



AFSSRN BULLETIN

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Asian Fisheries Society

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FROM THE DESK OF THE AFSSRN CHAIR

Dear Fellow AFSSRN members,

Thank you for responding to my emails and for actively supporting AFSSRN events/projects such as the ICFAS 7 panel session, and the featured research in this AFSSRN Bulletin issue No. 3. We bring you to Melanesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

We are updating our Directory. We sent emails to the 163 AFSSRN members and 65 bounced back, which means we will need to find ways to reach them (email addresses).

We are likewise encouraging you to update your AFS membership dues. The AFS Council, in its 64th meeting last June 26 in Bogor, Indonesia discussed this concern and will look for ways to make payments easier.

Keep safe everyone.

MARIETA BAÑEZ SUMAGAYSAY, PhD

AFSSRN to join the 7th ICFAS in October 2023



The University of the Philippines Visayas is organizing the 7th International Conference for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (ICFAS7) on October 18-20, 2023 in Iloilo City, Philippines. This in-person (onsite) event comes with the theme, "Fisheries for the Future."

The AFSSRN will host a panel session focusing on the social aspects of fisheries management. Six papers will be presented by AFSSRN members.

RESEARCH FEATURE: PHILIPPINES

The material fishing assets ownership status and social stratification of artisanal small-scale fishers in Oton, Iloilo, Panay, Philippines: On regulating municipal IUU fishing activities?

MA. ARVE B. BAÑEZ, PhD, Senior Lecturer, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of the Philippines Mindanao, Email: mbbanez@up.edu.ph

This paper presents the social stratification among artisanal small-scale fishers in Oton, Iloilo, Panay Philippines. I surveyed a total of 103 fishers, female and male, collecting data about their material fishing assets i.e., number of boats owned, fishing gears and other fishing materials owned, and the estimated cost of these material fishing assets. I examined and analyzed these data sets generating social descriptors of their material- fishing assets- ownership status. Those who do not own material fishing assets, but possess non-material fishing assets or local ecological knowledge, persist in artisanal fishery as precariat fishers. They enter into various forms of arrangement in dividing the fish catch (or the lampirong) with those who own the material fishing assets. The practice of shucking lampirong (*Placuna placenta*) exemplifies another form of labour among fishers who do not own the material fishing assets. Artisanal small-scale fishers are stratified by their material assets or lack thereof. Moreover, these empirical data challenges issues regulating "illegal, unreported and unregulated" (IUU) fishing activities among municipal artisanal fishers?



Panala (shucking). Women, boys and girls from fishing households split open the shells to remove the kernel. They collected the kernel in exchange for unmonetized labour

RESEARCH FEATURE: MELANESIA

Exploring Gender Inclusion in Small-scale Fisheries Management and Development in Melanesia

SANGEETA MANGUBHAI, *Principal Consultant and Research Scientist, Talanoa Consulting, Fiji*. Email: sangeeta@talanoa-consulting-fiji.com
Co-author: Sarah Lawless, James Cook University, Queensland, Australia

Fisheries, like other economic sectors, is not immune to gender inequality, and women tend to experience the brunt of inequality as undervalued and under-represented fisheries actors within small-scale fisheries (SSF) management and development. Different approaches to address gender inequality, particularly women's marginalisation in the fisheries sector, are gaining momentum. We undertook a study to gain a more comprehensive understanding of these efforts, including the gender approaches employed and the barriers and opportunities for fisheries organisations in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. We found gender inclusive approaches were broadly applied in three ways: (a) through community-based projects and programs; (b) national level research and policy; and (c) internal organizational operations. Although fisheries organizations approached gender inclusion in diverse ways, 76.2% of approaches were designed to 'reach' women, and very few 'benefited', 'empowered', or 'transformed' women's lives. 'Gender' was conflated to 'women' indicating a poor understanding of what gender inclusion means in practice. Gender inclusive approaches were limited by the knowledge and capacities of fisheries managers and practitioners, and inhibitive institutional cultures. We argue that SSF organizations need to build explicit institutional gender commitment, strategies, and systematic efforts to implement gender approaches with effective accountability mechanisms in place.

RESEARCH FEATURE: MALAYSIA

Bioeconomic Modelling in Sustainable Fisheries Management of Commercial Marine Fisheries in Kelantan, Malaysia

MOE SHWE SIN, PhD, *Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu*, Email: moe.sin@umt.edu.my

The presence of Commercial Marine Fisheries activities in East Coast Malaysia leads to many social and economic impacts not only for the community and state but also to the whole country economy. Kelantan has great contributions to the fisheries sector and trawl and purse seines as major fishing gears. Trawls nets are efficient, however, not selective, and very destructive. Although Malaysia has reached subsistence level in fish supplies since last decades, country still faces issue of increasing fish price and shows challenge to ensure enough supply. The study aims to investigate the way to sustain marine fish production and potential effect of climate changes and anthropogenic disturbances such as lack of accurate information, pollution (on fish stock) and lack of legal law or enforcement against illegal fish catch. The bioeconomic surplus production model by Gordon - Schafer (GS) are used to calculate the total biology and economic value. The result indicated that trawl nets, anchovy purse seine, climate changes and anthropogenic disturbances affect the sustainable management of commercial marine fisheries in Kelantan, Malaysia.

FEATURED RESEARCHERS/AUTHORS

MA. ARVE B. BAÑEZ, PhD



Aside from gender and women studies, research interests are in local ecological knowledge, the politics of ecological consciousness and folk environmentalism, as well as on migration and memory, particularly of Ilongo returnee migrants of Mindanao.

SANGEETA SANGUBHAI, PhD



Supporting organizations to strengthen their capacity to integrate gender equity and human rights-based approaches into different sectors including fisheries, conservation and development more broadly, as well as into climate change and natural disasters.

MOE SHWE SIN, PhD



Research interests are in natural resource economics, fisheries economics, system simulation, econometric and quantitative analysis. Ongoing projects are supported by the Ministry of Higher Education, EEPSEA, SIDA and MOSTI.

Upcoming events

Please visit the respective websites

