for SSF, along the value chain**
 - National fisheries and Aquaculture policy of 2018
- **Capacity building program for SSF (e.g. provision of and access to education, training)**
 - National fisheries and Aquaculture policy of 2018
- **Special treatment to women in SSF**
 - National fisheries and Aquaculture policy of 2018

No specific provisions for SSF

- **Tenure and related rights for SSF**
- **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**

What are opportunities for interaction & participation?



Representation of SSF in governance

Participation and representation of small-scale fishing operators is not legally required for governance mechanisms. However, fishery organizations provide a platform for small-scale fishing operators to voice their concerns.

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

Co-management plans are available for several fishery lagoons.

Holistic form of governance or reform

It is not clear whether there is any interest or commitment for a more holistic form of governance or reform.