



Consortio
TICCA

Manifesto
III Congress of Small Scale Artisanal Fisherfolks:
Intertwining Life, Knowledge, and Culture
September 26-29, 2023, Cahuita
Costa Rica

We, artisanal small-scale fisherfolks and mollusk gatherers, present at the III CONGRESS OF SMALL-SCALE ARTISANAL FISHERFOLKS: INTERTWINING LIFE, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE from Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

Aware of the importance of our work for the sustainable development of our coasts and seas and of the inescapable commitments of our countries before the world, especially SDG 14, the GBF and a path full of important meetings towards the III United National Ocean Congress led by the governments of Costa Rica and France.

Present the following manifesto to our authorities, in the hope that progress will be made in the recognition of the small-scale artisanal fishing sector within the framework of justice and equity as demanded in the various agreements signed by our governments.

Considering:

That small-scale artisanal fishing is more than just catching fish, it is a way of life that allows indigenous, tribal, afro-descendant and local communities to live and work in a dignified way for their daily sustenance, a living culture that makes us happy.

That fishing allows us in our communities to return to the beautiful simplicity of our ancestors.

That we need to be allowed to resume our customs and maintain our identity as fishing peoples conscious of their positive relationship with the sea and its resources.

That united we are the strength to preserve our culture, the right to access to the sea and the land in our territories.

That we must exercise our right to health, to the conservation of our marine territories and to follow up and conserve the essence and fishing identity of our ancestors.

That our contribution to the conservation of the sea and its resources is extremely important at a time when threats to the conservation of marine resources are imminent due to climate change, and the excessive development resulting from the blue economy such as mass tourism, pollution, and industries.

Request:

That national and regional institutions linked to small-scale artisanal fishing, as well as international organizations interested in supporting conservation with people of the sea, take into account the real needs and interests of fishermen, mollusk gatherers, women and young people involved in this activity.

That we must be participants and protagonists in all policies and decisions for the sector that affect us and be present in the decision-making spaces. "Nothing about us without us".

Respect for the traditional use and knowledge related to indigenous peoples and the use of coastal marine resources that are important for the culture and development.

To develop programs and projects that respond to the real and felt needs of the small-scale artisanal fishing populations, considering their diversities and contexts.

That programs be developed for elderly fishermen who reach an advanced age without a pension or social security.

To consider small-scale artisanal fishing as a decent and dignified job and not to have other alternative activities imposed on us that are not linked to what we know how to do, which is to fish and make sustainable use of fishery resources.

We demand greater support from the institutional framework of our countries in our marine territories.

That there is political will to implement the sector's ideas and law proposals.

Specifically, for Costa Rica, fishermen and fisherwomen from the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, from 24 communities of the country, request:

A Ministry of fishing (INCOPESCA) that is present and more involved, that recognizes the true importance of a shared model of our marine territories and the co-management of our fisheries. In this sense, we support our Afro-Costa Rican brothers and sisters in the defense of Cahuita and its National Park, which today suffers from vulnerability in the face of a state that does not recognize the rights of its people to the shared management of their territory.

A State and their social institutions, (for example Ministry of Health) economic (SENASA), and environmental institutions linked to small scale artisanal fishing, that complies with its responsibilities towards us and that reviews and updates, together with our organizations, the fishing management plans for the Marine responsible fishing areas and follows up on them.

A Ministry of fishing (INCOPESCA) that fights and works with us, in the search for a human rights approach to the conservation of the sea and its fishery resources, and that supports our proposals for fairer, more inclusive and equitable public policies.

A Ministry of fishing (INCOPESCA) that is clear of the need to provide the conditions for us to exercise our right to fish and access to the sea, as local communities, indigenous peoples, or Afro-descendant communities that deserve a humane and dignified treatment to develop our lives.

A Ministry of fishing, (INCOPESCA) that accompanies us and helps us contact organizations such as INDER that develops projects that can support us, as fisherfolks, with resources and equipment for our work.

Costa Rica must recognize the traditional use of our indigenous peoples to the resources of the sea and coasts, specifically to say YES, to the traditional uses of Brunca's people in the Ballena Marine National Park.

Urgently attend to the requests of small-scale artisanal fishing organizations regarding their projects and alternatives to improve the quality of life of these communities, such as the ecotourism project proposed by El Jobo Fishermen's Association, the gathering center projects of the different communities and the recognition of Cahuita Marine Responsible Fishing Area.

Cahuita, September 29, 2023.

