

MARE Publication Series 28

Julia Nakamura
Ratana Chuenpagdee
Svein Jentoft *Editors*

Implementation of the Small- Scale Fisheries Guidelines

A Legal and Policy Scan

Centre for Maritime



Springer

MARE Publication Series

Volume 28

Series Editors

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The MARE Publication Series is an initiative of the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE). MARE is an interdisciplinary social-science network devoted to studying the use and management of marine resources. It is based jointly at the University of Amsterdam and Wageningen University (www.marecentre.nl). The MARE Publication Series addresses topics of contemporary relevance in the wide field of 'people and the sea'. It has a global scope and includes contributions from a wide range of social science disciplines as well as from applied sciences. Topics range from fisheries, to integrated management, coastal tourism, and environmental conservation. The series was previously hosted by Amsterdam University Press and joined Springer in 2011. The MARE Publication Series is complemented by the Journal of Maritime Studies (MAST) and the biennial People and the Sea Conferences in Amsterdam.

Julia Nakamura • Ratana Chuenpagdee
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Editors

Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

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Centre for Maritime  Research

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Too Big To Ignore (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net) is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership that focuses on addressing issues and concerns affecting viability and sustainability of small-scale fisheries. The overall aims of TBTI are to raise the profile of small-scale fisheries and reduce their marginalization, promote their wellbeing, and improve governance. TBTI argues for a more inclusive and holistic approach to sustainable development by incorporating issues and concerns facing small-scale fisheries, as expressed by small-scale fisheries communities, more centrally in the discussion about the future and ways forward.

ISSN 2212-6260

ISSN 2212-6279 (electronic)

MARE Publication Series

ISBN 978-3-031-56715-5

ISBN 978-3-031-56716-2 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56716-2>

This work was supported by Pacific Community (SPC).

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Cover illustration: The intricate webbing of fishing nets in Petty Harbour, NL, Canada. Source: Jaehong Jin, 2016

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Foreword

‘Peace, justice, and strong institutions’. This is the short name for Sustainable Development Goal 16, which calls to *promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels*. This spirit is reflected in the guiding principles, and throughout the text, of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). I had the privilege to be involved in the participatory development of these SSF Guidelines since 2011, and am proud to support their implementation since.

One of the early discussion points that I heard over and over in the development process of the SSF Guidelines was their name: should they be ‘International’ or ‘Voluntary’ Guidelines? In the end, to the dismay of the global small-scale fisheries organizations and movements in particular, who were the main drivers behind this instrument, ‘Voluntary’ prevailed. It is certainly true that soft laws like the SSF Guidelines lack ‘teeth’, since there is no formal obligation for their implementation. At the same time, many argue that there is a strong moral obligation to do so, as they are the result of consensus-seeking processes to which nation states have signed up. Often, it is also the only feasible option to gather a multitude of actors with various priorities and views behind a shared set of values and recommendations, including the reaffirmation of previous international agreements. Some also emphasize the network effects that happens when different actors align behind soft law, creating a snowball effect.¹

In any case, having the only global forum on decision-making and policy-making for fisheries stand behind a text that acknowledges that responsible fisheries go hand in hand with socio-economic development, grounded in a human rights-based approach, cannot be considered a small feat!

¹ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/asian-journal-of-international-law/article/abs/why-does-soft-law-have-any-power-anyway/00EBCEA91F92F97E1079A80AE077BD39>

Year 2024 marks the tenth anniversary of the endorsement of these SSF Guidelines. Thus, it is time to review if those who endorsed the SSF Guidelines are ‘walking the talk’, as anticipated in Svein Jentoft’s visionary article² on their implementation in 2014. Svein was deeply involved in the SSF Guidelines development process, and I remember him even being part of the official delegation of Norway in the formal Technical Consultations on the final text in 2013 and 2014. In his paper, Svein identified three ‘hurdles’, including legislative, bureaucratic, and consensus-building obstacles.

Laws and policies are game-changers. They can undermine or support achieving social and environmental justice. Just consider how slavery was once legal, and women’s rights to vote was non-existent. One of the objectives of the SSF Guidelines is “to provide guidance that could be considered by States and stakeholders for the development and implementation of ecosystem friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries.”

Taking into account available resources, the SSF Guidelines’ implementation efforts have initially focused strategically on integrating them into relevant global and regional processes and institutions. This integration can play a catalytic role by nurturing a growing network of partners who are aware of, and act on, the SSF Guidelines. This has led to their integration into important new instruments beyond fisheries, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas and the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Regional fisheries bodies have also widely embraced the SSF Guidelines: the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) has finally revived its dormant artisanal fisheries working group, the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean changed to become the Commission on Small-Scale, Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean adopted a ten-year Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries.

Given these achievements at the global and regional level, it is high time to ensure that the SSF Guidelines are brought back to where they belong most—the national level. It is encouraging to see that FAO’s new legal and policy database, SSF-LEX, already contains evidence for 18 countries that have integrated the SSF Guidelines into their policy and regulatory frameworks. This includes, for example, Tanzania and Namibia who have adopted National Plans of Action in support of the SSF Guidelines (NPOAs-SSF) implementation. Malawi, Uganda, Madagascar, and the Philippines are also on their way to developing such plans.

The present TBTI book, *Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: A Legal and Policy Scan*, therefore provides a timely contribution to the collective learning process in relation to the SSF Guidelines implementation, helping to

²Jentoft, S. Walking the talk: implementing the international voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. *Maritime Studies* 13, 16 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40152-014-0016-3>

enhance understanding of these hurdles and how to address them. The book also complements related guidance prepared by FAO, including the preparation of *A Policy and Legal Diagnostic Tool for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries* and *Legislating for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: A Guide and Considerations for Implementing Aspects of the SSF Guidelines*.

The impressive amount of contributors who have dedicated their efforts to the compilation of this book is a testament to the affirmation of the value of these SSF Guidelines as a globally embraced reference document. Each and every one of them is a champion in advancing our knowledge on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries!

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Series Editor Preface

In his monumental book, *The Idea of Justice* (2009), Amartya Sen reminds the reader that what motivates people is “that there are clearly remediable injustices around us which we want to eliminate” (vii). The continuing misfortune of countless small-scale fishing peoples along the shores of lakes and seas of both the Global South and the North is obviously one of them. It is towards alleviating their condition that this volume is ultimately directed.

As a result of the collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and a vibrant civil society movement, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries were realized in 2014. Since that date, much effort has been made to put them into practice. An important first step in this process is to incorporate elements of the Guidelines into national law—only then are they given enough “teeth” to shape social and economic realities. The monitoring of how administrators and courts interpret and implement the resulting laws is a subsequent endeavor.

In the past decade, the MARE Publication Series has dedicated seven volumes to small-scale fisheries and the Guidelines, making it a lead academic publisher on this topic. This eighth volume focuses on the role of the law in protecting small-scale fishers (men and women, both in the present and future). In line with the editors’ academic dispositions and the content of previous volumes, the book is organized according to the framework provided by interactive governance theory. It contains general reflections as well as case studies from 15 countries on 4 continents (plus the Pacific Islands).

The series editors acknowledge the inspiration provided by the Too Big To Ignore network for this publication. We are grateful to Margaret Deignan of Springer for her encouragement and professional support.

Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, The Netherlands

Maarten Bavinck

Acknowledgments

In 2017, Too Big To Ignore: Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net) published an edited volume in the Springer MARE Publication Series titled *The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation*. The book was a significant effort, with 95 contributors providing their perspective on what the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) would mean to small-scale fisheries in 32 case studies from developing and developed countries around the world. For the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines in 2024, TBTI members and contributors are coming together once again in the current volume. This time, the goal is to take stock of where legislation and policies stand today regarding their alignment with the SSF Guidelines, and ultimately how they contribute to their implementation. From the policy and legal perspective, we examine how conducive existing laws and policies are for supporting an effective implementation of the SSF Guidelines. This is a new and endearing exercise for many of us (the contributors) who are not legal scholars by training, but have well taken on the challenge of critically engaging with laws, bringing insights, and recommendations for an enhanced implementation of the SSF Guidelines. We have long recognized the importance of both legislation and policies as core elements of the governing system. Our endeavor is well supported by many legal scholars, including the first editor of this volume, several chapter contributors who are familiar with how legislation and policy work, and the chapter reviewers whose names are listed in the book. More than examining the legal and policy texts, we looked for the extent to which these are implemented in practice, seeking to identify gaps, challenges, as well as good practices around the world.

The SSF Guidelines were developed, adopted, and are being implemented through a human rights-based approach, with significant support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). We received strong encouragement by Nicole Franz, leader of the Equitable Livelihoods team of the FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, and many other colleagues at the FAO. We are also grateful to the support from Blaise Kuemlangan, Chief of the Development Law Service of FAO's Legal Office. Our special thanks go to Nicole for her kind

words in the book's Foreword, which make us happy and proud for the work done by the contributors and the final product of this collection.

The book is a demonstration of a transdisciplinary effort, with the collaboration of contributors who are small-scale fisheries researchers, practitioners, governance scholars, and legal experts. Together with the 2017 book, it is a major testament to TBTI's unwavering commitment to promote viable and sustainable small-scale fisheries around the world. We are indebted to all the contributors for stepping up to the plate and taking on this monumental task.

The work of TBTI, since its establishment in 2012, would not have been possible without the trust of small-scale fishing communities, local organizations, and government officials with whom we have interacted during our years of existence as a network. The original funding for TBTI, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (grant number 895-2011-1011) ended in 2019, but we have been able to continue to do our work with financial support from the Oak Foundation (Grant Number OCA-19-339), the Ocean Frontier Institute (Module I: Informing Governance Responses in a Changing Ocean), a program funded by the Canada First Research Excellence Fund, and the New Frontiers in Research Fund—Exploration Program. We also receive continuous support from Memorial University, St. John's, Canada, and TBTI Global Foundation, the administrative homes of TBTI.

This book is the eighth TBTI contribution to the MARE Publication Series. We thank Maarten Bavinck, the series editor; Margaret Deignan of Springer; Fairle T. Thattil, the production manager; and other publishing team and staff members for their patience and support throughout the publication process. We are grateful to Alicia Bugeja Said, Junior Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Malta, and María José Barragán-Paladines, Science Director of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, for their endorsement texts. Alicia and María José are no strangers to TBTI and the book editing process, having played pivotal roles in our previous publications. They are busy individuals and we truly appreciate that they took the time to do this.

The book benefits from the excellent editorial skill of Brennan Lowery, who has helped us with this important task for several years. We also thank Paula Struk Jaia, TBTI research assistant, for her support. Our utmost appreciation goes to Vesna Kereži, TBTI Project Manager, who, all the more, has gone out of her way to make this book happen.

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Abbreviations

AAPA	Aquatic Animal Protection Act
AC	Advisory Council
ACARN	The Advisory Committee on Agricultural Resilience in Nigeria
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and People’s Rights
ACHR	American Convention of Human Rights
ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
AGU	Advocacia Geral da União (Federal Attorney General)
AHRD	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Declaration
AIGA	Alternative Income-Generating Activities
APAM	Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales de Puerto Madryn
ARCHR	Arab Charter on Human Rights
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASP	Association of Seafood Producers
ATA	Agricultural Transformation Agenda
AU-IBAR	The African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BMU	Beach Management Unit
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement
CAB	County Administrative Boards
CABA	Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aire
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community-Based Fisheries Management
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CBRM SOP	Community-Based Coastal and Marine Resource Management Strategy Standard Operating Procedures
CCMC	Coastal Community Management Committees
CCMP	Coastal Community Management Plan
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

CDA	Chilika Development Authority
CDAS	Ministry of Fisheries, Community Development and Advisory Section
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination against All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CESIMAR	Centro para el Estudio de Sistemas Marinos
CFI	Consejo Federal de Inversiones (Federal Investments Council)
CFMA	Collaborative Fisheries Management Area
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
CFP	Consejo Federal Pesquero
CFRC	Coastal Fisheries Report Card
CFTRI	Central Fisheries Technology Research Institute
CIFA	Central Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
CIFRI	Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute
CIP	Competitive Improvement Plan
CIRM	Comissão Interministerial para os Recursos do Mar
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CMFRI	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
CMG	Community Microfinance Group
CMO	Common Market Organization
CNRS	Centre for Natural Resource Study
CNZU	Comitê Nacional das Zonas Úmidas (Wetlands National Committee)
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CONAMA	Conselho Nacional de Meio Ambiente
CONAPESCA	National Commission for Fisheries and Aquaculture
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Program
CPUE	Catch Per Unit of Effort
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific
CSAS	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DAM NC	Direction des affaires maritimes de Nouvelle-Calédonie
DAWR	Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources
DDM	Department for Disaster Management
DF	Directorate of Fisheries
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DLNR	Department of Lands and Natural Resources
DMWR	Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DOF	Department of Fisheries
DPA	Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura (Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture)
DUCE	Dar Es Salaam University College of Education

EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EAFM	Ecosystem-Based Approach to Fisheries Management
EC	European Commission
ECHR	European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
ECNRD	Environmental, Conservation and Natural Resources Division
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa State
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMCA	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
EU	European Union
FAME	Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Marine Ecosystems
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCA	Fisheries Cooperative Association
FCFN	Fisheries Cooperative Federation of Nigeria
FDF	Fisheries Development Fund
FFA	Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FFAW-UNIFOR	Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FMA	Fisheries Management Agency
FMA	Fisheries Management Areas
FMAC	The Fisheries Management Advisory Committee
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
FONAPE	Fondo Nacional de Pesca
FPO	Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape: Our Sea of Islands, Our Livelihoods, Our Oceania
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GBA	Gender-Based Analysis Plus
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESS	The Growth Enhancement Support Scheme
GFCCA	Gujarat Fisheries Central Co-operative Association Limited
GSF	Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition
GT	Gross Tons
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HKPO	Havs-och Kustfiskarnas Producentorganisation
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
I/ACHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
IBAMA	Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis (Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDC	Instituto de Desarrollo Costero
IICMB	Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INAPESCA	National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
IQ	Individual Quota
ISSF	Information System on Small-Scale Fisheries
ITLOS	International Tribunal for Law of the Sea
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported
IYAFSA	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
KII	Key Informant Interviews
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
LAPSSET	Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor
LGAs	Local Government Authorities
LOSC	Law of the Sea Convention
M/CFARMC	Municipal/City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
MAFF	Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MAPA	Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply)
MDA	Ministério do Desenvolvimento Agrário (Ministry of Agrarian Development)
MDIC	Ministério do Desenvolvimento, Indústria e Comércio (Ministry of Development, Industry, and Commerce)
MEL	Marine Eco-Label Japan
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MFMRD	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development
MIMP	Mafia Island Marine Park
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MMA	Ministério do Meio Ambiente or Ministério da Agricultura e Abastecimento
MMR	Ministry of Marine Resources
MOF	Ministry of Fishery
MOFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

MoL	The Ministry of Land
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Parks Areas
MPA	Marine Park Area
MPA	Ministério da Pesca e Aquicultura
MPEDA	Marine Products Export Development Authority
MPP	Movimento dos Pescadores e Pescadoras Artesanais
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NASPA-CCN	The National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change for Nigeria
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDMP	The National Disaster Management Policy
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NFA	National Fisheries Agency
NFDI	The National Fisheries Development Institute
NFMP	The New Fisheries Management Policy
NFMRA	Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority
NFP	National Fisheries Policy
NGA	National Government Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NKFPO	Norrbottens Kustfiskares PO
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NM	Nautical Miles
NPOA-SSF	National Plan of Action for Implementing the Small-Scale Fisheries
NSAP	National Stock Assessment Program
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OPDC	Odisha Pisciculture Development Corporation Ltd.
PAE	Patriot of Panamerican Energy
PAN	Protected Areas Network
PES	Payments for Ecological Services
PEUMP	Pacific European Union Marine Partnership
PFC	Primary Fishermen's Cooperative
PICT	The Pacific Island Countries and Territory
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action to Climate Change
PIIFCAF	Preserving the Independence of the Inshore Fishing Fleet in Canada's Atlantic Fisheries Policy
PIROP	Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
PNA	Prefectura Naval Argentina
PNDP	National Fisheries Development Plan
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNGC	Plano Nacional de Gerenciamento Costeiro

PNPCT	Política Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sustentável dos Povos e Comunidades Tradicionais (The Sustainable Development of Traditional Peoples and Communities)
PO	Producer Organization
POG	Producentorganisationen Gävlefisk
PROIGUALDAD	Pro Equity Program
PROMAR	The Mexican Fund for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture
PROSHIKA	Proshikkhan Shikkha and Kaj
RBA	Rights-Based Approach
RFO	Regional Fisheries Office
RGP	Fishing Activity or Registro Geral da Atividade Pesqueira
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Co-Operative Societies
SADER	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock
SAGARPA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SAP	Secretaria de Aquicultura e Pesca (Aquaculture and Fisheries Secretariat)
SCELG	Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance
SCJN	Supreme Court of Justice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAP/PR	Secretaria Especial de Aquicultura e Pesca (Special Secretariat of Aquaculture and Fisheries)
SEMARNAP	Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries
SENASICA	The National Service of Agrifood, Health, Safety and Quality
SES	Social-Ecological System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SJVF	Statens Jordbruksverks Föreskrifter
SMA	Special Management Area
SNUC	Sistema Nacional de Unidades de Conservação (National System of Nature Conservation Units)
SPC	Pacific Community
SPFPO	Swedish Pelagic Federation PO
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environmental Programme
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SSF	Small-Scale Fisheries
SSF-LEX	Policy and legal database entirely dedicated to small-scale fisheries
SSHRC	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
SUDEPE	Superintendência do Desenvolvimento da Pesca
SWAM	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
TAC	Total Allowable Catch

TAUS	Termo de Autorização de Uso Sustentável (Term of Authorization for Sustainable Use)
TAWFA	Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association
TBS	Tanzania Bureau of Standard
TBTI	Too Big To Ignore
TMA	Tanzania Meteorological Agency
TMDA	Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNDROP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
UNFSA	UN Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNHRC	UN Human Rights Committee
V2V	Vulnerability to Viability
VEU	Village Enforcement Unit
VLC	Village Liaison Committee
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Ocean

Part I
The Role of Legal Institutions

Chapter 1

Why the Legal Perspective?



Svein Jentoft, Ratana Chuenpagdee, and Julia Nakamura 

Abstract This chapter provides a brief history and description of the SSF Guidelines, including their key underlying principles. It emphasizes the role of instruments like these in mobilizing government and nongovernment support for small-scale fisheries. At the same time, challenges in the implementation do exist and need to be overcome. The chapter introduces the book and the case studies included within as illustrations of what these challenges are and how they are addressed in practice.

Keywords Small-scale fisheries guidelines · Governance principles · Role of instruments · Implementation challenges · Case studies

1.1 Introduction

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), initiated by the FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and endorsed by member states during the Committee on Fisheries meeting in 2014, was a landmark achievement when it happened. The SSF Guidelines (FAO 2015) it is the first global

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Switzerland AG 2024

J. Nakamura et al. (eds.), *Implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries
Guidelines*, MARE Publication Series 28,
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56716-2_1