

# Fiscal reform for low-carbon fisheries

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# Outline

## Why fisheries?

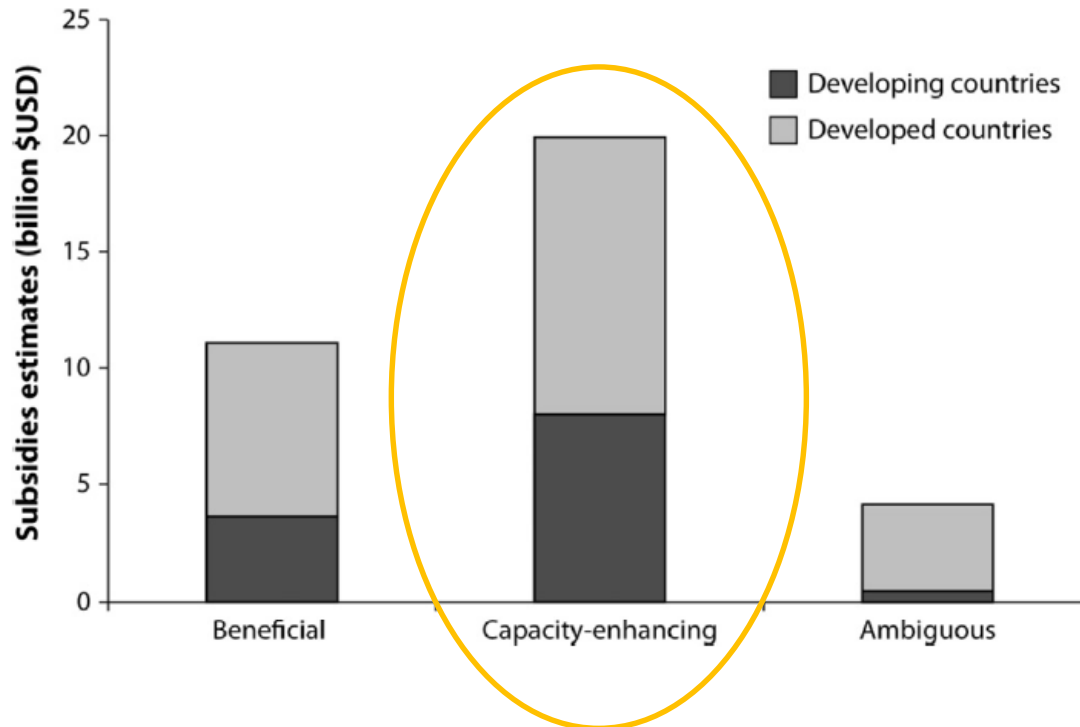
- Overview of fisheries subsidies
- Carbon footprint of fisheries
- Fuel subsidies

## How to...

- Align the fisheries sector with low-carbon development goals

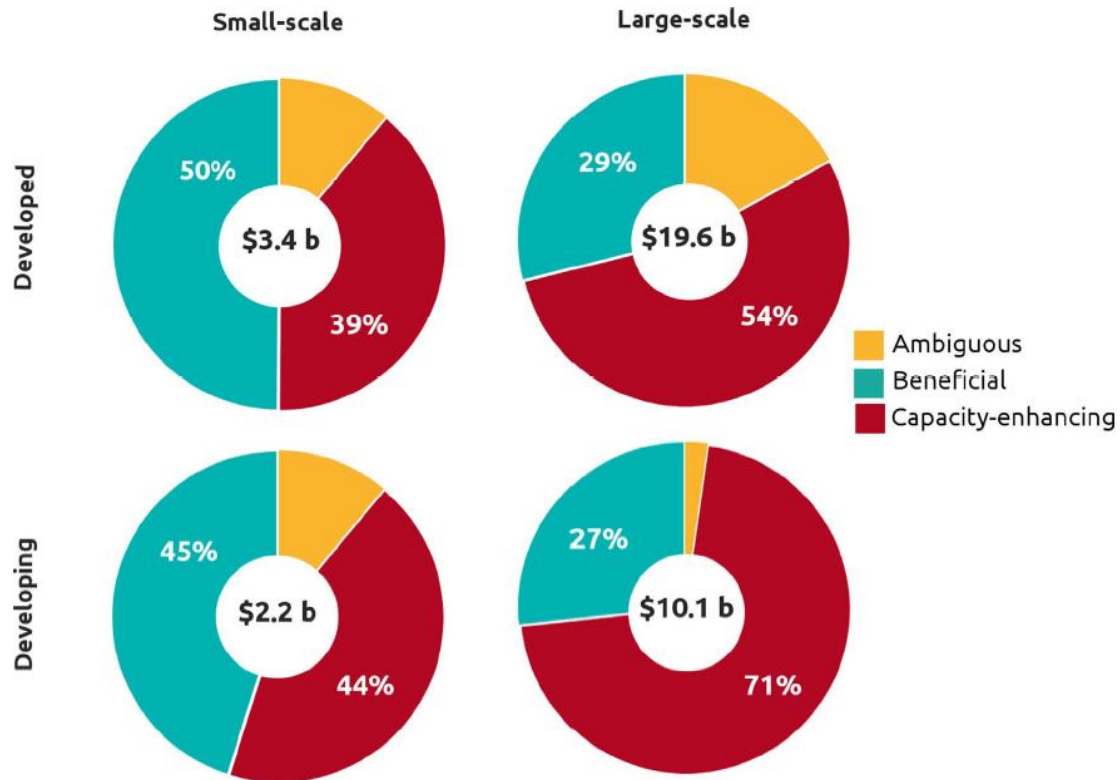
# Fisheries subsidies

Direct or indirect financial transfers from public entities to the fisheries sector.



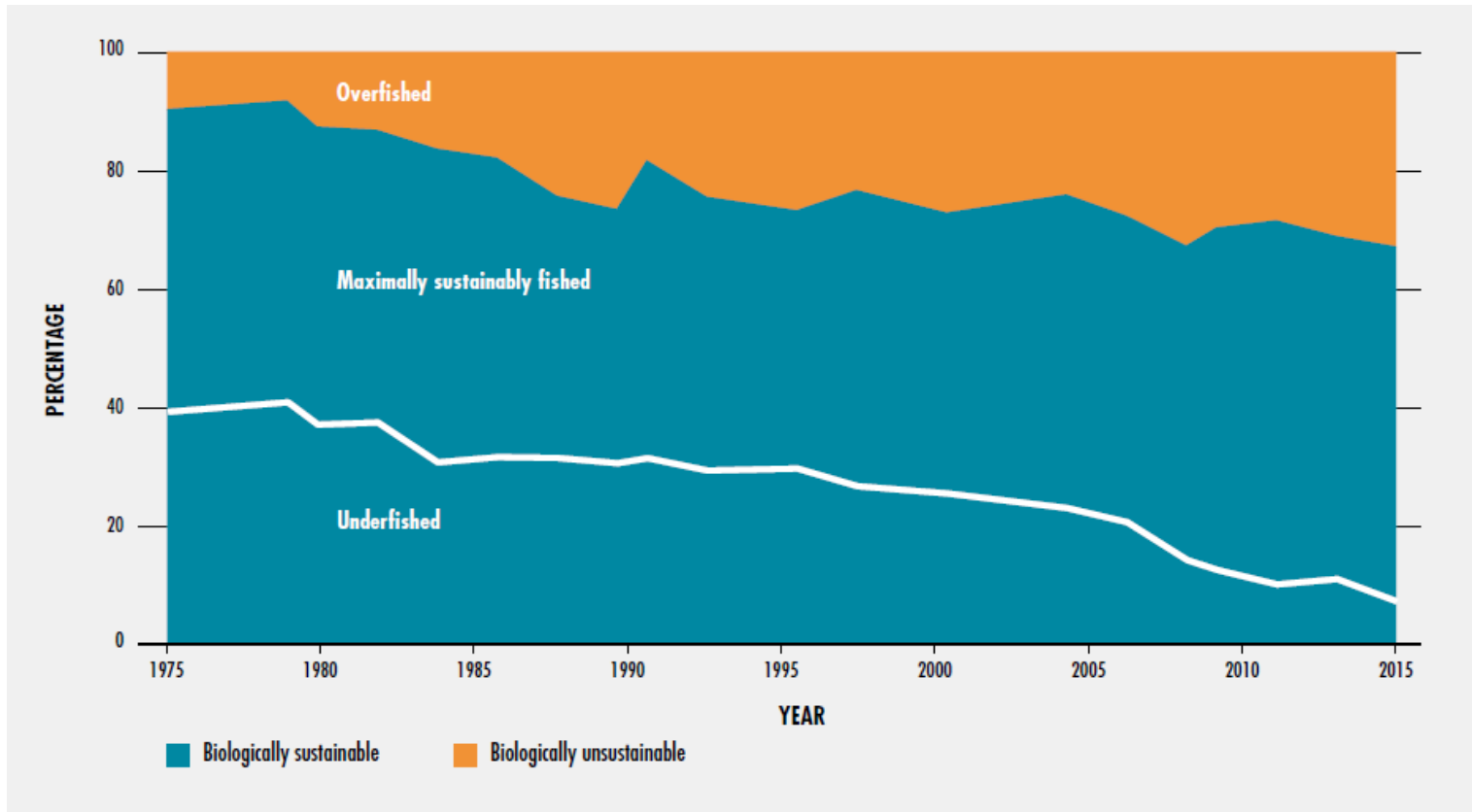
Source: Sumaila et al (2016)  
Marine Policy

# Fisheries subsidies... increase inequality



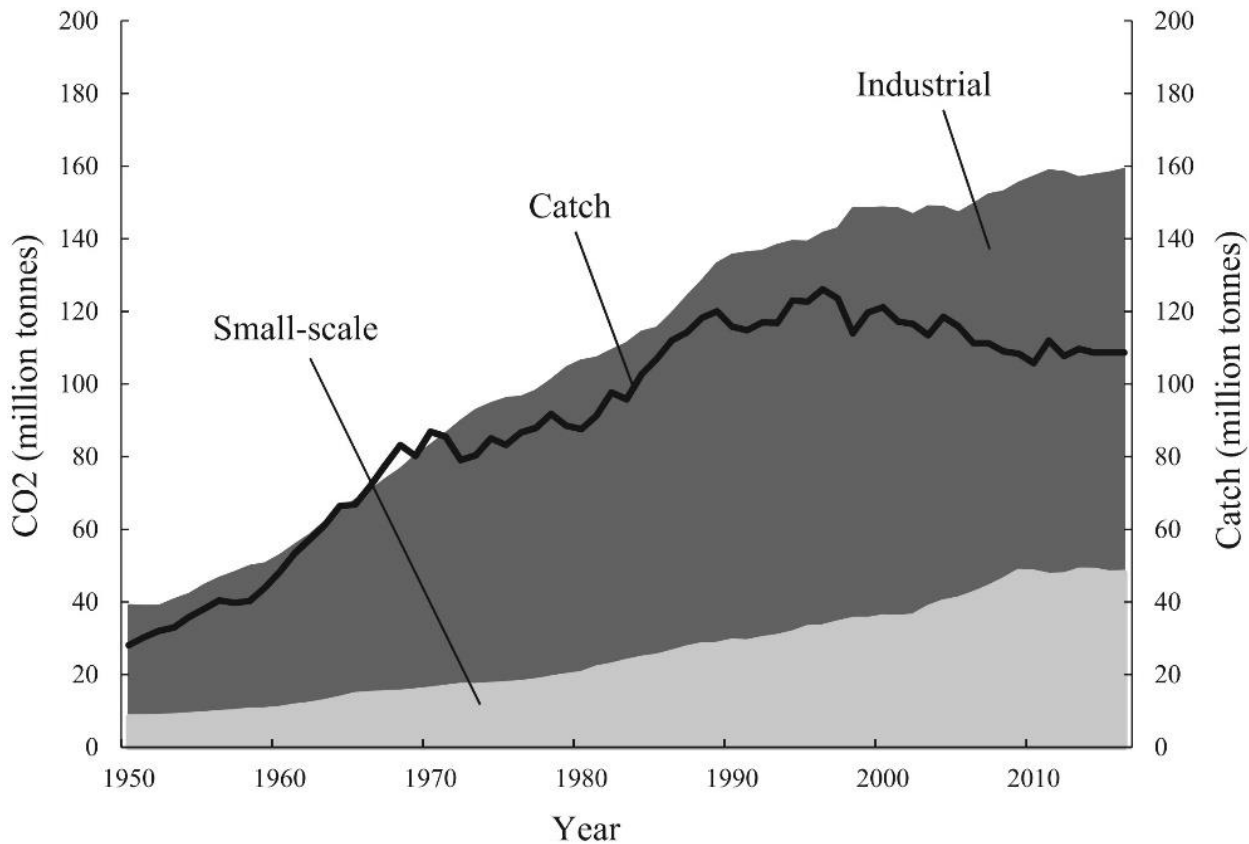
Source: Schuhbauer et al (2017) Marine Policy

# Fisheries subsidies... lead to overfishing



Source: FAO (2018) The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 - Meeting the sustainable development goals

# Fisheries subsidies... increase carbon emissions

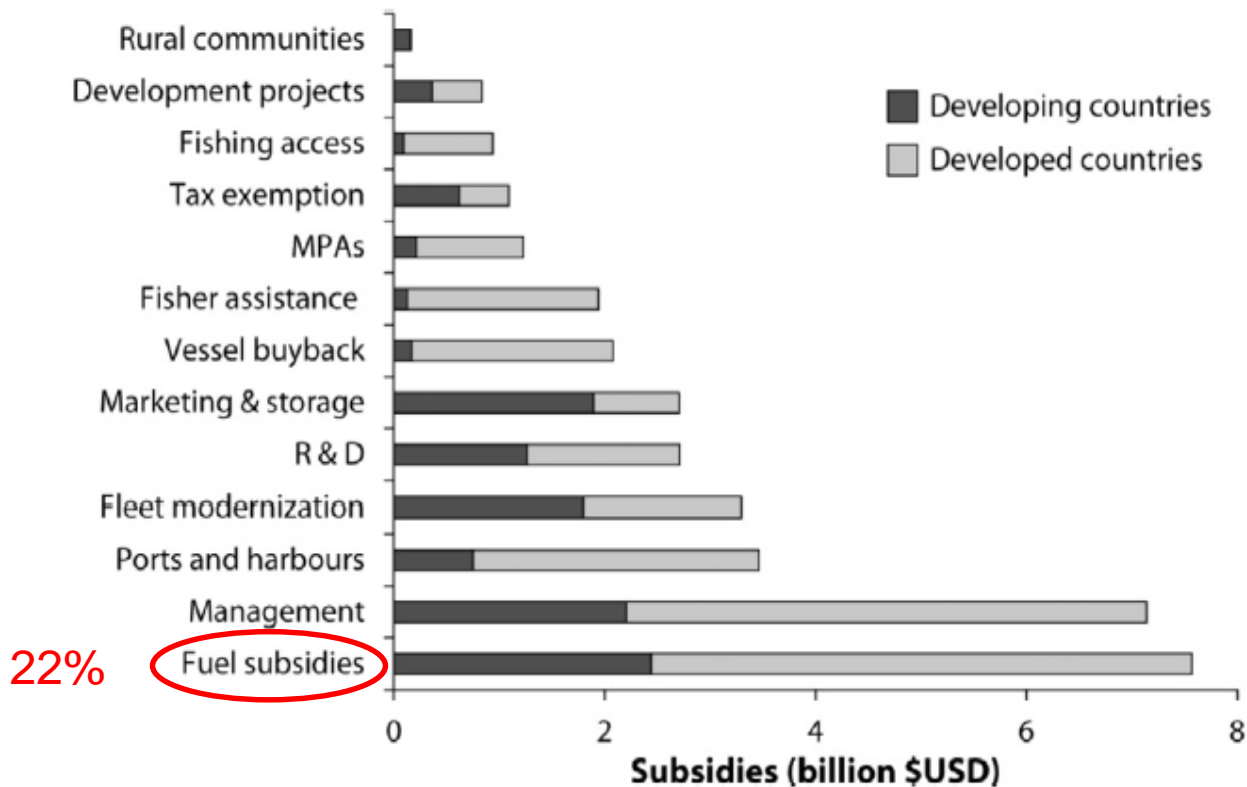


Source: Greer et al (2019) *Marine Policy*.

# Seafood emits CO<sub>2</sub> throughout its entire life cycle



# Fuel subsidies

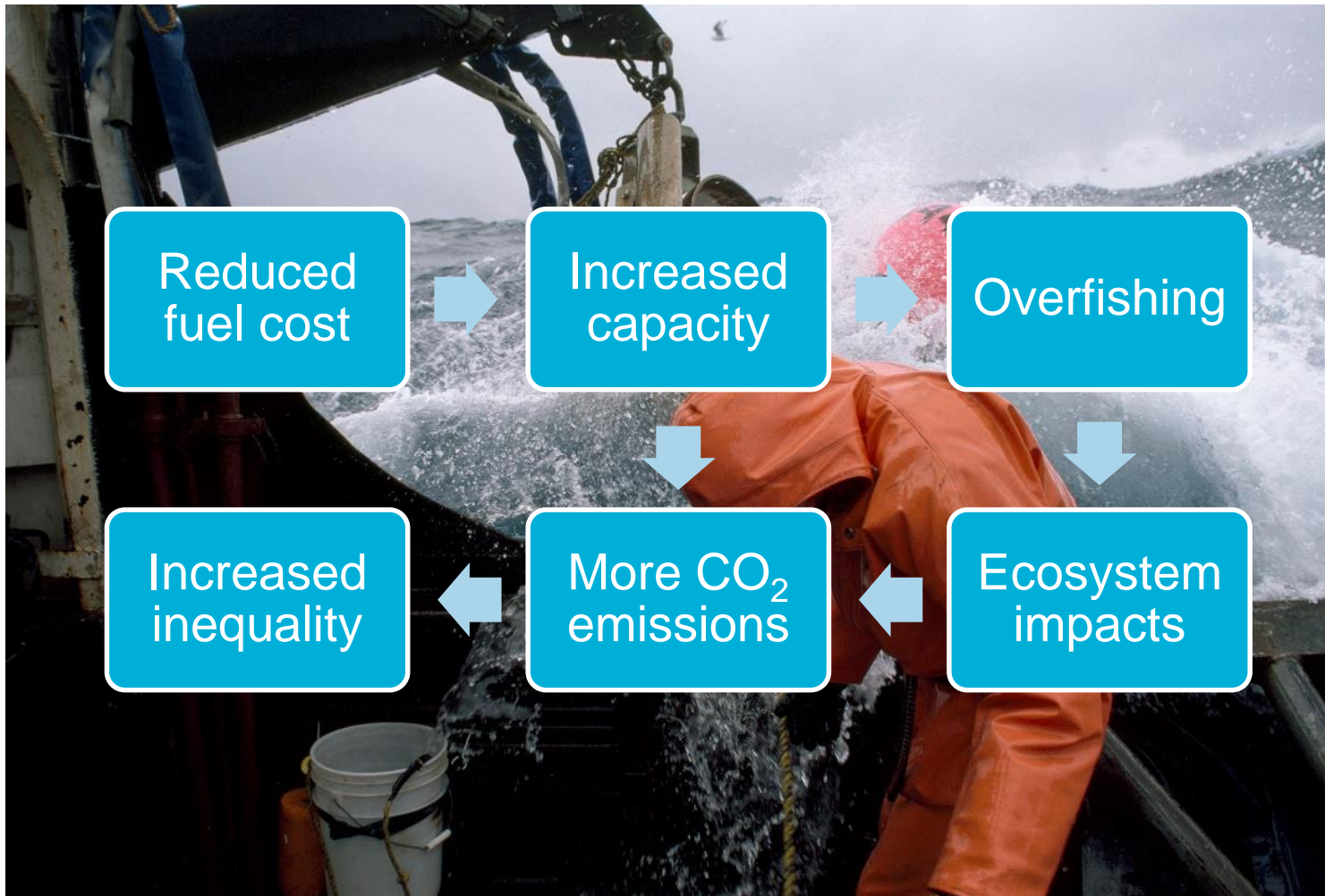


94% of fuel subsidies go to large-scale fisheries

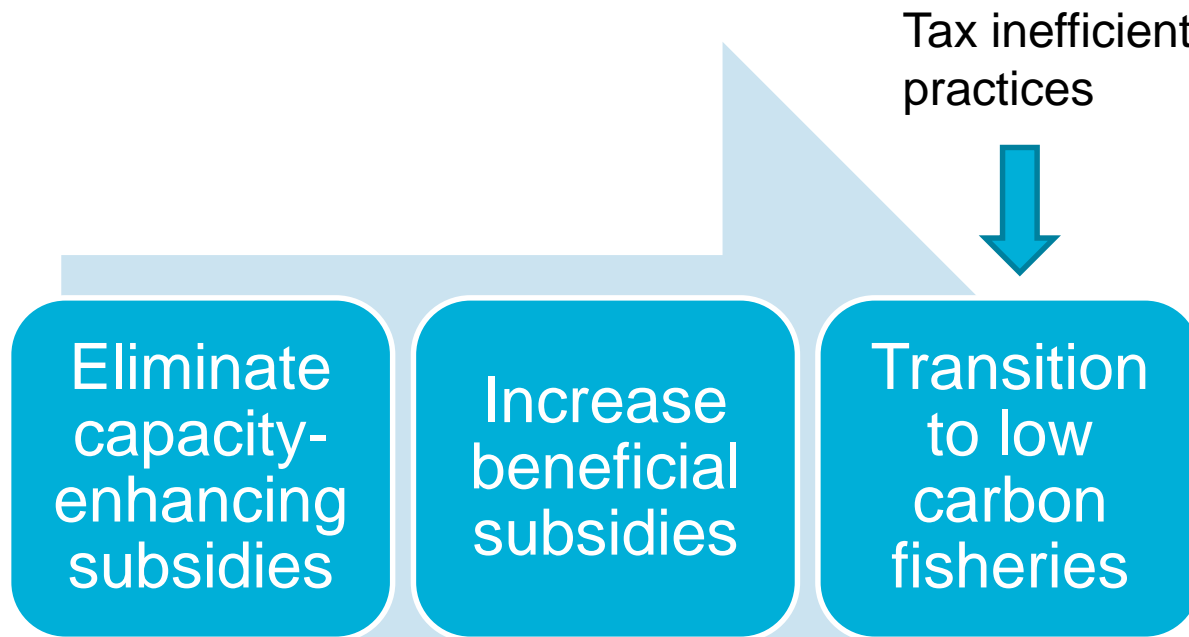
Source: Sumaila et al (2016) Marine Policy; Schubauer et al (2017) Marine Policy



# Fuel subsidies



# The solution?



Revenue recycling can ensure fair and inclusive fiscal reform

WTO must reach a decision on **SDG 14.6** by the end of the year:

*“By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies...”*

Countries must incorporate fisheries sector into national decarbonization strategies

# Conclusions

- The fisheries sector has a significant carbon footprint
- Capacity-enhancing subsidies (particularly fuel subsidies) increase inequality, overfishing and carbon emissions
- WTO agreement is imperative
- Can we accelerate change by linking to climate crisis?

# Thank you



**Distributional impacts of fisheries subsidies and their reform**

Case studies of Senegal and Vietnam

Sarah Harper and U Rashid Sumaila


Working Paper  
March 2019

**Fisheries; Sustainable markets**  
Keywords: Sustainable fisheries, trade fuel subsidies, livelihoods, gender and generative equity



**Fair fishing**


Supporting inclusive fiscal reform in fisheries



**The cost of harmful fishing subsidies**

Robert Arthur, Stephanie Heyworth, John Pearce and William Sharkey

Working Paper  
March 2019



**Subsidy reform and distributive justice in fisheries**

Eugenia Merayo, Ina Porras, Sarah Harper, Paul Steele and Essam Mohammed

Working Paper  
February 2019

**Fisheries; Economics**  
Keywords: Fisheries, subsidies, equity, fiscal reform