

August 2026



Women of Fisheries

Research Highlight Women in the Seafood Industry: Searching for a Seat at the Table

Garlock, T., J. Chu, C. Crandall, J. Dutka-Gianelli, R.B.M. Pincinato, and L. Liu. 2026. Participation and Influence of Women in Global Seafood Systems. *Fish and Fisheries*. 27(5):1166-1175.

Being part of the seafood industry doesn't necessarily mean having a seat at the table. As Taryn Garlock, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at Auburn University, explains, "Women's contributions in fisheries and aquaculture are underrecognized, and when women are invisible in statistics, they are often invisible in management decisions."



Fisherwoman with collapsible crab traps in West Papua, Indonesia
(Photo Credit: Michael DeAlessi)

To learn more about the role women play in the seafood industry, Taryn and her team conducted a study using a global database collected with the Fishery Performance Indicators (FPI) and Aquaculture Performance Indicators (API). Specifically, they looked at four metrics: women participation in the harvest sector such as in a role of crew member or farm worker; women participation in the post-harvest sector such as fish processing or selling; women's influence in business such as ownership and finance; and women's influence in resource management such as policy and research decision-making.



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Fall non-fiction selection

In our Research Highlights blog series, we debut newly published fisheries research by our women of fisheries colleagues.

If you have research you would like to highlight and share with our readers, submit a nomination form [here!](#)



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Contact us anonymously using the [WoF Anonymous Communication Form](#)

Research Highlight

Women in the Seafood Industry: Searching for a Seat at the Table

They found that, regardless of the type of fishing industry, women typically participated more in the post-harvest sector than harvest sector. The aquaculture industry also tended to have higher participation of women than fisheries.

But – and it’s a big but.

Just because women participate in an industry doesn’t necessarily mean they are part of the decision-making process.

Despite women have a higher participation in the aquaculture sector, they actually had less influence in the business aspect than those in the fishing sector.

In fact, only 25% of industries had gender neutral or women-dominated decision-making, suggesting that women tend to occupy entry-level, lower paying, and more labor-intensive positions.

So, even when the door is open so-to-speak, women may still not have a seat at the table.

The reasons for this are varied. For example, Taryn and her team found work-life balance is often a consideration. Inland and nearshore jobs generally had higher participation of women, because they are in closer proximity to their homes and allow women to balance other responsibilities like childcare and household duties.

It’s not a one-size-fits-all situation.

There were exceptions and differences across regions and species, but the overall patterns provide important insights. Being intentional about bringing women to the management table by including them in the processes that establish management goals, identify needs, and develop policies has shown to be successful in some fisheries and may provide a promising path forward. Pointing to previous studies, Taryn and her team note that “women bring diverse perspectives, local knowledge and skills that differ from men, and thus their engagement leads to more effective decision-making, improved collective action, and higher compliance and community-buy in.”



Women sorting live crabs in Mandalay, Myanmar
(Photo Credit: Kevin Fitzsimmons)

[Read the full blog](#)



[Link to the full article](#)

Conference Safety

EVERYONE should have a safe, fun, and productive conference experience, so we've pulled together some tips and tools to help when traveling, socializing, and beyond. This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but we hope these reminders will help.

As we move into the fall and winter conference season, check out our [Conference Safety blog post](#).



This August our community...

Recommended products we use to stay safe from the sun, fish hands, sweat, etc

Here are a few the community shared



Shared events and opportunities



Photo Credit: Mara Duke

Celebrated National Oyster Day with some oyster facts. Did you know...

- A singular oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.
- Oysters provide structure for juvenile game fish as they grow around the reef. They are also home to the smallest crab in the world, the pea crab!
- Oysters promote shoreline stabilization.
- A single oyster can live for up to 20 years.
- Middens, large oyster mounds created by Indigenous Americans, contain oysters dating back to the year 400 BCE.
- Of the 200 species of oysters that exist globally, only 5 are commercially available to consume.

Fishing for Opportunities



Student Opportunities

Position: [MS Fisheries - Lake Sturgeon Movement](#)
Organization: University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Deadline: 09/07/26

Position: [PhD Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation](#)
Organization: Oregon State University
Deadline: 10/04/26

Position: [PhD - Fisheries Ecosystem Modeling](#)
Organization: University of Florida
Deadline: 10/31/26

Job Opportunities

Position: [Geneticist \(Fisheries\)](#)
Organization: US Fish and Wildlife Service
Deadline: 09/11/26

Position: [Postdoctoral Research - Hard Clams](#)
Organization: University of Florida
Deadline: 09/18/26

Position: [Neets Bay Hatchery Manager](#)
Organization: Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
Deadline: open until filled

Position: [Fisheries Tech 1 \(multiple positions\)](#)
Organization: Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Deadline: 09/30/26

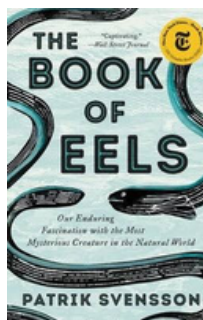
Do you know someone who should be featured in a Fish Sister Profile or Research Highlight?

Nominate them now! Self nominations are also encouraged

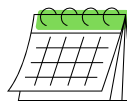
[Nominate Today!](#)



Join the [WoF Book Club!](#)



We're reading
"The Book of Eels"
by Patrik Svensson



Save the Date for
the Discussion
[October 25, 8pm EST](#)

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Click the button below to make a quick one-time or monthly contribution to the Women of Fisheries, Inc. Funds will be used solely to fund our many initiatives for supporting women in fisheries. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so your contribution is tax deductible. Thank you!



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