Small Scale Fisheries in Sultanate of Oman

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Small Scale Fisheries Definition

A Fishing operated by small boats ranged from (5 to 9 m LOA) working within 6 Nautical Mile, and traditional vessels (dhow – ranged from 10 to 32 m LOA), working beyond 7 Nautical Mile.
Overview of the fisheries sector in Oman

The fisheries sector in Oman:

• Constitutes a common heritage to the country,

• Is Ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the natural resources Contribution to the domestic GDP after the hydrocarbons sector,

• Employs directly more than 45000 fishermen on-board approximately 22000 fishing crafts,

• Plays an important socio-economic role and contributes considerably to the food security (Per capita fish consumption amounts to 24 kg/annum).

• Net exporter: 63% of the catches is exported.
# Fleet Structure 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fleet</th>
<th>Licenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small scale fishing boats</td>
<td>21616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artisanal vessels</td>
<td>691 dhow(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal vessels</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial vessels</td>
<td>8 Long liner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abalone divers</td>
<td>3155 divers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>commercial: 1; Integrated: 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sectors Landing Structures (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Production (mt)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artisanal</td>
<td>207825</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>2618</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>0.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>211315</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Structure of the catches in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fishery</th>
<th>Quantity (mt)</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large pelagic</td>
<td>49066</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demersal</td>
<td>54525</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Pelagic</td>
<td>89459</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharks &amp; rays</td>
<td>7502</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crustaceans</td>
<td>9189</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1574</td>
<td>0.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>211315</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supply Chain of Fisheries Sector in Oman

Fishermen → Landing sites/Fish Byers → Wholesalers/Fresh → Wholesalers/Freezing and storage

Retailers → Restaurants/Hotels

Export → Consumers

Export as Fresh → Processing → Drying/cattle
Most Common Small Scale Fishing Crafts in Oman

Fiber Glass Boats

Artisanal Vessels (Dhows)
Small Scale Fiber glass boats in Oman

- Operated exclusively by national Small-scale fishermen,
- Well integrated in socio-economic tissue of the country,
- Motorized boats (5-9m), with outboard engines (2 x 75hp)
- Inshore fishing activities (within 6 NM with few hours fishing trips,
- Traditional passive fishing gears (longlines, traps, nets, …)
- Distributed landing sites along the coast (158 landing sites),
- Value added and trade through Processing industries,
- Contribution of women in post harvesting activities,
Small Scale Fishing Vessels in Oman

- Contribution of legal expatriates labor force,
- Wooden or fiber glass vessels (10-32m) with inboard engines (120-400hp),
- Operated beyond 7 Nm and using passive fishing gears,
- Fishing trips from 1 to 10 days,
- Operated from ports or landing sites,
- Supply national markets and export,
- Local developed module through the years,
### Licenses in small scale fisheries (2010-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fishing License</th>
<th>Boat License</th>
<th>Vessels License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>45635</td>
<td>21616</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>44521</td>
<td>20630</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>42553</td>
<td>19245</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>40161</td>
<td>18027</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36320</td>
<td>18031</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Landing of Small Scale Fisheries (2010-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Landing (MT)</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>207825</td>
<td>10.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>203454</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>188817</td>
<td>24.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>151490</td>
<td>7.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>146964</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Socio-economic importance of Small Scale Fisheries in Oman

Social:

- Important segment of direct employment (more than 40,000 people) and indirect job opportunities,
- Contributes to fish consumption and national food security,
- Important source of protein consumption,
- Women participation in post harvest process,

Economic:

- Contributes by 98% of the Sultanate’s total landings,
- Main Contributor to coastal communities income,
- Contributes in the national GDP by 0.5%,
Management Approach of SSF in Oman

➢ The existence of traditional management scheme within the coastal communities (Sunat Al Bahar – a consultative body to the authorities in charge of fisheries management),

➢ Local and regional representations of the Ministry to implement the development and management programs,

➢ Existence of specialized management structure in the Ministry,

➢ Fisheries management and resource sustainability one of the major axes of the eighth five year plan (2011-2015) and a key point in the sector strategy (2020),
- Adoption of a participatory approach for all the management initiatives in the fisheries sector,

- The government has adopted the main international conventions, agreements, codes and others in relation with fisheries sector,

- The Ministry has developed a national plan of action combatting IUU fishing activities,

- A national plan of action of sharks conservation is under preparation,

- Active member in All international and regional RFMOS in relation with the fisheries sector,

- Active involvement and contribution in all international initiatives such as resource sustainability, blue growth, and other environment and ecosystem actions.
Management Actions of SSF in Oman

- Adoption of the system of management consisting of input controls,
- Strengthening the data collection and scientific survey to evaluate the status of the resources and improve the knowledge about the situation of these resources,
- Ban of trawling activities in 2011,
- Ban of Monofilament gill nets (Fishing low),
- Establishment of a licensing system for fishing boats and vessels,
- Establishment and strengthening of national and regional fisheries research institutes,
- Establishment of seasonal closures for specific fisheries on the basis of confirmed scientific information,
- Establishment of closed areas to promote recourse rehabilitation,
- Regulations of minimum legal size for specific resources,
- Protection of sensitive period of the resources life cycles; spawning – recruitment,
- Regulation of specific fishing gear parameters,
- Regulation of fishing activities through a zoning system for each fleet category,
- First Regional initiative to manage shared resources (GCC/Spanish mackerel),
- Promotion of artificial reefs in certain areas to enhance fish stocks, protect the habitats and the biodiversity,
- Promote Aquaculture projects,
The strengths and opportunities for implementing SSF Guidelines

Strengths:

- Small Scale Fisheries is the main contributor in both landing and GDP,
- SSF is operated through fishermen communities,
- Contribution of fishermen local organizations (Sunat Al Bahar) in consultative approach for fisheries management,
- Providing supports and funds for the projects related to women involvement in post-harvest process,
- Adoption of precautionary approach in fisheries management.
Opportunities:

- Existence of a strong political will for fisheries sector (management and sustainability),
- Involvement of private sector,
- Support of national institution,
- Well developed infrastructure through the country,
- High involvement of the population in marine related activities,
- High demand on fish and fish products from surrounding countries.
The constraints to implement SSF Guidelines

Ø Omani youth are inclined towards the occupation of fixed income job opportunities,

Ø Low investment in small scale fishing sector generates a rapid increase in the fishing capacities,

Ø Scattered landing sites without any formal marketing system (markets, stores, ....),

Ø Shortage of human resources to cover the monitoring of fisheries activities,
Development plans

1- Eighth Five Year Plan (2011-2015) Under Implementation:

- Improve socio-economic contribution of fisheries to the GDP;
- Complete execution of the infrastructure program and ensure maintenance of the existing infrastructure;
- Improve fisheries management techniques to achieve resources sustainability.
- Develop Fisheries research to contribute effectively in fisheries management and development.

2- Ninth Five Year Plan (2015-2020) Under Implementation
LET’S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE FOR THE COMING GENERATIONS