IYAFA Regional Workshop: Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe

Report

13–16 November 2023

Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain

Report prepared by **Ahana Lakshmi** and **Sivaja K Nair**

Organized by

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)

and

Mulleres Salgadas


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Published by
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
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Chennai 600 020, Tamil Nadu, India
Email: icsf@icsf.net
Web page: https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/

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Front Cover
Mollusc gatherers engaged in their work at the Castelete Beach in Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia/ICSF

Front Inside
The participants of IYAFA European regional workshop. Representatives from fishworker organizations, civil society organizations and academia from 16 European countries participated in the workshop/ICSF

Back Inside
An inland fisherman engaged in his work, the Netherlands/Marjon Rekelhof

Back Cover
Female mollusc gatherers engaged in their work at the Castelete beach in Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia/ICSF

ISBN 978-93-80802-99-2

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List of Abbreviations

AIS	Automatic Identification System
AKTEA	European network of fisherwomen's organizations
CAOPA	Confédération Africaine des Organisations de Pêche Artisanale (African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organisations)
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy (of the European Union)
CSO	civil society organization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IYAFA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
LIFE	Low Impact Fishers of Europe
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NGO	non-governmental organization
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Goals
SSF	small-scale fisheries
SSF Guidelines	Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

GERRIE VD HOEK

Mullet fishers at the Oosterschelde, the Netherlands

DAY 1: Monday, 13 November 2023

Opening Session

The workshop opened with Maarten Bavinck, the chairperson of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), welcoming the gathering from many countries. He said that the focus was to discuss the status of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in Europe. The workshop was organized jointly by Mulleres Salgadas, Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and ICSF. English-Spanish translation was provided during the workshop.

Dolores Gómez Ordoñez of Mulleres Salgadas welcomed everyone who had contributed to the work on sustainable small-scale fishing and said that they were proud to organize this programme with LIFE and ICSF. Dolores then went on to speak about Galicia and her organization. The workshop was being held in Arousa—it was the main region of Galicia in Spain, specializing in fisheries and mussel aquaculture, and was the first port in terms of landings in all of Galicia and for 70% of the Galician mussels. Mulleres Salgadas was the main association in the fishing sector of Galicia. The organization not only had 1,600 members of shellfish collectors (*mariscadoras*), but also women who went fishing

Dolores Gómez Ordoñez, president of Mulleres Salgadas, addressing the workshop participants during the opening session of the workshop

as well as biologists and employees of the fishing sector. Mulleres Salgadas' aim was to give visibility to women in the fishing sector and improve their situation. The 63 *cofradias*—traditional fishing guilds—in Galicia had 11,000 members, of which more than 3,000 were women. But there were only 3 women who were owner-operators. Traditional reasoning claimed this to be a result of women not presenting themselves well, but this was the result of a lot of reasons that must be analyzed. There was still a lot of unfairness. For instance, the family loads weighed more on women than on men. Mulleres Salgadas wished to analyze this under-representation through the lens of gender issues in the fishing sector. Diagnostics and corrective measures that would help improve the situation of women in the fisheries sector were needed. It was also necessary to look at the reasons for women's under-representation at higher levels of decision making. Dolores concluded with the hope that this reality would be taken into account in the course of the current workshop and that some resolutions would be suggested.

Maarten then explained the title of the workshop: 'Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe'. He also thanked the participants from the University of Santiago de Compostela. Giving a brief background of ICSF, he said that the organization had helped in the deliberations of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) published in 2014. Since then, ICSF's main task had been to ensure that governments all over the world implemented the Guidelines. He concluded with ICSF's vision and its role in supporting small-scale fishworkers all over the world.

Marta Cavallé, executive secretary of LIFE, welcomed everyone to Galicia. It was a personal journey for her to come back to Galicia to learn what was happening with respect to the ongoing challenges with governance processes, especially the process of reforming the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) of the European Union (EU). She spoke of her meeting with Brian O'Riordan of ICSF and the beginnings of LIFE as a dedicated organization to raise the voice of small-scale fishers. She was still amazed at the importance of putting the voice of small-scale fishers in the correct room at the right time. She was happy to be there to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) as she thought ICSF's proposal was a good chance to reconnect, discuss many issues, include new people and new groups in this movement and collectively address the challenges to change the status quo.

Marta Cavallé, executive secretary of LIFE, delivering the inaugural address at the workshop

Sandra Amezaga Menendez, secretary of Mulleres Salgadas, wanted to emphasize the importance of gender issues. There were as many women as men in the fisheries sector, but she wanted to look at it from the lenses of scale and fairness as well. It was very important for the participation of women in events where it was not just about women. Any event related to fisheries should have a high participation of both men and women. Dolores had been working in the sea for 30 years, had a lot of experience and could voice things professionally. But for Sandra and others, it was difficult to be here as they had lost a day's work without being at sea that day. Though there were many events about small-scale fishers, work schedules made it hard for fisherpeople to participate in them. She concluded with a note on AKTEA—the European network of fisherwomen's organizations—and their goal to give voice to women of the sea and on anything regarding the sea.

Overview and Rationale of the Workshop

Sivaja Nair of ICSF said that this workshop was a part of a series of workshops organized by ICSF all over the globe. The United Nations (UN) General Assembly had proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. IYAFA had given an opportunity to reiterate the essence of the SSF Guidelines and to promote its implementation. It was in this context that ICSF had organized three regional workshops in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This workshop was supposed to have been organized in 2022 but because of programmatic and logistical reasons, it was being held now.

These workshops had been designed to bring together representatives of small-scale fishers, fishworker associations, cooperatives, trade unions, community-based organizations (CBOs), academicians and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss challenges faced by small-scale fishers in relation to access to resources, equity, social development, gender justice and so on. Discussing women in SSF had been an integral part of these workshops, with a special focus on gender concerns in relation to all the themes.

ICSF had brought together around 150 fisher representatives through these workshops globally, and it was hoped that this would contribute significantly to the global discourse on SSF within a human-rights-based approach. All the workshops had come up with strong statements and action plans for women in fisheries, urging the policymakers to take necessary action to fulfil the unmet needs of social development, social protection and access rights of SSF. These statements were also intended to guide the future of the participating organizations. The Europe workshop was important for the region's unique contexts. Sivaja hoped that the discussions would help in defining a narrative for SSF in Europe that was sustainable and equitable and would go beyond the IYAFA to contribute to building a fair and just future and, in the process, get the story right.

Marta Cavallé began by saying that these were challenging times, with the wars in Ukraine and Gaza as well, which were shaping the scenario in Europe. The various fisheries stakeholders were also immersed in a review of the CFP process. The future was unfolding with the EU setting up a scenario where Blue Economy, energy transition and natural regeneration were going to affect small-scale fishers. It was necessary to be at the right moment in the right place in the decision-making process. With the forthcoming elections in the European parliament in the coming year and the setting up of a new commissioner, there would be new opportunities to put issues on the table.

Marta then moved on to speak of the workshop and its sessions. The first session would be convened by the University of Santiago de Compostela to design a positive narrative for the future of SSF. Access to resources, co-management, governing access to fair food systems would be some major topics covered and there would be discussions on new tools to boost these. On the final day, the focus would be on strengthening capacities of SSF and building alliances with other organizations. At the end, a statement would be drafted with the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop. There would also be a special session on gender, though this theme would also be cutting across other workshop sessions.

Session 1: Co-creating Positive Narratives of SSF in Europe

Facilitators: Ignacio Gianelli and Silvana Beatriz Juri Peralta, Equal Sea Lab Team, University of Santiago de Compostela

Introduction

Introducing the session, Maarten Bavinck said that one could talk about the negative aspects of SSF such as threats, things not going well and other difficulties. But first, an attempt would be made to talk about SSF in a positive way, to find ways towards the future, to formulate a story that would be positive and give energy.

Presentation

Ignacio Gianelli (Spanish) and Silvana Beatriz Juri Peralta (English) explained the rationale behind the idea and how the group work would proceed. The idea was to begin with a positive narrative

as narratives were the core of creating change in the world, transforming different aspects and unlocking the future. To do this, the participants had to exercise their imagination and collective creativity by working in groups. The goal was to create inspiring narratives detached from the present and shape them to portray desirable and equitable futures for SSF. It meant travelling to the future without losing touch with what mattered right then in the present. These insights could then illuminate the transformations and actions needed.

To make change happen, one must first imagine the change needed. Visions could act as inspirations to capture the desired common goals that matter to a collective of people. Narratives of change could tell a story about the world, about the way people live and work in terms of activities, norms, etc. They could shed light on the direction to follow in terms of the changes and actions to be embarked on and with whom. Narratives could be guides towards transformations in the present.

It could be a challenge to imagine a different future. It must be thought of not as a forecast or continuation of the past and present, but as that which could be agreed upon together as the ideal, the hope. One must let go of the prevailing logic and constraints, the present, the status quo. To do this, the participants' groups would have to have new ideas, differences, diversity and creativity. There were no wrong ideas; what was radical once, might not be so in the future.

The idea was to imagine futures rooted in present 'seeds'. Seeds were initiatives that existed and could be promising for the future, but were not yet practices, institutions or projects that had already been mainstreamed. These seeds could create or inspire further change towards better trajectories. Seeds would capture what the participants currently valued or were already doing well, and hence some of the participants could be seeds too. The seeds would become the starting point to imagine a world in which they 'matured'. The seeds would act as an inspiration to explore aspects of the participants' desired futures and to create a narrative about them.

The team had collected some initiatives or seeds from Europe. The participants were also represented in these seeds as they were already leading some of the practices and projects worth considering for the future. The participants would be better placed to decide what had worked and what had not, and they would also know about other seeds they could present. There were cards on the table presenting some of the initiatives. These were diverse and captured a range of things, highlighting

Ignacio Gianelli and Silvana Beatriz Juri Peralta, Equal Sea Lab, University of Santiago de Compostela introducing the first session to the participants

different goals and outcomes. Some focused on equity, while others on technology, traditional knowledge, etc. The cards were to be the starting point for the exercise.

The facilitators shared two examples they had already worked out. The first was about the futures of the high seas. With the existing multiple challenges and policy gaps, they had imagined how these and exclusive economic zones could be redefined. An image had been created as an artistic outcome of the exercise, and it was shared with the participants. It portrayed the potential futures in the high seas in which different elements were seen from different viewpoints. For example, from the viewpoint of the underwater, the following were represented in a futuristic way: the connection with the species underwater, the communication between vessels, etc. The images were a means of inspiration to help capture some possible ideas for the future, such as sustainable form of living, the redistribution of resources with equitable access, the stewardship of the high seas taking into consideration its limits, the adoption of a whole-system approach emphasizing long-term thinking, the grant of legal rights to nature, etc. Different actions linked with different indicators were suggested on how to advance towards this reimagined future.

The second example was from Uruguay which captured the future of SSF. The facilitators had created an image to represent the shared vision for SSF, with the common ideas and values that had emerged during the exercise. Through this, they highlighted the importance of collective work, looking after the environment, pursuing a more balanced diet, not losing touch with artisanal practices, the value of women's work, the need to incorporate new technologies and so on. They also identified actions for the collective to start working on. These helped guide the facilitators on the next steps as a collective.

Keeping in line with ethical practices research, all participants were requested to sign a document of informed consent recognizing all participants as collective authors of whatever would be created during the session.

The first part of the session was 'Moving from the Present to the Future'. The idea was to begin from seeds and consider: how it would look like when it matured; what would happen if its different aspects were to be mainstreamed; what would happen to the environment; the political implications; the values highlighted; social and cultural aspects; and equity. The participants were to move from first-order to second-order implications. Connections, synergies, contrasts or conflicts were to be identified. Up to three seeds would be chosen to create three 'wills'. The next step would be to draft the skeleton of the vision for the future with facilitators helping the participants. Using characters could help tell the story, and so the facilitators suggested some characters such as Anti, Justus, Neptune and Fucus, with predefined descriptions. If these did not fit the stories, participants could bring in new ideas or characters. In the last part of the workshop, the participants would use these characters to share what the future would look like in the form of a story. The groups were to make their presentations during the plenary session.

Ignacio and Silvana's presentation can be accessed at: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IYAFA_Europe_Workshop-Presentation-_-Facilitation-_-Galicia-SSF-Futures.pdf

Questions

A participant enquired about the time period for the future. The facilitators clarified that there was no limitation and it was up to each group to decide, but it was sufficiently far into the future that current restrictions would not apply, perhaps not just 10 years but 50–100 years.

Group Work

The participants were divided into five groups and were given colour codes. The group activity was extensive, starting with the selection of 'seeds' (existing initiatives in Europe which had the potential to offer an equitable future for the SSF in Europe). The participants were asked to imagine a future and identify aspects they would see in this idealistic future. They were also asked to bring linkages between these aspects and cluster them, for example, the different aspects under sustainable fisheries, Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) rights, gender justice and so on.

Participants engaged in the group work of Session 1: 'Co-creating Positive Narratives of SSF in Europe'

Once the discussion sessions in all the groups were completed, the respective groups made their presentations at the plenary.

Summary of Group Presentations

Green Group

The first group focused on both the responsibility of the SSF communities as well as the policy interventions necessary to benefit them and safeguard their rights. In the envisioned future, SSF across Europe would be underpinned by policies that would ensure social equity, sustainability and transparency. These fisheries would be known for their transparent practices, from catch to landing, ensuring the integrity of the seafood supply chain. An efficient control mechanism would be in place, supported by a robust legal framework that would prevent overfishing and would maintain healthy marine stocks and ecosystems. This sustainable practice would have strengthened the social fabric within fisheries communities, garnering significant respect and value.

Social	• Strengthened social fabric in SSF communities; respect and value for fishers; inclusivity of young men and women as well as Indigenous Peoples.
Political	• SSF well-represented in decision-making institutions and is central to fisheries policy management.
Values	• Emphasis on transparency, sustainability, democratic and egalitarian organizational structures.
Equity	• Access to natural resources for SSF communities, ensuring intergenerational equity.
Environmental	• Practices aligned with natural ecosystem cycles with a focus on maintaining healthy marine stocks.
Technological	• Efficient control mechanisms supported by robust legal frameworks; integrity in the seafood supply chain.

SSF would be well represented within decision-making institutions, ensuring their voice and needs become central to fisheries policy management. Alternative markets for seafood would have become mainstream, providing a stable and fair income, ensuring that becoming a fisher would be a desirable and respected profession. There would be a strong emphasis on democratic and egalitarian organizational structures within the fisheries sector.

Guaranteed access to natural resources for SSF communities would be established, empowering them to manage and utilize these resources without compromising future generations' ability to do the same. Young men and women, including Indigenous Peoples, would be prominent within the sector, bringing diversity and vitality. They would have a deep appreciation for wild fish, supporting practices aligned with the natural cycles of the ecosystem. The economic system would be reoriented to prioritize social and environmental well-being over profit, marking a shift towards a more holistic approach to industry success.

Beige Group

In its vision for the future, the second group focused on gender equality, traditional fishing communities and knowledge, and sustainability. In the ideal future, local communities would wield significant power and influence over their maritime resources. Gender equality would not just be an aspiration but a reality, with equal opportunities for all. The workforce would be diverse, contributing to a rich tapestry of experiences and insights that would drive the sector forward.

Heritage would not only be preserved but also actively enhanced, embracing both the marine (blue) and terrestrial (green) aspects of coastal life. Employment within SSF would not just be high but also deeply connected to the health of fish stocks, with added value seen through innovative practices. Decision-making processes would be enriched by diversity, collaboration and a public better educated about the importance of marine conservation.

Exploitation of people, nature and the world would have significantly reduced as a more holistic vision of fishing would have taken root. This vision would encompass not just the act of fishing but also the wider community and social issues interplaying with the industry, leading to a more sustainable and ethical approach to fisheries management.

Blue Group

This group envisaged a fishery managed by a coalition of stakeholders with shared goals and principles. In this system, the social aspects of fisheries would be recognized and management decisions would be made taking into consideration local and traditional knowledge along with scientific advice.

There would be better communication and connection between the fishers and consumers. Digital tools would be developed in this regard. The consumers would know more about the fish they consumed—in terms of the species, the way it was caught, the location it was caught and the gear

used. They would also understand the connection between seasonality and availability of resources, and consumption patterns would embrace these changes. Hence, fish stocks would not be depleted and over-exploited to cater to unreasonable expectations.

The future fisheries would be gender just and address the specific needs and challenges of female fishers and fishworkers.

Social	• Social aspects of fisheries including that of cultural heritage and social protection are considered in the management process; better working conditions and employment generation.
Political	• Collaborative management structures in place with multi-stakeholder engagement.
Values	• Consideration to local and traditional knowledge; consumers are connected to the entire process of the value chain.
Equity	• Equitable opportunity for men, women and youth, including Indigenous Peoples.
Environmental	• Nature is valued and resources used sustainably.
Technological	• Inclusive and efficient technological/digital tools for communication, sea safety and market access.

Yellow Group

In its vision for the future, this group chose to imagine technological advance towards the betterment of both SSF communities and marine conservation. Young fisherpeople would lead prosperous lives, with their work supporting coastal communities and enhancing the marine environment. SSF would benefit from innovative access and resource allocation methods that would challenge traditional privatization, emphasizing common good and public trust.

SSF would not merely survive; they would thrive. Marine species populations would rebound to historic levels, indicating a successful balance between fishing activities and marine conservation. Relationships within the sector would be standardized yet democratic, fostering trust and cooperation.

Communities and ecosystems would not be seen as separate entities but as interconnected, with the health of one directly influencing the other. Low-impact fishing craft would be given priority, reflecting a commitment to minimal environmental disturbance and sustainable practices.

Social	• Prosperity and support for coastal communities; democratic and standardized relationships within the sector.
Political	• Challenging traditional privatization with innovative access and resource allocation methods emphasizing public trust.
Values	• Interconnectedness of communities and ecosystems; prioritizing common good.
Equity	• Emphasizing low-impact fishing for minimal environmental disturbance.
Environmental	• Rebounded marine species populations; harmony between fishing activities and conservation.
Technological	• Use of low-impact fishing vessels as a commitment to sustainable practices.

Red Group

The vision for SSF in this narrative was one of an unblemished ocean teeming with biodiversity, with the sea restored to its natural, pristine state. Pollution would be a thing of the past, and technology would be used not to dominate nature but to support a balanced and respectful coexistence with it.

Communities would live in harmony with the ocean, valuing all fish species and practising sustainable fishing that would not deplete resources. SSF would be recognized as self-sufficient and would be highly valued by society. They would be empowered and play a united role in policymaking, ensuring the availability of adequate funds for control measures and enforcement.

SSF would be at the heart of the ocean economy, driving it with principles of sustainability and inclusivity. Governance would be decentralized, with small-scale fishers joining larger networks to share experiences and best practices. Access to healthy and affordable food would be a universal right. Cultural practices would be deeply connected to traditional ecological and indigenous knowledge, preserving the past while innovating for the future.

Storytelling Exercise

While the facilitators were building the integrated narrative, a storytelling exercise took place in which the participants had to select from a list of imaginary characters (like Justus) and bring in the aspects they had mentioned during the group discussions to develop and narrate a story around the character. Below were the outcomes:

Green Group

The group titled their story 'Justus Brings Justice' and imagined Justus as a young woman from an indigenous community relying on fishing. The story envisaged the collapse of fisheries owing to unsustainable practices of fishing. In this context, Justus would bring together young men and women from the community and collate traditional knowledge on sustainable practices from the elderly. The young fishers would put these into practice to replenish the fish stocks in their region. They would also collectively decide to share the resources equitably, to ensure social development of communities and to thrive in harmony with nature. In this new era, everyone would know how to fish the low-impact way and how to share fish. In this new world, everyone would fish together in a fair and sustainable way and would then enjoy delicious food again.

Red Group

This group titled their story 'Balance in a Seashell'. Every day, Pat and Fucus would meet on the sunny beach to exchange ideas and share information. One day, they would find a way to hack human mind. This would pave way for all human and non-human beings to be connected. They would all develop a sense of empathy and reciprocity. As a result, the environment would be kept in balance and everyone would be happy.

Alongside, the group also discussed some pressing questions regarding SSF. One of the questions was on SSF's governance—'How are SSF governed and by whom?' The groups identified that it had to be done by decentralized bodies in collaboration with the communities. The second question that the group discussed was that of culture—'What defines culture?' The group identified that culture was rooted in traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous knowledge. A few points to look forward to were that of clean and biodiverse oceans; well-connected SSF networks based on trust and reciprocity; and synchronization of local ecological knowledge of experienced fishers with new skills of the youth.

Beige Group

This group reimagined civilization as a whole. There would be a 'culture point zero', which would mark the beginning of life on earth. There would be a new dimension called 'oceanosphera' that would interact with all the processes and life forms on earth. There would be respect for the rights of nature and human beings as well as collective welfare. This would be a world where everyone would talk the same language so that the meaning of communication was not lost in the process. There would be harmony between humans and nature. Thus, with the oceans taken care of, the planet would heal by itelself.

Blue Group

The character chosen by the group was Pat. Pat would visit the local pub every day. They would have a box system in the pub, in which people would put local produce. One day, the box would be empty. So, Pat would build coalitions with like-minded people to collect and distribute the local goods equally. The next time when Pat would go to the pub, the box would be full.

The group imagined that in future people would be more connected to nature and to each other.

Yellow Group

The group looked at two questions: on what the world and the sea would look like and on the state of justice and equity in SSF.

The title of the group's story was 'Not Just About the Fish'. Every day, the coasts and ocean would suffer disintegration, until one day Justus would decide to end privatization and restore democracy and fair relationships. Because of this, young fishers and communities would begin making a good living. They would also live in harmony with the marine environment. Diatom (another imaginary character), a new prototype, would be responsible for guiding the democratic process with particular focus on gender equity. Justus and diatom would together drive the renewal of the ecosystem as well as sustainable cultural diversity. Finally, in the fisheries, there would be a change to an adaptive and collaborative approach.

Sharing Reflections

Following the presentation of the stories, the participants shared some reflections. Maarten Bavinck talked about the essence of dreams and fairy tales and what they might suggest about ideas and motivations.

Katina Roumbedakis reflected on the difficulty of thinking positively. Though the participants had struggled with having only negative thoughts in the beginning of the exercise, as the activity progressed, positivity had begun to slowly build up.

Another participant had approached the exercise as just a fun game, but through it learnt that everyone faced much the same barriers and wanted to see similar futures.

Expressing the need to move beyond drafting documents and letters, Jeremy Percy spoke of the necessity to take revolutionary steps towards achieving their goals.

Andrea Ferrante from a farming community expressed that their community too had the same agenda, and it was necessary to work together to translate all this energy into action.

Integrated Narrative

Building the Narrative

A framework with time on the X axis and dominance/predominance on the Y axis was used to capture the discussions. The seeds were clustered at the beginning of the graph, representing the present. Five different futures were envisaged. Description reports were used to show how the futures could develop. The facilitators also recognized that the visioning process was not outside the current dominances/predominances of the system in force every day, which had to be redefined in time for this new system to develop. The facilitators hoped to continue the discussions over the week of the workshop, to add new points to the pathways and to build on the pathways towards the futures.

The Narrative

In the envisioned future, Europe's small-scale fishers would thrive under equitable and transparent policies that would prioritize environmental sustainability. These policies would nurture a strong community ethos, with a diverse and gender-balanced workforce where fishing would be a respected profession. Decision making would be inclusive, with fishers central to policy management and innovative markets offering fair pricing.

Local empowerment would be key, with communities stewarding their marine resources and preserving cultural heritage. Employment would be interwoven with conservation, ensuring vibrant fish stocks. Technological advances would support this balance, enhancing rather than dominating natural ecosystems.

Fishers would enjoy a good quality of life, with young generations actively engaged in sustainable practices, valuing low-impact fishing and the rejuvenation of marine life. The ocean economy would be robust, driven by self-reliant fishers who would be integral to policymaking and would be backed by sufficient control and enforcement resources.

Governance would be decentralized, fostering networks that would share knowledge and best practices. Access to healthy food would become universal, supported by traditions and ecological wisdom, setting a standard for a sustainable and inclusive industry where community and ecosystem health would become one and the same thing. In this future, the relationship between people and the sea would not only be maintained but also be celebrated.

Social	• Keywords: Community, Respect, Diversity, Inclusivity, Heritage, Prosperity. • Message: Strengthening the social fabric within fisheries communities by ensuring respect, values, and inclusivity of diverse groups, including young and Indigenous Peoples, and fostering a deep connection to coastal life and heritage.
Political	• Keywords: Representation, Empowerment, Decentralization, Influence, Public Trust. • Message: Enhancing representation and empowerment of SSF in decision making, with a focus on decentralized governance and empowering local communities to influence maritime resource management.
Values	• Keywords: Sustainability, Transparency, Democratic, Conservation, Holistic, Balance. • Message: Committing to sustainability, transparency and democratic principles in fisheries practices and organizations, with an emphasis on holistic marine conservation, and balancing social, environmental and technological aspects.
Equity	• Keywords: Intergenerational Equity, Gender Equality, Access, Empowerment, Food Security. • Message: Promoting intergenerational equity and access to resources for SSF communities, realizing gender equality with equal opportunities, and ensuring universal access to healthy and affordable food.
Environmental	• Keywords: Conservation, Ecosystem Health, Minimal Disturbance, Pristine State, Biodiversity. • Message: Focusing on maintaining healthy marine stocks and ecosystem health, committing to minimal environmental disturbance, working towards the restoration of oceans to a pristine state, and ensuring biodiversity conservation.
Technological	• Keywords: Innovation, Low-Impact, Sustainability, Ethical Management, Supportive Technology. • Message: Utilizing efficient control mechanisms and innovation in fishing practices for sustainability, adopting low-impact fishing technology to support ethical and balanced fisheries management.

The Artist's Expression

Ignacio Gianelli shared the illustration that the artist Nove Noel had made on the first day of the workshop. Prints of the illustration were available for participants to engage with. The artist's expression is given below.

OJO DE PEZ

En fotografía, el ojo de pez es un objetivo ultra ancho que permite una visión panorámica y distorsionado. Lo que da pie a puntos de vista nuevos.

Imaxinamos un mundo donde la industria desaforada ha tocado fondo y nuestro sexto sentido nos guía a mirar más alla. A ser guiados por nuestra intuición como la luz de un faro. Podemos soñar que nos sentamos juntas y tomamos las decisiones correctas guiadas por la justicia, las apropiadas para sanar la tierra. Buscar la semilla donde casi ya se había olvidado y ofrecérsela a las más jovenes. Ayudarles a cuidar sus raices, a regarlas y a disfrutar viendo como crece una nueva era atravesándolo todo. Quizás haya que buscar donde antes no habíamos mirado. Ponernos en la piel del pescado.

" Me entrego al camino,
confío en que lo entenderé
cuando lo tenga que
entender"

Marta Pazos

(..) Ademais non lle importa
que non te atrevas:
Todo o que escribo se
convirte en realidade.

María Lado

The text that accompanied the artwork read:

'We imagine a world where rampant industry has hit rock bottom, and our sixth sense guides us to look beyond. To be guided like the light of a lighthouse. We can dream that we sit together and make the right decisions guided by justice, the right ones to heal the earth. Find the seed that had almost been forgotten and offer it to the youngest one. Help them take care of the roots, water them and enjoy watching a new era grow through everything. Maybe we have to look where we haven't looked before, put ourselves in the skin of the fish.'

DAY 2: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Field Visit

A field visit was organized with women shellfish harvesters to learn about their roles in fisheries, their organizations and networks, how they were working to address some of the challenges they faced, and their vision for the future.

The participants visited the Castelete Beach to see the mollusc gatherers in action and discussed their co-management processes. Later on, the participants visited the fish market at Vilanova de Arousa to understand the sorting and valuation processes.

Participants of the workshop at the fish market in Vilanova de Arousa during their field visit

Session 2-1: Governing Access to Fishery Resources and Fishing Areas

Chairperson: Marta Cavallé

Marta Cavallé introduced the session on governance, first in the general sense and then specifically in terms of access to resources and co-management in the fisheries sector as a tool of governance to achieve fair food system.

Historical Context and Current Challenges—Jeremy Percy, LIFE

Jeremy Percy used the example of the UK to speak of the situation of small-scale fishers in general. Everyone was facing the same challenges, whether one was fishing from a canoe off the African coast watching large, often Dutch, supertrawlers catching everything outside one's control or whether one was working a very well-equipped small fishing craft in European waters watching one's catches decline year on year mainly due to large-scale fisheries.

Across the world, 492 million people were engaged in fisheries, of which 60 million were employed in SSF and 53 million engaged in subsistence fisheries, accounting for 90% employment in capture fisheries and an income revenue of 77 billion USD. There were 45 million women in SSF, which

meant 4 of 10 people in SSF were women. The numbers probably ignored a very important point, that for every man out at sea, there was a woman at home, looking after the family, doing the books, keeping everything together, ordering equipment, selling fish and so on. This was a hidden group of people.

In the UK (and figures would probably be similar in Europe), in 1995, there were 20,000 fishers. In 2016, the number was 12,000, and now there were 10,000. Despite the huge improvement in technology, vessels, electronics, nets, engines, etc., they were using 17 times the effort to capture the same quantity of fish as they did in 1900. In just 100 years, the annual UK catch went from 1.2 million ton to 0.4 million ton, down by more than 60%. Even now, with the latest scientific advice for next year's allocations, out of 22 main quota species, there were only 5 fisheries with an increasing quota, and the combined quota of these fisheries came up to 70%. As for the other 17, adding the decrease in the percentage of stocks they were allowed to catch, it came to 929%. Clearly, things were still moving in the wrong direction. In the UK (and in Europe), SSF fleet was 79%, 4 out of every 5 fishing craft in the UK were small-scale, employed 50% of the workforce, yet they had access to only about 3% of the national quota. Unfortunately, it was not all about the fish. In the UK, small craft fished from the government's pool, they did not fish from their own quota. The stock they were allowed to catch was only half of what they were earlier allowed. But even when they got better quotas, there was no fish left to catch.

SSF therefore needed a new narrative. The speaker referenced 'doughnut economics', putting people and planet before profit. Small-scale fishers had not made significant changes despite being in the room and hence a new narrative was needed. This was where scientists, especially social scientists, would have to come in. It was not possible to have a conversation about fish stock or quotas or access because large-scale fishers dominated all of this. But, governments and civil servants would listen to the importance of small-scale fishers in a social and economic sense if put forward in proper scientific terms by social scientists. Governments were beginning to realize that the level of deprivation in coastal communities was much higher than in their rural inland equivalents. So, they were beginning to realize that something had to be done.

The progress being made was too slow. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) had recently decided to take action against countries that were overfishing or illegally fishing. This was a crucial step towards building a culture of compliance essential to start rebuilding Mediterranean fish populations. This would come into force in 2025, and together the 22 GFCM

Jeremy Percy offering a talk on the historical context of European fisheries' governance in the first session of the workshop

member states and the EU could take action if a member failed to stop its trawl fleet from fishing in no-trawl areas or if a member did not respect GFCM rules for fishing gear or catch restrictions.

The speaker gave an example of dealing with a regulatory issue in the EU. There was a pending court case initiated by LIFE's French members against the 2017 French allocation of bluefin tuna quotas. The French government was supposed to allocate quotas based on track record, socio-economic balance, market orientation and environmental sustainability in line with Article 17 of the CFP. The court found that the allocation method was not in accordance with EU standards as set out in Article 17 and the environmental criteria were neither defined nor integrated into the bluefin tuna quota allocation system. But the French government appealed against this. (LIFE was yet to be intimated about the details of the appeal or the dates of the next hearing.)

In the UK, there was a new fishery act with a lot of good objectives. But in reality, the speaker emphasized in his conclusion, this was the last chance for small-scale fishers, and it was possible to do this only with the help of scientists, especially social scientists. It was not possible for small-scale fishers to do it alone.

Perspective on SSF of Scotland—Bally Philip, Coordinator, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation (SCFF)

The SCFF was one of the organizations in Scotland to exclusively advocate for small-scale and artisanal creel fishermen and one of the two organizations who were members of LIFE. Bally Philip first defined small-scale fishers to contextualize the rest of his arguments. Small-scale fishers would have craft under 12 metres long, employ 1–3 people, fish within 12 miles of the shore, with trips usually less than 24 hours, and mostly deploy static gear. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund defined a small-scale fishing craft as one less than 12 metres and not using towed fishing gear.

Bally then spoke about the case they had presented to the Scottish government on spatial management in their inshore fisheries. In Scotland, small-scale fishing groups had argued based on the CFP's Article 17 that the government should give preferential access to fishing opportunities to small-scale and artisanal fishers. Though in the post-Brexit legislation Scotland had a legal obligation to incentivize low-impact fisheries, currently there was no mechanism in place for this.

Bally Philip, coordinator of Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation (SCFF), talking on 'Perspective on SSF of Scotland'

So there was no spatial management of any kind in Scotland. However, in close-by Norway with similar fisheries, there was a 12-mile limit on the use of towed gear. Norway had a thriving artisanal small-scale fishery. In contrast, Scotland's SSF were expected to compete directly with larger-scale and more industrial fisheries.

But small-scale fishers made up the majority in Scotland, catching about 5% of landings by weight and 10% of landings by value and employing the vast majority of fishers. There was no accurate definition of low-impact gear; it could be defined as a function of both method and management. Most people would agree on the higher impact of towed demersal gear such as trawling and dredging given their extensive disturbance of sea beds and their poor selectivity. In Scotland, the principal low-impact gear was pots or creels. The creels could be placed only where trawlers and dredgers did not operate. Currently, trawlers and dredgers could operate right up to the shore in the country. This, however, had not always been the case.

From 1889–1984, Scotland prohibited dredging and trawling up to 3 miles from land and had closed their inland seas. In 1960, larger areas where trawling had not been allowed earlier were opened up. Following this, landings increased quite dramatically until they peaked in the 1970s, and then they began to decline. In 1984, the 3-mile limit was opened to trawling, and fish landings increased just for a year. Vessel monitoring pings showed the extensive footprint of trawling in the Clyde River and the lack of space for non-trawling fishing craft.

So long as this situation persisted, there was little opportunity for small-scale craft. It was not just in the UK that the legislation called for protection and incentivization of small-scale craft; the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) too called for the protection of access to fishing opportunities for small-scale and artisanal fishers.

Small-scale fishing craft produced more employment per ton of wet fish; the numbers were different for each species and each area, but the trend was always the same. Small-scale artisanal fishers produced superior number of jobs per ton of fish. The trend was also true for revenues. In general, small-scale fishing craft produced more revenue per ton of fish. The trend was also true for environmental impact.

There were no finfish left to be caught in Scotland's inland waters anymore. Scallop dredging and trawling was far more impactful on the seabed than any other, despite there being a legal obligation not to disturb the seabed. The extent of seabed disturbance in Scottish waters was estimated to be at a high level of 58%, whereas to meet legal commitments, it should be 15%. Even if all the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Scotland were closed to trawling, it would not meet this requirement. So how was it to be met?

The speaker gave the example of Lyme Bay from the south of England, where an extensive area was closed to trawling, and now the area was thriving. Such examples demonstrated that spatial management was the way to incentivize low-impact and small-scale fisheries. Extensive spatial management of high-impact and low-impact fisheries would not only protect fishing jobs in the coastal communities but also facilitate meeting commitments for marine conservation. The Fisheries Act obliged them to introduce ecosystem-based fisheries management plans, and this had the potential to facilitate the required spatial management. Large-scale and high-impact fisheries should not be allowed to displace SSF that offered superior social, economic and environmental outcomes. He concluded that ultimately, protecting fishing jobs and the environment came down to using the right gear in the right place at the right time.

Perspective on SSF of the Irish Isles—Seamus Bonner, Irish Islands Marine Resource Organization (IIMRO)/Board Member, LIFE

Seamus Bonner spoke about IIMRO's experience in access to resources. IIMRO was a cooperative organization, recognized by the EU as a producer organization and was affiliated to LIFE. Their members were based on the offshore islands off the west coast of Ireland. There were 2,700 islanders in total in Ireland living in very small communities dotted along the coast from Donegal to Cork. The island Seamus lived on had 500 people. Despite the small population, the islands were dependent on fishing, with island fishing craft making up 5.5% of the Irish fleet.

Seamus Bonner from IIMRO talking on 'Perspective on SSF of the Irish Isles'

IIMRO had 45 members who all used small fishing craft with an average size of 8 metres. The fishers started organizing themselves in 2006 after salmon fishing was ended. They worked with policymakers, and in 2012, the islands were included in the CFP, and they thought their problems were over. But they learnt that if something was not mandatory and spelt out in the rules, it did not tend to happen.

In 2014 they worked with different political parties. A government report was produced with 29 recommendations. One of those was on access to resource: to issue heritage licence to island fishers. The idea was to enable a traditional seasonal fishery inside the 6-mile limit and to give 1% of the national quota to island-registered fishing craft and vessels. In 2017, it was introduced as a bill. However, there were problems raised by the EU and they were now trying to figure out how to move forward. While IIMRO had engaged constructively, it was not enough to make meaningful changes to the law or the rules. Their experience showed that steps taken were usually blocked by vested interests. More had to be done to organize collectively with other small-scale fishers and rules had to be changed at all levels—from local and country level up to the advisory council level at the EU. The rules had to be mandatory, practical and explicit. At a political level, it was necessary to engage with decision makers, concluded the speaker.

Discussion

A discussion was held on the following question: 'What are the challenges, opportunities and strategies to boost the existing tools to achieve fair access to resources or do we need to create new ones?'

Maarten Bavinck pointed out to Bally Philip that while he had spoken about right gear and right place, he had not spoken about the right time. Bally responded that it was difficult to answer that question. He emphasized that gear with superior social, environmental and economic outcomes should be given preferential access rights or should be incentivized. In Scotland, that might mean reinstating the limit near the shore. But it could also mean more quota or gear allocation for individuals or groups adopting innovations leading to superior social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Jerry de Ruiter wanted to know about the difference in fuel consumption per ton of fish between large-scale vessels and small-scale fishing craft, especially with the looming questions on climate

change emissions. Jeremy Percy said that there were cases where small fishing craft used more fuel per kilo of fish than larger ones. But a lot of the very large trawlers used heavy oil that was far more polluting than diesel. He also reminded the audience about the move towards electric. Seamus Bonner pointed out how the bigger pelagic vessels were arguing that they were catching more fish with the same quantity of fuel and were more efficient, and hence asked for access to more resources. It was necessary to counter that argument.

Jose Pascal said that the division into small-scale and large-scale was flawed. In some areas, small-scale fishing craft were classified as large-scale and in some large-scale fleets, there were a lot of mid-sized fishing craft. He said that a trawler had more catches per volume of fuel than the very large industrial fishers.

This arose because of the use of a single metric, responded Bally. It was important to measure social, economic and environmental outcomes together. We must ask ourselves which of these should be prioritized. For example, a trawler could catch more prawns for less fuel than small-scale fishers but the latter could employ 4 times more people with a tiny fraction of the environmental footprint.

A participant said that he came from a place where there were 2 trawlers and around 350 small-scale fishing craft under 12 metres in length. There were problems related to climate change that had to be considered. Citing the example of the mariscadoras who had to remove algae from the mudflats as they created problems for shellfish, he said he was from a place where the waters were warming fast and there was extensive tropicalization. A number of tropical species were coming into the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal. Earlier, the trawlers used to lead the fleet out to sea, trawling one behind the other, followed by the small-scale fishers. When the trawlers were banned, there was a rapid expansion of algae (which used to be automatically removed by the trawlers' action). As a result, the fisheries collapsed and now there were no SSF either. In the Mediterranean, climate change impacts were rapid leading to challenges such as toxic pufferfish; other impacts could be opportunities, such as increased numbers of lionfish which were highly prized but dangerous. The fact remained that it was the small-scale fishers who were once again paying the price because the changes were happening more in the shallow waters where the small-scale fishers were most active.

Seamus said that this was the reason for being pragmatic. The models had to be dynamic, because changes would happen both for low-impact gear and in the environment.

Maarten Bavinck, ICSF, raising a question on challenges with regard to the existing tools to achieve fair access to fishery resources

Caroline Anne Bennett had heard that the loss in carbon sequestering from dredged scallops and trawl fisheries was colossal. She felt it was an opportunity to show that SSF were less fuel intensive and their impact on the seabed carbon sequestering was far less.

Cornelie Quist said that in the Netherlands, a trawling country, many fishing craft were being decommissioned and fishers were moving to other occupations. It was important to have different type of fishers, and perhaps this transition could be encouraged by a change in fisheries education, even at the school level.

Bally said that incentivizing more low-impact fishers might mean less fuel use and less environmental pressure, and this could be done through space or quota or opportunity based on social, economic or environmental outcomes. It was necessary to understand what must be prioritized. If the priority was jobs, then it was necessary to create space where small-scale fishers had more opportunity.

Jeremy said that the government was not clear about what they wanted and had not asked what the fishers wanted. Baselines were shifting. When he was a young fisherman, a number of fishing craft with one or two fishers each would set out from small harbours along the coast. They would not appear on any economist's spreadsheet but they were catching fish, buying fuel, supporting families and creating shore-based jobs. Now there was just one large vessel catching all the fish, with more than half the quota and usually foreign owned. The government had a choice of going with the current privatization of allowing just one large foreign-owned and foreign-crewed vessel, or they could use Article 17 (section 25 now in the UK) for employing social, environmental and economic criteria which would bring back a lot of those small fishing craft and all those businesses. The frustration was that the law was already there but the government was not using it.

A participant emphasized that quantitative parameters did not define a productive system; it was necessary to incorporate qualitative criteria that would give priority to small-scale over large-scale fisheries. A narrative had to be built about productive systems that were more sustainable than others; this would give the government strength and power to implement. A system had to be developed in which the states would agree on that measured sustainability. There was a group working on that aspect and there was a proposal with those criteria for the vision in Spain.

Paula Barbeito said that most of the general society did not know that small-scale fishers were the heroes. In Sweden, she came to know that small-scale fishers were thought of as enemies. That was a huge problem. It was necessary to build a narrative in the larger society. Now there was a momentum because people were becoming aware of climate change and more fair and sustainable food systems. Hence it was necessary to bring people in and build the narrative together which would enable the community to grow and get attention from the government.

Session 2-1: Summary—Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- **Overfishing and depleted stocks**
- **Inequitable quota distribution**
- **Economic and social disparities**
- **Under-representation of small-scale fishworkers**
- **Lack of societal recognition**

Opportunities/Strategies

- **Build new narratives in fisheries management with a holistic approach including multiple disciplines but notably social sciences**
- **Proactive measures and legal actions to address unfair practices in fishing**
- **Enhanced community engagement for equitable practices**
- **Appropriate inclusion of SSF Marine Spatial Planning to ensure their access to customary fishing grounds and resources**
- **Policy reformation and legal actions for SSF rights**
- **Community-centric initiatives**
- **Adaptive co-management and competency building**

Session 2-2: Boosting Co-management in Europe—Governing Fisheries Activities to Ensure Fairness, Equity, Sustainability and Viability in the Context of the Blue Economy

Facilitator: Marta Cavallé

Evolution of Governance as a Normative Concept and Civilization Idiom—Javier Seijo, University of Santiago de Compostela

Javier Seijo's presentation focused on factors of good governance, especially good marine governance in international communities. The themes he touched upon included practice, advantages/benefits of democratic governance for producers and public administrations, exemplary cases of good governance, and typology of management instruments for good marine governance.

Javier saw governance as an ideal normative concept that spoke to society on how to govern, which included organizing, establishing a process, policy of practice and point of view, and regulation and decision in an area in which a social group is confirmed as an organization. In the case Javier was talking about, this was producers, workers, fishers and shellfish gatherers.

Democratization should also bring into account the progress of the process of democratization, that too in a participatory manner. It should incorporate social conflict in the political arena and in the decision-making process. Social innovations and democratic innovations should also be included in the political process. Governance should be just and political process should be recognizable. Using an illustration, Javier explained that governments usually addressed equality but not equity. It was necessary to go for equity to give voice to the just. Management should be based on people and resources. It must be incorporated in a participative culture where socio-economic and environmental indicators must be clear. There should be integrated management; sustainability and climate change must be incorporated; MPA should be promoted at different levels; and co-management and other tools must be included. Fisheries management could be improved with new structures of governance and for positive relationships. The confidence of institutions must be improved, with transparency and accountability norms, to improve overall wellbeing.

He mentioned the following examples for improved governance: integrated management, participatory budgets, co-management and co-creation. In co-management, the move would be from a centralized to a decentralized government where the power would lie in co-decisions. Co-management had already been achieved in many different legal frameworks, in Portugal, Galicia, etc.

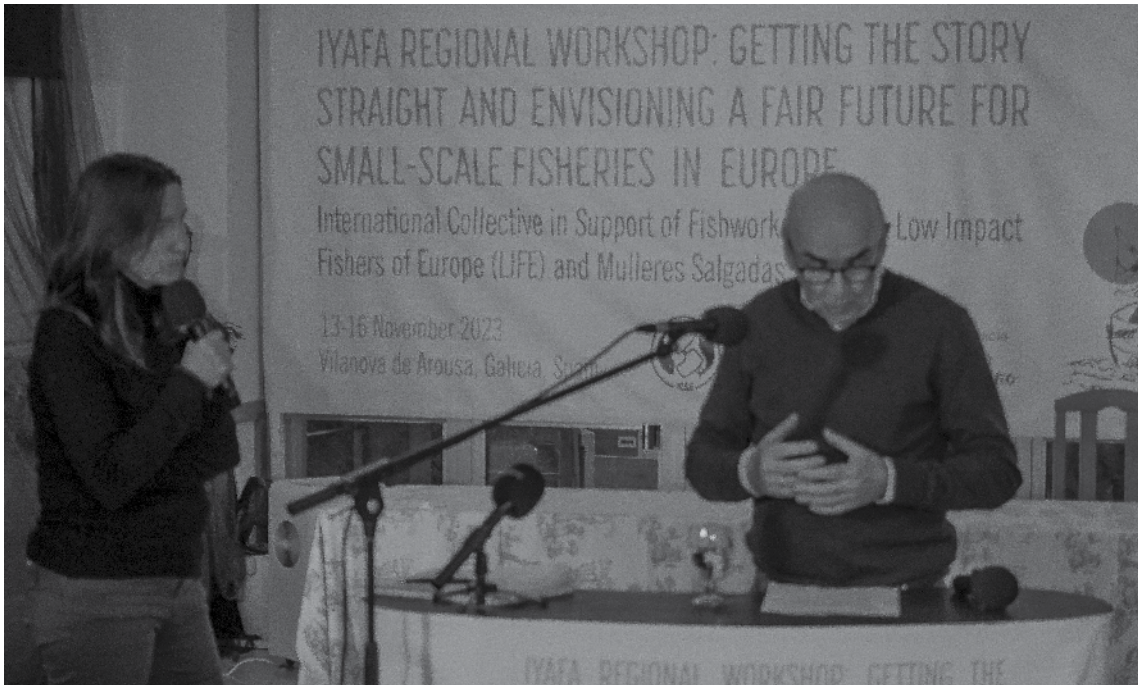
The learning process of the participatory aspect must be taken into account. Collective intelligence should also be improved.

Good governance could be a tool to make organizations and people function with greater collaboration and understanding in a world with declining trust in government, industry, science and other institutions. Thus, good governance would consist of fostering trust, equity, justice and ensuring the eco-responsibility of decision makers in an ecological system and would include participation in public law in a conscious way, with best practices and institutions, with a balance in the economic, social and environmental development of society at large.

The presentation can be accessed at: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IYAFA_Europe_Vilagarcia_javierseijo.pdf

Adaptability of SSF—Antonio Garcia Allut, Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible (Lonxanet Foundation for Sustainable Fishing)

Small-scale fishers were not an anachronism, began Antonio. He then talked in detail about SSF. Small-scale fishers were in rural areas, other types of areas and in all ecosystems. Small-scale fishing was still alive because of the capacity of adaptation, diversity in different contexts and the culture of subsistence and resistance. Small-scale fishing was a strategy of life based on nature and relatively moderate immersion of capital to access production, depending on the characteristics of socio-economics, territory, country or region.



Antonio Garcia Allut from Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible talking on 'Adaptability of SSF'

But there had been a decline in small-scale fishing across the world for many reasons. At the global scale, the reasons included climate change and dislocation of species. At the regional scale, it was because of the politics designed for industrial fisheries, loss of access to resources, spatial squeezing by other users such as aquaculture firms, and so on. At the local scale, the reason was generally due to decline in biodiversity. However, Antonio found it most worrying that bad practices, such as illegal fishing, were on the rise.

Next Antonio wondered about the future of SSF. Only a small sample of small-scale fishers was represented in the room. Ideally, there should be a movement of national small-scale fishers with a strong and powerful narrative that really tackled society and called for action. But, this narrative did not exist for the moment. Or, the one that existed was not sufficiently strong and hence had to be built and rebuilt.

The absence of SSF in some areas that used to be populated by small-scale fishers was an indicator of poverty and exile. But it also indicated failure of fisheries policies in each country. If there were no changes, it would also contribute to a failure of the achievement of the UNSDG's objectives that were legally binding on most countries. Under UNSDG 14, small-scale fishers were part of the global strategy to restore marine diversity.

He proposed that a new narrative incorporating SSF was needed. SSF had a low impact environmentally but a high impact socially. He called for the creation of new organizations or the strengthening of existing organizations like ICSF and LIFE; identifying and giving strength to new leaderships; and finding solutions to inefficient systems of SSF such as low political influence, lack of access to markets and the absence of participation in decision-making processes.

In response to his presentation, Marta Cavallé said that LIFE thought it crucial to improve governance, and so co-management had been a central plank of their mission. For many years, they had tried to test models of co-management politically and also to support their members and communities to achieve that. Not only LIFE but also other organizations had created a movement of co-management. One of the first co-management committees had been set up in Galicia. There had also been a momentum in the Mediterranean where there was an appetite and struggle for co-management. Showing a timeline of activities, she highlighted important milestones such as: decrees in 2002 and 2008 in Lira and Cedeira; a 2018 governance decree in Catalunya; GFCM's official declaration of making co-management the key strategy for the first time in 2018, which was legally binding on all

countries in the Mediterranean; a guidebook in 2022 from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN to evaluate fisheries co-management (though many of the cases were from the developing countries); and finally, a 2023 own-initiative procedure (INI) report on co-management in the European Parliament by Aguilera, a member of parliament (MP) from Spain. The last step was especially important, concluded Marta, as it forced the commission to respond. Though it was not legally binding now, it could lead to a legally binding co-management regime in future.

Discussion

The following two questions were put forth for discussion: 'What are the challenges, opportunities and strategies to create legal frameworks for co-management? What are the challenges, opportunities and strategies to promote a new culture for co-management?'

Jeremy Percy said the challenge was to correctly understand what was meant by co-management from a UK perspective. For example, their government could say, 'We will decide what has to be done and we will tell you and you can help us manage it.' Going too far one way would lead to a top-down approach and going too far the other way would lead to too much power in the hands of people like fishermen, neither would be ideal. There were both opportunities and threats.

A participant said that they had done a small project with LIFE in an already established MPA area on a co-management system. The major challenge was that the governments had not been ready as they had not understood the concept. The government was being asked to give up or at least share power and they did not easily understand this. However, governments needed to understand that now they were obliged, as per the GFCM, to move in the direction of co-management. Also, getting fishers involved in the governance of their own resource too was a challenge. An existing collaboration would be easier to build on. Building it from scratch could pose challenges, for instance, explaining the idea to the fishers was sometimes difficult. There was also a need for self-regulation. If fishers had to self-regulate, it could result in conflicts between them.

Bally Philip's observation was that in Scotland, the government had been phasing in what the authorities thought of as co-management. But unfortunately, this meant merely 'managing' the fishing industry. The existing power structures already gave preference to the industry, which had lots of paid representatives. Small-scale fishers faced significant barriers to having their voices heard. Large-scale industry could squeeze out their voices.

Gwenaël Yves Pennarun from France said that while there was co-management in France, the question was about the role of small-scale fishers in it.

Antonio Garcia Allut too pointed out how co-management could be interpreted in many ways. For instance, fishers could be invited to just listen, thus making them a part of the system and mistakenly claiming this as co-management. But Antonio expressed the desire for real co-management where the community would be taking the decisions and that too without representatives of industrial fisheries being a part of it, as the areas of industrial fishing would not overlap with that of small-scale fishers. And if a conflict in the same area were to arise, then participants from industrial fisheries could be brought to the discussion. In Galicia, this system worked, as the same level of representation was available to managers as well as to small-scale fishers. Though NGOs and scientists also participated in these discussions, they did not have a vote. It was de facto co-management and not de jure.

Paula Barbeito pointed out that all activities in the coastal zone had to be included in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Small-scale fishers had to coexist with all other activities. Co-management thus was not only about SSF; it was about how to exist with various activities/parties in the space, such as the energy sector. Co-management was the beginnings of democratic principles and not new, but it had been somehow forgotten. It was not attractive to politicians as the co-management paradigm was perceived as a critique of the government system.

Participants discussing the major challenges, opportunities and strategies for co-management in the context of SSF

Jeremy said that when talking about co-management, it had to be first decided whether it was by fleet or by fishery or by species or by community, or for a closed area or an MPA. His second point was that if fishers were to be part of a co-management group, they needed training and support as it was very easy for politicians and others to overwhelm fishers as they would not understand how to play the game.

Antonio responded that in Galicia, co-management included fishery resources, habitats and fleets.

Javier Seijo emphasized that co-management should be understood by all to be a tool and not just something to change power relations.

A participant wondered if the sea was being associated with large industrial vessels, but there were many more competing claims now for the sea. In conferences 10 years ago, one did not hear much about these. But now, blue summits, financed by private equity such as big London banks, were opening up to the notion that the sea might be getting exploited. Even 5 years ago, they did not have it on their agenda. Now, in Scotland, there were bankers in the room listening to small-scale fishers like him, asking, 'How do we invest in you?' This made him wonder if small-scale fishers could team up with bigger voices such as wind farms, if the latter could be developed in a way that allowed small-scale fishing craft to go through. Small-scale fishers should also look at ecosystems for planting kelp to sequester carbon. It was no longer just about whether fishers were big or small.

Another participant spoke of how they had asked the authorities to implement co-management in a small protected area with a small population. The authorities had responded that co-management was already in place. The participant felt that even in a small space, it was important to sit together with other interest groups, such as tourism (not earlier present in the area spoken about) and co-manage.

A participant expressed that sometimes there was too much optimism about how co-management could work. Co-management had a lot of costs in terms of time and it was not easy. There were a lot of actors and some of them were more likely to drive the decisions than others. The participant found that stakeholder meetings were more often representatives of large-scale fisheries, mainly because they had the capacity for good technical staff to attend the meetings. Rather than trying to implement co-management all over Europe, it was important to be strategic and focus on areas where it might be feasible and might be helpful to learn about it. Co-management depended on collective action and it was not possible to have the same action in every scenario. Some scenarios

could be feasible for collective action, while others need not be. There were also different levels of co-management and different levels of co-governance.

Maarten Bavinck asked what level of co-governance the participants wished to speak about—a small area in Spain or a region or the nation or larger. He requested north European friends to talk about co-management from their perspective.

Antonio said that all experiences shared were valid and valuable even if they were not perfect. What was important in co-management was that the goal and aspirations remained the same. It was an evolving process from which everyone needed to learn together. In Galicia, they had established co-management after 17 years. The fishers had learnt how to negotiate and the government had learnt to share their power. It was not enough to only support and train the fishers; it was also necessary to support the government to implement co-management. All this took time. And the fishers had an opportunity; an ideal scenario was present for them to implement these kinds of models as they were working with common resources. If the fishers did not learn how to participate in managing the fisheries and the common resources used by the fisheries, he warned, it would get privatized; in fact, it was happening already.

Marta Cavallé opined that if she were to be the minister for fisheries, she would not start by developing a decree for everything to be co-managed. The beginnings should be small. The little experiences would help in the transition to co-management, as it was a change of culture and of paradigm. While difficult, it was the only way forward. LIFE too had started with just a few changes. The people who had been involved in co-management now had three places where change had been brought about by developing a common vision of co-management. This was important because there was a lot of misunderstanding about it. She reiterated the importance of a shared vision to implement co-management.

Noora Emilia said that her organization, Snowchange Cooperative from Finland, was working with the indigenous Sámi people in their country. In 2009, the Sea Sámi people had approached them to share their knowledge as well as worries about climate change, the river in their region and salmon. A community-based climate adaptation plan was put in place, and in the following four years, it developed into a co-management plan for the river. Though it sounded good, it was not legally binding or approved by the authorities. However, it was a platform for the Sea Sámi people to share their point of view, what they would like to see, what they were worried about and how they would like their resources to be managed. Though this had been on for a decade, it was still more of a starting point of what it could look like in the future. It showed the need to accept that the processes were very slow. But the reality was that some of the Sea Sámi people's suggestions presented in the meetings had been realized in actuality, such as the restoration of the Atlantic salmon's spawning areas, knowledge gathering and mapping of the Sea Sámi people's territories, and the monitoring of the river's condition and climate change in the area. It was the first time this community had had the opportunity and the agency to be heard. The action taken was done within existing governance structures.

Milena Schreiber from the University of Gothenburg shared about the only two areas known to her in Sweden where there was co-management. In the first case, co-management had started in 1999 when there was a proposal for an MPA in an area where the fishers caught shrimp. When the fishers came to know, they were furious and protested. The government negotiated and created a national park as well as a co-management setup so that the fishers could go fishing under some rules. It was not that only the fishers were interested in co-management and the government was not, rather, it was a solution to a conflict. The second was when economically powerful fishers (who collected an expensive caviar) had told the government they wanted to manage the fishery and the government had accepted it.

Steinar Ronald from Norway said he did not know of any examples of co-management in Norway. As in most places, in Norway too, it was fisheries organizations with the most money that decided on fishery regulations as they could spend on lobbyists to stay in Oslo at the parliament and in the government corridors where the decisions were made. He shared about his experience on the management of the Tana River, which was very important for the sea salmon fisheries. International conventions and Norwegian internal acts called for traditional knowledge to be part of the management, but this was rejected. The administrators in Oslo only took on board the opinions of

biologists, and this was always based on managing overfishing. No other reasons were accepted, despite there being many others.

The session concluded with Marta affirming the importance of learning from these exchanges and the need for a new governance culture. She scheduled the continuation of the discussion for the next day, closing a productive day of panels and discussions.

Session 2-2: Summary—Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- **Diverse interpretations of co-management across Europe, leading to implementation challenges**
- **Power dynamics and industry bias give rise to the tendency to favour large-scale fisheries operators**
- **Private equity interest in marine spaces threaten traditional fishing practices and SSF**
- **Lack of competencies and means for adequate SSF participation in co-management**

Opportunities/Strategies

- **Promoting broader societal understanding of SSF**
- **Building alliances with diverse stakeholders**
- **Creating a new governance culture (learning and adaptation in co-management)**
- **Collaborations beyond fishing communities (other stakeholders)**
- **Leveraging successful models of co-management**
- **Increased awareness and advocacy**
- **Enhancing climate change adaptability**

Day 3: Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Session 2-3: Governing Access to Sustainable and Fair Food Systems

Facilitator: Paula Barbeito, Independent Consultant

Paula Barbeito introduced the topic and spoke about the current scenario of the markets. Fishing resources were currently managed around the narrative of private property. These were in terms of property rights and fishing rights and were managed in different ways such as the Individual Transfer Quota (ITQ) in New Zealand or transferable fishing quotas in the EU. From the market's perspective, it might be seen that certification by third-party entities had been pushed as a way to foster the sustainability of resources, the idea being decreasing the pressure on fishing stocks by modifying the preferences of consumers. Changing the preferences would lead to change in the demand, and at the same time, would provide a way to foster good practices. The best way to actualize this was certification mechanisms. But at this point in time, privatization of fishing rights and market mechanisms incentivized by certification were seen as the only tools to manage fishing resources sustainably. This was dangerous.

Certification mechanism entities were gaining more space in the public sphere. More of the state actors were using these certifications to incentivize sustainable practices. However, these were private certifications paid for by public money. Consumers were paying at least thrice for the same food. First, as citizens, consumers paid taxes to the government, but the government then gave this money to a private party for certification and then the consumers paid again to buy the fish at the shop. It had been demonstrated that certification schemes by third parties could work in some places, but it was not that efficient a tool. If so, why was it the only one being used? Also, the effects of certification on the SSF sector was totally unfair. The most popular certifications were economically inaccessible to most of the small-scale fishers. The logic that by certification one could earn much more money was not well distributed along the value chain. Hence, fishers might not receive the benefit of the certification, and importantly, the narrative about sustainability was being delegated to third-party private entities.

Sustainability must be decided though a participatory process at the local level between the government, the fishing community and other actors in the area. This would be a more realistic

Paula Barbeito making her presentation on 'Governing Access to Sustainable and Fair Food Systems'

vision of sustainability, rather than it being defined by people far away from coastal communities. New alternatives were emerging, which could differentiate small-scale fishing products. There were possibly new markets and new alliances that valorized not only environmental sustainability but also social and cultural elements important to small-scale fishing, which demonstrated the possibility of building a narrative of sustainability rooted in local realities. She concluded that the speakers in the session would describe how they were building this narrative from the local perspective and how they were fighting against the forces at the top.

Pescados con Arte (Fish with Art)—Ana Macarena Molina and Luis Rodriguez, Pescartes

The two speakers from Spain spoke about their project '*Pescados con Arte*' or 'Fish with Art' supported by the ministry. The idea was to valorize products from artisanal fishing and also empower the fishermen and fisherwomen. The community wanted people to know about the area they fished in and also be aware about less valuable species, usually referred to as by-catch, but this was a term that the community did not like very much. These fish were actually the ones that the fishers used the most in their own homes as well as cooked it on their fishing craft when out at sea. They knew that consumers had the influence to make a less-popular species more popular. Alongside individual consumers, they also wanted to engage with restaurants and shops.

The fishers did not have access to certification because it was very expensive, and these certifications did not valorize the social and cultural aspects that characterized SSF. They realized the huge difference between what they were able to catch and what arrived in the markets. In order to break into that area, they organized different activities.

They chose twelve species that were not very popular and dedicated one month of the year to talk about each species. For each fish species, an information sheet was created with details about their habitat, how it lived and a recipe using the fish. It also had information on what the artisanal fisher knew about the species. This information was disseminated through radio programmes and press releases. They engaged other actors including famous chefs and the scientific community in the release of this material. They also built an alliance with the fishmongers to ensure a market for the species. They also engaged with a set of restaurants so that in the menu at least one of the little-known species would be available. They were currently at this stage and it was going well.

Ana Macarena Molina and Luis Rodriguez, participants from Spain, detailing the project on Pescados con Arte, towards valorizing the products of artisanal fishing

By bringing children and families to the beach and explaining to them how they worked, the fishers were able to engage this milieu too. They had built replicas of fishing gear to explain to children how the gear operated. They also showed the children how seafood was preserved by the processes of salting and drying.

They saw a change in the children who visited the beach. Earlier, the children wanted to become a football player, a fireman, an influencer and so on. But after going around the fishing craft and understanding the work done by the fishers, when asked at the end of the day, 'Do we have another generation of fishermen?' all the children said, 'Yes, I want to become a fisherman, it is very nice.'

The speakers concluded by making a strong argument for spreading awareness about SSF in the general community, especially through engaging the children, to change food cultures and encourage people to eat different types of fish, and also to make them aware about SSF.

The presentation can be accessed at: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IYAFA_Europe_A-AA-Proyecto-Pescados-con-Arte_Almeria.pdf

Digital Tools to Support Fair Food: Seamus Bonner, IIMRO, Ireland/Board Member, LIFE

In the context of the fair food discussion, Seamus Bonner presented on some of the digital tools they were working with in Ireland and in the islands. IIMRO had partnered with a South African non-profit organization called Abalobi, which was doing a pilot on some of its digital tools. They had approached Abalobi a number of years ago and the pilot was started only 2.5 years ago.

The islands on the west coast of Ireland were peripheral areas and hence, auctions for catches were limited and so prices were low. For example, though herring might cost 10€ at retail, the fisher got only 45c per kg.

Abalobi was a digital platform, essentially a phone app to log catches, linked to an online marketplace. Two pilot projects on Ireland's west coast at Oranmore and Galway were currently on. The idea was to develop short local supply chains. The fishers had an app on the phone to log the catch. They could decide what proportion was to be sold directly to a general consumer (rather than a retailer) and what it would cost. One of the big benefits of direct sales was that fishers controlled the price, so they got a higher price. For example, for brown crab, the usual buyer would offer 2.5€ a kg but the fisher could get 10€ by selling directly to the consumer. There were also other benefits. The app allowed full traceability. It also collected fisheries data over time. A key aspect of the Abalobi system was that the fisher owned the data. The fisher could also log costs on that app, so fuel and other overheads could be kept track of. This was important for getting loans from banks as the transactions on Abalobi provided proof of income.

The app could also document traditional knowledge, information about different species and when and where they were caught. The other kind of benefit of such a digital tool was in MSP. In Ireland and elsewhere, small fishing craft were mostly invisible because they did not have Automatic Identification System (AIS) or they did not show up on official data. This was a problem when it came to offshore energy or MSP: if they did not show up on the official data, they did not exist! Owning the catch data and combining with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) track data was very useful for fishers because it backed their arguments with evidence. They were also on another parallel project working with a French company called CLS to trial VMS units on members' fishing craft. They had started the exercise in March 2022 and hoped to extend this to all the islands in the same year.

To conclude, Seamus re-emphasized that digital tools were beneficial to small-scale fishers, when used in combination, in various ways from increasing the price of their catch to other benefits like MSP.

A participant felt that this tool could be used ultimately as a governance tool with fishers pooling data and suggested including criteria such as women in fisheries that were sometimes hard to materialize.

Seamus responded that the plan was to use the information, combine and aggregate it, make it anonymous and use it for fisheries management, such as for co-management within an MPA. There was the need for such tools because of some NGOs promoting no-take zones; for small fishing craft, if there was a no-take zone in their area, it was not possible to move anywhere else.

Identifying Seabass from Different Sources—Gwen Pennarun, Syndicat Petit Metier Occitanie (SPMO), France

Gwen Pennarun said that small-scale fishers must think about not only gear and craft but also what they were doing on the craft. With the same gear and craft, the small-scale fisher could go from small-scale fishing to semi-industrialized or industrialized fishing.

The speaker himself was part of a group that targeted seabass using longline and handlines, and had two trainees under him. In the 1990s, when the price fell heavily from 20€ to 10€ for seabass in Brittany, SPMO wondered what the cause was. The first problem they recognized was that the consumers could not make out the difference between aquaculture seabass, trawler seabass and line seabass. The second was that some vessels longer than 24 metres were fishing seabass during the breeding period.

They came up with the idea to use short pins on line-caught seabass. With the pin, one could find the details of who had caught it and how and where it had been caught to differentiate seabass from different sources. SPMO required fishers who used these pins to commit to fishing the seabass with lines, not to refrigerate it for more than 48 hours and to respect the breeding period of the fish. There were around 60 members in the association, an internet website, and an employee to manage all this. They sold 300,000 pins each year, which was equivalent to 300 tons of seabass. The employee was paid from the funds generated by pin sales to the fishers.

They set up more associations, one in Seychelles and another in Vietnam. In Seychelles, they tried to understand the problem and see if they could implement the same stickers for the species in the Seychelles context. It began to work in Seychelles and the products could be seen in Paris markets. In Vietnam, they were contacted by another community about their gear technique. The UK colleagues worked a lot and successfully stopped the fishing during the breeding period with pelagic gear. They also worked with Blum French group to stop electric fishing. Now there was a court action to give small fishing craft bluefin tuna quotas. In France there were only two companies getting access

Gwen Pennarun from SPMO detailing a local project on sustainable fishing

to 90% of the quota. Because the scientific committee wanted to privatize the fishing of pollack, the association representing the liners was trying to get access for the line fishers. They had also promoted the consumption of less valuable fish, for which they had made posters and playing cards, which were taken around schools in Brittany to teach the younger generation how to cook these kinds of fish.

Discussion

A discussion was held on the question: 'What are the challenges, opportunities and strategies to transform the food system?'

Paula Barbeito wondered what the way to move forward was when it came to sustainability of fishing resources, given all the discussions on certification and the alternatives to it.

Katia Frangoudes wanted to know how VMS on small-scale craft was financed and how the mapping of small-scale fishers' fishing area had happened.

Seamus Bonner said that the initial trial with four devices had been financed from the association's membership fees. For expansion, they were looking at joining a European project called Fish-X.

José Pascual felt that while the project about positioning VMS in all the small-scale fishing craft was relevant, the processing of the data from the devices was quite cumbersome, needing special software and trained people.

Seamus said that currently the French company CLS had an online platform called Fishweb which managed the location and the data. The Fish-X project that they were going to be part of was developing an online platform to manage all the data securely and ensure that it complied with all the regulations. There was a European data sharing framework, Gaia-X, that was part of the core of the Fish-X project.

A participant said that they were trying to develop a traceability tool for the Algarve octopus fishery to add value. They had got money from the EU to carry out a pilot. It was like the Abalobi and tried to tell the story from the sea to the plate. There were problems of data collection and having to move from one system to another, which meant double the work. They were working with 80 fishing craft, which was not a small number nor very large either. But special software and training of people was needed.

Seamus said that it was important to collect the information once and reuse it, rather than enter it afresh each time. Typically, there was no access to government data sets and fishers could not access their own VMS data. With the Abalobi app, fishers controlled their own data. The systems must be interoperable, a key element of data. This was the case with the Abalobi app which enabled sharing of only what was needed.

A participant pointed to an Alaska longline fishermen association, which worked for the benefit of small-scale fishers. It had been using such a system for years and it was very developed at this stage including the collection of data, aggregation of data, visualization of results, etc.

Cornelie Quist said that they had done a similar programme in the inland fisheries of the Netherlands. They had leaflets and open days; people could come to see how fishers fished, what they caught and the ways to prepare the fish. This connected local fishers with local communities. While digitalization was important, ownership of data was also important. They had helped the inland fishers to analyze the data. In the Netherlands, the inland small-scale fishers were spread out in communities and hence it had been difficult to organize them collectively. Instead, Cornelie's organization connected with farmers' markets and community-supported agricultural groups and suggested that this could be discussed further. She felt that local farmers too needed a similar transformation of the food systems.

Seamus agreed on the need for data ownership as it helped to get a buy-in from the fishers. At the national and European level, the focus was very much only on control and enforcement, which must change.

Evelina Doseva from Bulgaria said that it was a big problem because trust and the situation was not so good. She hoped that together with different programmes, shared experiences and good practices would bring synergy in the sector. In the Black Sea, the situation was very bad with the war between Ukraine and Russia, with mines and rockets.

Jeremy Percy gave the example of a government-led programme. In the UK, i-VMS was required for every vessel and fishing craft, even the smallest one. The equipment was paid for by the government and they owned the data, while others did not even have access to the data. Because there was so much data going in, they either did not look at it or looked at it 12 months later and then informed a fisher about a wrongdoing from a long time ago. When the sets were first installed, the government had said that they would not rely only on i-VMS for prosecutions, but that was what they were doing now. They had also tried the gill clip for tagging sustainably caught fish in the UK and within two weeks, the gill clips had been available on the internet. Referring to the earlier presentation, Jeremy also wondered how children wanting to become fishers actually benefited fishers.

A participant said that the engagement with fishmongers was to help them understand what other seafood they could get at the auction, as in Spain, fishers could not sell directly to customers. For the fishers, it was more the social aspect; they were moving from the periphery to the middle of the scenario with more attention being paid to them.

Another participant, wishing to add more context to the VMS idea, gave the example of a small fishing area with a few fishing craft but with a lot of sport fishing. Saying that VMS was going to be mandatory by 2025 in the EU for fishing craft above 7 meters, he said that the small-scale fishers were asking for VMS on all fishing craft in order to control them electronically. The small-scale fishers were in direct competition with illegal sport fishers selling products, which they were not allowed to do. The authorities could not do anything about it. Universal VMS was one way to control fish caught through sport fishing illegally reaching the market. Labelling could be another useful tool to differentiate illegal fish from legal fish that only licenced fishers could sell. It could also be used to differentiate imports from locally caught fish. Currently, almost 80% of the fish that they ate was imported. Giving a higher value for small-scale fishers not only supported MPA or handlines or sustainably caught fish but was also a competitive aspect taking into consideration imports that were mixed with local fish and passed off as completely local.

Jeremy pointed out that the European Commission had previously done a consultation on labelling and whether it should say ‘date of capture’ or ‘date of landing’. For small-scale fishers, ‘date of catching’ was important. For large-scale fishers, it was the date of landing as the fish could have been caught two weeks earlier.

Marta Cavallé thought that the idea was to build an alternative food system that would work for SSF. People recognized wet marketing and labelling much more than certification schemes. She felt that one could learn more from the organic movement and called for a voluntary participatory system adapted to SSF.

Andrea Ferrante said that while the participatory system was also a kind of certification scheme, instead of a third party, the standard was decided at the local level. This was the big difference from the standards being decided elsewhere. It was necessary to involve not only the fishing community but also other actors. Setting up a group of people who could check everybody was adhering to the standards could be done in collaboration with other people (academics, consumers, etc.), and the results could be reported back to the local association and the assembly. This kind of certification would also help highlight and differentiate small productions within the market. It was the community that gave the label and hence carried more authority. An internal committee could look at the problems and implement issue-specific action for the fisher/farmer to carry out. If an individual fisher/ farmer did not respect the norms, they would be out of the system. This demanded a lot of volunteer work from the community and was difficult to implement unless there was an engaged community.

Session 3: Strengthening Capacities of SSF and Support Organizations and Building Alliances

Inputs: Short Interviews with Representatives of Support Organizations and Networks

Facilitator: Cornelie Quist, ICSF

Cornelie Quist explained that the idea was to continue what had been discussed in earlier sessions and come up with some concrete actions. The working groups would be the same as in the first session and guidelines for discussion had been provided to each table. She then called upon networks that had not so far been visible to introduce themselves.

Sámi Network—Steiner Ronald

Sámi were the only recognized Indigenous Peoples in Europe as well as by the EU. They were formerly called the Laps, a term that the Sámi did not find acceptable. Sámi protocols had been accepted by the Norway government. Sámi people lived in four countries—Norway, Sweden, Finland and parts of Russia—and there was strong cooperation between these communities. In Norway, most of the Sámi were fishers (and they also did reindeer herding) and depended on nature and natural resources. It would be a step forward for Sámi to connect with LIFE. In northern Norway, the Sámi did not aim at having a special right than the others in the northern area. They believed that laws and conventions concerning fishing rights of Sámi should be applicable for the whole population, since the population was mostly Norwegian.

AKTEA—Katia Frangoudes

AKTEA, a European network of women in fisheries, initially worked on the role of wives/sisters of fishermen who supported the fisheries. From the beginning they had mariscadoras as members. It evolved later on to include women in related labour (such as net mending) and grew to include women from other regions of France, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Finland, etc. They employed the following strategies. The first was to share experiences between countries. The next was to collaborate with other networks like LIFE who were involved in similar activities focusing on SSF. With a vision that the visibility of women in projects, organizations and networks was important, over time AKTEA also worked closely with women harvesters such as French fishers and shellfish gatherers and spokes on their behalf with decision makers for improving innovations for amenities such as toilets (along the coast, in fishing craft) for women in fishing. Spain as a European member state had many women's organizations which were federated at the national level. She was hopeful of other countries replicating the same and presenting it as a best practice.

Schola Campesina—Andrea Ferrante

Being part of the food sovereignty movement in Europe and Central Asia, the agroecology school was bringing together all food producers, including fishers. Andrea shared that agroecology was a rights-based approach to food systems. Given that the issues of organic farmers were similar to small-scale fishers, there was a need to work together to find solutions. Andrea said that communities had knowledge that needed to be protected and should be mutually shared to build solutions together.

Rethink the Blue Economy: Socio-ecological Impacts and Opportunities—José Pascual

José Pascual had been developing a network over the last few years. The 'Rethink Blue' project focused on analyzing the social impact of the Blue Economy and exploring opportunities from it that could be useful for SSF. The two approaches used were 'Committed Blue Economy' and 'Critical Approaches to Blue Economy'. The two guiding research questions were related to the impacts, positive or negative, of Blue Economy developments on human well-being, social equity and the economic and environmental sustainability of coastal societies as well as the potential opportunities for innovations and synergies between sectors. The work was spread among five working groups in the thematic areas of (1) maritime occupations, (2) food security and sustainable blue consumption, (3) port cities and coastal communities, (4) fisheries governance and emergent activities, and (5) climate change and natural hazards. The fourth working group was also looking at how fisheries were being impacted by different activities and the development of fishing activities over the last few decades. They also looked at the trends and the impacts of different developments on fisheries, such as the potential impact of wind farms.

Blue Economy involved huge public/private investments, with little attention paid to social impacts/consequences or the opportunities for coastal societies. So, the purpose of the action was to rethink the Blue Economy in two ways. First, by assessing its impact on coastal societies, and second, by exploring opportunities deriving from innovations and potential synergies between established and emergent marine activities.

Approaches to address this included intersectoral collaboration and identification of cross-cutting issues such as gender and social/blue justice. These issues were relevant not only for scientists but also for fishers and their organizations.

Cornelie appreciated the importance of social scientists and said the collaboration had to be examined. This was reiterated by Marta Cavallé who asked how fishworker organizations could collaborate, perhaps with the appropriate working groups.

José said that it was important to engage with the organizations as the practical components were happening continuously at that level. During their discussions, they concluded two areas to be important—impact of wind power on fisheries and the lack of young people in fisheries—both relevant to society and fishing organizations. Cristina Brice Pita, part of a working group of Rethink Blue, said that one way was to have workshops in which organizations could participate.

José Pasual making a presentation on the project 'Rethink Blue' focusing on the social and ecological impacts and opportunities of Blue Economy

José's presentation is available at: https://www.icsf.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IYAFA_Europe_CA22122-MC1_RethinkBlue-Action-Chair-presentation-jpas.pdf

Conclusion

Wrapping up the presentations, Cornelie requested that ideas and suggestions from the ground be given to social scientists on how to better collaborate and also make the collaboration work. It was not just about talking in meetings but also about getting the fishers' voice to the scientists.

There were fishworker/fisher organizations in the network, there were women in fisheries, organic farmer networks, consumer networks, academic networks, support networks like ICSF, and others who were not present. During discussions, she suggested coming up with ways to build collaboration among these different organizations, which was needed to achieve a new narrative.

Group Reports

Group 1

Bally Philip, speaking on behalf of the first group, said that the original three ideas they had fleshed out were food box system, coalition of organizations with similar aspirations and attracting young people into the fishing industry. Interestingly, these relied on the same things to move forward to the next step. For example, the need to organize themselves and look at resourcing to proceed to the next step was common to all three ideas.

At the workshop, they had found a list of NGOs that was not in the list of options they had yesterday. Once one joined such a coalition, one could start leveraging each other's capacity. Once there was self-organization and partners with similar values were found, followed by the obtaining of funding, the next stages would almost become automated.

For instance, to attract new entrants into fishing, barriers and motivations must be identified, followed by funding and training to get jobs.

The same was the case for coalition building, aligning with like-minded community groups with a similar set of goals, training young people/supplying wholesome food/protecting the environment. After finding other associations like LIFE or AKTEA at the workshop with the same vision, follow-up actions could take place on the internet or social media, perhaps sharing a common pool of science and evidence, and aligning with universities, social scientists or community organizations to essentially increase lobbying power to achieve their goals.

Food box would be a similar process. The first step would be to identify organizations which shared these values like the European Maritime Fisheries Fund or access to wholesome food or access to community projects and so on. Once the resources were identified, the opportunities that the fishing community had available and the market opportunities would be looked at. It was back to looking for coalitions, like at every stage, such as fishers who wanted to sell their fish, or chefs who wanted to market those fish, or tourist organizations or market groups that would buy into those types of ideas.

Group 2

Ignacio Gianelli, as a representative for the group, said that on the sheet they had prepared, they had not only put down the actions they had just identified, but also those they had identified during a previous process; so they had put down a lot of needs. They had clustered these needs under knowledge, policy, skills, gender-sensitive policy, and market and communications. They also proposed ways forward and organizations that could assist with each of these.

First, they proposed creating a working group for access to resources in the EU, to analyze and understand and also to propose alternative actions. This would involve organizations such as LIFE, Rethink Blue, ETI, AKTEA and other NGOs that work at the Brussels level. And once this working

group arrived at some solutions, they could reach out to global organizations to endorse their work related to fair access to resources. For this too they had identified some organizations, such as Fish for Communities (Canadian), Small Change Cooperative and African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries (CAOPA).

Another action that was identified was to increase the collab between LIFE and AKTEA, to use existing structures such as social media or newsletters, and to create a working group for Participatory Guarantee System for small-scale fishers following the example of local farmers. And the organizations that could be involved were LIFE, Rethink Blue, farmer networks and Abalobi.

They thought it important to improve the public image of SSF and for doing that, they would put out a call for others to join the process in order to coordinate communication, advertisement and marketing campaigns. It could involve filmmakers, artists or public ambassadors/public figures.

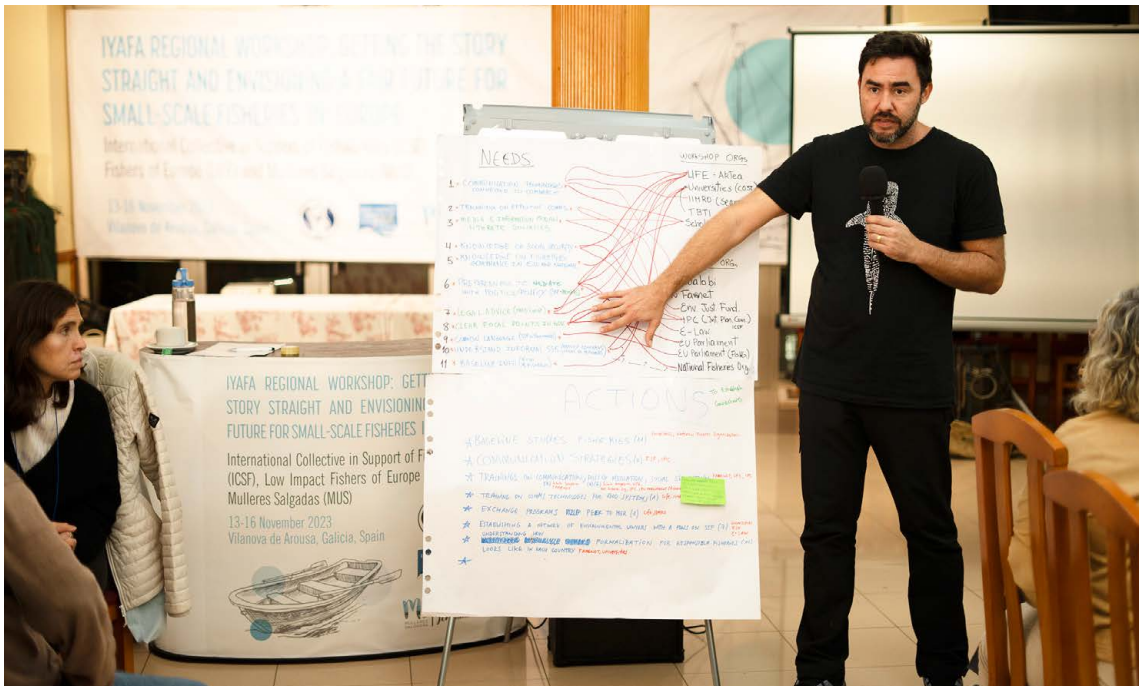
Another proposal was to leverage existing organizations that could act as a link between fishers and other organizations in terms of receiving information, translating it and providing that to others. They identified LIFE as a potential platform.

Another proposal was to create a network of youth in the fisheries sector in order to promote mentoring programmes and buy fishing craft collectively. They suggested calling this group 'Fishers for the Future'. Potential organizations to link up with were ICSF, LIFE and maritime colleges.

Another action identified was a focus group for co-management: which would coin terms, share lessons, advocate for co-management, and build toolkits and training programmes. Potential collaborators could be ICSF, LIFE, Slow Food, Rethink Blue, etc. A call for funding SSF projects could be put out and the coalition could also support projects that was trying a new narrative.

Yet another action could be working on bringing about gender-sensitive policies in collaboration with organizations like ICSF and Too Big To Ignore (TBTI). An ongoing action was to promote women's rights to the representatives of the European parliament.

The group also called for a programme for capacity building of fisheries organizations in areas such as fundraising, management, social media and leadership for SSF by involving organizations like AKTEA, LIFE, ICSF and Centre for Maritime Research (MARE).



Leopoldo Gerhadinger making a group presentation following the discussions during Session 3—'Strengthening Capacities of SSF and Support Organizations and Building Alliances'

They concluded by pointing out that strengthening collaboration with AKTEA and with others as well as working with women's organizations within cofradias and fishing committees was important.

Group 3

Jeremy Percy speaking on behalf of his group said that they divided the question into various blocks. They identified leadership training as a very important element, especially training to influence decision makers because while many fishers were good at fishing, they were not very good at talking to a range of people. They recognized that effective leadership that combined passion, belief and knowledge were particularly important as well as having a thick skin. Almost every organization that was successful had an effective leader.

They also identified other areas for training such as in social media, building relationships with media and developing the ability to tell a good story. Jeremy said that small-scale fishers had everything the media liked—a wonderful story, beautiful scenery and being the underdogs. But collective material was needed to support the narrative.

They identified a range of partnerships, which included with social scientists and other groups with similar issues, as there was strength in unity and enabling of mutual support mechanisms. It was necessary to make the link with other sectors so that the issue could cut across systems and was not specific to fishers.

In terms of access to the decision-making process, it was necessary to identify the decision makers, who might not be the person one thinks of but someone below who was actually doing the work. There was also the need for re-educating scientists because it was important to understand in general, and for scientists in particular, that there was more than one truth.

Internal requirements of an association or group were also important and should include holding on to the belief that things could change. Sometimes, there was a need to change the perceptions, both internally and externally, and also fight against established precedents. The first activity was to change oneself before changing others. There was a need for capacity building and data collection mechanisms because knowledge was power.

Moving on to tenure rights, Jeremy shared that unless small-scale fishers had access rights, they had nothing at all. A system to talk to each other and multiply contacts was needed.

As for organizations that could help—in the case of tenure rights, organizations such as LIFE and FSK-PO (a Danish fishermen's association); for research—academia including the Rethink Blue project, Abalobi, the Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries (STCF) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea; and in terms of partnerships, it was everybody. In terms of decision makers, it was learning by doing. One had to be dynamic and adaptive. In terms of funding, suggestions included foundations, NGOs and European funding. They also pointed out that while there were NGOs that could be sometimes very helpful with funding, there was also the possibility they could be the opposite.

Jeremy said that it was necessary for small-scale fishers to consider themselves a big family providing not just practical support and mutual support but emotional support as well. Unity at all levels required trust, understanding, general consensus and culture, and time to work together and move slowly forward.

Group 4

This group listed a set of eleven needs and mapped them to organizations (existing within the meeting room as well as potential organizations from the outside). To achieve the needs, a list of actions was prepared.

Needs and Organizations:

1. Communication technologies; organizations: LIFE, AKTEA
2. Training on effective communications; organizations: Abalobi and Environmental Justice Fund (EJF)

3. Media and information on the ocean to liberate societies; organizations: Schola Campasina, Famnet
4. Knowledge on social security; organizations: Famnet, LIFE, AKTEA, IPC
5. Knowledge on fisheries governance in EU and national level; organizations: Schola Campesina
6. Preparedness to mediate with politics/policy interfaces; in need of more competence
7. Legal advice for action in courts, legislation and policymaking
8. Need for establishment of clear focal points in governments—to know who to speak with
9. Establish common language—small-scale fishers and policymakers could communicate with each other; cognitive justice—need for fishers to be equal players in the decision making
10. Understanding informal dynamics in SSF—how legalized fisherfolk vs poachers would create inequity in communities
11. Baseline information—quantity of fish, socio-economics of fisherfolk

Actions:

1. Baseline studies for fisheries—joining universities, organizations
2. Developing communication strategies—investigative documentaries made by fisherfolk for fisherfolk, storytelling; organizations: EJF, IPC
3. Trainings on marketing technologies; organizations: Abalobi
4. Exchange programmes—peer-to-peer learning on various subjects
5. Network of environment lawyers to help with judicial action and policymaking
6. Need for understanding informalities in fisheries—how it could be incentivized for responsible fishing and responsible commerce, aspects of food chain

Group 5

On behalf of the group, Ana Macarena said that they felt a systematic lack of trust between fishers and other organizations, whether the scientific community or the decision makers. So there was a need to work to build this trust.

Participants making a group presentation following the discussions in Session 3

While recognizing the diversity inherent in SSF, the group also pointed out that there was fragmentation within the sector. If there was a common problem, everyone collaborated to solve it. But if it was with a specific gear, they were supposed to look at it as separate groups. There was also the problem of manipulation of information and diversification of interest. Different people had different access to different types of information, which led to fragmentation.

It was clear that what was really needed was a local person both inside the organization and outside, who would work with each other, trust each other and have a long-term engagement with each other. And the responsibility could not be on just one person; it had to be distributed. This called for capacity building for a lot of people so that someone could always take over. It was necessary to find the right people who believed in the same goal as it was a slow process with a lot of obstacles and frustrations.

The group had tried to look at practical approaches taking into account who was in the room, such as organic farmers. They also called for good examples that could be replicated in the case of markets, co-management, etc. They identified LIFE and ICSF to take issues to Brussels and lobby for them as they had the capacity to do this, find finance, etc. They suggested that AKTEA focus on gender and ensure inclusivity.

They felt that universities and academia were good collaborators because they could identify the problem and the topics needed to be researched. Also, producing this kind of collaborative work involving more than one organization and geography and looking at different cases meant that it could be taken to high-level decision makers at Brussels, as they liked comparative studies, as well as to national-level decision makers.

Day 4: Thursday, 16 November 2023

The day began with Jeremy Percy reading out a request from an NGO called Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition that was partnering with a company called Patagonia to address bottom trawling in Europe. They were coordinating the creation of a collaborative open letter calling on member states to end and reallocate the subsidies for industrial bottom trawlers and reallocate fishing quotas to low-impact fisheries that maximized social and environmental benefits. The overarching objective of the campaign was to address the current imbalance between low-impact small-scale fishing and industrial fishing through a just transition. The open letter would focus on two areas. Firstly, to remove fuel tax exemptions for industrial bottom trawlers and reallocate subsidies to low-impact fishers, and secondly, to revise allocation process taking into greater consideration fishing practices that contributed to the social, economic and environmental objectives of fisheries management. The contact details were available for those who wanted to get more information about the campaign.

Session 3—Continued

Discussion

Cornelie Quist opened the discussions for the previous evening's session on the capacity needed to strengthen SSF in Europe. Many groups had also mentioned the need to increase lobbying power of SSF. Some of the groups had pointed out the need to work on alternative food systems through collaboration with other food producers and consumers. Asking if there were any commonalities that were missing in the reports shared by the groups, she shared her list of talking points:

- Communication
- Support to SSF to participate
- Training (leadership)
- Trust, unity, functioning as one family

Cornelie Quist, ICSF, facilitating the session and group discussions on 'Strengthening SSF in Europe'

- Partnerships
- Increase lobbying power
- Alternative food system (collaboration with other food producers and consumers)
- Financing/funding

Bally Philip suggested capacity building. Most small-scale fishers were busy being fishers and the capacity building mentioned here was for things outside of fishing, such as to attend training courses, attend meetings, facilitate an agenda and so on. Gwen Pennarun and Marta Cavallé seconded this.

Seamus Bonner emphasized the importance of lobbying and called for an increase in lobbying power.

Cornelie pointed out that the groups had called for building trust and unity internally before undertaking other actions.

Antonis Petrou added that finance was another essential aspect as all steps discussed would need funding, and Seamus Bonner agreed that this was a necessary first step.

Cornelie wanted to know if the first condition before taking up these actions was to create opportunities for small-scale fishers to participate in all these collaborations. Bally said that while the support to participate was needed, it probably was better to focus on something that everyone agreed upon and then find the means to do it.

A participant felt that work packages could be created as the social scientists had done. Rather than choose a topic and complete it to perfection before moving to the next problem, people could opt to work on different work packages and thus, collectively move forward.

Another participant felt that all packages required communication packages within them.

Cornelie reminded the participants that the discussion's point was not to bring up themes to be addressed but to look at the most important capacity needs that had come out of the working groups the previous day. It was not that only they were going to be prioritized, but it was about working on a collaborative process to address all the identified capacity needs.

Jeremy Percy said it was important to have a mechanism to maintain the momentum and wondered how collaboration and collective momentum could be built.

Maarten Bavinck said that with reference to maintaining collaboration, given LIFE was the organization that had helped set up this meeting and brought together many of the groups, he wished to know how these points would fit in with LIFE's agenda.

Marta responded that though LIFE had an agenda and priorities, she did not think there was a need to prioritize because all the points were important. Working groups like the ones in Rethink Blue discussed previously and other such groups could be mechanisms to sustain the momentum. LIFE had a board of directors and an assembly, but they wanted to create working groups to discuss specific topics so those could collaborate with other such working groups.

Though the idea of working groups sounded good to Maarten, he pointed out that such groups were thematic. He felt that more practical skills such as communication, leadership and lobbying were needed.

Cornelie summarized the discussion so far on this. There was a concrete proposal to start building collaboration and a mechanism to continue the collaboration—through LIFE, by creating thematic working groups, for instance on the Blue Economy or food systems. But beyond this, there should also be a focus on capacity building such as communication and leadership. The working groups could link up with existing working groups of partners, such as the social scientists' working groups, so fisher organizations could participate in them.

A participant said that perhaps it would be good to focus on Article 17 and the Blue Economy.

Bally felt that rather than trying to build and replicate all kinds of capacities, it would help to identify where the capacities aligned to small-scale fishers' needs and values already existed in society, so they could leverage these as opposed to replicating them.

Seamus felt that with the European elections in May next year, there were about six months to get a lot of these topics on to the political agenda and make sure that they were discussed as part of the election process and by the lobbyists who were campaigning.

Jeremy brought back the conversation to communication as a means to maintain momentum. A part of LIFE's website could have a dedicated forum to exchange ideas, highlight challenges, and pose questions and solutions.

Milena Schreiber, speaking from the position of a social scientist, reiterated the ongoing communication between her and the fishers based on trust.

Jeremy said that a forum for communication would maintain itself. Cornelie agreed that this was a good suggestion and the earlier point of the need to build trust and unity among each other would be supported.

Paula Barbeito wanted to know the timelines for strategizing and said it was important to consider political moments. It would also be good to make a list of a few things to be achieved at the end of a defined period and work on them.

Katia Frangoudes said that it had to be done at two levels. LIFE and AKTEA should mainly lobby at the EU level; there could be regional-level and national-level activities and consequently the timeline and planning would be different. At the EU level, Article 17 and future discussions about the Blue Economy in the EU parliament meant that LIFE should be ready with inputs from national representations to lobby in Brussels. Then, for the regional level, it was the Fish Forum of FAO in Turkey, and so on.

Caroline Anne Bennett felt that while it was important to build the internal strength of LIFE, she cautioned against solely depending on the staff of LIFE to organize lobbying campaigns and suggested internal and external collaborations.

A participant felt that LIFE and ICSF should create a stronghold for SSF. European fishers not being part of the SSF Guidelines was a barrier. He said that ICSF was thinking of some campaigns to see how to leverage this cooperation on Blue Economy, climate change and tenure access.

Maarten pointed out that it was not a membership meeting of LIFE but a workshop put together by three organizations with the general purpose of brainstorming. While LIFE was a central player in the scene, it had limited capacity and it was necessary to find ways of moving forward without putting too much pressure on the existing staff capacity. Reminding others that the list put up by Cornelie for the current discussion was skill-focused, he said that in addition to Jeremy's idea of a forum on the website, other possibilities needed to be investigated. He suggested that through the MARE centre, which brought together six universities in Europe, they could try to put together a student group that would continue over the years to help with some of the skill needs. If this worked, it could be a set up to link with LIFE to provide some capacity. Other suggestions for increasing capacity could also be explored.

Jeremy agreed with Maarten and said that LIFE could identify from among their membership someone to provide responses on behalf of LIFE. Identifying expert members within the organization to do some of this work would reduce their workload.

Antonis said that LIFE could utilize the people who were part of it. He was not a fisherman but represented his association and was part of LIFE. He was due for a meeting in Turkey which was on non-indigenous species. While it was not of particular interest to mainstream Europe at the moment, it would be in the future. He was prepared to represent LIFE in the meeting and provide them updates. While it was not LIFE's current working structure, capitalizing on people who had different skill sets was something they could do.

Marta agreed and said that a lot of things had to be improved. Members were ambassadors and it would be good to let LIFE know that they were attending meetings.

Cornelie brought back the conversation to capacity building, pointing out the need to find resource people for it, given the staff of LIFE focused on advocacy and were also busy participating in working groups with external partners. The suggestion from Maarten could help in capacity building to some extent.

Paula wondered whose capacity building was being spoken about, if it was for the people in the room, for instance, to help with writing proposals to apply for grants.

Ignacio Gianelli wished to build on the three previous comments. The idea of involving young students in this kind of programme was really nice. He agreed with Paula that there were many skills that would not be found in social scientists or biologists or economists. It was necessary to think a bit boldly to include students from design, marketing, communication and other streams who could provide a lot of inputs and examples that fisher organizations needed. There was also a need to leverage environmental awareness and a need for alternative food systems. There were a lot of students who would like to engage in this sort of process, and Ignacio referred to the artist who had come to the workshop on Monday. He suggested an artist-in-residence programme with small-scale fishers, as artists and others could amplify the message to the community, beyond academic forums and fisher organizations.

Sandra Amezaga said that not all the programmes for capacity building were necessarily good and programmes had to be tailored for the needs of specific groups. While a number of programmes were designed to support women in fisheries, they were useless to them.

Antonis said that it was important to tailor training programmes for individuals who would be attending meetings such as the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) or the UN General Assembly or political meetings. Trained participants could attend these meetings and then have a debriefing session.

Maarten said that students would have to be mentored. His way of working was to put the group together and then look at the topics. The group could function in parallel or be supportive.

Milena, who worked with Master's students, attested to the potential of collaboration with them.

Katia said that it was easy to speak in the room but to remember that people spoke different languages. At the EU level, training for AKTEA or LIFE was not possible as they were not unions. For tailored learning, it was easy in areas that had earmarked funds but for other areas, it was difficult. Without funding for programmes, nothing was possible. AKTEA tried to maintain organizations on their own but it was very difficult for small organizations; but they had the capacity to lobby.

Maarten wondered if people who had made a lot of money from fisheries would be interested as they were also concerned about the future. He wondered if it was possible to tap into their concerns for community development. This investigation could be probably done by a well-mentored student.

Bally said that a third option was to create a new entity. In Scotland, there was an alliance called OurSeas. The creel association he worked with had helped create it, but it was a coalition of fishers, conservationists, NGOs, academics, community groups and concerned citizens. With a very simple manifesto called ourseas.scot, it focused on Scottish-specific issues such as looking at inshore limit on trawling. A similar coalition, ourseas.EU, could be created to potentially look at things like fair access to resources, implementation of Article 17, implementation of UNSDG—and make that their manifesto. Given there were already commitments, it would be a coalition to address those commitments with the resources available. They had started with a few interested parties and no money. They first got a grant for a part-time coordinator and then slowly built it up, making films and reports, and now it included 30 organizations and was more powerful than any fishing group in Scotland. It took very little resources from the members but did their work for them.

A participant said that it was important to talk about gender as policies were impacting gender.

With this, the heated discussions on capacity building came to a close.

Session 4: Presentation of Draft Workshop Statement

The draft workshop statement prepared by the drafting committee based on the discussions for the past four days was presented to the participants. The draft statement was put to discussion and the participants collectively prepared the final statement of the workshop which is attached in Annexe.

Session 5: Women in Fisheries Panel Discussion Reflecting on Sessions 1, 2 and 3

Facilitator: Cornelie Quist, ICSF

Cornelie Quist began by saying that organizing a 'Women in Fisheries' panel discussion was very important for ICSF. They had discussed with the organizers, who had agreed because often there was very little knowledge of the problem of discrimination in fisheries. People who were directly working in fisheries had been invited to share about their lives, what they did and the constraints they faced as women. Alongside these women, there were also researchers, support organizations and community organizations in the panel to share their insights and knowledge. Post the discussion, an action plan to end discrimination of women in fisheries was created.

Ana Macarena Molina Hernandez (Pescartes Cabo de Gata, Spain/Fisher)

Ana Macarena was working in a fishing boat but also had a title as a fisher. She worked in whatever her labour was needed, as a skipper or part of the crew. She took fish to the auction and was involved in organizational work. She was also involved in the bookings, products and all the administration and management of the fishing vessel. Other women in the community played a very important role in taking the fish to the auction because it was a little far away, but there was no other woman who worked aboard the fishing vessel like her. They not just took the fish from the boat to the auction, but also extended support to the men; without the women the men could not go on with the activities. Nevertheless, the women did not have social security and their work was not salaried or paid.

There were cultural and traditional ideas that constrained women, but since she was from outside the sector, she did not have any constraints. The support she got was mainly from the skipper in the vessel she worked in. He had opened up his vessel to her and showed her how to do everything.

Discrimination was firstly a matter of justice and social sustainability was important. Women could help in the problem of generational renewal and it was an opportunity for women to show that they could support sustainable fisheries. It was important to see this as a process that would start outside the houses, in the whole society. It was when the discrimination outside got erased that it would trickle into individual houses, were there was a lot of discrimination. Ana concluded that change had to come in societal thinking and actions first.

Karoliina Lehtimaeki (LIFE/Snowchange, Finland/Fisher)

She had been working with Snowchange as a fisher for almost three years. She was the only woman in the crew working in the winter seining. There were also 6–7 women working with them but they were mainly involved in the processing of the fish, while she fished, processed the catch and also participated in its sale. She was not sure if it was easier for her, who was not from a fishing family, to become a fisherwoman when compared to the local women. No one had ever said to her that she could not be a fisher. She just got the opportunity and they taught her.

Lowry from her sailing crew first learnt from an older fisherman like a master apprenticeship, and after that, it took 2–3 years for him to learn, and then he started teaching her. Another young fisherman who taught her, told her that the older fishermen had not accepted him either. But after 3 years, it became easier for her to meet the older fishermen on the ice because they had got to know her; but earlier, they used to direct all conversation towards Lowry and not her.

Karoliina concluded by saying everyone should get the same opportunity to become fishers. However, it would take time to learn and time to gain acceptance among the other fishers.

Cornelie Quist facilitating the panel discussion on 'Women in Fisheries'

Maria Vales (Mulleres Salgadas, Spain/Mariscadora)

A shellfish collector, Maria Vales was part of a group of 230 women and 30 men. She was there to represent her cofradia fishery organization, having worked for 8 years leading one of them in Galicia. In the whole of Galicia, there were just 3 women in leadership positions in the fisheries organizations. When she was working as a shellfish collector, she did not feel any discrimination. For her it was the same, whether working on the beach, in the small fishing craft, or working with the mussels or culture. But when she moved from the beach to the fisheries organizations, then she could see where the discrimination was taking place. In a fishing organization, one had to make decisions for other fisheries sector too. The leaders of the fishing organizations had told her that she would not know about fisheries because she was a woman. While she might know about shellfish on the beach, they said, she would not know what the others were doing and so could not take decisions or lead the whole organization. On the other hand, as a man, it did not matter if he was working with mussels or in any other sector, he was taken to know everything.

In the beginning, people looked at her as a weak person, but she tried to show them otherwise. When she did not have information, she looked for it. This made it worse because it was an admission that she did not know about everything. But the men did not either! When they changed their opinion about her being weak, then it became even worse as they began seeing her as an enemy. Nonetheless, she was currently a member of Mulleres Salgadas organization because one did not have to be the most beautiful or the most powerful. 'We should be just accepted as we are,' she concluded.

Sandra Amezaga (Mulleres Salgadas, Spain/AKTEA)

Sandra Amezaga had 30 years' work experience in mussel cultivation. In Galicia, 700 women owned mussel platforms, but only about 50 of them were actually working in the estuary. When she had worked for 6 years in a small association for mussel cultivation, they had shared their knowledge and there had been no discrimination. But when she had wanted to climb the hierarchy, she had faced discrimination. The men decided that she could not be at the same level as the other male candidates when she wanted to contest for elections at higher levels.

Sandra was the secretary of Mulleres Salgadas, an organization that accounted for 1,600 women working in fisheries-related activities. The question on gender equity was not about whether women were important, because they were, but about why they were not represented in the decision-making

process. One of the answers usually given was that women were less educated than the men, which was not true. The second usual answer was that women did not want to be part of these processes. This had to understood better. It was not that the women did not want to be part of these processes, but they had other difficulties, like problems at home or additional work at home on top of the work at the organization.

Not wishing to talk more about women's motivations for not being there, Sandra called for change. There was a 1995 law that was biased against women accessing fisheries organizations. It was a bit complicated. The law required that there be equal representation of fishing craft owners and workers. The women working on the beach were considered workers. So, in a place where there were 50 fishing craft/vessels and 300 women, 50 vessel/craft owners would have the same power as 300 women. That created a whole system of inequalities. What was important to the women was not seen as important by the men, who were a smaller group. During elections, the group voted for certain people to reinforce their power. The women were asking for a change in the law because at this moment in Galicia there was a political party that was interested in doing so but there was resistance from the organizations and political groups.

Seamus Bonner (IIMRO, Ireland/Board Member, LIFE)

Seamus Bonner said that when certain things had to be done to ensure mutual support and mutual assistance, people in Ireland gathered in the may hall to do particular jobs and women were central to that. He did not have any specific examples of discrimination but one positive example was that in Gaelic, spoken in Ireland, there was no word for fisherman, the word was 'iascaire', a person who fished. There was a lot of diversity in the SSF sector there. This huge strength had to be recognized and used in their favour.

The rules needed to specify not only small-scale fishers but women as well, because if not specified, things could not change easily. The 1995 law mentioned earlier should be the first target for change. Organizations and rules needed to be representative, depending on who the representing had to reflect. Recently, LIFE had begun changing their articles of associations and women in fisheries was specifically included as part of the new articles of association.

There were two female members on their managing committee, and Seamus emphasized that women really kept the fishing going. Without them, they would not be fishing in the islands. Like in Spain, women collected shellfish and seaweed seasonally, helped with ordering parts for the fishing craft, organized shopping for the crew and did a lot of the administration as well; but here it was all unpaid.

Katia Frangoudes (University of Brest, France/AKTEA)

Katia Frangoudes, facilitator of AKTEA, was a researcher. On women supporting fisheries companies and the enterprise, she said that these women usually were unpaid, or paid depending on the country, but there were EU regulations asking to legalize this contribution. In some of the countries, like France, where they had a specific status report of women assisting the partners/spouse, women could become head of the fisheries organization if the husband did not want to participate in the election. There were some cases where the wife of the fisherman became the leader of the organization. But soon, the men marginalized the women on resource management claiming they did not know things. When, after five years the election was held again, the woman would just quit.

José Pascual (University de La Laguna, Spain/TBTI)

As a professor of anthropology, he had been working with Katia for 20 years from the process of formation of AKTEA. Together, they had also collected information about the changes in the formalization of the management of Galicia's shellfish collectors. Among the many issues they had been following up with through the years was that of women who sold fish.

The women faced many difficulties in organizing themselves. The challenges they faced were cultural. Men and women faced the same problems related to collective action.

The process they were undertaking in Galicia was about changing the way the women were working. It was also a way to change the perception the women had about themselves in order to organize and take collective action. As a researcher, he was interested in trying to understand the drivers for what was happening within these organizations: in Galicia there used to be 13 women leading these organizations, now there were just 3. As researchers, they had recently created a network called Rethink Blue in which gender was a crosscutting theme in all the working groups. They wished to go deeper into gender equality in Europe.

Katia said that the previous year, the EU had opened a call on the role of women in Blue Economy activities. Rather than in fisheries, the EU wanted to have more women working in windfarms, offshore energy, biotechnology or shipping. The EU rejected their proposal saying that they knew enough about women in fisheries and did not need any more information. But the EU had done just one study on the role of women in fisheries in the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea. It was necessary to carry out the study in all parts of Europe to know what women were doing. She had been invited to speak by the commissioner in a meeting in Malta. It was a meeting about women and she was the only woman speaker. During the coffee break, all the fisher organizations came to tell her that in their association, there were only women working for them.

Milena Schreiber (Researcher, University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

Milena Schreiber, who was serving as a translator for all the Spanish speakers at the workshop, said she was also a researcher. There had been discussions at the workshop to arrive at a new narrative for SSF, but the women had already been talking about this for almost 30–40 years. Women knew what they wanted, they had a narrative and a vision for the future, and they wanted gender equality. One should not be naïve that a new narrative and vision were needed. Narratives and visions were fine but they were not enough. It was necessary to learn from women's organizations and women's struggles.

Sandra agreed with Milena. In Galicia, in order to get permits to continue fishing, women were required to clean the beaches. They wished for this to change. They also had the idea of creating an observatory in Galicia to show the reality of women in shellfish collection. Many women worked in the morning collecting shellfish but also cleaned houses and did other activities. This reality was not known or recognized. The idea of the observatory was not just to change statistics and have disaggregated data by gender but also qualitative gender studies of what was happening. The women asked the authorities to carry out these studies and said they would find the funding, but the administration refused. The fisheries organizations also refused, not because they were not interested, but because they were afraid of the information that might come up. The women went past the organizations to the parliament and submitted a proposal. They were successful because at the parliament level, you could not say no to issues in Galicia. In the end, they had an observatory, but it was implemented by way of a commission where the organizations that had said no in the beginning were a part of the commission. And they were all men of course. Now the commission was asking for a counter proposal. The women could spend their lives just sending these counter proposals, but they would never be heard. Sandra emphasized the importance of knowing these dynamics.

Maria Vales added some more information. When the cofradias were set up, the law saw that women were not allowed to be part of these fisheries organizations. When the law was changed, it was men who were in charge, who created an imbalance in the power given to women in these organizations. Women were allowed to be fishers and be part of the organization, but not be a member. The observatory also had the aim to support the changing of this law, creating equality for women in these fisheries organizations.

Discussion

The discussion was opened to the floor and the participants shared their thoughts.

A woman shellfish collector said that women just wanted to be visible. They were not there to take away someone else's position or employment; they simply wanted to be valued as they were.

Women had always been in fisheries as Sandra Amezaga had said; normally it was women who were selling the fish. The whole system relied on the sale of the fish, because if the fish was not sold at a good price, then the whole industry would have no value. The work of women was not recognized. Women organized themselves and decided how many hours they could work. Many did not know that women worked only fourteen days a month. Women organized everything to be sustainable.

Ana Macarena said she had been working for 24 years as a shellfish collector and was from a family of shellfish collectors—her mother and grandmother were shellfish collectors. Their work had not been recognized till the 1990s. Things were a bit better now than a few generations earlier, but not much better. She called for recognition of occupational illnesses, because when they went to the doctor, it was impossible to say that the sickness was because of the work they did.

Mercedes was the vice president of one of the fisheries organizations. During an internal election, even though she had 80% of the votes, she could not become the president. A man who represented 20% of the industry had become the president because of the law. She tried to appeal this decision as she had the majority of the votes. But the system being representational, favoured men. They rejected her appeal and pointed to the rules. The main problem came with defining women shellfish collectors as employees, which excluded them from holding positions of power. But they were not considered employees when it came to receiving social security or when they wanted to undertake strike actions. She said it was just disgusting masculinity and machismo in place.

Paula Barbeito, a fisheries biologist, worked for a fisheries organization and represented both the women on the shore and also the men in the fishing craft collecting shellfish. Working here, she was witness to the fact that the women were more organized than the men, the women listened more to scientific advice on the management of shellfish and she had less problems with the women than the men. The organized women also proposed some management instruments or ideas on ways to improve the administration. But when suggestions from women's organizations were made to fishing organizations who had male members, they were not willing to implement them. More sustainable ideas usually came from the women's associations and should be considered. This was hampering the sustainable management of the resource.

Luis Rodriguez said that hearing about what was really happening with the women, he found it to be shameful. If he was leading such a fisheries organization, he would resign and give the position to a woman.

Participants actively engaging in the discussion following the 'Women in Fisheries' panel

Cornelie Quist, summing up, said that it was very important to hear the voices and experiences of women. It was difficult to find any research studies of women in fisheries. There were a few, mostly by Katia and with ICSF; they had done two studies in Europe with lots of difficulties because of very little support available. Within their limitations, they were able to show that women faced the same sort of discrimination all over Europe. She was glad to have met the shellfish collectors and appreciated their skill and ability to organize and manage their resources in a fair and sustainable way. She lived near a fishing village in the Netherlands where a hundred years ago, 80% of the women there worked in shell fisheries. Now there were none. She was worried that if the issue of discrimination was not addressed, these women too would be out of their fisheries.

Marta Cavallé said that though she represented women in fisheries, she was not a woman fisher. However, she never felt threatened, only welcomed. But when she had to defend small-scale fishers in the lobby forum, she felt threatened. If she had not been a woman, she would not have been threatened or treated unfairly.

The sessions thus concluded on a strong note, with women's voices being heard and discussed.

Action Plan for Women in Fisheries

IYAFA Regional Workshop: Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe

Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain, 13–16 November 2023

During the IYAFA Regional Workshop: 'Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe' that was organized in Galicia, Spain from 13–16 November 2023, a session was conducted to discuss the concerns raised by female fishers and fishworkers. Half of the workshop's 40 participants were women and included representatives of small-scale fishers and fishworker associations, cooperatives, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia.

The women highlighted the need for visibility of their labour and meaningful participation in decision-making spaces. They collectively pinpointed several actions that need to be taken in the Europe region, which are listed below:

Women in Fisheries Action Plan for the Europe Region

1. Women are constrained by traditional and cultural roles rooted in the norms of patriarchy, and their labour is invisible and not valued. Women's labour (including informal labour) must be recognized for its crucial contributions to the economy, food security of the communities and sustainable fisheries.

2. Spaces must effectively be opened up for women to participate in fisheries governance equitably, so that they can contribute their knowledge and experience to processes and policymaking affecting their life. This should also be reflected in legislative and social transformations.

3. Women must get the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the co-management process to engage in sustainable fisheries.

4. Women's voices must be heard. Existing and new women's organizations need to be supported and strengthened in order for them to continue to grow, become more visible, provide spaces for the next generation of leaders and promote collective action.

5. Protect women's livelihoods by promoting principles of decent work, including social security, health protection (including the recognition of occupational illnesses) and social benefit schemes such as maternity and paternity benefits.

6. Need extensive research on women in fisheries for gathering evidence on the invisible role of women in fisheries in Europe. There is also a need for better gender disaggregated data for targeted policies in support of female fishers and fishworkers.

7. Capacity building programmes need to be designed particularly catering to the needs of women to promote their participation in leadership roles and also for their vocational skill development.

8. Gender sensitive technologies must be developed, along with appropriate working conditions to cater to the needs of women in fisheries.

Vote of Thanks

The four-day workshop came to an end with the adoption of the 'Women in Fisheries Action Plan' and a draft workshop statement. Sivaja Nair from ICSF concluded the workshop by delivering the vote of thanks. She thanked all the participants, the core committee of the workshop, the co-organizers, the media team and the hospitality team for their support in making the workshop a successful one. While concluding, she hoped that the participants would take back the message from the workshop to build coalitions and strengthen SSF in their country contexts and take forward the discussions and actions beyond the year of IYAFA.

Annexure

Annexure 1

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF),
Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)
and
Mulleres Salgadas

Workshop Statement

As part of a series of regional workshops, ICSF organized the European regional workshop from 13–16 November 2023, at Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain in collaboration with Asociación de Mulleres Salgadas (a member of the AKTEA platform) and Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE). Forty-five representatives from small-scale fishworker organizations, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations and academia across sixteen European countries convened in Vilanova de Arousa to forge a shared vision and define pathways for sustainable fisheries and seafood systems in Europe.

The participants acknowledged that defining and shaping a future for small-scale fisheries in Europe is a difficult task considering that fishing communities are being wiped off the map and policy spaces. The current economic model of development based on the unsustainable extraction of natural resources, privatization and consolidation are disenfranchising communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, increasing vulnerability and reducing their resilience. These are systemic dynamics that affect and disrupt many realms of human activity, livelihoods, cultures, equity and well-being. In addition, they also threaten the ecological pillars that sustain life on earth.

In the case of coastal and inland fisheries, the dominant development narrative and the Blue Economy scenario have enabled activities such as industrial fishing; oil, gas and renewable energy exploitation; industrial-scale aquaculture; pollution; and mass tourism. This has adversely affected the livelihoods of small-scale fisheries and disrupted the ecological balance necessary for sustaining life. In addition, this has a long-lasting impact on sustainable fish supply, stewardship of aquatic resources, employment and generational renewal. This narrative justifies privatization policies that have deprived our coastal and rural communities of a sustainable future.

This narrative has led to:

- Current systems of European fisheries management and allocation of fishing opportunities, which are detrimental to small-scale fishing;
- The marginalization of small-scale fishers and fishworkers and lack of their representation in decision-making forums;
- Discrimination against women in fisheries, who are therefore also facing the increasing burden of unremunerated work;
- The increasing control over and concentration of ownership of our food systems in the hands of a small number of often transnational corporations, putting our future food security at risk and undermining the inclusion of a human-rights-based approach in fisheries management.

In addition to this, challenges posed by climate change and international conflicts profoundly impact small-scale fishers and fishworkers.

1. The workshop attendees acknowledged that if the logic of such fisheries development is not questioned, and corporate ownership and investment is not controlled, fishing communities and small-scale fisheries will cease to exist. During four days of the workshop, the group crafted positive narratives and strategies for small-scale fisheries in Europe, within a human-rights-based approach. They called for a future shaped by collective effort and will, wherein:

- The small-scale fisheries of Europe are a cornerstone of vibrant coastal communities. They are in a position to champion equitable, inclusive and transparent policies with ecosystem regeneration at its core, ensuring the basic right of access to resources that sustain life.

- Co-management policies based on shared responsibility weave together environmental stewardship within the social fabric and dynamic culture of communities.
- Well-established small-scale fisheries support viable enterprises that provide decent employment, promote generational renewal, gender equality and inclusivity, and foster fair and participative processes.
- The traditional, local and experiential knowledge of small-scale fishers and fishworkers, including women and Indigenous Peoples is recognized along with scientific knowledge in making conservation and management decisions for fisheries.
- Markets reflect the true value of sustainable small-scale food production that delivers fair rewards along the value chain of aquatic food systems.
- SSF communities are resilient to the effects of climate change, natural and human disasters.
- Fishers' and fishworkers' practices set global benchmarks for sustainability and leave no one behind.

Call for Action

In this backdrop, we call upon like-minded organizations, scientists and policymakers to advance:

Recognition of small-scale fisheries' contributions and decent work: Governmental authorities, business entities and civil societies should acknowledge the contributions made by small-scale fishers and fishworkers and ensure that secure decent work is provided all along the value chain in small-scale fisheries.

Gender equity: The role of women in fisheries needs to be recognized and respected and their specific challenges addressed.

Participation in marine/inland spatial planning: Small-scale fishers and fishworkers must be included and enabled to participate meaningfully in marine and inland spatial planning and on an equal footing with other stakeholders. The local and traditional knowledge of SSF has to be considered alongside scientific advice in making decisions concerning SSF.

Preferential access: Small-scale fishers must have preferential access to fishing grounds and resources and protection from competing aquatic resource users, based on social, cultural, economic and environmental criteria.

Generational renewal: Support youth in fisheries by mentoring and training, focusing on leadership and communication skills and establishing co-management and information sharing groups.

Adaptive co-management: Adaptive co-management that includes small-scale fishers and fishworkers, guaranteeing their shared authority in decision making guided by inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and equity. It is necessary to provide the resources for adequate implementation and capacity building to support effective small-scale fishers' participation.

Adaptation to climate change: Support an adaptive approach to fisheries management that takes into account the impact of climate change and accommodates the specific needs of small-scale fishers and fishworkers.

Market access: We call for fair and sustainable food systems that address the challenges faced by small-scale fishers and fishworkers in accessing markets and infrastructure, promoting platforms that connect them directly with consumers to enhance their visibility and viability.

Foster collaborative partnerships: Broaden collaborations and explore potential alliances with multiple stakeholders with shared visions, to improve lobbying, market opportunities and to broaden the scope of issues in line with the specific concerns of small-scale fisheries.

Promote inclusive technology and digital literacy: Advocate for the development of inclusive technologies and equitable digital tools to boost the livelihoods of SSF. Support capacity building of SSF to access these technologies and tools.

Without the recognition and support of the action points mentioned above, the small-scale fishing sector will continue to decline and eventually disappear, causing coastal communities, their traditions, culture, knowledge and skills to be lost. We therefore resolve to work together to ensure that this Call for Action is widely disseminated, incorporated and implemented at all levels.

Annexure 2

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF),
Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)
and
Mulleres Salgadas

Concept Note

IYAFA Regional Workshop: Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe

Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain, 13–16 November 2023

Context

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) with FAO as the lead agency. This provides an opportunity to further reiterate the objectives and promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). The implementation of the SSF Guidelines is expected to guide and encourage governments, fishing communities and other stakeholders to work together to ensure secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSF) for the benefit of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and their communities as well as for society at large.

Fishing is far more than just an economic activity and forms part of the culture, identity and way of life of marine and inland fishing communities, with their own customs, food habits, rhythms of life, rituals, spiritual beliefs, value systems, traditions and social organizations. Approximately 90% of the 140 million people engaged in fisheries globally work in the SSF sector. For each fisherperson in the small-scale sector, at least 4 other people are engaged in land-based fisheries activities, such as the preparation of equipment, fish processing and marketing. This means more than 500 million people around the world depend on SSF for their livelihoods. In Europe, SSF employ around 80,000 fishers, representing approximately 80% of the EU fishing fleet and 48% of employment in European fisheries.

As a predominantly family-based activity, fishing in Europe makes a direct contribution to household food security and food sovereignty. Women play a particularly important role, yet this role is largely unrecognized and undervalued. In addition to their roles as household food providers and caregivers, women make key contributions all along the value chain—including preparing gear, fishing and shellfish harvesting, processing, managing family fishing businesses and marketing. In Galicia, for example, shellfish harvesting done by *mariscadoras* is a particularly important subsistence and semi-commercial activity carried out in coastal communities across the region. Many mariscadoras are also active small entrepreneurs selling fish, yet they are facing increasing pressure caused by declining landings from small-scale fishing activities and the direct marketing of SSF products. Changing economic, production and consumption trends in Europe are impacting women's roles in fishing and forcing the closure of traditional activities, while simultaneously opening up new opportunities in sectors such as tourism.

In the context of IYAFA, ICSF, its members and partners have organized three regional workshops and women's exchanges in Asia (May 2022),[1] Latin America (November 2022) and Africa (February 2023), in partnership with fishworker organizations globally to discuss matters concerning SSF. As

1 The Asia workshop took place from 5–8 May in Bangkok, Thailand and included 60 participants from 11 South and Southeast Asia countries—Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. More information on the workshop can be found here: https://www.icsf.net/resources/asia-workshop-iyafa-2022-celebrating-sustainable-and-equitable-small-scale-fisheries/

a continuation of this series, the European regional workshop was organized from 13–16 November 2023, at Vilanova de Arousa, Galicia, Spain in collaboration with Asociación de Mulleres Salgadas (a member of the AKTEA platform) and Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)

Objectives of the Workshop

The major objectives of the workshop were to:

- Create a positive narrative of SSF in Europe,
- Strengthen governance transition and related processes associated with SSF in Europe,
- Strengthen capacities of SSF and support organizations as well as build alliances and
- Amplify the voices and perspectives of women in SSF.

Participants

The workshop included 40 participants from community-based organizations, local and national fishworker organizations, networks of women in fisheries, Indigenous Peoples' associations, civil society organizations and academia from across Europe. Participants were also drawn from organizations involved with the preparation, negotiation and implementation of the SSF Guidelines since 2011, as well as fishing communities and organizations that ICSF members work with in their local and national contexts.

Methodology

The workshop objectives and agendas were framed through a consultative approach, including multiple stakeholders such as representatives from fishworker organizations, civil society organizations and academia. The workshop was held for four days and focused broadly on discussing the obstacles fishworkers face in accessing resources, fishing areas and markets, how communities and organizations mobilize to address these challenges, and the changing role of women in European SSF. Some of the sub-themes that emerged in the workshop and which are central to ICSF's work include: human rights of fishing communities and Indigenous Peoples; social protection; impacts of 'Blue Economy' agendas on SSF; impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation initiatives on SSF; roles of fishworkers' organizations, associations and cooperatives; mainstreaming gender equality/equity in fisheries; and promoting decent work and social development in fishing communities.

The workshop involved:

- Collaborative discussions and activities in which fishworkers were able to share their experiences and perspectives, learn from each other, and develop collective strategies and plans of action for addressing these issues in their local and national contexts.
- Exchanges between women in fisheries, which highlighted their experiences, the challenges they are facing and the creative approaches they use to address these challenges.
- Field trip to the Galician co-management system to understand the role of women in the process.
- An open, inclusive space for fishworkers and like-minded organizations to meet face-to-face and deepen their cooperation on advocacy work.

The general structure of the workshop was:

- **Day 1:** Creating a positive narrative for SSF in Europe—group activity and discussions on small-scale fishworkers' struggles in Europe, including access to fisheries resources, areas and markets; solutions for addressing these challenges; and exploring the idea of an equitable and just SSF in Europe.
- **Day 2:** Field visit with women shellfish harvesters to learn about their roles in fisheries, their organizations and networks, how they are working to address some of the challenges they face, and their vision for the future.

- **Day 2:** Discussions on governing access to fishery resources and fishing areas (Total Allowable Catch [TAC]—quotas, effort control and fishing areas); and boosting co-management in Europe—governing fisheries activities to ensure fairness, equity, sustainability and viability in the context of the Blue Economy, governing access to sustainable and fair food systems, and towards a Participatory Guarantee System for SSF in Europe.
- **Day 3:** Strengthening capacities of SSF and support organizations as well as building alliances; and development of a collective Regional Action Plan.
- **Day 4:** 'Women in Fisheries' panel discussion reflecting on day 1, 2 and 3 and draft workshop statement preparation.

Workshop outputs:

- Collective statement developed by workshop participants
- Workshop communications including website and social media postings
- Photos and videos
- Final workshop report

Annexure 3

Programme

Sunday | 12 November 2023: Arrival of Participants	
DAY 1: Monday | 13 November 2023	
7.45–8:45	BREAKFAST
8.45–9:30	**Registration**
9:30–10:15	**Opening Session** 1) Welcome: Mulleres Salgadas and a local fisherwoman (10 minutes) 2) Introductions by organizing groups: • International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)—Maarten Bavinck (5 minutes) • Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)—Marta Cavallé (5 minutes) • Mulleres Salgadas—Sandra Amezaga (5 minutes) 3) Overview and rationale of the workshop: ICSF (15 minutes)
10:15–11:30	**Introductions:** Participants introduce themselves, their organizations, their work and their expectations for the workshop
11:30–11:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11.45–12:00	Group photograph
12:00–13:00	**Session 1: Creating a Positive Narrative of SSF** Facilitators: Ignacio Gianelli and Sebastian Villasante (Equal Sea Lab team)
13:00–14:00	LUNCH
14:00–16:00	Session 1: Group discussions
16:00 –16:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:15–18:00	Session 1: Groups report back
20:00 onwards	WELCOME DINNER
DAY 2: Tuesday | 14 November 2023	
8:00–9:00	BREAKFAST
9:30	Depart for field visit
10:00–12:30	Field visit with women shellfish harvesters to learn about their roles in fisheries, their organizations and networks, how they are working to address some of the challenges they face, and their vision for the future.
13:00–14:00	LUNCH

14:00–15:00	**Session 2: Governing Access to Fishery Resources and Fishing Areas (TACs—Quotas, Effort Control and Fishing Areas)** Facilitator: Jeremy Percy, LIFE Inputs: Bally Philip, Seamus Bonner Discussion
15:00–16:15	**Session 2: Boosting Co-management in Europe—Governing Fisheries Activities to Ensure Fairness, Equity, Sustainability and Viability in the Context of the Blue Economy** Facilitator: Marta Cavallé, LIFE Inputs: Javier Seijo, Jeremy Percy, Antonio García Allut Discussion
16:15–16:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:30–18:00	**Session 2: Governing Access to Sustainable and Fair Food Systems** Facilitator: Paula Barbeito, independent consultant Inputs: Seamus Bonner, Gwen Pennarun, Macarena Molina Discussion
20:00 onwards	DINNER
DAY 3: Wednesday | 15 November 2023	
8:00–9:00	BREAKFAST
9:00–11:00	**Session 2: Towards a Participatory Guarantee System for SSF in Europe** Facilitator: Marta Cavallé, LIFE Inputs: Paula Barbeito, Caroline Bennet
11:00–11:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:15–12:15	**Session 3: Strengthening Capacities of SSF and Support Organizations and Building Alliances** Inputs: Short interviews with representatives of support organizations and networks
12:15–13:00	Session 3: Group discussions
13:00–14:00	LUNCH
14:00–16:00	Session 3: Group discussions continue
16:00–16:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:15–16:45	Session 3: Group discussions continue
16:45–18:00	Session 3: Groups report back
20:00 Onwards	DINNER

DAY 4: Thursday | 16 November 2023	
8:00–9:00	BREAKFAST
9:00–10.00	Session 3: Groups report back—Plenary discussion
10.00–11.30	Wrapping-up session Facilitator: Leopoldo Gerhardinger, ICSF
11:30–11:45	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:45–13:00	**Session 4: Draft Workshop Statement** • Drafting committee presents draft statement • Discussion and feedback collected from the workshop participants
13:00–14:00	LUNCH
14:00–16:30	**Session 5: Women in Fisheries Panel Discussion Reflecting on Sessions 1, 2 and 3** Facilitator: Marta Cavallé, LIFE **Panelists**: Katia Frangoudes (Uni of Brest/AKTEA), Marcarena Molina (Pescartes Cabo de Gata, fisher); Karoliina Lehtimaeki (LIFE/Snowchange Finland, fisher); Cornelie Quist (ICSF), Jose Pascual (Uni de La Laguna/ TBTI), Sandra Amezaga (MuS/AKTEA), Maria Vales (MuS, mariscadora), Milena Schreiber (Uni Gothenburg, researcher Mariscadoras), Seamus Bonner (IIMRO/LIFE board member)
16:30–16:45	**Vote of Thanks: Sivaja Nair, ICSF)**
20:00 Onwards	DINNER
Friday | 17 November 2023—Participants Depart	

Annexure 4

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Organized by

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)
and
Mulleres Salgadas

IYAFA Regional Workshop: Getting the Story Straight and Envisioning a Fair Future for Small-scale Fisheries in Europe

The IYAFA Europe regional workshop, the last of the series of IYAFA workshops organized by ICSF, was convened in collaboration with Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) and Mulleres Salgadas (MuS) from 13–16 November 2023 at Galicia, Spain. The workshop had participation from 16 European countries including representatives from fishworkers organizations, civil society organizations and academia. The workshop aimed to discuss desirable governance transitions, issues pertaining to women in SSF and pathways of strengthening capacities of SSF and support organizations in Europe. By doing so, the workshop was intended to shape inspiring narratives for the future of small-scale fisheries, emphasizing the importance of desirable and equitable futures.The workshop proved to be a valuable platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge and addressing key issues in European fisheries. The outcomes and recommendations generated during the workshop contribute to the ongoing efforts towards sustainable practices in the region.

ISBN 978-93-80802-99-2