



# Towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa Region

Proceedings of the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

7–10 December 2015

Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman





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**Prepared by:**

**Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in  
the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK)**

**and**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

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# Preparation of this document

This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, held in Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman, on 7–10 December 2015.

The report was prepared by the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK) with important contributions by Nicole Franz, Lena Westlund, Cherif Toueilib and workshop presenters and participants.

The workshop was co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the collaboration of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The presentations given by the speakers are reproduced as submitted, as is the material included in the annexes.



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# Abstract

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014 and in line with paragraph 13.6 of the document itself calling for the development of regional plans of action for their implementation, a regional workshop was held in Muscat, Oman to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa region.

The consultation was co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of the Sultanate of Oman and FAO in collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). INFOSAMAK Centre provided additional assistance. It was attended by 40 participants representing governments, academia, non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), regional and international organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs), coming from 13 countries in the Near East and North Africa region.

The consultation confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, and economic development. It also confirmed the importance of the SSF Guidelines as a tool for supporting securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development. Small-scale fisheries often represent traditional values and a way of life in the region. Achieving sustainable governance and development of the sector will require concerted efforts, including organizational development and strengthening of capacities at all levels.

The consultation provided the opportunity to share information and experiences in support of small-scale fisheries in the region. Priority areas for action in the region as well as opportunities for implementation were identified by participants. FAO will continue to support these processes in collaboration with its partners with a view to securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and enhancing the sector's contribution to food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation and natural resources management.

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# Acknowledgements

Numerous individuals contributed to the successful organization and implementation of the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

All of them are gratefully acknowledged for their efforts and contributions during the preparatory phase and at the workshop itself.

Sincere thanks are due to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, which provided generous financial support, and to its staff for technical contributions and invaluable logistical support before and during the entire event.

The precious collaboration of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is also gratefully acknowledged.

Special thanks are also due to the chairpersons of the workshop sessions and to all contributors and participants for their valuable inputs at the workshop, as well as to the NOAA of the United States of America for providing financial support.

# Abbreviations and acronyms

BGI	Blue Growth Initiative
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAFD	General Authority for Fish Resources Development
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GAFD	General Authority for Fish Resources Development
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICSF	International Collective in Support of Fish workers
ILO	International Labor Organization
INFOSAMAK	Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region
IPC	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
NENA	Near East and North Africa
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOAA	ecosystem approach to fisheries
NENA	ecosystem approach to fisheries management
NGOs	Environmental Defense Fund
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
RNE	Regional Office for Near East and North Africa (FAO)
RPOAs	Regional Plan of Action
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SNE	Sub-regional Office for North Africa (FAO)
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
TARGET	Targeted Actions to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation
UN	United Nations
WFF	World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish workers
WFFP	World Forum of Fisher Peoples
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



# Executive summary

## INTRODUCTION

The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Workshop: Towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication was held in Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman, from 7 to 10 December 2015 and was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). The workshop was attended by 40 participants from countries in the Near East and North Africa region – Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia – including representatives of governments, fisher-folk organizations, civil society organization (CSOs), academia as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, NGOs and other relevant actors.

The overall objective of the consultation was to raise awareness and support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in the region. During 3.5 days, participants reviewed the situation and current status of small-scale fisheries in the region, shared experiences through regional and topical presentations and discussions, and made suggestions with regard to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region, including identification of priorities and recommendations for actions.

The workshop noted the socio-economic and cultural importance of small-scale fisheries in the region. Small-scale fisheries contribute to livelihoods, food security, and local and national economies. Fish is very important for nutrition, especially for population groups with limited purchasing power, and small-scale fisheries are a main contributor to local fish supplies.

It is of great importance that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines will be anchored within a framework of food security and poverty eradication and take local needs into consideration. It was noted that small-scale fisheries dependent livelihoods go beyond fishing, and encompass social, economic and cultural values as well. The comprehensiveness of the SSF Guidelines in this respect was acknowledged and the need to take a holistic approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development was recognized.

Women make significant contributions to small-scale fisheries in the region, mainly in postharvest processing and trading but also in other down- and upstream activities, although the rate of women's participation varies from one country to another. Women also play an important role at the community and household level. However, women's work is often invisible and hence not sufficiently recognized.

There are encouraging developments in the region with regard to reviews of policies and strategies, recognition of the socioeconomic dimensions of small-scale fisheries, and there is an increasing emphasis on participation of small-scale fisheries actors in decision-making on resource management and development. However, challenges persist, including – with some differences between countries – insufficient or weak organizational structures of small-scale fisheries actors, poor infrastructure facilities and services, heavily exploited fishery resources and a strong influence of demand on production, especially in the context of exports, and increasing risks from climate change and disaster impacts.

The workshop recognized that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the outcomes of the regional consultation need to be linked and integrated with other on-going initiatives in the region and at national level, for example with the FAO Blue Growth Initiative and the ecosystem approach to fisheries. There is also an important potential for countries in the region to share experiences with each other.

### **OUTCOMES OF WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Key priority areas of actions to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes proposed by the workshop included:

#### **GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 5 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)**

- *The small-scale fisheries sector is constrained by the lack of specific small-scale fisheries areas and the regulatory framework does not grant preferential access rights.* Countries should develop or improve legislation, policies, strategies, plans and institutional structures to grant fair access and user rights for sustainable small-scale fisheries, both to men and women. At the regional level, experiences with small-scale fisheries support infrastructure (e.g. processing/landing sites, fishing villages) should be shared in collaboration with all actors in this field.
- *Existing institutional frameworks do not always enable the participation of all relevant small-scale fisheries actors to achieve sustainable management.* At the regional level, producer organization platforms and other appropriate mechanisms/organizations are needed to contribute to participatory decision-making. These organizations need training and capacity development in relation to sustainable use and management of resources. At the national level, these organizations can play an important role in supporting the development and strengthening of fishers and fish workers, including women, and their associations. National regulatory frameworks should be reviewed as necessary to ensure the participation of organizations in sustainable management of small-scale fisheries.
- *Data and information necessary to support sustainable management of small-scale fisheries are often lacking or insufficient.* The awareness of all stakeholders about the importance of data and information needs to be raised and the capacities to process and use data should be developed, including at local levels, so that small-scale fisheries actors can participate in data collection. Modern technologies should be used in the collection, processing and analysis of data and results need to be documented and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders. One institution at national level should be in charge of providing official information on small-scale fisheries.

#### **GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 5 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)**

- *Small-scale fisheries actors in the region, particularly deprived categories, women and migrants, are not always sufficiently organized to actively participate in fisheries management and policies.* It is expected that increased participation could also contribute to create additional employment possibilities. Valuable existing national experiences of organizational development should be shared in the region to inform organizational strengthening. In addition, regulatory frameworks and their implementation need to be assessed in relation to their supportive functions for organizations.
- *Small-scale fishers and fish workers, in particular women and deprived groups, often lack access to social security protection.* Better organization of small-scale

fisheries actors and the provision of awareness raising and training on the benefits of social protection and on how to access these schemes should be provided. In addition, various funding mechanisms for social protection need to be explored across the region and beyond, taking into account the specificities of the sector.

- ***Safety at sea and other decent working conditions, including for women, are currently insufficient in small-scale fisheries.*** A regional workshop on decent working conditions (including safety at sea and occupational safety and health) should be organized with relevant partners. In this context, the impact of climate change on working conditions in fisheries should also be considered. Appropriate legislation should be developed and enacted at national level and small-scale fishers and fish workers should benefit from training on safe technologies for better working conditions. The use of information and communication technology to improve working conditions should be promoted and cost-efficient safety equipment solutions should be developed with the involvement of fishers.
- ***In order to enable small-scale fisheries to be a driver for development, integrated approaches that reconcile environmental, social and economic development are needed.*** All countries in the region should use the SSF Guidelines as a reference framework when developing policies and strategies. Research, in particular on socio-economic aspects, should contribute to improved conditions for small-scale fisheries. Importantly, monitoring capacities of all stakeholders to assess progress need to be developed. At the regional level, coordinated management and research agendas in relation to shared stocks should be encouraged and regulations should be harmonized.
- ***In general, the small-scale fisheries sector is often characterized by limited access to education and professional development opportunities, in particular for children/women.*** The implementation of International Labour Organization (ILO) guidance on decent work should be promoted to support better professional development in the sector. Moreover, functional basic literacy needs to be ensured.

## VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE (CHAPTER 7 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)

- ***Small-scale fishers actors need to be empowered to reap more of the benefits of and income from the sales of their produce.*** Their marginalisation should be eliminated and their self-esteem improved. At the national level, fisheries departments need to provide support, e.g. through establishing better marketing facilities following successful experiences of ‘model fishing villages’. The negotiating power of small-scale fisheries actors vis-à-vis middlemen needs to be strengthened, in particular in the context of exports. At the regional level, better coordination among governments is needed to negotiate trade agreements with importing countries taking small-scale fisheries into consideration. Member countries should be more proactive and promote changes in mandates/functionality of regional organizations, as required, to become more effective.
- ***The links between trade (demand) and production need to be better understood and considered.*** Adverse impacts of international trade on resource utilization and local food security should be avoided by creating awareness among middlemen and consumers on resource implications of demand. Diversification of small-scale fisheries products should be promoted and the access of small-scale fisheries actors to knowledge on new markets and products should be facilitated. The current dependence of small-scale fishers and fish workers on middlemen for financing and provision of inputs need to be reduced by providing them with the necessary

support and services to become more independent, e.g. through cooperatives, improved regulations, fair competition and transparency with regard to the role of middlemen.

- *The organizational structures of small-scale fisheries actors need to be strengthened along the value chain to enhance their negotiating power* with other segments of the market and allow them to get better returns from their production activities. Strong organizations are also needed to enable effective participation of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in policy and decision making processes. Governments should ensure that small-scale fisheries effectively participate at all levels of decision-making, and small-scale fisheries actors need to ensure that their organizations have clear statutes, promote compliance and are representative.
- *The availability of trade related information facilitating the access to domestic, regional and international markets needs to be improved.* Appropriate links and networks for sharing and exchanging information should be strengthened making use of relevant regional organizations and structures. Trade related information systems should be developed that can provide real time information on prices in different markets to small-scale fisheries actors. These need to be based on a suitable platform and make use of appropriate technologies.
- *There is a lack of adequate conditions and controls to ensure the quality and prices of fishery products.* Small-scale fisheries actors need capacity development to improve their handling and marketing opportunities based on international good practices to increase the value of their products. Requirements and specifications of the products to ensure quality should be determined at national level, based on international norms.
- *Investments are needed* for small-scale fisheries in appropriate infrastructures and equipment, marketing facilities, financial support, as well as in the development of technical and human capacities for value addition and reduction of postharvest losses. Small-scale fisheries actors should be supported with regard to the improvement of product quality and value addition. There is also a need to increase their awareness of product quality and safety requirements.
- *The context of food security and poverty eradication is essential* and priority should be given to improved value added to the benefit of small-scale fishing communities and the improvement of their well-being, but also remembering the needs of consumers. Macroeconomic objectives, including exports, need to be accompanied with mechanisms to ensure that small-scale fishing community development needs are satisfied.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISKS

- *Climate change and disasters negatively affect small-scale fisheries in the region* (e.g. through sea level rise, changes in water temperature and salinity, damages to infrastructure by storms, red tides and human-induced pollution, such as chemical). Studies to better understand the impact of climate change and disasters at the regional level are needed and the small-scale fisheries sector needs to be included in national climate change adaptation strategies. In addition, forecasting, prevention and preparedness capacities of all stakeholders to deal with disasters needs to be enhanced.

## NEXT STEPS

The workshop identified the following next steps to actively promote the SSF Guidelines implementation at the national and regional level:

- All participants should encourage the use of the outcomes of the workshop to provide a road map for national action planning in relation to small-scale fisheries, using the SSF Guidelines as a general reference framework.



- **All participants** should raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines and the workshop outcomes, including through:
  - Distribution of the SSF Guidelines to all relevant stakeholders;
  - Preparation and dissemination of simplified and other national and local language versions and multi-media communication products;
  - Organization of information meetings with different stakeholder groups, including ministries/government agencies, CSOs, fishing cooperatives, federations, unions etc., to agree on actions and distribute tasks; and
  - Dissemination through electronic networks and websites as well as local and national media (e.g., newspapers).
- **Regional bodies and organizations** should be more involved in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, e.g. through:
  - The regional network for fisheries research institutes in the Maghreb countries;
  - Including SSF Guidelines implementation in the work programme of, for example, the Regional Commission on Fisheries (RECOFI); and
  - The use and strengthening of the Maghreb Platform for SSF and MEDARTNET and other similar organizations.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman** should include information on the SSF Guidelines and the outcomes of the workshop in the Senate Al Bahar forum.
- The need to identify and secure funding and synergies by all stakeholders was acknowledged. This should include reviewing possibilities to include SSF Guidelines implementation in on-going and planned projects and programs. Proposals for new projects focusing on SSF Guidelines implementation could be prepared for consideration by development partners, bilateral donors and embassies at country level, and NGOs. Fisheries administrations should also strive to include SSF Guidelines implementation in their regular budgets.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman should include information on the SSF Guidelines and the outcomes of the workshop in the Senate Al Bahar forum.

The need to identify and secure funding and synergies by all stakeholders was acknowledged. This should include reviewing possibilities to include SSF Guidelines implementation in on-going and planned projects and programs. Proposals for new projects focusing on SSF Guidelines implementation could be prepared for consideration by development partners, bilateral donors and embassies at country level, and NGOs. Fisheries administrations should also strive to include SSF Guidelines implementation in their regular budgets.

The establishment and access to national funds, like the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Fund in Oman, should be encouraged. Also, taxes and levies generated by the sector itself should be reinvested in its development.

Interactions with relevant non-fisheries ministries and departments at all levels and clarification of responsibilities for the mainstreaming of the SSF Guidelines in relevant policies, strategies and plans as well as public-private partnerships in support of the SSF Guidelines should be encouraged. Possibilities to receive support from large private sector companies, e.g. through corporate social responsibility schemes or polluter pay principle application, should be explored. Similarly, access to climate change adaption funds and the establishment of disaster risk funds should be promoted.

**The workshop called on:**

- Countries from the region to participate in the GFCM Regional Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries to be held in Algeria in 2016.
- FAO to improve awareness of national FAO Representations on SSF Guidelines implementation needs.

Participants thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, FAO and GFCM for hosting and organizing the workshop.

# Background

Small-scale fisheries play an important role in poverty alleviation and food security in the Near East and North Africa region; they are also a link in a long chain of social, cultural and economic activities that contribute to the well-being of local communities and wider society, for which fishing constitutes not only an economic activity, but forms also part of the culture, identity and way of life of fishing communities. Recent estimates indicate that small-scale fisheries contribute to more than 46% of global marine and inland fish catches, and approximately 90% of the 140 million people engaged in capture fisheries globally work in the small-scale fisheries sector. Women's contribution in sustaining the socio-economic livelihoods of their families makes no exception in the small-scale fisheries sector, but is often still neglected or taken for granted.

Promoting responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture is central to FAO's mission. To achieve this and in order to provide wider ecosystem stewardship and improved governance of the sector, FAO is advancing the Blue Growth Initiative as a coherent framework for the sustainable use and management of our aquatic resources.

The Blue Growth Initiative is anchored in the principles set out in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of 1995. In line with FAO's Strategic Framework, the initiative focuses on promoting the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic renewable resources in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner. It aims at reconciling and balancing priorities between growth and conservation, and between industrial and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, ensuring equitable benefits for communities and the wider society.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014 is consistent with this vision. These guidelines represent the first ever international instrument specifically dedicated to small-scale fisheries.

The SSF Guidelines were developed through a global participatory process that included consultations with over 4 000 stakeholders from over 120 countries. As part of this global process and as follow up to the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fishing and Social Development held in Oman on 26–28 March 2012, the “Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation: Towards the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication” was organized.

The consultation meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in Oman Muscat on 7-10 December 2015. It was attended by 40 participants representing governments, academia, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), regional and international organizations, civil society organization (CSOs), coming from 13 countries in the Near East and North Africa region, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia (see list of participants in Annex 1).

The workshop sessions were chaired as follows:

- Day 1: Mr Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui, Acting Director General, Fisheries Resource Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman
- Day 2: Mr Izzat Feidi, Fisheries Development Consultant
- Day 3: Mr Malouli Idrissi Mohamed, Consultant and Head of Department of Fisheries Resources, the National Institute of Fisheries Research (NIFR)
- Day 4: Nicole Franz and Lena Westlund, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation was an opportunity for participants to share experiences regarding their respective small-scale fisheries with the aim of discussing and finding solutions to the challenges facing small-scale fisheries in the region, considering the SSF Guidelines as a tool to support change. The objective of the consultation meeting was to facilitate the understanding of the principles of the SSF Guidelines and their application in order to support sustainable small-scale fisheries development and governance in the region. In particular, the meeting participants were asked to identify priorities and to explore opportunities for action at the national and regional level, ensuring that the SSF Guidelines are applied in the national and local context, where direct action must ultimately take place.

The workshop was also an opportunity to encourage the sharing of policies and practices in support of small-scale fisheries in the region.

Two background reports providing an overview of the small-scale fisheries sector in the Near East and the North Africa region respectively informed the discussion.

The overview focused on existing conditions of small-scale fisheries and proposed opportunities for the SSF Guidelines implementation in the different countries and the region as a whole. The two overview reports are available in Annex 6 and 7.

## Opening session

The regional consultation was officially opened by Mr Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui, Acting Director General, Fisheries Resource Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman, on behalf of His Excellency Dr Fuad bin Jaafar al Sajwani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, by Mr El Zein M El Muzamil, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Sultanate of Oman; and by Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). (The full opening remarks are available in Annex 2).

Mr Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui welcomed all workshop participants in his address and thanked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for holding the meeting under his patronage, as well as the ambassadors and deputy ministers attending the opening ceremony. Mr Al-Mazroui also expressed his gratitude to the FAO Office in Oman, the FAO and the GFCM for the excellent organization of the workshop. Mr Al-Mazroui stressed the importance of the fisheries sector, including small-scale fisheries, as being one of the most important non-oil economic sectors in the Sultanate. In addition it is one of the driving sectors of Oman's economy that is clearly evident in the attention given by the Government of Oman. Mr Al-Mazroui concluded by wishing that the SSF Guidelines can be effectively implemented and the workshop will be crowned with success.

Mr El Zein M El Muzamil, FAO Representative in Oman, also welcomed all participants and expressed his gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting the workshop and to the GFCM as co-organizer. He also acknowledged the support provided by INFOSAMAK. Mr El Muzamil pointed out that the task entrusted to the participants is to discuss small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region, and to develop practical recommendations for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, both at the regional and national level. In the conclusion, Mr El Muzamil wished the participants a fruitful workshop that will help ensure that the SSF Guidelines do not only remain an encouraging piece of paper, but actually have an impact at the community level, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups who are also among the poorest and most food insecure communities.

Mr Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of GFCM, welcomed the participants and thanked the Omani authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the FAO Representation in Oman for their warm reception and kindness for hosting and organizing the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation, noting the involvement of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in the organization of the workshop. Mr Srour stressed the importance of the SSF Guidelines in encouraging the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries, also in the context of the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and food security objectives, recalling that the GFCM is in the front row to facilitate the practical implementation of the SSF Guidelines in its area of competence. In this spirit, the GFCM responded to the call of the FAO Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to participate in the organization of this important event.

Mr Srour insisted on the socio-economic role that small-scale fisheries play in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region. The sector accounts for more than 80 % of the fishing fleet and employs at least 60 per cent of workers directly involved in fishing activities. Still, this sector should be granted the consideration it deserves. Mr Srour also recalled the first regional symposium on sustainable small-scale fisheries in the

Mediterranean and the Black Sea, which was held in Malta in 2013. On that occasion, the organizers agreed on the need to continue to work and intensify concerted efforts in order to develop joint strategies to adopt the SSF Guidelines in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. Mr Srouf announced a regional conference on small-scale fisheries to be held in Algeria in March 2016 organized by the GFCM in collaboration with FAO, WWF, CIHEAM and MEDPAN. In conclusion, Mr Srouf stated that he is confident that the workshop will reach its objectives and outcomes wishing all the participants a fruitful meeting.

# Introductory presentations and discussions

The first day of the workshop consisted of background and introductory presentations which paved the way for objective-oriented discussions. The main points of the presentations and discussions are summarized in the following section. Mr Ahmed El Mazrouai, Acting Director General of Fisheries Resource Development, Sultanate of Oman, chaired the session.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SSF GUIDELINES

*Ms Nicole Franz (FAO)*

Ms. Nicole Franz, FAO, gave a global overview on the SSF Guidelines. She pointed out that the SSF Guidelines are the first ever negotiated international instrument entirely dedicated to small-scale fisheries. They represent a global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development.

Ms Franz highlighted the objectives of the SSF Guidelines in relation to food security and nutrition, equitable development and poverty eradication, responsible management of fisheries resources, economic, social and environmental sustainability, ecosystem friendly and participatory policies and public awareness and advancement of knowledge. The achievement of these objectives is promoted by applying a human rights-based approach, including by empowering small-scale fishing communities, both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes, and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources, and by placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries and vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Then she moved on to point out that the SSF Guidelines are divided into three main parts:

**Part 1:** the introduction sets out the objectives, nature and scope, the guiding principles and the relationship with other international instruments. The guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines include non-discrimination, respect of cultures, social and economic viability, gender equality and equity, equity and equality, transparency, rule of law, consultation and participation, accountability, economic, social and environmental sustainability, holistic and integrated approaches and social responsibility and feasibility.

**Part 2:** This part, entitled responsible fisheries and sustainable development, represents the thematic heart of the SSF Guidelines. It contains a number of chapters dealing with:

- Sustainable resource utilization/stewardship and secure rights to fishery resources and land and the ability to benefit from them for small-scale fisheries communities

- Social development dimension of small-scale fisheries livelihoods (e.g. access to social services, need for equality and equity), employment and incomes, and fair and decent working conditions

- The postharvest sector and trade and consideration of the whole value chain

- Importance of gender and the need to promote equality and equity

- Vulnerabilities of small-scale fishing communities in the context of disaster risks and climate change

**Part 3:** This part focuses on ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation as the small-scale fisheries sector cannot be looked at in isolation.

It is embedded in a wider policy and institutional context. The SSF Guidelines therefore call for a better integration of the sector into broader development processes, policies, strategies and plans. This requires improved institutional coordination and collaboration at various levels to ensure policy coherence. In this context, fisher and fish workers organizations are also encouraged to collaborate among themselves to facilitate their involvement in policy- and decision making processes. The section also addresses information, data and research; capacity development and monitoring.

The presentation was concluded by pointing out the next steps for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa region, which will be informed by the outcomes of the regional consultation and complemented by other activities at international level, including progress reporting at COFI.

## **OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND MODUS OPERANDI**

*Ms Lena Westlund (FAO)*

The second presentation was given by Ms Lena Westlund, FAO. She started by providing an outline of the aim and the overall objectives of the workshop which were to raise awareness and to facilitate the understanding and the applications of the principles of the SSF Guidelines in the region, including in the context of ongoing regional processes. It was stressed that the implementation of the SSF Guidelines should be anchored at the local and national level, with strong links to regional and international policies and strategies.

Then, Ms Westlund explained the format of the regional workshop, consisting in a combination of plenary presentations and discussions and parallel group work. She explained the arrangements and expected outputs of the working groups' sessions, which aimed at a sequenced discussion to identify priorities and opportunities for the SSF Guidelines implementation in the region.

The composition of the working groups remained the same throughout the three sessions in order to ensure continuity throughout the discussions. The tasks and outcomes of the working group discussions are summarized in the following sections.

## **REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF SSF IN THE NEAR EAST REGION**

*Mr Izzat Feidi (Consultant)*

Mr Izzat Feidi, Fisheries Development Consultant, presented the general situation of small-scale fisheries in the Near East region, covering 16 countries, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. (The full paper from which the presentation was drawn is available in Annex 6).

In his presentation, Mr Feidi highlighted the role of fisheries in food security and poverty eradication and provided a brief review of small-scale fisheries in each country as well as suggestions and recommendations for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The presentation pointed out that fisheries and aquaculture in the Near East region are mainly small-scale, artisanal and have high growth potential, but are facing several constraints. Small-scale fisheries represent traditional values and a way of life for large sections of the Near East populations. However, the main problem of most small-scale fisheries families and communities is their low standard of living and frequent poverty despite decades of overall fisheries development and national income growth. It was also pointed out that women are heavily involved in post-harvest activities and many depend on small-scale fisheries for their families' livelihood, even though their contribution is often not very well recognized. One of the major challenges facing small-scale fisheries in the region is rising sea levels which



are threatening coastal lands along the Arabian Peninsula and the Nile Delta where most small-scale fishing exist in the region.

It was also pointed out that the Near East countries are primarily food importers, including for seafood commodities, and that the development of small-scale fisheries will help in reducing the food imports to feed growing populations.

Mr Feidi concluded by pointing out that the sector should be given the consideration it deserves, and that stability, security and a peaceful atmosphere are pre-conditions for small-scale fisheries development in the region.

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW OF SSF IN THE NORTH AFRICA REGION

*Mr Malouli Idrissi Mohamed (Consultant)*

Mr Malouli Idrissi Mohamed, Head of Department of Fisheries Resources, National Fisheries Research Institute (INRH), Morocco, introduced an overview of small-scale fisheries in the countries of North Africa, namely Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in relation to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Mr Malouli underlined the socio-economic contribution of these fisheries that are gaining more and more importance. He stated that fishers are increasingly more organized, particularly in the form of associations and cooperatives. Moreover, it should be noted that the level of integration of these organizations in the process of decision-making becomes increasingly important.

In his address, Mr Malouli explained that most Maghreb countries have adopted the development of the fisheries sector through the implementation of medium-term development strategies. These strategies involve infrastructure development, capacity development, development of fishery products, and the modernization of boats. He added that the participation of women in the sector is rather limited and that attempts to improve their integration into the production process and post-harvest are under implementation. By the end of his presentation Mr Mallouli recognized the importance of the SSF Guidelines in securing a sustainable future for this sector; noting that these guidelines are a unique opportunity to intensify efforts to secure strategies for sustainable small-scale fisheries in North Africa. (The full report which informed this presentation is available in Annex 7).

## SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN OMAN

*Mr Ahmed Al Mazrouai (MAF)*

Mr Ahmed Al Mazrouai, Acting Director General, Fisheries Resource Development Department, Sultanate of Oman, presented the current situation of small-scale fisheries in Oman. He underlined the importance of this activity as an essential part of the fisheries sector that contributes largely to domestic fish production. Small-scale fisheries contributes significantly to the supply of the local market, and consequently to national food security. He described the characteristics of small-scale fisheries in regard to their structures and components, highlighting that fisheries management and resource sustainability are one of the major axes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2011-2015) and the 9<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2015-2020) currently under Implementation.

Mr Al Mazrouai stressed the importance of the SSF Guidelines in Oman in terms of their strengths and opportunities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is implementing various programs and projects to develop the capacities of small-scale fishers in the Sultanate of Oman in order to raise the efficiency of their work to increase productivity and to encourage a future for this traditional profession in Oman.



# Thematic presentations

The plenary and working group discussions were informed by a number of plenary presentations on specific issues. These presentations are summarized in the following sections.

## **GFCM'S REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES**

*Mr Abdellah Srour (GFCM)*

Mr Abdellah Srour, GFCM Executive Secretary, introduced the First Regional Program on Small-Scale Fisheries for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea that has recently been adopted in the 38<sup>th</sup> Session. The regional program was designed to uphold and develop small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and it contributes to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines within the framework of the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI).

Mr Srour reaffirmed the socio-economic importance of small-scale fisheries in the region and the urgent need to ensure their sustainable development through a regional program. He then provided an overview on the legal and institutional framework of the GFCM with regard to the conservation and development of aquatic resources. In this respect, Mr Srour stressed the major role that the GFCM could play in the region through its pragmatic solutions and achievements envisaging increased visibility of small-scale fisheries actors and acknowledging the significant importance of small-scale fisheries. The program's objectives and strategies are directed towards the development of governance and management approaches, in particular co-management, and information and data exchange that could foster sustainable small-scale fisheries.

It was underlined that the development of small-scale fisheries needs strong commitment by the interested stakeholders to promote cooperation at all levels through effective participation in the implementation of the program in relation to the SSF Guidelines. The progress and the expected output cannot be realized without the effective collaboration and participation of all parties involved in this sector in the planned activities.

## **A CSO PERSPECTIVE ON THE SSF GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION**

*Mr Yassine Skandrani (Maghreb Platform for Small-Scale Fisheries)*

The presentation was given by Mr Yassine Skandrani, General Secretary of the Maghreb Platform for Small-Scale Fisheries, on the perspectives of civil society organizations on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines to ensure sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and eradication of poverty.

Mr Skandrani shed light on the effective participation of organizations of civil society by sharing concerns, opinions and needs in relation to sustainable small-scale fisheries' development in the region. Mr Skandrani underlined that the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF), the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) and the International Collective in Support of Fish workers (ICSF) coordinates the participation and involvement of civil society organizations in the SSF Guidelines development and implementation process. He stressed the example of the Maghreb Platform for Small-Scale Fisheries which is actively associated with this group and playing an important role in the North African region to support sustainable small-scale fisheries development.

The coordination between the different civil society organizations helped significantly in raising awareness about the importance of the SSF Guidelines development process, and enabled fishing communities to actively take part in shaping the content of the SSF Guidelines and in establishing and strengthening dialogue among the different stakeholders. This contributed to a number of actions that promote the application of the SSF Guidelines, including the inclusion of the SSF Guidelines in policies, laws, regulations and agreements at appropriate levels (local, national, regional); the engagement of CSOs and NGOs in monitoring the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the development of national action plans for small-scale fisheries on the basis of the SSF Guidelines with a dedicated budget line.

# Thematic presentations

## GENDER ISSUES IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

*Ms Nedwa Nech (Mauritania 2000)*

Ms Nedwa Nech, Mauritania 2000, made a presentation on gender issues in small-scale fisheries. She presented the situation of women and their role in the whole fisheries supply chain, from pre-harvest to processing and marketing.

Although fishing is generally regarded as men's work, women play a vital, but often hidden role. They represent a large percentage of the workforce in upstream "secondary activities", such as buying and selling, processing, and related marketing activities, referred to as the "post-harvest sector". At the same time, and particularly given that men are often away fishing, women remain responsible for sustaining and maintaining the fishing household as well as the social and cultural fabric of their communities. Women's work, however, tends to be either poorly remunerated or non-remunerated.

Women engaged in small-scale fisheries are known to suffer from lack of even basic facilities in markets and landing centres. Their access to credit to sustain their livelihoods in the face of rising competition is poor, at best. They are exposed to health issues, for example from fish smoking processes, the sun, overloading, just to name a few. Women engaged in fisheries are often not recognized as workers; they lack social protection and access to social security.

They are often poorly represented in organizations, in decision-making processes within the family, in the community and in fisheries governance. Their communities lack access to basic services such as those related to education, healthcare, water, and sanitation.

By the end of her presentation, Ms Nech listed some solutions to improve gender equality and equity in the fisheries value chain, enabling the participation of women in decision-making processes and improving their visibility through networking at the national, regional and international levels:

- Improving the visibility of women's work throughout networking at the national regional and international level
- Create platforms for the exchange of experience and learning
- Advocacy capacity building
- Capacity building at the organizational, financial and technical level

## INTRODUCTION TO THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF LAND, FISHERIES AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

*Ms Nicole Franz (FAO)*

Ms Nicole Franz, FAO, introduced the "Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security" ("Tenure Guidelines). The Tenure Guidelines promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. They were officially endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012. She spoke about the goals of the guidelines, explaining the human rights-based approach and the guiding principles on which the guidelines are founded.

Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines builds heavily on the Tenure Guidelines and these

complementary instruments promote a holistic human rights based approach to small-scale fisheries governance and management in the context of livelihood and food security.

Ms Franz pointed out that the SSF Guidelines do not only concern fishers but also fish workers and all members of fishing communities, both in marine and inland fisheries. She concluded her presentation stressing the important role of small-scale fish workers organizing themselves, holding governments accountable and the necessity of multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure that instruments like the Tenure and the SSF Guidelines are implemented.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE (BGI) – THE CASE OF OMAN

*Mr Abdessalam Fahfouhi (Fisheries Development, Oman)*

A presentation on the Blue Growth Initiative in Oman was introduced by Mr Abdessalam Fahfouhi, Fisheries Development and Management Expert, Directorate General, Fisheries Development, Sultanate of Oman. Mr Fahfouhi gave an overview of the origins of the BGI which is a global initiative launched by the FAO in 2012. This initiative is designed to preserve oceans and water bodies from growing threats, such as pollution, overfishing, illegal fishing and climate change impacts, and committed to promote the sustainable development and the rational exploitation of resources.

Mr Fahfouhi highlighted the significant role that the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) plays in the sustainability of marine resources and preservation of biodiversity and protection of marine environment. The presentation focused on the case of Oman but other eight countries in the region are also pioneering Blue Growth, namely: Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Iran.

In this context, Mr Fahfouhi stressed the role of the small-fisheries sector in providing many job opportunities for Omanis and food security as well as contributing to the gross domestic product and stimulating exports. Moreover, it was indicated that within the context of the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) economic performance of small-scale fisheries in the Sultanate Oman is receiving increasing attention and resource sustainability is gaining importance.

## THE MOROCCAN “HALIEUTIS” STRATEGY

*Mr Saubry Mohamed (DMPA, Morocco)*

Mr Saubry Mohamed, DMPA, Morocco, underlined the importance and goals of the “Halieutis” strategy in the Kingdom of Morocco aiming at upgrading and modernizing the various sectors of the fishing industry and improving its competitiveness and performance. Mr Saubry emphasized that the “Halieutis” strategy attaches great importance to the development of small-scale fisheries and the socio-professional promotion of the workers of the sector.

A part of the overall strategy concerns implementing actions to improve the living and working conditions of all segments of the sector, including small-scale fisheries, by modernizing the means of catching, storing and marketing fish.

This will improve the quality of the catch, develop the value chain, increase fishers’ access to both local and export markets and ultimately improve incomes.

Mr Saubry explained that the development of small-scale fisheries under this strategy includes the provision of appropriate facilities such as fishing villages and equipped landing points, social security benefits, strengthening organization of fishers, the integration of the women and literacy programs.

## Summary of discussions

Following the presentations, participants commented and shared their views. Main points of this discussion are summarized in this section.

Although there are concerted efforts by governments, FAO and other development partners, small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa still face a number of interlinked challenges and obstacles that the region has in common. During the discussions, it was highlighted that there are many steps that should be followed to push the small-scale fisheries sector in North Africa and the Near East towards being an efficient and effective sector able to fully make its contribution to food security and improving reliable income sources for the people in the sector. Accordingly, the discussions touched on the issues and challenges facing the sector and looked at the sector's potentials and opportunities for growth and sustainability.

There was a consent that small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region contribute significantly to world capture production and that the region is in a period of transition. A range of social and economic issues and constraints leading to poverty, marginalization and social exclusion of the vast majority of small-scale fishers and their community were identified:

- Reliable, accurate and timely information about the various dimensions of the small-scale fisheries sector, being a vital component to develop and implement developmental policies;
- Legislations and governance arrangements;
- Basic infrastructure and capacity development;
- Empowerment and gender equality

The discussion tackled the above mentioned constraints and called for an immediate and urgent need for addressing these issues, emphasizing that poverty alleviation, employment, food security and income generation are the key elements for sustainability and efficiency of small-scale fisheries. The discussion also stressed that collective participatory action should take place, taking into consideration the important role that the local governments and organizations of civil society, and the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) could play in the development and advancement of the institutional framework for sustainable development through ensuring a valued and recognized contribution of fishers and stakeholders, and amending the sector legislations and giving it the visibility it deserves.

The participants confirmed that reform should not take place without enhancing efforts in terms of upgrading shore facilities; empowerment of women and consideration of gender concerns in development policy and planning; developing processing, preservation and marketing techniques and improved gear and equipment; enforcement of more suitably trained fishers and fish workers, especially in effective marketing techniques to stop the exploitation of small producers by traders, in addition to the involvement of fishers in decision-making processes in line with the principles of the SSF Guidelines.

With respect to the socio-economic and cultural aspects, participants highlighted the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region. They contribute to livelihoods, food security, and local and national economies. Fish is very important for nutrition, especially for population groups with limited purchasing power, and small-scale fisheries are a main contributor to local fish supplies.

The comprehensiveness of the SSF Guidelines was acknowledged and the need to take a holistic approach to small-scale fisheries governance and development was recognized.

The important contributions of women were also highlighted by the participants, mainly in postharvest processing and trading but also in other down- and upstream activities, although the rate of women's participation varies from one country to another. Women also play an important role at the community and household level. However, women's work is often invisible and hence not sufficiently recognized.



# Working group sessions

## WORKING GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

Ms Lena Westlund, FAO, explained the terms of reference for the working groups. The overall purpose of the working groups was to compile experiences of good policies and practices in the region in support of small-scale fisheries, and provide other comments and suggestions and to identify opportunities for implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region.

Three working group sessions were held to discuss a sequence of topics contributing towards developing elements for national and regional plans of action for the SSF Guidelines implementation. The composition of the working groups remained the same throughout the three sessions in order to ensure continuity throughout the discussions.

Participants were split up into language groups (English, Arabic) to facilitate easy communication, each dealing with different thematic areas of Part 2 of the SSF Guidelines, in order to discuss specific issues in each of their local contexts and to deliberate on possibilities for the provisions of the SSF Guidelines to be directly applied and relevant to bringing about change on the ground.

Group 1: Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resources management (chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines)

Group 2: Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality (chapters 6 and 8 of the SSF Guidelines)

Group 3: Value chains, post-harvest and trade (chapter 7 of the SSF Guidelines)

It was emphasized that climate change and disaster risks (chapter 9 of the SSF Guidelines) and gender should be considered throughout the discussions as cross-cutting issues.

Each group was led by a facilitator while a rapporteur ensured that the discussions were documented. The groups were given a brief introduction to the topic by the facilitator at the beginning of the sessions. After each session, the working groups reported back to plenary and time was allocated after each presentation for comments and discussions.

The summaries of working group outcomes presented below also take account of comments and additional information made available in these plenary discussions.

Participants were allocated to the working groups beforehand by the organizers (see table in Annex 3).

## SESSION 1: AGREEING ON ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

The objective of the first working group session was to familiarize the group with the relevant chapters of the SSF Guidelines, discuss priority issues for the region and define visions and/or objectives for the future. To facilitate this discussion, the working groups were provided with the following guiding questions:

- Which of the issues included in the relevant chapters of the SSF Guidelines are particularly relevant to the region? Identify a maximum of 5 issues.
- Where do you want to be in the future? Define a vision or objective for each of the identified issues.
- What are the key constraints to achieve the identified visions/objectives?

## SESSION 2: REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICE AND ACTION PLANNING

The objective of the second working group session was to review existing good practices, which could inform action at regional or national action. Accordingly, the working groups were tasked to answer the following guiding question:

- *What good practices exist in relation to the identified priorities and visions/objectives?”*

In the reply, the working groups were invited to also consider the sections of Part 3 of the SSF Guidelines (Policy coherence; Institutional coordination and collaboration; Information, research and communication and; Capacity development; Implementation support and monitoring).

## SESSION 3: ACTION PLANNING

The objective of this working group session was to provide elements for regional and national implementation planning. The working groups were asked to:

- Identify key actions at regional and national levels, including responsibilities, based on the outcomes of the previous sessions.
- Formulate recommendations for follow-up to the regional workshop, based on the guiding question:
  - What are the key next steps for moving towards an RPOA?
- Discuss opportunities for funding based on the guiding questions:
  - What are possible mechanisms for funding?
  - What are possible sources of funding or support for the region?

## REPORTING BACK FROM WORKING GROUPS

After the conclusion of each working group session, the groups reported back to plenary for discussion.

The detailed outputs of the working group were summarized after the third and last session. The main consolidated conclusions of each working group were as follows:

### SUMMARY OUTPUTS OF WORKING GROUP 1

The first group, whose thematic area was the Governance of tenure in SSF and resources management, identified five priorities for the region which are as follows:

- **Integrated and comprehensive policies to ensure the continuity of small-scale fisheries:** Involved actors in the SSF community are invited to apply management of fisheries, through the appropriate framework of policies, laws and institutions, and take measures for the conservation of fisheries resources in the long-term. Moreover, the empowerment of SSF communities to participate with Government is encouraged for the development and implementation of management plans based on inspiring good practices from successful experiences in the field with the assistance of updated (improved) policies, plans and guidelines.
- **Improve production quality and raise the level of income:** A greater emphasis was placed on the development of production quality and the need for strengthening national capacities in the areas of marine products valorization on the basis of an international reference. The emphasis was placed also on the needs of vulnerable groups to enhance the contribution of dependent fishing communities, through achieving poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resources. These factors will enable them to have improved incomes and livelihood security.
- **Develop laws and legislation that guarantees the continuity of the sustainable exploitation of SSF in a participatory framework:** The development laws enabling fishing communities to have secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources are a crucial need. Accordingly,

legislations and laws should also involve wise resource management focusing on putting an end to destructive fishing methods.

- **Ensuring and improving the level of decision-making and policies for sustainable management:** Participatory management systems such as co-management should be promoted in accordance with national law. Small-scale fishing communities should be empowered to participate in decision-making processes including all concerned parties and stakeholders and assume responsibility for sustainable use of fishery resources. Data collection Systems for decision making on sustainable management of SSF are needed. Effective decision making requires communication and information.
- **Protection of potential climate impacts that affect fisheries and their environmental:** All parties should recognize the need to consider current and future climate change consequences in management arrangements and practices. Effective and adaptive management mechanisms and measures should be strengthened to be part of small-scale fisheries co-management plans and implementation. Practices which do least harm to the environment and the associated species should be applied.

The detailed results of working group 1 are available in Annex 4.

## SUMMARY OUTPUTS OF WORKING GROUP 2

Working group 2 addressing Social development, employment and decent work and gender equality identified six possible priority areas for action in relation to this theme, which also considered the issue of climate change and disaster risk and gender:

- **Professional/organizational development opportunities:** The need to better organize profession and increase involvement of fishers and fish workers (including women/migrant workers) in fisheries management and policies to create additional employment opportunities is emphasized. This should be based on sharing of experiences regarding the organizational strengthening at regional/sub-regional level and encouraging cooperation between countries in the region on SSF development.
- **Improve living, working conditions and social protection in SSF to contribute to ensuring decent work in the region:** Explore funding mechanisms for social protection will be needed, taking into account the specificities of SSF (fluctuations in income) and secure all fishers and fish workers, including women, benefit from efficiently designed and implemented social protection schemes. The sharing of experiences in relation to national social protection schemes in this context could support change in the region.
- **Safety at sea of small scale fishers:** should be integrated into the general management of fisheries. Ratified and applied International labor standards, at national level also in SSF; and minimum tools (e.g. safe vessels, safety equipment, etc..) should be provided to fishers in order to carry out their profession in safe conditions.
- **Empower SSF communities through an integrated ecosystem / holistic approach for SSF development:** The establishments of national platforms representing all related stakeholders to support the SSF Guidelines implementation are key in this context. This process could be supported by coordination between governments on management and research agendas to ensure proper understanding of the socio-economic and environmental conditions of SSF, inter-institutional mechanisms and regulatory frameworks.
- **Enable access to schools and education for all to achieve informed and educated coastal communities:** Promote implementation of ILO guidance on decent work to support harmonization also at the regional level, the participatory development of curricula in order to increase the functional basic literacy, and

the exploration of new technology for education could be supportive in this context.

### SUMMARY OUTPUTS OF WORKING GROUP 3

Working group 3, whose thematic areas was Value chains, post-harvest and trade, identified the following five priorities:

- ***Benefits of trading, including International and domestic trade, should be considered through the value chain:*** At the national level, fisheries departments need to provide support, e.g. through establishing better marketing facilities following successful experiences of ‘model fishing villages’. At the regional level, better coordination among governments is needed to negotiate trade agreements with importing countries taking SSF into consideration. Countries should be more proactive and promote changes in mandates/ functionality of regional organizations, as required, to be more effective.
- ***Links between fisheries resource management and trade related information:*** Establish transparent market information systems for local and international market and trade facilitate networking between small-scale fisheries and end-users, and promote better access to information. Consultation with concerned stakeholders should be part of these policies and procedures to facilitate access to international markets and participate in events to promote products.
- ***Organizational structure to enable effective participation of SSF stakeholders in policy and decision making:*** This will also help them get better return from production activities, facilitate their evolution and strengthening to encourage fair and inclusive environment, establish functional organizations for the SSF actors and ensure continuous and effective participation in the decision making process.
- ***The availability of trade related information facilitating the access to domestic, regional and international markets needs to be improved:*** Appropriate links and networks for sharing and exchanging information should be strengthened making use of relevant regional organizations and structures. Trade related information systems should be developed that can provide real time information on prices in different markets to SSF actors. In the debates and proposals to be included in the action matrix to be undertaken, the participants in this group highlighted the role to be played by regional organizations such as Infosamak Centre that has a rich experience in the development of market information, promoting small scale fisheries and also in terms of providing support to cooperatives in the region (Training, development, upgrading, Eco-labelling ...) to access international markets.
- ***Develop a conducive policy and business environment to encourage investment in infrastructure and equipment appropriate to small-scale fisheries as well as develop technical and human capacity for value addition and reduction of postharvest losses:*** To promote decent working conditions and enhance the diversification of products. SSF actors should be supported with regard to the improvement of product quality and value addition. There is also a need to increase their awareness of product quality and safety requirements.

### PLENARY DISCUSSIONS

The reporting back from the working group sessions paved the way to an enriching debate. Key points and issues that were brought up in the discussions that followed the groups’ presentations include:

- With respect to women in fishing communities, participants highlighted that women are also engaged through marketing of the catch but they usually lower

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pay compared with men. They face various problems within fisheries and within the family and community.

- Informal labour in small-scale fisheries, in particular of women: this poses particular challenges in terms of social development, decent work and employment;
- The participants highlighted the need for Arabic translation for national adaptation in the region to ensure proper understanding of the often complex concepts by all stakeholders;
- The implementation of the SSF Guidelines requires the countries' collaboration with various related agencies operating in the region.
- With respect to markets and trade it was noticed that there is often a lack of infrastructure and market access opportunities coupled with difficulties in meeting export requirements. Small-scale fishers and fishworkers tend not to have direct relations with buyers and are in a weak negotiation position respect to more powerful middlemen who may hence obtain proportionally higher profit margins. Establishing and strengthening structures and organizations for marketing and trade may be one opportunity to improve this situation.
- Climate change and disaster risk threatens the stability of fisheries. There is a need for adequate budget allocations for enhancing the resilience of SSF communities;
- The role of governments in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines as well as regional and local fisheries organizations, communities and private sector, to ensure ownership of the SSF Guidelines was noted, and
- The participants also recommended that the SSF Guidelines should address the need for protection of coastal areas and integrated coastal zone management to avoid inter-sectoral conflicts and allow preferential access to small-scale fisheries communities.



# Conclusions, recommendations and the way forward

The workshop consolidated summary conclusions and recommendations on issues, challenges and opportunities in relation to the implementation of SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa region in a final plenary session.

In addition to the summaries of each working group, the workshop agreed on a vision for the region for the SSF Guidelines implementation, the need for political support and on broad objectives and principles of a Regional Plan of Action and related next steps, as indicated here:

## **GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 5 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)**

- The small-scale fisheries sector is constrained by the lack of specific small-scale fisheries areas and the regulatory framework does not grant preferential access rights. Countries should develop or improve legislation, policies, strategies, plans and institutional structures to grant fair access and user rights for sustainable small-scale fisheries, both to men and women. At the regional level, experiences with small-scale fisheries support infrastructure (e.g. processing/landing sites, fishing villages) should be shared.
- Existing institutional frameworks do not always enable the participation of all relevant small-scale fisheries actors to achieve sustainable management. At the regional level, producer organization platforms and other appropriate mechanisms/organizations are needed to contribute to participatory decision-making. These organizations need training and capacity development in relation to sustainable use and management of resources. At the national level, these organizations can play an important role in supporting the development and strengthening of fishers and fish workers, including women, and their associations. National regulatory frameworks should be reviewed as necessary to ensure the participation of organizations in sustainable management of small-scale fisheries.
- Data and information necessary to support sustainable management of small-scale fisheries are often lacking or insufficient. The awareness of all stakeholders about the importance of data and information needs to be raised and the capacities to process and use data should be developed, including at local levels, so that small-scale fisheries actors can participate in data collection. Modern technologies should be used in the collection, processing and analysis of data and results need to be documented and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders. One institution at national level should be in charge of providing official information on small-scale fisheries.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK AND GENDER EQUALITY (CHAPTERS 6+8 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)**

- Small-scale fisheries actors in the region, particularly deprived categories, women and migrants, are not always sufficiently organized to actively participate in fisheries management and policies. It is expected that increased participation could also contribute to create additional employment possibilities. Valuable existing national experiences of organizational development should be shared



in the region to inform organizational strengthening. In addition, regulatory frameworks and their implementation need to be assessed in relation to their supportive functions for organizations.

- Small-scale fishers and fish workers, in particular women and deprived groups, often lack access to social security protection. Better organization of small-scale fisheries actors and the provision of awareness raising and training on the benefits of social protection and on how to access these schemes should be provided. In addition, various funding mechanisms for social protection need to be explored across the region and beyond, taking into account the specificities of the sector.
- Safety at sea and other decent working conditions, including for women, are currently insufficient in small-scale fisheries. A regional workshop on decent working conditions (including safety at sea and occupational safety and health) should be organized with relevant partners. In this context, the impact of climate change on working conditions in fisheries should also be considered. Appropriate legislation should be developed and enacted at national level and small-scale fishers and fish workers should benefit from training on safe technologies for better working conditions. The use of information and communication technology to improve working conditions should be promoted and cost-efficient safety equipment solutions should be developed with the involvement of fishers.
- In order to enable small-scale fisheries to be a driver for development, integrated approaches that reconcile environmental, social and economic development are needed. All countries in the region should use the SSF Guidelines as a reference framework when developing policies and strategies. Research, in particular on socio-economic aspects, should contribute to improved conditions for small-scale fisheries. Importantly, monitoring capacities of all stakeholders to assess progress need to be developed. At the regional level, coordinated management and research agendas in relation to shared stocks should be encouraged and regulations should be harmonized.
- In general, the small-scale fisheries sector is often characterized by limited access to education and professional development opportunities, in particular for children/women. The implementation of International Labour Organization (ILO) guidance on decent work should be promoted to support better professional development in the sector. Moreover, functional basic literacy needs to be ensured.

#### **VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE (CHAPTER 7 OF THE SSF GUIDELINES)**

- Small-scale fishers actors need to be empowered to reap more of the benefits of and income from the sales of their produce. Their marginalization should be eliminated and their self-esteem improved. At the national level, fisheries departments need to provide support, e.g. through establishing better marketing facilities following successful experiences of ‘model fishing villages’.
- The negotiating power of small-scale fisheries actors vis-à-vis middlemen needs to be strengthened, in particular in the context of exports. At the regional level, better coordination among governments is needed to negotiate trade agreements with importing countries taking small-scale fisheries into consideration. Member countries should be more proactive and promote changes in mandates/functionality of regional organizations, as required, to become more effective.
- The links between trade (demand) and production need to be better understood and considered. Adverse impacts of international trade on resource utilization and local food security should be avoided by creating awareness among



middlemen and consumers on resource implications of demand. Diversification of small-scale fisheries products should be promoted and the access of small-scale fisheries actors to knowledge on new markets and products should be facilitated. The current dependence of small-scale fishers and fish workers on middlemen for financing and provision of inputs need to be reduced by providing them with the necessary support and services to become more independent, e.g. through cooperatives, improved regulations, fair competition and transparency with regard to the role of middlemen.

- The organizational structures of small-scale fisheries actors need to be strengthened along the value chain to enhance their negotiating power with other segments of the market and allow them to get better returns from their production activities. Strong organizations are also needed to enable effective participation of small-scale fisheries stakeholders in policy and decision making processes. Governments should ensure that small-scale fisheries effectively participate at all levels of decision-making, and small-scale fisheries actors need to ensure that their organizations have clear statutes, promote compliance and are representative.
- The availability of trade related information facilitating the access to domestic, regional and international markets needs to be improved. Appropriate links and networks for sharing and exchanging information should be strengthened making use of relevant regional organizations and structures. Trade related information systems should be developed that can provide real time information on prices in different markets to small-scale fisheries actors. These need to be based on a suitable platform and make use of appropriate technologies.
- There is a lack of adequate conditions and controls to ensure the quality and prices of fishery products. Small-scale fisheries actors need capacity development to improve their handling and marketing opportunities based on international good practices to increase the value of their products. Requirements and specifications of the products to ensure quality should be determined at national level, based on international norms.
- Investments are needed for small-scale fisheries in appropriate infrastructures and equipment, marketing facilities, financial support, as well as in the development of technical and human capacities for value addition and reduction of postharvest losses. Small-scale fisheries actors should be supported with regard to the improvement of product quality and value addition. There is also a need to increase their awareness of product quality and safety requirements.
- The context of food security and poverty eradication is essential and priority should be given to improved value added to the benefit of small-scale fishing communities and the improvement of their well-being, but also remembering the needs of consumers. Macroeconomic objectives, including exports, need to be accompanied with mechanisms to ensure that small-scale fishing community development needs are satisfied.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISKS**

- Climate change and disasters negatively affect small-scale fisheries in the region (e.g. through sea level rise, changes in water temperature and salinity, damages to infrastructure by storms, red tides and human-induced pollution, such as chemical). Studies to better understand the impact of climate change and disasters at the regional level are needed and the small-scale fisheries sector needs to be included in national climate change adaptation strategies. In addition, forecasting, prevention and preparedness capacities of all stakeholders to deal with disasters needs to be enhanced.

## NEXT STEPS

The workshop identified the following next steps to actively promote the SSF Guidelines implementation at the national and regional level:

- All participants should encourage the use of the outcomes of the workshop to provide a road map for national action planning in relation to small-scale fisheries, using the SSF Guidelines as a general reference framework.
- All participants should raise awareness about the SSF Guidelines and the workshop outcomes, including through:
  - Distribution of the SSF Guidelines to all relevant stakeholders;
  - Preparation and dissemination of simplified and other national and local language versions and multi-media communication products;
  - Organization of information meetings with different stakeholder groups, including ministries/government agencies, CSOs, fishing cooperatives, federations, unions etc., to agree on actions and distribute tasks; and
  - Dissemination through electronic networks and websites as well as local and national media (e.g., newspapers).
- Regional bodies and organizations should be more involved in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, e.g. through:
  - The regional network for fisheries research institutes in the Maghreb countries;
  - Including SSF Guidelines implementation in the work programme of, for example, the Regional Commission on Fisheries (RECOFI); and
  - The use and strengthening of the Maghreb Platform for SSF and MEDARTNET and other similar organizations.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman should include information on the SSF Guidelines and the outcomes of the workshop in the Senate Al Bahar forum.

The need to identify and secure funding and synergies by all stakeholders was acknowledged. This should include reviewing possibilities to include SSF Guidelines implementation in on-going and planned projects and programs. Proposals for new projects focusing on SSF Guidelines implementation could be prepared for consideration by development partners, bilateral donors and embassies at country level, and NGOs. Fisheries administrations should also strive to include SSF Guidelines implementation in their regular budgets.

The establishment and access to national funds, like the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Fund in Oman, should be encouraged. Also, taxes and levies generated by the sector itself should be reinvested in its development.

Interactions with relevant non-fisheries ministries and departments at all levels and clarification of responsibilities for the mainstreaming of the SSF Guidelines in relevant policies, strategies and plans as well as public-private partnerships in support of the SSF Guidelines should be encouraged. Possibilities to receive support from large private sector companies, e.g. through corporate social responsibility schemes or polluter pay principle application, should be explored. Similarly, access to climate change adaptation funds and the establishment of disaster risk funds should be promoted.

*Based on the priorities previously mentioned in the discussions, it was agreed that:*

- The workshop confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and socio-economic development, and that the SSF Guidelines will be an important tool for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development.
- The SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa region are interlinked with the Right to Food guidelines and the Tenure guidelines. With regard to

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their implementation considerable variation between countries in terms of institutional contexts and policy agendas exist. Countries do not have the same capacity to act. Therefore, capacities need to be developed at all levels to help implement the SSF Guidelines.

- Although the governance principles that are stated in the SSF Guidelines remain, the concrete policies and actions that follow from them will change according to how these fisheries are developing and what lessons are learned in the process implementing them.
- States should understand the climate change related threats for capture fisheries and how this might affect capture fisheries and aquaculture. Efforts should be made to increase the awareness among small-scale fisheries communities about climate change and their abilities to adapt, including how to improve safety at sea. Appropriate tools and media should be used conveying messages and in training. Capacity building and awareness rising is also required at the ministerial level, among CSOs and other actors involved in the fisheries sector.
- At the local level, states should provide and enable investments in appropriate infrastructure to support the small-scale fisheries post-harvest work. In addition, they should provide capacity development to produce good quality and safe fish and fishery products for both the domestic market and export. Local existing organizations should be supported to manage local production and add value. At regional level, the state should introduce trade regulations that support regional trade in products from small-scale fisheries.
- States should also develop effective fisheries management systems to prevent over exploitation driven by markets, threatening the sustainability of fisheries resources, food security and nutrition. For a gendered perspective on fishery sector sustainable development, states should promote and safeguard spaces of women in fisheries.
- Fisheries need to be looked at through a gender lens. Gender deals with roles and relationships between men and women and these are determined by social, political, cultural and economic contexts. In this regard, Investments would be needed to address gender inequality and plans must be backed up by budget allocated to specific measures to promote and ensure gender equality and equity.



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## Closure of the workshop

In the official closing ceremony, Mr El Zein M El Muzamil, FAO, Dr Hussain Al-Muscati, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sultanate of Oman and Ms Nicole Franz, FAO, thanked participants for their constructive participation. They all agreed that the workshop had resulted in a fruitful debate between participants, contributing to a roadmap for the region for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Mr El Zein reiterated his thanks to the Omani Government for hosting the event and the FAO Secretariat, GFCM and the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK) for their support in the organization of the meeting.

Mr Muscati praised the quality of the workshop findings thanks to the active and engaging presentations and discussion. He added that the Sultanate of Oman has a special interest in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, which requires more coordination at the regional and national level. He said that recommendations that arose from the 3,5 day workshop were fully taken into consideration in the Executive Summary, which was approved on the last day of the workshop.

The workshop was closed by Ms Franz who thanked the workshop participants for their efforts. She congratulated participants on their hard work and the productive outcomes of the workshop. She also thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, GFCM and INFOSAMAK for the excellent arrangements and collaboration and looked forward to continued collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

It was felt that the workshop had constituted an important opportunity to discuss the issue of small-scale fisheries among both governments and CSOs. This was much appreciated and it was hoped that this participatory and collaborative process will be continued.

Workshop participants thanked the Sultanate of Oman for its warm welcome and excellent organization of the event.



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## Annex 2 – Opening statements

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
والصلاة والسلام على خير المرسلين محمد بن عبدالله وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين ...  
معالي الدكتور فؤاد بن جعفر الساجواني وزير الزراعة والثروة السمكية الموقر  
أصحاب السعادة السفراء / أصحاب السعادة وكلاء الوزارات  
الفاضل ممثل منظمة الفاو في سلطنة عمان / الأفاضل ممثلي المنظمة الدولية من روما  
الضيوف الأعداء ممثلي الدول المشاركة من منطقة الشرق الأدنى وشمال أفريقيا  
حضورنا الكريم  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته

بادئ ذي بدء يسعدني ان أرحب بكم في افتتاح ورشة العمل الإقليمية للشرق الأدنى وشمال أفريقيا بشأن تنفيذ الخطوط التوجيهية الطوعية لتأمين المصايد الصغيرة المستدامة في سياق الأمن الغذائي والقضاء على الفقر والتي تستمر لغاية العاشر من ديسمبر 2015م  
كما يسرني الترحيب بضيوفنا الكرام المشاركين في هذه الورشة في السلطنة، وأتمنى لهم طيب الإقامة، وأن تكون اجتماعاتنا مثمرة وتصب في خدمة الأهداف الموضوعية لهذا الاجتماع.

أيتها الحضور الكريم  
تتميز السلطنة بطول سواحلها التي تصل إلى حوالي 3165 كيلومتر، وتمتاز بوفرة وتنوع مواردها السمكية التي تعتبر ركيزة أساسية من ركائز التنمية الاقتصادية، فبالإضافة إلى البعد الحضاري والثقافي الذي تمثله مهنة صيد الأسماك فإن قطاع الثروة السمكية يعتبر من أهم القطاعات الاقتصادية الغير نفطية بالسلطنة، إضافة لكونه من القطاعات المحركة لعدة قطاعات اقتصادية، وتبرز أهميته الاقتصادية باعتباره مصدر طبيعي متجدد ومولد للدخل، وينال هذا القطاع اهتمام حكومة السلطنة ويتضح ذلك جليا في حجم الاستثمارات والدعم الذي توليه الحكومة لهذا القطاع. أما أهميته الاستراتيجية فتتمحور في مساهمته في الأمن الغذائي من خلال تأمين توفير أغذية بحرية عالية الجودة، حيث يبلغ متوسط استهلاك الفرد في السلطنة من لحوم الأسماك أكثر من 24 كيلو جراما وهو يتجاوز المتوسط العالمي للفرد الواحد. أما أهميته من الناحية الاجتماعية فتبرز في كونه مصدر هام لتوفير فرص عمل واستيعاب أعدادا كبيرة من القوى العاملة الوطنية.

وقد بلغ الإنتاج السمكي في السلطنة في العام 2014 م من المصايد الطبيعية حوالي 112 الف طن في تزايد ملحوظ مقارنة ب 206 الف طن في العام 2013 م، ويلعب الصيد الحرفي باعتباره من المصايد الصغيرة دورا هاما في الإنتاج حيث مثل ما نسبته 98% من الإنتاج في عام 2014 م بكمية إنتاج تقارب 207 الف طن من الأسماك، ويعتبر قطاع الصيد الحرفي العمود الفقري للقطاع السمكي بالسلطنة فبالإضافة الى مساهمته الكبيرة في الإنتاج فإنه أيضا يشكل الشريحة الأكبر من حيث عدد العاملين به البالغ عددهم 45635 صيادا حسب إحصاءات عام 2014 م وبلغ عدد القوارب وسفن الصيد الحرفية المرخصة في عام 2014 حوالي 22307 قوارب وسفينة صيد حرفي، كما يوفر القطاع أكثر من 6000 فرصة عمل مرتبطة بالقطاع.

وسعيا نحو الاستغلال الأمثل الذي يحقق التنمية ولضمان استدامة الموارد تواصل وزارة الزراعة والثروة السمكية بذل الجهود باتجاه تحقيق الأهداف والتطلعات المنوطة بقطاع الثروة السمكية والهادفة إلى تطوير قطاع الصيد وتطوير أنظمة الإنتاج والمحافظة على هذه الموارد السمكية ، علاوة على الاهتمام بجودة المنتجات السمكية بهدف زيادة

العائد الاقتصادي من الصناعات والصادرات السمكية وبما يتفق مع أسس استدامة الموارد السمكية.

معالي راعي المناسبة / أيها الحضور الكريم

أن الدور المتعاظم الذي تلعبه المصايد الصغيرة في تخفيف وطأة الفقر وتحقيق الأمن الغذائي، وفي رفاه مجتمعات الصيد الريفية، فأخر التقديرات تشير إلى أنه رغم أن المصايد الكبيرة تقدم لنا كميات كبيرة من الأسماك في مجموعها، فإن المصايد الصغيرة تنتج كميات أكبر لاستهلاك البشر في منازلهم، ويعمل في هذه المصايد ما يقدر بأكثر من 90% من مجموع صيادي العالم.

وبناء على العديد من التوصيات الدولية والإقليمية ومن ضمنها توصيات الدورتين التاسعة والعشرين والثلاثين للجنة مصايد الأسماك في منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة فقد تم وضع الخطوط التوجيهية للمصائد الصغيرة بالتشاور مع أكثر من 4000 من أصحاب المصلحة المعنيين في المصايد من أكثر من 120 دولة حول العالم ، ويعتبر الاجتماع الذي تم عقده في مارس 2012 م في مسقط إحدى هذه الاجتماعات. وتعتبر الخطوط التوجيهية الطوعية استكمالاً لمدونة السلوك بشأن الصيد الرشيد الصادرة عن المنظمة الدولية العام 1995 م وهي أول صك متفق عليه دولياً مخصص بالكامل لقطاع مصايد الأسماك صغيرة النطاق ، وقد تم إقرارها من قبل الدورة الحادية والثلاثين للجنة مصايد الأسماك في شهر يونيو 2014 م في انجاز هام يسعى لبناء مصايد اسماك صغيرة النطاق مستدامة وأمنة. ويأتي عقد هذا الاجتماع سعياً من منظمة الأغذية والزراعة الدولية (الفاو) وضع هذه الخطوط التوجيهية الطوعية موضع التطبيق.

وحيث أن سلطنة عمان من الدول التي يقوم فيها قطاع الصيد على ذات المصايد الصغيرة (الصيد الحرفي) فإن المناقشات التي تجري على الصعيد الدولي سوف تنعكس بشكل إيجابي على الدور الذي تقوم به السلطنة في تنظيم وتطوير قطاع الصيد الحرفي على المستوى المحلي ومساهمتها على المستويين الإقليمي والدولي.

وفي الختام اسمحوا لي باسمكم جميعاً ان اتقدم بالشكر الجزيل الى معالي الدكتور / فؤاد بن جعفر الساجواني لرعايته وحفلنا هذا كما اشكر كافة الجهات والأفراد المشاركين في الإعداد والتنظيم لهذا الاجتماع، سائلين الله عز وجل أن يسدد خطاهم لما فيه الخير والسداد ، مع التمنيات إن يكمل هذا الاجتماع بالتوفيق والنجاح ولجميع الضيوف طيبة الإقامة.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته.

## **OPENING REMARKS ON BEHALF OF MR EL ZEIN M EL MUZAMIL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) IN SULTANATE OMAN**

Honorable Mr Dr Fuad bin Jaafar al Sajwani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries,

Participants from the Near East and North Africa Region, including country delegations, and representatives from Civil Society, NGOs and research

Members of Regional Organisations

Development partners

FAO Colleagues from Rome and the Sub-Regional Office in Tunisia

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, a warm welcome to Oman.

It is a great pleasure to address you all today and welcome you on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to this Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation Workshop.

Before I start, I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Sultanate of Oman for hosting this workshop and to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean for partnering in it. The support provided by INFOSAMAK is also acknowledged.

This workshop is the continuation of an event held here, in Oman, in 2012. In fact, in March 2012, and as part of this global process, the Sultanate of Oman hosted a Near East and North Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. The meeting provided important inputs for the drafting of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). These SSF Guidelines were approved by the FAO Committee on Fisheries in June last year.

Our task here is to discuss small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region and to develop practical recommendations for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, both at regional and national level.

The SSF Guidelines are the first international instrument that deals specifically with small-scale fisheries. Furthermore, the SSF Guidelines are also the first negotiated instrument that fully explores the social and economic aspects of fisheries governance. They represent a global consensus on the need for more holistic and integrated approaches to improve the livelihoods of more than 500 million people, including those living in the Near East and North Africa region.

While the final text of the SSF Guidelines was negotiated by countries at the international level, it is important to recognize that the development process of the SSF Guidelines was a tremendous achievement, made possible thanks to the efforts and collaboration of more than 4,000 stakeholders, from fishers to ministers, including from this region. This three-year wide-ranging consultation process is evidence that fishers, fish workers, their communities and their representatives have effectively influenced and had direct impact on the final content of the Guidelines.

In a sense, the SSF Guidelines were developed following the same principles that they advocate – participation, collaboration and empowerment. I expect that some of those involved in this long process are present in this room today, and I congratulate you and your colleagues on a job well done. Thank you!

Still, more important work remains to be done, as we will now look into what it takes for the SSF Guidelines to be successfully implemented and have their desired impact; that is to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and nutrition and to support the progressive realization of the right to food.

**Dear colleagues,**

What is being advocated in the SSF Guidelines is not trivial and to achieve the impact and change they envisage is a major task, and we will not be able to achieve major changes needed overnight.

We will have to keep on furthering our collaboration, and it is the responsibility of all actors, all of us to ensure that the SSF Guidelines are implemented on the ground at community and household levels, and that whatever we do, secures or unlocks the benefits that sustainable small-scale fisheries have the potential to provide – for both small-scale fisheries communities, as well as society at large, in achieving the eradication of both food insecurity and poverty.

It is important that we all recognize that ownership of the SSF Guidelines is essential for their effective implementation at both country and regional levels. These SSF Guidelines do not “belong” to FAO, they belong to those who seek to work in partnership among all essential actors to ensure the small-scale fisheries sector’s long term social, economic and environmental development; that is: along the three pillars of sustainability.

If the ultimate responsibility to implement the SSF Guidelines lies with the State, the Government at all levels, the support and collaboration of fishers’ and fish workers’ organizations along with civil society organizations, NGO’s, academics and researchers, regional organizations, international organizations and other fisheries actors remain of critical importance.

Successful and effective level of implementation will be only achieved when non-state actors continue to play a pivotal role in promoting the SSF Guidelines implementation at all levels, ideally with strong policy support from national and local government.

For its part, FAO is strongly committed to provide technical support and expertise to make the SFF guidelines objectives become reality and will pursue its engagement in

I am sure that all of you will be working hard during these 3.5 days to deliver the elements of a comprehensive, ambitious and tangible plan of action by the end of this workshop, to get us mobilized ourselves for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Let me close these opening remarks in wishing you all a fruitful workshop that will help ensuring that the SSF Guidelines do not only remain an encouraging piece of paper, but actually have an impact at the community level, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized, who are also among the poorest and most food insecure populations.

Thank you all for your attention – I wish you a successful workshop!



## OPENING REMARKS ON BEHALF OF MR SROUR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, FAO GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

سعادة مدير عام إدارة التنمية في وزارة الزراعة والثروة السمكية في سلطنة عُمان،  
سعادة السيد ممثل منظمة الأغذية والزراعة في سلطنة عُمان،  
الزملاء الأعزاء،  
حضرات السيدات والسادة،

يسرني للغاية أن أخطبكم اليوم بمناسبة افتتاح حلقة العمل هذه في إطار المشاورة الإقليمية المخصصة لتطبيق الخطوط التوجيهية الطوعية لضمان استدامة مصايد الأسماك الصغيرة الحجم في سياق الأمن الغذائي والقضاء على الفقر.

وأخص بالشكر السلطات المعنية في سلطنة عُمان على حفاوة استقبالها، كما وأني أتوجه بالشكر إلى زملائي في إدارة الثروة السمكية وتربية الأحياء المائية في الفاو على هذا التنظيم الممتاز لحلقة العمل، علماً أنّ الهيئة العامة لمصايد أسماك البحر الأبيض المتوسط قد شاركت في تنظيمها.

لقد أتت هذه المبادرة في التوقيت المناسب بعدما اعتمدت لجنة مصايد الأسماك في الفاو السنة الماضية الخطوط التوجيهية الطوعية لضمان استدامة مصايد الأسماك الصغيرة الحجم في سياق الأمن الغذائي والقضاء على الفقر (الخطوط التوجيهية) وعشية المباشرة بتطبيقها فعلياً في مختلف الأقاليم.

ولا حاجة بعد اليوم إلى إبراز أهمية الخطوط التوجيهية لتشجيع التنمية المستدامة لمصايد الصيد الحرفي وبالتالي تكريس أهداف النمو الأزرق والأمن الغذائي. وإنّ الهيئة، باعتبارها منظمة إقليمية معنية بإدارة مصايد الأسماك في البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود، والتي أنشئت بموجب المادة الرابعة عشرة من دستور المنظمة، هي في الصفوف الأولى لتسهيل تنفيذها العملي في منطقة اختصاصها. ومن هذا المنطلق، لبينا باندفاع دعوة إدارة مصايد الأسماك وتربية الأحياء المائية في الفاو للمشاركة في تنظيم هذا الحدث الهام.

وهذه المشاورة الإقليمية تعني عدداً من البلدان الأعضاء في الهيئة. ويسرني بالفعل أن ألاحظ بين هذا الجمع الغفير وجود العديد من الوجوه المألوفة.

ومما لا شك فيه أنّ الصيد الحرفي يؤدي دوراً اقتصادياً واجتماعياً هاماً في البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود حيث أنه يستحوذ على أكثر من 80 في المائة من أسطول الصيد ويعمل فيه ما لا يقل عن 60 في المائة من العاملين المعنيين مباشرة بأنشطة الصيد ويساهم بنسبة 25 في المائة تقريباً من القيمة الإجمالية لعمليات تفريغ المصيد من المصايد الطبيعية. ولعلّ الصيد الحرفي أيضاً أبلغ مثال على الاستخدام المستدام للموارد بما يتيح الحد قدر المستطاع من تدهور البيئة بموازاة تعظيم الفوائد الاقتصادية والاجتماعية. لكن لا بد من تضافر الجهود لكي تصبح أفضل الممارسات هي الأكثر شيوعاً.

ومن هذا المنطلق، تعترم الهيئة العامة لمصايد أسماك البحر الأبيض المتوسط وإدارة مصايد الأسماك وتربية الأحياء المائية في الفاو، بما فيها المشاريع الإقليمية التي تنفذها في البحر الأبيض المتوسط، تنظيم مؤتمر إقليمي في شهر مارس/آذار 2016 بعنوان "بناء مستقبل لمصايد الصيد الحرفي المستدام في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود". وسوف تستضيف الحكومة الجزائرية هذا المؤتمر وهي ستكون ثمرة شراكة مع المركز الدولي للدراسات الزراعية المتقدمة في البحر الأبيض المتوسط / معهد باري الزراعي في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط وشبكة القيمين على إدارة المناطق المحمية البحرية في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط والصندوق العالمي لحماية الطبيعة.

واستكمالاً للندوة الإقليمية الأولى عن مصايد الصيد الحرفي المستدام في منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود، التي عُقدت في مالطة في عام 2013، اتفق الشركاء المنظمون على ضرورة مواصلة العمل وتكثيف الجهود المنسقة بغية التوصل إلى وضع استراتيجيات مشتركة لتكييف الخطوط التوجيهية مع خصائص منطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود والمساهمة بالتالي في تعزيز مصايد الصيد الحرفي المستدام في المنطقة.

وسوف يستعين هذا المؤتمر الإقليمي بالمقاربة التشاركية التي اعتمدها الفاو لدى إعداد الخطوط التوجيهية وسوف يتمحور حول الحوار والتعاون. ونأمل أن يؤدي ذلك إلى خلق منتدى تفاعلي يمكن من خلاله لجميع أصحاب المصلحة المعنيين دراسة الأولويات والحلول الممكنة في هذا القطاع وإننا نعتزم أيضاً تشجيع الالتزام السياسي إزاء الاستراتيجيات الملائمة لمنطقة البحر الأبيض المتوسط والبحر الأسود. وأودّ أن أنتهز هذه الفرصة لدعوة جميع المعنيين للمشاركة في هذه العملية. كما وأني أشجّعكم على الاتصال بأمانتنا التي هي على أتمّ الاستعداد لتزويدكم بأي معلومات إضافية قد تحتاجون إليها.

وإنني واثق من أن المناقشات التي ستتخلل هذه المشاورة الإقليمية ستعطينا العديد من العناصر الهامة لكي تتعمّق الهيئة في دراستها، لا سيما في إطار برنامجها الإقليمي المخصص للصيد الحرفي والذي سأعرضه عليكم بالتفصيل بعد ظهر اليوم.

وفي الختام، أتمنى لكم اجتماعاً مثمراً وأشكركم جزيل الشكر على حسن إصغائكم.

## Annex 3 – Working group members

GROUP 1: GOVERNANCE OF TENURE IN SSF AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	GROUP 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, DECENT WORK, AND GENDER EQUALITY	GROUP 3: VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST, AND TRADE
<b>FACILITATORS:</b> <b>MR CHERIF TOUEILIB</b>	<b>FACILITATORS:</b> <b>MS NICOLE FRANZ (FAO)</b>	<b>FACILITATOR:</b> <b>MS LENA WESTLUND (FAO)</b>
<b>ARABIC</b>	<b>ENGLISH/ARABIC (Interpretation)</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>
1. Badr, Abdekrazek 2. Azadi, Ghazanfar 3. Mokdad, Dahej 4. Ali, Ramadan 5. Abualzomor, Imad 6. Hamdani, Hacene 7. Chabou, Bachir 8. Dhouib, Sami 9. Elhaweet, Alaaeldin 10. Belkouch, Abdellatif 11. Tariq Almamari 12. Hussain Al Muscatti	1. Chakour, Said-chaoki 2. Al-Tameemi, Khalil 3. Elgarrai, Haj Ahmed 4. Abeid, Sid, Ahmed 5. El Blihi, Abdellah 6. Malouli, Idrissi 7. Merlo, Benedetta 8. Souad, Mahmoud 9. Antonopoulou, Marina 10. Mahtate, Olaya 11. Ruqaiya Al-Belushi 12. Hussain Al Masroori	1. Saleh, Iyad 2. Saubry, Mohamed 3. Al Nazry, Hussain Hejji 4. Bensalem, Scander 5. Skandrani, Yassine 6. Moctar Nech, Nedwa 7. Izzat, Feidi 8. Ba, Almamy Samboly 9. Alamghari, Aziza 10. Ibrahim Al Qartoobi 11. Shekar Bose 12. Abdessalam Fahfohi

## Annex 4 – Working group outputs

ISSUE	VISION/OBJECTIVE	GOOD PRACTICE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES	PROPOSED ACTIONS
Absence of specific areas and its appropriateness to small scale fishing activities with weak laws and mechanisms bearing the rights of preference and competition.	<p><b>GROUP 1 – GOVERNANCE OF TENURE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Integrated and comprehensive policies to ensure the continuity of small-scale fisheries.</p>	<p>Fishing villages, landing points, specialized institutes for fishermen.</p>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging countries to enact legislation and laws in order to maintain fishing possession and fair competition.</li> <li>Dissemination of experiences concerning the equipment of landing and unloading ports and fishing villages.</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum benefit at the national level from successful experiences.</li> <li>Updated (improved) policies, plans and guidelines and their suitability to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries and fair access to fishing areas.</li> </ul>
Lack of adequate conditions and controls to ensure the quality and valorization of Marine Products	<p>Improve production quality and raise the level of income.</p>	<p>Artificial reefs, planting mangrove trees (mangrove).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans of fisheries rehabilitation, and preventing fishing trawl back</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization of educational sessions to support the capacity of actors.</li> <li>Valorization and marketing of marine products in order to raise its economic value.</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine the requirements and specifications of the products at the national level.</li> <li>Strengthen national capacities in the areas of marine products valorization on the basis of an international reference.</li> </ul>

<p>Weakness and absence of legal and institutional framework that would ensure the participation of all the actors involved in the traditional fishing sector to achieve sustainable management.</p>	<p>Develop laws and legislations that guarantee the continuity of the sustainable exploitation in a participatory framework.</p>	<p>Fishermen associations, advisory councils for the rehabilitation of fisheries.</p>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activating the role of platforms in the organization and operations of participatory decision-making in the organization of small-scale fisheries.</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation and development of personnel in the field of information gathering.</li> <li>• Maximum use of modern technologies in the collection and processing and analysis of data and its documentation and dissemination.</li> <li>• Identifying the authority responsible for the local information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group 2 – Social development, employment and decent work and Gender equality and Disaster risks and climate change</b></p>			
<p>Need to organize profession and increase involvement of fishers and fish workers in fisheries management and policies. (including women/marginalized/emigrant workers) to create additional employment opportunities,</p>	<p>Capacitated and organized fishers and fishworkers which are empowered to participate in multistakeholder institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MAGHREB:</b> Good experiences in organizing the profession in many countries (e.g. Moroccan chambers)-- - Other countries can learn from this experience (e.g. Oman)</li> <li>• <b>OMA:</b> Integration of fishers in decision-making through committees in the coastal departments/municipally councils as mediators/proposers</li> <li>• <b>EGY:</b> 1983 political decision supporting organizations to participate (but issues with implementation)</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share experiences on organizational strengthening at regional/sub-regional level (lessons learned)</li> <li>• Encourage cooperation between countries in the region on SSF development</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create/strengthen fisher and fishworker organizations</li> <li>• Assess and document regulatory framework if it enables/supports organizations and its implementation (support to organizations)</li> </ul>

<p>Often lack of access to social security protection for fisher and fishworkers (including for women/marginalized) and with a focus on those fishing (health, pension, safety-at-sea, education)</p>	<p>Secure all fisher and fishworkers, including women, benefit from efficiently designed and implemented social protection schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOR/ALG: Social protection fund negotiated between fisherfolk organizations and government (health insurance + unemployment insurance mandatory for boat owners/company owners –funded through levy)</li> <li>• MOR: Human development initiative and related fund launched by the King</li> <li>• MAU: SSF sector currently being organized to access mandatory insurance (e.g registration of 20 fisheries in social security fund and guaranteed minimum wage)(through cooperation)</li> </ul>	<p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage organization of SSF workers and provide training/awareness raising on social security systems and [mandatory] access to them, in particular for women – NGOs [government (local)]?</li> <li>• Explore funding mechanisms for social protection, taking into account the specificities of SSF (e.g. fluctuations in income) - e.g. monthly small rates; compensation payments from pollution fines; solidarity between industrial/SSF; sharing between employee and government</li> </ul>
<p>Safety at sea/decent work conditions (including for women) insufficient in the region and lack of action by different stakeholders on that (researchers, governments, fisher organizations)</p>	<p>Ratified and applied International labour standards are at national level also in SSF; and minimum tools (e.g. safe vessels, safety equipment, GPS) are provided to fishers to carry out their profession in safe conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAU: fund for social protection for fishers for safety at sea</li> <li>• EGY: Compensation scheme for accidents at sea</li> <li>• OMA: Distribution of safety tools for fishers funded by the private sector as a community service</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional workshop on decent working conditions (safety at sea, occupational health and safety), taking into account the impacts of climate change on fisheries in the region – include IMO</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and enact (binding) legislation to</li> <li>• Identify funding sources –</li> <li>• Arrange training (of trainers) for SSF workers – government, SSF organizations</li> <li>• Promote access to ICT for weather information and for data base development on safer conditions – government, research</li> <li>• Provide access to safe gear – government, external donors</li> <li>• Involve fishers in developing cost-efficient safer working conditions - e.g. working group with Ministry of Defense etc.</li> </ul>

<p>To become a vehicle for development, an integrated/complementary approaches is needed to reconcile environmental + socio-economic development)</p>	<p>Proper understanding of the socio-economic and environmental conditions of SSF and inter-institutional mechanisms and regulatory frameworks allow to apply integrated approaches to SSF development which address inter-sectoral impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALG: Mandates of administrations are complementary to take into account also the socio-economic impacts</li> <li>• Positive experiences with eco-tourism and MPAs</li> <li>• EGY: Legal entitlement to compensation from pollution</li> <li>• OMA: Development of artificial reefs (or underwater fish farming/FADs) --&gt; fishers own the fisheries resources in the designated fishing ground on which the artificial reef is established</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All countries in the region should use the SSF Guidelines when developing policies/strategies etc.</li> <li>• Governments should carry out information campaigns, as well as CSOs</li> <li>• Research on improved conditions for SSF, in collaboration with communities</li> <li>• Coordination between governments (e.g. shared stocks) on management and research agendas (should involve also traditional knowledge) and harmonization of regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase capacities on monitoring</li> <li>• Awareness raising about and establishment of monitoring mechanism, in collaboration with fishers (example from BGI in Morocco) – government, fisher organizations, other partners</li> </ul>
<p>Often limited access to education and professional development, in particular for children/women, and high rates of drop-out (e.g. Sudan, Egypt)</p>	<p>Capacity development in SSF supported through investment by SSF professionals themselves to improve professional develop and careers (including women)</p>	<p>MAU: Definition of fisher exists, ID cards are provided to fishers and boat owners</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote implementation of ILO guidance on decent work to support harmonization also at regional level</li> <li>• Increase functional basic literacy in SSF - NGOs (experience from Morocco), government</li> </ul>

<p>Climate change is affecting fisheries in the countries in the region negatively (e.g. sea level rise, temperature changes (e.g. octopus), safety aspects as fishers have to travel further with small boats; waste carried into the sea, salt content of water; damage on infrastructure by storms; red tides), but there is a lack of proper studies on this</p>	<p>Climate change adaptation strategies for fisheries are developed and implemented with stakeholders</p>	<p>Some specific studies are available which can inform CC studies (e.g. on species distribution)</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure inclusion of fisheries in climate change adaptation strategies and access climate change related funding</li> <li>- Forecasting and increased capacity to deal with disasters (preparedness, prevention) (e.g. storms, red tides, oil spills) – research, government</li> </ul>
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<b>Group 3 - Value chains, post-harvest and trade</b>		
<p>Benefits of trading, including International and domestic trade, should be considered through the value chain (socioeconomic status of SSF actors hasn't changed significantly over the years).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To improve the socioeconomic status of the SSF actors</li> <li>- To eliminate marginalization and increase perception of self value</li> <li>- Eradicate overtly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public/Private company for export of frozen fish to avoid speculation on price and ensure fair prices for fishers (however creates selected fisheries to be targeted). This provides channel for fishers who don't have access – Mauritania</li> <li>- Whole sale market (public) to bring stakeholders across the country producers and provide technology tools and give access to GCC buyers for exporting products at a good price – Oman / Morocco (this can also improve traceability of products if linked with landing sites)</li> <li>- Fisher villages' at landing sites provide the necessary conditions for artisanal and SS Fishermen (initially established by Gov in consultation with fishers but now run by cooperatives) - Morocco</li> <li>- Export companies comply</li> <li>- EU norms (health and quality) but don't help in securing fair price &amp; cooperatives – Tunisia</li> <li>- Market in fishing ports to enable fishermen trade products &amp; process. Cooperatives allow trading within This ensures higher prices secured for fishermen – Iran</li> <li>- Examples of private sector involved in success stories – Morocco</li> </ul> <p><u>Note:</u> Quality is controlled more for export market (driven by importers) but limited sanitary/quality norms for locally traded.</p>
		<p><b>REGIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with national institutions to exchange information on regional and international trade (FAO Subcommittee on Fish Trade and RECOFI, GFCM, IOTC, IORA, AU, GCC Fisheries Committee, INFOSAMAK, INFOPECHE &amp; INFOFISH, NGOs, ATLAFCO).</li> <li>• Issue: Further discussions would be required to identify initiator and leading organization. It might require expansion of the mandate of a regional or subregional organization to include trade related information</li> <li>• Strengthen negotiating power of SSF with international trade i.e. EU (?)</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share national trade information and coordinate with regional and international fisheries organizations (National Government Bodies)</li> <li>• Issue: relevant organization should take the initiative to coordinate with regional bodies</li> <li>• Consider implementing/expanding successful initiatives to provide market/trade facilities for SSF i.e. Fishers villages (Gov. Fisheries Depts.)</li> <li>• Member countries should be more proactive and also promote change in mandates/functionality of regional organizations to be more proactive</li> </ul>

<p>Links between fisheries resource management and trade related information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To regulate adverse impact of market forces on resource status</li> <li>- Avoid targeting fishery types solely driven by current demand trends but promote diversification of preferences and markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training courses for cooperatives to facilitate access in international markets (Oman) &amp; participate in events to promote products – Infosamak</li> <li>• Use of science for management of resources (e.g.octopus) / management plan for fisheries/ information on quotas depending on fishing season &amp; closures. These inform export quotas – Mauritania</li> <li>• Abalone management / team of fishermen, traders, Ministry deciding on quota, technical advice and trade – Oman</li> <li>• 95% of fisheries resources have management plans/ quotas by segments as well as individual segments including related technical measures/ market imposes closures depending on price – Morocco</li> <li>• Oversupply incident have pushed prices down and 'forced' closures of fishing – Morocco (e.g. Japan)</li> </ul>	<p><b>NATIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State agencies (including research institutions) in cooperation with SSF actors should monitor and intervene, as intervene, if necessary.</li> <li>• Improve consumer awareness as well as of other stakeholders (including middlemen) on sustainability issues.</li> <li>• Break the dependence on middlemen by providing direct services to SSF actors including financial support or access to finance etc (ensuring that fishing effort does not increase) (Fisheries Dep in collaboration with relevant service providers)</li> </ul>
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<p>Organizational structure to enable effective participation of SSF stakeholders in policy and decision making. This will also help them get better return from production activities (Fair and equitable share).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To establish functional organizations for the SSF actors</li> <li>- To enhance negotiating power of SSF actors with other segments of the market (?)</li> <li>- To ensure continuous and effective participation in the decision making process</li> </ul>	<p>Cooperatives: Running fisher village infrastructure and trade – Morocco Cooperatives and community development associations – Tunisia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory council of fisheries (national level) with members from SSF actors (including post-harvest), reps from gov, and NGOs, experts – Mauritania</li> <li>• Fishing management committee (national level) with the head of fishermen association member of the committee and members are representatives of fisher cooperatives – Iran</li> <li>• Gulf of Aqaba is traded weekly mostly fresh products providing good source of income for the families involved – Jordan</li> <li>• Cooperative Union represents d with government decision making to create pension and emergency funds for fishers – Egypt</li> <li>• Sunat al bahar – traditional consultative bodies for all aspects of fisheries market/management – Oman</li> <li>• Tripartite committees with researchers, administrative officer and fishers (no traders) – Tunisia</li> <li>• Pilot project 'Cogepect' with Japan including co-management approach with 4 local committees responsible for the whole management/trade – &amp; Semi private organisation facilitating trade for small pelagics Tunisia</li> <li>• Federation of chamber of marine fisheries as consultative body for the Ministry (artisanal/industrial) – Morocco</li> </ul>	<p><b>REGIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote CSO (sub-) regional organizations (FAO, regional organizations / see above)</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different terminology but important is to organize stakeholders!</li> <li>• Functionality of SSF actor organizations should include business; sales, buying of supplies etc (negotiating power).</li> <li>• (Mandate of relevant organizations should include trade; Different organizations for different levels of the value chain with links between them).</li> <li>• States should ensure by law that SSF actor organizations are included and effectively participate in all levels of the decision-making: formal process through committees or similar (Fisheries Dep). (different views on extent of say of SSF actors in decision-making)</li> <li>• Support to SSF fish sellers to organize</li> <li>• SSF actor organizations should have good communications within, clear statutes, democratic processes and promote compliance (CSOs).</li> </ul>
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<p>Insufficient and/ or limited access to market and trade related information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create the appropriate links to access up to date market related data (local, international organizations, local SSF)</li> <li>- To provide information to SSF actors that will enable them reach the market (for example mobile phones).</li> </ul>	<p>Information system for small pelagics - Tunisia</p>	<p><b>REGIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create network to share and exchange information at the regional level (Infosamak with other partners – RECOFI)</li> </ul> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop trade related information systems – real time information on prices in different markets to SSF actors. Need for appropriate technology and platform (Infosamak).</li> <li>• Facilitate SSF actor organizations to participate in relevant trade fairs (Fisheries Dep, FAO, Infosamak)</li> </ul>
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<p>Investment in appropriate infrastructure and equipment, marketing facilities (structures?), financial support, as well as develop technical and human capacity for value addition and reduction of postharvest losses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To empower SSF actors to access market</li> <li>- To support the production of good quality products and value addition</li> <li>- To enhance the diversification of products</li> <li>- To promote decent working conditions</li> <li>- To increase awareness of SSF actors around the importance of post-harvest related activities (introduce training programmes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mauritania 2000 established processing facilities for women currently self-run</li> <li>- Small unions for processing products and marketing of products / funded by ministry and target women – Oman</li> <li>- Processing Unit in Mussanah gathering women form the area and participate in fares and partner with markets</li> <li>- Cooperatives Yemen/Djibouti/ Morocco visited companies and observe how fish products are processed &amp; seminars including cooperative reps around IUU- Infosamak</li> <li>- Navy academy to empower harvesting/post harvesting – Mauritania</li> <li>- Fishermen villages dedicated to SSF activities for traders (about 60 villages) – Morocco</li> <li>- Project to create fishing village in Duqum to provide market structure, accommodation etc. – Oman</li> <li>- GIPP: Training for fishers in ports to help fish handling (fishers and first trade) / yearly &amp; awareness campaigns - Tunisia</li> </ul>	
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## Annex 5 – Workshop agenda

MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER	
8:00	Registration
Opening ceremony	
9:00	Holy Quran
9:05	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p><i>-Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui, Director General of Fisheries Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Oman</i></p> <p><i>-Mr. ElZein ElMuzamil, FAO Representative in Oman</i></p> <p><i>-Dr. Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)</i></p>
9:35	<p>Introduction to the SSF Guidelines</p> <p><i>-Nicole Franz, FAO</i></p>
9:45	<b>Coffee break and group picture</b>
10:00	<p>Overview of workshop objectives, expected outputs and modus operandi</p> <p><i>-Lena Westlund, FAO</i></p>
10:15	Self-introduction of participants
10:30	<p>Questions and answers on SSF Guidelines and workshop format</p> <p><i>-Chair: Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</i></p>
11:00	<p>Regional overview of small-scale fisheries in the Near East Region</p> <p><i>-Izzat Feidi, Consultant</i></p>
11:30	<p>Regional overview of small-scale fisheries in the North Africa Region</p> <p><i>-Malouli Idrissi Mohamed, Consultant</i></p>
12:00	<p>Small-scale fisheries in Oman</p> <p><i>-Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Mazroui, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</i></p>
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>

14:00	Plenary discussion -Chair
14:30	GFCM's regional programme on small-scale fisheries -Abdellah Srour, GFCM
15:00	A CSO perspective on the SSF Guidelines implementation -Yassine Skandrani, Tunisian Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Network
15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00	Plenary discussion Chair
17:00	Closure of the day
<b>TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER</b>	
Chair	Izzat Feidi, Consultant
9:00	Summary of Day 1 -Lena Westlund, FAO
9:10	Gender issues in small-scale fisheries -Nedwa Nech, Mauritania 2000
9:25	Introduction to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security -Nicole Franz, FAO
9:40	Strengthening fisher organizations: the experience of the Maghreb Platform for Small-Scale Fisheries -Bachir Chabou, Maghreb Platform for Small-Scale Fisheries
9:55	Plenary discussion -Chair
10:20	Introduction to working group Session 1: AGREEING ON PRIORITIES -Lena Westlund, FAO
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:45	Parallel working groups – Session 1

12:45	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	Reporting back from working groups - Session 1 and plenary discussion
15:00	Introduction to working groups – Session 2: SHARING GOOD PRACTICES <i>Lena Westlund, FAO</i>
15:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30	Parallel working groups – Session 2
17:00	Closure of the day
<b>WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER</b>	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Parallel working groups – Session 3</i>
9:00	Reporting back from working groups - Session 2
9:45	Plenary discussion
10:30	Introduction to Blue Growth Initiative – the case of Oman <i>-Abdesslam Fahfouhi, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</i>
10:45	Introduction to working groups – Session 3: ACTION PLANNING <i>-Cherif Toueilib, FAO</i>
11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15	Parallel working groups – Session 3
12:45	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00	Parallel working groups – Session 3 ctd.
15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30	Reporting back from working group session 3
16:15	Plenary discussion
17:00	Closure of the day



<b>THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER</b>	
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Malouli Idrissi Mohamed, Consultant</i>
9:00	Conclusions and way forward
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:45	Conclusions and way forward – ctd.
12:45	Closing session <i>-Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Oman</i> <i>-FAO/GFCM</i>



# Annex 6 – Regional overview of SSF in the Near East Region

THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP:

TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND PAPER: NEAR EAST COUNTRIES

7-10 DECEMBER 2015: MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN

PREPARED BY:

IZZAT FEIDI  
FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

CAIRO, EGYPT, NOVEMBER 2015

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# Abstract

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) were adopted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014. Building on the regional consultative meeting held in 2012 to inform the SSF Guidelines development, a workshop to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was held on 7-10 December 2015 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman for countries in the Near East and North Africa region.

This is the background paper presented at the workshop covering the Near East region, namely: Bahrain, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The issue of food security and poverty alleviation, the role of fisheries in food security and a brief review of small-scale fisheries in the Near East region and in each country as well as suggestions and recommendations for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are presented.

Large numbers of people are involved in small-scale fisheries around the world. Their importance cannot be overemphasized. This is often associated with high levels of dependence and touches on important issues of nutrition, food security, health, livelihoods and poverty alleviation – particularly in developing countries. Despite these substantial contributions, most small-scale fishermen and the communities where they exist are far from the radar of national, regional and global decision-making. Fisheries and aquaculture make an important contribution to the economies of many communities in both the industrialized and developing worlds.

Food security has been a subject of great national concern around the world. FAO in its *The State of Food and Agriculture 2015 IN BRIEF* observes that: “Although the shares of people living in poverty and extreme poverty have declined over the past three decades, the numbers remain high, with almost one billion people considered extremely poor and another billion poor”.

Several steps are suggested to be taken to support the implementation the SSF Guidelines in order to reach responsible fisheries and sustainable development. These include recognizing governance of tenure for resources management, attention to social development, collaboration with RFBs and other related agencies in the region and the FAO/Blue Growth Initiative, giving importance to value chain and post-harvest and trading, recognizing gender equality and women empowerment, dealing with disaster risks and climate change and ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation.

Finally, a set of general recommendations in support of the suggestions made for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines are made. These include calls for better management of fisheries resources especially in waters where small-scale fishers operate, monitoring foreign fleets to combat IUU fishing, increasing national investments in infrastructure facilities in rural areas, facilitating regional trade in seafood commodities, revising and updating fisheries legislation to meet internationally adopted instruments and activate enforcement of provisions of laws.





# Acronyms

BAP	Best Aquaculture Practices
CIFA	Committee for Inland Fisheries in Africa
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
EAD	Environmental Agency of Abu Dhabi
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAFRD	General Authority for Fish Resources Development (Egypt)
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Black Sea
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBEFISH	FAO Global Fish Marketing Information Network
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
INFOSAMAK	Centre for Marketing, Information and Fisheries Technical Advisory Services in Arab Countries
INFOFISH	Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asian and Pacific Region
IOTC	Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture (Lebanon)
MERC	Marine Environment Research Center (UAE)
MFW	Ministry of Fish Wealth (Yemen)
MOEW	Ministry of Environment and Water (UAE)
NAC	National Aquaculture Center (Bahrain)
NAQUA	National Aquaculture Group (Saudi Arabia)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RAS	Recirculation Aquaculture System
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
SOFIA	State of World Fisheries and Agriculture
SSF	Small-scale Fisheries
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme



## 1. INTRODUCTION

In order to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) adopted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014, a workshop to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines was held during the period 7-10 December 2015 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, for countries in the Near East and North Africa region. This workshop was part of a series of similar regional workshops organized by FAO and its partners to promote the application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines and to develop regional plans of action in accordance with paragraph 13.6 of the SSF Guidelines which says: “There is a need to promote small-scale fisheries and secure their access to the resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods. Small-scale fisheries often represent traditional values and a way of life”.

A consultative workshop was already held in Muscat, Oman, from 26 to 28 March 2012 to contribute to the development of the SSF Guidelines where the importance of small-scale fisheries in the region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, and economic development were confirmed. That workshop also recognized that the SSF Guidelines will be an important tool for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development. In this context, it was recognized that small-scale fisheries in the region are characterized by great diversity between sub-regions and countries with regard to, for example, the type and numbers of actors involved, the production and market structures and the resources and means of the sector. Moreover, many countries are currently going through a period of transition which may have implications also for the small-scale fisheries sector. There was a consensus that there is a need to promote small-scale fisheries and secure their access to the resources necessary for sustainable livelihoods. Small-scale fisheries often represent traditional values and a way of life.

The Regional Consultation Workshop for the Near East and North Africa jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Sultanate of Oman, FAO, GFCM and INFOSAMAK on 7-10 December 2015 build on the outcomes of the 2012 workshop and aimed for the following expected outputs:

- Considerations and suggestions with regard to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the region, including identification of priorities;
- Review of policies and good practices in the region in support of small-scale fisheries; and
- Recommendations with regard to next steps in the SSF Guidelines implementation process in the region, including opportunities for support and partnerships.

This background paper reviews the situation of small-scale fisheries in 16 of the Near East countries, reviews policies and practices and provides suggestions and recommendations on the next steps to be taken to implement the SSF Guidelines in the region.

## 2. THE CASE FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AND THE SSF GUIDELINES

Large numbers of people are involved in small-scale fisheries and their supply chain and service functions - their importance cannot be overemphasized. This is often associated with high levels of dependence which touch on important issues of nutrition, food security, health, livelihoods and poverty alleviation – particularly in developing countries.

Small-scale fishing communities can be found everywhere around the world – from mountain lakes to island coasts. While no definitive statistics exist, FAO estimates (2012) that small-scale fisheries provide employment to 58.3 m. direct jobs, 39.4 million in fisheries, 18.9 million in aquaculture - mostly from developing countries, livelihoods for about 10-12 percent of the global population, and over

2/3 of domestic consumption. Also they supply over 50 percent of animal protein intake. It is also estimated that they produce nearly half of world fish production and supply most of the fish consumed in the developing world. In addition small-scale fisheries also provide employment to millions more working in fisheries-related activities such as fish processing, marketing, distribution, boat building and net making. Hundreds of millions of rural people in developing countries depend on fisheries for their livelihood.

Women are heavily involved in processing and trade of fish and fish products from small-scale fisheries. When numbers of fishermen and fish workers are combined with those involved in activities supplying inputs to fishing and post-harvest activities and their household dependents, it is likely that more than 200 million people worldwide depend in some part on small-scale fisheries for their livelihood. Despite these substantial contributions, most small-scale fishermen and the communities in which they exist are far from the radar of national, regional and global decision-making. A fundamental problem of most small-fishing families around the developing world is their comparatively low standard of living and, frequent poverty despite decades of remarkable overall fisheries development and national economic growth.

### **3. OVERVIEW OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN NEAR EAST COUNTRIES**

The Near East countries subject of this background paper consists of 16 FAO members. These are: Bahrain, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. These countries have access to the North-west Indian Ocean, four major seas (Caspian Sea, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and East of Mediterranean Sea), several adjacent gulfs, lagoons and a large expanse into the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). They also have within their borders fresh and brackish waters, natural and man-made lakes, rivers and several tributaries as well as large expanse of arid/dry lands. In spite of this environment, fisheries production does not satisfy the demands for fish and fishery products thus most of these countries rely on imports of seafood commodities to satisfy increasing domestic demands.

According to FAO latest published fisheries statistics, in the years 2011-2013 that capture fish landings are on the decline while aquaculture production is on the rise, even though with varying degrees from one country and another. In 2011 total fish landings from capture fisheries in the countries under examination were 1.4 million tonnes with a moderate increase in 2012 to 1.5 million tonnes and almost stagnated in 2013 to 1.6. Conversely, aquaculture production pattern during the same period 2011-2013 has shown an annual rising trend. In 2011 aquaculture production rose from 1.3 million tonnes to 1.4 million tonnes rising again to 1.5 million tonnes in 2013 (Table 1). In 2013 the production data shows that the major fish producers are Egypt with 1.4 million tonnes, Iran with 880 thousand tonnes, Oman with 200 thousand tonnes and Yemen with 195 thousand tonnes. The balance of 372 thousand tonnes is landings from the remaining 12 countries (Table 1).

Near East capture fisheries (from marine and inland waters) started a declining trend in the past few years as in most other fishing areas mainly due to over-fishing of commercial species, fleet over-capacity, pollution, environmental effects, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by neighbouring countries and/or other distant as well as foreign fleets and indiscriminate fishing causing depletion of targeted fish stocks.

**TABLE 1: NEAR EAST COUNTRIES' FISH LANDINGS: CAPTURE AND AQUACULTURE 2011-2013 (TONNES)**

COUNTRY	2011		2012		2013	
	Capture	Aquaculture	Capture	Aquaculture	Capture	Aquaculture
Bahrain	8,711	3	12,722	1	13,284	2F
Egypt	367,266	986,820F	346,529	1,017,738F	348,617	1,017,738F
Eritrea	2,634	----	4,145	----	3,993F	----
Iran	484,647	247,262	536,663	296,575	554,529	325,325
Iraq	31,541	16,290	51,077	25,040	56,853	14,060
Jordan	500	575	648F	600F	620F	600F
Kuwait	4,036	319	4,030	309	4,633	301
Lebanon	3,761F	1,280	3,761F	1,280F	3,761F	1,280F
Oman	150,896	157	184,979	168	199,799	353
Palestine (O.T.)	1,261	189	2,014	269	1,836	284
Qatar	12,938	36	11,185	36	11,960	56
S. Arabia	62,600	15,838	66,370F	20,920F	70,170	25,390
Sudan	0.	0.	34,000F	1,980F	34,000F	1,980F
Syria	5,839F	7,200F	5,248F	6,200F	4,757F	4,000F
U.A.E	74,650	415F	72,492	420F	71,770F	780F
Yemen	147,984	150F	214,090	100F	194,860	0.
Year Total	1,359,275	1,276,834F	1,549,953	1,371,636F	1,575,441	1,471,956
Grand Total	2,636,109		2,921,589		3,047,396	

Source: FAO-Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service: November 2015.

F=FAO Estimate; -----= No landings

#### 4. CLASSIFICATION OF NEAR EAST FISHERIES

Fisheries in the Near East countries may be classified into four major areas:

**4.1 Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ):** The widespread introduction in the mid-seventies of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and the adoption of 1982 of the United Nations of the Law of the Sea provided a new framework for the better management of marine resources. The new legal regime of the oceans gave coastal states, including those in the Near East region face serious challenges as lacking experience and financial and physical resources to achieve greater benefits from the fisheries within their EEZs. The extent of the national EEZs and the nature of the jurisdiction claimed differ from country to country but in the majority of cases the zone extends 200 nautical miles offshore and in all cases jurisdiction over fishery resources is included. Although all countries, albeit in ranging degrees may have access to their EEZ. The fisheries benefits for Near East countries may be limited to waters in the North-western Indian Ocean possibly by Iran, Oman and Yemen.

**4.2 Marine fisheries:** The marine fish production may be classified into two broad categories based on vessel size, gear type and species targeted:

- *High Seas (Offshore) fisheries:* This category is characterized by large modern mechanized fleet with vessels equipped with freezing, storage and other facilities capable of up to three-month operation at sea at a stretch. These vessels operate beyond the 20 mile fishing zones. It is an export-oriented sector. This is a capital intensive activity requiring large investments often beyond the capabilities of local fishermen.
- *Coastal Fisheries:* Within this category two sub-groups are usually considered: intermediate and small-scale fisheries:
  - Intermediate fisheries: This sub-group is characterized by vessels of 25 meters or less, operating up to 20 miles off-shore and mostly targeting pelagic species, sardines and mackerels in particular. The fleets operating in these waters are mainly national fleets. Some operations are either nationally owned or joint venture of mixed national/foreign capital or parastatal companies operating to supply local markets. The average share of these fisheries is 15-20 percent. This fishery is sometimes called “industrial or semi-industrial fisheries”.
  - Small-scale fisheries: This sub-group is characterized by a fleet of small motorized (inboard or outboard) boats of 5-6 meters in length of small catching capacities equipped with various traditional fishing gears. Fishermen composing this group are scattered all along the coast lines of Near East countries. Their numbers are numerous. Much of their fishing is subsistence catering for their local markets, families and clans. The official statistics of their catches are not recorded systematically and therefore, lack specific reliability. Their landings are usually on beach sides and in many sites lack harbours and docking piers to unload their catches. The species they target are mostly demersal near shore species and crustaceans mainly shrimps, where these exist. The average share of the coastal fisheries in the Near East region fish landings his estimated at 80 to 85 percent.

**4.3 Inland fisheries:** These are fisheries within various freshwater bodies in the Near East region. The main countries where these are available are Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Sudan. These water bodies include natural and man-made lakes in fresh or brackish waters, rivers, marsh lands, swamps and reservoirs. The lakes in the Egyptian Delta region are the main fish producers in addition to Lake Nasser in the south and Lake Qaroun to the west as well as the River Nile. In Sudan the main fisheries are in the Blue Nile and White Nile in addition to the main River Nile and Lake Nubia to the south of Lake Nasser. Iraq’s main fisheries are based on the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates in addition to some man-made reservoirs. Iran’s inland fisheries are also carried out in various rivers, man-made reservoirs, aqueducts, etc. Other minor rivers and lakes with

small size fisheries also exist in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Most of the inland fisheries are characterized by subsistence fishing to meet immediate food supply needs of those populations who live in the vicinity of the water bodies. Any access to their food needs is sold in the immediate markets.

**4.4 Aquaculture:** The increasing importance of aquaculture to the world each year is because of population growth and the fact that natural fisheries resources may have reached their maximum sustainable yield. The Near East region is no exception. Many countries with fresh water resources such as Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Syria has practiced aquaculture in one form or another. Other countries where fresh water is scarce are engaging more and more in mariculture activities by farming fish along their coastlines such as in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. Almost all countries in the region established fisheries research centres for the development of aquaculture aiming at obtaining technologies and know how in the fields of aquaculture and mariculture. The research results as well as extension services are being passed to the private sector who is the main potential investor in these activities. Some countries have already established mega commercial projects in aquaculture such as Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iran. Other countries have plans for such projects such as Egypt along the Suez Canal Zone. Some Gulf Cooperation Council states (GCC) started to experiment with aquaponics to produce fish and agricultural crops. Shrimp farming has been successful in Saudi Arabia. With a long stretching coastline in the Near East region mariculture has good chances for expansion.

## 5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES BY COUNTRY

**5.1 Bahrain:** Bahrain total fish landings in 2013 were 13,386 tonnes of which 13,284 tonnes from capture fisheries and only 2 tonnes from aquaculture. Fishers in Bahrain, who are mainly small-scale, are categorized into full-time, part-time, occasional and recreational. The last two types of fishers have other vocations on land and fishing is a second job to improve their income. Over-fishing and conservation are considered the major challenges to Bahrain fisheries and marine resources. The fisheries of Bahrain are entirely artisanal in nature, following the prohibition on industrial shrimp trawling activities in 1998. Catches consist of both a wide variety of finfish species, together with the important shrimp fishery and the crab fishery.

The fishing fleet for both fish and shrimp fishery has increased thus resulting in less catch per boat. The understanding of the issues and problems of the fishermen and their effects on the exploitation of fish stocks is critical to develop ways to protect the fishery and fishermen. The commercial fisheries sector is small. However, the sector is important from a socio-economic viewpoint in that it provides the main economic activity and employment for numerous coastal villages. All commercial fishing is by one-day trips. Shrimp fishermen usually leave in the late afternoon and return the next morning. Fishing boats usually take a day or overnight trips. Catch is landed and iced on deck.

Recognizing the importance of aquaculture development, the Government represented by the Directorate of Fisheries, has established the National Mariculture Centre (NMC) to undertake applied research in this field. NMC has successfully achieved the mass propagation of seed from various commercially important local species. Commercial mariculture began at the end of 2014. Bahrain has maintained its position as a leading marine finfish seed producer and exporter in the region. Currently there are no commercial mariculture projects in operation. Mariculture activities are limited to the applied research activities of NMC. Due to scarcity of freshwater resources, all efforts have been diverted towards marine species. There is very limited land-based culture activities carried out in tanks.

**5.2 Egypt:** Egyptian total fish production in 2013 from all sources is estimated at 1,446,161 tonnes of which 348,617 tonnes from capture fisheries (marine, inland



brackish water, fresh water bodies) and 1,097,544 tonnes from aquaculture. Marine fisheries are mainly in the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea including the Gulf of Suez.

All fishermen participate in a co-operative union through membership in one fishery cooperative or in one of the aquaculture cooperatives. The co-operative union runs an insurance scheme through which fishermen are sheltered from economic loss in case of accidents or loss of vessels. The union also helps fishermen to meet their essential needs during closed seasons. The union also represents fishermen in parliament and is a member of the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) administrative board. Fishermen live mostly in small villages. Most members of the fisheries-dependent families are involved in some aspect of fisheries or in transporting, processing and selling the fish.

The fresh and brackish water fish production in 2013 was produced from the four northern brackish water lakes of Manzala, Burulos, Edko, and Maryout (in the Delta region) and the two coastal lagoons of Bardaweel and Port Fouad. Also from the eight fresh water lakes Qarun, Rayan, Nasser, Toshka, Bitter - Timsah, New Valley, Lesser Bitter Lake and the Suez Canal channel. Furthermore, inland fisheries are practiced in the the River Nile System with its tributaries.

Aquaculture production is produced mainly by employing extensive, intensive and semi-intensive systems, as well as integrated fish farming in rice fields. Aquaculture is expected to continue to expand in the future. It is considered to be the main source of animal protein for a growing population at affordable prices. One of the major developments in marine aquaculture is the planned project in Port Said along the recently expanded Suez Canal Zone. This project is expected to start with 1,300 floating cages eventually to be increased to 3,800 cages and an estimated annual production of 50-100 thousand tonnes of fish including exportable species of sea bass and sea bream as well as employment opportunities of up to 10,000 jobs.

Demand for fish is expected to continue to increase in the years to come not only due to population growth but also due to increase in levels of the price gap of fish and the alternative animal proteins. With this in mind, in spite of the substantial increase in local landings, especially from aquaculture sources, it is expected that the gap between supply and demand will continue and so will the need for fish imports. Increasing supplies from local capture fisheries seems to be limited due to several resource limitations such as over fishing in the major traditional marine and inland waters. The possibilities to improve the situation requires up-dating of the resource potential through new biological surveys and the possibility of reducing fishing effort during certain periods.

**5.3 Eritrea:** Eritrea's total fish production in 2013 was estimated at 3,993 tonnes all from marine capture fisheries mainly by small-scale fishermen. The waters of the southern part of the Red Sea are highly productive and rich in biodiversity. Commercially valuable fish are either reef dwelling, such as groupers, snappers and emperors; demersal, such as lizardfish and breams; or pelagic, such as jacks, trevallies, mackerels, tunas, sharks, sardines and anchovies. Aquaculture has not been commercially developed. However, a project was implemented in 2000 in the Red Sea to build around 150 on-ground circular concrete tanks for marine shrimp aquaculture but was not carried out. Given the natural presence of mullet, milkfish, and shrimp, along the Eritrean coast, it could be supposed that the environment is suitable for their development as cultured species.

Foreign trawling vessels are, however, not in operation every year. The majority of licensed vessels are Egyptian, Chinese, Saudi, Spanish and Italian. Foreign vessels are operated almost entirely by their own foreign skippers and vessels. All vessels that are involved in the artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries are operated by Eritrean nationals.



There are a number of constraints that affect the fishery sector in Eritrea. The marine capture sector is constrained by a lack of fishing equipment, lack of fishermen and lack of skills. Rising fuel prices combined with the limited capacity of traditional outboard engines has resulted in low production. A priority for the Eritrean government is to rebuild and revitalize the fisheries sectors with the aim to sustainably produce food and generate revenue from exports through proper fisheries management. Fisheries sustainability includes socio-economic, community, ecological and institutional components.

Food security in Eritrea is deemed to be food insecure as the agricultural sector only provides 60 percent of the national food requirement in good rainfall years. Fish consumption per capita has decreased in the last few years to very low standards. Overall fish provided 0.2 grams of protein per capita per day. One reason for this is the preference for meat as a source of protein.

**5.4 Iran:** Iran (Islamic Republic of) fish production from all sources in 2013 was 879,854 tonnes of which 554,529 tonnes from marine and inland capture fisheries and 325,325 tonnes from aquaculture. With regard to fisheries they are mostly small-scale. There are four main fisheries in Iran. These are: The Southern Fishery, the Northern Fishery and Inland Fishery as well as aquaculture. The Northern fishery is in the Caspian Sea. It is carried out by small wooden fishing vessels; beach seines (dhow type) catching bony fish species. Fishermen are grouped in cooperatives since 2003. Fishing for sturgeon is restricted to the state owned company for conservation reasons. In the Southern Fishery operations takes place in both Gulfs where there are industrial and semi-industrial fishing fleets owned by private enterprises using various types of fishing. Also there are a number of steel trawlers, wooden vessels and a large number of out-board and in-board boats active in commercial fishing. Most of the catches are demersal and tuna species. As for the inland fishery and aquaculture these has expanded rapidly over the last few years. Inland fisheries takes place in rivers, natural lakes, man-made reservoirs, irrigation channels, aqueducts and ponds are used for fish culture, organized as fish farms. Aras Dam in west Azerbaijan Province, Hamon Lake in Sistan and Baluchistan, Hoor-al-Shadegan and Hoor-al-Hovize in southern Khuzestan are the main large water bodies for fish stocking and inland fisheries. Weather conditions differ greatly across the country allowing a range of different types of aquaculture to be practised. All aquaculture activities are carried out exclusively by the private sector.

**5.5 Iraq:** Fish production in Iraq in 2013 was 70,913 tonnes of which 56,853 tonnes from capture fisheries and 14,060 tonnes from aquaculture. The Iraqi marine fisheries sector has not been developed due to a lack of skills and good planning, as well as the absence of institutions, scientific researches, economic studies, and more importantly the absence of the state in this vital sector. Although Iraq has a limited coastal area (900 km<sup>2</sup>) with the depth not more than 15–17 metres, this area comprises an important area for migration, breeding and feeding, as it is affected by the tidal current mixed with Shatt-Al-Arab water and Karun river. Marine fishes have only been caught by private fishing boats located in Basra, and the total fishing has virtually no impact on the national economy value due to the absence of exports and import activities at present. However, it serves as a source of income and employment for fishermen and the unemployed.

Iraq marine fishing operations depend on 211 small to medium sized boats with horse power ranging from 65 to 950. The fishing method used includes trawls, gill net, cast, and traps; the boats above are not specialized for a certain method, but instead use multi-gear. All fishing boats are for daily fishing, and the main problems facing the fishermen is the access to fuel supply, as well as dealing with harassment of the marine guards. There exist two cooperatives in the marine fishing communities that assist in organizing the sector. Vessel ownership is individual and the method for income distribution is by wages and while the number of crew per vessel is not accurately

known, it is estimated at five to seven fishermen per vessel. Community and social services are not available. Fishermen are all Iraqi citizens; foreign fishermen are not involved in the Iraqi fishing sector. The main social issue for fishers is the absence of security during fishing and throughout the fishing zone fishermen complain of low wages when compared with their efforts as well as decreasing the quantity and the quality of fish and fishing.

The contribution of fishery sector to the Iraqi national economy is considered small to non-existent. The impact on national food security is small and is estimated to be less than 3–5 kg/year. Information on the production value is not known. Employment created directly by the fishing industry is considered limited; the sector needs skilled people, but due to low wages, difficulties faced at sea and the absence of the state in the sector, it is not a desirable profession. The fish market chain is going between boat owners and intermediaries then to wholesalers then to retailer finally goes to consumers. The average fishermen income when compared with the national average is almost similar. Most boat owners have their own capital and their business is not wide, their credit needs are limited however if they need, they can access credit from a variety of sources. Fish imports represent more than 50 percent of fish in Iraq, and the rest is from inland and marine fishing. Iraq looks forward to good, scientific and institutional cooperation between the national and regional fisheries governance and will agree with any proposal policies that have no interference on national regulations and that benefit fishermen and regional organizations.

**5.6 Jordan:** Jordan's fish production in 2013 was estimated at 1,220 tonnes of which 650 tonnes from capture and 600 tonnes from aquaculture. Jordan's fisheries resources, marine and aquaculture, are very limited due to its geographical situation and environmental conditions. It has a very short coastline (26 km) along the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba which allows only limited artisanal fishing activities. In Aqaba, the port infrastructure, tourism facilities and the pollution prevention laws and regulations do not permit the establishment of mariculture projects except for some experimentation carried out by the Marine Science Station of the University of Jordan located in Aqaba. The marine fishing industry in Jordan is small and is based at Gulf of Aqaba. It is entirely artisanal. Furthermore, the coastline is very restricted due to other activities such as the Jordan's only maritime port, tourism activities and environmental concerns. Inland waters are also quite limited to allow a reasonable freshwater or brackish water capture fishery. Jordan is a semi-arid state of which over 92 percent is desert with scarce water resources. Its current source is from ground and surface water resources. Rainfall is very limited most months of the year and the Government always attempts to find alternative water resources to meet the expanding demands of its growing population and foreign residents. With these limitations, Jordan's only alternative opportunity to increase its indigenous fish supplies, although on a moderate scale, is through aquaculture. Fish culture has been practiced in Jordan since the mid-1960s. A pilot project was launched in Wadi Al-Yabis (Al-Rayan) station in 1966 with FAO assistance and another one in Azraq in 1978 to promote the development of aquaculture and support rural households with an alternative source of income. The poor quality of aquaculture seed and feed, lack of technical skills along with limited water resources mainly used for human consumption and agriculture, are currently among the major constraints limiting the development of the sector in Jordan

On food security the country has always been faced with shortage of basic protein food for its people and has been forced to import large quantity of meat and fish. The annual per capita fish consumption in Jordan remains rather low (at about 4.6 kg/year) compared to the world and regional levels. Currently the yearly fish production in the country does not satisfy the national demand and hence domestic market mainly relies on imported fresh and frozen seafood commodities. Populations living in rural areas of the country have no easy access to fish products; therefore the increase of freshwater

fish production will facilitate the access of high quality animal proteins coming from locally produced fish.

The national fish market in Jordan absorbs all farmed fish and fish from capture fisheries from its territorial waters, however only satisfying a small part of the national fish demand which has been progressively increasing over the years. Capture fisheries and aquaculture products are traditionally consumed fresh.

With its limited coastline and increased recreational fishing in the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan's fisheries have very limited scope for development. The number of fishermen has remained static in recent years. The artisanal marine fisheries in the Gulf of Aqaba have limited development prospects and are threatened by increasing environmental concerns, particularly relating to the fishing activities in coral reef and seagrass nursery areas. Increasing recreational fishing and environmental issues such as increased shipping into Aqaba are also emerging as significant threats to marine fisheries development and mariculture.

**5.7 Kuwait:** Total 2013 fish landings in Kuwait were 4,934 tonnes of which 4,633 tonnes from capture fisheries and 301 tonnes from aquaculture. Fishing is a part of the traditional heritage of Kuwait and, apart from the industrial shrimp fishery, remains essentially artisanal in nature. The artisanal fleet lands about 90% of the finfish landings and 10 % of the shrimp landings. The shrimp fishery is an important part of the fishing sector with 35 semi- industrial trawlers and 33 wooden dhows being licensed to fish for shrimp. Since 1980, fishing operations have been restricted to Kuwait's territorial waters due to restricted access for fishing in the other Gulf countries. The fishery management regulations imposed in the 1980s include closed season, protected areas (Kuwait Bay and three-mile coastal zone), mesh size, and effort limitation in order to optimize shrimp productivity.

The vessels are licensed to use only one type of gear which can be hemispherical wire traps (gargoor), drift gill nets or fixed gill nets of various mesh sizes. The registered finfish fleet consists of dhows, using gargoor and gillnets, and speedboats (7 m) using gargoor) although not all of these may be active. The main commercial fish species belong to 14 families, and the catches vary seasonally. The main contributor to a declining trend in catches has been in the important and high value species of zobaidy and suboor. Kuwaiti nationals own all vessels and supporting infrastructure of the fishing industry, but almost all employees are expatriates. The industry receives significant, and increasing, direct subsidies from the Government which is leading to increased capacity while catches in the finfish capture marine sector are declining.

Aquaculture development is still incipient in Kuwait although the commercial production of gilthead sea bream and sobaity sea bream in floating cages was started in 1997. Aquaculture activities are currently being expanded in order to supplement local landings from capture fisheries.

**5.8 Lebanon:** Lebanon's fish production in 2013 totalled 5,041 tonnes of which 3,761 from capture fisheries and 1,280 from aquaculture. The Lebanese coastline is 220 km long. The land rises steeply from the coast in the North, while in the south it forms a very narrow coastal plain. The continental shelf is narrow, especially in the South. Bottom grounds are mainly rough with intensive rocky patches good for stationary demersal fishing gear. Lebanese are historically ocean-origin people, consuming lots of fish in their diet. Local demand for fish is considerably higher than the neighbouring Middle Eastern countries. Due to the low local fish production, the Lebanese have been depending on imported fish that are generally of inferior quality. The production of the fisheries sector in mid 1970's was about 2,300 tons while it was about 6,000 tons (including 600 tons of trout) in 2000 and dropped to about 5,000 in 2013. These landings were produced by traditional/small scale fishermen distributed all over the Lebanese coast. The active fishing fleet is supposed to consist of around 1,600 small fishing boats (less than 6 meters) and 400 motorized boats (less than 8 meters). The

demand for fish has remained high. Imports of chilled, frozen, and canned fish were also high. The potential for fish consumption is estimated at 35,000 tonnes per year. The fisheries of Lebanon are classified as small scale "artisanal" and traditional based mainly on bottom stationary gear (trammels and longlines), purse seine nets (lampara) and beach seines. The traditional fishermen have no access to institutional credit.

Freshwater aquaculture has been practiced since the 1930s. More than 90 percent of aquaculture production is rainbow trout. There is no marine aquaculture except for one shrimp farm initiative by a private investor in the north of Lebanon. In 2014 the total amount of imported fish, whether live, fresh or frozen (including crustaceans and molluscs) amounted to about 20,921 tonnes at an approximate value of US\$ 95 million.

**5.9 Oman:** The total fish landings in Oman in 2013 were 200,152 tonnes of which 199,799 tonnes from capture fisheries while 353 tonnes from aquaculture. The fisheries sector is one of the important economic sectors which have a great contribution in the national economy of the country. Also, it has a role in the strengthening of social and food security. The coastline of the Sultanate of Oman is 3 165 km; these coastlines are known to vary both in terms of abundance and diversity of resources. The importance of the fisheries sector is highlighted by its contribution in providing high quality food for Omani citizens. There are different types of fishing grounds along the coast line; some of the grounds are soft with clean sands (mostly in Al Batinah), while there are also hard rocky bottoms and soft bottoms with muddy sand. There are several types of fishing vessels operating along the coast of Oman, these vessels vary in size, operating period, amount of catch, and type of gears used and in their engine power. According to the data of 2010 there were approximately 696 artisanal fishing vessels, 13 long line fishing vessels, 33 coastal fishing vessels, 25 trawler fishing vessels (although trawlers have been banned since 2011). There are also small fiberglass boats used by the traditional fishermen and distributed in all along the coast of Oman, and in 2010 they totalled approximately 18,031.

The majority of artisanal vessels, coastal vessels and fibre glass boats are multi gears meaning that there are not specific gears for specific vessels. The only vessels which use one type of gear are the long liner vessels, using only long lines. The fishermen communities are found in all the coastal regions of Oman. Some of these communities rely on fishing as their only source of income, these groups worry about the future of fisheries more than any other groups. Fishermen communities are provided with all social services entitled to Omani citizens in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries provides several services such as: awareness programmes; training; and incentives including: fishing boats, engines, fishing gears, fishing equipment, ice boxes, etc. The Ministry also provides many facilities for fishermen communities, including fishing ports, fish markets, landing site facilities (eg. shades, stores, boats, pulling machine, etc). The Ministry adopts the idea of having Fishermen Committees in all the coastal regions of Oman in order to develop the sector and to involve fishermen ideas and suggestions in different parts of the sector. There are approximately 25 committees with 125 members. The members of these committees are fishermen who have a great experience in fisheries who give suggestions and recommendations regarding the projects and studies related to the fisheries development. They also solve conflicts and misunderstanding that may arise between fishermen. The two regional bodies, the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and the General Secretariat of the Fisheries Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council provide technical support and capacity building. However, real activities such as projects are limited. It is recommend to enhance capacity building in collecting and analysing data related to the socioeconomic aspects for fishermen communities, as well as the need to propose and fund a regional project to study the socio-economic aspects..

Oman in spite of its rich capture resources is initiating various activities to develop its aquaculture potential. In 2007 with FAO assistance a national strategic plan for sustainable aquaculture development was prepared.

The long coastlines of Oman (over 3,156 km.) with unpolluted waters offer excellent opportunity for the promotion of aquaculture, which would supply fish for both domestic consumption and export. For the purpose of developing and facilitating the sector, Oman issued in 2010 an Atlas contains detailed information on various related topics and focuses on identifying potential on land and coastal sites.

**5.10 Palestine (West Bank & Gaza):** Fish production in 2013 was 2,120 tonnes of which 1,836 tonnes from capture fisheries and 284 tonnes from aquaculture. The main and central challenge in the development of the marine fisheries sector in Gaza is the restrictions imposed by Israel and the extremely limited fishing zone of 3 Nm out of the agreed upon of 12 Nm. from the shore. Although this navigation restriction is claimed for security purposes, it has a de facto effect on the economic viability and long-term sustainable exploitation of the fisheries, which in turn has a profound effect on the fishermen's livelihoods and on the food security of the people of Palestine.

Aquaculture sector commenced in 1995 but had very poor beginning due to the lack of knowledge and expertise in this field. A major aquaculture activity began in 2011 in the land-locked West Bank when a jointly funded project was initiated with Brazil.

**5.11 Qatar:** Fish production in Qatar in 2013 was 12,016 tonnes of which 11,960 from capture fisheries and 56 tonnes from aquaculture. The marine fishing fleet comprised mainly of 446 vessels and 3,313 artisanal fishermen. Fisheries production in Qatar fluctuated slightly between 2011 and 2013, with a decreasing trend. Imports have remained fairly steady in this same period, while exports decreased. The contribution of fishery sector covers 88 percent of self-sufficiency for the local market. Fishermen gain access to credit through the Qatar Development Bank.

Aquaculture in the country is in its early stages. There are a few fish ponds in the private sector using extensive and semi-intensive culture systems. Coast land unavailable for agriculture and commercial activities are available for fish and shrimp culture and associated activities..

**5.12 Saudi Arabia:** Total fish landings in Saudi Arabia in 2013 were 95,560 tonnes of which 70,170 tonnes from capture fisheries and 25,390 from aquaculture. The fisheries status is stable although some major important species decreased. Fishery resources in the Saudi Arabian Gulf waters are mostly caught by traditional fisheries which resemble 99.98 percent of the total catches. There is a general lack of socio-economic information on fishermen, although some aspects are known, including: the method of sharing/payment for vessel owners and crew, the boat needs (repairs, fuel and oil for the engine, etc.), and that the fishermen share of the profits is the least in the supply chain.

Fishing operations are undertaken by both large and small fishing vessels. The large ones are between 10 to 20 metre length and run by inboard engines from 150 to 400 horse power, while the smaller boats are run by outboard motors between 70 to 140 horse power. The boats are multi-purpose fishing boats; in the shrimping season many large boats use shrimp trawl nets. The major species caught by shrimp trawling are two shrimp species, and other shrimp species considered as mixed shrimps, crabs, white cuttlefish, catfish and other fish species. Shrimping takes place between August and February each year. Demersal species are generally caught most of the year by traps (large, medium and small sizes), mostly between May and September, while some species are caught in the winter season. Gill netting, both large and small mesh sizes, is also an important fishery; the main target species by the large mesh size are narrow barred Spanish mackerel, large Jacks and trevallies, large barracudas and some other species; the most important pelagic species is the Spanish mackerel, while the others are considered as by-catch species, including sharks and rays. Hand lines, troll lines, and long lines, are also important fisheries, most of the catches of these methods are demersal, and some pelagic and mesopelagic species are caught also.



Aquaculture in Saudi Arabia dates back to the early 1980s when Nile tilapia was reared in inland water bodies. The sector started to move toward shrimp aquaculture - giant tiger prawn first and Indian white shrimp. Due to the excellent potentially favourable environment for fish farming, the Ministry of Agriculture has identified aquaculture as a priority economic sector, as a result of rich finfish and shellfish resources, some of which have been identified as suitable aquaculture candidates. There has been a rapid development of aquaculture in the last 5 years, as perceived from the rapid increase in the number of fish farms during this period.

**5.13 Sudan:** Fish production in Sudan in 2013 is estimated at 35,980 tonnes of which 34,000 tonnes from capture fisheries and 1,980 tonnes from aquaculture. Sudan is one of the largest countries in Africa. The contribution of fisheries to the GDP is currently marginal. However, Sudan is endowed with water resources and lands that can support vigorous capture fisheries and aquaculture. Sudan's capture fisheries production was from inland water catches. The aquaculture sector is still incipient with modest production compared with its potential. Capture fisheries activities are centred around the River Nile and its tributaries, seasonal flood plains and four major reservoirs as well as the territorial waters of Sudan on the Red Sea. Freshwater fish culture is primarily based on the pond culture of the Nile tilapia.

The country is also dependant on imports of fish and fishery products to satisfy the limited per capita fish consumption. Exports are very small. Although there is potential for increasing inland fish production, inland fisheries have remained at a subsistence level due, in part, years of internal conflicts which have led to prolonged isolation of fishing communities and disrupted trade and supply channels. Other problems and constraints include the lack of or inadequate fisheries policies and management, laws and regulations, monitoring and statistics, infrastructure and institutions, investments and financing, capacity and training, processing and marketing.

Sudan is a member of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and two FAO regional fishery bodies: the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA). It also participates in INFOSAMAK. Importantly, Sudan has offered to lead the process toward the establishment of a fisheries commission for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

As far as the the food security situation is concerned though the precise value of the fisheries contribution to the national GDP is unrecorded, the entire agriculture sector, which includes fisheries, contributed 24 percent of the GDP, amounting to US\$ 14.1 billion. Fish and fish products are highly appreciated in the Sudanese diet for their indispensable nutritional value, and they thus contribute significantly to the food and nutrition security of the population. Most rural areas of the Sudan have benefitted significantly from the fisheries activities which are conducted in their environs. Fishing and associated economic operations generate both employment and investment opportunities, thus curbing rural-urban population shift. Fisheries are, often, the only rallying point for some rural communities as almost every aspect of life such as social, cultural and political activities revolve around fish. However, competition over water use does occur, sometimes, between fishers /fish farmers on the one hand, and crop farmers/animal herders on the other hand, who need to use the same water to either irrigate their farm or to water their livestock.

Small-scale oyster farms which are sited along the northern Sudanese coast have contributed significantly to the stability and improvement of the socio-economic status of these multi-ethnic communities, which have very little alternative income generating opportunities. Fisheries and aquaculture, therefore, have the potential to enhance rural socio-economic stability in the Sudan. More than anywhere else, rural fishing communities rely largely on fish for the much-needed protein as it is known that the per capita fish consumption in such communities is significantly higher than the national average. Fisheries, therefore, play for those communities the multiple,

indispensable role of being a major source of food and nutrition security, livelihood, and income generation. Also, some communities are close-knit, strong and organized, and thus possess sufficient capacity to engender improvement in their area of domain.

**5.14 Syria:** The total fish landing of Syria in 2013 were estimated at 8,767 tonnes of which 4,757 tonnes from capture fisheries and 4,000 tonnes from aquaculture. The fishery sector plays a minor role in the Syrian economy, due not only to the scarcity of resources and the low natural productivity of fishing grounds, but also to technical, administrative and legislative constraints. Small-scale fishery dominates the marine fishery. It comprises some 1,200 coastal fishing vessels licensed to fish within the territorial waters along a coastline of 183 km. Real industrial marine fishery barely exists, except for 21 comparatively small offshore vessels operating beyond the 12 Nm zone. Artisanal fishery is the only capture fishery in inland waters with 1,283 small fishing boats, of which 436 are motored. Main inland water resources are located in the south and southeast of the country. Other resources in the western, central and coastal areas are considered marginal. Fishing communities are distributed accordingly. Capture fishery has been traditionally a source of living for poor and more-or-less illiterate people in coastal and lacustrine areas. The low output of capture fishery, particularly in inland waters, does not secure more than a minimum living for artisanal fishermen.

Aquaculture is confined to fresh waters and mostly Carps and Tilapias. Capture-based aquaculture is carried out in surface-water retention lakes. Fish farming and capture-based aquaculture are an exception, being practised by comparatively rich and literate farmers and yielding high income.

A few decades ago, marine fishermen communities were considered to have a good living standard. Nowadays, this is not the case. Some may have kept a reasonable living standard, but the most seem to have suffered economically. Being still modest, fisheries and fish products contribute modestly to food security. Nevertheless, aquaculture is qualified to contribute selectively to improving animal protein supply.

Unlike some economic and agricultural activities, fisheries and small-scale aquaculture imply a day-by-day involvement of the whole rural family.. Periodic harvesting of oversized fishes from integrated family fish ponds provides domestic food, moderating the seasonality of agricultural income and adding nutritional value to the family diet. Thus, fisheries and aquaculture can create a source of income for a significant proportion of rural society, contributing to alleviation of unemployment and poverty in rural areas and minimizing rural-urban migration.

**5.15 United Arab Emirates:** Fish production in 2013 is estimated at 72,550 tonnes of which 71,770 tonnes from capture fisheries and 780 tonnes from aquaculture. The fisheries are entirely artisanal in nature, with the minor exception of 4 small purse seine vessels that operate seasonally from Sharjah and take sardines and anchovy at night using light attraction. Two types of vessels are used in the artisanal fishery: wooden, local dhows up to approximately 15 m in length that primarily operate fish traps and fiberglass, outboard powered vessels up to 8-10 m in length (locally known as tarads) that use a variety of gear including fixed and floating gill nets, hand trolling and drop lines and gargoor. Vessels that are operating gargoor generally undertake 4-5 day fishing trips while the smaller launches usually operate on a daily basis. In addition to vessel catches, there are a number of fixed stake nets (locally known as 'hadra' that are located along the coast and its inlets. Rapid coastal development has apparently reduced the number of such stake nets in areas near to major cities such as Dubai. However, they are still numerous in areas where little coastal development has taken place, particularly in the area west of Abu Dhabi. The majority of the catch from all sectors is taken from Abu Dhabi Emirate, since this Emirate comprises over 65% of the sea area of the U.A.E. However, the most productive areas are inshore areas near to the Straits of Hormuz, around Ras al-Khaimah. Landings probably also consist of fish

taken in other, neighbouring, countries' waters, although the quantity of such landings is not known. Fish are landed at landing sites along the coast of the U.A.E. and are generally auctioned at the market in which they are landed.

No trawling takes place in the U.A.E. since this has been banned in 1970s in an effort to protect marine habitat. Although the use of drift nets is also prohibited, their illegal use is common, particularly during the season for large pelagics such as Spanish mackerel. Recent laws requiring a U.A.E. national to be physically present on vessels during fishing operations has also reduced the number of active vessels. The pelagic catches are dominated by Spanish mackerel and other large pelagics while small pelagic species such as sardinella and anchovies are captured in inshore near Ras al-Khaimah and also on the East Coast near al-Fujairah. Apart from the 4 small purse seine vessels that operate seasonally from Sharjah, there is no industrial fishery for small pelagic species although there have been several attempts to start such an industry in the past.

Aquaculture is still in its early development phase. There are a few commercial projects operating, supported by multi-million dollar investments, but most aquaculture in the country is small-scale and operated by local agriculture farmers, fishers and some private investors. The country is endowed with many natural lagoons, bays and creeks, most of which are encircled by mangrove swamps providing ideal spawning and nursery grounds for a wide variety of fish and shrimp species.

**5.16 Yemen:** The total fish production in 2013 of 194,860 tonnes is from capture fisheries. Yemen has an extensive coastline (2 500 km) bordering both the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Yemen's marine environment is characterized by a high level of productivity and fisheries are the second most important source of export revenues in Yemen after petroleum and play an important role in reducing poverty. There are 135 fishermen's cooperatives operating about 23,600 boats of different types and capacities with around 83, 200 fishermen.

Fishing pressure from the small-scale sector has continued to grow rapidly over the last 15 years. The status of many of the stocks is uncertain, principally as a result of the lack of detailed and recent stock assessment and the lack of reliable statistics after 1990. The small-scale fishery is a multi-species, multi-gear fishery and operates on an open-access basis with few restrictions to entry to the fishery. This fishery supplies both the domestic market and the export market, particularly that for fresh whole fish to neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia. The main species caught are small pelagic species such as Indian oil sardine and Indian mackerel, large pelagic species such as several species of tuna, demersal species including grouper, spiny lobster, shrimp and cuttlefish. This sector is the largest fisheries sector in Yemen, contributing around 90% of annual landings. Although a vessel licensing system is in place, it is only sporadically enforced and hence the number of vessels in this sector is unknown. However, it is estimated that in 2010, there were approximately 80,000 small-scale vessels landing fish in Yemen that were operated by approximately 220,000 fishermen. While there are only limited opportunities for the sustainable expansion of landings, there may be opportunities for the development of marine aquaculture production in Yemen although constraints such as availability of sites, high capital requirements, and the current lack of supporting industries need to be addressed.

## **6. THE ISSUE OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Food security has been a subject of great national concern around the world since 1974, the year of the global food crisis, which led countries to view it as a component of national security. FAO in its "The State of Food and Agriculture 2015 IN BRIEF" observes that: "Although the shares of people living in poverty and extreme poverty have declined over the past three decades, the numbers remain high, with almost one billion people considered extremely poor and another billion poor". Too many countries however, including Near East countries, it seemed that the key to food security lay in self-sufficiency, particularly



in grain, took up the call. Many food-importing developing nations succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency after implementing “Green Revolution” programmes that introduced the cultivation of hybrids developed by international research centres.

The FAO World Food Summit held in Rome in 1996 defined food security as ‘... exists when all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life’. The same definition of food security was reiterated in the second FAO World Food Summit held in Rome in November 2009. It also added that the four pillars of food security are:

- Food availability: ensuring sufficient food supply whether from local production or the international market.
- Food stability: ensuring a stable supply of food throughout the year and from one season to the next.
- Food accessibility: ensuring that the food is available to the public at affordable prices relative to their income.
- Food safety.

Near East countries engage in the trade in commodities at varying degrees but the balance of trade in seafood commodities is negative. In 2011 all Near East countries exported a total of 310 thousand tonnes valued at US\$ 683 million. The main exporters were Oman, Iran, Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. Conversely, in the same year the countries imported 888 thousand tonnes of seafood commodities valued at US\$ 2.1 billion. The main importers were Egypt, Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. This negative balance of trade indicates a large gap between exports and imports that needs to be narrowed.

Could Near East countries become self-sufficient in seafood production? The region, taken as a whole, is certainly not short of financial resources and could continue to rely on imports to satisfy food demands. They have good and promising fisheries resources which could be better utilized and exploited to benefit especially small-scale fisheries in order to improve the living standards of the fishers and the related communities in several of the countries in the Near East. Indeed these resources abound, and with high levels of open and masked unemployment there is more than enough available labour to meet the needs of most small-scale fisheries’ development projects.

But land resources are not the only limitation on expansion in food production. The first and foremost limitation is water. More and more Near East countries are sinking below the water poverty level. From three countries in 1955 (Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait), the number of countries below the water poverty level came to eleven by 1990 (with the addition Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen). Seven more countries of the region are expected to join them by 2025. In addition, over-exploitation of subterranean water resources has led to numerous problems in the GCC countries, Palestine and elsewhere as a result of the consequent higher salinity levels in aquifers.

The bottom line here is that, if water resources cannot keep up with the food production needs of the Near East people, the countries will necessarily continue to rely on food imports, and this is contingent on their financial resources. Near East countries must study the various economic and commercial aspects involved, with particular attention to international agreements affecting food trade. The importance of this strategy cannot be overstated in view of the Near East countries’ increasing dependency on imports for food security.

**6.1 Near East countries food policies:** Food accessibility is strongly influenced by government economic policies and openness to world markets. Subsidising food commodities to make them more affordable to the public is one such policy; lifting subsidies is another. Most Near East governments have adopted food supply policies as part of a social contract based on state provision of essential needs in exchange for the people’s loyalty. Since the 1980s most governments have pressed ahead with economic liberalisation and market deregulation policies.

**6.2 Self-sufficiency versus food security:** There are two sides to the longstanding debate on food security in the Near East countries. On the one hand, there are public voices which push governments towards a self-sufficiency goal. On the other hand, there are experts who argue that the scarcity of natural resources and increasing demand for limited land and water-triggered by rapid population growth-render self-sufficiency objectives cost prohibitive. Self-sufficiency means to produce all own food. Food security means is to have access to affordable food. Financing self-sufficiency today will come at the expense of future generations in the sense that the very high investments in land and water management required to achieve such a goal will take resources away from critically important sectors such as education and health.

**6.3 Population and growth in Near East countries:** The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects, indicate that in 2015 the total population of the Near East countries is about 370 million people and are expected to increase to about 475 million by 2030. Population growth at these rates will still put intense pressures on the carrying capacity of lands and further threaten environmental sustainability.

The growth of cities and towns poses particular challenges. Accelerating urban drift in the region is straining already-overstretched infrastructure and creating overcrowded, unhealthy and insecure living conditions in many cities. In 1970, 38 per cent of the populations were urban.

## **7. ROLE OF FISHERIES IN FOOD SECURITY IN THE NEAR EAST REGION**

Fisheries and aquaculture make an important contribution to the animal protein supplies of many communities in both the industrialized and developing worlds. In 2013 world fish supplies are at around 20 kg per capita/per annum with a slight annual upward trend due to the rapidly increasing contribution of aquaculture. In comparison, the general average of fish consumption in the Near East region is only around 10 kg. per annum. These averages hide variability in levels of consumption within countries, amongst countries and between continents. In the 16 countries of the Near East region there is a large disparity in the per capita consumption. Only two countries have more than the international average, three countries are less than 20 kg per capita while the rest of the countries are less than 10 kg of which some of these countries are even less than even 5 kg per capita. Fish and fishery products are important for the food security and the alleviation of poverty of many coastal communities where their only source of income is from fisheries.

But, by all accounts, many wild marine and freshwater resources are on the decline and this is a source of growing economic and social problems. Fisheries, including aquaculture, provide a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world, both for present and future generations. In the Near East fisheries, especially in rural remote areas, are an important economic sector and aquaculture is becoming of importance, both contributing, albeit at different levels, to national development through employment, trade and food security.

Small-scale fisheries of the region are varied, ranging from those based on the relatively rich resources such as in Egypt specially the aquaculture sector which flourished in the last few years, Oman and Yemen are well positioned from their marine fisheries resources. Most of these fisheries are mainly exploited by the small-scale sector. Fishers of this sector have relatively poor capabilities and facilities and often exploited by individuals with low cost vessels and gear, working near-shore and from beaches or in inland waters. In certain localities the fisheries provide an important source of employment and income, and often when the localities are isolated the community depends wholly on the fisheries activities for their livelihood.

## 8. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SSF GUIDELINES

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in the Near East countries which were developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) require a great understanding of the fisheries (marine and inland capture fisheries and aquaculture) in each country. The artisanal fisheries sector contributes to food security through production of food, with fish being an important ingredient in the diet of the populations for the present and future generations. Most of the fishers operating in this sector are in the lowest section of the population, with limited access to means of production, meagre incomes causing food security problems for them. The SSF Guidelines were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries development and governance in support of the overall principles and provisions of the Code.

The sector provides employment for fishers and related ancillary activities of processing, distribution, marketing and exporting to earn hard currencies. The small-scale sector contribution to food security and poverty alleviation in terms of provision of food and income can be substantially increased with the proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Accordingly, the SSF Guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty. The SSF Guidelines support responsible fisheries and sustainable social and economic development for the benefit of current and future generations, with an emphasis on small-scale fishers and fish workers and related activities and including vulnerable and marginalized people, promoting human rights based approach. It is emphasized that these Guidelines are voluntary, global in scope and with a focus on the needs of developing countries.

In consideration of the above objectives of the SSF Guidelines some suggestions for the implementation in the Near East region are made, although no specific priority may be proposed since each country has its own consideration when taking action. These suggestions include the following:

### **8.1 Responsible fisheries and sustainable development (Chapter 5 of the SSF Guidelines):**

**i. Recognize Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management:** Marine and inland capture fisheries resources are generally on the decline in most Near East countries. New transformational changes in governance are urgently required to cope with overfishing, pollution, global changes, and other drivers of degradation in order to insure sustainability of the resources and fishing operations. The social, political, and ecological aspects of a transformation in governance of the Near East countries coastal marine resources are to be explored. Also, good governance will help resolve tenure-related problems. Inadequate and insecure tenure rights to access and use natural resources often result in extreme poverty and hunger, not only by facilitating overfishing but also by reducing incentives for responsible stewardship.

In the pursuit of resources sustainability, the critical elements that need to be analysed are: (i) recognition of the depletion of resource stocks, (ii) scientific knowledge on the ecology and resilience of targeted species by small-scale fisheries and their role in ecosystem dynamics, and (iii) demonstration-scale experimental trials, building on smaller-scale scientific experiments, which identified new management pathways. Trials are to be made in order to improve cooperation among scientists and fishermen and integrating knowledge and establishing trust. The discourse on solutions to address small-scale fisheries concerns in the Near East

tends to focus heavily on community-based forms of co-management. Partnerships between communities and governments, NGOs or research organizations can draw together knowledge, expertise and institutions to develop and implement co-management arrangements.

**ii. Collaborate with RFBs, FAO/BGI and other related agencies:** Due to its nature, the implementation of the SSF Guidelines requires the countries' collaboration with various related agencies operating in the region. These include the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), The General Commission for Fisheries in the Mediterranean (GFCM), the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and its Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and Trade, FAO GLOBEFISH with involvement of INFOSAMAK and INFOFISH as well as the involvement of NGOs, international Aid agencies and other organizations concerned.

In this context the FAO Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) aims at supporting food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable management of aquatic resources. It has four main components which should receive increasing attention from the Near East countries in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. The components are: (i) marine and inland capture fisheries; (ii) aquaculture; (iii) livelihoods and foods systems; and (iv) economic growth from ecosystem services.

**iii. Attention to social development, employment and decent work:** For a sound and effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the area of social development, employment and decent work attention should be given to the establishment and strengthening of fishermen and fish-workers cooperatives, organizations, groupings and/or associations that cater for their interests and benefits. While such organizations already exist in several of the Near East countries, their effectiveness is still to be fully realized. These groupings should include empowerment as a means of engaging with and challenge to government authorities on fisheries management issues.

Such organizations should enable stakeholders to participate and have a voice in social, economic and local political processes and to share the responsibility of promoting and practising sustainable fisheries. The motivations and structures of these organizations can change or adapt over time. They can become multipurpose organizations that use collective action to also support social development and promote welfare functions, including the distribution of wealth.

Fisheries cooperatives have the potential to contribute to responsible fisheries, food security, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication. Successful fishermen and fish workers organizations are possible, feasible and desirable, and they can play an important role in community development. They give their communities greater resilience to deal with environmental and socio-economic shocks such as fluctuating catches, disease and death in their fisher's families, natural disasters and hunger.

Suggesting measures that can improve living and working conditions, establish equitable social protection and benefits and offer alternative livelihood options, as well as specific measures in favour of small-scale fishermen to mobilize resources for training and capacity-building, are all positive steps to include social dimensions in fisheries and aquaculture development. Decentralizing of governance to the community level permits responsiveness and specificity to local dynamics, not possible through hierarchical governance. It also allows for proper recognition of the (often legally backed) customary rights of local resource owners, common throughout the region.

**iv. Giving importance of value chain analysis in post-harvest and trading:** In the process of implementing the SSF Guidelines value chain analysis should be strongly carried out in post-harvest and trading activities. Value chain analysis is becoming increasingly main stream in development circles. Its increasing prominence as a form of analysis is largely due to the fact that it provides an excellent 'lens'

through which to focus on distributional issues and pro-poor growth, benchmark changes over time, assess the relative importance of factors affecting competitiveness, as well as the costs and earnings of those involved in the value chain. It also helps in identify gaps/weaknesses in value chain performance and perhaps most importantly identify 'levers' and targeted action programmes to 'upgrade' and improve value chain performance.

In addition, value chain analysis strengthen the bargaining power of small-scale operators and reduce vulnerability as well as resolve conflicts that may arise between parties involved which may have other interests. Also help provide employment opportunities and decent work benefits and related activities.

**v. Recognizing Gender equality and empowerment of women:** When considering the seafood industry as a whole, with fisheries, aquaculture, seafood processing and all related services, women represent half of the total working population world-wide. Women participate in most segments of the industry, but at variable degrees. In small-scale fisheries in the Near East region women are essential contributors to this important food supplying industry in most of the countries although more in some than in others. In the more open societies such as in Egypt, women to some extent are the backbone of the small-scale fisheries sector mainly in the post-harvest activities mainly in fish processing plants and in trading. In the aquaculture sector many women workers also participate in the production process by tending and servicing small-scale fish ponds. Women in fishing communities face various problems within fisheries and within the family and community. However, in the Near East countries which are traditionally more closed to women's work outside the homes especially in labour intensive tasks, such as in Saudi Arabia, fish processing plants depend mainly on foreign labour many of whom are women. Women are therefore, critical agents for change the development of the sector. They constitute a high proportion of workers in artisanal and industrial processing, in fresh fish trading and retailing, in environmental organizations, research institutions and several administrative positions.

On the other hand, there are very few women in leadership positions as well as in the management and decision making process. In spite of the above roles they play, women in the fisheries sector often suffer from gender inequality. There is evidence that women's participation is constrained or affected by strong cultural rules, robust societal conventions and even in some cases discriminatory laws. Women are barred from some seafood related jobs, such as going to sea on-board fishing vessels. They may be deprived from ownership rights or they may not be allowed to access finances and insurances services. Their limited access to capital limits their access to modern and competitive technology for processing and storing fish, and limits their capacity to upgrade their knowledge and skills. Lack of consideration for women's role and work in the seafood industry leads policy makers to develop policies that are disadvantageous to women and ultimately bar them from accessing public resources. Empowering women in the various roles in the industry will help improve the food security of their communities as well as help eradicate poverty in their communities.

Much of the work women do within the fisheries, the family and the community, remains undervalued and unrecognized. In the context of fisheries, the importance of women in particular in the post-harvest sector should be recognized. The role women paly in several Near East countries depend on extraction, processing and trading fish, often in low-income, informal roles, are vital to the resiliency of their families and communities. Currently, despite their crucial role in fisheries, efforts to systematically engage women in coastal fisheries co-management are scarce. Enabling women to sustainably manage their resources, have greater participation in community development, and overcome lack of access to financing, increased exposure to health risks as well as other social, cultural, political, and economic



barriers to ensuring secure livelihoods. Attention therefore should be given to gender equality when considering the roles of both men and women in small-scale fisheries.

**vi. Dealing with disaster risks and climate change:** Coastal communities are already profoundly affected by climate change. Rising sea levels, droughts and floods are among the impacts of climate change. Climate change is modifying the distribution and productivity of marine and fresh water species and is already affecting biological processes and altering food webs. The consequences for sustainability of aquatic ecosystems for fisheries and aquaculture, and for the people that depend on them, are uncertain.

Climate change threatens and poses a disaster risk to marine fish and the stability of fisheries of countries of the Near East especially in the Egyptian Delta where most of its Egypt's inland fish landings is produced. With this looming change Governments and fishery managers must develop management strategies that incorporate the effects of a changing environment. Climate change impacts such as more frequent and severe floods and droughts will affect the food and water security of many people. The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which "...tells us that climate related hazards will exacerbate the challenges faced by the poorest and most vulnerable people by negatively affecting their livelihoods. In the context of food security and the right to food, the Fifth Assessment Report finds that all aspects of food security will be threatened, including production, access and price stability."

Climate change is only one of much security, environmental and developmental challenges facing affected countries. Its impacts will be magnified or moderated by underlying conditions of governance, poverty and resource management, as well as the nature of climate change impacts at local and regional levels.

Climate change is a compounding factor that regional fisheries managers cannot ignore that fishers, fish farmers and fishing communities, particularly those in coastal areas, are vulnerable. It is not surprising; therefore, that the subject of climate change and disaster risk management has been recognized as a fundamental development challenges that requiring special attention by policy makers. This should help the region to better understand the impacts of climate change on the fisheries and marine ecosystem, and implement adaptation and mitigation measures to protect food security and the livelihoods of coastal fishers communities in the Near East region.

**8.2 Ensuring an enabling environment and supporting implementation:** As in the purpose behind the establishment of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code), the SSF Guidelines major objective is to secure structural change in the fisheries sector so that resources are harvested and utilized in a sustainable manner for the general benefit of the sector. However in the case of the SSF Guidelines, it is also to enable small-scale fisheries stakeholders to benefit more from their activities. This requires an enabling environment, providing accurate and up-to-date information, research and communication, human capacity development and the monitoring and supporting the implementations of the SSF Guidelines. The SSF Guidelines, like The Code, envisages that governments, working in partnership with stakeholders, would facilitate long-term sustainability in the sector and, at the same time, instil a greater sense of responsibility on the part of all persons involved in fisheries. Similarly, through their participation in RFBs the Code urges countries to pursue equivalent goals for the conservation and management of international fisheries.

## **9. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STEPS TO IMPLEMENT SSF GUIDELINES**

Considering that the Near East region will eventually return to normalcy from the current conflicts and un-rest, the following are some general recommendations which

if considered in part or in whole either by any one country or as a sub-region, could help in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East countries and help support food security and poverty alleviation through an improved status of the small-scale fisheries sector.

**i. Better management of sustainable fish resources:** In order to improve the situation of the small-scale fisheries sector in the majority of the Near East countries as a means of helping to achieve food security and to up-grade the socio-economic, environmental and nutritional importance of the fisheries, certain fisheries management measures especially in resources accessible to small-scale fishers are required to be carried out. These measures include: (i) Marine and inland capture fisheries; (ii) Development of new capture fisheries resources through more research and development of fisheries for new and alternate species based on principles of scientific sustainability and responsible management; and (iii) Selection of unrestrictive gears and fishing practices to avoid bycatch problems, capture of juveniles to avoid depletion of fish stocks, reduction of over-fishing and size of fleet. In this context considerations should be made to the fisheries common property rights which may have bearings on the fisheries resources which should not be violated while at the same time recognizing the role of small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples. However, some areas in several Near East countries local cultures would impede or possibly preclude localized territorial use of fisheries but at the same time it is likely that most existing cultures would permit the extension of such rights to coastal marine fisheries.

**ii. Reduction of post harvest losses to increase fish supplies:** It is estimated that post-harvest losses caused by spoilage amount between 5-10 percent per year of total fish landings. Converting low-value resources, into products for direct human consumption, rather than reducing them to fishmeal, would also contribute to greater food security. Improving food security efforts requires making better use of fish produced by reducing post-harvest losses and increasing the percentage of fish used for direct human consumption.

**iii. Monitoring foreign fleets illegally fishing in Near East marine waters:** IUU fishing has become a major threat to the already depleted and/or overexploited commercially important marine fish stocks in several fishing grounds around the globe. Much of this deterioration in world fisheries resources, including those from Near East waters especially off the coastlines of Iran, Yemen and Oman. There are international and national efforts to limit as much as possible this destructive practice and the success of these efforts will help increase the benefits to small-scale fishers and conserve national resources.

**iv. Controlling pollution and coastal degradation:** Coastal areas are the most popular tourist destinations. Massive influxes of tourists can dramatically impact marine environments as pollution, waste, and the crowds take their toll. Mangroves are cleared to make open beaches, piers and hotels are built on top of coral reefs. However, as several countries in the Near East region are oil producers and at the same time border the most strategic oil transportation waterways in the world, due to wars, accidental oil spills and high rate of water evaporation as well as extended drilling and oil extraction, pollution of coastal marine water fishing areas has created serious damages to the coastal waters where small-scale fishers operate. Such areas in Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia were fouled in recent years. Saudi Arabia had the worst damages. The impact of the damage affected the multimillion-dollar Saudi fisheries industry and surrounding areas. Egypt has also experienced pollution in its waters along the Suez Canal zone due to accidental oil spills from its strategic Suez Canal waterway. Also the coral reef in the small marine waters of Jordan in the Gulf of Aqaba is threatened from phosphate mining near the coastlines. Due to these circumstances, some form of a sub-regional organization for protection of the coastline and marine environment is required to monitor the biodiversity of the coastal areas in the Near East region where the small-scale fishers normally operate.

**v. Increasing national investments in the fisheries sector:** One of the major obstacles to increasing the level of investments in the fisheries industries and their related services is the level of priority given to the fisheries sector by most Near East fisheries authorities. However, this attitude has in recent years showed some positive changes mainly due to initiation of various services provided by the governments in building up infrastructures facilities such as feeder roads, power, water, workshops, cold storage, markets, landing sites, etc. especially for fishers communities in remote rural fishing areas.

**vi. Facilitating and promoting more inter-regional trade in fish and fishery products:** It is in the interest of the Near East countries to increase and expand the level of intra-regional and inter-regional trade in fish and fish commodities. Such a development is expected to benefit both, the importer and exporter and ultimately reduce costs and improve income of small-scale fishers who are the main producers of seafood commodities in the Near East region. Some of the current constraints affecting small-scale fishers include shortage of local knowledge and information on buyers and sellers in countries of the region, inadequate information on supply and demand, prices, species, shortage of technical know-how and trained manpower in marketing practices, infrastructure facilities, and forms of value-added products.

**vii. Revising and up-dating available fisheries legislations to meet internationally adopted instruments and activate enforcement of provisions of laws:** In general, fisheries governance in the Near East countries leaves much to be desired. Fisheries authorities should recognize governance of tenure of small-scale fisheries which are central for the realization of human rights, food security, poverty alleviation and general economic growth and social development of rural communities. There is a need for improved fisheries governance which is propelled by globalization, international agreements, cooperation, and new technologies. Fairness in ensuring resource conservation and economic efficiency in the exploitation of fisheries resources by their rightful beneficiaries is required.



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# Annex 7 – Regional Overview of SSF in the North Africa Region

Current situation of small-scale fisheries in the North Africa region  
(Application of the SSF Guidelines)

Covering Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

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December 2015

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# Preamble

Small-scale fisheries (SSF) is characterized by a great diversity worldwide. Attempts to develop a common definition for SSF encountered many problems, due to the nature of this activity in different regions of the world.

Still, many similarities exist for this subsector in the Maghreb countries, while each country presents specific features, in relation to fishing practices, the distribution chain of fishery products, socio-economic and cultural components, etc.

SSF in many countries is facing several difficulties, particularly:

- The lack of basic infrastructure
- The lack of raw material supply
- The lack of value addition
- The conditions of boats, some of which threaten safety conditions
- The competition with industrial fleet;
- The lack of financial support and insurance
- etc.

Despite these difficulties, small-scale fisheries has several advantages:

- SSF generally target species of high commercial value;
- SSF generally use selective gear (fish size and reduction of accessory catch), respecting the marine environment;
- The social and cultural dimension is important. Boat-owners and fish workers are usually part of the same family or at least living in the same agglomeration;
- Invested capital is generally low, while economic profit is relatively high (in some cases); and
- The added value created is two to three times more than industrial fleet.

The improvement of small-scale fisheries has to take place within the limits of the capacity of the exploitable stocks.

The SSF Guidelines are an important opportunity for countries to ensure the sustainability of the sector. They aim mainly to:

- Enhance the contribution of SSF to global food security and nutrition, support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.
- Contribute to the equitable development of SSF communities and poverty alleviation (eradication), and improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management.
- Achieve the sustainable utilization, precaution and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments.
- Promote the contribution of SSF to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and its people.
- Provide guidance that could be considered by States and stakeholders for the development and implementation of ecosystem friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of responsible and sustainable SSF.

- Enhance public awareness and promote the advancement of knowledge on the culture, role, contribution and potential of SSF, considering ancestral and traditional issues.

After the endorsement of these guidelines through the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) the challenge is now how countries apply them. Do they consider these guidelines in the development of SSF strategies? Moreover, how can the degree of implementation of these guidelines be monitored in order to track progress and be able to make comparisons among countries?



## INTRODUCTION

The small-scale fisheries sector tends to be closely linked to local communities; it is part of their traditions and values. Many small-scale fishers are self-employed and usually provide fish for direct consumption within their households or communities. About 90% of people directly depend on fish catches operate in the SSF sector. As such, SSF serve as an economic and social way of life, providing food and nutrition security, employment, and positive effects to local economies.

According to a study of FAO/World Bank/WorldFish undertaken in 2012, based on a series of studies of representative countries, nearly 40% of world fish catches comes from SSF in developing countries, and about 97% of jobs (full-time and part-time) depending on the catches of commercial fisheries in these countries. The study also highlights that in this sector women are significant participants in this activity, representing about 47% of the workforce, especially in the post-harvest and processing activities. The participation of women in productive activities leads to improved well-being of households as an important part of their income is spent purchasing food and schooling for children.

A considerable part of the total fish production provided from artisanal fishing is directly dedicated for human consumption. SSF products are particularly important for domestic markets, but they are increasingly the subject of international transactions.

The employment in the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean region is estimated to be approximately 250.000 people (GFCM, 2013). More than half of the fishers (55%) are working in the SSF sector. This distribution, however, understates the strength of SSF, as national statistics do not usually take account of fishers without a boat or within-motorized boats and, especially, the large population of occasional workers.

The auxiliary activities related to SSF such as processing, net/gear making, ice production, boat building/maintenance, fish processing equipment, packaging, marketing distribution, engine repair and maintenance provide additional fishery related employment and income opportunities for fishing communities.

The SSF sector is characterized by a great diversity and represent different values and ways of life. They are important vectors of transmission of local knowledge and good practices for co-management and they have a low environmental impact.

The SSF sector in the North African region is characterized by a great variability from one country to another. The definition of this segment differs according to the characteristics of boats, production, employment generated and the contribution to GDP (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Small-scale fisheries characteristics in Maghreb countries

Countries	Contribution to GDP	Fleet	Employment	Production in tons
Algeria	1,3%	2 935	14 675	94 021
Morocco	2,5%	15 249	60 000	70 000
Mauritania	6%	7 000	28 000	344 000
Tunisia	0,7%	10 500	33 500	28 000
Libya	0,8%*	4 695	11 500	38 596
<b>Total</b>		<b>40 379</b>	<b>147 675</b>	<b>5747</b>

\*Including agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing

Source: FAO

The aim of this document is to provide the current situation of the SSF sector in the North Africa region covering Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, with a presentation of the main strategies established for the development of SSF in these countries and their relationship with the application of the principles of the SSF Guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication



## 1. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) are the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the important - but until now often neglected – SSF sector.

These SSF Guidelines have been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code). They were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to SSF in support of the overall principles and provisions of the Code.

Accordingly, the SSF Guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of SSF and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty.

These Guidelines are based on international human rights standards, responsible fisheries standards and practices and sustainable development according to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document ‘The future we want’, the Code and other relevant instruments. Paying attention to vulnerable groups and the need to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. The Guiding principles are:

1. Human rights and dignity
2. Respect of cultures
3. Non-discrimination
4. Gender equality and equity
5. Equity and equality
6. Consultation and participation
7. Rule of law
8. Transparency
9. Accountability
10. Economic, social and environmental sustainability
11. Holistic and integrated approaches
12. Social responsibility
13. Feasibility and social and economic viability

All parties are encouraged to implement these Guidelines in accordance with national priorities and circumstances.

Small-scale fisheries communities in North Africa tend to be vulnerable and under threat from a number of situations, both provoked by humans (unsustainable fishing, pollution, competing uses of space and resources, and conflicts) and due to natural events (climate change, increasing water levels, erosion, increasing temperature and salinity, etc.). While the countries generally have basic legal and institutional frameworks in place for the conservation of resources, only three countries have implemented fisheries management plans. All countries have set up marine protected areas (MPAs) but often lack specific and adequate legal frameworks for their management. Countries in the sub-region tend to have ratified the international conventions and agreements relevant to fisheries and the protection of marine habitats but there is a need to strengthen capacities in order to ensure their application and implementation. There is also a lack of sub-regional cooperation with regard to management, safety and surveillance.

The Near East and North Africa regional consultative meeting on securing sustainable SSF held in Oman in 2012 identified some regional priorities:

- Management and conservation of fisheries (research, data, training)
- Planning and policies for fisheries and aquaculture, infrastructure, marketing;

<sup>3</sup> Report available at [www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/23e15144-e468-567f-82a6-3285918d4476/](http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/23e15144-e468-567f-82a6-3285918d4476/)

- Improving the contribution of fishing and aquaculture to food security and sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable populations
- Develop approaches to address aquaculture as a separate entity recognizing its differences in terms of issues, expertise and needs for capacity building.

## 2. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN ALGERIA

**2.1 Situation of SSF in Algeria:** Algerian Mediterranean artisanal fishing is characterized by low profitability, it is the first source of life for fishers in some cases supplemented by other activities such as agriculture and trade.

The Algerian small-scale fleet is mainly composed of vessels less than 12m long and gross tonnage from 01 to 10 ton. The size of boat vary from 3 to 9m, power engine from 5 to 40HP and a crew of 2 to 8 fishers, depending on the kind of gear used. The sea trip duration is not extended; it is limited to a few hours (2 to 16) to reach the fishing areas (within six nautical miles). SSF is undertaken at the continental shelf and in coastal areas. The total number of sites practicing SSF is approximately 64 (32 ports, 23 beaches and 9 natural sites; Sahim and Bouaicha, 2003); 1646 operational boats were identified in 2003, ensuring direct employment to 4012 fishers. Usually young fishers acquire this artisanal activity from their parents. Nearly 70 000 families live from this small-scale fishing.



In 2009, the number of small-scale fisheries boats amounted to 2935 representing 64% of the total number of the fishing fleet. Total catch production was 130 120 tons, providing 66 400 direct and indirect employment (jobs).

The production decreased to 94 021 tons in 2013. (Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. Algeria).

The activity of artisanal fishing in Algeria contributes greatly to the economic and social development. The significant number of boats ensures a high productivity and thus the food safety for fishers and their families. Woman does not take part in the sea fishing activity, though they intervene in land marketing activities of landed fish products.

**2.2 Species and gears:** In the Algerian Mediterranean fisheries, the kinds of fishing gears used are five, including:

- Nets : Gillnets
- Surrounding nets
- Traps
- Lines and hooks
- Others

The most frequently gears used are gillnets, trammel nets, longlines and hand lines. Some small purse seiners also exist, as well as vessels specialized in the catch of pelagic species such as swordfish.

The main species caught by artisanal fishers are:

- The Sparidae : Pagel , Snapper , Sar
- The Serranidae : Grouper fish ,
- The Scombridae: Atlantic Bonito, Skipjack, frigate tuna, little tunny, and Bluefin Tuna.
- The Mullidae: red mullet and mullet.
- The scorpinidae: red and brown Rockfish
- The carangidae: horse maquerel, Limon

**2.3 Regulations:** The sector of the artisanal fishery is managed according to several regulations (decrees and orders).

Regulations on the activity of the fishing and aquaculture

- Act No. 01-11 of 3 July 2001 on fisheries and aquaculture
- Executive Decree No. 03-481 of 13 December 2003 laying down the terms and conditions for fishing activities.
- Order of 24 Jumada El Oual 1425 corresponding to July 12, 2004, fixing the reference alignments from which are defined fishing areas.

Regulations on training and institutions managing the sector

- Executive Decree No. 97-493 of December 21, 1997, defining the different kinds of fishing establishment and setting conditions.
- Executive Decree No. 97-145 of 30 April 1997 defining the professional qualifications in the fishery sector and trades.
- Executive Decree No. 05-87 of 24 Moharram 1426 corresponding to March 5, 2005, supplemented, establishing the organization and functioning of technical training schools of fisheries and aquaculture.

Regulations on marketing and food safety

- Executive Decree No. 04-82 of 18 March 2004 laying down the conditions and procedures for accreditation of health institutions whose activity related to animals, animal products.
- Inter-ministerial Order of 13 Jumada El Oula 1431 corresponding to 28 April 2010 adopting the Technical Regulation on the characteristics of containers for storage and transport of fishery products and aquaculture.

Regulations on sailing conditions and the fishing areas

- Order of 17 Ramadhan 1427 corresponding to October 10, 2006 fixing the content of the professional fishers' booklet, the specifications and the conditions and modalities of its establishment.
- Order of 5 Dhu Al Hijjah 1424 corresponding to 27 January 2004 laying down the technical characteristics of fishing vessels involved in fishing areas
- Order of 18 Rabie El Oual 1427 corresponding to April 16, 2006 fixing the fishing logbook.
- Executive Decree N° 2-143 of 3 Safar 1423 corresponding to 16 April 2002 laying down the tracks, patents, and maritime navigation certificates and the conditions of issue.

**2.4 Marketing of fishery products:** The marketing channel that exists is diversified across sites and regions. The main marketing channels are as follows (source: National Centre for Studies and Documentation for Fisheries and Aquaculture):

Distribution channel 1:

The production of fishery products is made by agents who come back to the boats, to sell production to wholesalers on the landing location; they sell it to distributors (retailers) that also flow to consumers



This circuit is common among some fishers small trades but in return wholesalers guarantee their funding if necessary.

Distribution channel 3:

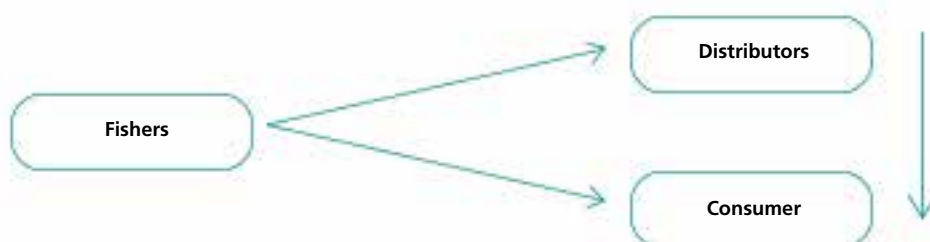
The fishers sell their catches directly to consumers and / or distributors who themselves even speculate. This pattern is very common in fishing sites and beaches.



This circuit is common among some fishers small trades but in return wholesalers guarantee their funding if necessary.

Distribution channel 3:

The fishers sell their catches directly to consumers and / or distributors who themselves even speculate. This pattern is very common in fishing sites and beaches.



The SSF sector in Algeria contributes to economic and social development. The large number of boats ensures high productivity (yield) and thus food security for fishers and their families.

**2.5 Professional organizations** Fishers are organized into associations to represent the maritime population and act as an intermediary between the decision makers and professionals.

The implementation of sectorial roadmap "Strat -E -Said" (2012-2014) has led to the creation of a new 64 fisher's associations. The most important representation of SSF sector are :

- National Chamber of Fishing and Aquaculture
- Association of artisanal fisheries in Algeria

In order to discuss and listen to the problems of fishers, many forums were organized with associations, the owner-ship, etc. This action allowed the implementation of a new system of social protection of fishers and the establishment of a legal framework to compensate fishers during the biological rest season.

These actions are in accordance with the goals of the SSF Guidelines to improve human rights and dignity.

**2.6 Strategy for the development of SSF: The program 'Aquapêche2020' (2012-2014)** The main objective of this program involves the construction, in isolated areas, of fishing infrastructure to:

- Identify artisanal fishing boats and group them in a protected and secure site by providing all the conditions for the exercise and development of their activities.
- Strengthen the control of landings.



As part of the development of artisanal fishing and implementation of integrated artisanal fisheries, the project "SAID HIRAFI" (Professional fishery) consists in a socio-economic study for the completion of landing sites in Fouka Marine (Tipaza Province), El Guelta (Wilaya of Chlef) and Souk El Thenine (wilaya of Bejaia).

In order to develop this activity and in addition to structures already completed, within the framework of the project "program Aquapêche 2020" 14 new landing sites are developed for artisanal fishing, protection and extension of three landing beaches.

In addition, the program aims at implementing specific training programs for education, especially for young people with a low education level, operating in artisanal fishing.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN MOROCCO

**3.1 Overview of the fisheries sector:** In Morocco, the fisheries sector is an activity of undeniable importance in the national economy, with around 2.5% of GDP, its main components are (Marine Fisheries Department, 2015):

- A coastline of about 3.500 Km
- A production that often exceeds 1 million tonnes
- An exclusive economic zone of over one million square kilometres
- Turnover from exports is about 12 billion Dhs.
- The fisheries sector accounts for 7% of total exports and 60% of food exports.
- Fisheries sector provides direct and indirect employment for 660,000 people; more than three million people live from this sector.

**3.2 Situation of SSF sector:** In Morocco, there exists an administrative definition for small-scale fisheries: artisanal fishing practised by small boats (<6m), with a gross registered tonnage less than two Tx. Fishers use a multitude of gears (between 3 and 8 per boat). A large debate was started a few years ago, between fishing administration, research and professional, in the perspective to carry out a new definition of this sector.

In Morocco, there were 15 249 artisanal boats in 2014 operating along the Moroccan coast. Up to 37% of the national fleet is concentrated in the South Atlantic; it represents 47% of the catch in volume and 61% of the catch value. 22% of the national fleet operates at the Mediterranean region, with 7% of the catch in volume and 9 % of the catch value (table 2).

The SSF sector in Morocco provides about 60,000 direct jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs. The participation of women is very low. Fishers have a modest maritime training. Sailors practice other economic activities, mainly agriculture and trade. SSF is the first source of income for more than 160,000 families (about 800,000 persons). The production is about 70,000 tons, representing 7% of total fish production, mainly composed by cephalopods, sea bream and small pelagic.

Artisanal fishing boats use simple technology and inexpensive gears with low energy consumption. In addition, these gears are less destructive of the seabed. The species targeted by this segment are generally of high quality and high added value.

#### Mediterranean Sea:

This region is characterized by:

- A significant biodiversity, promoting the diversification of fishing activities and opportunities for improving living conditions.
- A zone of passage of migratory species of great commercial value (Bluefin tuna and small tunas).
- Targeted species destined mainly to export
- Proximity to European markets
- Development of tourism activities, which causes an increased demand for seafood.

The catches of artisanal fisheries are characterized by a great diversity of species, which is reflected by the use of several fishing gears among fishers, targeting a large number of species during different seasons.

Fishers in the region have a high level of organization; there exist at least one association or/and one cooperative per site. The number of sites is about 90, while the number of boats is about 2700.

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#### North Atlantic

SSF is developed in about 35 sites. The number of boats is around 5 000 well-equipped units.

The main fishing gears used are:

- Nets: simple set gill nets and trammel net.
- Hooks: bottom longlines, hand lines.
- Other gears: pots and traps.

The main species caught are octopus, hake, conger and sardines.

#### Central Atlantic

The number of fishing sites is relatively small (7). The number of active boats in 2014 was around 2000. All boats are equipped with an outboard engine (between 8 and 25 hp).

The main fishing gears used are longlines, gill nets, trammel nets, squid and octopus pots, lockers, surface gill nets targeting small tunas.

The use of fishing gear depends on the nature of the bottom, the target species and season.

The catches of artisanal fisheries consist mainly of the following species: sardine, mackerel, octopus and conger. These species represent almost 98% of total landings.













#### South Atlantic:

As in the Central Atlantic, the number of sites is also reduced (about 15 fishing sites). The boats are small, less than 6 m long and 2 GRT, with an outboard engine not exceeding 25 hp. Most boats are wooden, but there are some boats in polyester.

The most common fishing gears are: octopus pots, trammel net, simple gillnet, hand line and bottom longline.

The main target species in the region is octopus (*Octopus vulgaris*), which has a biological rest period (about six month each year). The other target species are cuttlefish, squid, mullet, croaker fish, ray fish.

Table 2: Landing situation by area of fishing in 2014

	Fleet		Value in thousands dh		Volume in tons	
<b>Mediterranean</b>	2756	 22%	150 445	 9%	4 285	 7%
<b>North Atlantic</b>	2 881	 23%	111 958	 7%	4 797	 8%
<b>Atlantic center</b>	2 255	 18%	398 039	 24%	21 939	 38%
<b>South Atlantic</b>	4 634	 37%	6 420	 2%	3 108	 2%

**3.3 Main species composition:** SSF operators have access to a great part of the fishery resources and target high value species, especially:

- Conger, scorpion fish, monkfish, royal bream, lobster, sole
- Sardine, horse mackerel, mackerel, tuna fish, swordfish, shark
- Octopus, squid, cuttlefish.

These species are caught by various fishing techniques depending on the coastal regions of the Kingdom.



Tables 3 and 4 show the importance of the main groups of species in different regions.

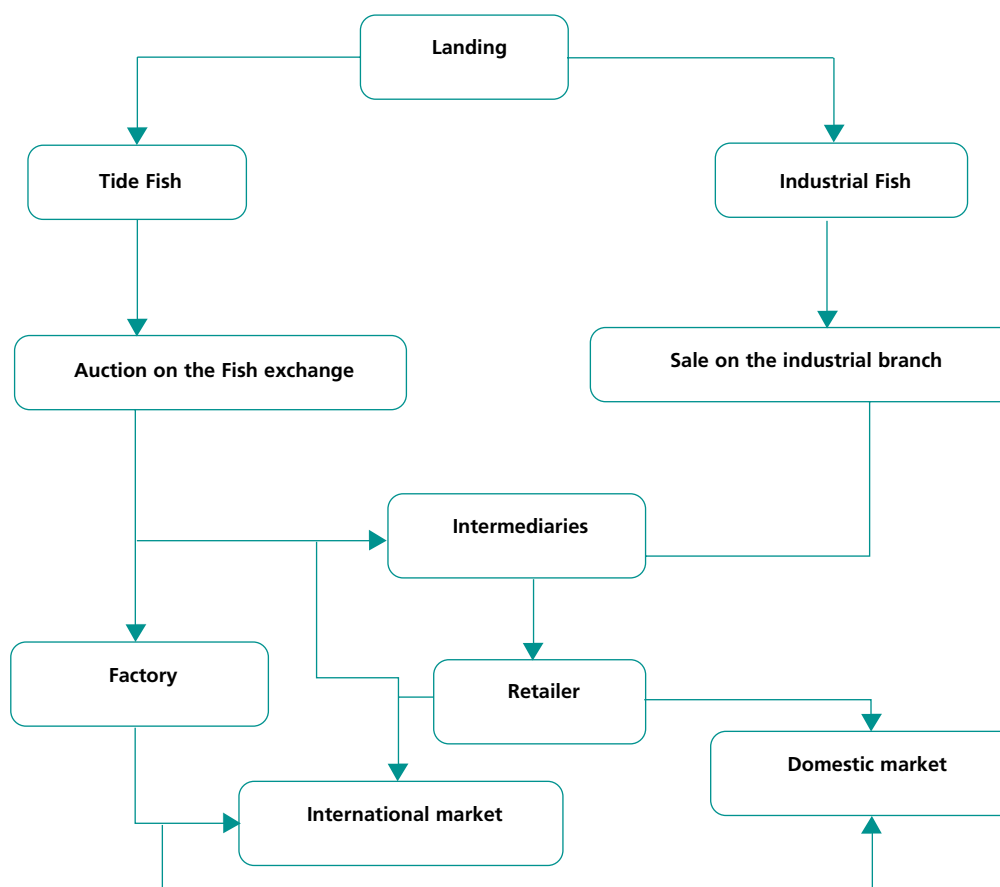
**Table 3:** Distribution of species groups catch volume by area in 2014 (review)

Volume in Kg	North Atlantic	Atlantic center	South Atlantic	Mediterranean
<b>Cephalopod</b>	1 001 495 21%	3 982 723 18%	18 490 393 18%	2 896 500 68%
<b>Pelagic</b>	1 117 041 23%	11 553 110 53%	771 035 53%	622 104 15%
<b>White fish</b>	753 002 16%	5 488 313 25%	7 768 752 25%	102 565 2%
<b>Other</b>	1 925 513 40%	915 339 4%	69 061 4.2%	663 902 15%
	4 797 050 100%	21 939 484 100%	27 099 241 100%	4 285 071 100%

**Table 4:** Distribution of species groups catch value by area in 2014 (review)

Value in thousands dh	North Atlantic	Atlantic center	South Atlantic	Mediterranean
<b>Cephalopod</b>	43 033 38%	200 204 50%	862 648 85%	134 286 89%
<b>Pelagic</b>	38 233 34%	37 150 9%	6 162 1%	9 481 6%
<b>White fish</b>	22 827 20%	154 265 39%	135 699 13%	3 570 2%
<b>Other</b>	7 865 7%	6 420 2%	9 102 1%	3 108 2%
	111 958 100%	398 039 100%	1 013 611 100%	150 455 100%

**3.4 Value chain:** The marketing of artisanal fisheries catches is done following different ways depending on the nature of landings and capture destination. The following diagram shows the circuit from the landing to the consumer (figure 1):



**Figure 1 :** Diagram of the path followed by small-scale fisheries from catch to the consumer. Boats largely target high-value species that are intended, in most cases, for the foreign market after freezing.

**3.5 Regulations:** The marine fisheries sector is managed through laws, decrees and orders that concern all aspects of the fishing sector. Below are some examples of regulations in Morocco:

**Regulations related to the fishing activity and the fishing areas**

Dahir No. 1.81.179 3 Jumada II 1401 (8 April 1981) promulgating Law No. 1-81 establishing exclusive economic zones of two hundred miles off the Moroccan coast (BO. No. 3575 of May 6, 1981).

Decree No. 2-10-341 of 7 Jumada I 1432 (11 April 2011) adopted for the implementation of Law No. 19-07 amending and supplementing Dahir No. 1-73-255 of 27 Shawwal 1393

(November 23, 1973 ) forming Regulation for sea fishing (BO No. 5940 of May 5, 2011).

Decree No. 2-07-230 of 5 Kaada 1429 (4 November 2008) laying down the conditions and arrangements for fishing small pelagics (BO. No. 5684 of November 20, 2008).

**Regulations relating to boarding conditions**

Dahir of 22 Jumada I 1340 (21 January 1922) requiring mandatory possession of an individual sea-book for Moroccan fishers (BO. No. 485 of February 7, 1922).

Dahir of 25 rejab 1340 (25 March 1922), regulating the exercise of the fleet fishing in the territorial waters of Morocco (BO. No. 494 of 11 April 1922).

Dahir of 24 Safar 1354 (27 May 1935) on the registration of fishing vessels (BO. n ° 1180 June 7, 1935).

Regulations relating to the shellfish

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries No. 1905-1910 of 16 rejab 1431 (June 29, 2010) regulating fishing and gathering alga in some maritime areas of the Atlantic coast (RB No. 5853 of 5 July 2010).

**Regulations relating to sanitary conditions of products**

Joint order of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Forests, the Minister of Marine Fisheries and the Minister of Health No. 440-01 of 2 hija 1421 (26 February 2001) relating to the validity and conservation conditions products (BO. No. 4888 of April 5, 2001).

**3.6 Organizations and collaborative framework:** The introduction of various laws, decrees and decisions is done only after consultation with professionals through their elected officials who operate within the four maritime chambers: Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Center Atlantic and South Atlantic. Artisanal fishing is represented in these chambers with 3 or 4 boats owners.

The Fisheries Department responsible for implementing the management plans sends legal proposals to the four chambers, and receives their proposals and remarks.

Besides, Morocco has established advisory bodies in maritime fisheries at the regional and local level. These bodies are empowered to submit proposals on all aspects of the marine fisheries sector and provide advice and information on all issues concerning offshore fishing, inshore fishing, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

There exist more than 150 associations and cooperatives of artisanal fisheries in Morocco. The most important is the National Confederation of Artisanal Fishing in Morocco, which includes more than 200 associations and cooperatives.

Women intervene rarely in the SSF sector by participating in post-harvest activities (retail sale or factory). They collect also shellfish and algae in some areas of the country.

Several development initiatives for women working in the maritime sector were performed, in particular encouraging women to create professional groups in order to develop and organize their activities; these actions allow improving working conditions and enhancing security.

In addition, training session on the aspect of marketing and food safety were organized. These initiatives reflect the objectives of the SSF Guidelines by ensuring respect for the rights and dignity of women and gender equality and equity.

### 3.7 Strategy for the development of artisanal fishing: "Halieutis" plan:

In 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fishing has established and implemented a strategy for the fisheries sector called "Halieutis". This integrated sectorial strategy was based on three axes:

**Durability:** Marine resources exploited sustainably for future generations

- Ensuring the sustainability of the resource
- Provide economic actors to invest in the necessary visibility
- Make fishers the primary actors of responsible fishing

**Competitiveness:** Better valued products and compete in the most promising markets

- Ensure the availability and regularity of quality raw material
- Gain market share at the national and global levels

**Performance:** Areas equipped and organized for maximum quality, landing and marketing

- Ensure optimum quality conditions for the treatment of products
- Create more transparency throughout the value chain
- Ensuring sale mechanisms on efficient market

**Establishment of fisheries resources conservation tools for the artisanal fisheries sector:**

- Artificial reefs program (anti trawling restocking; preserve breeding areas for fish)
- Creation of a marine protected area for artisanal fishing purposes
- Construction of landing points and fishing villages
- Improve marketing conditions.

In order to implement the objectives of the strategy, many development projects for artisanal fisheries have been introduced:

#### **IBHAR:**

The program "Ibhar" aims to financially encourage professionals to modernize and upgrade the coastal and artisanal fishing fleets. It aims at the promotion of catch quality and improvement of living and working conditions, including safety at sea.

The program encourages the equipping of artisanal fishing units with tools for communication, navigation, preservation of catch and improved boat propulsion means. It consists of two main components:

- Upgrading of artisanal and coastal fleets
- Modernization of the coastal fleet

Others projects were developed:

#### **The project ArtFiMed:**

The Regional Project "Sustainable development of the Mediterranean artisanal fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia" ( ArtFiMed ) was executed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and funded by the Agencia Española de Cooperación para el Desarrollo (AECID). ArtFiMed focused on reducing poverty among the fishing communities through improving their livelihoods while respecting marine ecosystems.

The sites chosen to implement the project in Morocco are Dikky in the province of Tangier around the Gibraltar Strait, where more than 300 fishers operate using hand lines to catch bluefin tuna and other species. This project covered also two sites in Tunisia, El Akarit and Ghannouch.

## 4. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN MAURITANIA

**4.1 Diagnosis of the artisanal fisheries sector:** The fisheries sector in Mauritania has contributed to approximately 6% of the national GDP in 2013. This contribution shows an increasing trend since 2009 (4.8% of GDP). (Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy).

The balance of trade in marine products is largely in surplus since the sector is export-oriented and the value of imports is insignificant. Over the period from 2008 to 2011, the fishery products exports accounted for 20-27% of the value of exports (excluding oil), thus contributing significantly to the foreign exchange contribution to the country.

Mauritanian artisanal fishing has grown quickly since the mid- 80s and especially in the 90s. Many factors contributed to this development, including:

- The level of investment required for access to industrial fishing
- The transfer of a fringe of marine industrial fishing to artisanal fishing
- The discovery and development of artisanal fishing for octopus
- The professionalization of the coastal community
- The contributions of foreign fishers especially from neighboring Senegal.

The national fleet of artisanal fishing (targeting octopus) showed a steady growth for many years. The number of canoes increased from about 4000 in 2007 to over 7000 in 2013 (size = or < 12m). In 2010, for 5910 registered canoes, the inactivity rate was 26%. The registration of the canoe fleet since 2006 has made significant progress despite the persistence of some shortcomings in the device used for it.

The catch of the small-scale and coastal fishing fleet has increased heavily over the past five years, from less than 100 000 tons in 2009 to over 344,000 tons in 2013 (including 287 000 tons of small pelagic). This increase is due, in large part, to the development of fishing effort on small pelagics (sardinella and bonga fish), related to the expansion of the fishmeal industry. (Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy).

As in many other countries in the tropical belt, the Mauritanian artisanal fishery has a multi-species character, which partly explains the diversification of fishing gears.

The most commonly used gears are traps, nets and lines. The boats using pot to target octopus are from Mauritania (specialization), other units are from Senegal and targeting pelagic and demersal fish.

The added value generated directly by artisanal fishing canoes is 36 million USD, while 15 million USD is generated indirectly.

Small-scale fisheries professionals are mainly represented by:

- The National Federation of Fishing/artisanal fisheries Section
- The Mauritanian Associations supporting small scale fisheries development.

The fisheries sector in Mauritania is managed by the application of the Code of Maritime Fisheries, which aims to define the rules for fishing in waters under Mauritanian jurisdiction, and the five year fishing strategy paying special attention to small-scale fisheries.

The code of maritime fishing identifies the management rules of the sector in relation to small-scale fisheries management plans, including the structure of the fishing operations, the definition of the roles of the institutions, the management of marketing and processing, etc.

### 4.2 Strategy for the development of SSF:

**4.2.1 SSF Development projects:** An important SSF development project started in 1989, with the participation of the World Bank in the fisheries sector. The project area covered the southern half of the coastal waters between the Mauritanian Timeris Cap in the north and the Senegalese border in the south.

The project aimed to promote SSF in the coastal area of southern Mauritania (south of Cape Timiris), to create new jobs and develop the supply of the domestic seafood market. Its objectives were:

- i. Training of 500 fishers (including 340 fishers and 160 youth from the Imraguens community) and their equipment with adequate tools of production (90 boats).
- ii. Support for conducting research to clarify the fishing potential available for artisanal fisheries.

To reach its objectives, the assessment report identified the achievements of three components:

- A. Training of artisanal fishers;
- B. Support to fisheries infrastructure;
- C. Support to research, monitoring and assessment.

The fisheries development policy is focusing mainly on the rational management and conservation of marine resources, the increased integration of the fisheries sector in the national economy, promotion of export products and integrated coastal management and the preservation of the environment and the marine ecosystem.

The strategy was based on training and institutional support for unemployed youth, unemployed sailors, and women's associations involved in the processing and marketing of artisanal catches. This project was revised in 1991.

Many other projects were conducted since 1991. An African Development Bank project supporting small-scale fisheries development was in fact one of the most important projects and has developed a series of infrastructures along the coast from Cap Timiris to Ndiago.

**4.2.2 Sectorial Strategy 2015-2019:** This sector strategy is expected to act as a growth vector for the fisheries sector by promoting its integration into the national economy in particular through: the development of basic infrastructure and services, the promotion of processing and exploitation of fishery products and creating more jobs and value added fish products.

This strategy is focused on six points:

- Improve knowledge of fisheries resources and their environment
- Optimize the management of the fishery resources exploitation
- Strengthen the integration of the fisheries sector into the national economy
- Develop maritime affairs
- Promote the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture
- Strengthen good fisheries governance

The objectives set in this strategy are directly related to the development of SSF :

- Strengthen the monitoring and control tools in coastal areas to accompany the development of artisanal and coastal fisheries
- Strengthening security and maritime safety by setting up a monitoring system and security for artisanal and coastal boats
- Identify a regulatory or contractual framework adapted to the marine artisanal and coastal fishing.
- Developing responsible valorization options for fishery products by diversifying the supply of processed products resulting from the artisanal and coastal fisheries.
- Organizing training sessions on hygiene and food safety for sales women.

The application of this strategy will contribute directly or indirectly to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, in particular the respect of human rights and dignity by improving working conditions and standard of living, as well as gender equality and equity, economic, social and environmental sustainability, etc.

**4.3 Constraints of development:** The main constraints facing the development of the artisanal fishing sector in Mauritania are:

- The small number of artisanal fishers and low-skilled national ones who actively exercise the fishing activities
- The weakness of maritime credit, processing agents and contractors engaged in the collection of catches prevent their access to formal financing sources, thus slowing the development of their activities
- The poor conditions or lack of coastal slopes, outdoing and complicating the collection of production;
- The inadequacy or absence of landing equipment, processing and transportation of production
- The lack of social structures (health, education, ...) at main landing sites
- The intrusion of industrial fishing vessels in artisanal fishing areas, resulting in the reduction of resources and destruction of nets and equipment of artisanal fishers.

## 5. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN LIBYA

Libya's shelf area is amounting to 1 775 500 km<sup>2</sup> with 1970 km of coastline. Production of fish for direct human consumption has reached, 33339 tons in 2001 of which 1405 tons have been exported and 8081 tons have been imported.

The sector ensures 11 500 full-time and part-time jobs and 3 500 jobs in landing sites services, marketing, administration, etc. The fishery sector in Libya is composed of four major activities: artisanal coastal fishing, lampara fishing, coastal trawling, and tuna fishing.

Most of the catch is taken by artisanal boats (92.5%), working with nets (trammel nets and gillnets) or hooks (longlines and hand lines), and by the lampara fleet targeting small pelagic.

1 866 artisanal boats were counted during the national landing site survey conducted in 2000. This number has increased to 4695 vessels in 2011 (Sacchi, 2011).

These boats are based at 135 beaches, anchorage, and harbour landing sites along the coastline, with heavier concentrations through the western stretches.

Seventy-six landing sites are permanent bases, and 59 seasonal. Artisanal fleet units include 1300 boats of 10 m LOA, whereas 566 are larger than 10 m LOA. Approximately 65% of the smaller boats are motorized, usually with outboard engines (10-35 HP). The larger units are decked vessels and are all fitted with inboard engines. (Source: FAO. Profile of fishing in Libya)

The following table shows the location of main landing sites, which harbor more than 15 fishing units and an estimated quantity of fish landed in mt (the fish landed estimate comes from a sampling survey carried out in 2004).

**Table 5 :** Location of main landing sites, which harbor more than 15 fishing units and an estimated quantity of fish landed in mt.

Port Name	Latitude	Longitude	Fleet No. artisanal	Fleet No.	Landing Pelagic	Landing Demrsal	Total Landing
Farwah	33.04:736N	11.44:152E	128	0	28	700	728
Zuawrah	32.55:275N	12.07:194E	130	36	7200	2920	10120
Zuwagahah	32.48:820N	12.27:702E	68	0	4080	320	4400
Marsa Sabrataha	32.48:298N	12.31:273E	20	0	0	140	140
Ras El Wassif	32.48:129N	12.27:380E	45	0	0	315	315
Marsa Sidi Zeid	32.47:702N	12.34:452E	21	0	0	140	140
Marsa Dila	32.47:576N	12.44:877E	39	0	0	258	258
Sidi Blal	32.47:576N	12.57:308E	50	0	2228	83	2311
Gasriah	32.52:540N	13.06:900E	59	0	0	236	236
Bab El Bahar	32.54.052N	13.10:629E	79	42	1882	2921	4803
Enadi El Bahari	32.54.597N	13.14:084E	220	0	1615	1489	3104



El Magtah	32.63.739N	13.22:547E	24	0	0	146	146
Ras Laman	32.47.580N	13.44:831E	24	0	0	100	100
Mina&Marsa Al	32.40.687N	14.14:672E	49	10	943	966	1909
Zliten	32.29.6951N	14.34:295E	83	0	1950	257	1907
Zreg	32.26.250N	14.54:153E	27	0	0	155	155
Dzairah	32.25.172N	15.00:330E	24	0	0	108	108
Mina Qasr Ahmed	32.22.455N	15.13:043E	115	12	680	2000	2680
Sirt	31.112.695N	16.35:017E	30	0	0	298	298
Harawa	31.05.034N	17.17:618E	34	0	0	338	338
Marsa Laweija	30.54.633N	17.52:006E	18	0	0	99	99
Mina Ras Lanuf	30.30.251N	18.34:181E	23	8	116	800	916
Mina Bengazi	30.05.227N	20.02:895E	173	11	165	2300	2465
Susah	32.54.212N	21.57:853E	31	0	0	171	171
Derna	32.45.631N	22.39:203E	31	0	0	229	229
Tubruk	32.04.716N	23.58:444E	23	4	0	520	520
<b>Total</b>			<b>1453</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>20587</b>	<b>18009</b>	<b>38596</b>

\* This table does not include fleet (15 units), which are harbored in Tripoli commercial port.

Twenty-four marine fishery cooperatives (jamaias) have been established at major fishing centers along the coastline with the aim of providing supplies of essential gears and spare- parts to the artisanal sector. Membership in local jamaias is open to all fishers who have valid boat licenses issued by the fishery authorities.

There are many kinds of small-scale fishing boats in Libya:

- Batah: 7-8 m flat-bottomed boat used to fish gillnets and pots (octopus) in shallow lagoon waters; propelled by outboard engine for commuting then with a pole during work.
- Gaïk: double-ended boats of 4-6 m, derived from traditional boat that were propelled by oars, often now adapted for outboard engine propulsion; more common in the western part of the country.
- Flouka: small fishing boat of varied sizes ranging from 2 to 7 m; shapes are diverse but generally with a flat transom and no deck; powered by outboard engines.
- Mator: generally greater than 5-6 m in length running up to 18 m or more, with deck and roof for the smallest units, wheel house, fish hold, and net hauler for the largest; shape and design similar to units found in Tunisia, Greece and Egypt.
- Lampara: usually 12-13 m with deck, inboard engine, a small roof and a purse seine winch; associated with one to three Dghaissas carrying kerosene or butane gas lights to catch small pelagic fish using light attraction at night; some units may convert to net and/or line fishing during the off-season; only present in the western part of Libya.
- Dghaissa: 7-8 m, without deck and engine; serves as light boat in association with the Lampara.

Artisanal fishers are represented in the Libyan Association for the development of fishery resources.

Libya has not adopted new fisheries development strategies due to the political crisis in the country during the recent years.

## 6. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES SECTOR IN TUNISIA

Since antiquity, the history of Tunisia is closely linked to the sea and the coastline that has been the place of intense human activity and that is a major component of its territory. SSF in Tunisia is the most important Fisheries sector in terms of employment, value of production and contribution to the exportation (FAO-ArtFiMed 2011).

This sector ensures about 33,500 jobs and 5,000 seasonal workers, which represent around 75% of direct employees in the fisheries sector.

The national production of the fisheries sector was estimated at 125,000 tons in 2014, of which 30,000 tons from coastal fishing in 2014. SSF contribute to 40% of the value of total production at the national level.

There are around 10,500 small-scale boats, that represent 93% of the total fleet in Tunisia, with size ranging from 5 to 15 m. Most part of the fleet, about 57 % is not motorized (rowing boats and sailboats).

There are about 20 fishing techniques and gears used, but most part of them are passive gears (gill nets, lines, traps and pots, traditional fixed fisheries “charfia”). However, some traditional active gears are used, such as small beach seines (tilla, damask or sautade, hlig and kiss). These techniques are selective and seasonal.

In Tunisia, the artisanal fishery is multispecies and targets mainly demersal species living close to the coast. It is important to notice the existence of several specific fisheries, assimilated to the SSF. These fisheries are the lobster fishery, which practiced mainly with trammel nets, the coral and sponges fisheries, and the clam fishery, practiced essentially by woman, without vessel.

From an economic point of view, SSF is characterized by low investment compared to other fishing methods and a simple and relatively homogeneous economic and social structure. (Source: Henri Farrugio, 2013).

**6.1 Strategy for the development of SSF:** Several projects have been developed, to improve the institutional and legal environment of coastal fisheries and thus improve the income of artisanal fishers:

**6.1.1 FISHINMED to develop small-scale fishing communities:** This project (2013-2015) aimed to promote social and economic development of artisanal fishing communities through diversification of economic activities, increasing income of the operators concerned, and the prevention of uncontrolled exploitation of marine resources.

A Euro-Mediterranean Observatory was established to serve as an instrument for dialogue between public and private institutions at the Mediterranean level. It defines common strategies for social and economic development of artisanal fishing communities and the establishment of local technical support systems, to promote the proliferation of fishing activities and increasing their income.

At the territorial level, the action of the Observatory is provided by key local stakeholders (fisher’s associations and cooperatives, local fisheries action groups, representatives of marine protected areas, etc.), to ensure the local implementation of the development strategy.

**6.1.2 Ready Med Fish:** This project is targeting young artisanal fishers in Tunisia. It offers solutions for the main problems of artisanal fisheries, such as higher operating costs and low incomes, the increase in the average age of workers in the sector and the low level of education, in addition to lack of attractiveness of the fisheries sector for young people, insufficient economic income, loss of cultural heritage and youth migration.

**6.1.3 Club bleu artisanal Bizerte-Sicile:** This project was launched in May 2014 for an 18-month implementation period. This cross-border project aimed at streamlining operations and ensuring the flow of products from artisanal fisheries in Tunisia and Italy. Apart from upgrading fishers using traditional methods, its objective was to enable them to market a competitive product that conserves the environment and ensures the sustainability of fish species.

**6.1.4 COGEPECT:** This Tunisian-Japanese project for the co-management of coastal fisheries in the Gulf of Gabes (COGEPECT) (2012- 2016) targets fishing communities practicing small-scale coastal fishing in the Gulf of Gabes. The objective of this project is the introduction of the practice of co-management for the coastal fisheries resources in all areas of the Gulf of Gabes, and the strengthening of the capacity of actors to implement co-management of fisheries.



**6.1.5 MEMO:** The project " MEMO " (2014- 2017) is an initiative funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the development of fishing communities in the border areas of Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. "MEMO" aims to improve the socio-economic development and social stability in rural coastal areas to prevent their abandon by young fishers. It also promotes sustainable management of coastal resources, taking into account climate change in fishing activities and promoting the role of women in the development process of coastal rural communities.

#### **6.1.6 ArtFiMed project**

ArtFiMed incorporates:

- The priorities of countries in the fight against poverty, improvement of socioeconomic conditions and rehabilitation of coastal artisanal fisheries communities;
- Regional concerns regarding the exchange of experiences, improved management of shared stocks and species of mutual interest
- International recommendations and targets set under the Millennium Development Goals and by the FAO Committee on Fisheries.

#### **6.1.7 Improvement Project System Statistics Artisanal Fisheries in Tunisia**

**(SSPAT):**

This project aims to:

- Achieve better knowledge of fisheries database for various statistical applications.
- Improve capacity management of fisheries to sustainable exploitation of fishery resources.
- Harmonize fishery statistics to best meet international requirements on monitoring capacity and fishing effort and exchange of information.

**6.1.8 SSF Guidelines in Tunisia:** Three consultation workshops were held in 2013 in Tunisia for discussing solutions and the most appropriate means to guide the sector in the direction of sustainability. The recommendations from these workshops have focused on:

- The enforcement of regulation
- The governance of the fisheries sector
- The management of the resource
- Pollution and its impact on the sector
- Social aspects of fishing
- Professional groups
- Fisherman Association " Development and Environment " Zarzis
- Tunisian Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries.
- Development grouping of fishing in Ghannouch.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK**

Climate change is the change that can be attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time.

If our climate changes, the temperature of oceans, seas and lakes will change too. The vulnerable marine species will be under more pressure and many fisheries will be seriously affected as the ecosystems that underpin them face new and uncertain challenges.

The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* predicts that:

- As sea temperatures change, fish numbers will change and fish will move to different areas
- Some species will go extinct in particular areas
- Predators and prey will move to different areas, disrupting food chains
- Wetlands and other low lying habitats where fish reproduce will be covered by rising sea levels

- Water in lakes will get warmer
- Bad weather may stop fishers going to sea

These changes may affect fisheries worldwide, but the impacts are likely to be particularly damaging for fishers in developing countries.

From a social perspective, the dominant focus would seem to be on the vulnerability to climate change of marine resource users, coastal households and communities, together with their adaptive capacity to both reduce those vulnerabilities and then cope with change as it occurs.

From an economic point of view, climate change impacts imply a set of benefits and costs, with associated “winners” and “losers” (whether neighboring communities or competing economic sectors), all of which is likely to be compounded by interactions with other global change processes, notably economic globalization and large-scale technological change.

Based on the initial inventory of climate change and disaster threats and events, practices from the region were identified:

- o Quick emergency response funds and special funds for supporting fishers after an emergency through cooperatives/professional organizations;
- o Rescue systems through cooperatives;
- o Artificial reefs for protection of fish spawning/breeding areas;
- o Re-forestation of coastal areas;
- o Monitoring systems for red tide and for water salinity in delta areas
- o Regional centre for disaster risk management and regional and/or bilateral agreements in place (but the latter not yet implemented);
- o Closed areas and bans on unsustainable fishing methods (to tackle ghost fishing);
- o Dam impact mitigation (with fish passages);
- o Promotion of alternative livelihoods (fish farming / inland aquaculture);
- o Public insurance schemes for emergencies affecting small-scale fishers.

Morocco has two coastlines. The Mediterranean coast, which is a place of exchange between the two continents, suffers from a significant exogenous pressure (trade, tourism, and fishing) that harms the ecosystem stability. As for the Atlantic coast, it is characterized by the "up-welling" currents that favor the upwelling of cold water and organic matter to the surface and thus provides a healthy growth of fish species. However, marine pollution, rising water levels and ocean acidification can affect this natural balance and cause the disappearance of some species.

The geographical position of Algeria, as transition zone, and arid and semi-arid climate, makes it a very vulnerable space. This change leads to the alteration of coastal dynamics with rising sea levels, erosion in some coastal fringe, the loss of land to marine waters, the weakening of the socio-economic system of these areas related to the frequency of floods and land erosion. (Institut international de développement durable (IISD)).

In Tunisia, vulnerability of climate change assessment studies have demonstrated unequivocally that the country is already suffering, and suffer for long, the impact of this global phenomenon, especially the impacts of rising temperatures averages, reduced rainfall and rising level of the sea. Indeed, climate change is projected by the mentioned studies, aggravate stress water, contribute to the degradation of ecosystems and agro-ecosystems and increase the frequency of extreme weather events, especially droughts and floods.

The Tunisian coastline, by its physical and socio-economic characteristics, is particularly vulnerable to the accelerated rise in sea level (ARSL) due to global warming. The vulnerability of the Tunisian coast to ARSL depends on several factors mainly climate change globally, the response of ocean waters general and the Mediterranean in particular climate change, sensitivity of natural and managed coastal systems, and national coastal management policy. (Ministère de l'environnement.

Evaluation de la vulnérabilité, des impacts du changement climatique et des mesures d'adaptation en Tunisie).

Mauritania is located in one of the six world regions that will be most affected by the effects of climate change. Nouakchott emerged as the focal point for climate change impacts in Mauritania, including rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall. Both of these effects are scientifically documented and tracked. They contribute to coastal erosion and elevation of the level of the water table. (Adaptation au Changement Climatique des Villes Côtières, ambassade d'Allemagne à Nouakchott).

- -In Libya, Lake Chad has an ecological and economic importance for the country. In the Sahel, climate change, with the consequent rising temperatures and increased variability of rainfall, will have particularly serious implications for agriculture. Already since the 1970s, droughts and floods have significantly increased in frequency and intensity in this region. According to the United Nations Environment Program, the reduction in the Lake Chad area is attributable to the 50% change or climate variations. (Commission du bassin du lac Tchad, Adaptation to Climate Change in the Lake Chad Basin (GIZ). 2014).

## 8. SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES GUIDELINES

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) is the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the immensely important - but until now often neglected – small-scale fisheries sector.

The SSF Guidelines complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which, alongside the fishing provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, is the most widely recognized and implemented international fisheries instrument.

The SSF Guidelines are very closely related to the:

- The “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land”,
- “Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security”,
- “The Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food -in the Context of National Food Security-“ and
- “Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems”.

Like these instruments, the SSF Guidelines place a high priority on the realization of human rights and on the need to attend to vulnerable groups

**8.1 Strengths and opportunities for implementing the SSF Guidelines** Many countries have established exclusive fishing zones beyond their territorial waters. These measures have the effect of extending the rights to those areas of these states on maritime fishing. These initiatives aim to create protection zones for local small-scale fishing.

The SSF Guidelines are long overdue because of the need for an international instrument that provides consensus principles and guidance on addressing small-scale fisheries. The challenge lies in their implementation: the SSF Guidelines will only become effective in their provisions are put into practice. Accordingly, the 30th session of COFI agreed on the need to develop implementation strategies for the SSF Guidelines at various levels. The SSF Guidelines implementation will be a collaborative undertaking that requires concerted efforts by all to be successful.

The following suggestions relate to the strengths and opportunities for the application of some of the guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines in the North Africa region:

*Human rights and dignity:* aboard a boat, the number of fishers can reach five people or more, which can harm the dignity of fishers with no prior training in working in difficult conditions without security or equality with other sailors. Thus, countries require an official document defining in advance the people who will sail with the exact precision of their mission to ensure the safety of fishers at sea.

*Respect of cultures:* artisanal fishing communities are in most cases composed of fishers belonging to the same village or the same origin. Groups of fishers associations can communicate aspects of traditional knowledge and practices that exist in the community to prevent the no-respect of their culture.

*Non-discrimination, consultation and participation:* It is recommended to introduce the participatory approach to fishers to integrate them into decision-making. This integration is achieved through their professional groups.

*Gender equality and equity:* In the culture of artisanal fishers community, respect between men and women is assured, given that in most cases, women are of the same ethnic origin as men.

## 8.2 Main risks and constraints to implementing the SSF Guidelines in the North Africa region

*Gender equality and equity:* equality between men and women in the artisanal fisheries sector has cultural problems that oppose the inclusion of this notion in the minds of the fishers.

*Rule of law:* the specific characteristics of each country for the fisheries sector may be a constraint for the development of a single approach for all countries.

*Transparency and accountability:* The problem of illiteracy may cause misunderstanding of broadcast policy by fishers.

*Economic, social and environmental sustainability:* the precautionary approach contributes to avoiding any undesired result in risk management. Studies should be based on credible and consistent information but extracting this information has known difficulties, especially in relation to production and income.

**Table 1:** Strategy for the development of SSF in North Africa and its relationship with SSF Guidelines

	Initiatives	Relationship with SSF Guidelines
MOROCCO	Literacy programs	Human rights and dignity
	Social security benefits	Human rights and dignity Rule of law
	Support the establishment of fishers 's cooperatives, especially towards women	Gender equality and equity Consultation and participation
	Providing facilities and appropriate infrastructure (installation and equipment of fishing villages and landing points)	Feasibility and social and economic viability
	Improved safety	Social responsibility/chapter 6 – para's on decent work and safety at sea
	Adding value to fisheries products, taking account the sustainability of fisheries resources.	Economic, social and environmental sustainability
	Management of the fisheries on quotas	
	Establishment of marine protected areas	Holistic and integrated approaches
	Artificial reefs program	
ALGERIA	Construction of infrastructures	Feasibility and social and economic viability
	Training programs for education and retraining	Consultation and participation
	Achievement of socio-economic studies knowledge of social and economic processes	Feasibility and social and economic viability
TUNISIA	FISHINMED to develop small-scale fishing communities	Economic, social and environmental sustainability
	Ready Med Fish	Human rights and dignity. Respect of cultures
	Club bleu artisanal Bizerte-Sicile	Economic, social and environmental sustainability

	COGEPECT	Consultation and participation
	MEMO	Human rights and dignity Holistic and integrated approaches Social responsibility
	Improvement Project System Statistics Artisanal Fisheries in Tunisia (SSPAT)	Transparency Accountability
<b>MAURITANIA</b>	Project Development of artisanal fisheries	Human rights and dignity Consultation and participation
	Sectorial Strategy 2015-2019	Economic, social and environmental sustainability Gender equality and equity



# Conclusion

The considerable role of small-scale fisheries has long been recognized. They have the potential to contribute significantly to food security, economic growth and rural development and to provide valuable employment opportunities.

The overall objective for small-scale fisheries is that fishers, fish workers and other stakeholders have the ability to participate in decision-making, are empowered to do so, and have increased capability and human capacity, thereby achieving dignity and respect; and poverty and food insecurity do not persist; and where the social, economic and ecological systems are managed in an integrated and sustainable manner, thereby reducing conflict.

In order to provide a full picture of small-scale fisheries in the Arab Maghreb region, various actions at regional level should be undertaken, consistent with a clear political mandate and within an agreed framework that encompasses all interested stakeholders. Some of the elements that should be taken into account to promote sustainable SSF in the Arab Maghreb region are:

- Identify main gaps in national and regional statistics related to SSF and elaboration of a regional database;
- Elaborate a national research report concerning the zones highly sensible for SSF, including reproduction areas, eggs, larvae and juvenile's concentration, recruitment areas and periods.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries are clear. Arab Maghreb countries have implemented various development strategies whose goals overlap with the SSF Guidelines. The SSF Guidelines implementation depends on the success of these strategies. However, to ensure a successful implementation, it is recommended that countries develop and implement a roadmap for the medium term.

Besides, countries should recognize the importance of monitoring systems that allow their institutions to assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines.





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Vulnerability assessment, climate change impacts and adaptation measures in Tunisia

# Towards the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa Region

Proceedings of the Near East and North Africa Regional Consultation  
"Towards the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication"

7–10 December 2015  
Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman

Following the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in June 2014 and in line with paragraph 13.6 of the document itself calling for the development of regional plans of action for their implementation, a regional workshop was held in Muscat, Oman to discuss the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Near East and North Africa region.

The consultation confirmed the importance of small-scale fisheries in the Near East and North Africa region as a contributor to poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, and economic development. It also confirmed the importance of the SSF Guidelines as a tool for supporting securing sustainable small-scale fisheries governance and development. Small-scale fisheries often represent traditional values and a way of life in the region. Achieving sustainable governance and development of the sector will require concerted efforts, including organizational development and strengthening of capacities at all levels. The consultation provided the opportunity to share information and experiences in support of small-scale fisheries in the region. Priority areas for action in the region as well as opportunities for implementation were identified by participants.

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