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

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.

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

90% of all fisheries in developing countries are small-scale fisheries. Developing countries account for 95% of aquaculture production.

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.
95% of small-scale catch in developing countries is consumed domestically. Still, small-scale catch (especially high-end products) increasingly enters regional and global markets...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: www.iied.org/IYAFA-2022
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Sources:
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