

**Sustainable Fisheries and Livelihoods in Latin America:
The Imperative of Recognising the Resource Access Rights of Artisanal
Fishermen, Coastal Communities and Indigenous Peoples**

Santa Clara, Argentina
1-4 March 2005

Workshop Statement – 23 marzo 2005

1. More than 50 participants from 7 countries in the Southern Region of Latin America – Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina – along with delegates from UK, India and Norway, met in Santa Clara, Argentina from 1-4 March 2005. Coming from artisanal fishworker organisations, indigenous people's organisations, NGOs, research institutions and universities, our purpose was to discuss issues and consider measures to guarantee fishing access rights for artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people in the Southern Latin American Region. The meeting was organised by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) and CeDePesca, and supported by the FAO FishCode Programme.
2. Over 4 intense days we shared a wealth of knowledge and experiences that highlight the dynamic nature and wide diversity that characterise artisanal fisheries in the Southern Latin American region. Our understanding of how globalization processes in fisheries are impacting at the regional level was increased, and amid our considerable diversity, found that we shared many common characteristics and concerns. This statement describes our situation, highlights our concerns, and calls for both international and national level actions to address common problems. Our shared vision for artisanal fisheries in the Southern American region is set out in a separate Vision Statement.
3. We affirm the vital role that artisanal fishing plays in providing food and livelihoods in the Southern Latin American region, where artisanal fishing is characteristically a small-scale, extensive activity, carried out directly by fishworkers using selective fishing gears. Providing the basis for both economic and social activities, artisanal fisheries also have important cultural dimensions. The rationale of artisanal fisheries is to provide benefits for both current and future generations, and its intrinsic characteristics make it the most effective way to exploit aquatic ecosystems on a sustainable basis.
4. We acknowledge the important roles played by both men and women in the harvesting, processing, and trading of fish and fishery products, and in sustaining coastal communities and indigenous people whose livelihoods, quality of life and culture depend on aquatic ecosystems.
5. We are extremely concerned by the negative impacts of globalisation and liberalisation in the region. These are the cause of unregulated development and expansion of economic activities in the coastal areas, including intensive aquaculture, industrial development of fisheries and other sectors, and luxury tourism. The result is that coastal ecosystems are being degraded, aquatic resources depleted, with artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and

indigenous people being displaced from their homes with their livelihoods disrupted. Privatisation of natural resources is leading to the concentration of ownership, further enhancing these disturbing trends.

6. We consider it a matter of urgency to regulate these trends by:
 - recognizing the priority access rights of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people to coastal lands and near-shore coastal waters;
 - establishing legal frameworks and institutional arrangements for applying an integrated approach to granting access and use rights in coastal ecosystems, in ways that optimise equity and sustainability;
 - instituting systems of co-management for artisanal fisheries, with participatory and transparent mechanisms for decision making, and with provisions for strengthening the capacity of organisations of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people to participate fully in management decisions;
 - establishing effective regulation for the use of potentially destructive fishing practices such as trawling, and halting the development and expansion of intensive and other unsustainable aquaculture activities;
 - Supporting coastal communities to develop community tourism, ecological agriculture and other activities which complement local economic development; and
 - designing international and national level fishery research programmes with the active participation of organisations of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people in ways that incorporate their traditional knowledge, to meet their specific technical, economic and social requirements.
7. We affirm the need to guarantee the food security and food sovereignty as basic rights for both food producers and the wider community in the Southern Latin American region.
8. We recognise the importance of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in promoting sustainable fisheries and food security, and in addressing the specific needs of artisanal fisheries. We are committed to pressure our national governments to take the necessary measures to implement the Code and related international instruments for fisheries management.
9. We support the Ilo - Peru Declaration of the International Committee for the Defence of the 5 Mile Zone of September 30th 2004, and call for the establishment of a zone in the coastal waters of Latin American countries for the exclusive use of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people, where the dimensions, restrictions and regulations need to be defined in each country.
10. We are committed to supporting the calls of artisanal fishworker organisations, coastal communities and indigenous people to ban the use of potentially destructive fishing techniques like trawling in the zone reserved exclusively for artisanal fishing, where it needs to be decided on a country basis what fishing techniques should be banned.

11. We reject the use of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) as a management tool for artisanal fisheries, and express our concern that the use of ITQs can jeopardise the legitimate rights of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people to secure and just fisheries based livelihoods.
12. We deplore the practice of discarding associated with quota management systems, particularly ITQs, and condemn the use of destructive fishing techniques with intrinsically high discard rates, such as some forms of trawling.
13. We recognise the important role played by women in artisanal fisheries, where, in addition to undertaking household tasks and struggling with their children's education, they work as fishers, shellfish and seaweed gatherers, traders, fish processors, and factory workers. We are committed to work for the recognition of their resource access rights and to create space for women to participate in our organisations of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous peoples and to promote debate and understanding of gender issues in artisanal fisheries.
14. We support the Fortaleza Declaration of Red Manglar International of September 4 2004, which calls for States to fulfill their obligations under the 1971 Ramsar Convention, particularly with regard to para 15 of Resolution VII.21 on Intertidal Wetlands, signed in Costa Rica in 1999 at COPS 7, which: "urges all Contracting Parties to suspend the promotion, creation of new facilities, and expansion of unsustainable aquaculture activities harmful to coastal wetlands until such time as assessments of the environmental and social impact of such activities, together with appropriate studies, identify measures aimed at establishing a sustainable system of aquaculture that is in harmony both with the environment and with local communities."
15. We note with concern that international demand for fishery products has encouraged the use of destructive practices such as trawling and intensive aquaculture. There is an urgent need for trade specific measures to protect food security and the future of artisanal fishworkers, coastal communities and indigenous people worldwide. We recognise the need to work with consumer groups and civil society to generate demand for fishery products caught by selective and environmentally sound fishing practices.
16. We call upon states to recognize the rights of artisanal fishworkers, both as food producers and as workers, to benefit from labour laws that respect traditional systems of wage distribution based on catch shares; to just social security benefits that include provisions for death and injury, maternity, medical costs, and retirement pension; and to training and education programmes in line with their needs.
17. We express our solidarity with the artisanal fishermen, coastal communities, and indigenous people affected by the tsunami of December 26 2004, which killed around 300,000 people and destroyed the livelihoods of millions of coastal dwellers. We support the Medan Declaration of 19 February 2005 on

Rebuilding Peasants' and Fisherfolk's Livelihoods after the Earthquake and Tsunami Catastrophes, which promotes the rights of the affected communities to participate actively as the key actors in the planning and reconstruction processes, and for their organizations to play a key mobilizing and supporting role.

Santa Clara, Argentina.