

Making Visible the Role of Women in the Fishery Sector

Brief Gender Profile of the Indonesian Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Pole and Line Fishery Improvement Project

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

What is the Indonesian Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Pole and Line Fishery Improvement Project?

The Indonesian Western and Central Pacific Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna Pole and Line Fishery Improvement Project (Tuna PL FIP) is a multi-stakeholder effort to promote the sustainability of this fishery and meet the criteria for the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. In turn improve market access for local fishers and meet the demand of retailers seeking sustainable products. It is led by Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association (AP2HI) and International Pole & Line Founda-

tion (IPNLF), together with partners such as the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) and Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI). It started in November 2017 and is expected to be completed by June 2023.

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 tuna PL value chain.



Summary of the FIP Gender Profile Results

Division of roles along the value chain

Women and men have different roles along the tuna PL value chain, with women participating more at the input (such as logistics) and post-production (such as fish processing) stages while men are dominant in the production stage (fishing captains and crews). There are cultural beliefs that discourage women from going out to sea as fishers due to perceived dangers and because women are considered responsible for domestic tasks such as caring for children and household chores, but there are some women fishers. However, women are rarely registered as members of fishing groups. Women's space is perceived to be the landing side and the involvement of women in small-scale businesses is considered an extension of their domestic role.

Women have been found acting as small business entrepreneurs and boat owners. Activities related to fish transportation, receiving and storage as well as negotiation with buyers are principally undertaken by men. In the processing stage, women are dominant in the processing plant space in small- and large-scale processing. Women are dominant in small scale marketing while in large scale marketing both men and women participate, working at ports and plants.



Access to resources and benefits

Men and women have varied levels of access to assets and resources, but in general women face more constraints. Resources relevant to tuna PL fisheries are relationships with buyers, financial institutions and loans, knowledge about the tuna market (prices, quality requirements), facilities (production equipment), marketing skills, fish capture training, and knowledge about government regulations, traceability, and seafood product certifications. Men have been found to have knowledge of all these resources while women less so, and they face constraints in accessing fisheries resources as they are less involved in the production stage.

There is a lack of sex disaggregated information in relation to benefits along the value chain. In general, benefits for actors at the production stage vary, with owners of vessels receiving 40-50% of the

profit while the captain receives 12.5% and the rest is divided among crew members. At the processing stage, companies pay workers according to the minimum regional income. Incomes are substantially higher at the production stage, where men are dominant, than at the processing stage.



Participation in decision-making

Decision making related to the use of production facilities is dominated by men while women and men may have similar levels of decision making regarding financial allocation and distribution. At the production stage, fishing decisions are made by both male and female boat owners or male captains. Business owners, usually women, make decisions related to the processing stage, including procurement of raw fish, labour recruitments, and fish processing and selling. At the marketing stage, in both wholesaling and retailing, business owners, who could be men or women, make the decisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

The gender analysis reveals that both women and men are key actors along the value chain, though they have different roles. The tuna PL gender profile highlights that focusing too much on the production stage or on fishing groups risks excluding women because they are rarely registered as members. It also shows that women have less knowledge of and access to fisheries resources as they are less involved in the production stage. However, women do participate as fishers and have dominant roles in the input and post-production stages, and it is important to ensure the participation and contribution of both men and women representatives all along the value chain in the FIP.

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 the FIP gender profile, see <https://bit.ly/31wCDEP>