



GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON INLAND FISHERIES

Freshwater, Fish, and the Future

A cross-sectoral conference to sustain livelihoods, food security, and aquatic ecosystems
26-30 January 2015, Rome

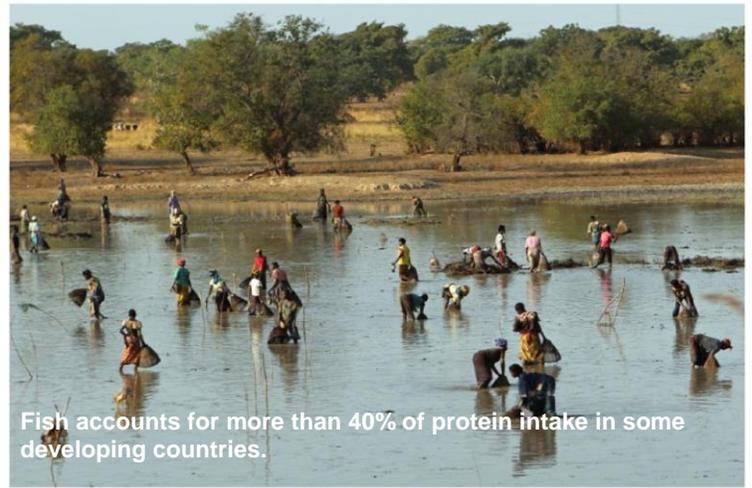
Inland fisheries around the world are facing serious challenges. Inland fisheries are a critical food resource, especially in much of the developing world, yet agricultural, water management, and investment policies often conflict with maintaining the long-term sustainability of inland fisheries. A lack of reliable data has hampered international monitoring and conservation programs.

In January 2015, a ground-breaking conference in Rome will for the first time address the challenges and opportunities for freshwater fisheries at cross-sectoral levels on a global scale. Never before have scientists, policy makers, and the international development community gathered together to discuss the food security, economic, and ecological issues associated with inland fisheries around the world. This global conference is a multi-sectoral call to raise the profile of inland fisheries and better incorporate them in agricultural, land use, and water resource planning through development of improved assessment frameworks and value estimation.

The conference will include freshwater commercial, subsistence, aquaculture, and recreational fisheries, as well as the complex ecosystem services provided by inland aquatic systems. The Global Conference on Inland Fisheries is organized by **Michigan State University** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**; the conference will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The conference will:

- Communicate the value of inland fisheries to policy makers and the public;
- Review assessment and valuation strategies;
- Recommend policy commitments;
- Provide policy makers with the means to better integrate inland fisheries into development planning processes;
- Identify critical pathways in water resource allocation, climate change adaptation, food security and nutrition, and biodiversity conservation;
- Develop recommendations for measurable global targets; and
- Synthesize the conference contributions and deliberations into a guidance document on the future of inland fisheries.



Fish accounts for more than 40% of protein intake in some developing countries.

Concerns to Be Addressed by the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries:

Inland fish and fisheries, and their habitats, need to be included in policy discussions and decisions, as well as investment strategies.

Many development and management decisions on the use of freshwaters are made without accurate consideration of their impact on inland fisheries and fisheries-dependent communities.

We need regular and accurate reporting to inform discussions.

Globally, 156 of 230+ countries and territories reported to FAO in 2010 – many countries known to have substantial inland fisheries do not report any information to FAO and more than 50% of all reported inland catch is not identified to species.

To communicate the importance of allocating freshwater resources to fish, as well as to other water-dependent sectors, we need to better understand and communicate the *value of inland fisheries* to the economy and health of society.



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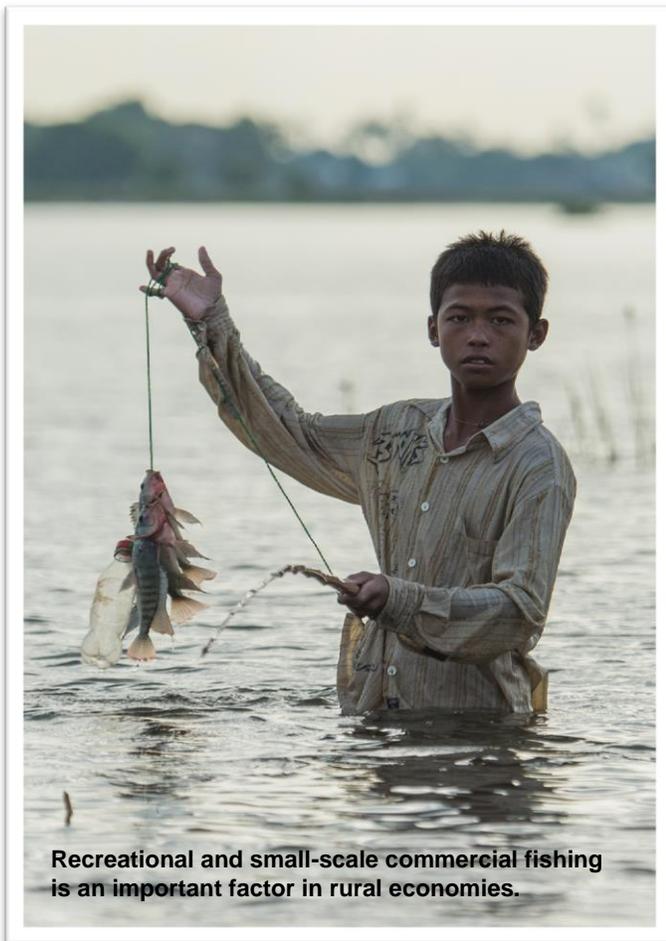
Conference Themes

Biological Assessment: Explore and develop new approaches to assess the production and status of inland fish stocks and their fisheries.

Economic and Social Assessment: Explore and develop new approaches to provide monetary and nonmonetary value to fisheries, including importance to human health, personal well-being, and societal prosperity.

Drivers and Synergies: Identify synergies between the services that can be made to increase societal gain while maintaining ecological integrity and allowing for the protection of aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production.

Policy and Governance: Develop methods to assure that governance and investment decisions take into account the contribution inland fisheries make to food security, human well-being, and ecosystem productivity.



Recreational and small-scale commercial fishing is an important factor in rural economies.

Previous page: Women fishing, Burkina Faso, credit Carsten ten Brink
Above: Successful catch in Myanmar, credit ALwinDigital/Flickr

Call for Papers

Abstract submissions will be accepted until 10 August 2014. Please use the abstract submission form at www.inlandfisheries.org for more details.

Supporting the Conference

Michigan State University is administering a special fund to receive grants and donations for travel support for participants from developing countries and students. Additionally, sponsors for networking events are welcome. For more information, contact Bill Taylor below.



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