



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Too BIG To
IGNORE

Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

The Importance of Sustainable Trade in Small-Scale Fisheries

(and vice versa)

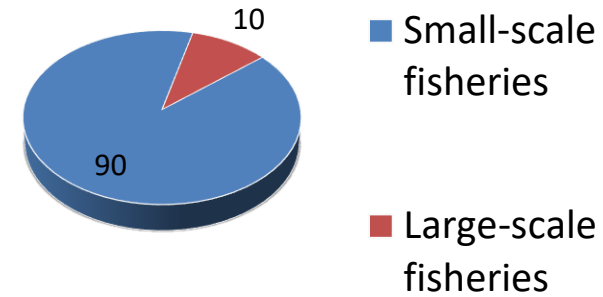
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Working Session on “FAO Instruments Supporting Sustainability of Traded Fish and Fisheries Products”
WTO Public Forum, October 3, 2018, Geneva



Why small-scale fisheries?

- Seafood is the most traded food commodities worldwide;
- About 120 million full-time and part-time workers are directly dependent on commercial fisheries value chain for their livelihoods;
- Majority of the world fisheries, in the North and in the South, are small-scale; many employed in small-scale fisheries are women; > 80% are in Asia;
- 95% of small-scale fisheries catches are for local markets and household consumption.



% of fishing people by sector

FAO (2014)



Small-scale fisheries are extremely important to food security and poverty alleviation; yet are the most marginalized sector, economically and politically speaking.

Value chain dynamics and the small-scale sector

Policy recommendations for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture trade

581

Editors: Bjorndal, Child and Lem (2014)

The main findings across case studies are that, relative to other players in the value chain, small-scale fishers and fish farmers are receiving the smallest economic benefits for their products. Processors and retail markets were found to be receiving more of the distributional benefits of the value chain owing to their stronger bargaining power.

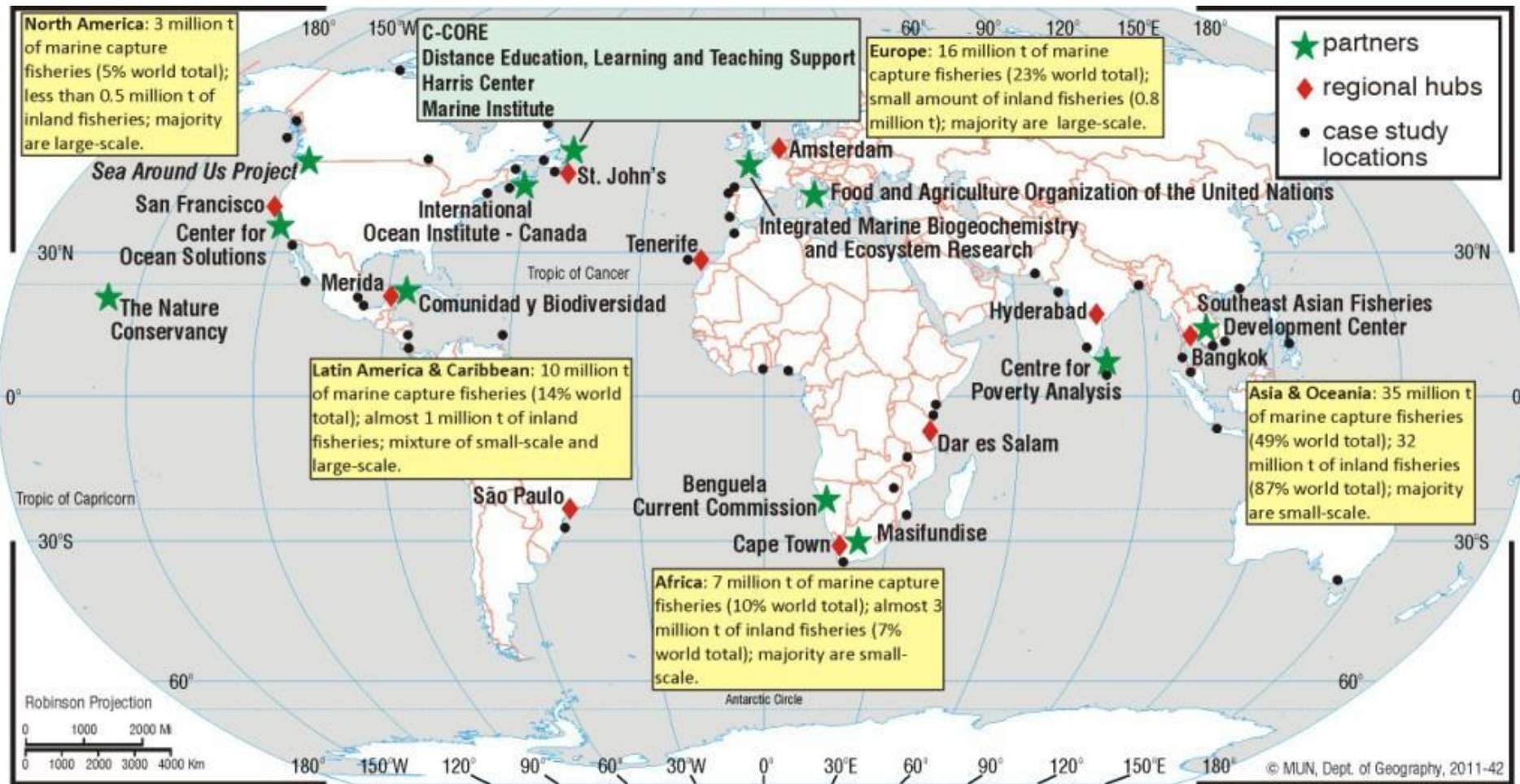


Why are SSF marginalized and will things get better with the SDGs?



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Target 14.B Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets



Too Big To Ignore: an open research network and knowledge mobilization partnership, with >200 researchers and 20 organizations from ~ 45 countries, working together to elevate the profile of small-scale fisheries, argue against their marginalization, reduce their vulnerability, and address key concerns affecting their sustainability.



Too BIG To
IGNORE

Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research

The focus on small-scale fisheries is to correct ‘imbalances’ and address ‘marginalization’

- More information about industrial fisheries, but not small-scale; thus ‘**priority imbalance**’
- Scientific research has been oriented mostly towards understanding the bio-physical aspects, but not social; thus ‘**research imbalance**’
- Decisions are made based mostly on these scientific inputs and economic considerations; thus ‘**policy imbalance**’

TABLE 1

Categories and characteristics of small-scale and large-scale fisheries

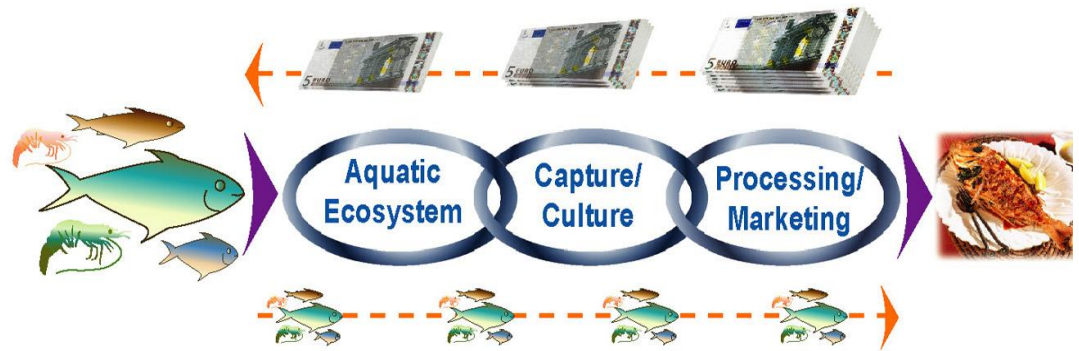
Bjorndal et al. (2014)

Characteristics	Categories of fisheries		
	Small-scale		Large-scale
	Subsistence	Other small-scale	
Size of fishing craft/vessel and engine	None or small (< 12 m), with low-power engine or non-motorized	Small (< 24 m) usually with low-power engine (< 375 kW)	Large (≥ 24 m) with high-power engine (≥ 375 kW)
Type of craft/vessel	Undecked wooden boat, such as a canoe or dinghy	Decked or undecked vessel of wood, fibreglass, aluminium or steel	Steel-hull vessel, trawler, factory vessel
Fishing unit	Individuals, or family or community groups	Small groups, some specialization and division of labour; importance of household and community	Smaller and larger groups; specialization and division of labour
Ownership	Craft/gear owner-operated	Usually owned and operated by senior operator; some absentee ownership	Concentration of ownership, often by non-operators; cooperative ownership
Time commitment	Mostly part-time/occasional	Full-time or part-time	Usually full-time
Fishing grounds	On or adjacent to shore; inland or marine	Inshore/coastal; inland or marine	All marine areas
Disposal of catch	Primarily household consumption but some local barter and sale	Sales to local, national and international markets; household consumption	Primarily sale to organized markets
Utilization of catch	Fresh or traditionally processed for human consumption	Fresh or processed – generally traditionally – for human consumption	Mostly processed; large share for reduction for non-food products
Knowledge and technology	Premium on skills and local knowledge; manual gear	High skills and knowledge needs; manual and mechanized gear; some electronic equipment	Skills and experience important but supported by technology; mechanized gear; automation and electronic equipment
Integration into economy	Informal, not integrated	Partially integrated	Formal, fully integrated

Sources: World Bank, FAO and WorldFish Center (2010), adapted from studies by Berkes et al. (2001), Chuenpagdee et al. (2006) and Johnson (2006).

Innovation for sustainable trade of fish and fisheries products

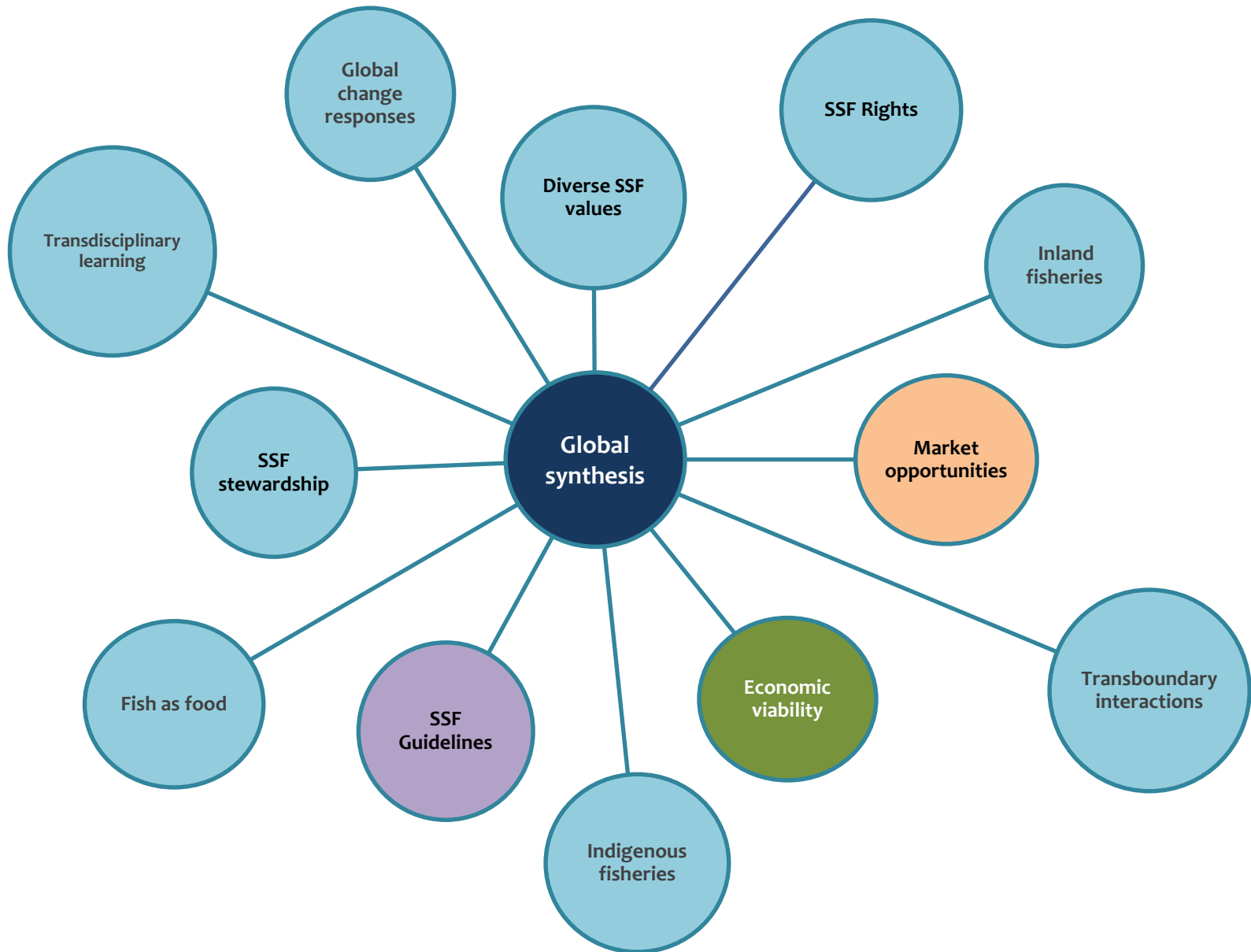
- Information
- Research
- Governance
- Market & trade
- Training & organization
- Etc.



Kooiman et al. (2005)

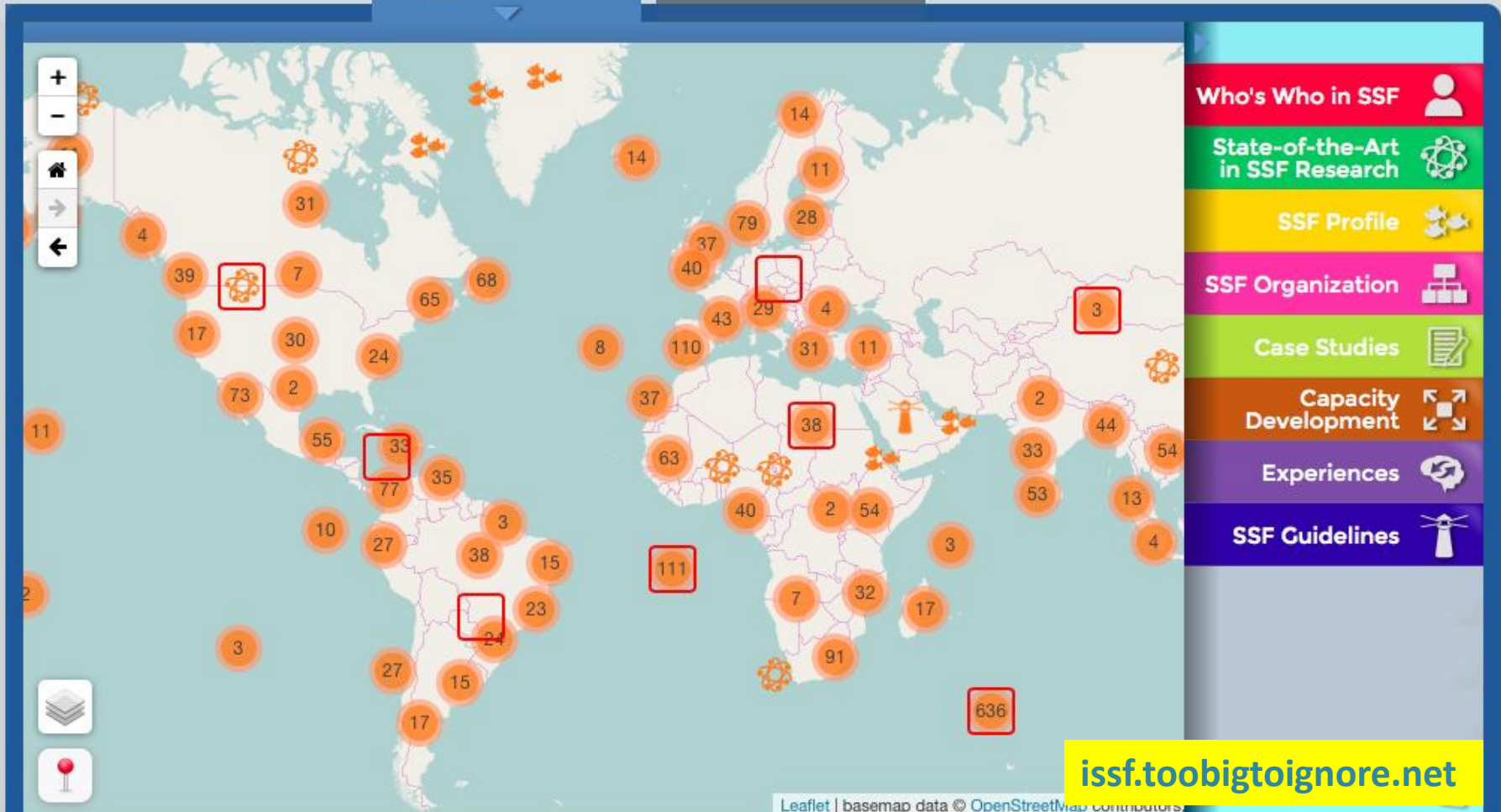
LOCAL CONTEXT, GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

TBTI research clusters covering multiple aspects of SSF



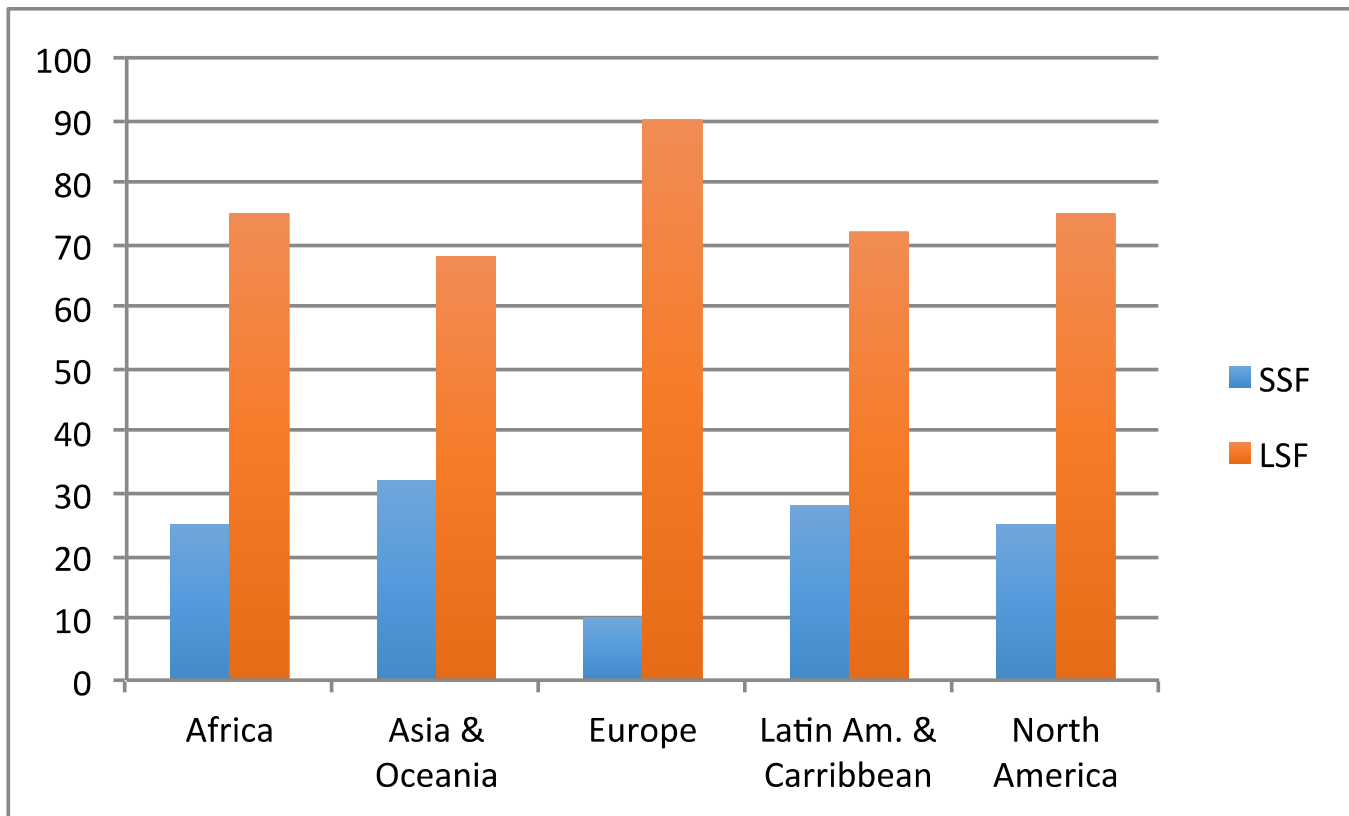
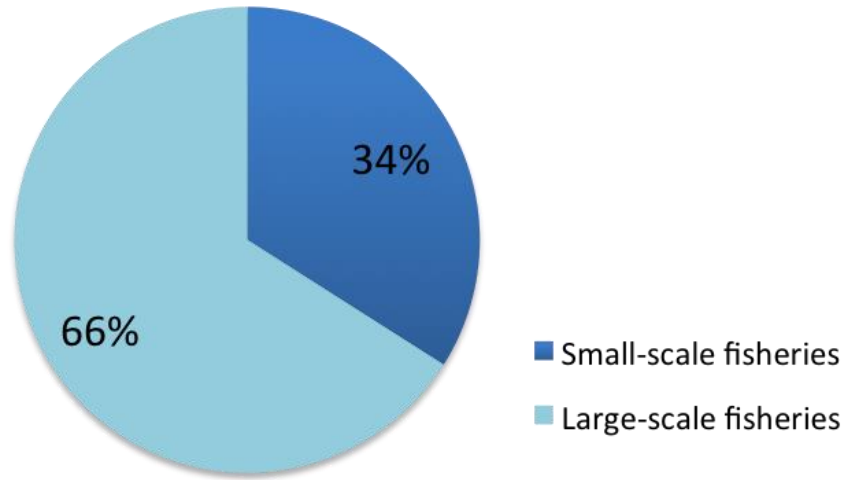
Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries (ISSF)

Open, web-based, interactive, crowd-sourced data platform



issf.toobigtoignore.net

Global marine catches
~ 80 Million t
Sea Around Us (2010)



Ecological

Ecosystem (97%)

Gears (95%)

Vessel types (89%)

Species (88%)

Economic

Households (37%)

Income from SSF (27%)

Post-harvest activities (75%)

GDP (20%)

Non-fishing activities (82%)

Market channels (78%)

SSF type

Geography

Issues

Terms to define SSF (96%)

Number of fishers (71%)

Women in SSF (29%)

History (84%)

Fishers status (66%)

Governance modes (88%)

Fishers rights (75%)

Management tools (90%)

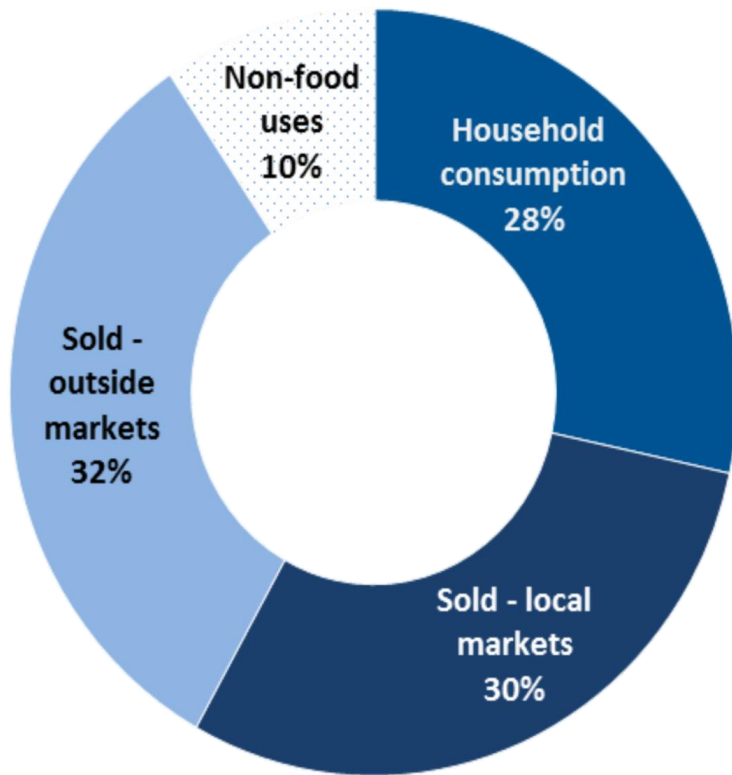
Organizations (62%)

Socio-cultural

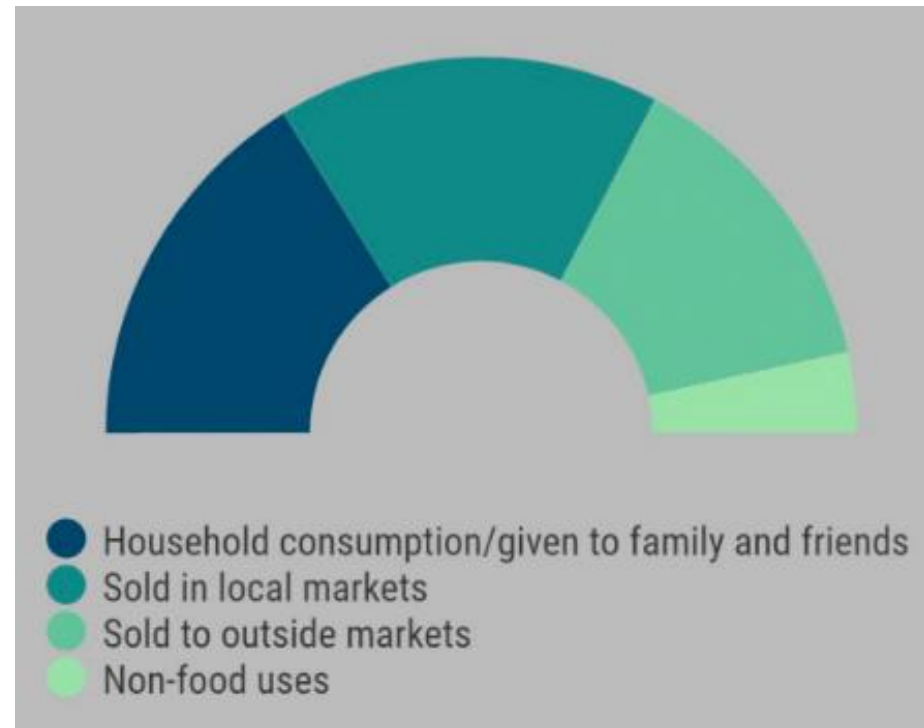
Governance

Market distribution of SSF catches

Asia & Oceania



Europe



Kaimana mud crab fishery, Indonesia

AT-A-GLANCE

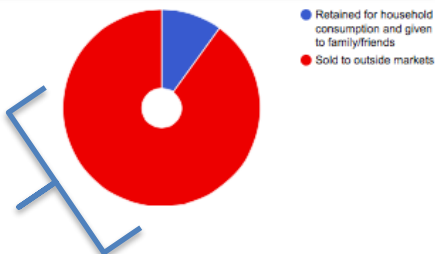


Ecosystem type(s)	Brackish
Ecosystem detailed type(s)	Estuary, Mangrove
SSF type(s)	Indigenous, Commercial
Main SSF vessel type(s)	Wooden
Main gear type(s)	Traps
Time period	2015
Total number of SSF fishers	200

SSF DEFINITION

Fishers using vessel < 5GT

DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS



Sold to outside markets

KEY SPECIES & LANDINGS

Mud Crab /Mangrove Crab
36 t

MAJOR ISSUES

Ecosystem health

Livelihoods

Markets

Poor governance

KEY RULES & REGULATIONS

- Catch limit
- Seasonal closure
- Community-based rights systems
- Marine protected areas

HOUSEHOLD INCOME FROM SSF

80%

NON-FISHING LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

Farming/cultivation



GOVERNANCE

- Co-management/co-governance

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Date created:

Feb. 22, 2016

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Governance innovation through global instruments



Food and Agriculture
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Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

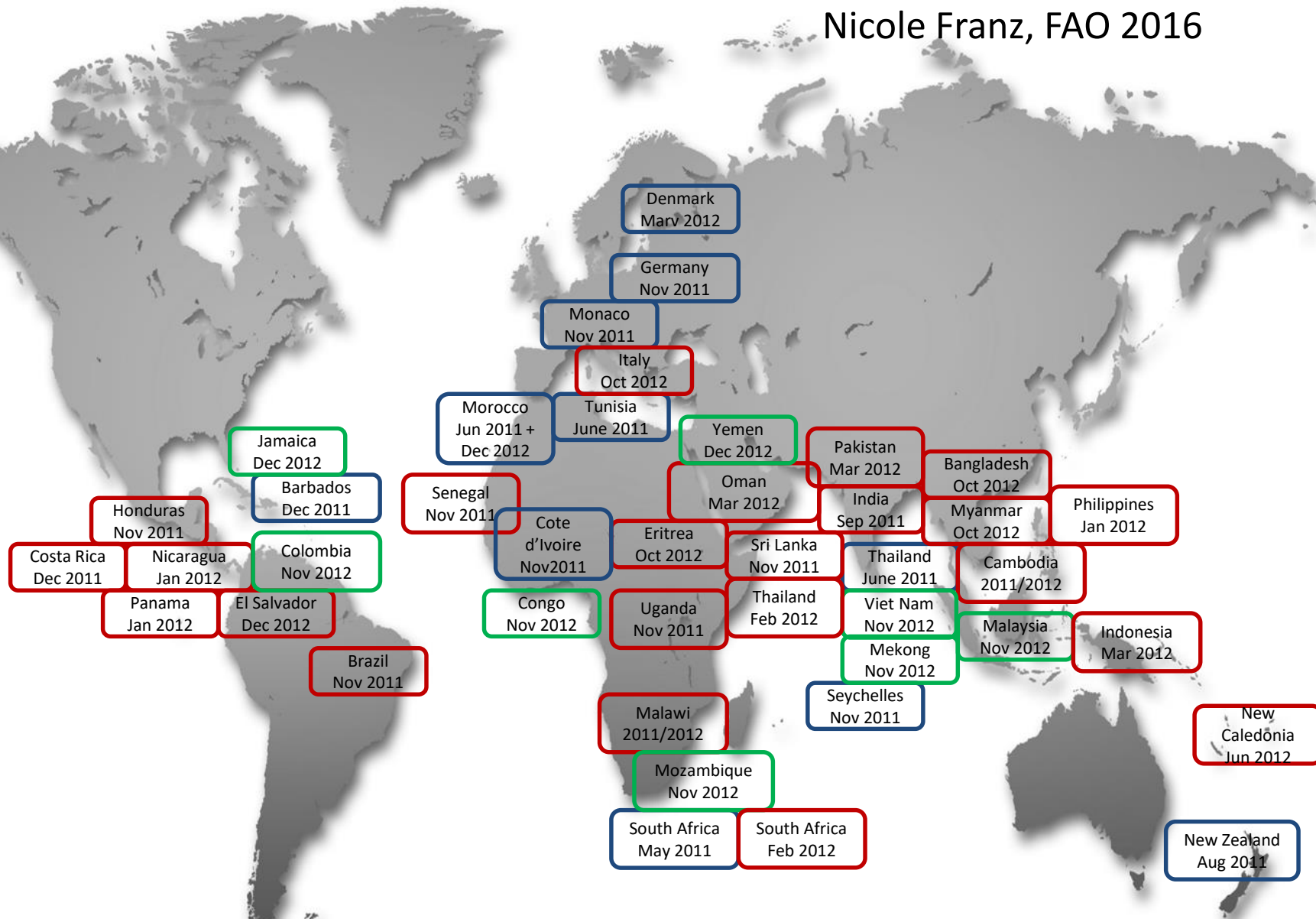
in the Context of Food Security
and Poverty Eradication



*A bottom-up
design process
with bold
principles*

“The SSF Guidelines development process is probably the most participatory ever for a negotiated instrument in the history of FAO. It has involved about 4000 people directly.”

Nicole Franz, FAO 2016



Unique features about the SSF Guidelines

Negotiated international instrument entirely dedicated to SSF |

→ A global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development

Bring together social development and responsible fisheries |

→ Beyond fisheries: sustainable livelihoods, social stability, food security and sustainable social and economic development

Complement other international instruments |

→ Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; Right to Food Guidelines; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

→ Common grounding in **human rights principles**



The Guiding Principles in SSF Guidelines

- Human rights and dignity
- Respects of cultures
- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality and equity
- Equity and equality
- Consultation and participation
- Rule of law
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Economic, social and environmental sustainability
- Holistic and integrated approach
- Social responsibility
- Feasibility and social and economic viability

Two issues

- Given that the SSF Guidelines are in the context of food security and poverty eradication, how relevant are they globally, and also for trade?
- Given that the SSF Guidelines are voluntary, what will it take to implement them?

Jentoft *Maritime Studies* 2014, **13**:16
<http://www.maritimestudiesjournal.com/content/13/1/16>

 **Maritime Studies**
a SpringerOpen Journal

RESEARCH

Open Access

Walking the talk: implementing the international voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

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Abstract

On June 9, 2014 the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) of FAO adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF-Guidelines). For millions of small-scale fisheries people around the world, this was no doubt a historic event and a potential turning point. The challenge now is to make sure that they will be implemented. As the SSF-Guidelines address issues that are politically contentious, there are reasons to expect that they will be met both with enthusiastic acclamation and criticism, as already happened in the negotiations of the text. This paper discusses the opportunities and obstacles for their implementation.

Keywords: FAO; Small-scale fisheries guidelines; Human rights approach; Implementation; Interactive governance

Svein Jentoft
Ratana Chuenpagdee
María José Barragán-Paladines
Nicole Franz *Editors*

The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

Global Implementation

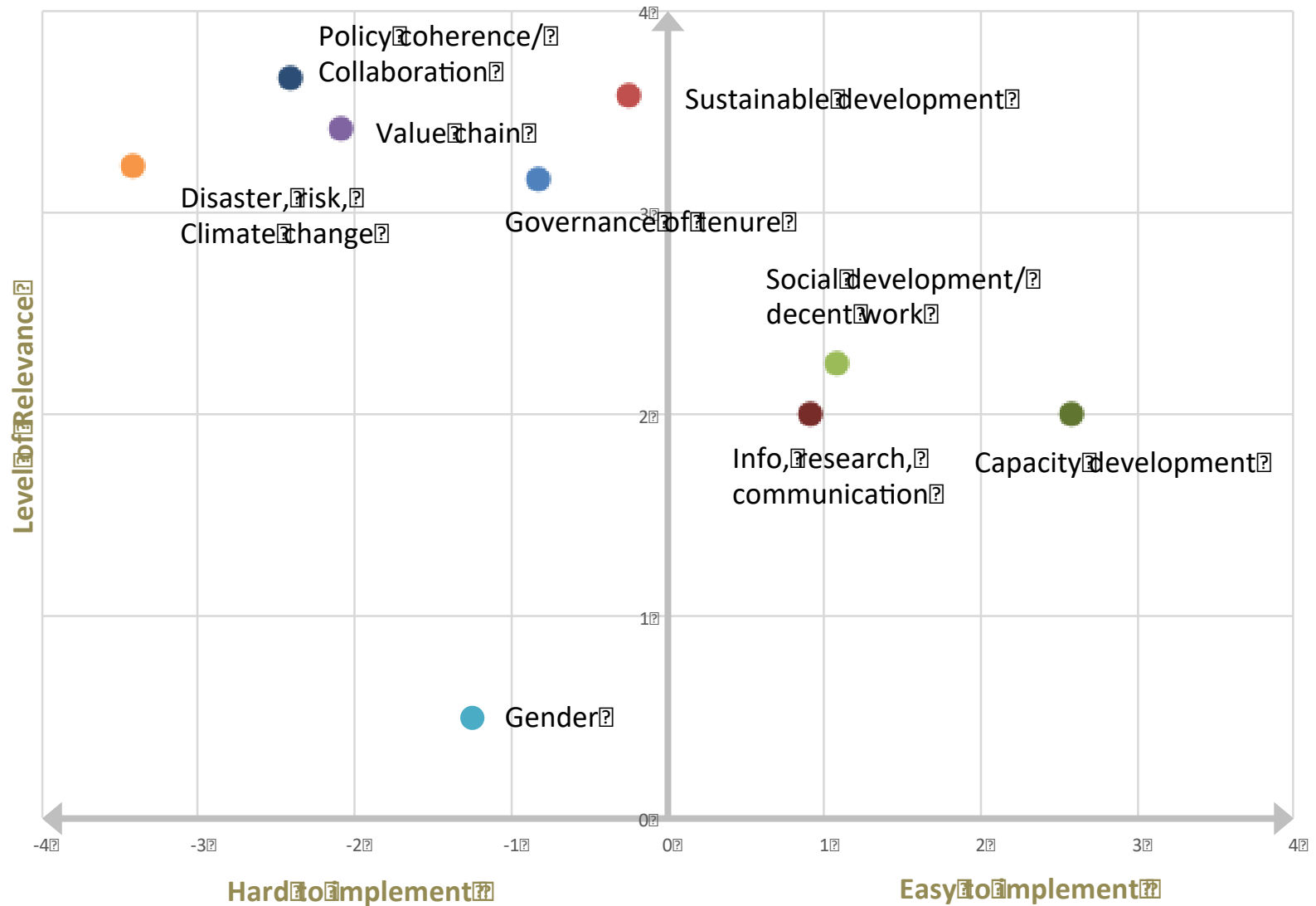
An edited volume of 32 case studies about what it will take to implement the SSF Guidelines, and what can be learned from those that have already started the process.

Some key lessons:

- Different priorities
- Some policies compromise viability of SSF
- SSF should not be seen in isolation

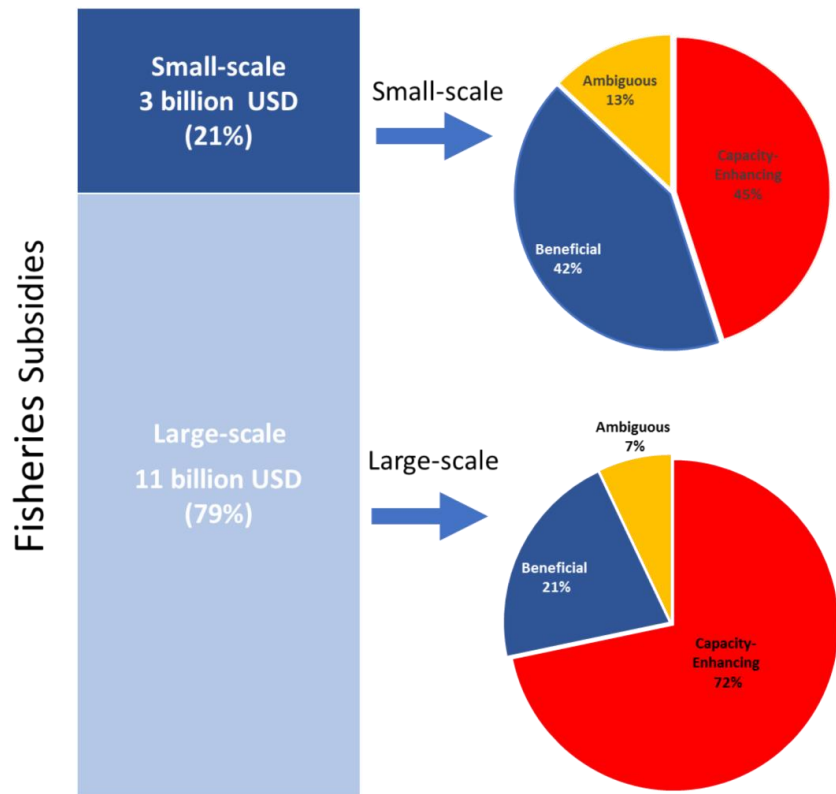
A stakeholders' consultation exercise about Newfoundland and Labrador SSF

Prioritization of Issues in the SSF Guidelines

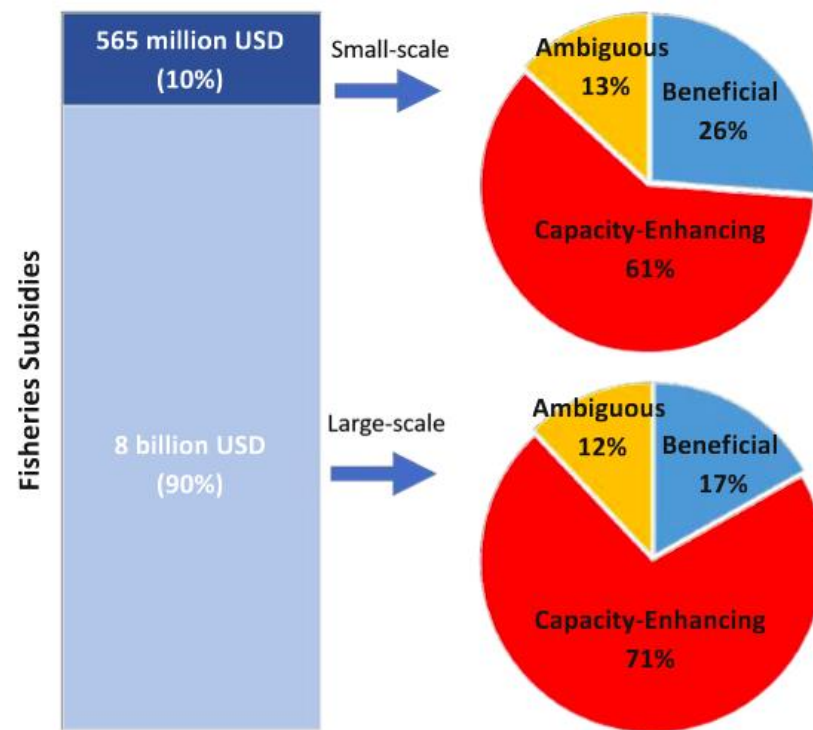


Policy on subsidies compromising SSF viability

Asia & Oceania



Europe



How subsidies affect the economic viability of small-scale fisheries

Schuhbauer et al. (2017) *Marine Policy*



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United Nations

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

in the Context of Food Security
and Poverty Eradication



Need to align SSF Guidelines with SDGs



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	FAO SSF Guidelines										
	Principles	Topics on Sustainable Development				Enabling environment and Implementation					TOTAL
	SSF3: Guiding Principles	SSF4: Governance of Tenure in small-scale fisheries	SSF5: development, employment and decent work	SSF6: Social development, employment and decent work	SSF7: Value chains, post-harvest and trade	SSF8: Gender Equality	SSF9: Disaster risks & Climate Change	SSF10: Policy coherence, institutional coordination and	SSF11: Information, research and communication	SSF12: Capacity Development	
SDG1. No Poverty	1	1	1				2	1		1	7
SDG2. Zero Hunger	1	1			1		1	2	2		9
SDG3. Good Health & Wellbeing	1		2		2			1			6
SDG4. Quality Education	1		3					1	2	2	9
SDG5. Gender Equality	2	4	6	2	4				4	2	26
SDG6. Cleaner water & sanitation	1		1								2
SDG7. Affordable and Clean Energy	1					1					2
SDG8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	2	1	18					2			22
SDG9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	1		2	2	1	3					9
SDG10. Reduced Inequalities	2	1	1	2				1			7
SDG11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	2	1	1					1		1	6
SDG12. Responsible Consumption & Production	2		1	5				1			9
SDG13. Climate Action	1					9	1	1			11
SDG14. Life below water	4	20	2	2		2	6	6			42
SDG15. Life on Land	1	2				3	1	1			8
SDG16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	6	7	4	2	2	1	6	1	2	2	33
SDG17. Partnerships for the Goals	1							1		4	0

Key messages in the context of trade and SSF governance

- Policies and governance for the benefit of small-scale fisheries must be sensitive to the contexts and the needs of small-scale fishing people, and responsive to their situations;
- Small-scale fisheries globally will benefit from more constructive interaction, collective action, empowerment, and innovation, but they are simply too diverse for preconceived and generalized governance blue prints;
- Certain trade policies may create barriers and prevent small-scale fisheries from participation, and may compromise their viability and sustainability;
- Market innovation (to enhance products and value chain) and building of local organizations (producers, post-harvest, trades) for small-scale fisheries are imperative;
- Transition and transformation are happening, but more should be encouraged, for cross-fertilization and sharing of knowledge.

WSFC

3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress
Chiang Mai, Thailand | October 22-26, 2018

Transdisciplinarity

Transformation

The Future of Small-Scale Fisheries



Don't miss!

Science symposium
Policy forum
Community roundtables
Storytelling & talk circles
Cultural exhibition
Field excursion

SAVE THE DATE!

**October 22-26, 2018
Chiang Mai, Thailand**