



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

/DIALOGUES FOR MARINE CONSERVATION AND ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES: A VISION FROM ARTISANAL SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES, SEEKING

EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY AND PEACE

Wednesday June 29th 8:00-10:00 am, El Tejo Restaurant in the Oceanario, Lisboa.

Organized by: CoopeSoliDar R.L with the support of **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), ICCA Consortium, SwedBio, Packard Foundation, Costa Humboldt, Environmental Defense Fund, Small Scale Hub, Blue Ventures, LMMA Movement, AWFishNet, CAOPA, Marine responsible fishing area and Marine territories of life Network, Indigenous People in Chile- Yohana Cuñuecar, Walaywe Territory Indigenous Communities Association**

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the current year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA). Demonstrating that it recognizes that working with the small-scale fishing sector is key for the achievement of the SDGs, especially goal 14 that promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Challenges like the current framing to achieve the 30 x 30 agreement, gender inequalities in fisheries, the multiple environmental and social crises, among others, will increase the vulnerability and directly affect the well-being of thousands of people dependent on the ocean, unless we can agree on a common route towards the implementation of a human rights-based approach for ongoing and future marine conservation efforts. **We must urgently** establish dialogues, adopting a human rights-based approach, that allow initiatives from different interest groups to reach feasible and positive agreements based on evidence. Such agreements must benefit all local communities and Indigenous Peoples that use marine resources as a way of life. Often, these communities are living in conditions of high vulnerability. Ensuring that the world's ocean is a bridge for peace building and the conservation of marine biodiversity is today a great challenge in a polarized world.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

It is essential that artisanal fishers are empowered to participate effectively in the decisions that most affect them, they are custodians of marine resources and knowledge holders.

We need to recognize, respect, and support SSF custodians of territories of life for their outsized contributions to marine conservation. This includes appropriately recognizing and supporting their rights and self-determination including through increased political, legal, technical, and financial support.

SSF are usually excluded from decision making concerning issues related to ocean conservation and sustainable use, this Congress in Lisbon being one good example of this situation.

There is no marine conservation possible without a human rights base approach.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

1.- Recognition of small scale fisherfolks as holders of knowledge and rights, the need for respecting customary practices and use, traditional knowledge, and sovereignty in the case of fishing indigenous peoples.

2.- Increasing and securing access rights to resources for artisanal fisheries, including by granting them exclusive fishing rights to coastal areas, respecting the IPLC governance models operating , promoting co-management, and protecting title, tenure, access, and resource rights including free , prior and inform consent for any new ocean use or activity, including for conservation purposes.

3.- Ensuring that equitable and appropriate co-management systems are in place for the 100 percent of all coastal areas, including for coastal marine protected areas, and that sufficient follow up, financial and human resources are devoted to support it.

4- Apply the precautionary approach for innovative “ocean -based” economies.

5.- Not allowing nor supporting any new ocean use activity , if it negatively impacts ecosystems and the activities of communities that depend on them for their livelihoods, and demonstrably support adequate environmental regulation mechanisms for current uses and activities in national budgets.

6.- Securing preferential access rights to resources and markets for artisanal fisheries including by granting them exclusive fishing rights in coastal areas supported by equitable co-management that ensures sustainable livelihoods and ecosystems.

7.- Recognize the critical role of women and men in small-scale fisheries .Protect their livelihoods, rights, and local governance systems, and institutionalize their participation in bodies and processes related to the ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus at all levels.

8.- Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for the support of small-scale fishers in the context of food security and poverty eradication promoting special policies and actions that go in favor of the SSF sector, in those cases were SSF organizations agree to use this instrument (the guidelines) to promote a human rights base approach to the sustainable management and conservation of their marine territories and livelihoods.

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph):

SSF, Indigenous peoples and local communities all in a big diversity of marine territories of life have committed themselves through generations to the sustainable use and conservation of the ocean resources.