

**Secure and equitable access to
resources for food security and
nutrition -
Fisheries and aquaculture**

**Rolf Willmann
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, Italy**

Key messages

- Fisheries & aquaculture critical for food security
- Contribution often undervalued
- Sector is vulnerable to various threats
- Need for greater security across spectrum of rights => Human rights-based development approach
- Solutions highly context-specific and multi-sectoral

Food security

Definition

“When all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”

1996 World Food Summit

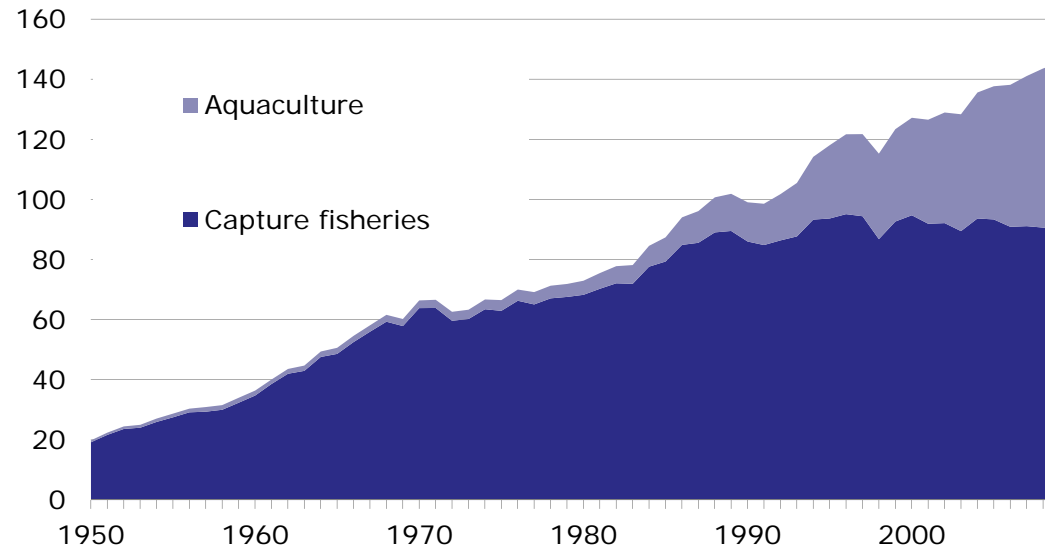
Food security

4 Dimensions

- **Availability** of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports.
- **Access** by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods
- **Stability**: adequate food at all times.
- **Utilization** and absorption of food through appropriate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care

Fish production

Million mt



Fisheries and Aquaculture: Socio-economic contribution

34 million



10 million



132 million



Employment

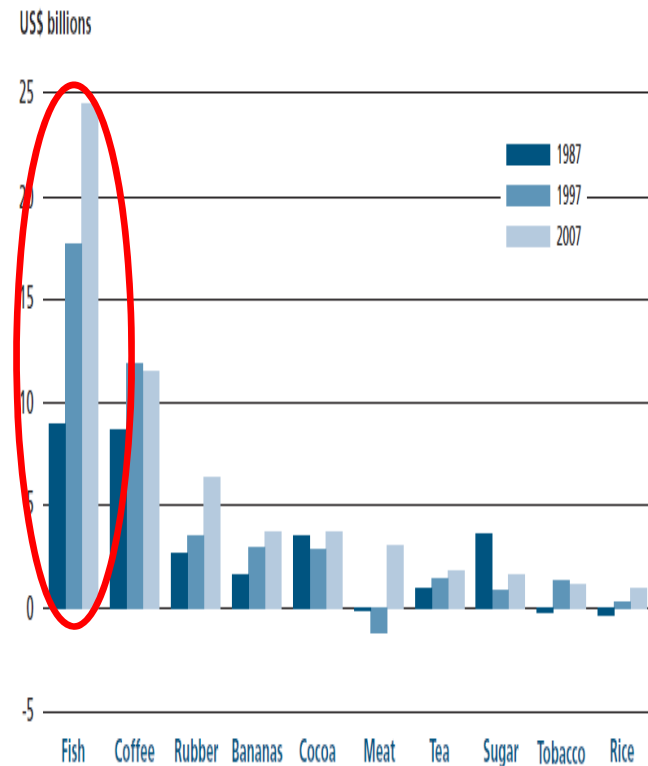


Average annual per capita supply: 17kg

- East Asia: 30.1kg
- Southeast Asia: 29.8
- Africa: 8.5g

Food and nutrition security

Net exports of selected agricultural commodities by developing countries



Foreign exchange

FISH AS FOOD

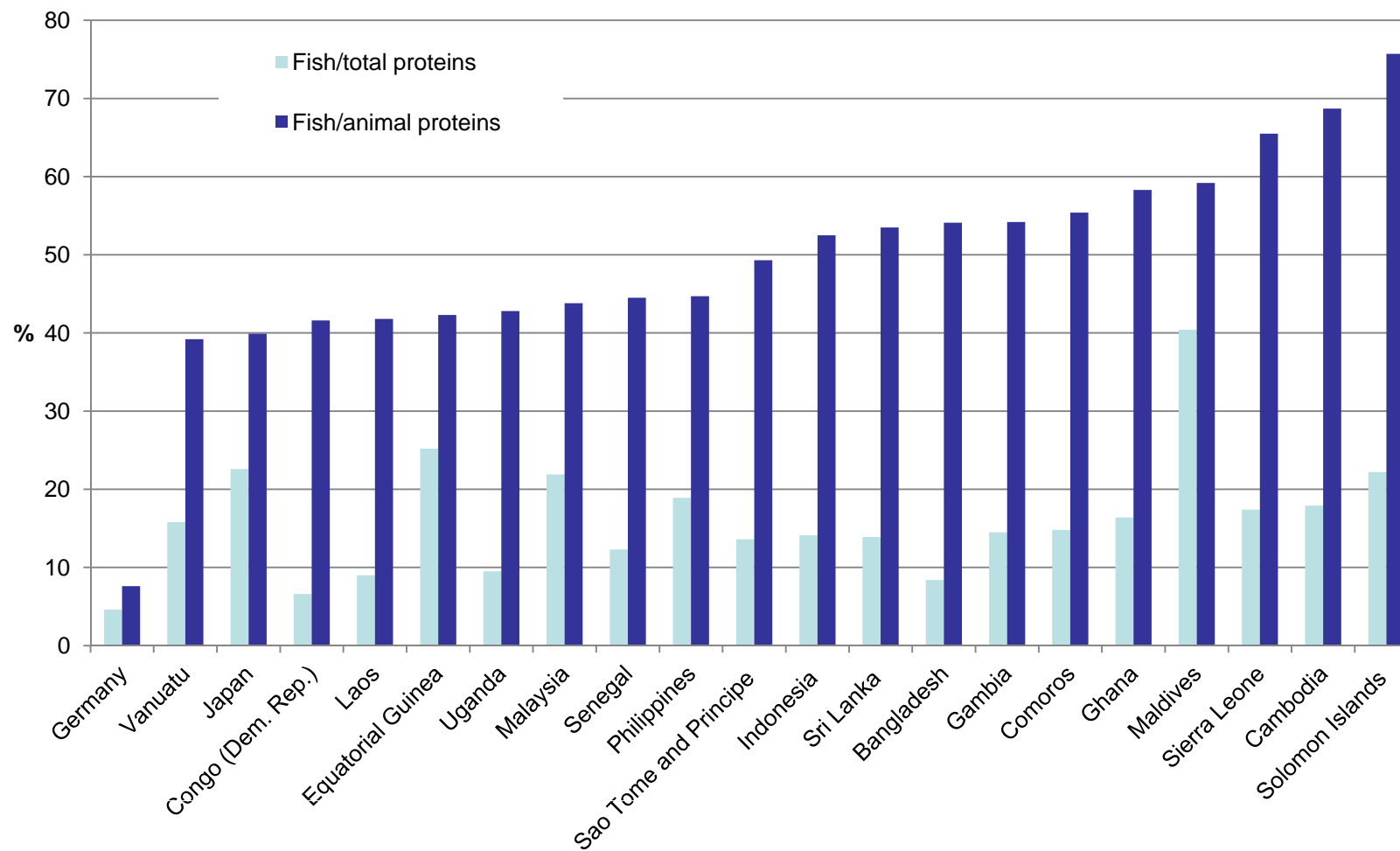


Fish provides significant micro-nutrients, minerals, and essential fatty acids, of special importance in child-development

In many parts of the developing world, fish represent the single most important source of animal protein. For 1.5 billion people, fish contributes about 20% of animal protein intake



Contribution of fish to animal protein intakes (in percent)

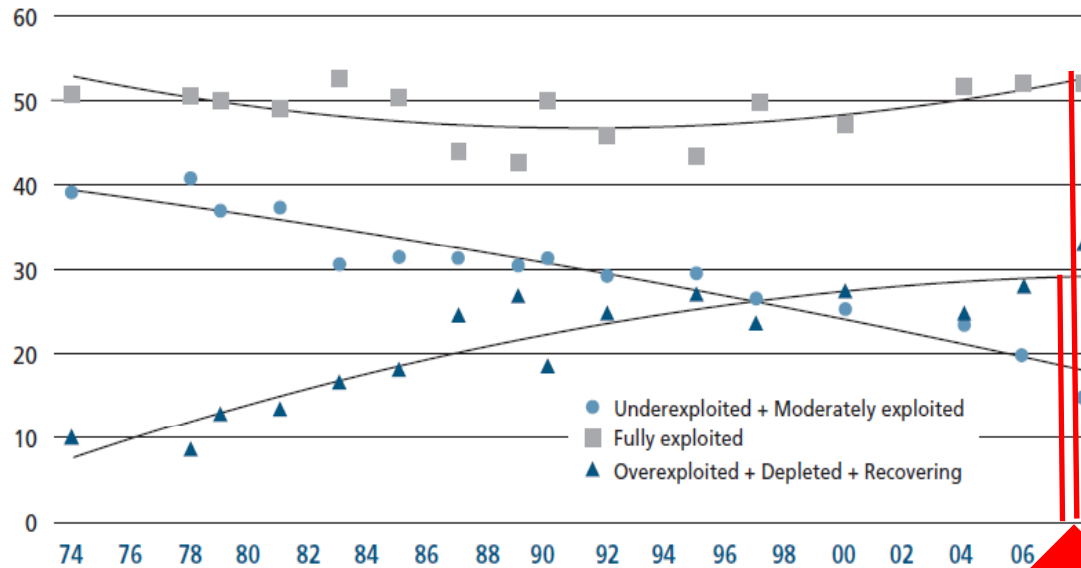


Threats to food security

- Poor fisheries and aquaculture governance and management
- Overcapacities of the fishing fleets and overfishing
- Degradation of aquatic resources and environment
- Conflicts and exclusion from resource access

Global trends in the state of world marine stocks since 1974

Percentage of stocks assessed

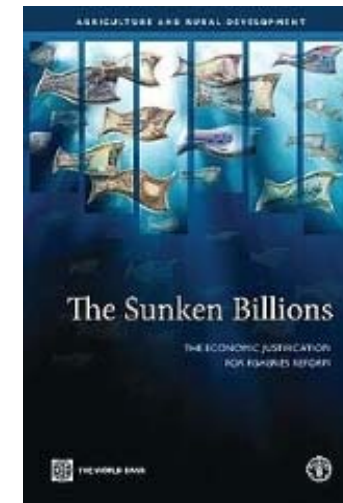
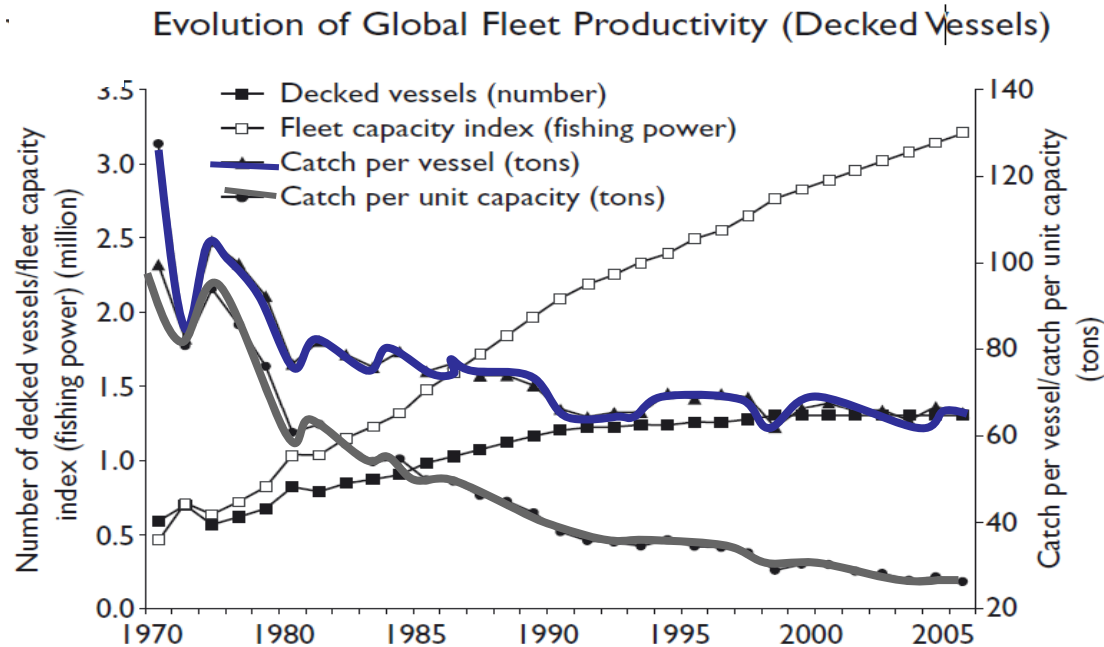


80%
overexploited, fully
exploited, depleted or
recovering from depletion

Source: FAO SOFIA 2010



Economic consequences of overfishing



“The contribution of the harvest sector of the world’s marine fisheries to the global economy is substantially smaller than it could be. The lost economic benefits are estimated to be on the order of \$50 billion annually.

Source: World Bank/FAO
2009

Perception of main risks to livelihood security:

1. Malaria and other common illnesses
2. Gear theft and personal insecurity
3. Insecure rights of access to land and landing sites
4. Unpredictable seasons/weather (climate change)
5. Rising costs of inputs
6. Marketing-related insecurities
- .
- .
11. Too much fishing; decline of fish stocks.

Allison, E. Participatory risk-mapping with East African fishers and fish workers



Good Governance

| Dimensions of Governance | Challenges | Solutions (Guidance provided, inter alia, by Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, IPOAs; VG-Tenure) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accountability | Unclear or incomplete communications | Mandatory reporting, sharing of decisions & results |
| Effectiveness | Top down, command & control approaches | Ground up stakeholder developed rules |
| Efficiency | Conservation rules may not be good for fishermen's businesses | Incentive aligning approaches – create win-win solutions based on secure tenure to fisheries |
| Equity | Unequal access to information, credit, fishing areas | Collaboratively designed or negotiated solutions |
| Participation | Minimal participation, central control | Stakeholder involvement at local, national, regional levels |

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Art 6.18 Recognizing the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, States should **appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fishworkers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood**, as well as **preferential access**, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction.

Statement to the 2008 Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries by Civil Society Organizations

- Guarantee access rights of small-scale and indigenous fishing communities to territories, lands and waters on which they have traditionally depended for their life and livelihoods;
- Recognize and implement the rights of fishing communities to restore, protect and manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems;
- Reverse and prevent the privatization of fisheries resources, as through individual transferable quotas (ITQs) and similar systems that promote property rights
- Protect the cultural identities, dignity and traditional rights of fishing communities and indigenous peoples;
- Implement legal obligations arising from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and subsequently adopted human rights legislation (www.4ssf.org)

Fishing rights and right to food – the case of South Africa

A group of 5,000 artisanal fishers in South Africa launched a class action following the adoption of the marine Living Resources Act (MLRA) of 1998. The fishers claimed that the national authorities failed to provide them with adequate fishing rights since they were not given legal recognition as 'artisanal fishers' within the MLRA. **They argued that the implementation of the MLRA violated their right to food as recognized in the South African constitution of 1996.** A decision issued by the Court, as well as an agreement reached with national authorities, led to interim relief measures and initiated a revision in policy (Source: Ekwall & Cruz 2009)

International Commitment to a Human Rights-based Approach

2007 FAO Committee on Fisheries

“The Committee expressed its support for the strategy of action ...that brings together responsible fisheries and social development.....**The strategy is based on a shift towards rights-based fishing that respects the rights of present and future generations, addresses broader human rights principles when defining and allocating rights, and supports empowerment of fishing communities through social inclusion and capacity and capability-building.**”

Towards Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

COFI 2007 recognized that the **adoption of human rights principles underpin social development and support good governance** based on accountability, transparency and inclusive participation.

2008 Global SSF Conference identified several critical ways forward in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries that **integrate social, cultural and economic development, address resource access and use rights issues guided by human rights principles, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples.**

Towards Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

COFI 2009 expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting.

COFI 2011 agreed to the development of a new international instrument on SSF complementing the Code. It agreed that the new instrument would take the **form of international guidelines, be voluntary in nature, address both inland and marine fisheries and focus on the needs of developing countries.** It recommended that **all stakeholders be associated, as appropriate, with its development.**

A broad-based consultation process has been initiated by FAO with its development partners including governments, intergovernmental organizations and in particular CSOs

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION