



AFSSRN BULLETIN

Bi-annual Newsletter of the Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network
Asian Fisheries Society
Issue 5 January to June 2024

2024 AFSSRN Webinar Series



Three webinars will be conducted in the months of July, August and September 2024 on the theme, **"Narrowing the social science and fishery technology divide."** The first will be on 31 July 2024 at 10:30am–11:30am (India time), and will feature Dr. Ananthan, P.S, Professor/Principal Scientist at ICAR-CIFE, on the topic, "Governing Inland Fisheries: The Indian Story. His talk will cover how inland fisheries/resources are governed, drawing insights from Indian context. Governance-related challenges and ways to mainstream social sciences in fisheries development will likewise be tackled.

**A warm welcome
to the new
AFSSRN members**

Victoria Syddall (New Zealand)
Cherry Favor (Philippines)
Cynthia Yee Man (Singapore)
Budy Wiryana (Indonesia)

RESEARCH FEATURE: INDONESIA

Small scale tuna fisheries profiles in the Indonesia archipelagic waters

UMI MUA'WANAH, Head of Research Center for Economics of Industry, Services and Trade, Indonesia (Co-authors: Freshty Yulia Arthatiani, Permana Arie Soejarwo, Yesy Dewita Sari, Armen Zulham, Sonny Koeshenderajana, Hikmah)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356272184_Small_scale_tuna_fisheries_profiles_in_the_Indonesia_archipelagic_waters

Indonesia is one of the world's largest tuna producers, contributing 16% to world tuna production. The dominant tuna species caught in Indonesia are Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*), Madidihang/Yellowfin Tuna (*T. albacares*), Big Eye Tuna (*T. obesus*), and Southern Bluefin Tuna (*T. maccoyii*). Currently, the government of Indonesia is developing the harvest strategy for skipjack and yellowfin tuna in the inter-pelagic waters of Indonesia. Developing a harvest strategy is considered an essential step toward ensuring the sustainability of Indonesia's tuna stocks. Developing methods to incorporate social and economic considerations into this harvest strategy is an important piece of the national and regional tuna fisheries management puzzle. Specifically, incorporating social and economic considerations into fisheries planning can assist in identifying realistic and implementable strategies, forecasting the likely impacts of resource allocation decisions, and identifying clear objectives that management can be assessed against over the long term. The tuna fisheries have contributed significant jobs and livelihoods to the coastal communities. Profit and revenue sharing is a common remuneration system in tuna fisheries throughout Indonesia. However, these fishers are vulnerable, given their economic and welfare conditions and usually limited options for another livelihood. Small fishers have limited access to livelihoods, access to finance, and access to skills or fishing technology. Small-scale tuna fishing business profits can be improved through a partnership strategy and an agreed-upon profit-sharing scheme. The government had issued a policy written in Law No. 16 / 1964 regarding the fishery sharing system to create order and regulations in implementing profit sharing and to protect low-income fishermen from those with high (strong) incomes. However, the law that should provide protection has not been optimal yet. Therefore, the inclusion of socio-economic performance or indicators into the management of tuna fisheries (Harvest Strategy) is crucial in Indonesia.

RESEARCH FEATURE: PHILIPPINES

Well-being of artisanal fishing communities and children's engagement in fisheries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic: a case in Aklan, Philippines

RODELIO F. SUBADE, University of the Philippines Visayas (Co-authors: Ronald J. Maliao, Pepito R. Fernandez) <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-023-01716-9>

This study describes the multifaceted effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the socio-economic and psychosocial well-being of artisanal fishing communities in Central Philippines. Child labor and their education were explored. Four hundred artisanal fishing households, with 792 children from 10 coastal municipalities in Aklan province were surveyed in May–December 2020 through face-to-face household interviews. COVID-19 pandemic worsened poverty due severe disruptions in fishing and marine tourism-related livelihoods. Economic impoverishment was more pronounced in 41% of households with more than five family members. Furthermore, 57% households believed that learning difficulty increased by 81% due to the blended online education modality. Child labor intensified, and children stopped schooling. A significant decline in happiness index pre-COVID was observed indicating extreme socio-economic challenges. However, interpersonal relations in most households improved, underscoring women's stabilizing and nurturing role. This signifies that cooperative and nurturing actor relationships can be generated in a crisis. Policies that mainstreamed local communities' reproductive health, family planning, and programs that diversify socioeconomic, environmental, and technological assets must be promoted. The goal is to holistically improve human well-being by increasing or sustaining stocks of these assets to promote resilience and sustainability amidst crisis and complexity

RESEARCH FEATURE: MALAYSIA

Decolonizing Sea Turtle Conservation

JARINA MOHD JANI, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (Co-authors: Kartik Shanker, Michelle Maria, Michelle Maria Early Capistran, Jose Urteaga, Hector Barrios-Garrido, Bryan Wallace) <https://www.seaturtlestatus.org/articles/decolonizing-sea-turtle-conservation>

Sea turtles embody all that is wise and wonderful about nature. Many of us believe that through their migrations and complex life cycles, sea turtles connect biomes, hemispheres, countries, and cultures. They pick up nutrients, transport them from marine to terrestrial realms, deposit them, and vice versa. Moreover, they connect us, the community of professional researchers; conservationists; and countless volunteer beach-walkers, crowd-talkers, and enthusiasts. So it shouldn't be surprising that we—the global sea turtle community—sometimes behave like our shelled muses. Many of us also migrate—from the places we call home to places where we work, sometimes back again, and sometimes elsewhere. We follow the turtles, connecting our homes with theirs. But as it turns out, not all migrations are benign (see "The Migrations of Sea Turtle People" maps below). In truth, the broader patterns of migration within the sea turtle community reflect imbalances of resources, power, and agency, plus the conservation values and practices that are deeply rooted in neocolonialism as a global phenomenon. Decolonization has become a term du jour, reflecting a wave of sentiment that we need to right the wrongs of centuries of the Global North dominating the fate of the Global South. Unfortunately for us, sea turtle conservation is no exception. As researchers and resources have moved around the world, they have done so not in symmetrical patterns, following seasons or ocean conditions like turtles, but instead they have moved along a landscape that is shaped and skewed by neocolonialist structures and practices. As a result, those movements have abetted structures and hierarchies that are inimical to our notions of a fair and equitable society.

FEATURED LEAD RESEARCHERS/AUTHORS

UMI MUA'WANAH, PhD



Awarded P.hD from Connecticut University in USA. A senior researcher; currently Head of the Research Centre for Economics of Industry, Services, and Trade. She has various global research network on tuna fisheries.

RODELIO F. SUBADE, PhD



UP Scientist 3 distinction (2014-2022), Professor 12 in Economics, and Dean, Graduate School, University of the Philippines Visayas. A 2019 recipient, Macli-ing Dulag award for his outstanding research in environmental economics.

JARINA MOHD JANI, PhD



Faculty, Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. A member of the Biodiversity Conservation and Management Programme, her work focuses on the interaction between nature and society

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFSSRN General
Membership Assembly
November 2024

14th AFAF
February 2025
India