

Comparative and historical study of international guideline and policy documents of Japan relevant to **Gender Equality** in fisheries

Hana Matsubara¹⁾ and Mitsutaku Makino²⁾

1) Ph.D. candidate, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences,
University of Tokyo, Japan

2) Professor, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute,
University of Tokyo, Japan

Gender in small-scale fisheries



Gender can define;

(General)

- Responsibilities
- Behaviors

(Fisheries)

- Way of resource use
- Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity

Gender aspects should be considered in fisheries policies and research

Gender in Fisheries and Policies of Japan

- **Gendered division of labor** in coastal fisheries

(e.g.) Men: Capture fisheries on the sea

Women: Financing, Processing, Marketing on the land
Fishing and diving in intertidal zones

- **Women's groups** in FCAs

(Fisheries Cooperative Associations)

- 545 groups / 26,301 members (2021)
- Diverse activities



Gender in Fisheries and Policies of Japan

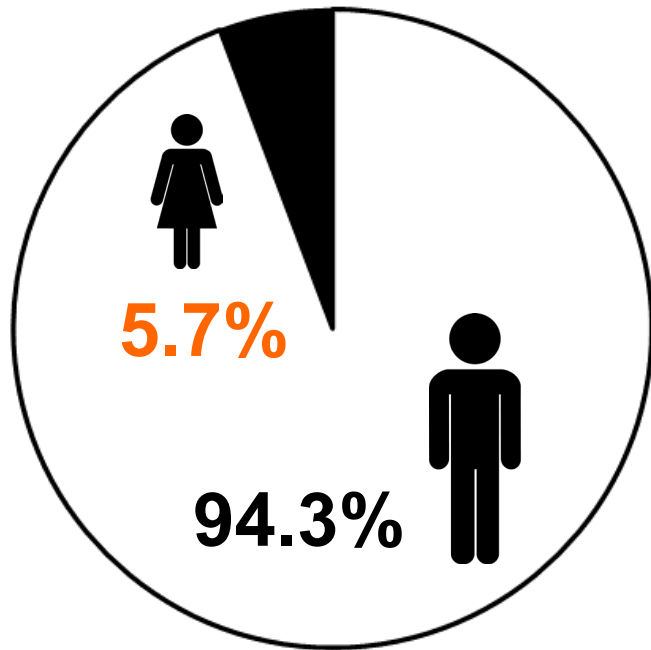


 Hana Matsubara, Ibaraki, Japan

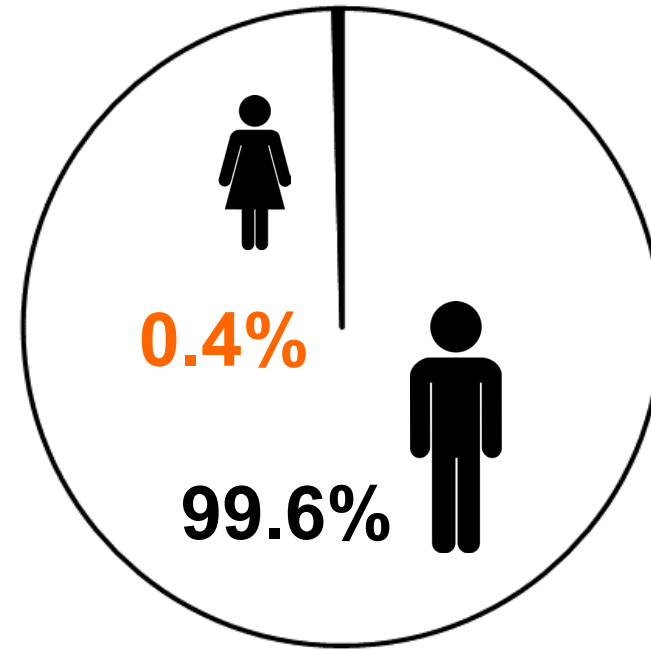
Gender in Fisheries and Policies of Japan

Gender gap in decision-making bodies

(Statistic Table of Fisheries Cooperatives (the Fisheries Agency) 2019)



Gender gap in members of FCAs



Gender gap in board member of FCAs

➔ “one-member in the FCAs per household” practice

Objective

- (1) To identify a feature of **fisheries policy documents of Japan** through **gender lens**
- (2) To provide insights to **promote gender equality** in fisheries policies of Japan



Methods

- (1) Comparison between gender aspects of **international guideline** and **fisheries policy documents of Japan**

Voluntary Guidelines for
Securing Sustainable
Small-Scale Fisheries
(FAO, 2015)

Fisheries Basic Act (2001)

Basic Plan for Fisheries
(2002 – 2022)

- (2) Historical change in **fisheries policy documents of Japan**

Basic Plan for Fisheries
(2002 – 2022)

White paper on Fisheries
(2000s, 2010s, 2020s)

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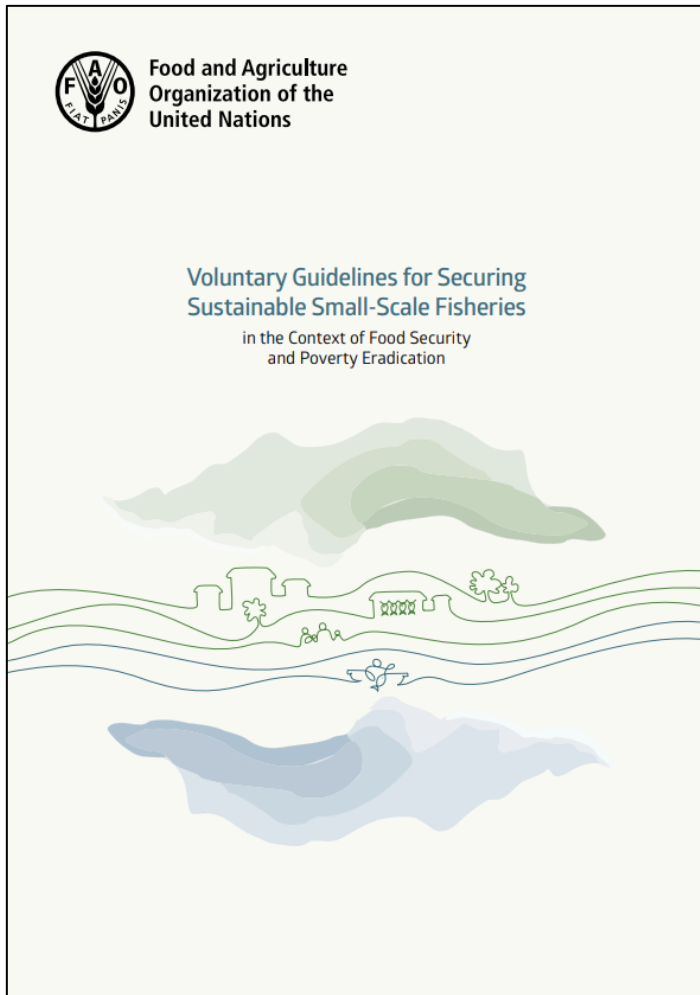
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(1) Comparison: international guideline and policy documents of Japan



Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO, 2015)

Guiding principles

4. Gender equality and equity

- Fundamental to any development
- Vital role of women, equal rights, and opportunities in SSF

(1) Comparison: international guideline and policy documents of Japan

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (FAO, 2015)

Gender mainstreaming

- Women's equal participation in **decision-making** for policies
- Male and female **extension officers**
- Better **technologies** for women in SSF
- Gender sensitive; policies and laws, indicators, statistics

 **Wide range of approaches to gender mainstreaming**

(1) Comparison: international guideline and policy documents of Japan

Fisheries Basic Act (2001)

[Article 28] Promotion of Women's Participation in Fisheries

The State shall, in view of an **importance of men and women** secure opportunities to participate in all activities **as equal members** of the society, **assess women's role in fisheries fairly** and **promote improvement of environment for women** to secure opportunities to participate in fisheries and relevant activities voluntarily.

(1) Comparison: international guideline and policy documents of Japan



Basic Plan for Fisheries (2002 – 2022)

Promotion of Women's Participation in Fisheries

- Women's participation to **decision-making** bodies (e.g.) Fisheries Cooperative Associations (FCAs)
- Women's empowerment in **economic activities** (e.g.) Processing, marketing

 **Focusing more on women's empowerment**

(1) Comparison: international guideline and policy documents of Japan

SSF Guideline (FAO)	Fisheries Basic Act & Basic Plan for Fisheries of Japan
<p>Wide range of approach to Gender Mainstreaming</p> <p>(e.g.) Gender sensitive; policies and laws, indicators, statistics</p> 	<p>Focusing on women's empowerment</p> 

Fisheries policy documents tend to narrow the concept of gender to a focus on women (Lawless et al. 2021)

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(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The First Basic Plan for Fisheries (2002)

Promotion of women's participation

in view of an importance of men and women secure opportunities to participate in all activities as equal members of the society, **women's role in fisheries should be assessed fairly with clarifying role-sharing**. Improvement of environment should be promoted for women to secure opportunities to participate in fisheries and relevant activities voluntarily, such as **setting targets for women's participation in FCAs** or providing necessary information to participate to fisheries-related activities.



Women's role was assessed within existing gender-based role sharing

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The Second Basic Plan for Fisheries (2007)

Promotion of women's and **elder's** participation

Training and information on entrepreneurship, management, and production activities to improve the environment should be provided to ensure opportunities for women to participate in the fisheries. The target for **female officers in the board of FCAs** will be set and awareness will be provided. The role of the **elderly** in the local fisheries will be clarified and fisheries-related activities that utilize the skills and abilities of the elderly will be promoted based on this clarification.

 **Section for women and elders were combined**
Recruitment of female officers in the board of FCAs

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The Third Basic Plan for Fisheries (2012)

Promotion of women's participation

In order to achieve the government's goals for gender equality, **voluntary goals** for the appointment of female officers in fishery cooperative system organizations will be set, and efforts such as dissemination and awareness-raising to achieve these goals will be promoted. In addition, the activities of women who play a central role in the **processing and marketing** of fish catches and in various activities in fishing communities will be promoted.

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- **“Setting target (2007)” → “Setting voluntary goal (2012)”**
 - **Raising processing and marketing specifically as women's central role**

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The Fourth Basic Plan for Fisheries (2017)

Promotion of women's participation

In order to achieve the government's Fourth Basic Plan for Gender Equality, the government will set voluntary goals for the promotion of female officers in fishery cooperative organizations and promote efforts such as dissemination and awareness-raising to achieve these goals. In the fisheries industry, women have traditionally been active in processing and other fields. In the future, we will continue to **promote a wide variety of activities in which women can demonstrate their abilities** while making the most of their characteristics, such as product development that responds to consumer needs, to further expand opportunities for women to play an active role.

 **Promotion of a wide variety of women's activities**

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The Fifth Basic Plan for Fisheries (2022)

Promotion of women's participation (1/2)

In order to revitalize fishing communities, women should be able to play an ever more active role as community leaders. To this end, with regard to the **participation of women in the management of FCAs**, efforts to promote the **appointment of female officers** should be encouraged. In addition, an environment that facilitates women's activities should be developed through cooperation with businesses and promotion of local activities, and practical efforts should be promoted, such as **entrepreneurial efforts by women's groups**, improvement of management skills, and development and marketing of processed products.

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

The Fifth Basic Plan for Fisheries (2022)

Promotion of women's participation (2/2)

In addition, to **cultivate diverse human resources** to play an active role in supporting the local fisheries industry **regardless of age, gender, or nationality**, the development of safe and comfortable working and living environments will be promoted in fishing ports and fishing villages. Furthermore, in cooperation with relevant departments and ministries, we will collect and horizontally deploy good examples of cooperation in water and fisheries.

 **Diversity and inclusion**



(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

Basic Plan for Fisheries				
2002	2007	2012	2017	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Women's role was assessed based on existing gender-based role sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Section for women and elders were combinedRecruiting female officers in the board of FCAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">"Setting voluntary goal"Raising processing and marketing as specifically as women's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promotion of a wide variety of women's activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diversity and inclusion

- Continuous inclusion of the **section for promotion of women's participation**

(2) Historical change on policy documents of Japan

White Paper on Fisheries of Japan

2000s	2010s	2020s
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of women's role with “clarifying role-sharing”• Women's empowerment for land-based activities (e.g.) Financing, Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importance of women in various positions (e.g.) Financing, Processing, Female fisher, FCA members, FCA board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case studies from “Umi no Takara! Suisan-Joshi Project (Treasure of the sea: Project for Women in Fisheries)” by Fisheries Agency since 2018

- A shift from **“Women in land-based activities”** to **“Women in various activities and positions”**

Results

SSF Guideline (FAO)

- Wide approach to **Gender Mainstreaming**

Japanese Fisheries Policy Documents

- Focused more on **Women's empowerment**
- A shift from “Women in land-based activities” to “Women in various activities and positions”
- Diversity and Inclusion

Discussion & Further research needed

To promote gender equality in fisheries policies...



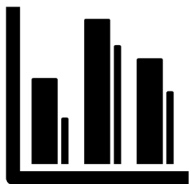
Gender-responsive decision-making system

- Setting targets (e.g., critical mass of women in decision-making)
- FCA has a potential to be inclusive decision-making body?



Breaking away from stereotypical gender roles

- How gender-transformative activities contribute to sustainability?



Gender-sensitive statistical data

- How Fisheries Census can be more gender-sensitive?