



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Guidelines to Enhance Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics through a Household Approach



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Acronyms

AFCAS	African Commission on Agricultural Statistics
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
CWP-AS	Aquaculture Specialized Group
EAA/F	Ecosystem Approach of Aquaculture/Fisheries management
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GIS	Geographic Information System
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
MSF	Master Sampling Frame
ODA	Overseas Development Administration
PPS	probability proportional to size
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
Strategy-STA	Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture
UN	United Nations
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WCA	World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (FAO)

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Executive Summary

Small-scale operators make a fundamental contribution to ensuring local food security, alleviating poverty and providing livelihoods in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. However, it is extremely challenging to monitor their production and thus accurately measure the entity of their contribution. Small-scale and subsistence operators are generally scattered geographically, and engage in fishing and fish-farming activities only partially and/or seasonally as a supplement to other activities (e.g. by fishing and fish-trapping in nearby rivers for a few days each week, or keeping catch in backyard irrigation ponds). In addition, the harvests are often shared, traded and consumed outside the commercial marketing systems on which national statistical data collection is usually based, such that even estimating the overall number of people engaged in fisheries and aquaculture can be a challenging and costly task. As a result, despite its economic and social importance especially for food security and poverty alleviation, the contribution of small-scale capture and aquaculture is poorly represented in national statistics. This may lead to the social and political marginalization of the people and communities that depend on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

These Guidelines on Census Survey Stages describe a method that can be employed to accurately capture the actual contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to rural communities. In principle, the basic structure of these survey stages follows the concepts adopted by the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA), including the modular approach, to enhance utility and reduce implementation costs.

These Guidelines set out a methodology for the collection of data and information on various aspects of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, especially concerning small-scale operators. The methodology is conceived as a questionnaire survey to be implemented within a census framework, i.e. within agricultural, population, or rural censuses, or specialized community and household surveys. Although using a census framework is costly, it was considered the method that could most effectively and comprehensively illustrate the contribution made by small-scale operations. Once this contribution is ascertained, it can be used to adjust regular (annual/monthly) data collection systems, improve sampling schemes and remove duplications. The data obtained with a census framework also provides a benchmark that helps to bolster the data collected through regular surveys into national statistics, for non-census years.

To ensure the highest level of data complementarity, these Guidelines suggest a hierarchy of census-level questions and survey items for both community and household levels. Countries should design their own census surveys, selecting the modules and questions for each specific category that are appropriate to their policy needs and interests and available resources. In this respect, the Guidelines emphasize that categories can be combined as appropriate:

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