Women’s role in small scale fisheries in the European Union

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AKTEA is partner of LIFE
Women’s work in fisheries varies: harvesting
Women’s work in fisheries varies:

**Aquaculture**
Women’s work in fisheries varies:

NETMENDING

SELLING FISH

PROCESSING

BAITING LONG LINES
Women developed new activities and added value.
Women developed new activities and added value.
Women’s work is often invisible and unrecognized

As a collaborative spouse:

- contact with auction, bank, fisheries organisations;
- administration work;
- crew affairs, safety, etc.

But:
- no access to salary
- no social benefits;
- not recorded in statistics;
Women contribute positively to and sustain fishing communities

Maintain fisheries activities
Increase employment and family income
Improve community living conditions
Promote the fisheries identity of the communities
Especially in SSF women’s work is crucial

Behind every boat there is a woman, a family and a fishing community
Women organisations - through AKTEA - are acting and lobbying for:

Recognition of women’s work at European level (legal status, access to retirement pension, health system, maternity leave)

Participation of women in fisheries decision-making on resource management

Integration of women and women's organizations in the institutional and policy framework for fisheries and aquaculture in Europe

Sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture and the survival of coastal fishing communities
EU fisherwomen are moving from invisibility to visibility

**EU Legal Frame**

EU Directive 86/613 establishing the collaborative spouse status modified by the EU directive 2010/41/ EU

Transposed into Member State Legislation

But in many Member States women are not aware of their status, and only in France is it applied.
EU fisherwomen are moving from invisibility to visibility

FAO published in 2018:
WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN FISHERFOLK ORGANIZATIONS AND COLLECTIVE ACTION IN FISHERIES (FIAO/C1159 (En))

With recommendations for
- All stakeholders
- Fisherwomen
- Researchers, academia and research institutions
- States
- Social movements and CSO’s
- NGO’s and UN agencies

Denying women equal access to decision-making positions and full participation in fisherfolk organizations is equivalent to denying half of the fisheries-dependent population their basic economic, social, labour and environmental rights.
If you are working in fisheries, as scientists, fisheries manager or public civil servant in fisheries administration, what can you do for women in fisheries?

- Understand the reasons/barriers of women's exclusion
- Act for gender equality (equal opportunities) and equity
- Make society – and fisherwomen themselves! – aware of their important contribution to the sector
- Support women to build autonomous organizations with the objective to promote a human rights based approach to the SSF sector

Supporting fisherwomen = supporting SSF
Thank You!  Merci !

www.akteaplayerform.eu

Facebook: AKTEA women in fisheries
Twitter: @AKTEAwif

www.lifeplatform.eu

www.monacooceanweek.org/en/