Making Visible
the Role of Women in the Fishery Sector

Brief Gender Profile of the Indonesian Blue Swimming Crab Fishery Improvement Project

Prepared by: Karen Hildahl, Jensi Sartin, Ria Fitriana and Iqbal Herwata

What is the Indonesian Blue Swimming Crab Fishery Improvement Project?

The Indonesian Blue Swimming Crab Gillnet Trap Fisheries Improvement Project (BSC FIP) is a multi-stakeholder effort to improve the sustainability of the fishery´s supply chain, BSC resources and the ecosystems where the species are harvested, with the aim of achieving Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. It is led by the Indonesia Blue Swimming Crab Association (APRI) with support of the National Fisheries Institute Crab Council in the United States, which is the destination of most BSC in Indonesia. The FIP started in January 2012 and is expected to be completed in December 2022.

What is a FIP Gender Profile?

The FIP gender profile aims to assess the roles of women and men along the fishery value chain, access to resources and benefits as well as participation in decision making in fisheries, and identify critical points of integration of gender considerations in the FIP. Gender analysis is applied for each stage of the BSC value chain.

Global Marine Commodities
for sustainable fisheries
Kementerian PPN/ Bappenas
UNDP
gef
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Summary of the FIP Gender Profile Results

Division of roles along the value chain

Women are dominant in the input stage where they prepare fishing equipment such nets, traps and bait. There is a perception that women´s principal role is in the domestic domain, and pre-production is considered an extension of household work, while men are expected to bring income into the family. Women knit nets and fix broken ones, usually on a weekly basis, which requires more than eight hours of work. A more recent practice in some areas of using plastic bags to package bait in BSC traps increases women´s workload and contributes to environmental impacts due to single-use disposable plastic while raising input costs.

Men are dominant in the production stage, where they operate fishing boats, set up the nets and traps and collect the crabs. However, some women also perform fishing activities, while there are likewise women who own vessels but do not go to sea. At the trading stage, fishers, mostly men but at times women, bring the catch to the local suppliers, while others sell their catch directly to miniplants. Suppliers are both women and men, depending on the area of the country. Many fishers prefer selling their crabs to women as they are considered more precise when weighing. At the processing stage, while there is no sex disaggregated data, APRI estimates almost 100% of pickers are women. Women have also been found to be owners of mini plants and work as product recording officers.

Access to resources and benefits

Overall, both women and men have access to tools to perform work at the input stage, which can be easily purchased in the market. With regards to production, as men are dominant in this stage, access to information regarding improving fishing and new fishing methods and equipment is mainly limited to men. Both women and men have access to knowledge of crab regulations such as size and allowed fishing gear. At the trading and processing stages, both women and men can access assets and negotiate prices with miniplants. At the processing stage, women and men owners of miniplants have similar access to price or market information, and it is transferred by miniplant owners to the workers, who are usually women. Overall, men have more access to income as fishers but women make an income as well, in particular as pickers.

Participation in decision-making

Women tend to be excluded in public planning for the sector as development policies have traditionally targeted women as fish processors but not as fishers and managers of the resource. Despite their involvement in pre-production, production in several areas and as suppliers, in marketing and processing, women are often left out of meetings related to production and these other stages.

At the pre-production and production stages, women mostly decide on domestic matters such as food and finance of fishing logistics. Men dominate decision making related to fishing operations except in sales where women's participation is recognised.

Conclusions and recommendations

The gender analysis reveals that both women and men are key actors along the value chain, though they have different roles. While a FIP usually places more focus on the production and processing stages, it is important to recognize pre-production as part of the BSC supply chain as well as the roles of women in production, marketing and processing and ensure the participation and contribution of both men and women representatives all along the value chain. The BSC gender profile highlights the heavy workloads of women in the input stage that are often unrecognized as this work is seen as an extension of their domestic responsibilities. It also shows that women have traditionally been unrecognized as fishers and managers of the resource and are more likely to be excluded from public meetings and decision making and have less access to information.

An action plan for mainstreaming gender in the FIP should focus on (1) changing stakeholders' perceptions of women's roles in sustainable fisheries, (2) promoting sex disaggregated information of the actors along the value chain, (3) developing gender responsive actions and indicators in the FIP work plan, and (4) ensuring representation and active participation of men and women in all the stages of the FIP.

For more specific information regarding how to integrate gender considerations into FIPs, see **https://bit.ly/35k09Gd** and for more detailed information on theFIP gender profile, see **https://bit.ly/31wCDEP**

This analysis was developed by **The Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities Project** (GMC). GMC is an inter-regional initiative implemented by the Ministries and Bureaus of Fisheries and Planning of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and the Philippines, with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), facilitated by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).