



Women and Ocean

Do you know? Answers

There are globally 120 million people active in different segments of the fisheries value chain as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN: in netmaking, boatbuilding, fishing, fish cleaning, fish processing, marketing and other professions. 90% of these are in small-scale fishing. They produce approximately half the fish for direct human consumption.

No proper statistics are being collected about the role of women in all segments of this value chain. Based some case studies, it is guesstimated that women account for half the work force. They are found in all segments, but mostly in pre- and postharvest activities. They are often not recognised and unpaid or underpaid. In many countries, even in Europe, they may not have rights to social security and pension rights when counted only as "family helpers".

In many developing countries, women may not have recognised rights to land to carry out their fish processing and marketing under acceptable hygiene and safety conditions on or near the landing sites. Gender equality and equity is Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Watch this FAO video on gender equity in the Guidelines for sustainable small-scale fisheries: SSF Guidelines: Gender Equity and Equality (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BolcVAAyEOW>)

1. How many women are known to be fishing with boats out of the total of about 40.9 million fishers estimated globally as active in the primary sector? (FAO)
(c) 15%
2. How many women are active in pre-harvest (net making, net mending) and postharvest activities (processing, marketing) of all people active in the secondary sector? (FAO)
(d) no data collected
3. What type of gear do women in small-scale fisheries use in West Africa? (tick all you know)
(b) cane traps for Blue crabs
(d) beach seines for near-shore juvenile fish
4. Are women recognised and well-paid for their work?
(b) Women's work is usually not recognised and unpaid or underpaid
5. What are names of a Water Goddess? (tick all you know)
(a) Yemoja (Brazil, from the vernacular Yoruba word for Mermaid, mother goddess)
(b) Coumba Castel (Senegal, from the former slave island Gorée)