

# Key Stakeholder in Fisheries Management neglected: *Women fishers need to be considered*



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## KEY FACTS

- Up to 19-56% of seafood is caught by women
- The number of women participating in fishing has been significantly underestimated in government census
- Women fishers contribute to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

## THE ISSUE: WHY WOMEN?

Women play crucial roles in fishing communities all over the world. **Neglecting the role of women has critical consequences for fisheries management, ocean conservation, and coastal development.** This has led to a large part of fishing practices not being understood, undermining policy development and further disenfranchising women.

A conscientious awareness and understanding of the role of women is needed in research practices and policy development. Co-management approaches to fisheries need to actively and consciously include women

## WHAT WE KNOW

Besides direct harvesting activities, women also heavily involved in pre-harvesting and post-harvesting processes, in addition to other household activities and alternative forms of work generating additional income. Their paid and unpaid labour is integral to sustaining operations and development of coastal communities.



## KEY FACTS

- Gender based differences in fishing include: *where* they fish, *what* they fish, and *how* they fish
- In addition to fishing, Women are involved in other activities to subsidize the cost of fishing to men



## Recommendations

### For research

- When, where and how much women fish
- Reasons for, and forms of, gender-based differences in fishing practices
- Changing roles of women in response to technological development
- Existing co-operatives organized by women to protect their economic interests

### For policy

- Hire female fisheries officers
- Assume women are part of the larger fishing economy and allocate rights and resources accordingly
- Involve women in fisheries co-management, but be aware of existing patriarchal community structures

## WHAT WE KNOW

The non-remuneration of women fishing activities has led to a lack of acknowledgment of their participation in the fishing industry. These activities are often seen as simply fulfilling household chores, resulting in women minimally included in fisheries planning and development

### References

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