

Minutes of the Working Group for Small-scale Fisheries

MEETING TITLE	2nd Call Working Group for Small-scale Fisheries
MEETING PURPOSE (AGENDA)	<p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rationale of including small-scale fisheries into the FiTI • definition small-scale fisheries • information on small-scale fisheries as part of an FiTI Report • other aspects for discussion during next calls
MEETING DATE	17.12.2015
MEETING TIME	10.00 – 11.30 (Berlin time)
MEETING LOCATION	Telephone Conference
ATTENDEES (BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaoussou Gueye (CAOPA) • Jean-Louis Kromer (African Development Bank) • Rolf Willmann (Independent Expert – former FAO) • Andréa Durighello (FiTI Secretariat) • Sven Biermann (FiTI Secretariat)
EXCUSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • André Standing (Advisor to the FiTI Secretariat) • Mechthild Kronen (GIZ)
SUPPORTING INFORMATION	None
MEETING MINUTES FROM	11.01.2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Sven Biermann started the call by giving an update on the recent trip of the FiTI Secretariat to Indonesia in December 2015. He explained that during the visit there was an agreement with the Fisheries Ministry of Indonesia to build on the leadership of Indonesia in the region in order to reach out to other countries in this geographical area.

MAJOR MEETING OUTCOMES

Rationale of including small-scale fisheries into the FiTI

- Small-scale fisheries provide important contributions to their respective countries, e.g. in terms of food security, employment, and export.
- Small-scale fisheries are **increasingly growing in size in coastal countries** (the case was made for Senegal and other West African countries), however there is not enough data transparency in the sector (e.g. on fishing permits). As a result, actors from the civil society do not have enough information regarding how fisheries are managed.
- It was clearly stated that not including the small-scale sector into the FiTI would **marginalize small-scale fishers and provide an unbalanced view** of fisheries in the country. For example, the small-scale sector accounts for 80% of the total fisheries sector in Senegal.
- Furthermore, increasing the level of data on the small-scale sector would allow decision-makers to make **better informed fisheries-management decisions**, hence improving the way resources are managed.
- It was also argued that a FiTI report should highlight the **contribution** of small-scale fisheries to a country's economy.

There was a clear (re-emphasized) consensus to include small-scale fisheries in the FiTI reporting process.

Definition of small-scale fisheries/distinction between small-scale and large-scale fisheries

- It was highlighted that the FAO voluntary guidelines state that there **cannot be one single definition** of small-scale fisheries. This was particularly referenced to section 2.4. of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the section is shown in the annex of the minutes).
- It was agreed that the definition of small-scale fisheries and its distinction from large-scale fisheries should be in the **responsibility of each National Multi-Stakeholder Group**. For this, the Group may not need to come up with their own definition, but rather draw on existing definitions (e.g. country's laws and policies).

Data on small-scale fisheries in the FiTI reports

a) *What kind of data on small-scale fisheries should be included?*

- There were discussions (which continued the discussions of the 1st call of the Working Group) on the need to include **post-harvesting activities** amongst the reporting elements of the FiTI reports. It was argued that the FAO voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries put an emphasis on the contribution of small-scale fisheries to post-harvesting and processing activities and that the FiTI reports should therefore also report on these activities. There was however no agreement about this, as some participants argued that the lack of transparency is not a major problem in the post-harvesting sector.

The FiTI Secretariat mentioned that there are two different ways of providing information on the small-scale sector: to publish aggregated data and to publish contextual information. It was mentioned that information regarding post-harvesting activities could be part of contextual information in a FiTI report.

- ➔ **Follow-up: Rolf Willmann agreed to draft concrete suggestions (3 or 4 aspects) regarding post-harvesting elements which could be included in the FiTI reports and to send this draft to the members of the Working Group to be discussed during the next call.**

b) *How to gather data on small-scale fisheries?*

- There was a discussion regarding who should provide the data on small-scale fisheries (small-scale fishers or governments?) and to which extent fishermen could provide some of this data.
- It was emphasized that data on **payments** is only available through governments and that it is not the role of small-scale fisheries organizations to provide such data.
- It was mentioned that small-scale fisheries can often not report on information on their activities because there is a lack of scientific collaboration between fishermen and scientific institutions. In fact, scientists consult fishermen to get some data on their activities, but this information is in return not made transparent to fishermen, who then do not have access to this data.
- It was also stated that data on the socio-economic contribution of small-scale fisheries could be gathered by governmental institutions such as the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, the UEMOA and ECOWAS.
- It was further highlighted that small-scale fishers are increasingly aware of the need to manage marine resources sustainably, and therefore should be given more responsibility to play an active role in fisheries management. The importance of capacity-building trainings and awareness-raising activities was mentioned in this regard.

c) *What if there is incomplete data on small-scale fisheries?*

- It was re-emphasized that while countries must publish a complete picture of their large-scale fisheries sector in the FiTI Reports, the same does not apply to small-scale fisheries. Recognizing that countries may initially not be able to provide up-to-date or reliable information on small-scale fisheries, it could be the responsibility of the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups to verify whether the data reported is indeed the best available under the current circumstances and whether the government is really unable to collect certain data (e.g. on catches). This approach underscores the principle of improvement of data overtime (progressive improvement).
- However, it was also agreed that the principle of progressive improvement regarding incomplete data should only be applicable over a certain period of time. It was stated that the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups should agree on an action plan and a timeframe to improve the current situation. This is seen as more favorable than the FiTI Secretariat setting a common target for all countries.

Further Considerations:

- It was argued that the “Politique Africaine des Pêches” follows the same objectives of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines.
- It was recommended to use the next COFI meeting in July 2016 to make the FiTI more visible.

NEXT STEPS

Key issues that require further discussions:

- Inclusion of post-harvest sector activities
- Payments vs. value contribution (respectively catch amounts vs. catch values)
- Infringements vs. penalties & fines
- Detailed discussions on scope and definitions of reporting elements
- Data coherence between reporting elements (incl. starting point)

Next Call:

- The remarks from the first two calls will be included in the initial background paper on the Working Group for Small-Scale Fisheries and sent around to the members of the group.
- The next call should take place during the second or third week of January. A doodle will be sent around to determine the availabilities of the members of the group.

ANNEX**Section 2.4. of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication**

“2.4 These Guidelines recognize the great diversity of small-scale fisheries and that there is no single, agreed definition of the subsector. Accordingly, the Guidelines do not prescribe a standard definition of small-scale fisheries nor do they prescribe how the Guidelines should be applied in a national context. These Guidelines are especially relevant to subsistence small-scale fisheries and vulnerable fisheries people. To ensure transparency and accountability in the application of the Guidelines, it is important to ascertain which activities and operators are considered small-scale, and to identify vulnerable and marginalized groups needing greater attention. This should be undertaken at a regional, sub-regional or national level and according to the particular context in which they are to be applied. States should ensure that such identification and application are guided by meaningful and substantive participatory, consultative, multilevel and objective-oriented processes so that the voices of both men and women are heard. All parties should support and participate, as appropriate and relevant, in such processes.”