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*7th Global Conference on Gender and Aquaculture in Fisheries
18 – 21 October 2018, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand*

ENGAGEMENTS OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL TUNA FISHERIES IN SARANGANI PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES

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Introduction

- Gen. Santos City and the six coastal municipalities of Sarangani bounds the 15,950-hectare Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS).
- The Bay possesses multi-species marine resources
- Fish landing surveys identified 11 species of fish, foremost of which are tunas
- Gen. Santos City is the center of the Philippines tuna industry and the country has huge earnings from tuna exports

Introduction, continued

- Due to its ecological and economic importance USAID-SEAFDEC Oceans and Fisheries Partnership chose the SBPS and nearby Sulawesi Sea as a learning site for its project with WorldFish

Goal: To strengthen regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing, promote sustainable fisheries, and conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region

Introduction, continued

A Rapid Appraisal of the Fisheries Mgt. Systems in Sarangani was conducted to provide inputs for a catch documentation and traceability (CDT) system and sustainable fisheries management plan using the value chain approach

- ✓ Tuna trade is a vital global industry and needs to be sustained vis-à-vis declining fish stocks. Moreover, overseas buyers and consumers wish to purchase sustainably caught seafood and CDT is required following the entire value chain.

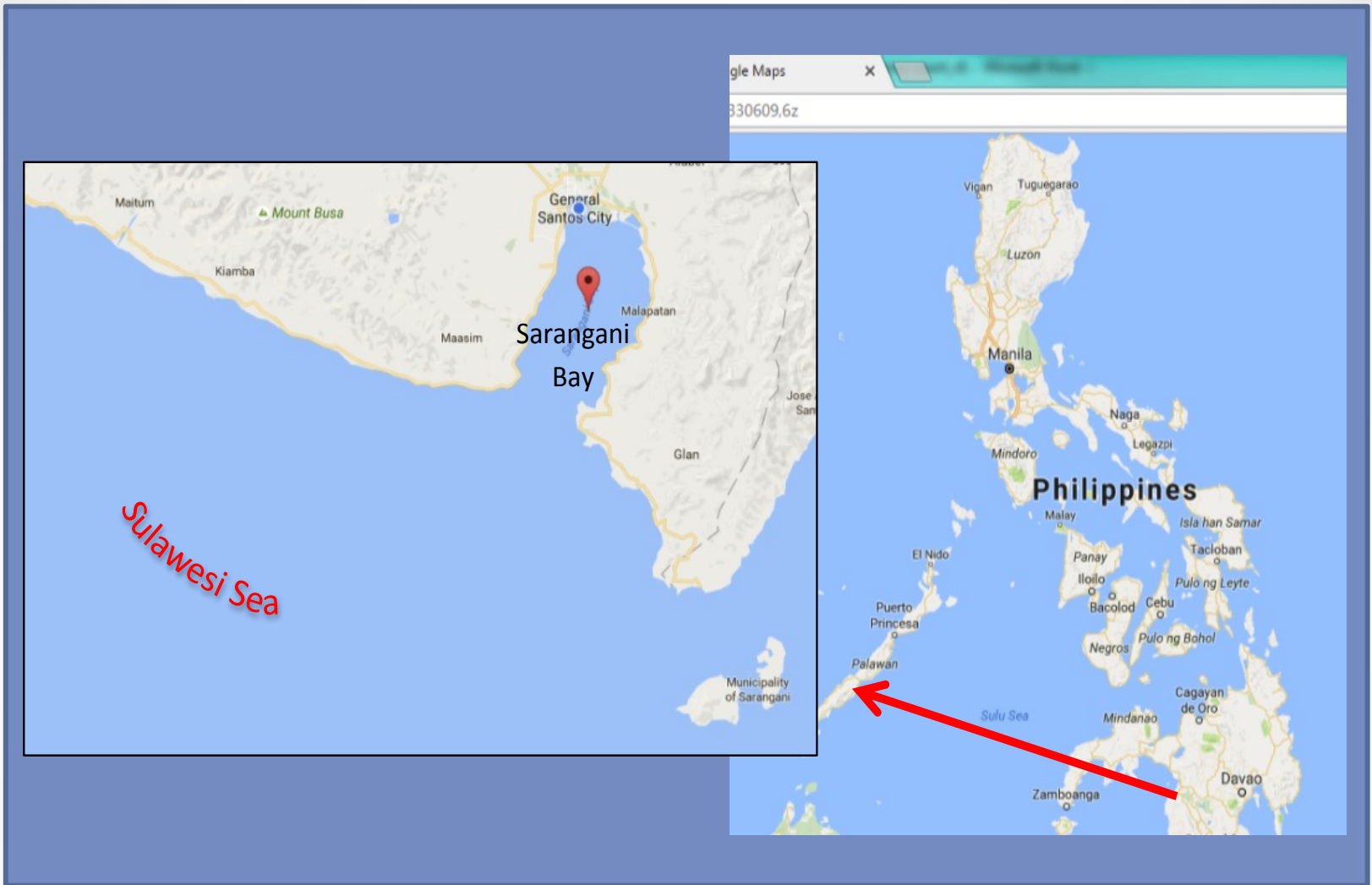


Figure 1. USAID Oceans General Santos City learning site.

Objectives of this presentation

- to compare and contrast gender roles in the municipal and commercial tuna value chains in Sarangani, Philippines, with focus on the production and trading nodes of the chain
- to identify efforts toward sustaining tuna fisheries, particularly those that combat IUU
- to identify possible entry points for developing CDT schemes

Methods

- Triangulation of primary and secondary data sources

Primary Data

- direct observation
- key informant interviews
- focus group discussions

Secondary Data

- sourced mainly from:
BFAR 12, PFDA
GenSan PSA, FAO

Value Chain Mapping

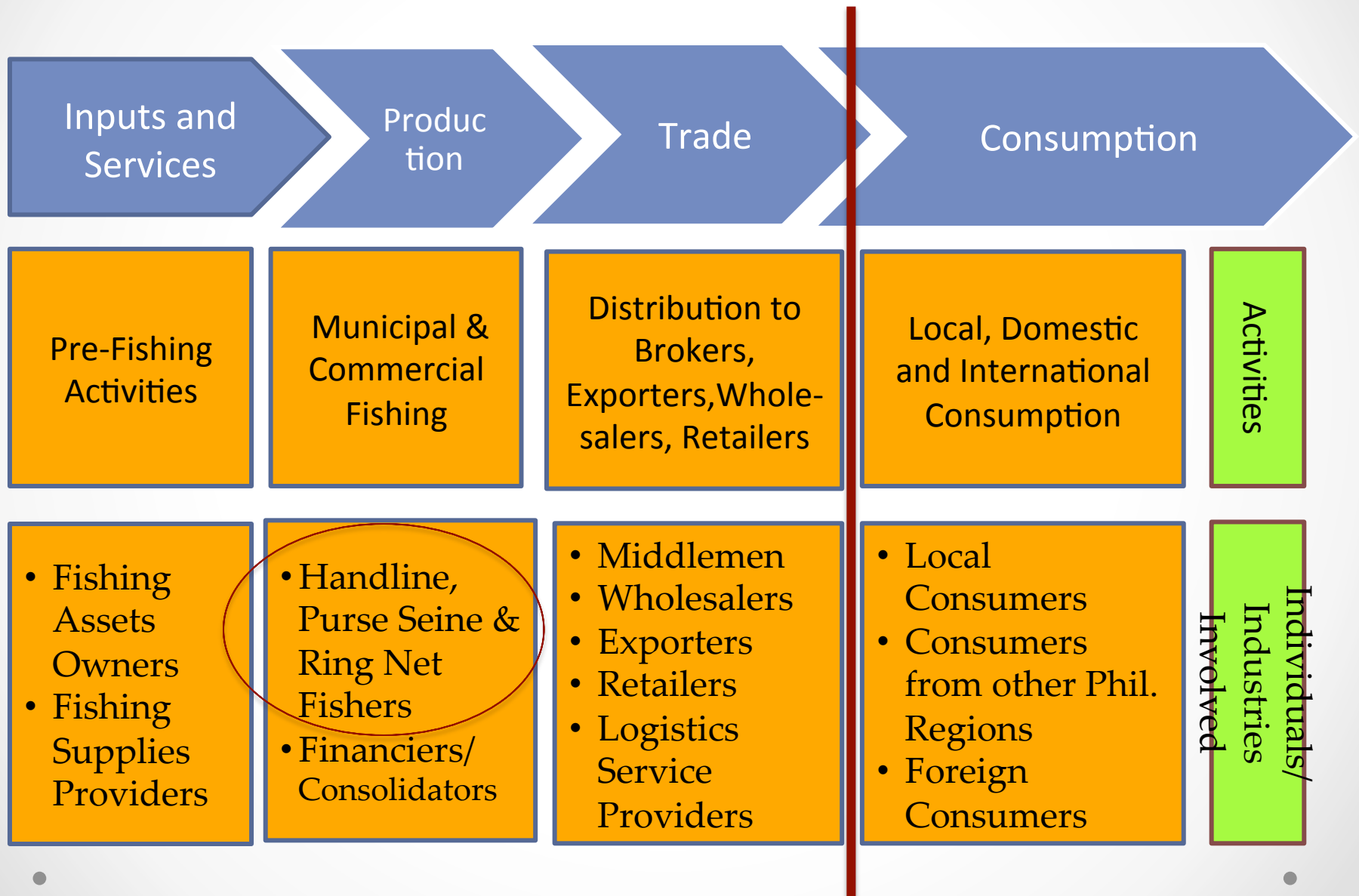
key customers and requirements, key players & roles, product flow, gender role, opportunities and constraints for EAFM

Industry Profiling

fishing grounds, production, product forms, exports, imports,

Community Validation

Nodes of the Tuna Value Chain Studied



Inputs and Services

Pre-Fishing Activities

Municipal Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Activity	Women	Men	Girls	Boys
Negotiating the borrowing of starting capital for the fishing trip from the community financier/consolidator				✓
Purchase or repair fishing gears				
Purchasing grocery items, ice, sinker stones and provisions for the fishing trip				✓
Preparing the provisions or "baon" for the fishing trip				
Loading fuel to the engine				✓
Loading of sinker stones and gears	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loading of provisions or <i>baon</i> and ice	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conducting ritual for a bountiful harvest and safety at sea	✓	✓	✓	✓

Pre-fishing is a family affair & unpaid members either do tasks together or complement each other's tasks

Legend:

- ✓ Done by women, men, girls and boys, or only by two of the actors
- ✓ ✓ Done mostly by women, men, girls or boys, with 1 or 2 or 3 actors assisting
- ✓ ✓ ✓ Done exclusively by either women, men, girls or boys



“That means about 1 of three fishers are poor; of the 3, the 2 are municipal fishers – US!”

cannot

their fishing trips

- The fisheries sector is considered the second poorest sector in the country, with fishers at the poverty incidence of 34% in 2015 (PSA June 30, 2017).
- In the Sarangani study sites, 65.12% of the municipal fisher informants reported monthly incomes of PhP10,000 or less.

Sources of Start Up Capital

Municipal fishers' financiers

- Municipalities have surplus funds; more women engaged in fishing activity
- Interventions for the sustainability of fisheries trade must be linked with interventions to improve the condition of marginalized players.
- Own boats and fishing gear accessories
- consolidate fish catch and become wholesalers
- ✓ dictate prices of fish, but not lower than market
- ✓ cash advances > value of fish catch lead fishers deeper in debts: NO opportunity for selling catch at better prices

Declining fish catch due to overfishing & degraded habitat; increasing juvenile catch

Inputs and Services

Pre-Fishing Activities

Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Handline Fishing

Activity	Women	Men
Cleaning of fish vessel, fish holds/ice boxes, inspection and repair and maintenance of vessel, equipment and gadgets by <i>piyado</i> & fishing crew		✓
Procuring supplies (food & water, laundry & bath soap, gasoline, diesel, LPG, medicines, ice, fishing supplies & replacement of depreciated gears, oil and lubricants, sinker stones, etc) and loading these to vessel	✓	✓
Granting cash advances to boat captain and/or <i>piyado</i> , fishing crew	✓	✓
Vessel sails to fishing ground (2 to 4 days) from the fish port, with 15-25 auxiliary boats		✓✓

Legend:

- ✓ Done by women and men
- ✓✓ Done exclusively by either women or men

Inputs and Services

Pre-Fishing Activities

Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Purse Seine & Ring Net Fishing

Activity	Women	Men
Cleaning of fish vessel, fish holds/ice boxes, inspection and repair and maintenance of vessel, equipment and gadgets by <i>piyado</i> & fishing crew		✓
Procuring supplies (food & water, laundry & bath soap, gasoline, diesel, LPG, medicines, ice, fishing supplies & replacement of depreciated gears, oil and lubricants, and sinker stones, etc), and loading these to vessel	✓	✓
Granting cash advances to boat captain and/or <i>piyado</i> , fishing crew	✓	✓
Catcher vessel sails to fishing ground, HSP1, for 4 - 6 days with 3-5 light boats and carrier vessel		✓✓

Legend:

- ✓ Done by women and men
- ✓✓ Done exclusively by either women or men

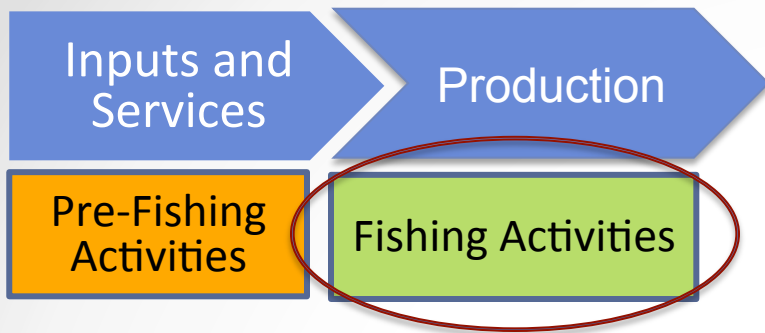
Why financing is necessary in commercial fishing

- For handline fishing the cost of one trip \approx USD10,000; 42% of operators have several fishing vessels
- For purse seine fishing, costs add up to USD764,949
- For ring net fishing, costs \approx USD700,107

Commercial fishing financiers

- they own the fish before these are landed
- some are owners of fishing vessels
- fish consolidation allows them to engage in fish trade and processing
- more men than women control the fishport

Some financiers are able to corner value added from input supply, production, processing and trade, indicating inequities



Municipal Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Activity	Women	Men	Girls	Boys
Catching small fish or squid for bait		✓✓		✓
Catching fish (tuna and other species)		✓✓		✓
Placing fish catch inside icebox		✓✓		✓
Unloading the fish catch in the community landing site	✓	✓✓		✓
Bringing fish catch to the community financier	✓	✓✓		✓

- Legend:
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 - ✓✓ Done mostly by women, men, girls or boys, with 1 or 2 or 3 actors assisting
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Municipal fishery is generally multi-gear to be able to catch multi-species of fish... and recoup starting capital

- ✓ no women fishers as fishing is beyond municipal waters
- ✓ fishing vessel and gears used are considered as family-owned
- ✓ decisions are generally made by men and women:
 - renting of fishing vessel
 - borrowing of starting capital
 - use of income from fishing
 - safety at sea considerations

Inputs and Services

Production

Pre-Fishing Activities

Fishing Activities

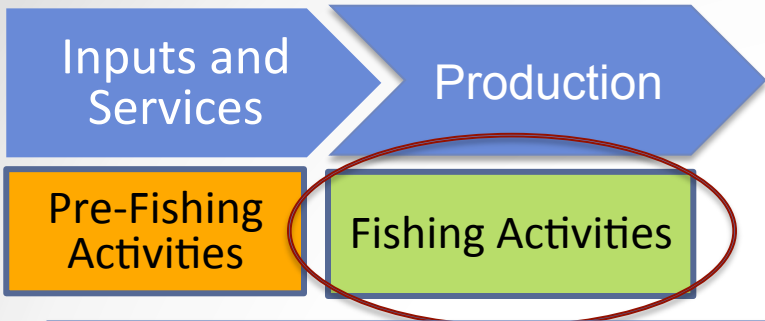
Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Fishing is for 21 days; catching yellowfin (≥ 35 kgs) is done individually on board auxiliary boats).

While fishing is done solely by men, 39% of the 233 handline fishing operators are women.

Activity		
Catching of small fish and squid for bait		
Offloading of auxiliary boats or <i>pakura</i> and the <i>pakura</i> to about 1-2 miles away from catch tuna		
Loading the tuna harvest to the mother boat and freezing this inside a fish holding ice box		
Repeating the process of tuna harvesting and offloading to the mother boat for about 20 days or till the fish holds are filled up		
Navigating back to the fish port		✓ ✓
Unloading fish catch		✓ ✓

Legend: ✓ ✓ Done exclusively by either women or men



Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Purse Seine and Ring Net Fishing

Purse seine: 9 months in the high seas (e.g., HSP1, WCPO)

Ring net: year-round fishing; but no fishing during bad weather

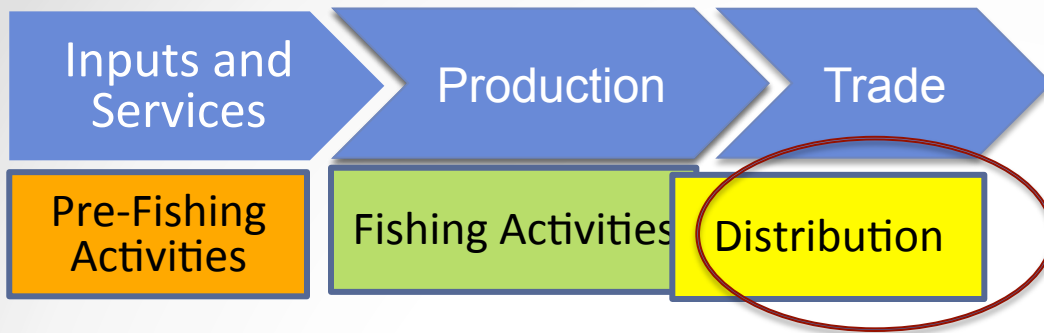
	Women	Men
		✓ ✓
net setting		✓ ✓
ols		✓ ✓
h the use of a olding ice boxes		✓ ✓
Navigating back to the fish port		✓ ✓
Unloading fish catch to the fish port		✓ ✓

Legend: ✓ ✓ Done exclusively by either women or men



In commercial fisheries:

- ✓ ownership of fishing vessels and gears is either conjugal or as part of a business partnership
- ✓ decision-making making is male-dominated, led by boat captain
- ✓ married women operators are assisted by their spouses in decision making and in various fishport activities



Municipal Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Activity	Women	Men	Girls
Sorting and weighing fish delivered to financier or consolidator according to size and species	✓✓	✓	
Recording the volume of fish	✓✓✓		
Pricing the fish based on info from fish buying stations	✓✓	✓	
Tendering payment to fishers after deducting starting capital	✓✓	✓	
Packing fish in styro boxes		✓✓✓	
Dispatch/deliver fish to brokers or wholesalers		✓✓✓	
Receiving payment for fish	✓✓	✓	
Selling fish to retailers	✓✓	✓	
Retailing fish	✓✓	✓	✓

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Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Handline Fishing

Activity	Women	Men
Weighing of each of tuna caught, tagging of tuna in terms of number of kilos		✓ ✓
Classifying or grading tuna catch into Class A, B or C		✓ ✓
Bidding (offer price/kg secretly whispered to broker or consolidator)	✓	✓
Recording volume of tuna catch, name of boat owner, price and class of each tuna caught	✓	✓
Packing class B tuna for delivery to Cebu, Manila and class A tuna for exports		✓ ✓
Dispatch tuna to brokers/wholesalers/importers	✓	✓
Receiving payment (generally thru bank remittances) or recording commitments to pay	✓	✓

Legend: ✓ Done by both women and men
 ✓ ✓ Done exclusively by either women or men

Inputs and Services

Production

Trade

Commercial Tuna Fishing Gender Roles

Pre-Fishing Activities

Unloading, weighing, grading and packing of tuna makes more men than women involved.

Introduction of woman-friendly fish weighing and packing technology and women training in grading can make gender roles more balanced.

Pre-Fishing Activities or Ring Net Fishing

	Women	Men
Sorting	✓	✓
Weighing		✓✓
Recording names	✓	✓
Bidding commitments	✓	✓
Recording price of tuna species caught according to size	✓	✓
Dispatch tuna to brokers/wholesalers/processors	✓	✓
Receiving payment for fish or recording commitments to pay	✓	✓

Legend:

- ✓ Done by both women and men
- ✓✓ Done exclusively by either women or men



Unloading tuna



Man weighing tuna while woman does the recording

Tuna for sale at the fish port



There is a lack of woman-friendly technology in the fishport that increases participation of women.



Packing tuna for exports



Higher value-added/kg in the post-harvest nodes

	Fisher/Operator	Consolidator	Wholesaler	Retailer
Municipal fishery	18.60	25.30		18.02
Commercial fishery				
Handline	47.18	49.74	70.45*	46.76
Purse Seine	1.30	16.44	34.04	21.02
Ring Net	1.76	14.01	34.04	21.02

*shipped to Manila

Advantageous to women?

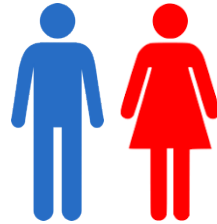
Note the following:

Municipal: 2,000kgs/wk for consolidator vs. 80 kgs/2 days for retailers

Handline: 3.5MT/21 days for handline consolidator/vessel vs. 200kg/2 days for retailer

Municipal Fishery

Familiarity with: EAFM



- ✓ heard of it in FARMCs, and from fish wardens, NGOs
- ✓ recognize the need for EAFM for sustainability
- ✓ wary that EAFM will compromise their welfare

Familiarity with: Catch Documentation System

- ✓ consider stock assessment (NSAP) as CDT
- ✓ see FishR & BoatR also as CDT
- ✓ viewed as additional cost

Commercial Fishery

Familiarity with: EAFM












- ✓ Known by operators through fishers' organizations & from BFAR
- ✓ fishers' org'ns OK with closed season

Familiarity with: Catch Documentation System

- ✓ seen as expensive by handliners
- ✓ ring netters have observers
- ✓ purse seiners have VMS & an observer
- ✓ VCA results: VMS & observer expense \approx 2.67% of production cost











Men and Women in sustainable fisheries

Municipal fishery

Activity/Process		
Membership in fisheries mgt bodies (FARMCs) and being deputized as fish wardens		
Membership in fisheries organizations and NGOs that work to conserve fisheries & aquatic resources		
Fishers Registration and Boat Registration; fisher wives facilitating the process		
Engaging in alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on fishery and aquatic resources		

Men and Women engagements in sustainable fisheries

Commercial fishery

Activity/Process		
Compliance to BoatR and FishR, women facilitating the compliance		
Respect for close fishing season (July-Sept)		
Submission of boat captain's report to PFDA/GSCFPC		
Adherence to the Observers' Program of BFAR (Purse seine and ring net operations)		
Use of Vessel Monitoring System for CDT (purse seiners)		
Fishers federation helping in initiatives to develop eCDTS appropriate to local conditions but meeting international requirements		

Entry points for developing eCatch Documentation and Traceability (CDT)

Municipal fishery

- FishR and BoatR – fishers can provide data (vessel and gears used, what they fish, where, and how, volume of catch)
- National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) enumerators – can recommend how to document fish catch not only in landing sites to reduce chances of entry of IUU fish catch

Entry points for developing eCatch Documentation and Traceability (CDT)

Municipal fishery

- Recording done by financiers/consolidators provides some documentation and traceability elements (date of landing, catch weight composition, species composition) but needs to include fishing grounds

Entry points for developing eCatch Documentation and Traceability (CDT)

Commercial fisheries

- FishR and BoatR
- financier/consolidator's records
- Boat captain's report
- records of NSAP and PFDA
- use of GPS to identify fishing grounds
- use of VMS (purse seine fishing)
- observer's notes (purse seine and ring net fishing)

Gender in CDT

- ✓ Women financiers/consolidators or their women staff play a vital initial role through recording to track sales and profits
- ✓ Women work on the FishR and BoatR while the men are at sea
- ✓ BFAR Observers' Program only for men
- ✓ Women more open to mechanisms for sustainable fisheries for livelihood security

Synthesis of Gender Roles in the tuna value chain and CDT

- ✓ More women participation in the municipal VC
- ✓ Women involvement in the commercial VC more as frontliners and more in “small trade”
- ✓ Potential of establishing eCDT mechanisms found in FishR/BoatR processes and recording by financiers/consolidators

Some ways forward

- ✓ Consider incentives for FishR/BoatR such as collaborating with government banks in the opening of a window for soft and scale-specific fishery financing for those compliant
- ✓ Collaborate with universities (e.g. via thesis/ dissertation of graduate students) on the development of an affordable and scale-specific eCDT using current critical data entries available

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Gratitude goes to the the Mindanao State University Iligan and General Santos campuses for allowing its faculty members to be involved in the WorldFish Philippine Office study commissioned by the USAID Oceans Partnership.

Gratitude also goes to the key informants of the socioeconomic research team: those from BFAR, NSAP, PFDA-GSFPC, SFFAI, and key players in the tuna value chain who served as key informants.

