

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2017 TO JUNE 2020

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International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

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Executive Summary

This executive summary encapsulates the significant milestones, activities, and achievements of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) from December 2017 to June 2020. ICSF has focused on empowering small-scale fishworkers, advancing sustainable fisheries, and ensuring the well-being of fishing communities worldwide from a human rights perspective. Key highlights from this period include the implementation and dissemination of the SSF Guidelines, country-specific initiatives, advocacy for equitable and sustainable fisheries practices as well as a wealth of SAMUDRA reports, Yemaya newsletters, news alerts and other communications.

ICSF adopted a project, process and partnerships approach to cumulatively and effectively take on the mandate of supporting small scale fisheries globally. We work to maintain a global perspective while applying a human rights-based approach to fisheries management and fishing communities. In 2018 ICSF decided to focus on food and nutrition security, tenure rights, climate change and the blue economy. This would be in addition to and complimentary to the implementation and dissemination of FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

Adopting a project approach, ICSF, through its members and partners, undertook implementing the SSF Guidelines in Asia, Africa and Latin America towards protecting the human rights and tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities on the one hand, and to achieve conservation and sustainable use of aquatic living resources at the national and subnational levels, on the other.

Under the project, ICSF raised awareness about the SSF Guidelines to audiences including the Indigenous Peoples of Amazonas as well as the local fishing communities of Ghana, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India, and local government bodies, especially in Asia.

There was considerable interest in integrating the SSF Guidelines into legislation and policies at various levels and in advocating greater decentralization and devolution of fisheries governance towards resolving intra- and inter-sectoral conflicts, protecting livelihoods and fetching social benefits to fishing communities.

The nine-country project has demonstrated the relevance of the SSF Guidelines in addressing problems faced by small-scale fishers and fishworkers, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Securing tenure rights and protecting human rights have emerged as key areas of interest to marine and inland small-scale fishing communities. There are expectations to see effective mechanisms, processes and institutions in place, including through the creation of national platforms and building alliances with like-minded CSOs.

Adopting a process approach, ICSF decided to focus on a series of thematic campaigns designed to raise awareness of small-scale fisheries' contributions and challenges. These campaigns leverage the expertise of ICSF members in fisheries research, policy, and activism to address critical global issues. The themes include: SSF and Food Security: Highlighting SSF contributions and rights to food security and nutrition; Justice in the Blue

Economy: Advocating for equity in the context of the global maritime economy; Climate Change Impacts: Addressing the scenarios and prospects for SSF under climate change; and Tenure Rights: Focusing on the protection of SSF tenure rights over water, land, and resources. ICSF also engaged with multilateral bodies such as the Food and Agriculture (FAO), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations (Our Ocean Conference), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and the UN Biodiversity Conference towards implementing the SSF Guidelines to secure the rights of small-scale fishers and fishworkers and to meet relevant SDGs, especially to secure improved access to resources and markets (SDG 14.b).

Adopting a partnership approach, ICSF, together with CSOs/NGOs such as African Confederation of Professional Artisanal Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA), WFFP, WFF, International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) Fisheries Working Group, WorldFish and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements (CFFA) contributed to improving the visibility of small-scale fisheries in relation to food security, ocean economy, climate change, gender, labour, decent work, tenure, social protection and the protection of human rights in multilateral bodies like FAO.

The above approaches have been buttressed with ICSF communication activities such as publications, websites, animations and films, towards enhancing knowledge and improving the effectiveness of projects, processes and partnerships.

After the declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) in March 2020, ICSF has been adopting a combination of process and partnership approaches to document the impact of the pandemic and to propose new coping mechanisms through effective economic instruments and social protection measures within a human rights framework. As well as providing immediate support to fishing communities in India in the aftermath of the early outbreak.

Leveraged on conservation and sustainable use of living aquatic resources, the ongoing challenge is to sustain an active global interest in the elements of the SSF Guidelines—fisheries, biodiversity, food security, tenure, climate change, labour, gender, trade, disaster preparedness, migration, social development, social protection, human rights, etc.—and to employ these elements in transforming the lives and livelihoods of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their dependent communities in a coherent, ground-up manner towards inclusive and equitable outcomes.

Conterminous with small-scale fisheries are ‘aquaculture’ and ‘blue economy’ activities, presumed to offer opportunities of alternative employment, income and food security, or on the contrary, posing threats of environmental externalities, denial of tenure rights, and abuse of human rights.

Consistent with its goal of strengthening fishing communities, fishers and others engaged in small-scale fisheries, ICSF has held on steadfast to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in various geographic contexts, and in engaging with different thematic areas.

Despite significant achievements in the reporting period, ICSF faced challenges including limited funding and human resources, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lessons learned emphasized the importance of community engagement, flexible strategies, and leveraging partnerships across the world.

ICSF membership, in this context may be revamped, towards broadening and deepening its engagement with small-scale fisheries issues. Capacity building programs which focus on gender equity and sustainable fishing practices can be further developed. ICSF will continue and increase advocacy efforts at local, regional, national and international levels to influence policy frameworks in support of small-scale fishing communities. Our communication mediums are well established and we can further develop digital tools and platforms for knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement. Finally strengthening the partnerships of ICSF with its traditional, as well as new partners, will stand ICSF in good stead in the future.

Introduction

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) is an international non-governmental organization that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small-scale, artisanal sector.

ICSF draws its mandate from the historic International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters (ICFWS), held in Rome in 1984, parallel to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

As a support organization, ICSF is committed to influence national, regional and international decision-making processes in fisheries so that the importance of small-scale fisheries, fishworkers and fishing communities is duly recognized. In this endeavour, ICSF works in collaboration with organizations of fishworkers and other like-minded groups.

ICSF's mission is "to support fishing communities and fishworker organizations, and empower them to participate in fisheries from a perspective of decent work, equity, gender-justice, self-reliance and sustainability".

ICSF's vision is - "A future in which fishing communities and fishworkers lead a life of dignity, realizing their right to life and livelihood, and organizing to foster democracy, equity, sustainable development, and responsible use of natural resources."

In 2017 ICSF underwent a relaunch where it was decided that ICSF would work locally while maintaining a global perspective; work applying a human rights-based approach; and work in both the global North and South. Overall, the activities undertaken by ICSF during the reporting period have been in line with ICSF's mission and have been effective, keeping in mind the challenges facing the sector.

During the First General Assembly and Board Meeting, held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on the 7th-8th December 2017, the agenda was to discuss the organization's governance; to develop work strategies for its programme activities; and to create a financial plan to sustain the secretariat and remunerate staff. As well as to digitize grey literature and public domain documents which are valuable source of information relevant to small-scale fisheries.

In the Second Board Meeting, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 21st October 2018, administrative matters were dealt with and an ICSF Membership Policy was finalised. During this period, ICSF signed a contract with the Oak Foundation; which pledged to support ICSF's secretariat and its work till 2023. With a strategy and sources in place for ICSF's funding and its sustained engagement in national, regional and international processes in the reporting period, the organization has been able to pursue its long-term objectives of knowledge sharing, capacity building and advocacy in service of small-scale fishing communities and their associations. The Board also decided upon 4 campaign themes for ICSF and its members to focus upon. These include 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.

The Third Board Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on the 8th-10th of December 2019. The agenda for the meeting included, among other matters, financial matters, progress on conceptualizing and launching proposed thematic campaigns; review of the completed ICSF-FAO project to implement SSF Guidelines in nine countries; consolidating the response to the 'Blue Call to Action' draft document and discussion of the proposed study 'Sustainable Development and Human Rights-based Approach in Aquaculture: A Case Study of Indian Aquaculture Systems'; and the ongoing re-design of the ICSF website. The Board was informed that FAO would continue to support the SSF Guidelines activities: a) to deepen some of the activities already initiated, and b) to bring in new countries. Several key partner organisations and collaborators were discussed to continue ICSF's work in implementing the SSF Guidelines.

Projects on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines

FAO-ICSF Project on Implementation of SSF Guidelines (July 2018 - March 2020)

The countries involved in this project are: Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. 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 through this project are: organizing workshops and meetings to consult stakeholders and discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines; undertaking studies and mapping exercises on small-scale fisheries governance and livelihoods and preparing policy papers and draft action plans; developing audio-visual material and other communication tools on the SSF Guidelines and country-level activities, and animation videos on four chapters of the SSF Guidelines.

ICSF's partners in the project include Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), Brazil; Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana; ICSF Trust, India; Koalisi Rakyat Untuk Keadilan Perikanan (KIARA), Indonesia; Network Action Group (NAG), Myanmar; Tambuyog Development Center, the Philippines (TDC); Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF), Sri Lanka; Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand; and Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD), Vietnam.

Brazil

Brazil: Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN)

To raise awareness of the SSF Guidelines among small-scale fishers in Brazil, ICSF, in collaboration with Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), organized the Indigenous Fishers Workshop. The initiative began with a preparatory meeting held in Manaus, Amazonas, on December 7, 2018. A survey conducted prior to the meeting identified key conflicts and management challenges faced by indigenous communities, such as land tenure, sport fishing, commercialization of indigenous products, and community-based tourism. This survey helped define relevant working groups addressing the pressing issues of these communities.

The subsequent Seminar on Indigenous Fisheries in Amazonas and Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, held on March 27–28, 2019, in Manaus, brought together 25 indigenous fishers from 16 ethnic groups, alongside representatives from NGOs and governmental entities. Indigenous participants came from diverse regions, including the Solimões, Rio Negro, Juruá, Purus, Amazon, Marmelos, and Madeira River basins. With financial support from organizations such as Social-Environmental Institute (ISA), OPAN, and International Institute of Education Brazil (IEB), additional participants from remote locations were able to attend.

During the seminar, participants engaged in group discussions focused on fisheries management, commercialization, community-based tourism, and aquaculture. Thematic working groups addressed specific challenges, while plenary sessions facilitated dialogue with state and federal officials. Recommendations from the seminar were welcomed by government representatives, who committed to integrating them into fisheries policies for Northern Brazil.

This seminar was a significant milestone, as it facilitated knowledge exchange among indigenous groups and emphasized sustainable fisheries management and conservation for future generations. It provided a platform for indigenous perspectives on resource management and highlighted the role of family aquaculture and sport fishing regulations. The event's success has been amplified through recorded videos available in English and Portuguese, which have generated considerable public interest.

A comprehensive final report and synthesis document were prepared, capturing working group discussions and detailing the primary issues affecting the Amazonas basins. These resources offer vital insights into the ethnic groups, land demarcations, protected areas, and fisheries-related challenges within the region, setting the foundation for improved strategies in sustainable fisheries governance.

Ghana

Ghana: Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD)

Translation of SSF Guidelines:

The SSF Guidelines were translated into four local languages—Nzema, Fanti, Ga, and Ewe—by TESCOD with a team of linguists and translators from academia and media. The texts underwent multiple revisions to simplify technical and legal expressions, making them accessible to local fishers. The translations are available online to promote widespread access.

Workshops for Fishworkers and Organizations:

Accra (27 November 2018):

Held in the Ga language, this workshop emphasized the human rights-based approach of the SSF Guidelines. Participants were drawn from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and other stakeholders across the fish value chain in the region. They identified challenges such as IUU fishing, weak enforcement, and lack involvement in policy and decision making processes. The event highlighted the importance of incorporating the SSF Guidelines into traditional regulations.

Takoradi (11 December 2018):

This workshop in Fanti and Nzema languages brought together stakeholders from GNCFC, Central and Western Fishmongers' Improvement Association (CEWEFIA), Fisheries Commission and major fishing communities—Axim, Shama, Elmina, Moree and Sekondi.

Participants addressed issues in the Western and Central Regions, such as illegal fishing methods, oil-related access conflicts, and declining fishery resources. Participants prioritized addressing tenure rights, ratifying the Co-Management Bill, and resolving oil-fisher disputes through dialogue.

Keta (16 December 2018):

This workshop focused on challenges like overfishing and destructive fishing methods, infrastructure gaps and weak enforcement of regulations, exclusion of fishers from decision-making processes and expanding oil and gas production. Participants emphasized the SSF Guidelines as a framework to address these issues, align with sustainable fisheries and improve livelihoods.

National Workshop at the University of Ghana (14-15 August 2019):

The national workshop consolidated findings from local sessions to create a cohesive national framework. Participants and delegates were drawn from National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), Prampram Cooperative Fishmongers Society, National Inland Canoe Fisherman Council (NICFC), GNCFC, CEWEFIA and the University of Ghana, among others. Key recommendations included advocating for SSF Guidelines in national laws, conducting stakeholder analyses, addressing gender inequalities, and building capacity of fishworkers and FWO for sustainable implementation.

Establishment of National SSF Guidelines Platform:

A seven-member platform was created to promote awareness and alignment of SSF Guidelines with national policies. This platform aims to engage stakeholders and work collaboratively with FWOs, CSOs, media houses, MOFAD and academia to sustain and expand the awareness of the SSF Guidelines at the national and sub-national level ; monitor and document activities that are related to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Ghana, and advocate for sustainable fisheries laws.

Challenges and Outcomes:

The implementation of SSF Guidelines raised awareness among over 120 participants and built momentum for policy alignment. Despite logistical hurdles, the initiative fostered collaboration among major fishworker organizations and stakeholders. Future efforts will focus on addressing challenges like IUU fishing and fostering dialogue among regulatory bodies to enhance sector sustainability.

India

India: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Trust

Workshops on SSF Guidelines (July–November 2019):

ICSF conducted four workshops focusing on implementing the SSF Guidelines in the context of India's national fisheries policies. The workshops addressed marine fisheries, gender mainstreaming, inland fisheries governance, and local self-governance, attracting diverse participants, including fishworkers, researchers, and government representatives.

Workshop on National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF):

Held in Chennai (July 19–21, 2019), this workshop aimed to develop action points for implementing the NPMF (2017) with a human rights-based approach. With over 80 participants from coastal states and resource persons such as scientists from the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) and trustees of the ICSF Trust; discussions emphasized tenure rights, participatory management, and gender equity in fisheries. Recommendations included effort control measures, fish refugia creation, and capacity-building initiatives.

Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries Policies:

Conducted in Chennai (August 18–20, 2019), this workshop engaged women fishworkers and CSOs from Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal as well as scientists from research institutions such as CIFT and the Central Institute for Fisheries Education (CIFE). Discussions focused on analysing fisheries budgets, socio-economic conditions, and gender equity. Key outcomes included recommendations to establish a national platform for women in fisheries and strategies for integrating gender perspectives into fisheries policies.

Inland Fisheries Governance and NIFAP Implementation:

Held in Kolkata (September 6–7, 2019), this workshop addressed India's draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP). With 90 participants from 17 states, and resource persons from leading fisheries research institutions, such as CIFE, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Patna University, and National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited (FISCOFED). Technical sessions explored tenure systems, institutions and governance; fisheries legislation and policy implementation; socio-economic development, and gender roles in fisheries. Recommendations included enhancing awareness, addressing ecological challenges, and ensuring women's participation in fisheries governance.

Local Self-Government and Fisheries Governance:

Hosted at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) in Kerala (November 5–6, 2019), this workshop explored the role of local self-governments (Panchayati Raj Institutions) in implementing the SSF Guidelines. The workshop attracted 63 participants, including representatives from fishworker organizations, local self-governments and state governments, state fisheries department officials, academics and researchers. The resource persons included advisers and consultants to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and experts in the subjects from academia and KILA, as well as those working in local governments. Discussions centered on governance of tenure, disaster risk management, and sustainable resource utilization. Recommendations included incorporating fisheries sub-plans into Gram Panchayat Development Plans and organizing "matsya sabhas" (fisheries councils) with community representation.

Key Outcomes and Feedback:

Across the workshops, participants appreciated the content and methodology, noting its relevance to daily work and community advocacy. Key recommendations emphasized strengthening governance, integrating gender equity, enhancing ecological management, and

fostering participatory decision-making at all levels. Participants expressed interest in follow-up initiatives to implement the workshops' outcomes effectively.

Indonesia

Indonesia: The People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA)

Workshop on Customary Communities (March 2019):

KIARA, in collaboration with the Kelola Foundation and the Customary Coastal Community Forum, organized a workshop on the rights of customary coastal communities in Jakarta. The workshop brought together participants from regions like Aceh, Riau, East and West Nusa Tenggara, and Maluku to address critical issues affecting small-scale fishers, including tenure rights. It highlighted the adverse impacts of policies legitimizing reclamation projects, mining, large-scale tourism, oil palm plantations, and marine conservation on coastal indigenous communities.

Key Recommendations from the Workshop:

Inventory of Coastal Indigenous Communities:

Acknowledging the lack of official records, KIARA recommended creating a comprehensive inventory of Indonesia's 790 coastal indigenous communities to better protect their rights.

Traditional Fisheries Practices:

The workshop emphasized documenting small-scale fisheries practices rooted in traditional wisdom that safeguard marine ecosystems, ensuring ecological and food security for these communities.

Human Rights Violations:

Participants stressed the need to integrate human rights issues into the SSF Guidelines, recognizing that coastal communities often face violations from state and corporate entities.

Policy Evaluation:

An inventory of national policies weakening coastal indigenous peoples' positions as small-scale fishers was proposed to advocate for changes aligned with SSF Guidelines.

Empowering Indigenous Communities:

Lessons from ICSF-commissioned studies were leveraged to understand how laws like Law No. 1/2014 and Law No. 7/2016 could secure tenure rights and promote sustainable marine resource use.

Studies on Marine Tenure and Women's Role in Fisheries:

- **Marine Tenure Rights (Dedi Adhuri):**

The study highlighted small-scale fisheries' vital role in food security and poverty

eradication. It called for revising marine tenure policies to protect small-scale fishers, promote sustainable practices, and train stakeholders in responsible governance.

[Access the full study here](#)

- **Women in Fisheries (Pujo Semedi et al.):**

Case studies in Javanese fishing communities explored women's roles in fisheries governance. The study argued for market-oriented governance transformation toward sustainability and emphasized women's involvement in cooperatives and decision-making.

[Access the full study here](#)

The workshop and studies underscored the need to integrate SSF Guidelines into national frameworks through capacity building, policy reform, and empowering women. They recommended pilot projects and action research to adapt the SSF Guidelines to Indonesia's unique socio-economic and ecological contexts.

Myanmar

Myanmar: Network Activity Group (NAG)

Myanmar's coastal and riparian communities, comprising about 20 million people, face significant challenges in small-scale fisheries, including loss of fishing rights, debt cycles, and migration pressures. NAG, in collaboration with local organizations, implemented several initiatives to address these issues and improve fisheries management through co-management strategies and capacity building.

Co-management Plans

NAG facilitated a participatory review of co-management plans with the Fisher Development Association (FDA) and Ayeyarwaddy Region Fishery Network (ARFN) in Dedaye township. Workshops held in December 2018 identified gaps in existing management practices, resulting in revised co-management plans integrating conservation measures and governance approaches. Follow-up training in 2019 included Ecosystem Approach of Fisheries Management (EAFM) to enhance fishers' understanding of resource management, conservation, and the socio-economic impacts of resource decline.

Capacity Needs Assessment of Existing FDAs and Training

A capacity needs assessment of FDAs highlighted areas requiring support, such as resource governance, small-scale aquaculture, financial management, and advocacy training. Subsequent training sessions improved participants' knowledge of fisheries ecology,

governance, and bio-monitoring, enabling them to develop co-management plans and propose mangrove conservation initiatives.

Kyar Phong Fishery Study

A study conducted in May 2019 examined working conditions in Kyar Phong fishery in the Ayeyarwaddy region and Mon state. Key findings revealed exploitation due to dependency on income advances, dangerous working conditions, and a lack of skilled labour. Recommendations included forming associations to facilitate dialogue between fishworkers and employers and improving workplace safety.

[Access the full study here](#)

Media Engagement and Awareness

NAG organized media training and research result-sharing workshops to raise awareness about fishworkers' socio-economic and environmental challenges. Media sessions empowered fishworker leaders to communicate their concerns effectively and create reliable articles for local newspapers. The workshops fostered a better understanding of fishworkers' conditions and the impact of new policies.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Advocacy

NAG provided disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation training to fisher leaders, emphasizing safety at sea and community-level action plans. Advocacy training supported fishworker leaders in addressing critical issues such as illegal fishing, poor law enforcement, and fishworker conditions. Participants developed strategies to campaign for better policies and enforcement systems.

Through these initiatives, NAG empowered small-scale fishing communities in Myanmar by strengthening co-management systems, enhancing capacity, and addressing systemic challenges in fisheries governance. These efforts laid a foundation for sustainable resource management and improved livelihoods.

Philippines

Philippines: Tambuyog Development Center (TDC)

Since the 1990s, strides have been made in the Philippines to improve the fisheries sector through community-based coastal resource management (CBCRM) programs and revisions to the Fisheries Code to promote sustainable fisheries. Despite this progress, small-scale fisherfolk remain some of the poorest communities, with issues like tenure insecurity and resource conflicts persisting. The introduction of the SSF Guidelines has facilitated new initiatives and partnerships to address these challenges.

Key Activities and Achievements

Compilation and Review of Policies:

TDC undertook a comprehensive review of major fisheries-related laws, including the Fisheries Code, Water Code, Local Government Code, and the Constitution, which prioritizes small-scale fishworkers. The review identified gaps and areas for aligning these policies with the SSF Guidelines, focusing on municipal fishing and coastal activities.

Benchmarking Policies Against SSF Guidelines:

TDC analysed Philippine fisheries policies in the context of the SSF Guidelines, identifying areas of convergence and divergence. This effort highlighted the need to address gaps in tenure rights and sustainable resource use, while fostering discussions on aligning national frameworks with the SSF Guidelines.

Stakeholder Consultations:

Cluster consultations held in Mindanao, Luzon, and Visayas revealed challenges in implementing Community Fish Landing Centres (CFLCs) and addressing tenure rights, resource management, and disaster resilience. Key resolutions included enforcing the amended Fisheries Code (RA 10654) and ensuring gender representation in value chains and co-management bodies. Mindanao-specific consultations emphasized the tuna handline industry and the Handline Law compliance review.

Capacity Building and Training:

TDC, in partnership with The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), provided training to fisherfolk organizations on the SSF Guidelines. Trainings covered disaster-resilient livelihoods, fisheries management, and climate change adaptation. These efforts empowered local fisherfolk to engage with government agencies and improve resource conservation.

Policy Advocacy and Mainstreaming:

TDC worked to align the SSF Guidelines with national laws and local governance frameworks. The Sagip Saka Act of 2019 and other policies were promoted as pathways for improving fisherfolk livelihoods and fostering social enterprises. Continued lobbying and dialogue with government agencies have been central to advancing these goals.

Challenges Identified

Institutional Overlaps: Mangrove forests, sea-grass beds, and coral reefs fall under Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) jurisdiction, while fish stocks are under DA-BFAR, creating resource management inefficiencies.

Devolved Governance: DA-BFAR and DENR roles at the municipal level lack sufficient representation, complicating local fisheries management.

Planning Gaps: Fisheries Management Plans are absent in many local development frameworks, hindering cohesive resource planning.

TDC's work has significantly advanced the mainstreaming of the SSF Guidelines in the Philippines by building partnerships, empowering fisherfolk, and advocating for policy coherence. While challenges in governance and implementation persist, identifying these barriers has paved the way for targeted solutions. TDC continues to foster dialogue and capacity-building initiatives to secure sustainable fisheries and improve the livelihoods of small-scale fisherfolk.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Forum for Small-Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF)

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Sri Lanka hold economic, social, and environmental significance, providing food security, employment, and cultural heritage. However, the sector faces challenges such as resource over-exploitation, ineffective governance, and climate change impacts. The SSF Guidelines offer a holistic framework to address these issues, but their implementation in Sri Lanka requires integration into national policies and decision-making processes. Efforts by SLFSSF have focused on sensitization, stakeholder engagement, and policy improvement to mainstream the SSF Guidelines.

Sensitization and Communication

A workshop for state actors, including officials from fisheries and environmental agencies, introduced the SSF Guidelines and identified areas of concern. The Workshop participants included key officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation, Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), National Aquaculture Development Authority, Coast Conservation Department, Coast Guard, Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Central Environmental Authority and Tourism Development Authority. Simplified SSF Guidelines documents, fact sheets, and posters were translated into Sinhalese and Tamil and distributed to fishing communities, enhancing awareness and understanding.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder meetings were conducted across 12 coastal districts, involving fishers, policymakers, and experts from the coastal districts of: Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mullativu, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Puttlam, Chilaw, and Negombo. Discussions revolved around tenure rights, resource management, food security, gender inclusion, and climate resilience. Focus group discussions (FGDs) emphasized themes such as social protection, occupational health, disaster risk management, and empowering marginalized groups. These consultations highlighted critical gaps in policy and highlighted areas requiring attention.

Policy Challenges and Recommendations

Tenure Rights: Fishers face violations of customary rights due to tourism and industrial encroachments. Recommendations include recognizing and zoning traditional fishing areas and addressing institutional overlaps that undermine tenure rights.

Sustainable Resource Management: Discussions revealed a lack of effective monitoring and decentralized governance. Proposals included holistic management approaches involving all stakeholders and minimizing overlapping institutional mandates.

Value Chains and Trade: Challenges in spatial planning, post-harvest losses, and oligopolistic fish buying practices were noted. Recommendations included providing facilities for value addition, regulating foreign trade to ensure food security, and involving community organizations in fish marketing.

Occupational Health and Safety: Awareness of sea safety measures and access to affordable safety equipment were identified as key needs. A policy statement advocating government support for safety equipment was proposed.

National Policy Integration

While the 2018 National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NFAP) incorporated aspects of the SSF Guidelines, gaps remain in areas like tenure rights, cross-sectoral collaboration, and export trade regulation. Stakeholder consultations have provided a basis for refining policies to address these gaps comprehensively.

SLFSSF's efforts have strengthened awareness and engagement with the SSF Guidelines, identifying policy shortcomings and proposing solutions to empower small-scale fisheries in Sri Lanka. Continued stakeholder collaboration, policy refinement, and institutional alignment are crucial for sustainable development and the well-being of fishing communities.

Thailand

Thailand: Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)

The SSF Guidelines implementation project in Thailand, conducted between July 2018 and April 2019, aimed to empower small-scale fisherfolk to sustainably manage marine and coastal resources. The initiative included national workshops, advocacy, and ecosystem-based management efforts, with a special focus on gender mainstreaming.

National Workshop of Fisherfolk

A workshop held on December 17–18, 2018, brought together 337 participants, including 267 small-scale fishers from 19 provinces, as well as government officials, NGOs, and media representatives. Discussions covered issues such as small-scale fisherfolk rights, conservation efforts, post-harvest management, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation. A key achievement was the participatory mapping of Thai small-scale fisherfolk data, facilitated through a boat and fishing registration side event.

Advocacy for Rights-Based Approaches

In Phetchaburi and Trat provinces, advocacy efforts addressed rights violations and promoted alternative livelihoods for fishers who were using illegal gear. SDF Distributed materials, including 3,000 copies of the SSF Guidelines, and raised awareness of human rights-based approaches. The project also supported families transitioning to sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods, with notable progress in Trat.

Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

An ecosystem-based management plan was developed for Bang Taboon Bay and Trat through a participatory process involving fisherfolk and other stakeholders. Capacity-building sessions empowered community leaders and women in resource management and advocacy. Women representatives from Mai Rood and Hard Lek sub-districts participated in advocacy efforts, and a study on fisherfolk debts informed strategies to address economic challenges. Progress reports on gender mainstreaming and natural resource management plans were prepared in Thai.

The SDF's initiatives strengthened small-scale fisherfolk's capacity to engage in sustainable resource management while addressing social and economic issues. By involving women in leadership and promoting a participatory approach, the project enhanced advocacy for fisherfolk rights and fostered community-driven conservation and development efforts.

Vietnam

Vietnam: Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD)

The implementation of the Fisheries Law (2017) and Decree No. 26 (2019) in Vietnam, facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), has promoted co-management and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM). These frameworks aim to reduce illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and support sustainable resource management. Co-management empowers small-scale fishing communities by sharing governance responsibilities between the State and the community, fostering conservation, sustainability, and livelihoods.

Awareness-Raising Workshop

An awareness-raising workshop was held on September 28, 2018, in Quy Nhon City, Binh Dinh Province, co-organized by MCD and the Sub-Department of Fisheries in Binh Dinh. This event educated 47 participants from government and small-scale fishing communities on co-management and combating IUU fishing under the amended Fisheries Law. Key recommendations included: Raising awareness about reducing IUU fishing; developing alternative livelihoods for fishers; enforcing co-management regulations and building community capacity; and enhancing monitoring systems, including traceability and certification of fishery products.

National Policy Workshop for Action Plan Development

The National Consultation Workshop, held on May 31, 2019, involved 57 representatives from government agencies, fisheries associations, research institutes, and community organizations. Participants collaborated on drafting a **Co-Management Action Plan for Fishery Resource Protection and Reduction of Illegal Fishing**. Key objectives included:

- Ensuring 70% of coastal fishing communities access co-management information by 2030.
- Integrating co-management programs into 50% of coastal provinces' fisheries resource plans.

Specific recommendations emphasized capacity-building for stakeholders, offering alternative livelihoods, promoting sustainable fishing technologies, engaging private sector participation, and strengthening local and international collaborations.

The MCD's initiatives in Vietnam highlight the potential of co-management and EAFM as effective frameworks for sustainable fisheries. The workshops fostered collaboration, raised awareness, and developed actionable strategies for managing fishery resources and addressing IUU fishing. These efforts empower small-scale fishers while protecting marine ecosystems and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Global Awareness-Raising Products on SSF Guidelines

To promote the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, ICSF developed four animation videos addressing key chapters of the guidelines during the reporting period. Produced in collaboration with TWO Design, Pune, India, the videos aim to educate and engage stakeholders—including fishworkers, governments, fisheries managers, civil society, and researchers—by illustrating the guidelines' principles and enabling their adaptation to national and local contexts.

1. Governance of Tenure and Resource Management

This video highlights the importance of secure and equitable tenure rights for small-scale fishers, emphasizing their role as stewards of natural resources. It explains the necessity of sustainable resource management to maintain healthy ecosystems and the livelihoods dependent on them. Recommendations from the SSF Guidelines for responsible governance and resource management are explored in the context of developing countries.

Video link: [Governance of Tenure and Resource Management](#)

2. Social Development, Employment, and Decent Work

The second video addresses challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities, including inadequate access to essential services like health, education, and safe workplaces. It advocates for recognizing the rights of fishers and fishworkers and ending practices like forced labour and debt bondage. The SSF Guidelines' call for social and economic development to ensure decent working conditions is presented.

Video link: [Social Development, Employment, and Decent Work](#)

3. Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade

Focusing on small-scale fisheries' value chains, this video illustrates the activities from catch to plate and underscores the often-overlooked contributions of those involved in these processes. The SSF Guidelines emphasize fair trade practices, inclusive decision-making, and investments in ensuring safe, high-quality fish products.

Video link: [Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade](#)

4. Disaster Risks and Climate Change

The final video explores the vulnerabilities of small-scale fishing communities to disasters and climate change. It emphasizes the urgency of mitigating these risks and adapting to changing conditions. The SSF Guidelines call for states and actors to take proactive measures to protect these communities.

Video link: [Disaster Risks and Climate Change](#)

Conclusion

These videos serve as educational tools to raise awareness of the SSF Guidelines' principles and foster global and local action for sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries management.

Process Approach

The endorsement of the SSF Guidelines by FAO Member States in 2014 marked a new phase in ICSF's advocacy and support for small-scale fishers and fishworker communities. ICSF's efforts now encompass global and regional advocacy as well as the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at national and sub-national levels.

Leveraging ICSF processes, it was decided to focus upon 4 areas of importance to SSF globally. In 2019, the ICSF Board initiated a series of thematic campaigns designed to raise awareness of small-scale fisheries' contributions and challenges. These campaigns leverage the expertise of ICSF members in fisheries research, policy, and activism to address critical global issues. The themes include:

SSF and Food Security: Highlighting SSF contributions and rights to food security and nutrition.

Justice in the Blue Economy: Advocating for equity in the context of the global maritime economy.

Climate Change Impacts: Addressing the scenarios and prospects for SSF under climate change.

Tenure Rights: Focusing on the protection of SSF tenure rights over water, land, and resources.

The UN General Assembly's proclamation of 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture presented ICSF with a unique opportunity to amplify its campaigns. ICSF used this platform to collaborate with diverse organizations and processes to highlight the critical issues faced by small-scale fishers and to advocate for their sustainable future.

These thematic campaigns underscore ICSF's commitment to promoting small-scale fisheries' roles in food security, equity, and sustainable development. By aligning with global events like IYAFA 2022, ICSF continues to champion the interests and rights of small-scale fishing communities on an international stage.

Small-Scale Fisheries and Contributions to Food Security and Nutrition

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) are critical for global nutrition and food security, particularly in a world where two billion people face food insecurity. ICSF's campaign highlights SSF contributions to the four dimensions of food security: availability, accessibility, quality, and stability of food supply. Despite their significance, these contributions are often undocumented and underrecognized in policy frameworks.

Nutritional and Economic Importance of SSF

SSF provides vital aquatic foods rich in protein, vitamins, minerals, and omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children, particularly in the Global South. SSF accounts for 90% of the world's capture fisheries workforce and half of global fish catches, with over 90% of small-scale catches directly consumed by humans.

SSF supports the livelihoods of 200 million people involved in fishing, processing, trading, and related activities. By providing direct access to nutritious food, generating purchasing power, and empowering women, SSF contributes to better living standards and food security for small-scale fishing communities. Additionally, SSF supplies affordable and culturally significant aquatic foods to broader rural and urban populations.

Challenges and Vision

SSF faces challenges such as inequitable access to resources and markets, which undermine their food provisioning capacities. In response, fishers' movements advocate for food sovereignty to democratize food systems and markets. While SSF trade networks cater to diverse markets, their primary contribution lies in providing affordable aquatic foods to low-income populations.

Campaign Collaborations and Goals

ICSF collaborated with international fishworker movements like the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and partners with FAO and research networks such as *Too Big to Ignore* and *Illuminating Hidden Harvests*. The campaign aligns with global initiatives like the UN Ocean Conference (2021) and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022). It also encourages local and national fisheries organizations to document SSF contributions to food security, linking their insights to the global campaign.

Outcome and Focus

The campaign will feature perspectives from local and global initiatives in upcoming issues of SAMUDRA Report and Yemaya. Case studies will be developed based on these insights, raising awareness of the critical role SSF plays in addressing food security and nutrition challenges worldwide.

SSF contributions and justice in a blue growth/blue economy perspective

ICSF, along with agencies like FAO, SwedBio and the IPC Fisheries Working Group, organized two international webinars on “Small-scale fisheries and everything ‘blue’” in March and May, 2020. Initially planned as an in-person workshop hosted by the FAO but re-scheduled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the webinars discussed emerging ‘blue’ agendas and explored how to place SSF and human rights at the centre of the future ocean (and inland water) economy, governance and development. Over 25 participants from diverse civil society and fishworker organizations, donor agencies and FAO attended these webinars.

ICSF is in discussion with its partners to formulate collaborative actions in forthcoming international meetings of the FAO, CBD and other UN bodies.

Study on Sustainable Development and Human Rights-Based Approach in Aquaculture

The **study on Indian aquaculture systems**, initiated by ICSF in 2020, examines aquaculture's environmental, social, and economic impacts through the lens of sustainable development and human rights principles. With aquaculture now accounting for 52% of global fish consumption, its rapid growth has triggered significant investments and raised concerns over ecological and social challenges.

Global and National Context

Aquaculture employs 34.5% of global fisheries workers and includes over 580 farmed species. It provides essential nutrition, yet faces criticism for environmental degradation, displacement of communities, and human rights violations. In India, aquaculture has grown intensively, with the draft National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP, 2019) emphasizing shrimp monoculture and cage culture. While these methods promise economic gains, they risk replacing affordable domestic species, escalating antibiotic use, and polluting ecosystems without effective regulation.

Study Objectives

The study investigates aquaculture's potential for sustainable development while addressing threats to biodiversity and community well-being. Specific goals include:

- Identifying new trends (e.g., cage fisheries, mariculture) and documenting case studies.
- Assessing aquaculture's role in providing alternative livelihoods and its social and ecological impacts.
- Highlighting occupational safety and health challenges in aquaculture systems.
- Proposing guidelines for small-scale aquaculture aligned with the SSF Guidelines and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Case Study Focus

The study explores various aquaculture models—extensive, semi-intensive, and intensive—evaluating their impacts on sensitive biodiversity areas and communities. It assesses:

- Environmental risks from chemicals and antibiotics in aquaculture operations.
- Effects of large-scale aquaculture on small farms.
- Lessons from previous experiences, particularly regarding community displacement and ecosystem degradation.

- Gender- and age-disaggregated data on aquaculture's socio-economic effects.

Proposed Actions

The findings aim to inform policy and contribute to international forums, including FAO COFI and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Technical Meeting, advocating for:

- Guidelines for small-scale aquaculture aligned with human rights principles.
- Governance reforms ensuring sustainable biodiversity use.
- Community-driven approaches promoting equitable aquaculture development.

Expected Outcomes

Scheduled for completion by October 2020, the study seeks to provide actionable insights into aquaculture's role in achieving SDGs by 2030, focusing on sustainable development, environmental conservation, and inclusive governance. Interviews with stakeholders and desk research will guide recommendations for balancing growth with human rights and environmental priorities.

[Access full study here](#)

Study on Women's Economic Empowerment in the Blue Economy of the Indian Ocean Rim

Commissioned by UN Women in October 2018, ICSF conducted a study on women's economic empowerment within the blue economy of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) region. The project, completed in July 2019, focused on fisheries, tourism, and trade across 22 IORA member countries. The findings were compiled in a report titled *Women's Economic Empowerment in Fisheries in the Blue Economy of the Indian Ocean Rim: A Baseline Study*.

Key Findings and Recommendations

The report, authored by Nilanjana Biswas and Ramya Rajagopalan, highlights the critical role of women in the traditional and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors for sustainable and equitable development. However, their contributions often remain unrecognized in formal policies and practices.

Recognition of Women's Contributions:

The report urges governments to formally acknowledge and integrate women's central role in fisheries and aquaculture into sustainable development policies.

Policy Coherence and Mainstreaming Gender:

It recommends greater coherence in government policies to prioritize women's activities in

the fisheries sector. Gender considerations should be mainstreamed across programs, including those involving technology development, research, and data collection.

Collaborative Efforts:

The report calls for the active involvement of state agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organizations in ensuring gender-sensitive outcomes in fisheries programs.

The study emphasizes the need for a gender-inclusive approach to blue economy initiatives, advocating for recognition and support of women's contributions to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. By fostering equitable policies and practices, states can promote sustainable development and economic empowerment for women in the IORA region.

[Access full study here](#)

Climate Change and Small Scale Fisheries

Small-scale fisheries are vital to the livelihoods and nutrition of millions of people worldwide, particularly in coastal and rural communities. These fisheries typically rely on traditional methods and limited resources to harvest fish and other marine species. However, they are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events. These changes can disrupt fish populations, alter migration patterns, and affect breeding grounds, making fish harder to find and catch. For small-scale fishers, this can lead to reduced catches, economic hardship, and food insecurity. Adaptation strategies, such as diversifying livelihoods, improving fishing practices, and increasing community-based management of marine resources, are essential for enhancing the resilience of small-scale fisheries to climate change. However, addressing these challenges requires global cooperation, policy support, and sustainable practices to ensure the long-term viability of these fisheries.

Cyclone Ockhi Study, Workshop Report, and Film (2017–2018)

In the wake of Cyclone Ockhi, which caused significant devastation in southern India in November 2017, the ICSF Trust, with FAO support, conducted a comprehensive study to assess disaster risk management and sea safety in India's marine fisheries sector. The study highlighted gaps in existing systems and proposed actionable strategies to enhance the resilience of fishing communities. Its findings were disseminated through a workshop, a report, and a documentary film.

Cyclone Ockhi Study

The study, authored by Manas Roshan, reviewed national and local disaster risk management policies, evaluated the effectiveness of cyclone warning systems, and emphasized integrating sea safety into fisheries management. It aligned its recommendations with the SSF Guidelines, advocating for sustainable and inclusive disaster preparedness. The study

underscored the importance of safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of fishers while ensuring the health of marine ecosystems.

[Access full study here](#)

National Workshop on Disaster Risk Management

Held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on May 28–29, 2018, the workshop brought together over 60 participants, including government officials, academics, civil society representatives, and disaster-affected community members. Discussions focused on building resilience in coastal communities to cyclones, natural disasters, and climate change. Key recommendations included fostering coordination at all levels, open consultations with fishing communities, and adopting a human-rights-based approach in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the SSF Guidelines.

[National Workshop Report](#)

Documentary Film: *In Ockhi's Wake*

Directed by Shibani Chaudhury of Dusty Foot Productions, the documentary captures the lived experiences of cyclone survivors and their families. It also highlights lessons learned by disaster managers and government authorities. The film stresses the urgency of effective early warning systems and robust risk reduction strategies tailored to the vulnerabilities of fishing communities.

Film link: [In Ockhi's Wake](#)

ICSF's work following Cyclone Ockhi emphasized the critical need for comprehensive disaster preparedness and risk management strategies in fishing communities. By combining research, dialogue, and visual storytelling, the initiative shed light on the challenges faced by small-scale fishers and advocated for systemic improvements to protect their lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

Campaign for Small-Scale Artisanal Non-Towed Fishing Gear Zones

The *Making the Small-scale Artisanal Fishing Zones Work!* campaign by ICSF (2020–2022) aims to establish and enforce small-scale artisanal non-towed fishing gear zones (SFZs) in South and Southeast Asia. This initiative seeks to balance sustainable fisheries conservation with equitable development for coastal fishing communities using non-towed gear.

Context and Need for SFZs

While SFZs have existed informally and formally since the 1970s in several coastal nations, including India, their enforcement and conservation goals remain underdeveloped. Formal zones lack tenure rights, while informal zones often prioritize social goals over conservation. Non-towed fishing communities face challenges from the encroachment of towed gear

operations, both within SFZs and in adjacent waters, which disrupt access to traditional fishery resources and deplete stocks.

Objectives of the Campaign

The campaign emphasizes:

Strengthening SFZs to secure tenure rights for coastal fishing communities and ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources.

Advocating for better enforcement of existing SFZs and creating new ones where necessary, with an inclusive focus on marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Promoting intergenerational equity within the fishing communities to reverse the declining share of small-scale artisanal fisheries in marine fish landings.

Integrating traditional and local knowledge with conservation goals to enhance community-based fisheries management.

Strategies and Activities

The campaign adopts a **human rights-based approach** and engages fishing communities through consultations, studies, workshops, and awareness-raising tools. It will document livelihood needs and propose solutions to threats facing fishers and fishworkers, including gleaners and seiners. The campaign initially focuses on India, leveraging its existing zoning system for non-towed fishing gear, which is differentiated based on factors like distance, vessel type, and local arrangements.

A concept note developed in 2020 identified three coastal states in India—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala—for field studies. The study design, modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic, includes literature reviews, desk research, and site selection based on government census reports. The campaign will later expand to other South and Southeast Asian countries.

Key Outcomes

The campaign aims to: enhance the performance of SFZs and promote equitable fishing practices; secure tenure rights for small-scale artisanal fishers, ensuring their access to traditional resources; and advocate for community-driven, sustainable fisheries policies aligned with conservation and equity principles.

By raising awareness and engaging stakeholders, the campaign aspires to make SFZs effective tools for sustainable fisheries and improved livelihoods for artisanal fishing communities.

[Access full study here](#)

Advocacy: selected meetings and webinars

During this period, ICSF Members and Staff participated in several sub-national, national and international level meetings and webinars, processes and multi-stakeholder dialogues. A short summary of selected ICSF's statements and interventions is below:

33rd Session of COFI (9–13 July 2018)

ICSF actively participated in the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), held in Rome from 9–13 July 2018. The session focused on reviewing the global status of fisheries and aquaculture and establishing effective fisheries management agreements. Issues related to small-scale fisheries were prominently integrated into most agenda items, reflecting the growing recognition of their importance.

ICSF made a notable intervention on agenda item 8.2 (Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance), welcoming the detailed information provided in the agenda papers (COFI/2018/7) and related information papers (COFI/2018/Inf. 17, 18, and 19). These documents highlighted diverse activities supporting the implementation of the SSF Guidelines through awareness-raising initiatives, empowerment of stakeholders, strengthening the science-policy interface, and fostering meaningful partnerships.

ICSF also expressed appreciation for the development of the SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF), which was being created in consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs). The organization's involvement in COFI 33 underscores its commitment to advancing the SSF agenda and fostering collaboration to ensure sustainable fisheries management globally.

UN Biodiversity Conference (COP14, 17–29 November 2018)

Marine biodiversity was a prominent focus at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP14), held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. ICSF, supported by the FAO, participated to highlight the critical role of indigenous peoples and local fishing communities in the sustainable use and management of marine and coastal natural resources.

In discussions surrounding spatial planning, protected areas, and other conservation measures, ICSF collaborated with other NGOs to submit a statement to the CBD Secretariat. The statement emphasized the importance of self-determined resource governance, securing collective tenure, respecting the rights of women, and protecting them from threats.

ICSF also co-hosted the Sustainable Ocean Initiative side event at the invitation of the CBD Secretariat. The event, focused on "Ocean People," was jointly led by ICSF and CoopeSoliDar R.L. and included diverse participants, such as Madagascar's Tafo Mihaavo and Fifimpaya Fishers Federation, Oceans North, WWF Canada, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

ICSF's involvement underscored the need for inclusive and participatory conservation measures that integrate the perspectives and rights of small-scale fishers and local communities.

INFOFISH Governing Council, 33rd Session (17–20 December 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia)

ICSF participated in the 33rd Session of the INFOFISH Governing Council, an intergovernmental organization focused on fisheries market information and technical advisories for 14 member countries in Asia and the Pacific. ICSF emphasized the potential of the SSF Guidelines as a means to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in ensuring sustainable inland and marine fisheries and improving the wellbeing of fishing communities, especially marginalized groups such as women, migrants, and indigenous peoples.

Although the contributions of small-scale fisheries to fish production, employment, and food security are widely recognized, ICSF pointed out significant data gaps regarding their share in fish and fishery product trade at the national, regional, and international levels. This includes limited information on the trade of species originating from small-scale freshwater and brackish water fisheries. Such data is crucial to monitor progress on SDG 14.b, which seeks to enhance market access for small-scale fishers, and SDG 12, which promotes sustainable production and consumption patterns.

ICSF requested INFOFISH to consider collecting and reporting country-level data on fish species caught by small-scale fisheries, including fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates. Understanding the distributional implications of fish exports along the value chain is vital to ensure that small-scale fishers and fishworkers benefit from access to export markets, thereby contributing to their human development.

The ICSF statement highlighted the importance of aligning fisheries trade practices with global sustainability and equity goals, and its full text is available on the ICSF website.

United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement – Fourteenth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties (2 May 2019)

At the Fourteenth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, ICSF emphasized the importance of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) in addressing the vulnerabilities of developing countries. ICSF highlighted that conservation and management measures should prioritize avoiding adverse impacts on small-scale artisanal fishworkers, including women and indigenous peoples, who rely on these resources for their livelihoods.

The statement urged States and regional bodies to honour their commitments under Sustainable Development Goal 14.b, which calls for enhanced access for small-scale fishers to marine resources and markets. ICSF advocated for a collaborative approach to ensure that tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities are protected. Furthermore, it

called for RFMOs to recognize small-scale fishers, vulnerable groups, and marginalized populations dependent on highly migratory fish stocks within their areas of jurisdiction.

ICSF's intervention reinforced the need for an inclusive approach to fisheries governance, ensuring sustainable and equitable access for small-scale operators while promoting resource conservation and sustainable development.

CBD's Open-Ended Working Group for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Nairobi, August 2019

ICSF participated in the first meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Open-Ended Working Group in Nairobi, Kenya, to develop the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Alongside Masifundise (South Africa) and the Kesatuan Nelayan Tradisional Indonesia, ICSF submitted a joint statement urging CBD Parties to emphasize the critical importance of marine and coastal biodiversity for the food security, livelihoods, and cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

The joint statement called for ensuring that future biodiversity targets align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are guided by a human rights-based approach. ICSF highlighted the necessity of integrating the rights and priorities of IPLCs into biodiversity conservation strategies to achieve both environmental sustainability and social equity.

Ocean Conference, Oslo, Norway, October 2019

ICSF participated in the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the Norwegian government in October 2019. This event was part of a series of global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) targets by 2020. ICSF's involvement focused on securing the rights, livelihoods, and cultural heritage of small-scale fishing communities within the broader framework of sustainable marine and coastal resource use.

At the conference, ICSF participated in a panel discussion on livelihoods and nutrition, emphasizing the crucial role of small-scale fisheries in providing food security and employment while maintaining marine sustainability. Additionally, ICSF collaborated with philanthropic organizations, ocean conservationists, and civil society groups to draft a 'Blue Call to Action'. This initiative aimed to highlight the importance of small-scale fisheries and promote actionable goals ahead of the UN Ocean Conference in Portugal, June 2020.

Too Big to Ignore Webinar Series on SSF

Due to the global lockdowns and travel restrictions triggered by the Coronavirus pandemic, most international meetings were postponed, including those related to the UN Ocean Conference coinciding with World Ocean Day on June 8. As a result, virtual dialogues and webinars became the primary mode of communication and engagement. ICSF co-organized and participated in a series of webinars led by the Too Big to Ignore initiative, focusing on small-scale fisheries (SSF) and their role in ocean sustainability and innovation. These

webinars culminated on World Oceans Day 2020 with a 24-hour global event, featuring panel discussions and a virtual arts festival celebrating SSF. Topics ranged from the impacts of Covid-19 on SSF, to discussions on the SSF Guidelines, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Blue Economy. The series can be accessed online at: [Too Big to Ignore - Small is Bountiful: World Oceans Day 2020](#)

GAF Meeting and Women in Fisheries

During the Global Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (GAF) meeting in Bangkok in October 2018, Nalini Nayak (ICSF Trust) and Cornelia Quist (ICSF Member) articulated feminist perspectives on fisheries, sharing stories from women involved with ICSF. This session highlighted the significant roles and challenges faced by women in fisheries, emphasizing the need for a human-rights framework to address gender issues within the sector. In November 2017, ICSF organized a special workshop at the 11th GAF in Kochi, Kerala, focusing on the challenges in implementing the SSF Guidelines in South Asia. This workshop, supported by fishworker organizations (FWOs), examined women's issues in fisheries in India and Sri Lanka, advocating for a more integrated supply-chain approach to fisheries. It called for a policy shift from a sole focus on production to include gender and social development within fishing communities.

List of meetings attended by ICSF Members and Staff

| S.No. | Timeline | Meeting | Country | Activity and attended by |
|-------|---------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 1 | 16 November 2017 | Knowledge-Sharing Seminar on Fisheries Subsidies, organized by ICTSD, Geneva, Switzerland | Switzerland | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 2 | 15-21 November 2017 | The World Forum of Fisher People's (WFFP) 7 th General Assembly, New Delhi | India | Sebastian Mathew and N. Venugopalan |
| 3 | 24 November 2017 | Special Workshop on Challenges in the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) in South Asia' at the 11 th Indian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, Kochi, Kerala, India | India | Three presentations (ICSF organized the session) India from a gender perspective by Ujwala Patil, NFF, and Herman Kumara, NAFSO, Sri Lanka and SSF Guidelines by Sebastian Mathew, ICSF |
| 4 | 28 November 2017 | The Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into inland Fisheries sector, at the National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad, India | India | N. Venugolapalan |
| 5 | 29 November 2017 | Workshop on exploring SDG 14.b and its proposed indicator 14.b.1, 28-29 November 2017, Gaeta, Italy | Italy | V.Vivekanandan, Member, ICSF |

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|----|---------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | Feb 28-2 March 2018 | Fourth TERI-KAS Resource Dialogue on Marine Resources- Sustainable development through geopolitics and trade, at Mahabalipuram, Chennai, India | India | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 7 | 12-16 March 2018 | The IPC General Meeting, 12-16 March 2018, Cape Town, South Africa | South Africa | Serge Raemaekers, Member, ICSF |
| 8 | 21-22 March 2018 | Regional Technical Seminar: Joining forces in the fisheries sector; Promoting safety, decent work and the fight against IUU fishing | The Philippines | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 9 | 23 – 24 April 2018 | National Workshop for Preparation of India’s Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India | India | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 10 | 26-27 April 2018 | A National level Consultation to discuss and finalize the draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Mumbai. India | India | Sebastian Mathew |
| 11 | 7 to 9 May 2018 | The 7 th APFIC Regional Consultative Forum Meeting “Sustainable Development for Blue Growth of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific, Bohol, the Philippines | Philippines | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |

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|----|---------------------|--|---------|---|
| 12 | 10-13 June 2018 | The Fifth International Fishing Industry Safety & Health Conference, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada | Canada | Nilanjana Biswas, Editor, Yemaya Presentation |
| 13 | 19 to 20 June, 2018 | The Contribution of Human Rights to the Sustainable Development of Fisheries – The Danish Institute for Human Rights International Expert Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark | Denmark | Manas Roshan Presentation |
| 14 | 28 – 29 June 2018 | The Workshop on 'Fisheries and Law Enforcement Issues,' Indian Coast Guard, Chennai, India | India | Sebastian Mathew |
| 15 | 10 July 2018 | Consultative Meeting on Livelihood Issues of Inland Small-Scale Fish Workers, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, India organized by National Platform for Small-scale Fishworkers (Inland), India | India | N. Venugopalan Inaugural address |
| 16 | 9-13 July 2018 | Committee on Fisheries, Thirty-third Session, Rome, Italy | Italy | Maarten Bavinck, ICSF Member and Sebastian Mathew Intervention on Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance Intervention on climate change and other environment related matters Intervention on the CCRF questionnaire |

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|----|-----------------------|---|-------|--|
| 17 | 10 August 2018 | 2 nd Techsurge Technologies and Innovation for Sustainable Fisheries, Chennai, India by National Institute of Ocean Technology | India | N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan |
| 18 | 18 August 2018 | Skill Development Training Programmes for fishermen/fisherwomen, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 19 | 27 August 2018 | International Workshop on Exploring the Social, Economic, Ecological, and Political Dimensions of the Blue Economy, Kolkata | India | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 20 | 10 -14 September 2018 | Tenure and User Rights in Fisheries 2018, Yeosu, Republic of Korea by FAO | Korea | Sebastian Mathew Presentation Manas Roshan |
| 21 | 02 October 2018 | Vigo Dialogue on Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, 02 October 2018, Vigo, Spain | Spain | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 22 | 3-4 October 2018 | Second Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance in the Bay of Bengal Region, Chennai, India, | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 23 | 10-11 October 2018 | National Workshop on Fish Marketing Chains and the Urban Poor, Chennai, India | India | N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan |
| 24 | 12 October 2018 | Workshop on Knowledge Management in Marine Fisheries in India, Chennai | India | Manas Roshan |

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|----|----------------------|---|----------|--|
| 25 | 15 October 2018 | Fisheries Subsidies meeting, New Delhi by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India | India | Sebastian Mathew |
| 26 | 18-20 October 2018 | GAF7 – the 7 th Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand | Thailand | Nalini Nayak, Trustee, ICSF Trust and Cornelia Quist, Member, ICSF |
| 27 | 22-26 October 2018 | The 3 rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), Chiang Mai, Thailand | Thailand | Sebastian Mathew, N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan |
| 28 | 19-21 November, 2018 | Celebration of World Fisheries Day 2018 | Gambia | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 29 | 19-24 November 2018 | Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt | Egypt | Vivienne Solis Rivera, Member, ICSF and Manas Roshan Joint statement |
| 30 | 3 December 2018 | Stakeholders meeting to discuss about the Draft National Mariculture Policy, Kovalam, organized by Central Marine fisheries Research Institute, Government of India | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 31 | 17-20 December 2018 | The 33 rd INFOFISH Governing Council Meeting Langkawi Island, Malaysia | Malaysia | Sebastian Mathew ICSF Statement |
| 32 | 29-30 January 2019 | General Body meeting of the National Fishworkers Forum, India Veraval, Gujarat, India | India | N. Venugopalan and Manas Roshan Presentation |

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|----|---------------------------|---|-------|------------------|
| 33 | 11-14 February 2019 | Friends of User Rights 2019 Meeting (FoUR19) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Fiumicino, Italy | Italy | Sebastian Mathew |
| 34 | 22 February 2019 | The First Stakeholder Consultation for The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) work for the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP-IGO) Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 35 | 22 February 2019 | BOBLME state-level consultations for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India | India | Manas Roshan |
| 36 | 25 February 2019 | BOBLME state-level consultations for Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair, A&N Islands, India | India | Manas Roshan |
| 37 | 04 March 2019 | BOBLME state-level consultations for Odisha and West Bengal Barrackpore, West Bengal, India | India | Manas Roshan |
| 38 | 06 March 2019 | Summer Field Internship: Consultative Workshop Azim Premji University Bangalore, Karnataka, India | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 39 | 12 March 2019 | Migration of Fishworkers in India FishMARC YWCA International Guest House, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India | India | Manas Roshan |

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|----|------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 40 | 18-21 March 2019 | Global Strategic Framework for the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines (GSF-SSF) Advisory Group: Consolidation Meeting, International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) Fisheries Working Group and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Rome, Italy | Italy | Sebastian Mathew and Manas Roshan |
| 41 | 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 ICSF Statement |
| 42 | 02-04 May 2019 | Capacity Building Workshop for Women in CAOPA Conakry, Republic of Guinea | Guinea | Sebastian Mathew Presentation |
| 43 | 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 |
| 44 | 25-28 June 2019 | MARE 'People and the Sea' Conference Amsterdam, The Netherlands | The Netherlands | Maarten Bavinck and Manas Roshan |
| 45 | 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 |

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|----|--------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------|
| 46 | 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 |
| 47 | 27-30 August 2019 | First Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Nairobi, Kenya | Kenya | Manas Roshan ICSF Statement |
| 48 | 3-5 September 2019 | Towards Resilient and Equitable Small-Scale Fisheries, WorldFish and Oak Foundation, Penang, Malaysia | Malaysia | Manas Roshan |
| 49 | 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 |
| 50 | 12-18 October 2019 | 46 th 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 Presentation |

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| 51 | 22 October 2019 | Stakeholder consultation on Fisheries Subsidies, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Kochi, Kerala, India | India | N. Venugopalan |
| 52 | 23-24 October 2019 | Sixth Our Ocean conference, Government of Norway, Oslo, Norway | Norway | Sebastian Mathew Panel Discussion |
| 53 | 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, Sebastian Mathew |
| 54 | 18-19 November 2019 | Regional NHRI Seminar on Human Rights and Fisheries, Danish Institute for Human Rights Bangkok, Thailand | Thailand | Manas Roshan Presentations 1, 2, 3 |
| 55 | 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 Presentations |
| 56 | 7-10 January 2020 | International Symposium MECOS3 Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities, 7-10 January 2020, Kochin, India | India | Venugopalan Presentation |
| 57 | 24 -25 February 2020 | Regional Meeting for Validation of RPOA-IUU; 24 – 25 February 2020, Chennai, INDIA | India | N. Venugopalan |

List of Webinars attended by ICSF Members and Staff

| List of Webinars attended from April 2020 onwards | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---|---|
| S.No | Date | Details | Attended by | Presentation |
| 1 | 14-Apr-20 | SSF World Oceans Day events | Manas Roshan | |
| 2 | 29-Apr-20 | Dakshin Foundation: How are India's fishworkers coping with the lockdown? | Manas Roshan Vishakha Gupta | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEgJ5vGB6zk&feature=emb_title |
| 3 | 30-Apr-20 | Covid-19: Impact on small-scale fisheries in South Africa and beyond | Vishakha Gupta | https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=LyK_pMPcl8A&feature=emb_title |
| 4 | 18 to 19 May 2020 | Second webinar on SSF and everything 'blue' | Manas Roshan Leopoldo Gerhardinger Vishakha Gupta | |
| 5 | 30-May | Small fisher-folk of North Africa and Palestine in times of COVID19 | Vishakha Gupta | |
| 6 | 1-8 June 2020 | Small is bountiful: Webinar series on Small-scale fisheries for the World Oceans Day | Manas Roshan Vishakha Gupta | http://toobigtoignore.net/opportunity/join-us-for-world-ocean-day-2020/ |
| 7 | 02-Jun-20 | Fishing for ways to survive in a Covid-19 ocean: International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC) | Vivienne Solis | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3JneE2ribk |

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| 8 | 06-Jun-20 | Webinar Series on Fisheries in the Context of COVID 19, 09 June 2020 | Sebastian Mathew | https://www.icsf.net/images/resources/papers_presentations/ICSF%20Global%20Impact%20Covid-19%20Fisheries_09June2020.pdf _139.pdf |
| 9 | 08-Jun-20 | Launch of The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture | Vishakha Gupta | |
| 10 | 19-Jun-20 | Webinar on Draft National Fisheries Policy 2020 - A Critical Outlook - 19th June 2020 | Manas Roshan Sebastian Mathew Vishakha Gupta | |

Partnership approach

ICSF, in partnership with like-minded NGOs, supports global fishworker organizations such as the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) and the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) within the IPC Working Group on Fisheries. These groups played a key role in coordinating the grassroots consultative process that led to the development and endorsement of the SSF Guidelines. Since then, they have collaborated to advance the interests of small-scale fisheries within the FAO and other UN bodies, including the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

In 2016, COFI welcomed the FAO SSF Umbrella Programme and endorsed the development of the SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF). This framework includes an Advisory Group, in which fishworker organizations play a central role. Since March 2018, ICSF has worked with IPC constituents to develop the work plan for the Advisory Group and to establish priorities for implementing the SSF Guidelines. A meeting in September 2019 focused on forming the Knowledge Sharing Platform, a key component of the GSF, which aims to collect insights from civil society and the scientific community.

Beyond the SSF Guidelines, ICSF collaborates with the IPC Working Group on Fisheries in broader processes such as CBD negotiations and campaign activities. Guided by priorities identified by fishworker organizations and the FAO COFI agenda, the IPC is currently reconstituting its membership and seeking support from NGOs like ICSF for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advocacy. This partnership underscores ICSF's commitment to amplifying SSF voices and securing their sustainable future.

FAO-ICSF's 9 country project in the global south was an essential part of ICSF's partnership approach. 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.

ICSF's partners in the project include Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), Brazil; Technical Services for Community Development (TESCOD), Ghana; ICSF Trust, India; Koalisi Rakyat Untuk Keadilan Perikanan (KIARA), Indonesia; Network Action Group (NAG), Myanmar; Tambuyog Development Center, the Philippines (TDC); Sri Lanka Forum for Small Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF), Sri Lanka; Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand; and Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD), Vietnam.

Communications

ICSF has cultivated several streams of communication over its years of operation. This includes the SAMUDRA report which disseminates information on important developments in fisheries from a small-scale fisheries perspective, and creates greater awareness on issues that concern the small-scale sector as well as the Yemaya Newsletter on gender in fisheries, which includes the perspectives and concerns of women within fishing communities and their organizations. The SAMUDRA and South Asia news alerts are an essential part of our communications. News alerts which seek to increase awareness about developments of relevance to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers, in the Global South and South Asia, are sent out on a daily basis to over 1800 subscribers. ICSF also uses multiple social media channels such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook to share information relevant for and to the small-scale fishing sector.

ICSF maintains a unique collection of grey publications relevant to small-scale fisheries, including topics such as fishing communities, fishworker organizations, fisheries policy, trade, fishing techniques, women in fisheries, fisher movements, and social issues. This archive, comprising rare and often out-of-print materials, is invaluable to researchers, policymakers, students, activists, and journalists. Over this reporting period ICSF has been working on digitizing the archive to into the public sphere to make it further accessible to the people who need the archive.

ICSF utilises these multiple methods and streams of information dissemination to share the implications and outputs of ICSF's programs, processes and partnerships as well. That includes articles in SAMUDRA and Yemaya about country projects done to promote the SSF Guidelines; as well as reports and studies from our partner organisations around the world. The articles in these publications are also guided by our processes and the themes chosen to focus upon in the reporting period. These also include best practices, problem solving approaches used in different geographies around the world, fisher profiles and cartoons.

These publications serve the purpose of a two-way system of sharing knowledge. Simplifying and transferring information from the international and national levels to fishworker organisations and vice-versa, ensuring that stories from the grassroots are accessible to those working in different spheres.

Collectively ICSF's communication strategy is tied deeply into the project, process and partnership approach. The publications reflect ICSF's work, that of our partners and ICSF's focus areas. The information services are a unique and essential offering to all those who work in support of small-scale fisheries, whether that be a development professional, researcher, journalist, government worker, students, activists and policymakers. Social media is also leveraged to share relevant information to an ever increasing audience.

Documentation and Digitization Initiative

ICSF maintains a unique collection of grey publications relevant to small-scale fisheries, including topics such as fishing communities, fishworker organizations, fisheries policy, trade, and social issues. This archive, comprising rare and often out-of-print materials, is invaluable to researchers, policymakers, students, activists, and journalists.

Collection and Digitization Efforts

During the reporting period, **2,819 journal articles** previously available only as in-house print copies were digitized and added to the soft copy collection. A total of **252 documents** from a collection of 5,582 hard copy materials—including those on labour issues, community development, fisheries trade, and anthropology—were also digitized. The goal is to digitize the remaining **4,394 non-copyrighted documents** by 2022.

ICSF aims to make its digital collection accessible online through open-access repositories like E-prints or D-space, using a cloud-server platform. This initiative ensures the preservation of valuable materials and expands access to knowledge for a broader audience.

The digitization initiative underscores ICSF's commitment to preserving and disseminating critical information on small-scale fisheries. By transitioning to digital formats, ICSF protects its archive from damage and fosters global accessibility for stakeholders.

COVID-19 Website and Emergency Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICSF provided emergency assistance to small-scale fishing communities in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal in India, in collaboration with civil society organizations. This support targeted the most vulnerable and marginalized fishers and fishworkers, helping them procure essential items such as food and medicine. A newsletter, planned for September 2020, documents the modalities and reflections from civil society partners involved in these relief efforts. ICSF also collected data on vulnerable groups, such as migrant fishworkers, to advocate for social protection measures and inform policy interventions supporting fishing communities.

Alongside direct relief efforts, ICSF actively tracked the impacts of the pandemic on fisheries through daily news alerts and established a dedicated COVID-19 website (<https://covid.icsf.net/>). This platform compiles news, sectoral analyses, and policy measures at national, regional, and international levels. Information is organized under three themes: impact, relief, and recovery, with data presented through maps, blogs, and repositories of policy measures. The website also hosts materials from virtual meetings and

workshops, offering recommendations to sustain small-scale fisheries (SSF) livelihoods during and after the pandemic.

This initiative reflects ICSF's commitment to both immediate relief and long-term advocacy to mitigate the pandemic's impacts on SSF communities.

SAMUDRA Report

SAMUDRA Report started in March 1988. It 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 we have not published French and Spanish language versions of SAMUDRA Report.

The SAMUDRA report shares a range of articles whether that be on fisher welfare, migrant workers, disaster management, climate change, fishery practices, fishery projects, fisher movements, fishery management systems, fishery governance, labour and tenure rights and other such topics which are of relevance to small-scale fisheries around the world.

SAMUDRA Report No. 78, January 2018

SAMUDRA Report No. 78, dated January 2018, focuses on the global impact of natural hazards, particularly Cyclone Ockhi, which devastated fishing communities in southern India in late 2017. The editorial Comment highlights the disproportionate damage caused at sea compared to land, noting the tragic loss of life among fishers from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and undocumented migrant fishers. The issue includes articles emphasizing the need for at-sea cyclone preparedness and risk management skills for vulnerable communities. It also discusses the experiences of other regions, such as Puerto Rico's Hurricane Maria, showing how ecological interventions and conflicting natural forces mitigated destruction.

The report also covers decent work in marine fisheries, arguing that only shared interests and mutual commitment among fishers and social partners can lead to sustainable fisheries. In Southeast Asia, formal recognition of marine tenure is highlighted as crucial for responsible governance. The report includes articles from Africa, such as the use of social networks by fishers to navigate formal and informal rules in Lake Victoria, and the negative impact of the fishmeal boom on artisanal fishing communities in West Africa. Belize's pioneering multispecies territorial user rights programme is profiled as a successful model for sustainable fisheries management.

In Brazil, challenges to fishers' access to coastal land and sea resources due to urbanization, tourism, and port development are discussed, alongside the impact of poorly designed 'blue planning' processes. In Cambodia, the Preynub II Community Fishery stands out as an example of community unity against land grabs. The Philippines struggles with illegal, destructive, and unsustainable practices despite good policies, while Indonesia is urged to adopt a specific operational framework for traditional small-scale fishers. Vietnam's amended fisheries law seeks to empower its fishers.

The report includes a review of a gender-equitable fisheries governance handbook, and the regular Roundup section features news snippets, analysis, and updates from fisheries around the world. The issue highlights the need for lobbying to implement the SSF Guidelines and align them with national policies. The full report can be accessed at [SAMUDRA Report No. 78](#).

SAMUDRA Report No. 79, August 2018

SAMUDRA Report No. 79, August 2018, features a range of articles addressing global fisheries issues, emphasizing the role of small-scale fishing communities in sustainable development and their struggle for livelihood rights. The opening editorial comment highlights the importance of lobbying for policies that empower these communities as the implementation of the SSF Guidelines progresses. The report includes an analysis of how indigenous Guaranis in Brazil are being displaced from their lands to accommodate the interests of politicians and businesses, illustrating the broader issues of labour and human rights abuses within the fisheries sector.

One article discusses the Seafood Slavery Risk Tool, which tracks abuses of labour and human rights in seafood supply chains, while another from Indonesia explores the causes of poor nutritional intake in coastal communities. Reports from two meetings—the largest conference on occupational safety and health in the fishing industry held in Canada, and the 33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)—highlight significant issues affecting the sector. Another article presents a novel approach where fishermen and scientists collaborate to improve weather forecasting and enhance safety at sea.

The report also covers the Pêcheurs du Monde film festival in Lorient, France, celebrating its 10th anniversary, and reviews a book on the global implementation of the SSF Guidelines. These articles collectively underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities and the broader implications for sustainable fisheries. The full issue can be accessed at [SAMUDRA Report No. 79](#).

SAMUDRA Report No. 80, December 2018

SAMUDRA Report No. 80, December 2018, presents a broad spectrum of articles on global fisheries issues, focusing on topics such as small-scale fisheries, community fisheries, illegal fishing, the SSF Guidelines, conservation efforts like manta ray protection, and fisheries governance. The editorial comment discusses the significance of the Regional Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea as a model for other regional fisheries management organizations.

The report opens with an analysis of how fortunes are turning for small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. An article from Cambodia highlights the country's well-developed system of community fisheries. In Sri Lanka, discussions focus on how SSF communities can be strengthened within the framework of the SSF Guidelines. A Vietnamese report from a consultation workshop examines issues of illegal fishing and co-management in the central coastal region. Indonesia's Lamakera village is showcased for its efforts in manta ray conservation. From Pakistan, a Peoples Long March against dams on the Indus River is

highlighted, emphasizing the broader environmental and social impacts on fishing communities.

Myanmar's experiences demonstrate how effective fisheries governance can lead to democratization and decentralization, enhancing community resilience. Another article explores the social contexts and challenges faced by fishing communities, while the final article argues for the importance of collective action in addressing poverty and marginalization within the SSF sector. This issue provides a comprehensive view of the diverse challenges and opportunities facing small-scale fisheries worldwide. The full issue can be accessed at [SAMUDRA Report No. 80](#).

SAMUDRA Report No. 81, June 2019

SAMUDRA Report No. 81, June 2019, presents a diverse range of articles on fisheries from around the world, focusing particularly on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The editorial comment highlights the critical role of subsistence fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific region, noting the SSF Guidelines as a framework for sustainable fisheries management. The Cuba article reports on a Fisheries Forum, highlighting the discussions on opportunities and challenges for making fisheries more sustainable in the country.

The issue also addresses the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the geography, histories, and cultures of the Pacific island region, emphasizing the significance of the SSF Guidelines for improving the governance of small-scale fisheries. A report from Nigeria discusses the vulnerabilities of waterfront communities, stressing the need for secure tenure rights for fishers.

The Pêcheurs du Monde film festival reflects on the resilience of fishers amidst crises, while a review of the Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture notes increased attention to women's roles in fisheries policy by the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC).

Reports on the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress and the 7th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7) highlight the contributions and challenges faced by small-scale fishers and civil society organizations. The issue also discusses the impact of Cyclone Fani on fisherfolk in Odisha, the World Bank-funded loan project for fish culture in Jharkhand, and the expansion of salmon farming in Chile's Patagonia region.

The report from the UN Biodiversity Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, discusses the compatibility of sustainable development for fishing communities with participatory conservation of marine biodiversity. The Roundup section includes news stories, briefings, announcements of events, and a profile of a fisher organization. This issue of SAMUDRA Report can be accessed at [SAMUDRA Report No. 81](#).

SAMUDRA Report No. 82, February 2020

SAMUDRA Report No. 82, February 2020, features a wide range of articles focusing on fisheries from various regions including Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Seychelles, Brazil, Chile, and France. The issue provides extensive analysis and commentary on the Blue Economy and Blue Growth within the framework of the SSF Guidelines.

The article from Seychelles examines the contradictions in the country’s Blue Bond scheme for conservation, highlighting the need for more effective governance and implementation. From Sri Lanka, there is a call for the National Fisheries Policy to be updated to integrate the SSF Guidelines. Another article discusses the role of women in fisheries, emphasizing how they can leverage the SSF Guidelines to further their interests and advocate for a common vision.

Brazil’s largest oil spill disaster underscores the urgent need for state-sponsored disaster management, according to a report from the country. In neighbouring Chile, a piece argues for a new type of autonomous social movement to foster a democratic and representative Constitution. India’s draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP) is analysed, showing the potential for it to align with the SSF Guidelines for improved governance. Additionally, a report highlights the experiential knowledge of artisanal fishers as crucial in addressing climate change and other challenges.

This issue also features an obituary tribute to Sidney Holt, a renowned scientist whose work on the concept of maximum sustainable yield significantly influenced global fisheries management. This issue can be accessed at: [SAMUDRA Report No. 82](#).

TABLE 1: SAMUDRA REPORTS PUBLISHED

| Year | Number of issues published | Report emailed to people/organizations | Views | Downloads |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|---------|-----------|
| Nov 2017 to Oct 2018 | 2 | 3540 | 1035068 | 150351 |
| Nov 2018 to Oct 2019 | 2 | 3899 | 1373383 | 178616 |
| Nov 2019 to June 2020 | 1 | 4071 | 784851 | 141625 |

YEMAYA -NEWSLETTER ON GENDER AND FISHERIES

Yemaya Newsletter of women in fisheries started in April 1999. Yemaya seeks to disseminate information about gender issues in fisheries, and the perspectives and concerns of women within 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 grassroots organizational processes and on women leaders in different countries. All issues of Yemaya newsletter issue No. 1-60 are available on ICSF’ website.

Yemaya is a one of its kind newsletter, which focusses on gender within fisheries. In a world which diminishes women's labour, Yemaya seeks to highlight and focus the spotlight on the work and contributions of women to fisheries and beyond. Whether that be to nutrition, healthcare, education, financial security, decision making processes or collectivization. It is essential that the contributions, needs, and desires of women are mainstreamed within the fishery sector and Yemaya is a critical tool in achieving that.

Yemaya No. 57, July 2018 Summary

The issue of Yemaya No. 57, July 2018, brings a series of articles focusing on women in small-scale fisheries from Sri Lanka, India, and a broader discussion on gender issues in fisheries. The editorial comment highlights the lack of recognition of women's contributions to fisheries policies and programmes, stressing the need for improved support for women's livelihood development in the sector.

The article from Sri Lanka points out the declining employment opportunities for women in fisheries, particularly in Trincomalee, where financial and physical support for improving livelihoods is lacking. A report on innovative boat clinics in the Brahmaputra basin in India showcases how floating clinics provide essential healthcare to marginalized populations, including women and children, across the river islands.

Enrique Alonso-Poblacion and Susana V. Siar's desk study titled 'Women's Participation and Leadership in Fisherfolk Organizations and Collective Action in Fisheries' is reviewed, presenting a comprehensive overview of women's roles within fishing organizations. The study identifies successful examples of women's participation and highlights opportunities for scaling these up in various challenging contexts.

The documentary film 'In Ockhi's Wake' by Shibani Chaudhury captures the challenges faced by women in the aftermath of Cyclone Ockhi, emphasizing the ongoing need for disaster preparedness. A profile of Suman Singh illustrates the empowerment of inland fisherwomen in Madhubani, India. Under her leadership, women gained greater control over their lives within the fisheries sector.

The issue also discusses a new Costa Rican bill focused on the sustainability of small-scale artisanal fisheries and its strong gender dimension, recognizing the essential role of women in the sector. The column 'What's New, Webby?' features findings from a global survey by WSI on gender equality in the seafood industry, emphasizing the perception and positions of women within the industry. The issue includes a recommendation for the 'Animation on Gender Equity and Equality', which aims to address key gender issues in small-scale fisheries.

Overall, Yemaya No. 57 underscores the critical role of women in fisheries and the importance of integrating gender equality into fisheries policies and practices. This issue can be accessed at: [Yemaya No. 57](#).

Yemaya No. 58, December 2018 Summary

Issue No. 58 of Yemaya highlights articles from Kenya, Mexico, India, and an analytical article on gender inequalities in the seafood industry, focusing on gender mainstreaming

across the fisheries sector. The editorial comment calls for gender equality in fisheries, highlighting the role of women and the need for their full inclusion in the industry.

The article from Kenya by Irene Ojuok and Philemon Bwanawoy discusses new initiatives in Kenya where women are moving into new roles along the value chain, reducing their dependence on the traditional ‘jaboya’ system. These initiatives have provided women with new income-generating opportunities, reflecting a positive shift in their socio-economic status.

In Mexico, Carmen Pedroza Gutierrez narrates the stories of Alejandra and Maria Elena, who face exclusion from the benefits of social security and are vulnerable without legal recognition of their roles. This highlights the challenges that women fishers face in terms of access to social protection and their overall vulnerability in the industry.

The article from India by Holly Hapke explores how mechanization in fishing has led to greater centralization of fish landings and its impact on women fish traders. The move towards centralized landings has intensified competition from men traders, affecting women’s traditional roles and livelihoods.

Marie Christine Monfort’s article reviews a survey among male and female seafood professionals about gender issues in the fishing industry. It reports that gender inequality persists worldwide, with Scandinavian countries like Denmark, Iceland, and Norway ranking highest in terms of gender equality. This highlights the need for better working conditions and professional dignity for women in the fishing industry globally.

The review of the Cambodian film, “Give Woman a Fish,” by Kyoko Kusakabe, portrays the challenges faced by women fishers in Cambodia’s Tonle Sap Lake, emphasizing the importance of social and economic support for women fishers. The film shows how a project to upgrade fish processing techniques, introduce savings, and diversify livelihoods can significantly enhance women’s roles in fishing communities.

The Milestones column features a declaration on the urgent need to guarantee social protection and safety for workers in the fisheries sector. This declaration emphasizes the need for improving the working conditions of both men and women in the industry, addressing gender-based disparities and creating “decent work” conditions as per ILO standards. The ‘What’s New, Webby?’ column presents details of a new project exploring the contributions of women to the survival of fishing families and the industry, underlining the importance of gender equity in the fisheries sector.

This issue can be accessed at: [Yemaya No. 58](#).

Yemaya No. 59, June 2019 Summary

Issue No. 59 of Yemaya focuses on articles from Fiji and India, along with a feature on the 7th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7) and a roundtable discussion in India on women. The editorial comment emphasizes the urgent need to address the levels of exclusion women face despite the increased international attention on gender issues in fisheries.

The article from Fiji highlights the lack of sex-disaggregated data, which hampers meaningful analysis and action on gender issues within the fishing community. Nikita

Gopal's article on GAF7 explores the intersectionalities of power relations in the fisheries sector, illustrating how gender inequalities persist despite efforts to improve the situation. The Roundtable in India showcased the significant gains made by women when they collectively raise their voices to demand their rights, highlighting the transformative power of collective action.

The issue celebrates the Slow Fish event in Genoa, Italy, which provides a unique platform for small-scale fisheries and promotes responsible fish consumption. The Slow Fish Forum is a space where particularly women from the small-scale fisheries sector can network, share experiences, and advocate for their rights. The Milestones section calls for a better understanding of the seafood industry through a gender equality lens, stressing the need for regular efforts to raise awareness on gender issues. Shilpa Nandy's profile column introduces Tapasi Dolui, a fisherwoman from West Bengal, India, who leads the struggle of fisherwomen in Tangrachar. Additionally, the issue recommends a short video titled 'Fished: The Fisher Women of Mumbai,' which portrays the lives of Koli women, a traditional fishing community from Mumbai, India.

This issue can be accessed at: [Yemaya No. 59](#).

Yemaya No. 60, April 2020 Summary

This issue of Yemaya features articles from various countries, including India, Costa Rica, Japan, the European Union, and a special supplement titled "Turning Points: A decade of change for women in fisheries," moderated by Nikita Gopal and N. Venugopalan. The editorial comment addresses the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women fishworkers in Mumbai, India, highlighting the immediate challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women in the sector. The article from Costa Rica discusses the priorities of women fishers, shrimp peelers, and mollusc workers for the recognition and formalization of their work.

The article from Japan explores the exclusion of women from fishery cooperative associations, illustrating the challenges faced by women in accessing formal roles within fisheries management structures. An article from Africa details the transformation of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organization (CAOPA) over the decade, showing how gender issues have been integrated into their advocacy work. In Southeast Asia, the issue of declining incomes and ageing populations is addressed, noting that women are likely to become the mainstays of families and communities involved in small-scale fisheries.

A highlight of this issue is the supplement titled "Turning Points: A decade of change for women in fisheries," which reflects on the progress made over the past ten years in recognizing women's roles in the sector. Contributors discuss the evolving discourse around women's rights, labour rights, environmental impacts, and social roles within fisheries.

The Profile column commemorates the life of an Italian nurse, Laretta Farina, who worked in a fishing village in India. The Milestones column features a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) on the need for gender-transformative policies within the health workforce. The "What's New, Webby?" column details a new gender initiative via a mobile app and online platform that tracks gender-specific progress in each country. This issue of Yemaya also includes the popular cartoon strip, Yemaya Mama, which reflects on global economic issues. This issue can be accessed at: [Yemaya No. 60](#).

Table 2: Yemaya Newsletter

| Year | Number of Issues published | Newsletter emailed to people /organizations | Views | Downloads |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| Nov 2017 to Oct 2018 | 2 | 3540 | 538371 | 62311 |
| Nov 2018 to Oct 2019 | 2 | 3899 | 749794 | 99514 |
| Nov 2019 to June 2020 | 1 | 4071 | 482226 | 88138 |
| Total | 5 | - | 1770391 | 249963 |

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. These services are a unique offering to the world as they are a daily service which informs people and organisations who work in support of small-scale fishing communities.

SAMUDRA Daily News Alerts

SAMUDRA News Alerts, launched in January 2005, has been sending out news on fisheries and fishworkers worldwide on a daily basis, and in the form of a weekly digest on Saturdays. SAMUDRA News alerts with, 1875 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, 490 alerts with 4,428 news items were disseminated.

| Period | Number of Subscribers | Number of News items added | Number of Alerts sent | Total views |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----|---------|
| Nov 2017 to Oct 2018 | 1790 | 1473 | 180 | 1265554 |
| Nov 2018 to Oct 2019 | 1811 | 1388 | 140 | 1294667 |
| Nov 2019 to June 2020 | 1860 | 1567 | 170 | 1176380 |
| Total | - | 4428 | 490 | 3736601 |

South Asia News Alerts

The South Asia News Alert, initiated in October 2011, presently has 1771 subscribers. South Asia News Alerts carried news items 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 698 alerts with 6925 news items were disseminated.

| Period | Number of Subscribers | Number of News items added | Number of Alerts sent | Total views |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Nov 2017 to Oct 2018 | 1913 | 2435 | 232 | 377201 |
| Nov 2018 to Oct 2019 | 1996 | 2246 | 232 | 635482 |
| Nov 2019 to June 2020 | 1915 | 2244 | 234 | 832559 |
| Total | | 6925 | 698 | 1845242 |

ICSF WEBSITE

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 meetings and statements from ICSF organized workshops, papers and presentations made by ICSF, important fisheries events, and online resources.

ICSF is in the process of redesigning its website to align better with its current work and achieve its vision and mission goals. The new design will offer improvements such as enhanced responsiveness, better search engine visibility, and a more flexible and user-friendly interface. The redesigned website will categorize content according to ICSF's core thematic areas, making it easier to navigate, search, and access. The updated, mobile-friendly

look with visual elements like photos and videos aims to enhance engagement with readers on social media. The prototype of the new website requires input from all ICSF members to ensure it meets the organization's needs effectively.

SOCIAL MEDIA

ICSF is active on social media like Facebook and Twitter. Its posts generally follow the following topics: on ICSF's work/ publications (5%), on UN, FAO, CBD, ILO, etc. fisheries-related publications /meetings (20%); international fisheries news including what impacts fishing communities, statements/petitions from FWOs (60%); global fisheries research / papers and conferences (15%).

Annex
Organogram



ICSF Membership

| Country | Member | Organisation | Contact |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Brazil | Ana Paula Rainho | | anap.rainho@gmail.com |
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| Myanmar | M.R. Bobby | Network Activity Group (NAG) | 72.bobby@gmail.com |
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| Canada | Charles R. Menzies | The University of British Columbia | charles.menzies@ubc.ca |
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| Costa Rica | Vivinne Solis Rivera | CoopeSolidar R.L | vsolis@coopesolidar.org |
| India | V. Vivekanandan | South Indian | vivek@siffs.org |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | Federation of Fishermen Societies | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|

Back cover blurb

ICSF's efforts during this time demonstrated the relevance of the SSF Guidelines in addressing challenges faced by small-scale fishing communities while fostering sustainable fisheries and enhancing community resilience across the world. ICSF's work has been essential in raising awareness and implementing the SSF Guidelines in several countries of the global south. This work has been instrumental in furthering the SDG goals, especially goal 14.b.

ICSF has supported small scale fisheries and their rights and interests at international, national and regional levels; advocating for tenure rights, gender equity and sustainable resource management which would benefit the fishing community. Engagement with such bodies and processes helps to strengthen the role of fishers and fishworker organisations within decision-making processes.

The reports and studies that ICSF has conducted on themes ranging from aquaculture and climate change to tenure rights has been critical, it helps inform policy and provides actionable insights for those working with small-scale fishing communities. ICSF's research provides important insights into the workings, challenges and aspirations of fishing communities.

ICSF works with partners from across the world and while engaging with other fishworker organisations, prioritises organisational growth and capacity building. Thereby supporting the empowerment of fishing communities and their support organisations.

ICSF's publications and efforts towards knowledge sharing are incredibly helpful to anyone working in support of small-scale fisheries and for fishing communities themselves. They are a medium for two-way communication, sharing the small-scale perspective with the world and breaking down international processes for fishworker organisations and fishing communities.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2017 TO JUNE 2020

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) is an international nongovernmental organization that works towards the establishment of equitable, gender-just, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries, particularly in the small-scale, artisanal sector.



International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Website: www.icsf.net

