

Who's Working on Women in Fisheries ?

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The United Nations Decade for Women and the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development has focused attention on the role of women in production. Fisheries and, to a lesser extent, aquaculture are generally considered male activities. In most development projects, men have been the main target group. Yet, an examination of fisherfolk (and farmer) economies will show that women are the backbone of family survival. Women today are also increasingly involved in fisheries research, education, extension, training programs and even policy-making.

This article focuses on the literature of the last two decades. For the literature search, we used the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) covering 1971-1988, the ICLARM library and professional staff collections.

We found 168 articles on the subject. Prior to 1975, there was less than an article per year. Between 1975 and 1979, one article per year was produced. The next five years saw 17 articles per year and the present output is about the same.

Journal articles formed the largest group (38%), with agency reports a close second (36%). Monographs were 15% of the total. Papers presented at conferences and symposia accounted for 6%. The remainder was in other formats such as manuals and handbooks.

Research Areas

Overall, the most discussed subject was processing/preservation/handling, followed by artisanal fishing, then by the socioeconomic role of women. In Asia, there were slightly more papers on training/extension/education, than on the above topics. Many of these items were from countries served by FAO's Bay of Bengal Programme. In Africa, there were more documents on processing/preservation/handling, than marketing and artisanal fisheries. Regional research thrusts are presented in the figure. Many articles covered several subject areas.

Recent publications

P. Merrikin compiled *Women in Fisheries - a selective annotated bibliography* published in 1987 as FAO Fisheries Circular 811. It contained nearly all the materials used in this survey and has subject and geographic indices. *Women in Aquaculture*, edited by C.E. Nash, C.R. Engle and D. Crosetti, is the proceedings of the ADCP/NORAD workshop on women in aquaculture held in Rome, Italy, 13-16 April 1987. It was published as the Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme Report (ADCP) /87/28. *Women in fisheries. Report on the socioeconomic surveys in Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines*

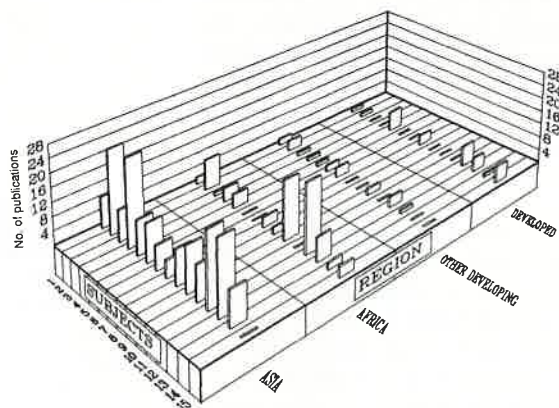
by ESCAP (1985) (ADCP and ESCAP addresses are given below); *Women's fishing in Oceania* by M. Chapman (address below) published in *Human Ecology* 15(3):267-288 in 1987.

Some of the women working on this subject are: Dr. E. Drews of GOPA Consultants, Hindeburgring 18, 6380 Bad Homburg, Federal Republic of Germany, who has worked on extension and training; Dr. A. Librero of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), who has done socioeconomic studies of fisherfolk; and Dr. P. Spliethoff of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Unit, International Agricultural Centre, P.O. 88, 6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands, who has done research on handling, processing and marketing; and Dr. C.R. Engle, one of the editors of the second document mentioned above, is with the School of Business, Department of Economics, Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama 36193-0401, USA; and M. Chapman, Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Queensland 4067, Australia.

Some sources of information are: the ADCP, Fisheries Department, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100, Rome, Italy (contact: C. Nash); the Institute for Social Studies, Badhuisweg 251, 2509 LS, The Hague, The Netherlands (contact: W. Meynen); the DANIDA/NORWAY/FAO project on Integrated Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa (IDAF), B.P. 1369 Cotonou, Bénin; the Bay of Bengal Programme, Post Bag No. 1054, Madras 600 018, India; the Socioeconomics Research Division, PCARRD, Los Baños, 4030 Laguna, Philippines (contact: A. Librero); Action Programme for Rural Women in Fishing Communities, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, GPO Box 2883, Dhakka-1000, Bangladesh; ESCAP, Agriculture Division, United Nations Building, Rajadamern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.

ICLARM can provide more information on women in fisheries. Write to Selective Fisheries Information Service, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, for details and costs involved.

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Regional research thrusts