



The importance of the International Guidelines on small-scale fisheries in ensuring food security.

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# Background (19)

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with the support of The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) took 6 years to draft the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF).

The main objectives of SSF are to reverse the marginalization, contribute to food security and nutrition, to alleviate poverty and equitable development and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources.

The SSF Guidelines are developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).

The guidelines raised the profile, increase the value, reconfirmed their importance, scale and size of this sector.

The new instrument is global in scope, and applies to small-scale fisheries in all contexts, but with a specific focus on the needs of small-scale fishing communities in developing countries.

TC-SSF/2013/2

April 2013



منظمة الأغذية  
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Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones Unidas  
para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

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## TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

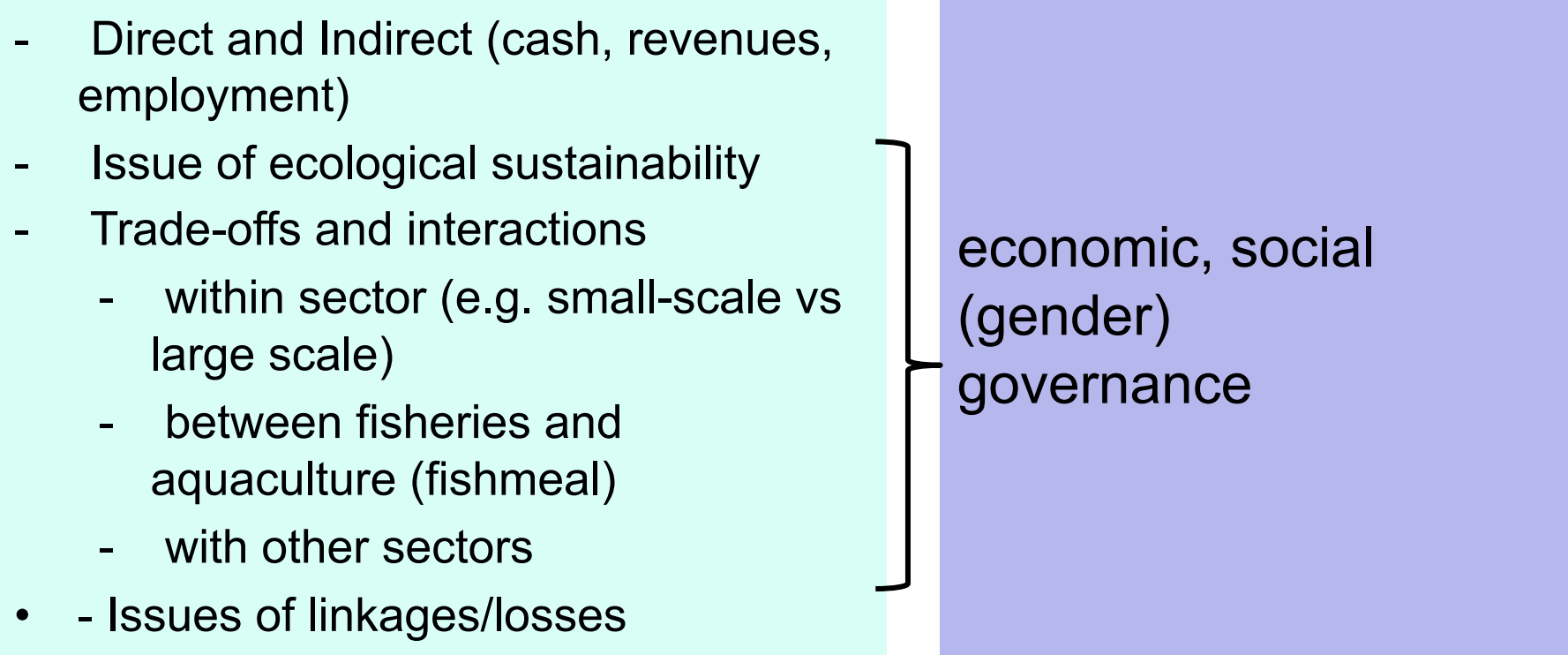
Rome, Italy, 20-24 May 2013

**Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable  
Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of  
Food Security and Poverty Eradication**

This document contains the draft text of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. It has been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

# Why food security?

- Direct and Indirect (cash, revenues, employment)
- Issue of ecological sustainability
- Trade-offs and interactions
  - within sector (e.g. small-scale vs large scale)
  - between fisheries and aquaculture (fishmeal)
  - with other sectors
- - Issues of linkages/losses



economic, social  
(gender)  
governance

# Importance of fish for food security and nutrition

Fish accounts for approximately 17% of the global population's intake of animal protein and 6.5% of all protein consumed, providing 3.0 billion people with almost 20% of their average per capita intake of animal protein, and 4.3 billion people with about 15% of such protein (FAO 2012). This share, however, can exceed 50% in some countries.



# Importance of fish in Africa.

- In Africa, more than 200 million people regularly eat fish (Heck et al. 2007), and this figure is rising as the African population is growing fast and its urbanised segment is expanding even faster.
- It has been estimated that in order to maintain its current consumption level, Africa will need about 27% more fish per year in 2020 (WorldFish Center, 2005).
- Although demand for fresh fish is increasing in Africa (in particular in urban areas), smoked, dried and low value processed fish still represents by far the largest majority of the fish consumed by the rural populations but also by the low income classes in urban areas.
- Africa is a very important potential fish market for its own production.

# Why the importance of fish in the diet of the poor?

- Yet increased consumption of fish, and its addition to the diets of low income populations (including pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children), offers important means for improving food security and nutrition for several reasons.
  - First, the bioavailability of fish protein is approximately 5–15 percent higher than that from plant sources. Fish also contains several amino acids essential for human health; especially lysine and methionine.
  - Second, the lipid composition of fish is unique, having long-chain, polyunsaturated fatty acids (LC-PUFAs) with many potential beneficial effects for adult health and child development. Many low-cost, small pelagic fish such as anchovy and sardine are some of the richest sources of LC-PUFAs.
  - Third, fish is an important source of essential micronutrients – vitamins D, A and B, minerals (calcium, phosphorus, iodine, zinc, iron and selenium) – especially so for many small fish species that are consumed whole (with bones, heads, and viscera).

# The humble “sardine”

- “A meal of fish, portion size 150 gram, such as sardine (pilchard), will provide 37 grams of high quality protein, 17 grams of lipid of which is at least 1.5 (and often up to 4) grams of the marine omega-3 fatty acids essential for preventing non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease (EPA and DHA), and where 1.5 gram will cover the need for a week.
- These marine omega-3 fatty acids are also essential for normal development of the brain and for children’s learning ability.
- One portion of fish will secure sufficient iodine intake for two days, and human iron requirement for a day. Iron and vitamin B12 are essential to prevent anemia, while Vitamin D is essential for bone mineralization and for calcium balance in all organs and especially in bone tissue.
- A portion of sardine will provide 855 mg calcium, which, together with phosphorous, are “bone-strengthening” minerals. It has to be supplemented with vegetables and fruit to get sufficient vitamin A, as a 150 gram portion of sardine only provides 7% of the daily requirement.” HLPE report 2014:

# Fish for Whom?

Key to this debate is how does it impacts on the poor or those who produce/catch the food.

According to Kurien 2004:5 “The economic attribute that varies most with regard to fishery products is price. The price ratio of bluefin tuna to anchovies can be on the order of 200:1. However, both can be delicacies: the former for the well-to-do Japanese, the latter for the poor Sri Lankan. Bluefin tuna is fish for “luxury consumption” and anchovies are fish for “nutritional consumption”. In the aggregate, their contribution to direct food security – fish as food – is vastly different.”

Responsible fish trade  
and food security





# Fish as income

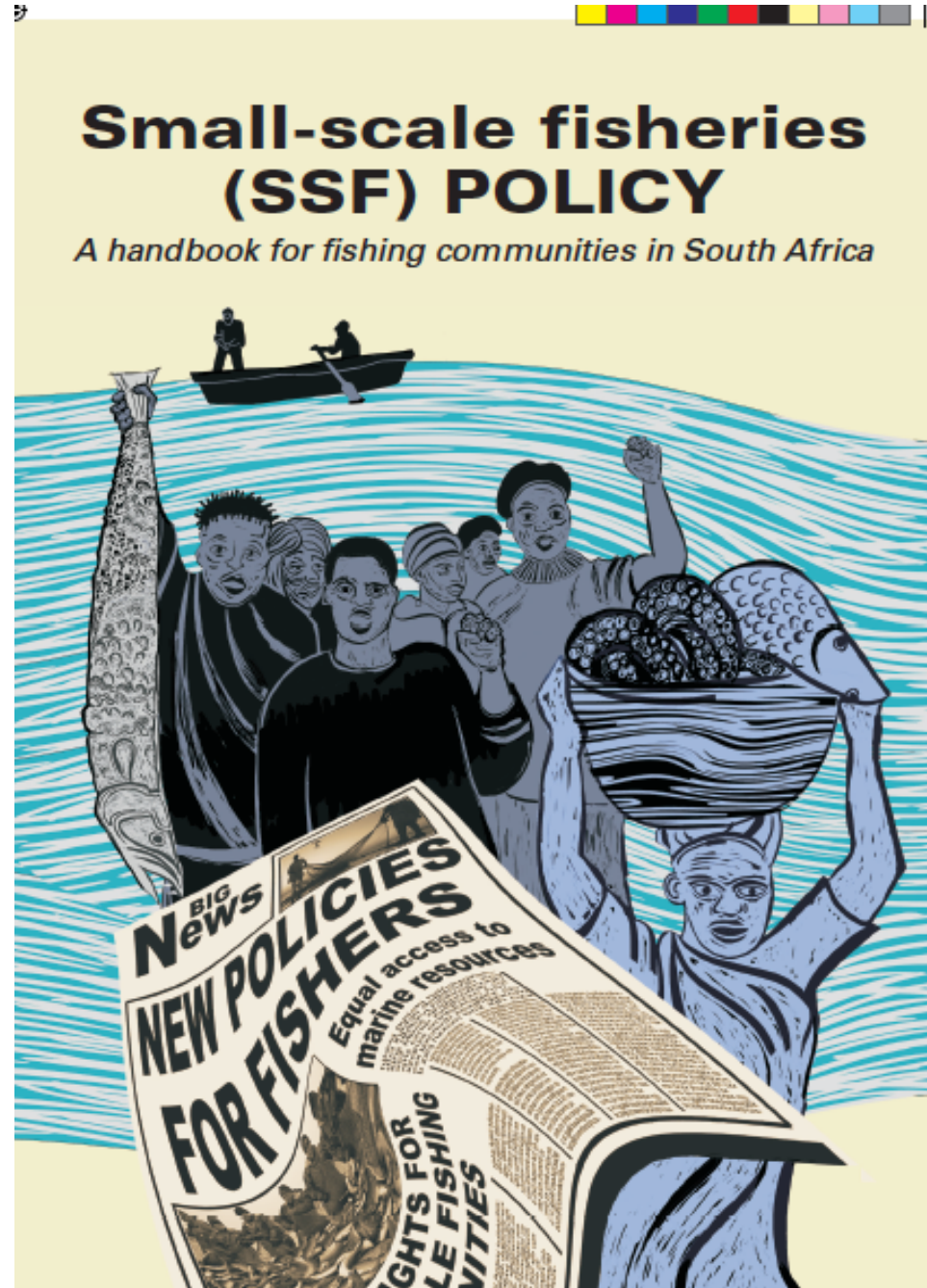
- Critical source of livelihood
  - 120 million people depending on fisheries-related activities (fishing, processing, trading),
  - Majority living in developing and emergent countries.
  - Aquaculture: around 38 millions
  - Between 660 and 820 million people (workers and their families) as a source of income and support
  - Half are women
- Small-scale, and traders are *de facto* excluded from the high value fish trade activities promoted by the current trade model, or at least face extra challenges, as they have difficulty complying with the food quality-standards requirements imposed by international trade institutions (e.g. WTO) and the importing countries (Henson et al., 2000; Gibbon and Ponte, 2005; Kambewa et al., 2008).
- The question is how to increase the bargaining power of the small scale operators in both domestic and international markets.

# Role of Aquaculture in food security

- Fishmeal
- Competitions for resources (water, space)
- Larger fish (not consumed whole)
- In Africa, small-scale, subsistence aquaculture has failed to deliver the anticipated reduction of poverty and food insecurity, and interest has now shifted towards slightly larger (i.e. medium-scale), more commercial-oriented enterprises, with the hope that this new model will be more successful at delivering food security outcomes.
- In Asia, that 70–80 percent of aquaculture production has come so far from small-scale farming.

# Food security in SCFP in SA (23)

The social and economic justice of these instruments are rooted in the new small-scale fisheries policy in South Africa created an action space for fishers to participate in a formalized value chain with a development agenda that is concerned with poverty alleviation, food security, access to financial capital, and subsidies. In the new small-scale policy, the state will make budgets available through national, provincial and local governments to strengthen the capacity, training and skills of local community entities or cooperatives.



# Fish has received little attention in food security and nutrition strategies (1)

Limited attention has been given so far to fish as a key element in food security and nutrition strategies at national level and in wider development discussions and interventions.

Fish deserves a central position in food security and nutrition strategies.

In 1996, South Africa includes the right to food is enshrined in the Constitution (Chapter 2, Section 27) and also in the small-scale fisheries policy, however the what is the political will in South Africa to make small-scale fishers more food secure and less vulnerable?

“There is limited access to processing facilities or markets for small-scale primary producers, including farmers, fishers and foresters” (FSN,2014:4)

24 No. 37915

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 22 AUGUST 2014

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES  
DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU, BOSBOU EN VISSERIE

No. 637

22 August 2014



THE NATIONAL POLICY ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY FOR THE REPUBLIC  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Implementation

- Clarify the role of research, CSO's, FAO, governments in the implementation process (technical – workshops, local community meeting, information).
- Take ownership in the implementation process – promote and advocate within your countries for the implementation of the guidelines.
- Recognize and support the central contribution of small-scale fisheries to FSN.
- Support self-organized, local professional organizations and cooperatives as a way to foster SSF operators' integration into markets.
- High priority to small-scale fisheries through adequate planning, legislation and the recognition or allocation of rights and resources.
- Situate the implementation the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the contexts of National Food Security (*Tenure Guidelines*) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (*Right to Food Guidelines*).