

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 01 APRIL 2019 to March 2020



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1. INTRODUCTION

Overall, the activities undertaken by ICSF Trust during the year have been in line with objects of the Trust. ICSF recognizes the empowering effect of information to benefit fishing communities. The SAMUDRA Report, SAMUDRA News Alerts, Yemaya Newsletter, South Asia News Alerts, and ICSF Website and Covid-19 subsite continue to share and disseminate information. Efforts undertaken during the reporting period have aimed at enhancing understanding, among a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers, about the importance of SSF and issues of concern to fishing communities, as well as to highlight their aspirations and demands for the future. Activities in some areas (e.g. awareness raising work of SSF Guidelines) have been effective, keeping in mind the challenges facing the sector. In particular, the collective knowledge work can be seen as a potential input to local, regional and national processes of fisheries policy development in India.

2. PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF GUIDELINES

(July 2018 to March 2020)

The aim of the project is to support the social, economic and environmental transformation of the small-scale fisheries sector and to enhance its contribution to food security and poverty eradication through improved policies and, particularly, stakeholder empowerment; to strengthen small-scale fishing communities; and to produce global information products towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The activities undertaken under this project are: organizing workshops and meetings to consult stakeholders and discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines vis- a -vis draft fisheries policies developed by the Government of India.

Four workshops were conducted in India between July and November 2019: to develop action points for the implementation of the 2017 National Policy on Marine Fisheries ([19-21 July 2019](#)); to mainstream gender into fisheries policies and legislation ([18-20 August 2019](#)); to improve inland fisheries governance in the context of the National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture ([6-7 September 2019](#)); and a workshop exploring the capacities of local self-governments to implement the SSF Guidelines ([5-6 November, 2019](#)). The workshop resources and recommendations are available at: <https://igssf.icsf.net/>

2.1. National Workshops: India

Four workshops dealing with different aspects of the SSF Guidelines were held in India between July and November 2019. In all four workshops, the format was a mix of presentations from experts and voices of the fishing community, as well as group discussions to develop action points based on specifically formulated questions. Since the workshops had multilingual

participation, interpreters provided support to the various linguistic groups from the different states of India.

2.1.1. To develop an implementation plan for India's National Policy on Marine Fisheries, 2017

The first workshop was held in Chennai from 19th to 21st July 2019, towards developing an implementation plan for India's National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF) 2017, in light of the SSF Guidelines. The NPMF was developed through a consultative process involving several stakeholders, including representatives of fishers and fishworkers, to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities and to ensure the sustainability of marine fishery resources. The NPMF acknowledges that fishers will be at its core and strives to maintain the small-scale character of Indian marine fisheries in India's maritime zones; also, to provide legislative support to the tenure rights of traditional fishers. It envisions providing guidance to coordinate and manage marine fisheries until 2027.

The main objectives of the workshop were: to develop long-term and short-term action points for the implementation plan of NPMF, with special emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized groups; integrate elements of the SSF Guidelines into the implementation plan of NPMF within the framework of a human rights-based approach; and empower fishers and fishworkers and their organizations by building capacities and raising awareness in the context of the implementation of the NPMF and the SSF Guidelines. Accordingly, the workshop was expected to come up with long-term and short-term action points in light of the SSF Guidelines as well as other relevant national and international instruments and processes from a CSO/NGO perspective towards developing an implementation plan for NPMF from 2020 to 2027. The concept note, NPMF and the SSF Guidelines were made available in Indian languages of the coastal states, including Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Odia and Bengali. Other resources provided online included presentations and compilations of fisheries sector schemes and relevant news articles.

The workshop had over 80 participants, with 52 representatives from the small-scale fishing communities of ten coastal states and union territories, and others from research institutes, civil society organizations, inter-governmental organizations and other agencies. The resource persons were scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), both based in Kochi, India.

The workshop had six sessions, with presentations from experts on various aspects of the NPMF and its connection with the SSF Guidelines, apart from group discussions, open forum and plenaries. Sections of the NPMF were benchmarked against the SSF Guidelines in the technical sessions which included 'Fisheries Management', 'Fisheries Post-Harvest and Trade', 'Mariculture, Deep Sea Fishing and Other New Initiatives', 'Coastal and Marine Environment,

Climate Change and Blue Growth’, ‘Social Development of Fishing Communities’, and ‘Gender Equity in Fisheries’.

In the first Plenary Session, six representatives from FWOs/Civil Society Organizations (CSO) gave their perspectives on the implementation of the NPMF 2017. The Action Points, short-term and long-term, that had been developed were presented in the second plenary. They addressed the tenure of fishers and customary rights of the fishing communities involved in fisheries for generations, and included effort control measures for resource sustainability, creation of fish refugia through consultation, developing information services for fishers, promotion of participatory management, capacity building for deep sea fishing, post-harvest and processing and gender equity, among others..

2.1.2. To Mainstreaming gender into fisheries policies and Legislation workshop

The SSF Guidelines and Mainstreaming Gender into Fisheries Policies and Legislation was the focus of the second workshop, held from 18th to 20th August 2019 in Chennai. Key women CSO/NGO fishery stakeholders from the states of Maharashtra (nine participants), Kerala (ten), Tamil Nadu (nine) and West Bengal (four) attended the workshop, which saw a total of 22 participants including those from CSOs and Research Institutions such as CIFT in Kochi and the Central Institute for Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai. Nalini Nayak coordinated the workshop.

The key objectives of the workshop were to enhance the capacities of women fishworkers for the mainstreaming of gender into fisheries policy and legislation, conduct a gender analysis of fisheries budget allocations and schemes and the socio-economic indicators of fishing communities, recommend action points for the implementation of NPMF 2017 and draft NIFAP 2018, from a gender perspective; also, to facilitate exchange of knowledge between diverse women fishworker representatives, and to develop a national platform for women in fisheries. The concept note in four languages apart from English, schemes for fisherwomen, extracts from census data, presentations and a report of a brainstorming session held earlier are part of the online resources made available.

In the first session, women from fishworker organizations in each of the four states described the work their organizations did for women in fisheries, including liaising with the state government and raising issues and demands. The second session was on gender perspectives in the NPMF 2017 and the SSF Guidelines, in which the resource person looked at where women were mentioned in NPMF and what opportunities they could get from the policy. Session three was on ‘Women's Rights to Tenure and Role in Fisheries Management’, in which the ecosystem-based approach was highlighted. State-wise figures regarding the status of health, education and other parameters for the fishing community versus the general populace were presented and the general social status of fishing communities from a historical perspective was also outlined. The

concept of gender budgeting was explained in detail, along with the various schemes available in the different states. In the last technical session, ‘Fisheries Management and the Role of Women’, frequently used words were explained so that women would be sure of what they meant while asserting their rights. In the group discussions, the social development needs of fishing communities, financial and technical support for women in fisheries, and the role of women in fisheries management were discussed and recommendations made. It was agreed that a platform with participants from member-based organizations would be established to take up major common issues at the state and central level.

2.1.3. To develop long-term and short-term action points for implementing National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2018

The third workshop was held in Kolkata from 6th to 7th September 2019, focusing on the draft Indian National Policy on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture (NIFAP) and the SSF guidelines. The workshop was attended by almost 90 participants drawn from 17 states, including 63 from fishworker organizations and others from CSOs, NGOs and research institutions. The resource persons were from leading fisheries research institutions, such as CIFE, Mumbai; Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, Kolkata; Patna University, Patna, Bihar; and National Federation of Fishermen’s Cooperatives Limited (FISCOPFED), New Delhi.

The objectives of India’s 2018 NIFAP, currently in the draft version, pertain to the optimal utilization and sustainable management of inland fisheries and aquaculture resources, increasing fish production and fishers’ living standards, creating gainful employment and marketing opportunities, and ensuring food security while conserving native fish genetic stocks and associated ecosystem services from fisheries.

The objectives of this workshop were to review the existing social and ecological knowledge gaps that might influence processes and outcomes of existing and proposed inland fisheries governance systems, to develop realistic long-term and short-term action points for implementing NIFAP with special emphasis on the vulnerable and marginalized groups, to integrate elements of the SSF Guidelines in the implementation of NIFAP within the framework of a human rights-based approach, and to empower fishers and fishworkers to help build their institutional capacity and raise their awareness about the SSF Guidelines in the context of implementing the NIFAP. As background material, the draft NIFAP was made available in six Indian languages apart from English. In addition, workshop presentations, additional resources and a compilation of relevant news articles were made available online.

At this workshop, there were three technical sessions: (i) ‘Tenure Systems, Institutions and Governance’, (ii) ‘Fisheries Legislation, Policy Implementation and the Environment’ and (iii) ‘Socio-Economic Development, Gender Issues and the Role of Cooperatives’. Nachiket Kelkar presented a situation paper on ‘Governance of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in India’ in the

context of the NIFAP. It focused on two questions regarding the role of tenure systems in sustainable use and environmental conservation of different water bodies, and the scope for adaptive management in existing tenure systems in response to ecological, economic, and socio-political change in fisheries. Group discussions (in state/linguistic groups) were held on developing short-term (one to three years) and long-term (five to ten years) recommendations for the above three broad workshop themes. Outcomes from the group discussion were pooled and presented at the end as workshop recommendations listed under focus areas such as awareness and outreach, addressing data gaps, identifying pollution, sanitation, and health risks during fish culture, need for appropriate legislation, and the role of women in inland fisheries.

2.1.4. To raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines among Panchayat Raj Institutions in India

The fourth workshop in the series to raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines among the Local Self-governments (LSGs) or panchayat raj institutions (PRI), attracted 63 participants, including representatives from fishworker organizations, local self-governments and state governments, state fisheries department officials, academics and researchers (both community based organizations and non-governmental organizations were represented). The resource persons included advisers and consultants to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and experts in the subjects from academia and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), as well as those working in local governments. The workshop was held at KILA in Thrissur, Kerala, on 5th and 6th November 2019 in association with KILA.

The objectives of the workshop were: to raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines and review the capacities of the panchayat raj institutions to implement them; to review existing panchayat budgets and programmes for marine and inland fisheries and fishing communities; to identify opportunities and gaps in local governance; to highlight panchayat-level best practices on participatory decision making, delivery of welfare and social services benefiting fishing communities, women's socio-economic development and equal representation; and to focus on climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, resource utilization and sustainable fisheries management. Additional resources on local self-governance, the fisheries sector under the PRI of different states, as well as the concept note and presentations made at the workshop, are all available online.

The sessions were on: 'The Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Governance of Fisheries in India'; the 'Panchayati Raj Institutions and Fisheries Management in Kerala'; the 'Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Socio-Economic Development of Fishing Communities'; and the 'Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance of Tenure'. The success stories of schemes implemented in the fisheries sector by local bodies in the southern districts of Kerala were presented as case studies by M Saju of the Fisheries Department, Government of Kerala. Three questions were discussed during the group discussion: (1) How can local self-government

contribute to the social development of fishing communities (coastal and inland)? (2) How can LSGs effectively conserve, manage and restore aquatic and coastal ecosystems? (3) How can all stakeholder—LSGs, union and state governments and civil society—strengthen the participation of fishing communities (coastal and inland) in democratic platforms for local governance? Among the recommendations were the preparation of a fisheries sub-plan as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan, and the holding of a ‘matsya sabha’ (fisheries council) where the panchayat comprises a large number of members from the fishing community. In the valedictory session, SM Vijayanand, Chairman, Sixth State Finance Commission, Government of Kerala, gave the valedictory address through a video presentation in which he suggested holding a workshop to develop an action plan for each state, the development of a resource cluster as a proof-of-concept, and localizing plans for climate change and SDGs. He emphasized the importance of capacity building, and also suggested the establishment of a platform for advocacy and providing technical support to bring together agencies to share views on helping fisherfolk.

2.1.5 Feedback

Feedback was obtained from most participants of the workshop. In general, most of them felt that the content and the methodology of the workshop were adequate. A few participants mentioned that the information shared during the workshop would be useful for their day-to-day work and that they would share it with leaders and fisherfolk in their communities. Participants said that the group discussions helped in clarifying certain points and hoped there would be follow-up on workshop recommendations.

3. AQUACULTURE

A study on Sustainable Development and Human Rights-based Approach in Aquaculture: A Case Study of Indian Aquaculture Systems

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) offer a vision of a fairer, more peaceful world in which no one is left behind. The 2030 Agenda (and more specific SDG 14) also sets aims for the contribution and conduct of fisheries and aquaculture toward food security and nutrition, as well as to the sustainable use of natural resources within the context of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. However, the SOFIA 2020 states that the fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90% in 1974 to 65.8% in 2017. Since 2016, aquaculture has become the main global source of fish for human consumption. In 2018, its share was 52% and it is expected to continue to increase in the long term, observes SOFIA 2020. This has led to increased investments in aquaculture in many fish producing nations. Employment in aquaculture, according to SOFIA 2020 has indicated a jump in proportion to the total employment in fisheries and aquaculture from 17% (in 1990) to 34.5% in 2018 (20.5 million), worldwide.

According to FAO, about 580 aquatic species are currently farmed all over the world, representing a wealth of genetic diversity both within and among species. Aquaculture is further practiced by both some of the most marginalized farmers in low-income countries and by multinational companies in high-income countries, such as the U.S and Norway. Eating fish is part of the cultural tradition of many people and in terms of health benefits, it has an excellent nutritional profile, i.e. rich in protein, fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and essential micronutrients. However, despite being promoted as a sustainable alternative to fisheries and important source of nutrition, aquaculture systems from around the world have been the cause of much debate. Common criticisms have mainly been related to nutrient and effluent build-up, the impact of fish farms on local wild fisheries with respect to disease and escaping (e.g. salmon farming in Norway), environmental degradation due to the site's location (e.g. clearing of mangroves for shrimp aquaculture), the use of wild fish as feed (e.g. the increase in fish meal factories in West Africa with effects on both fish stocks and local food security), and the displacement of coastal people and violations of human rights. Although some of these issues are dealt with, and new forms of aquaculture are being developed (such as land-based recirculation systems (RAS) and farming of species further down the food chain), many issues still remain unsolved. Given the increasing focus on aquaculture on both national, EU (as part of EUs Blue growth strategy⁵) and global level, there is a need to evaluate different aquaculture systems, their social and environmental impacts, so as to promote a more sustainable path for all, guided by the human rights principles and standards.

From the past experience of blue revolution, commercialization of aquaculture is synonymous with intensification. In any intensification seeking supernormal profits, monoculture of the most sought-after species is deployed. The draft NIFAP (2019) clearly states that the Policy supports intensification and expansion of shrimp/prawn farming in saline and freshwater areas. This could be seen as a push for monoculture of the so-called hardy, disease-resistant shrimp, and fresh water-tolerant shrimp, the exotic white legged *L. Vannamei*.

Currently freshwater aquaculture is dominated by Indian Major Carps. Due to its affordable price, it feeds the domestic and local markets providing the much-needed protein and nutritional security to the fish-consuming domestic population. A prized commodity that contributes well to foreign exchange earnings may replace the Indian major carps, automatically feed into the cold chain and be lost to the local population whereby their nutritional security takes a direct hit. Adopting cage culture in inland waters (another objective of the NIFAP) is another aspect that could turn problematic if not regulated and monitored.

Cage culture could easily be doomed at a much greater intensity and scale (as seen in the example of Laguna de Bay in the Philippines) in comparison to the shrimp industry collapse of the 1990s, if regulations and thought-through policies are not put in place. *Drafting hasty policies without delving deep into the areas such as ecosystem processes can cause irreversible damage to the sector and the ecosystem.*¹⁴ The increased emphasis on tripling fish production by

2030 and heavy reliance on aquaculture for the same can lead to other malpractices such as dependence on antibiotics for disease-free crop. Antibiotics, although banned in India, is still used in areas of high intensity aquaculture. This could have health impacts not only on workers in the farm but also on the health of the riverine ecosystem which could lead to the creation of superbugs to the detriment of humankind. Effluent from farms with antibiotic use will invariably be dumped into nearby river in the absence of a robust surveillance and monitoring system in place which, till now, has been elusive in the Indian context.

Premised on the above, the current study is looking into the aspects of new blue revolution from an aquaculture lens in general and human development in particular, especially in view of SDG 1, 2, 5, 8, 14 and 16. Specifically, the study purports to:

- a) identify areas where new trends are being adopted such as cage fisheries in reservoirs, mariculture in coastal waters, and make case studies on the same;
- b) work on a gender- and age-disaggregated status for a block in a selected state in different aquaculture production systems;
- c) examine if aquaculture offers alternative livelihoods to fishers;
- d) assess threats facing fishing communities from aquaculture operations, including from new tenure arrangements;
- e) identify occupational safety and health issues in aquaculture systems.

The case studies look at fishmeal/oil-fed and non-fed, extensive, semi-intensive and intensive forms of aquaculture, especially in sensitive biodiversity areas, for subsistence, domestic and the export market within and outside the region and if they undertake any ex ante environmental and social risk analyses prior to making investment. The case studies further look at the use of chemicals in aquaculture operations, and also document the consequences for small aquaculture farms from large-scale farming operations. Specifically, the case study will:

- a) probe whether the learnings from earlier experiences are being considered and addressed, especially the impact on communities and ecosystems;
- b) document marine, coastal and inland biodiversity losses arising from aquaculture practices;
- c) propose how aquaculture development in India can be made consistent with a human rights-based approach towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable development and good governance;
- d) help ICSF propose to FAO COFI 33rd Session (July 2020) the need to develop guidelines for small-scale aquaculture consistent with the principles of the SSF Guidelines;
- e) contribute to the ILO Technical Meeting on the future of work in aquaculture in the context of the rural economy (23-27 November 2020) (Note: will be postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19 disruptions); and

- f) provide inputs to relevant FAO processes in relation to the observation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022.

Study Period

The study that commenced in March 2020 will complete in October 2020. The study is undertaking interviews and in-depth surveys in selected areas with farm owners, workers, local residents, as well as with relevant government agencies (note: in-person interviews were not possible due to Covid-19).

Expected Outcome

The case study from India will look at how aquaculture can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, by analyzing social and environmental impacts of different aquaculture systems.

4. CAMPAIGNS (2019-2022)

With the endorsement of the SSF Guidelines by FAO Member States in 2014, ICSF's work of supporting fishers and fishworker communities and organizations entered a new phase. The focus of ICSF work now straddles both advocacy at the global and regional levels, and the national and sub-national implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Anchored by the expertise of its members in fisheries research, policy and activism, the campaigns are aimed at raising the profile of small-scale fisheries in international processes for food security, climate change and the global maritime (blue) economy. The campaigns will cover the following themes: SSF contributions and rights to food security and nutrition; SSF contributions and justice in a blue economy perspective; scenarios and prospects for SSF under the impacts of climate change; SSF and the protection of tenure over water, land and resources.

United Nations General Assembly's resolution proclaiming the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture is an opportunity for ICSF to highlight these issues and explore collaboration and linkages with diverse organizations and processes.

The SSF Guidelines seek equitable outcomes for the vulnerable and marginalized groups among the small-scale artisanal fishers and fishworkers by operationalizing the access element of CCRF through the creation and enforcement of exclusive zones for small-scale fisheries, which is now resonated in several national and subnational fisheries policies and legislation.

The SSF Guidelines are aware that just creating exclusive zones alone is meaningless for small-scale fishing communities for their equitable development, unless secure tenure rights to the fishing grounds and resources that form the basis for their social and cultural wellbeing are also granted. In addition, the SSF Guidelines recognize that granting tenure rights to the fishing

grounds and resources would be incomplete, unless secure tenure rights of fishing communities to land are granted in the coastal areas to secure and facilitate their access to the fishery and accessory activities. This is also consistent with the Tenure Guidelines that seek to provide secure tenure rights and equitable access to land resources and fisheries resources. In sum, a holistic approach to SDG 14.b is required to integrate access, fishing zones, and tenure rights to the coast, the fishing grounds and fisheries resources into one coherent framework to secure equitable development of fishing communities.

If one looks at the interlinkages between SDG goals and targets, SDG 14.b can help reach SDG 1 and SDG 2 in the context of small-scale fishers and fishworkers in marine and coastal fisheries if a holistic approach as discussed above is adopted. SDG 14.b, however, can contribute to reach several other SDG 14 targets at a purely technical level, such as 14.2 (sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (to regulate harvesting and overfishing, illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices) and 14.5 (to conserve coastal and marine areas) just by creating and enforcing exclusive zones for small-scale artisanal fisheries.

4.1. Campaign to enforcing/creating small-scale artisanal non-towed fishing gear zones

In light of the above discussion on the CCRF, Tenure Guidelines, SSF Guidelines and SDGs, ICSF will undertake the *Making the Small-scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work!* campaign to enforcing/creating small-scale artisanal non-towed fishing gear zones (SFZs) to benefit fishing communities using these gears and practices in a sustainable manner. The campaign will seek coherence across equitable development of fishing communities and conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources in at least three coastal states of India (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) during the triennium 2020-2022.

Although SFZs or similar area designations exist at the informal level in many coastal states, the formal creation of SFZs at the national and subnational levels in India has a history dating back to the 1980s. In India, for example, SFZs have been created at the subnational level since the 1980s. However, there are no recognized tenure rights to the SFZs. The enforcement of the formal SFZs leaves a lot to be desired in meeting their stated objectives. Tenure right to these SFZs need to be granted. The informal SFZs, on the other hand, although effective in meeting their unwritten social goals, are not sufficiently geared to upholding conservation of fisheries resources.

The emphasis on non-towed fishing gear stems from the fact that the current SFZs for small-scale artisanal fisheries at the formal and informal levels do not universally permit towed gear on or off seabed within these zones in Asia, including India. Although in existence for at least a generation, these zones do not, however, enjoy sufficient protection and are often violated by towed gear groups, to the disadvantage of non-towed ones. Also, active towed fishing in other

waters under national jurisdiction (OWNJ) prevents several traditionally-caught fish species from migrating into the SFZs before they become accessible to non-towed fishing gear and practices. The tenure right to fishery resources of non-towed gear groups, therefore, need to go far beyond the territorial sea.

Towards creating a strong incentive for inter-generational equity within the coastal and marine fishing communities, ICSF will start *making the small-scale artisanal fishing zones work!* campaign in India in 2020 at the subnational and national level towards reversing the shrinking share of non-towed small-scale artisanal fisheries in annual marine fish landings, taking into account that NPMF proposes to enhance the area currently available to small-scale artisanal fishers in the territorial sea (Note: also reiterated in the draft National Fisheries Policy, 2020). The campaign will look at how to enforce SFZs to improve conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, and how to secure tenure rights of coastal fishing communities to SFZs and to traditional fisheries resources within and beyond SFZs, to promote equitable development.

Currently, based on distance or depth from the low-tide line, vessel length or engine ratings, India has a three-tier zoning arrangement for non-towed fishing gear units countrywide, within the low-tide line to the limit of the territorial sea. These are: (i) traditional non-mechanized fishing areas; (ii) motorized fishing areas; or (iii) mechanized fishing areas, employing fishing gear other than towed gear. There are informal designated areas for encircling gear like the shore seine (sometimes, also within the low tide line), stationary gear like stake-nets, and sedentary species like molluscs. The configuration of these notified as well as traditional zones can vary from coastal state to coastal state, and in some cases, from coastal panchayat to coastal panchayat. The traditional arrangements, at the local level, although rarely recognized in law, enjoy wider legitimacy amongst the fishing communities. The campaign will draw attention of local self-governments, to the extent possible, to assist in legitimizing these informal, local arrangements and their embedded traditional and local knowledge that are strong on equity, but often weak on conservation.

A concept note for a field study and campaign in India was developed in March 2020. The study design had to be modified due to the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown, to focus in the first stage on literature review, desk-based data collection and research, and a preliminary exercise to select sites in three coastal states, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The campaign will employ studies, workshops, communication and awareness-raising tools, with a focus on South and Southeast Asia, beginning with India.

4.2. What does the campaign intend to achieve?

The campaign within the framework of sustainable fisheries, adopting a ground-up approach, a human rights-based approach, and applying the principle of scale subsidiarity, through consultation with and participation of the coastal fishing communities, especially the vulnerable

and marginalized, will raise the visibility of the SFZs in all coastal states, in a sequential manner starting with the most disadvantaged, paying special attention to the SFZs that are adjacent to the low tide line and earmarked for small-scale artisanal fishing communities, both at the formal and informal level. The campaign will document the livelihood needs and will propose how the threats facing fishers and fishworkers, both men and women, including gleaners and seiners, could be effectively addressed through better enforcement and improved performance of existing SFZs, or through the creation of new ones, and by securing tenure rights to these areas and fisheries resources.

In light of potential threats and perceived opportunities, the campaign, employing studies, workshops, communication and awareness raising tools will look at how the SFZs and fisheries resources within and beyond can benefit the least-destructive, most-equitable and the most-conservation-oriented vessel- and shore-based fishing operations in India.

4.3. Small-scale fisheries: Enhancing the contributions to nutrition and food security

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) play a unique role in assuring nutrition and food security in today's world, in which 2 billion people are still considered food insecure and 'zero hunger' continues to be an important Sustainable Development Goal. Provided with adequate support, SSF will likely continue to play this part in the future too. Aiming to highlight the contribution of SSF to nutrition and food security, ICSF in collaboration with its partners, is launching a special campaign. In this campaign, special attention will be paid to how SSF adds to the four dimensions of food security, namely: (1) the availability of food, (2) its accessibility (with a focus on price and income), (3) its quality, and (4) the stability of supply over time. In doing so, ICSF notes that these contributions, like many other aspects of SSF economies, are largely undocumented and therefore are still in the process of being understood.

The contemporary policy scene recognizes marine and inland waters for their important role in food-provisioning, with special attention given to the nutritional qualities of aquatic foods. The High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy points out that in addition to protein, food from the sea "provides essential vitamins, minerals, long-chain omega-3 fatty acids and other nutrients not found in plant-source foods or other animal proteins." These nutrients are particularly important for the sustenance of pregnant and nursing women, as well as for children. The need for healthy food is most pronounced in the countries of the Global South, where most, but not all, of the world's poor are concentrated.

SSF are estimated to include 90 percent, or 36.3 million, of all people – men and women – directly involved in the world's capture fisheries today (FAO 2018) and contribute to half of global fish catches. This small-scale fishing population is spread out along coasts and inland waters across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, Europe and North America, meeting local, national and international demand for aquatic food. The food provisioning role of inland fisheries

is also pronounced. Over 90 percent of small-scale catches are estimated to be directly consumed by humans.

SSF plays a dual role in nutrition and food security. First, it ensures that the approximately 200 million people who are involved in the SSF economy – fishers, processors, traders, transporters, and many others – are able to sustain themselves and thereby enjoy their human right to a better standard of living. It does so in three ways. First, SSF provides those contributing to the SSF economy with a direct supply of nutritious food. Second, it provides them with purchasing power with which to obtain other foods, goods and services. Finally, it enhances the economic status of women participating in the SSF economy, and supports the nutrition and food security of their families.

The second role played by SSF is in supplying aquatic foods for large rural and urban populations. Most small-scale fishers sell a major portion of their produce to traders, who transport it to markets both adjacent to coasts and inland. In inland contexts, both wild-caught native fish and sustainably farmed herbivorous species provide bioavailable protein, vitamins and minerals for local communities, including Indigenous Peoples.

SSF communities face many challenges in maintaining their livelihoods and their food provisioning capacities – particularly, inequitable access to resources and markets. To address this, fishers’ and farmers’ movements have articulated food sovereignty as an alternative vision for democratizing food systems and markets. While SSF trade networks serve diverse domestic and international markets, their major contribution is in providing low-income populations with a variety of aquatic foods that are not only affordable, but also cater to local tastes. In this context, this campaign will address the multiple dimensions of food security in fisheries and raise the profile of SSF in related international processes.

ICSF invited international fishworker movements, particularly the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) and World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), to collaborate on this campaign. With renewed attention to fisheries and oceans leading up to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference (Note; now postponed to 2021) and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), the campaign connects with the initiatives of FAO and of research networks (e.g. Too Big To Ignore; Illuminating Hidden Harvests). ICSF also invited local and national fisheries organizations to document and highlight the ways in which marine and inland SSF are contributing to nutrition and food security, linking their work with the international campaign. The forthcoming issue of SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya will be focusing on this campaign. The perspectives gathered through these publications and the interest of our national partners will determine the themes and locations chosen for the case studies.

5. ADVOCACY

During this period, ICSF Staff participated in several subnational, and national level meetings, processes and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The presentations are available at:

<https://www.icsf.net/en/paper-presentation.html>

5.1. List of meetings

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
02-03 May 2019	Fourteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (ICSP/14) New York City, US	US	Sebastian Mathew <u>ICSF Statement</u>
02-04 May 2019	Capacity Building Workshop for Women in CAOPA, Conakry, Republic of Guinea	Guinea	Sebastian Mathew <u>Presentation</u>
19-20 June 2019	Blue Call to Action Meeting 1 Oceano Azul Foundation and Oak Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal	Portugal	Vivienne Solis Rivera and Manas Roshan
25-28 June 2019	MARE 'People and the Sea' Conference Amsterdam, The Netherlands	The Netherlands	Maarten Bavinck and Manas Roshan
3-4 July 2019	Shanghai Dialogue on Socially Responsible Fisheries Value Chains Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Shanghai Ocean University (SHOU) Shanghai, China	China	V. Vivekanandan
24-25 August 2019	Pre-CBD Working Group Meeting on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework SwedBio and Natural Justice, Nairobi, Kenya	Kenya	Manas Roshan
27-30 August 2019	First Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Kenya	Manas Roshan <u>ICSF Statement</u>

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, Kenya		
3-5 September 2019	Towards Resilient and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries WorldFish and Oak Foundation Penang, Malaysia	Malaysia	Manas Roshan
11-12 October 2019	Brainstorming Workshop on 'Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resumption of Wetland Ecosystem Services for Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Security of local Fishing communities' Assam Fisheries Development Corporation (AFDC) Guwahati, Assam	India	N. Venugopalan
12-18 October 2019	46th Session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS46) Side Event: 'Treasures of the oceans and inland waters: Ensuring food security and nourishing nations' Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy	Italy	Manas Roshan <u>Presentation</u>
22 October 2019	Stakeholder consultation on Fisheries Subsidies World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Kochi, Kerala, India	India	N. Venugopalan
23-24 October 2019	Sixth 'Our Ocean' conference, Government of Norway, Oslo, Norway	Norway	Sebastian Mathew <u>Panel Discussion</u>
18-21 November 2019	International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the Science-Policy Nexus Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy	Italy	Maarten Bavinck Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk Serge Raemaekers Vivienne Solis Rivera

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
			Sebastian Mathew John Kurien
18-19 November 2019	Regional NHRI Seminar on Human Rights and Fisheries Danish Institute for Human Rights Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	Manas Roshan Presentations <u>1</u> , <u>2</u> , <u>3</u>
24-29 November 2019	Workshop on Human Rights and Biodiversity: Essential Ingredients for a Successful Post 2020 Framework Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) Nanyuki, Kenya	Kenya	Manas Roshan <u>Presentation</u>
8-10 December 2019	The Third Meeting of the Board of International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), 8-10 December 2019, SC Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand	ICSF Board members Maarten Bavinck, Chairperson, Leopoldo Cavaleri Gerhardinger, Secretary Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Treasurer Peter Linford Adjei, Member Vivienne Solis Rivera, Member Sebastian Mathew, ex officio Member Executive Director, ICSF ICSF Secretariat N. Venugopalan, Programme Manager, ICSF Manas Roshan, Programme Officer,

Date	Event	Location	Attendance
			ICSF
7-10 January 2020	International Symposium MECOS3 Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities, 7-10 January 2020, Kochin, India	India	Venugopalan Presentation
24 -25 February 2020	Regional Meeting for Validation of RPOA-IUU; 24 - 25 February 2020, Chennai, INDIA	India	N. Venugopalan
23-24 March 2020	Webinar on 'SSF and Everything Blue'		Manas Roshan

6. COMMUNICATION

6.1. SAMUDRA Report (Triannual)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra.html>

SAMUDRA Report started in March 1988. The journal of SAMUDRA Report has continued to disseminate information on important developments in fisheries from a small-scale fisheries perspective, and to create greater awareness on issues that concern the small-scale sector. All issues of SAMUDRA Report issue No. 1- to 82 (in English) are available on ICSF's website. During the reporting period ICSF has not published French and Spanish language versions of SAMUDRA Report.

TABLE 1: SAMUDRA REPORTS PUBLISHED

Number of issues published	Report emailed to people/organizations	Views	Downloads
2	4043	1,262,404	195,705

6.1.1. SAMUDRA Report No.81, June, 2019

This issue features articles on fisheries from around the world, with a special focus on implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The editorial Comment that opens the issue focuses on subsistence fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific region and their importance as a source of nutrition, culture and welfare for the communities living there. It notes that the course of action for the region is outlined in the SSF Guidelines, which need to be integrated into regional strategies and processes. An article from Cuba reports on a Fisheries Forum that brought together stakeholders from coastal communities to examine opportunities and challenges to make fisheries more sustainable, considering how vital fishing is for Cuba's economy and the livelihoods of its coastal communities. The geography, histories and cultures of the Pacific island region, and its 14 small island developing states, represent unique challenges and opportunities, argues another article. It notes that the introduction of the SSF Guidelines is an ambitious global-level policy pledge designed to provide overarching guidance towards improving the governance of small-scale fisheries around the world. The piece from Nigeria shows how waterfront communities, whose livelihoods are predominantly dependent on fishing and related activities, live under constant fear of eviction.

A report on the Pêcheurs du Monde film festival, where over 40 films from 16 countries were screened, reminds us that despite the severity of various crises facing fishers, there are still signs of hope. A review of the Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture points out that women are now receiving more attention in the

fisheries policy of the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), after only intermittent efforts starting from about 1989. An obituary pays tribute to Rambhau Patil, an Indian fisher leader whose energy and commitment for the cause of fishers made him stand out as a distinguished fighter for the rights of fishworkers, worldwide. Other reports from Malaysia, Brazil and India (on the ambitious but limited Draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy), as well as an article on how environmental NGOs can partner fishers to secure vibrant fishing communities and thriving marine ecosystems, also refer to the SSF Guidelines.

A report on the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress reveals that the voices of small-scale fishers and civil society organizations were heard loud and clear. Another report reflects on the 7th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7), held in Bangkok during 18-21 October 2018. A third report offers thoughts on the ‘Towards an Inclusive Blue Economy’ conference organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development in London in February 2019.

The cyclonic winds that swept through the shores of the Indian state of Odisha in the wake of Cyclone Fani have razed the livelihoods of many fisherfolk, says a report. Another article from India reports on a World Bank-funded loan project in the state of Jharkhand, which aims to enhance and diversify household incomes for targeted beneficiaries through fish culture. From Chile comes an article which warns that the hellish expansion of salmon farming in the Patagonia region could threaten Chile-Norway relations. A report on the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, says that sustainable development of fishing communities and participatory conservation of marine biodiversity are compatible. The Roundup section of SAMUDRA Report carries news stories, briefings, announcements of events, as well as a profile of a fisher organization. This issue can be accessed at: <https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra/article/EN/81.html?limitstart=0>

6.1.2. SAMUDRA Report No. 82, February 2020

This issue features articles on fisheries from around the world, notably Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Seychelles, Brazil, Chile and France. The current issue has extensive analysis and commentary on the Blue Economy and Blue Growth against the backdrop of the SSF Guidelines.

The article from Seychelles analyzes the several contradictions in the conservation initiative of the country’s Blue Bond scheme, while the one from Sri Lanka points out that the National Fisheries Policy needs to be remodelled to incorporate the SSF Guidelines. Yet another says that women in fisheries can utilize the SSF Guidelines to advance their interests and build a common vision.

The biggest-ever oil spill disaster in Brazil's history points to the need for State-sponsored disaster management, says another report. From neighbouring Chile comes a piece that argues for a new type of autonomous social movement to create a democratic and representative Constitution.

India's draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP) is analyzed in one article, while another explains how artisanal fishers' experiential knowledge can help address many problems, including climate change. This issue also carries an obituary tribute to Sidney Holt, one of the scientists who had developed the concept of maximum sustainable yield in marine fisheries, who died late last year. This issue can be accessed at:

https://www.icsf.net/images/samudra/pdf/english/issue_82/276_ICSF_Samudra%2082_February_2020.pdf

6.2. Yemaya (Newsletter on gender and fisheries, Triannual)

<https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya.html>

Yemaya Newsletter of women in fisheries started in April 1999. Yemaya seeks to disseminate information about gender issues in fisheries, and, in particular, the perspectives and concerns of women of fishing communities and their organizations. Yemaya contributed to providing greater visibility to the organizational efforts and initiatives of women from fishing communities, and to the issues facing them. Several articles have reported on grassroot organizational processes and on women leaders in different countries. All issues of Yemaya newsletter issue No. 1-60 are available on the ICSF website.

Table 2: Yemaya Newsletter Published

Number of Issues published	Newsletter emailed to people /organizations	Views	Downloads
1	4043	726,597	117,378

6.2.1. Yemaya No. 59, June 2019

This issue of Yemaya features articles from Fiji and India and an article on the 7th Global conference on gender in aquaculture and fisheries (GAF7), as well as an article on the recently-held roundtable in India on organizing women. The editorial comment calls for urgent need to look at levels of exclusion women are facing, despite the attention received at the international level. The article on Fiji shows the lack of sex disaggregated data available for any meaningful analysis. Nikita Gopal, in her article on GAF7, highlights the intersectionalities of power relations existing in the fisheries sector. The Roundtable highlighted the tremendous gains that

women make when they collectively raise their voices in demand of their rights. The issue also celebrates the recent edition of Slow Fish held in Genoa, Italy. The Slow Fish Forum promotes small-scale fishing and responsible fish consumption and provides a unique space, particularly for women in the small-scale fisheries sector. The Milestones calls for understanding the seafood industry through a gender equality lens. There is a need for regular awareness raising efforts on gender issues. Shilpa Nandy, in her profile column, writes about Tapasi Dolui, a fisherwoman from West Bengal, India leading the struggle of fisherwomen in Tangruchar. Indu M.G. in Yemaya recommends write about a short video, Fished, The Fisher Women of Mumbai, directed by Daya Gupta that narrates the story of the lives of Koli women, a traditional fishing community from Mumbai, India. This issue can be accessed at: <https://www.icsf.net/en/yemaya/article/EN/59.html?limitstart=0>

6.3. INFORMATION SERVICES

ICSF employs various media channels to disseminate information and foster awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers globally, with a special focus on the developing world. The aim of these services is to enhance access of fishworkers and support organizations to information needed to protect and further their rights and livelihoods.

ICSF's News Alerts, website, social media channels and other information services seek to increase awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers, particularly in the South and to enhance access of fishworkers and support organizations to information needed to protect their right to life and livelihood.

6.3.1. SAMUDRA Daily News Alerts

<https://www.icsf.net/en/samudra-news-alert.html?language=EN>

Outreach: All over the world

SAMUDRA News Alerts, launched in January 2005, has been sending out news on fisheries and fishworkers on a daily basis, and in the form of a weekly digest on Saturdays. SAMUDRA News alerts with 1,827 subscribers, carried news items focusing on national fisheries policy issues, issues of fisheries management and governance, UN processes related to SSF, trade and certification, besides the ongoing focus on arrest and detention of fishers, disaster and community initiatives. In the reporting period, 170 alerts with 1,567 news items were disseminated, which were viewed by 1,517,669 viewers.

6.3.2. South Asia News Alerts

<https://dc.icsf.net/en/component/dcnews/>

The South Asia News Alert, initiated in October 2011, presently has 1,771 subscribers. It carried news items focusing on fisheries policy issues, issues of fisheries management and governance, press releases, petitions and other reports from fish worker organizations and civil society organizations. In the reporting period, 234 alerts with 2,244 news items were disseminated which were viewed by 865,968 viewers.

6.3.3. Dissemination of Publications and Films Alert

ICSF's Publications and Films Email Alert has periodically disseminated SAMUDRA Report, Yemaya Newsletter and other publications and films to its subscription base of 4043 individuals/institutions. During the reporting period ICSF has disseminated two alerts to subscribers.

6.3.4. Linking with other Networks and Dissemination of Information:

All articles of ICSF publications, including SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya are deposited in repositories such as THE Aquatic Commons, FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform and Academia.edu.

Aquatic Commons

http://aquaticcommons.org/view/issuing_agency/International_Collective_in_Support_of_Fishworkers.html

FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/en/>

Academia

<https://independent.academia.edu/IcsfOffice>

6.4. ICSF WEBSITES

6.4.1. ICSF Website

<https://www.icsf.net/>

ICSF Websites and subsites are updated with information on various publications and films; searchable databases for news alerts; statements made at international workshops and meetings including UN/FAO/ILO/WTO meetings and statements from ICSF organized workshops, papers and presentations made by ICSF, important fisheries events, and online resources.

In the reporting period

Total Views: 6,158,701

Total Downloads: 433,673

6.4.2. ICSF Covid website

Fish-COV: Addresses the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on fisheries and fishing communities

<https://covid.icsf.net/>

ICSF has tracked the impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak on fisheries through its daily news alerts. Since May, ICSF has gather this information, along with news and perspectives on specific sectoral issues at national, regional and international levels on a dedicated website.

(<https://covid.icsf.net/>) This information, presented on maps and in the form of blog articles, and repositories of international and national policy measures, cover three parameters – impact, relief and recovery. The website also gathers presentations by ICSF Secretariat and Membership in virtual meetings and workshops addressing the impacts of the pandemic on SSF and recommended actions to support SSF livelihoods.

6.5. SOCIAL MEDIA

ICSF is active on social media like Facebook and Twitter. Its posts generally follow the following topics: on ICSF's work/ publications (13%), on FAO, ILO, etc. fisheries-related publications / meetings (40%); news on India /South Asia fisheries (16%); international fisheries news (20%); global fisheries research / conferences (10%).

6.5.1. ICSF Twitter

<https://twitter.com/icsf1?lang=en>

Post frequency: Flexible. 2-7 per day; 100 per month on average. Usually between 11am - 4pm IST. Number of Followers: 1128

6.5.2. ICSF Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/International-Collective-in-Support-of-Fishworkers-207693975914236/>

Facebook Followers: 1,492 and Post frequency: Flexible. 2-7 per day; 100 per month on average. Usually between 11am - 4pm IST