



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Organisation des Nations Unies  
pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

Organización de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Alimentación y la Agricultura



## Challenges and opportunities for small-scale fisheries in fish trade

FAO-UNCTAD session at the WTO Public Forum 2017—Trade: Behind the Headlines,

Geneva, 27 September 2017

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# This presentation



- Overview of recent FAO guidance on small-scale fisheries and international trade
- Main entry points for action

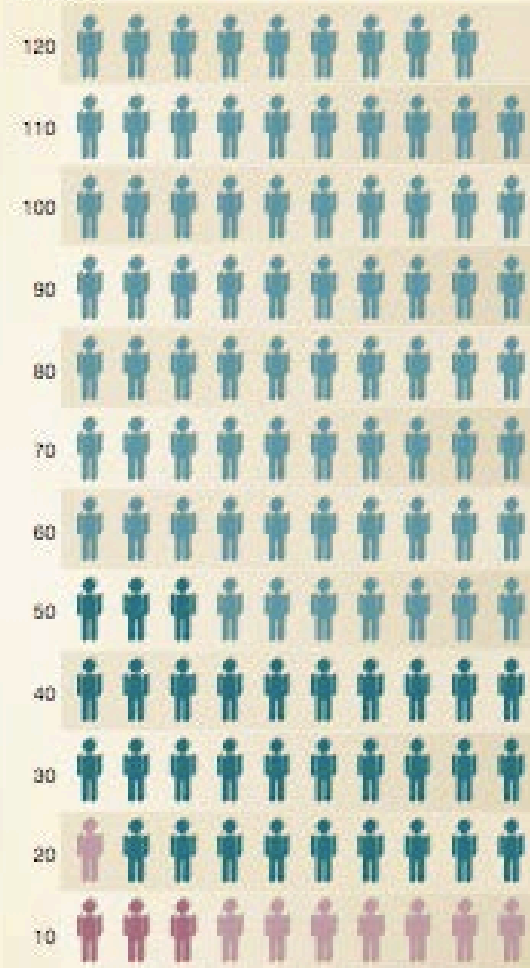
# Small-scale fisheries

Why should we bother?

## Small- and large-scale fishery compared

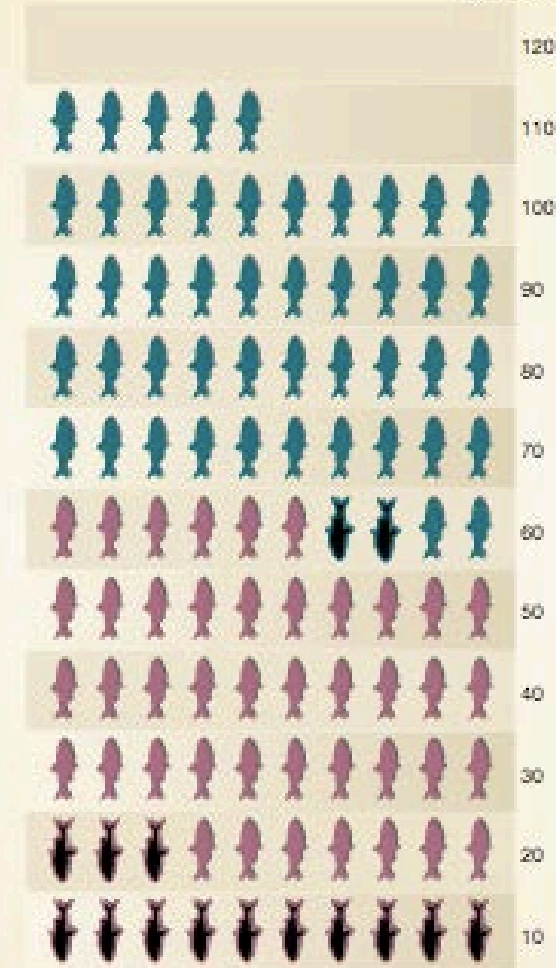
Numbers of workers employed in fishing industry

Millions

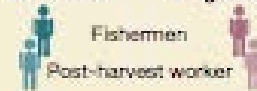


Total annual fish catches

Million tons

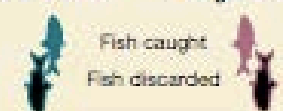


Small-scale Large-scale



1 icon = 1 million

Small-scale Large-scale



1 icon = 1 million

Source: World Bank - FAD - WorldFish Centre, The Hidden Harvests, 2010.

# 2005

FAO  
FISHERIES  
TECHNICAL  
PAPER

456

## Responsible fish trade and food security



- Direct and indirect influence of fish trade and food security
- Review of positive and negative impacts of international fish trade on food security in low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs)

### Main findings:

- Trade has had a positive effect on food security, both through higher availability of fish for human consumption in developing countries and through higher income generated through trade.
- However, sustainable resource management practices are a necessary condition for sustainable international trade.
- There is a need for free and transparent trade and market policies to ensure that benefits from international trade are enjoyed by all segments of society.

# 2009



ISBN 978-92-51-22302-2  
FAO  
TECHNICAL  
GUIDELINES FOR  
RESPONSIBLE  
FISHERIES

11

## RESPONSIBLE FISH TRADE



62. States and relevant organizations should cooperate with each other in the development and implementation of best practices, standards and guidelines for these activities. Changing conditions related to access to markets pose specific challenges to small-scale producers. States may give specific attention through capacity-building to these small-scale producers to organize their production and market access.

# 2014

FAO  
FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE  
TECHNICAL  
PAPER

581

## Value chain dynamics and the small-scale sector

Policy recommendations for small-scale fisheries and aquaculture trade



<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3630e.pdf>

- Focus on price transmissions in small-scale and large-scale fishery and aquaculture value chains in 14 developed and developing countries.

Main findings:

- Relative to other players in the value chain, small-scale fishers and fish farmers are receiving the smallest economic benefits for their products.
- Processors and retail markets were found to be receiving more of the distributional benefits of the value chain owing to their stronger bargaining power.
- Policy recommendations to safeguard the interests of small-scale fishers (and fish farmers) by enabling them to obtain prices and margins that let them achieve long-term sustainability from an economic, social and biological resource perspective.
  - increased governmental, NGO and private-sector support,
  - improved organization,
  - consistent pricing methods and transparency,
  - increased focus on promotion and marketing, and
  - exploration of new markets.

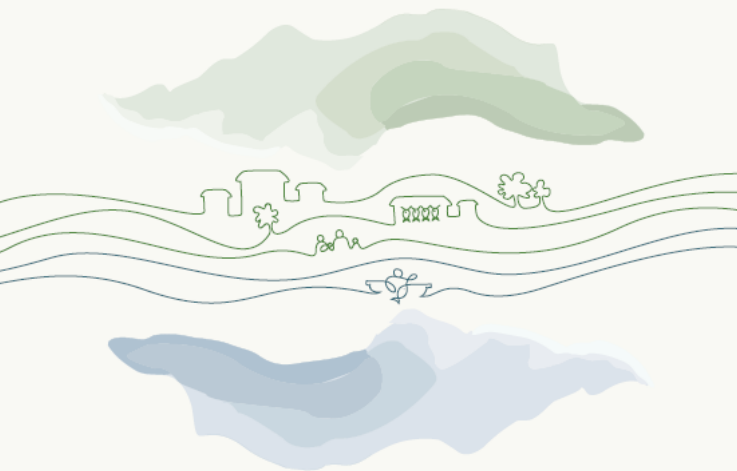
However, the report cautions that sustainable resource management and better regulatory framework practices are a necessary condition for small-scale value chains to be sustained. It also highlights the crucial need to always consider and safeguard the impact that increasing trade will have on local food security.



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## Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

In the Context of Food Security  
and Poverty Eradication



**7.8** States, small-scale fisheries actors and other value chain actors should recognize that **benefits from international trade should be fairly distributed**. States should ensure that effective fisheries management systems are in place to prevent overexploitation driven by market demand that can threaten the sustainability of fisheries resources, food security and nutrition. Such fisheries management systems should include responsible post-harvest practices, policies and actions to enable export income to benefit small-scale fishers and others in an equitable manner throughout the value chain.

**7.10** States should enable access to all relevant **market and trade information** for stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries value chain. Small-scale fisheries stakeholders must be able to access timely and accurate market information to help them adjust to changing market conditions. **Capacity development** is also required so that all small-scale fisheries stakeholders and especially women and vulnerable and marginalized groups can adapt to, and benefit equitably from, opportunities of global market trends and local situations while minimizing any potential negative impacts.



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7.6 States should **facilitate access** to local, national, regional and international markets and promote equitable and non-discriminatory trade for small-scale fisheries products. States should work together to **introduce trade regulations and procedures** that in particular support regional trade in products from small-scale fisheries and taking into account the agreements under the World Trade Organization (WTO), bearing in mind the rights and obligations of WTO members where appropriate.

7.7 States should give **due consideration to the impact of international trade** in fish and fishery products and of vertical integration on local small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities. States should ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production do not adversely affect the nutritional needs of people for whom fish is critical to a nutritious diet, their health and well-being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.



2015



**14.B** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

**14.B.1** Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

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UNCTAD - FAO – UNEP: collaboratino and voluntary commitment at the Oceans Conference in New York

→ to assist member states in the implementation of effective, inclusive policies for sustainable trade in fisheries.

THANK YOU

