Remodeling Sri Lanka’s National Fisheries Policy
Incorporating SSF Guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries
CONTINENTAL SHELF

3 – 5 km

EEZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Type of Craft</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Degree of Mechanisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFF-SHORE</td>
<td>Multi-Day Boats</td>
<td>4,218</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Mechanised Sector (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Day Boats with Inboard Engine</td>
<td>719</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COASTAL</td>
<td>Fibre Glass Boats with OBM</td>
<td>24,028</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mechanised Traditional Boats</td>
<td>1,872</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional Boats</td>
<td>17,813</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beach Seines</td>
<td>1,688</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL MARINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,338</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland</td>
<td>Inland crafts</td>
<td>8778</td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Mechanised Sector (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Production - 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal</strong></td>
<td>269,020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offshore</strong></td>
<td>183,870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MARINE</strong></td>
<td>452,890</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inland &amp; Aquaculture</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capture (perennial)</td>
<td>57,060</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture (seasonal)</td>
<td>3,150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Aquaculture (shrimp)</td>
<td>7,090</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INLAND &amp; AQUACULTURE</strong></td>
<td>67,300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>520,190</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Small Scale Fisheries)

269,000 + 57,060 = 329,230 MT (63%)
Some issues in SSF (the context)

- Pollution, Resource degradation, climate change impacts
- Conflicts with other stakeholders in the coastal zone (Tourism)
- Use of environmentally-unfriendly gear
- High Fishing Pressure
- Lack of alternative livelihoods
- Policy Failures
- Unregulated Trade
- Lack of voice. Fishers are unable to defend their human rights and tenure rights (marginalization)
- Weak governance & management
Guidelines Implementation Project: Activities

1. Organize a workshop to sensitize and to raise awareness of government officials about the SSF Guidelines especially to identify the elements of the Guidelines to be incorporated into National Fisheries Policy and national fisheries plan of action.

2. Develop communication tools (brochures, pamphlets, posters, booklets, etc.) on the SSF Guidelines in English, Sinhala and Tamil.

3. Organize stakeholder awareness-raising workshops in the North (Jaffna), East (Trincomalee), North West (Negombo) and South (Galle/Tangalle) on the SSF Guidelines and to identify capacity building and training needs towards applying the Guidelines at various levels.
Guidelines Implementation Project: Activities

4. Prepare a paper on assessing current policy, identifying its strengths and weaknesses and proposing changes towards incorporating relevant elements of the Guidelines.

5. Organize a national workshop to identify changes to be proposed to national fisheries policy and legislation in light of the SSF Guidelines.

The SLFSSF embarked on this process ensuring that “the application of the Guidelines is guided by meaningful and substantive, participatory, consultative, multilevel, and objective oriented processes” (page 2...Guidelines)
Preparation of an Institutional Profile

• Fishers form only one stakeholder group in the coastal zone
• Their knowledge about diverse institutions that are relevant to them in accessing coastal zone services remain quite poor.
• They need to know the right institutions, their functions, where they are located, the right persons to be contacted, their contact details, etc.
• The Institutional Profile aimed at catering to this important need.
• This will not only be useful to fishing communities, but also to the wider community of other state actors, researchers, etc.
• The institutional profile need to be published
1. State Actor Sensitizing Workshop

NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION
Participants

About 45 senior state actors [fisheries & other] attached to institutions operating in the coastal zone

• Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
• Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
• National Aquaculture Development Authority,
• National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
• Ceylon Fisheries Corporation
• Ceylon Fisheries Harbour corporation
• and 15 officers from
  • Coast Conservation Department,
  • Agriculture Department,
  • Ministry of Tourism,
  • Wild life department,
  • Coast Guard (Navy),
  • Marine Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), etc.

Madam Nina Brandstrup, FAO Representative / Chief Guest
Themes for Discussions

• Tenure Rights
• Sustainable Resources Management
• Conflicts among stakeholder groups
• Institutional Collaboration (cross sectoral collaboration)
• Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming
• Post-Harvest Sector
• Marketing and Trade
• Social Development
• Occupational Health, safety and decent work
• Fisheries Insurance
• Disaster Risk and Climate Change
• Capacity Development
• Empowering Community Organisations
Recording Information – Group Discussion with State Actors, State Actor Sensitizing Workshop, Colombo
2. Communication Tools

• Copies of *SSF Guidelines prepared in Sinhala and Tamil*

• A *simplified version of Guidelines* prepared in *Sinhala and Tamil*, that is easily understood by the ordinary

• *13 Fact Sheets. Thirteen key messages* contained in the Guidelines are given in the form of colourfully designed fact sheets enclosed in a folder

• *Two posters that gives two key messages*; a. The role of Women; b. Co-Management
கிற மன்னருக்கு சிறுந்தினர்க்கு பிராந்தியம் அறிமுகப்படுத்தீதான!

கிறு மன்னருக்கு சிறுந்தினர்க்கு பிராந்தியம் அறிமுகப்படுத்தீதான!

SLFSSF
3. Stakeholder Workshops

• The focus group discussions included detailed discussions with a group of stakeholders on a selected topic.

• The major themes have been selected earlier, but the discussants had a great degree of freedom in expressing their views.

• Fisher stakeholders (both men and women) were selected with the help of Assistant Directors of Fisheries (co-opted members of the SLFSSF) in respective districts and with the help of the civil society organisations in the SLFSSF
FGDs were held in 12 of the 15 Coastal Districts,
The Focus Group Discussions

• Each FGD: 28 men, 18 women from community organisations: generally leaders
• 10-12 state actors (fisheries + Others) representing Institutions in the coastal zone.
• A team of four facilitators (with Masters degree) headed by an experienced academic/researcher from SLFSSF, conducted the FGDs
• First state actors were separated from others, who formed one group at discussions
• Others were split into 4 groups, each of whom discussed several themes identified earlier
• All stakeholders were provided with a set of communication tools prepared earlier, to facilitate the discussions
Group Discussions with fishing community members
Eastern Province (Batticaloa, Trincomalee & Mullativu)
Group Discussions with State Actors
Southern Province (Galle, Matara, Hambantota)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights of Fishers</th>
<th>Issues concerning these rights</th>
<th>Suggested Action/s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to the sea</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cross sectoral collaboration and co-management with the involvement of,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To use the coast and the beach for craft landing and</strong></td>
<td>a. Acquisition of beach areas by tourism stakeholders, resulting in loss of anchorage sites, beach seining sites.</td>
<td>(DFARD),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>anchorage</strong></td>
<td>b. Insufficient space available for craft and gear repair and fish processing;</td>
<td>CCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to lagoons and mangrove areas</strong></td>
<td>c. lack of better technology to travel longer distances</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to the beach (beach access roads)</strong></td>
<td>d. lack of proper documentation (legal documents) to support the rights of fishers</td>
<td>Fisheries Community Organisations (coops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To use the beach for craft anchorage</strong></td>
<td>e. Acquisition of beach access roads by private land owners and hoteliers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To use the beach for construction of temporary huts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(fishing gear storage, etc.)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To use the beach for repair of craft and gear and</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>other beach-based activities, such as fish processing</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6.4. Issues in sustainable management of fisheries resources - state actors - southern province [ranked according to severity of the issue: from most severe to least severe]

- **Increase in fishing pressure**
- **Use of destructive gear**
- **Poor coordination among government institutes**
- **Issues emerging from the open access nature of...**
  - **Poor knowledge of coastal resources and...**
  - **Limited availability of post-harvest facilities**
  - **Co-Management areas are not identified**
  - **Buffer zone boundaries are not demarcated...**
  - **Poor infrastructure facilities**
  - **Coastal area pollution (beach and sea)**
- **Reduction of space available for craft anchorage**
Issues in respect of Social Development - Eastern Province
(in rank order from highest to lowest in respect of their severity)
4. Revising the current fisheries policy & Preparation of New Policy Statement

Three Stages

1. **Revising the current fisheries policy (Policy Expert)**
   1. National Fisheries Policy 2018 was subject to scrutiny to see where gaps existed
   2. The policy was improved and remodeled to allow for incorporation of relevant SSF Guidelines

2. Lay down the **policy implications of the results of the SSF Guideline Implementation Study**

3. The **new policy statement** based on the SSF Guideline implementation was studied and finalized by a group of **Policy Experts**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Fisheries Policy 2018</th>
<th>New Policy Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1A Ensure sustainable management of the living marine resources based on the best available evidence from social, economic and ecological sciences.</td>
<td>2.1.1B A strong MCS process in all waters for fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with other appropriate agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2A Application of ecosystem based management and precautionary approaches for responsible fisheries management.</td>
<td>2.1.2B Promotion of area-specific or local level co-management platforms rising upto the national level, with cross sectoral collaboration, ensuring that they are participatory, integrated, inclusive and holistic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major Implications for policy

- **Tenure Rights** (resolving conflicts among coastal zone actors) and **zonal plans**
- Need for **cross sectoral collaboration and institutional coordination** in coastal zone management
- Management process to be **integrated, inclusive, participatory and holistic**.
- Need to establish **co-management platforms at district (local) level**, rising up to provincial and national level with strong community participation.
Major Implications for policy

• Need to regulate international trade in fish and fish products to ensure that food and nutritional security of the people is not threatened.

• Social development: especially the need to provide fishers with affordable access to basic education, health, housing and household amenities.

• Gender Issues: rights to employment, 25% representation, facilities for post harvest processing, minimizing wage discrepancies.

• Empower community organisations and recognize their central role in fisheries management.
Final Remarks about the process

• Strengths
  • Active participation of state actors all through out the process
  • Fisheries officials being members of the SLFSSF
  • Cross sectoral collaboration
  • Leadership of SLFSSF
  • Support from Fisheries administrators
  • Effective Communication tools
Final Remarks about the process

• **Issues**
  • Inadequate time to fully understand the Guidelines
  • Shortcomings in the existing national policy
  • Policy should be followed up with Action Plan
  • Different Mandates of coastal zone institutions
  • Insufficient coverage of Inland Fisheries
Way Forward

• Incorporation of new policy statements to the National Policy

• Preparation on an **Action Plan** based on Policy Statements

• **Capacity building** and training of officials and community actors: *(co-management, new fishing and processing techniques, deep sea fishing, fish farming, alternative livelihoods, resource conservation, etc.)*

• Establishment of **co-management platforms** with cross sectoral collaboration: local, provincial and national level