

# Introducing the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) Archives/Digital library

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. This article introduces the ICSF Archives/Digital library, a fantastic resource of small-scale fisheries information. The archives can be accessed here: [www.icsfarchives.net](http://www.icsfarchives.net)

ICSF's Archives/Digital library is a one-stop-shop for all stakeholders with an interest in information and knowledge pertaining to small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The archives have ICSF's collections from the past 33 years. It offers more than 2 000 original documents and 12 000+ curated links. Set up in 1999 in Chennai, its mandate is two-fold: one, to gather various kinds of information pertinent to small-scale fisheries and fishworkers and, two, make it available to all stakeholders in a useful and readily available format.

To this end, the archive sought information and material from a variety of sources. They include peer-reviewed journals, books, conferences and meetings, newspapers, websites, fisheries databases, fishworkers organizations, NGOs, and governmental and multilateral agencies.

The archive's resources address a range of issues from across the world, all pertinent to ICSF's mandate: artisanal fisheries, fishworkers' working conditions, unions, fishworker movements, social security, women in fisheries, fisheries statistics, fishing technology, fishing communities, aquaculture, fisheries trade, fisheries management, coastal ecosystems and legal instruments.

The ICSF archives maintains regular contact – and exchange of ideas and material – with fishworkers organizations and NGOs working on issues of

relevance to small-scale and artisanal fisheries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Its archive has become a valuable tool for collection and dissemination of information. Its design is geared towards making the material more dynamic and interactive. The documentation and dissemination activities under the Communications programme have markedly improved the quality of ICSF programmes, enhancing their reach and utility. The archive has responded in a timely manner to requests for information from various stakeholders, including FWOs and NGOs. It has enhanced the capacity of organizations to respond to developments in fisheries in an informed manner.

The archives has a special collection of 'grey publications' – unpublished or out-of-print material relating to fishing communities, demands of fishworkers organizations, fisheries policy, and fisheries trade etc. All of these are collated from the perspective of its relevance to small-scale fisheries. The collection includes rare publications, that is to say, they may not be available anywhere else, even though they are much sought after by researchers, policy makers, students, leaders of fishworkers organizations and journalists, among others. The collections are stored in both virtual 'soft' copies and in 'hard' print copies. The dissemination is in the form of soft copies to users, given that the print copies of documents are vulnerable to damage.

All ICSF publications are available in the archives, including the triannual publications like *SAMUDRA Report* and *Yemaya*. Add to this over 2 000 resources published by other organizations, including infographics and films pertinent to fisheries issues. They are also available via URLs. The goal is to digitize remaining fisheries grey literature documents within a year.

The resources of the archives are classified under the following categories: Aquaculture, Biodiversity, Decent Work, Disasters and Climate Change (including Covid-19), Fisheries Trade, Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Right to Resources (including access rights and tenure) and SSF Guidelines.

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