



***IYAFA Regional workshop: Getting the story straight and envisioning a fair future for small-scale fisheries in Europe***

Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain, 13-16 November 2023

**Women in Fisheries Action Plan**

During the IYAFA Regional Workshop: *Getting the story straight and envisioning a fair future for small-scale fisheries in Europe* that was organized in Galicia, Spain from 13-16 November 2023, a session was conducted to discuss the concerns raised by female fishers and fishworkers. Half of the workshop's 50 participants were women and included representatives of small-scale fisher and fishworker associations, cooperatives, community-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations and academia.

The women highlighted the need for visibility of their labour and meaningful participation in decision making spaces. They collectively pinpointed several actions that need to be taken in the Europe region which are listed as the Women in Fisheries Action Plan for the Europe Region in the following section.

**Women in Fisheries Action Plan for the Europe Region**

1. Women are constrained by the traditional and cultural roles rooted in the norms of patriarchy, and their labour is invisible and not valued. Women's labour,(including the informal labour) must be recognized for its crucial contributions to the economy, food security of the communities and sustainable fisheries.
2. Spaces must effectively be opened up for women to participate in fisheries governance equitably, so that they can contribute their knowledge and experience to processes and policy making affecting their life. This should be reflected also in legislative and social transformations.
3. Women must get the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the co-management process to engage in sustainable fisheries.
4. Women's voices must be heard. Existing and new women's organizations need to be supported and strengthened in order to continue to grow, become more visible, and provide spaces for the next generations of leaders and promote collective action.

5. Protect Women's livelihood promoting principles of decent work, including social security, health protection (including the recognition of occupational illnesses) and social benefit schemes such as maternity and paternity benefits.
6. Need extensive research on women in fisheries for gathering evidence on the invisible role of women in fisheries in Europe. There is also a need for better gender disaggregated data for targeted policies in support of female fishers and fishworkers.
7. Capacity building programmes need to be designed particularly catering to the needs of women to promote their participation in the leadership roles and also for their vocational skill development.
8. Development of gender sensitive technologies and appropriate working conditions to cater to the needs of Women in Fisheries.