COMMUNITY CATCH

Guidance for Self-Assessment

Section 3: Community Development Opportunity

Table of content

Section 3: Community Development Opportunity

Access to Resources

Sub-section: 3.1 Fishing rights

3.1.1 Reporting on fishing rights, protections, and access for all groups.

Sub-section: 3.2 Trade related benefits

3.2.1 Reporting on trade benefits and equitable distribution within the group.

Sub-section: 3.3 Financial services

3.3.1 Reporting on financial service availability and access for all members.

Introduction

This is a living document.

Some content in this document is presented in a yellow box to indicate normative language taken directly from the Community Catch Standard, including definitions and clarifications.
Text presented in a blue box represents additional guidance that is illustrative or discretionary, such as examples, further explanation, or types of acceptable evidence.

Section 3 of the Community Catch Standard focuses on identifying and supporting opportunities for social and economic development within fishing communities. It recognizes that access to resources, trade, and financial services are essential for the long-term viability of small-scale fisheries. The section encourages Fishery Clients to document current conditions, highlight areas where improvements are needed, and describe any actions taken to promote inclusive participation and equitable benefit-sharing. This section serves as a baseline for understanding existing opportunities and barriers and supports efforts to strengthen community well-being and resilience.

Section 3: Community Development Opportunity

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that the term “Community” applies to Fisher Group and their extended community (family, community-based supply chain actors, suppliers, etc.)

Access to Resources

Sub-section: 3.1 Fishing rights

Guidance: Fishing rights, in general, are a permission that a governing or licensing body gives to a fisher for that fisher to catch fish or another aquatic product. This may take the form of a licence or a quota. Structural barriers may be policies, regulations or practices that prevent fishers, or parts of the fishing community from accessing resources, opportunities, or services. Barriers may favour certain demographics while marginalizing others.

3.1.1 Reporting on fishing rights, protections, and access for all groups.

Guidance: To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client shall identify the existing situation and provide additional information as available.

The Fishery Client shall report on fishing rights held by the Fisher Group and any legal or other protection of such rights. Reporting should include any specific distribution of rights to women, vulnerable and marginalized groups and indigenous peoples or structural barriers that prevent access to rights for fishers in general or specific groups in particular.

Question: 3.1.1.1 What types of fishing rights are held by the Fisher Group? (Select all that apply)

☐ Individually-allocated fishing rights

Guidance: Most common types are Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) allocate shares to individuals or individual entities and allow shares to be transferred. Individual Quotas (IQs) allocate shares to individuals or individual entities and do not allow shares to be transferred. Individual Vessel Quotas (IVQs) allocate shares to individual vessels. The share may or may not be transferable.
See EDF for more information: https://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/build-knowledge/sustainable-fisheries/individually-allocated-fishing-rights

☐ Territorial Use Rights for Fishing

Guidance: See EDF for more information on TURFs: https://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/build-knowledge/sustainable-fisheries/territorial-use-rights-fishing-turf-programs

☐ Cooperative Fishing Rights

Guidance: See EDF for more information on Cooperative Fishing Rights: https://fisherysolutionscenter.edf.org/build-knowledge/sustainable-fisheries/cooperative-fishing-rights

☐ Government-issued permits/licenses
☐ Customary rights
☐ No formal fishing rights

Question: 3.1.1.2 Are there any legal or other protection of such rights? (Select all that apply based on answer from 3.1.1.1)

☐ Yes - protected by law

Guidance: This can be national or internal laws.

☐ Yes - protected by local or customary law

Guidance: This can be formal or informal customary laws.

☐ No - but efforts are underway
☐ No legal protection at all
☐ Not known

Question: 3.1.1.3 Are fishing rights distributed equally within the Fisher Group?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: Please explain why fishing rights are not distributed equally.

Question: 3.1.1.4 Are fishing rights withheld from any of these groups?

☐ Women
☐ Vulnerable and marginalized groups Indigenous peoples
☐ Rights are not withheld from any groups

Question: 3.1.1.5 Are there barriers that prevent access to rights for fishers in general or specific groups in particular?

☐ Legal barriers
☐ Cultural or traditional barriers
☐ Economic barriers
☐ No barriers

Sub-section: 3.2 Trade related benefits

Guidance: To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client shall identify the existing situation and provide additional information as available.

3.2.1 Reporting on trade benefits and equitable distribution within the group.

The Fishery Client shall report on opportunities and benefits from trade in fishery products within the Fisher Group. Reporting shall include how far these are appropriately and equitably distributed, including for women, vulnerable and marginalized groups and indigenous peoples.

Guidance: The Community Catch Standard explains that fair and equitable distribution of benefits refers to the measures taken to ensure that the benefits arising from the utilisation of natural resources, biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, as well as the subsequent applications and commercialization, are shared in a fair and equitable way among all those organizations or communities identified as having contributed to resource management, research and development, and/or commercialisation.

Question: 3.2.1.1 Do fishers in the Fisher Group have access (directly or indirectly) to: (Select all that apply)

☐ Local markets
☐ National markets distant from fishing ports
☐ International markets

Question: 3.2.1.2 How do fishers in the Fisher Group sell their catch? (Select all that apply)

☐ At auction
☐ To a trader/middleman
☐ Direct to processor/exporter
☐ Direct to retailer/restaurant, etc.
☐ Direct to consumer

Question: 3.2.1.3 Do all fishers within the Fisher Group have the same opportunity to sell their catch at the same prices?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Question: Please explain why some fishers don't they have the same opportunities.

Question: **3.2.1.4 Are opportunities to sell catch withheld from any of these groups?**

☐ Women
☐ Vulnerable and marginalized groups
☐ Indigenous peoples
☐ Opportunities are not withheld from any of these groups

Sub-section: 3.3 Financial services

Guidance: Financial services are banks and other financial companies that offer loans, insurance and other associated services.
To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client shall identify the existing situation and provide additional information as available.

3.3.1 Reporting on financial service availability and access for all members.

The Fishery Client shall report on the availability of financial services to Fisher Group members. Where necessary, information and/or access is facilitated to financial services, including access for women, other vulnerable and marginalized group and indigenous peoples.

Question: **3.3.1.1 What types of financial services are available to the Fisher Group members? (Select all that apply)**

☐ Access to credit and loans

Guidance: This can include: microfinance loans, government-subsidised loans, bank loans, cooperative/community-based loans, informal loans from family, friends, local lender, etc.

☐ Access to financial planning assistance
☐ Access to grants

Guidance: This can include: government grants, aid, NGO or donor-funded grants

☐ Access to alternative sources of finance
☐ Limited access to financial services

Question: **3.3.1.2 Is access to financial services facilitated for any of these groups?**

☐ Women
☐ Vulnerable and marginalized groups Indigenous peoples
☐ Access in not facilitated to any of these groups