

## WHY LOOK AT FISHERIES THROUGH THE GENDER LENS?

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Fisheries were long viewed as the domain of one gender, the men. Yet, as anthropologists probed, development agencies created program policies on, initially, women and then gender dimensions, feminists advocated greater action to achieve gender equality and fisheries researchers widened their fields of inquiry, the other fisheries actors became more visible. The gender, age and power of all actors started to come better into focus and a more detailed picture has just begun to emerge. This presentation will explore when a gendered analysis of fisheries makes sense and why, using three examples, namely: globalization impacts in fisheries, fisheries in transition due to the state of the fish stocks, and HIV/AIDS in fishing communities. By reviewing recent research, the examples will trace the typical pathways by which gender considerations may or may not have an important role in helping policy makers and researchers elucidate problems, how the sector functions and what interventions may be beneficial.

The three examples are chosen to demonstrate different perspectives. Globalization is bringing major changes in the distribution of labour and benefits along the whole fish supply chain. Many of these changes are gendered and consequent on larger events in markets and in the world economy. Whether in developed or developing countries, location specific transitions in fisheries due to changes in fish stocks have many consequences on those reliant on them, including women, youth and children. In the case of HIV/AIDS and fishing communities, an emerging body of research is starting to show the complexity of epidemiology of the pathogen and its dependence on people's behaviours in different fishing settings. This is the most obvious example where gender cannot be ignored, and thus the only one of the three examples to include studies of women from the start. Each of the three examples individually, and the three together, make a strong case for the need to look at fisheries through a gender lens.