

! Threats to Small-Scale and Traditional Fisherfolk Tenure:

1. Conflicts Between Large-Scale and Small-Scale/Traditional Fisherfolk: Tensions arising from competition over fishing grounds and resources, often exacerbated by unequal power dynamics and inadequate regulatory frameworks.
2. Reclamation and Spatial Planning Changes: The conversion of coastal and marine areas for industrial, urban, or tourism purposes, leading to displacement and loss of access to traditional fishing grounds.
3. Use of Destructive Fishing Gear: Practices such as dynamite fishing and bottom trawling that damage marine ecosystems, deplete fish stocks, and undermine the sustainability of small-scale fisheries.
4. Lack of Involvement in Policy Making: Marginalization of fisherfolk in decision-making processes, resulting in policies that do not reflect their needs or protect their rights.
5. Environmental Pollution: Pollution from industrial, agricultural, and urban sources contaminates marine and coastal ecosystems, affecting the health and productivity of fisheries.
6. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing: Activities that violate national and international fisheries regulations, undermine sustainable management, and threaten the livelihoods of legitimate fisherfolk.
7. Climate Change Impacts: Rising sea levels, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and changes in ocean temperatures and acidity that disrupt marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of fisherfolk.

✓ Main Agenda to Maintain Security of Small-Scale and Traditional Fisherfolk Tenure:

1. Active Participation of Fisherfolk in Policy-Making: Ensuring fisherfolk are meaningfully involved in the creation and implementation of policies that affect their lives and livelihoods.
2. Advocating for the Enforcement of Fair Laws: Promoting the enforcement of regulations that protect fisherfolk rights and ensure equitable access to resources, while combating illegal and destructive fishing practices.
3. Advocating for the Protection of Conservation Areas: Supporting the establishment and management of marine protected areas that benefit both biodiversity and local communities, including fisherfolk.
4. Creating Communication Platforms Between KNTI, Government, and Related Institutions: Facilitating dialogue and cooperation among various stakeholders to address tenure issues and develop integrated solutions.
5. Conducting Environmental Monitoring: Implementing community-based monitoring programs to track environmental changes, assess the impacts of various activities, and inform adaptive management strategies.
6. The Role of Women in Tenure Management: Recognizing and strengthening the contributions of women in fisheries management and decision-making processes, ensuring gender-inclusive approaches to tenure security.
7. Education and Campaigns: Raising awareness about tenure rights and sustainability through education initiatives and advocacy campaigns, empowering fisherfolk to protect their livelihoods and environments.

PROMOTING TENURIAL RIGHTS OF SMALL-SCALE AND TRADITIONAL FISHERFOLK



Poverty and vulnerability threaten small-scale and traditional fisherfolk communities worldwide.

Small-scale and traditional fisherfolk are highly dependent on marine resources for their livelihoods, yet face significant threats that exacerbate their poverty and vulnerability. Climate change, illegal fishing activities, and large-scale development projects are critical issues impacting the livelihoods and tenure rights of small-scale and traditional fisherfolk. The degradation of marine ecosystems, overfishing, and displacement from traditional fishing grounds due to development projects undermine the security of tenure rights, making it increasingly difficult for small-scale and traditional fisherfolk to sustain their way of life.

In Southeast Asia, the situation is particularly dire. The region has experienced significant sea temperature increases, which are projected to continue rising. Studies show that fish stocks in the region could decline by up to 40% by 2050 due to climate change (UN report, 2023). 50% of Southeast Asia's coral reefs have been severely damaged or destroyed, with repeated bleaching events often linked to rising sea temperatures. This loss of coral reefs is critical as coral reefs provide essential habitats for many marine species. Additionally, the frequency of extreme weather events in Southeast Asia has increased by 50% over the past two decades, causing extensive damage to coastal and aquaculture infrastructures (ASEAN, 2021). These environmental changes threaten the tenure of small-scale and traditional fisherfolk, as degraded ecosystems lead to reduced fish stocks and loss of vital fishing habitats, directly impacting livelihoods and food security.



Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses another severe threat to fishery resources in Southeast Asia, with 64% of resources at risk of collapse due to such activities (The Asia Foundation, 2018). Southeast Asia loses billions of dollars annually due to IUU fishing, with Indonesia alone estimating annual losses between \$3 billion and \$5 billion (Jamestown Foundation, 2022). IUU fishing practices contribute to environmental degradation, including the destruction of marine habitats and ecosystems, and are often linked to other crimes such as human trafficking and forced labor (Stimson Center, 2023). These illegal activities undermine the sustainability of fisheries, putting additional pressure on small-scale and traditional fisherfolk who rely on these resources for their livelihoods. The economic losses and environmental damage caused by IUU fishing erode the stability of fishing communities and exacerbate vulnerability, further threatening tenure rights.



In Indonesia, the number of poor people in coastal areas rose significantly from 7.8 million in 2011 to 17.7 million in 2022, while the number of extreme poor people increased from 2.1 million to 3.9 million during the same period, according to data from the Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics (Badan Pusat Statistik, BPS) processed by KNTI. Many fisherfolk communities struggle with insecure housing and lack of legal residency status. A significant number of fisherfolk live in informal settlements without proper legal recognition, exposing them to risks of eviction and displacement. For example, in Batam, Riau Islands, and Dadap, Tangerang, especially in areas with KNTI member bases, fisherfolk communities face significant challenges due to large-scale development projects. The forced evictions in these areas, often carried out without adequate consultation or compensation, have resulted in significant social and economic disruptions. Fisherfolk have lost homes and access to traditional fishing grounds, severely impacting livelihoods and well-being.

Moreover, small-scale and traditional fisherfolk face additional threats that jeopardize their tenure rights and livelihoods. Conflicts between large-scale and small-scale fishers, reclamation projects, and the use of destructive fishing gear undermine the rights and sustainability of small-scale fisheries. Environmental pollution from industrial, agricultural, and urban sources further degrades marine ecosystems, while fisherfolk often lack involvement in policy-making processes, leaving needs and rights unaddressed. To ensure the socio-economic stability of fishing communities and the sustainability of marine resources, it is crucial to protect and secure tenure rights for fisherfolk, enabling effective management and conservation of fishing grounds and coastal areas.

According to the discussion and learning reflection following the Third 2023 Tenure Conference held on October 16-17, 2023, organized by the civil society coalition and attended by over 700 participants, including KNTI Fisherfolk members.

Key Three Key Themes Reflected:

1. Perspectives on Marine and Land Tenure Issues: Analyzing the intersection of marine and terrestrial tenure systems and their implications on the rights of small-scale fisherfolk and coastal communities. This includes an exploration of both formal and customary tenure systems and their role in ensuring equitable access to resources.
2. Impact of Tenure Disruptions on Fisherfolk and Coastal Communities: Examining how disruptions in marine tenure systems, such as illegal fishing, industrial development, and regulatory changes, affect the livelihoods, social structures, and cultural practices of fisherfolk, particularly focusing on the vulnerabilities of women in these communities.
3. Strategies for Safeguarding Marine and Coastal Tenure Security: Developing actionable agendas to protect and enhance tenure security, which includes advocating for policy reforms, strengthening community-based management, and fostering collaborative efforts among stakeholders.

Definition of Fisherfolk Tenure:

Fisherfolk tenure refers to the legal relationship or status, encompassing both formal and customary rights, related to the ownership, use, and management of aquatic and coastal land areas by fisherfolk. This tenure includes the responsibility to maintain ecological sustainability and ensure equitable access to resources.

