

Small-scale Fisheries Sustainability: Progress and Challenges

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For a sector that had been previously ignored, having two milestones in less than 10 years apart is remarkable. The first was in 2014 when member states of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). Another is 2022, which has been declared as the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Much progress has been made to improve knowledge about small-scale fisheries, with social science and interdisciplinary research that examines the rich contexts and complexity about this sector, revealing their important contribution to food security, poverty alleviation, local economy, and sustainability. Yet, policies and management priorities, and fisheries governance in general, often target large-scale, industrialized fisheries, resulting in many shortcomings for small-scale fisheries. The chapter highlights recent development in small-scale fisheries, and discusses governance and policy challenges in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, especially in the era of Blue Economy.