

WOMEN ARE KEY

FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES & MARINE CONSERVATION



Summary

As fish stocks decline worldwide and marine conservation efforts become more pertinent so does the need to include women. Women are continually not recognized as fishers, they are ignored in the data and in community meetings, they are not valued nor are they protected or listened to. To ensure sustainable fishing practices and protect the livelihoods of fishing communities, it is crucial to recognize, value, and include women in fisheries management and marine conservation efforts.

WHY WOMEN NEED TO BE INCLUDED

Women make significant contributions to fisheries economies around the world.

- Women are involved in capture, processing, sale, finance, and almost all phases of fisheries
- **Participation rate for women in fisheries-related activities \approx 50%** meaning it is impossible to effectively address fisheries management and marine conservation without considering women's role and impacts

The crucial role of women in fisheries is often underestimated and undervalued.

- Women play a crucial role in food and nutritional security yet they are often overlooked especially because of their role in the informal economy

Advancing gender equality in fisheries has been linked to poverty reduction and overall development.

STEPS MOVING FORWARD

Empower fisher women

1. Rights & recognition for fisher women
2. Reduce barriers for women to be considered fishers therefore reducing barriers for support & inclusion
3. Capacity building & training
4. Financial support- grants & beneficial subsidies aimed at fisher women & fisher women associations/organizations

Include Women in Fisheries Management

Women hold relevant ecological knowledge that needs to be included in discussions around fisheries management

- "women's knowledge is an obvious yet highly under-utilized, asset in fisheries management" (Harper et. al., 2013)

Include a Gender Lens in Data Collection

- Collect gender as a variable
- Avoid biased sampling as it excludes: gleaning & invertebrate fisheries, part time fishers, processors & marketers, and informal economies
- Include gender experts when interacting with fishing communities



Retrieved from: Counting the invisible - Dr Danika Kleiber

Procedural Justice: Include women in community meetings, public hearings, surveys etc.

It is absolutely crucial to include women so that they are not silenced. Where there is pushback from men create disguised meetings. Women need to be considered a stakeholder and given space at the table.

- Facilitators must be trained on gender inclusion

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