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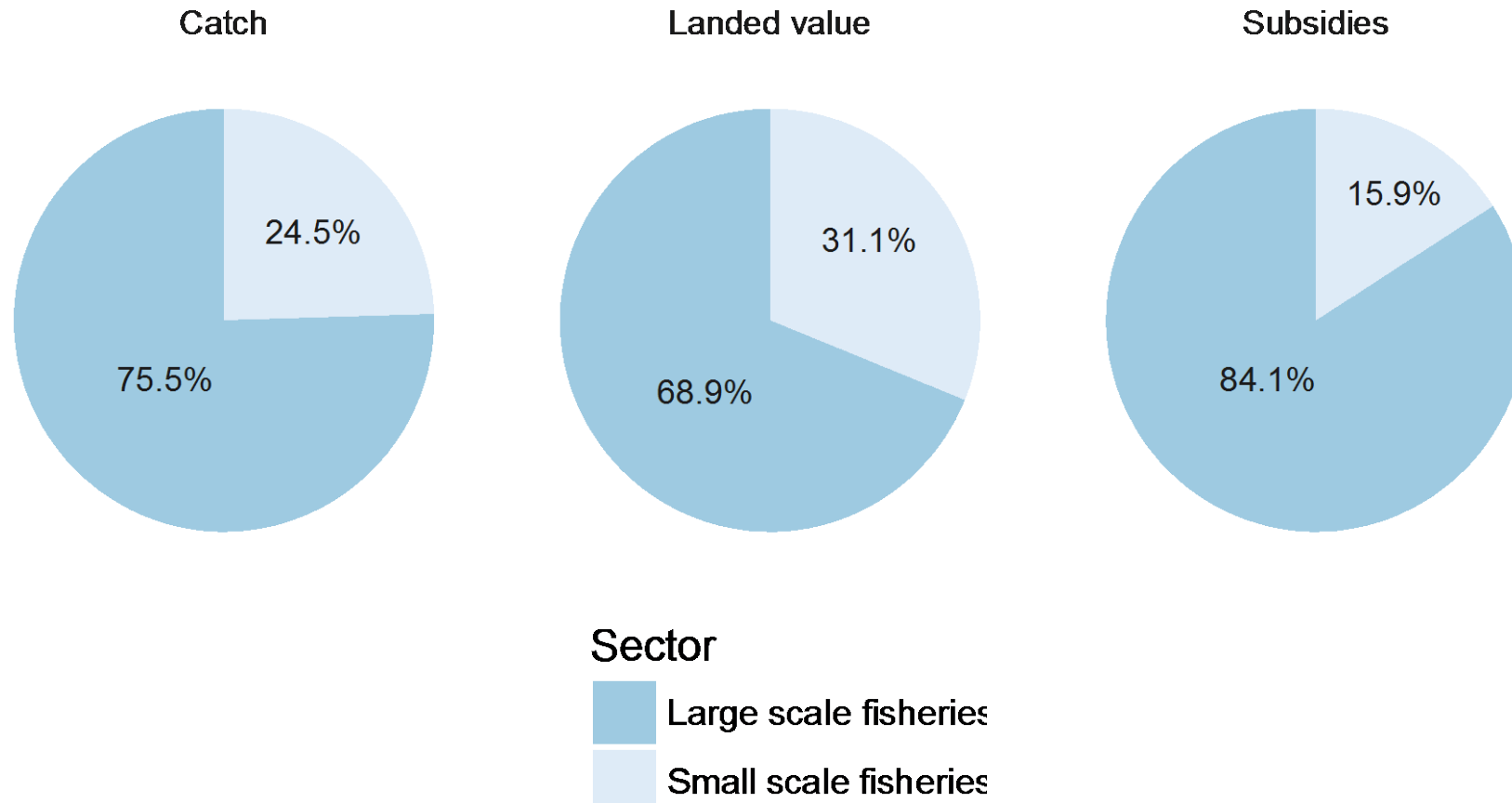
# Challenges and Opportunities for Small-Scale Fishers in International Fish Trade

## *Addressing small-scale fishing in subsidy disciplines*

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# Average annual catch, landed value & subsidies

(Global, 2005-2014)



Source: Schuhbauer and Sumaila 2017

# WTO Negotiation References to SSF

- **EU:** The term "*subsistence fishing*" refers to fishing activities undertaken by an individual household for consumption by the members of that household and kin of the fishers as opposed to fishing activities undertaken for commercial purposes. Nevertheless, part of the fish caught can be sold or exchanged for other goods or services.
- **Indonesia:** For the purposes of this discipline, *artisanal fisheries* shall be defined as those which operate within its territorial waters and mostly close to shore, use vessels which utilize primarily manual gear, and operated by individual fishermen or family members for the purpose of subsistence or local trade.
- **ACP Group:** Semi-industrial, *small-scale commercial, artisanal, or subsistence fishing* are defined according national laws and/or international agreements to which the Members are party.

# FAO Voluntary Guidelines and SSF

## Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO, 2015)

- “Many small-scale fishers and fish workers are self-employed and engaged in directly providing food for their household and communities as well as working in commercial fishing, processing and marketing.” (Preface, para. 2)
- “Small-scale fisheries [are] often characterized by seasonal migration.” (Preface, para. 2)
- “...small-scale fisheries tend to be strongly anchored in local communities” (Preface, para. 3)
- “Small-scale and artisanal fisheries, encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest...” (Preface, para. 1)
- “Small-scale fishing communities are commonly located in remote areas and tend to have limited or disadvantaged access to markets...” (Preface, para. 5)

# Common Features of SSF

<b>Vessel features</b>	<b>Economic features</b>	<b>Social features</b>
Vessel under 12m (39.3 ft.)	Low fuel consumption (e.g., < US\$10,000)	Fish for food and community use
Non-motorised vessel	Relatively little capital and energy input (e.g. < US\$250,000)	Support social and cultural values
Passive gear	Relatively low yield and income	Regulated through customary rules with some government involvement
Multi-gear	Part-time, seasonal, multi-occupational	
Multi-species	Sold in local markets	
Dated or low levels of technology, labour intensive <sup>11</sup>	Sustain local or regional economies	
Inshore, limited range to fish, fishing pressure adjacent to community	Individual or community ownership	

Source: Sumaila (2017)

# Suggested Approach to Defining SSF

- Use national definitions but include reference to a list of commonly accepted features of SSF
  - Acknowledges the differences in small-scale fisheries found in different countries
  - Provides some flexibility to countries to continue providing subsidies
- Ensure a minimum level of transparency
  - Ex. Require that countries provide SCM committee with notification of subsidies provided and a national definition of SSF
  - SCM Committee could seek the advice of experts and practitioners to work with countries on definitions
  - Allows for disciplines to be effectively monitored