The contribution of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to food systems

Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chains are important for the livelihoods of coastal communities worldwide.

- More than 90% work in small-scale fisheries
- 39 million directly engaged
- 81 million indirectly engaged
- 120 million employed directly
- 177.5 million people worldwide
- 67.5 million aquaculture
- 20.5 million directly engaged
- 37 million indirectly engaged

All of this employment, together with dependants, is estimated to support the livelihoods of 660–820 million people (about 10–12% of the world's population).

Small-scale fishers and aquaculture workers are very diverse

- 40% are women
- Women are mostly employed in post-harvest handling, processing, selling fresh fish, packaging and marketing

Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture contribute significantly to global food security and nutrition

- Small-scale production is mostly for domestic human consumption. It is particularly important in the developing world where poverty rates are high and good-quality nutrition is needed
- Seafood provides more than 3.3 billion people with almost 20% of their average per capita intake of animal proteins (>50% in several developing countries)
  - High-quality proteins
  - Essential amino acids
  - Nutrients and minerals

90% of all fisheries in developing countries are small-scale fisheries. Developing countries account for 95% of aquaculture production
Most of small-scale catch in developing countries is consumed domestically... providing food services (i.e. hotels, restaurants and catering) with high-quality seafood

The benefits from accessing lucrative markets do not necessarily flow equitably to local people, but are instead captured by more powerful actors in the value chain

People who depend on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture have tried to diversify, particularly in domestic markets

Inclusive and equitable value chains, fairer markets and distribution of benefits to small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fishworkers is central to achieving most United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is called for in the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines

Global food security and nutrition

Environmental stewardship

Equitable and fairer access to resources and trade

Empowering (including women) and reducing inequalities

Reducing poverty and improving livelihoods

Better capacity for adaptation and greater resilience in the face of shocks

Investment and policies that support and strengthen small-scale fisheries and aquaculture can play an important role in aiding the recovery from the impact of COVID-19, through enhancing employment, incomes and nutrition, which will decrease poverty and increase global food security

For more information: https://www.iied.org/increasing-visibility-artisanal-small-scale-fishers-fish-farmers-fish-workers
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Sources: