

- 2 An example of FishEthoBase: Tilapia
- 4 in few words · in poche parole
- 6 Promotion of ideas and projects
- 8 Seegras gegen Klimawandel?
- 9 Book reviews · Imprint
- 10 «Sustainabilise» fish for the North?



**First feedbacks to FishEthoBase**

■ Am very impressed with the website objective and the detailed information.

*Stan Shea, Director, BLOOM Association, Hong Kong*

■ Wir finden die Idee toll und sind gespannt, was uns in Zukunft dort erwartet.

*Anne Bohl, A. Schweitzer Stiftung, Berlin*

■ I am essentially a restaurateur and fish-monger, and deal very little with the scientific side of things, but absolutely welcome the emergence of an organisation that looks at fish welfare in farming – finally! Well done.

*Caroline Bennett, Consultant, UK*

■ Die sehr übersichtliche Aufteilung in die drei Sparten Überblick, Findings und Empfehlungen finde ich überaus gelungen, weil benutzerfreundlich, wissenschaftlich und ansprechend.

*Vanessa Gerritsen, Stiftung für Das Tier im Recht TiR, Zürich*

■ Commissioner Vella asked me to thank you on his behalf. The compilation of a database based on balanced and published scientific information on a per-species basis would constitute a useful resource in the field of fish welfare.

*Ernesto Peñas Lado, Director, Directorate A, DG Mare, Brussels*

**FishEthoBase is launched – Invitation to the Stakeholder Dialogue ending on August 17**

After 18 months of research we proudly present the first database on fish ethology findings, describing three species so far (four more will be developed this year) – example on page 2.



**We invite you to visit and comment: [fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/en](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/en)**

**FishEthoBase ist lanciert**

Nach 18 Monaten Forschung ist die erste Datenbank ethologischer Erkenntnisse bei Fischen online, vorerst mit der Beschreibung von drei Arten (vier weitere folgen bis Ende Jahr) .

**Reinschauen und beurteilen: [fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/de](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/de)**



**[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/fr](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/fr)  
Soyez invités à visiter et commenter.**



**[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/it](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/it)  
Guarda e commenta!**



**[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/es](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/es)  
Echa una mirada y comenta!**



**[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/pt](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/pt)  
Consulta e comenta!**





Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), female (left) and male, East Java, Indonesia  
(Photo: W.A. Djatmiko / Wikimedia Commons)

## Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*

### An example of FishEthoBase

Summary of the Nile tilapia profile, based on the Findings and Recommendations sections.<sup>1</sup>

### Origin and lifestyle

Nile tilapia belongs to the class of the ray-finned fishes, to the order of Perch-like fishes and to the family of Cichlids and is therefore a relative of many ornamental fishes. Its origin are lakes, inland and coastal rivers of middle Africa and Near East. Although it is regarded as potamodrom (wandering in fresh water only) it lives as well in brackish water and can even adapt to salt water.

The members of this species dwell at the surface or in depth to 6 or even 20 meters and prefer water temperatures between 16 and 29 °C. In the active part of their day they swim in shoals whereas they retire to rest preferably during the night. Tilapia prefer complex habitats with muddy or sandy or gravel bottoms where they find shelter from predators (including elder conspecifics) but can be found also in open waters.

They feed near the bottom on phytoplankton (algae etc.) and invertebrates mainly. Adults measure between 20 and 60 cm and weigh between 130 g and over 4 kg.

Nile tilapia can live for up to nine years of age but reach maturity within only 3 to 7 months. Courtship lasts several hours, the male gently bits or nudges the female, swims in front of her and leads her to the spawning site, a nest in shallow water that he built in firm sand. After fertilization the female carries up to 240 eggs in her mouth during 7 to 18 days until the larvae hatch.

### The development of Tilapia farming

The species is very prolific and spawns several times a year. Because it has been easy to reproduce and to farm **since the ancient Egyptians** it has been introduced in many countries, including Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, USA or Mexico. As males grow faster and bigger, male-only ponds have become an industry standard since the 1970s. Hatcheries

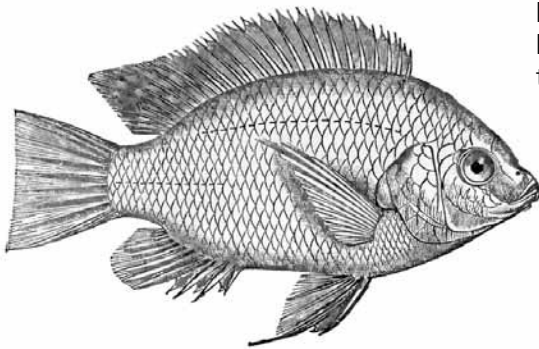
<sup>1</sup> Each species profile consists of 3 parts:

- findings with references
- recommendations for practitioners
- summary for a broader interested public

Le profil du tilapia aussi en français:  
[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/fr/ethology](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/fr/ethology)

Tilapia-Profil auch auf deutsch:  
[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/de/ethology](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch/de/ethology)

deliver male-only juveniles produced by feeding sex hormones to the fry or by hybridization when crossbreeding various tilapia species or strains. Apparently the impacts of **mono-sex shoals** on the animals have not yet been studied. One advantage of Nile tilapia farming would be that the biology of the species does not require fish components in its feed. But if you have a look at the criteria of the leading labels for sustainable aquaculture you will learn that **fish meal and fish oil** plays a role as growth promoter also in the tilapia farming industry. Fish components are not only expensive but ecologically questionable as they mainly originate from specialized forage fishery that requires one fourth to one third of the global catch. This is in contradiction to sustainability and impairs the marine food chain and consequently the living of marine animals, thus animal welfare. Not to mention the welfare of about 450-1000 milliard fishes caught for feed annually. Moreover, feeding fish meal and fish oil to tilapia gives a bad example for the widespread small and extensive tilapia ponds run for local supply in Africa and Asia.



(W. H. Flower, *Guide to the galleries of reptiles and fishes of the British Museum*, 1898. Wikimedia Commons)

## Major problems of Tilapia farming

Today, Nile tilapia with its various strains is the second most farmed fish species worldwide, due also to its easy to fillet body and its consumer friendly taste and texture.

It is all the more amazing that a species farmed for such a long time, in so many regions of the world and in such quantities **does not seem to have adequate priority for ethological research**.

Hence recommendations on fish welfare for farmers are still limited,

but the few that are certain rather challenge common practice. For example Nile tilapia **need individual access to daylight as well as to darkness and to opportunities for withdrawal**. Instead they are often kept in covered tanks without any structure.

**Labels** are not helpful for clients who care for the welfare of farmed fish. The guidelines of organic labels are the ones most inclined to grant fish welfare, yet no tangible instructions are defined. All other labels take care of fish health at best but not of fish welfare in the terms all-embracing sense. That is to say that even fishes farmed under labels like organic, ASC, or Friend of the Sea have been rather living under the conditions of intensive animal husbandry.

**If we want to change the disregard of fish welfare, we need more of two things: more ethological research and more pressure from concerned consumers who want to eat respectfully farmed fish.**

*Billo Heinzpeter Studer, Reviewer: Corinna von Kürthy and Jenny Volstorf*  
© fair-fish international 2015

Sources: FishEthoBase, Findings and Recommendations; FishBase, and FAO

Want to comment?  
[fishethobase.fair-fish.ch](http://fishethobase.fair-fish.ch)



**Vögel zeigen**, wie dramatisch die Lage der Meere und der Fischbestände ist: Ein Forscherteam um Daniel Pauly von der Universität von British Columbia (Canada) fand heraus, dass die am besten beobachteten Seevogelbestände seit den 1950er Jahren um 70 Prozent abgenommen haben. Für diese dramatische Abnahme sind verschiedene Ursachen verantwortlich: Überfischung von Arten, die zur Beute der Seevögel gehören; Verwicklung von Seevögeln in Fischereigerät; Verschmutzung des Meerwassers mit Plastik und Öl; Einschleppung von fremden Raubvögeln in den Lebensraum; Umweltveränderungen durch den Klimawandel.

environmental and ecological changes caused by climate change.»

[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153981433844428](https://facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153981433844428)

### Subscription for «scale» printed edition

Europe: EUR 8,00 per year (4 issues)

Outside Europe: EUR 16 per year

Order → [international@fair-fish.net](mailto:international@fair-fish.net)

Indicate: full name and postal address

**Birds indicate the dramatical state of oceans and fish stocks:** A team of researchers around Daniel Pauly at the University of British Columbia «shows world» monitored seabird populations have dropped 70 per cent since the 1950s.»

«The dramatic decline is caused by a variety of factors including overfishing of the fish seabirds rely on for food, birds getting tangled in fishing gear, plastic and oil pollution, introduction of non-native predators to seabird colonies, destruction and changes to seabird habitat, and

■ **Der Bodensee wird immer sauberer.** Darum sinkt sein Nährstoffgehalt und nehmen die Fischbestände ab – sie nähern sich ihrer Grösse vor dem Beginn der Verschmutzung (Überdüngung) durch die industrialisierte Landwirtschaft.

Nachdem die Kläranlagen nun seit Jahren auch über die 3. (biologische) Stufe verfügen, ist der Rückgang der Fischbestände auf das natürliche Mass ein gutes Zeichen – ganz anders als in den Meeren, wo die meisten Fischbestände nach jahrzehntelanger industrieller Überfischung weit unter ihrem natürlichen Mass liegen.

Dass es im Bodensee nicht zur Überfischung kommt, ist den Massnahmen der Behörden in Zusammenarbeit mit den Fischern zu verdanken. Wenn nun erneut Patente gestrichen werden, ist das für die betroffenen Berufsfischer zwar hart, fürs Ganze aber richtig. Gemildert wird die Härte dadurch, dass einige Betriebe altershalber und mangels Nachwuchs in den kommenden Jahren eh aufgeben werden.

[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153941333069428](https://facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153941333069428)



Le Lac de Constance est redevenu aussi propre qu'il l'était dans les années 1950, avant l'industrialisation de l'agriculture et du lavage ménager. Par conséquent les stocks des poissons ont diminué au niveau de l'époque. Bonne nouvelle, même si quelques pêcheurs exigent de «nourrir» le lac avec phosphates...

Il lago di Costanza è tornato tanto pulito come negli anni 1950, prima dell'industrializzazione dell'agricoltura e del lavaggio casalingo. Successivamente i stock ittici si sono ridotti al livello dell'époque. Buona notizia, anche se alcuni pescatori reclamano «alimentare» il lago con fosfati...

## ■ Why it is important to observe the life of aquatic animals

We will never understand aquatic animals if we do not follow them to observe their daily life. «It's hard work», Chrissy Huffard, a Senior Researcher at Monterey Bay Aquarium, admits in an



interview\*, half-ways laughing as she is well aware of being at work in a location of which others would think of holidays.

But it is indeed a hard and patient

work to follow and accurately document the life of subaqueous animals. A work that possibly has not yet taken up with 99 per cent of all species!

How could a fish farmer, an aquarist or a scientist using aquatic animals in research claim keeping «his» fishes etc. species-appropriately if it is not known yet how the species in question lives and behaves in the wild?

Besides that, it is most fascinating to explore the life and behaviour of animals

in a habitat most unfamiliar to us because it reveals the incredible diversity of life beneath 70 per cent of

earth's surface. This abundance is all the more important and worth to be preserved as in its short history, mankind already succeeded to eradicate a bigger part of the terrestrial species.

\* Interview with Chrissy Huffard: [sciencefriday.com/video/06/19/2015/run-octopus-run.html](http://sciencefriday.com/video/06/19/2015/run-octopus-run.html)

### Warum es wichtig ist, das Leben von Wassertieren zu beobachten.

Deutscher Text hier:  
[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153927291589428](https://www.facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153927291589428)

## ■ Feuchttücher: nicht ins Klo!

Etwas unappetitlich, zugegeben. Aber wichtig. Schliesslich geht's darum, was im Wasser landet.

Wasser ist Leben.

Es leben Fische darin, und wir trinken davon.

Darf Wasser Scheisse sein?

Was also? Keine Feuchttücher

mehr verwenden? Wär konsequent.

Noch konsequenter wäre,

was in andern Ländern selbstverständlich ist:

- Gar kein Papier verwenden, sondern eine am/im Klo angebrachte Dusche (es gibt auch High-Tech-Varianten mit Nachföhn) oder ein Bidet.

- Wenn schon Feuchttücher oder Papier: Statt ins Klo in einen Eimer mit Deckel werfen.

Dass Kläranlagen massiv aufrüsten müssen, nur um mit unseren Scheisstüchern fertig zu werden, ist schon krass...

[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153912644999428](https://www.facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153912644999428)



### Wet wipes clog wastewater systems.

Instead of urging sewage plants to cope with our wrapped shit, we could solve the problem at its source, the way people use to do it in other countries:

- do not use wet wipes
- do not use paper at all
- or if you use it, dispose of it in a waste bin
- use a toilet with douche, a bidet or a washlet

### Salviettine umidificate ingorgano canali di fognatura.

Invece di costringere i depuratori a competere con nostra cacata incartata, potremmo risolvere il problema alla sua fonte:

- non usare salviettine umidificate
- non usare carta affatto
- o se ne fai uso, smaltitili ne un secchio
- usa un WC con doccia, un bidet o un WC con funziona bidet



## Low-cost feed and oxygen

Aqualnnovate is an inclusive business that combines technology supply and support services to promote the devel-

### Distribución barata de forraje y oxigen

Aqualnnovate es un negocio inclusivo que combina la oferta de tecnología y servicios de apoyo para favorecer el desarrollo de la acuicultura rural mediante servicios de formación, asesoramiento, desarrollo de infraestructura, desarrollo de la cadena de valor – e un nuevo sistema de bajo coste de oxigenación y distribución de alimentos llamado «Aerofeeder» ya probado con éxito en cooperativas en México.

opment of rural aquaculture. It provides consulting, training and empowerment – and a new low-cost system of feed distribution and water oxygenation called «Aerofeeder», tested successfully on cooperatives in Mexico.

[aqualnnovate.net](http://aqualnnovate.net)

### Want to support fair-fish international? Möchten Sie fair-fish.net unterstützen? Voulez-vous soutenir fair-fish.net?

Make your donation payable to:  
Überweisen Sie Ihre Spende an:  
Virer votre don à:

Verein fair-fish.net  
IBAN: CH68 0900 0000 8503 8259 6  
BIC: POFICHBEXXX  
PostFinance, 3030 Bern, Switzerland

Thank you! Danke! Merci! Grazie!



*Biologisch sich abbauender Hundekotbeutel in der Hamburger Natur.*

## Hundekotbeutel in der Natur

Plastikbeutel voller Hundekot landen oft irgendwo in der Natur, in Grünanlagen oder an bzw. in Gewässern. Es geschieht aus Rücksichtslosigkeit oder weil kein Mülleimer in der Nähe ist.

Die fantasievolle Initiative eines Hamburger Studenten versucht aufzuklären: eine interaktive Karte zeigt, wie gross das Problem ist. Mehr als 5200 Fotos von Hundekotbeuteln wur-

den in kurzer Zeit von fleißigen Helfern eingeschickt. So lassen sich Problemzonen identifizieren und Mülleimer besser platzieren.

Gleichzeitig wird der Einsatz biologisch abbaubarer Hundekotbeutel aus Papier oder Biokunststoffen empfohlen. Wenn so ein Biobeutel mal liegen bleibt, ist das auch nicht toll (schon aufgrund des Inhalts); aber wenigstens kann er in der Natur verrotten.

[www.poopmap.de](http://www.poopmap.de)

**Doggie bags end up in nature** (and in waters) much oftener than all other plastic bags. An alternative strategy visualises the dimension of the problem on an interactive map and parally advocates the use of biodegradable doggie bags.  
[poopmap.de/english/the-concept](http://poopmap.de/english/the-concept)



Alexandra Geeser

Uma jangada, barco a vela tradicional

## Brasilien: Nachhaltige Fischer suchen Support für Projekt

Das Fischerdorf Prainha do Canto Verde in Nordostbrasilien ist von der Stiftung Rare.org ausgewählt worden – dank langjähriger Vorarbeit mit engagierter

Unterstützung aus der Schweiz. Rare arbeitet mit Menschen in der Dritten Welt zusammen für den Schutz gefährdeter Tierarten. Die Rare-Projekte nehmen die Menschen lokal in die Verantwortung. Die Fischer sollen stolz darauf sein, dass sie zum Schutz der Umwelt und der Fischbestände beitragen, indem

sie mit Verantwortung fischen. Zwei Projekte sind in Vorbereitung: Fang und Verkauf von Langusten zu einem um 40% höheren Preis sowie eine Studie über die Einflüsse der Klimaveränderung auf die Fischerei, um zu wissen, worauf die Fischer sich vorbereiten müssen. Prainha do Canto Verde ist eines von zwölf Fanggebieten

in Brasilien, das daran teilnimmt. Die Hauptkosten werden von Rare gedeckt, das Dorf selber muss während zweier Jahre eine Eigenleistung von 790 USD pro Monat erbringen. Das Dorf sucht Spenden zur Deckung dieses Beitrags.

Info: René Schärer, fishnet@uol.com.br

**Brasil: Pescadores sustentáveis procuram apoio**  
Prainha do Canto Verde, uma vila de pescadores no Nordeste do Brasil, foi escolhida pela fundação Rare.org para um projeto a pesca responsável e a comercialização a um preço mais elevado. Grande parte dos gastos do projeto vem coberto pela Rare; mas a comunidade tem que participar com uma contrapartida de USD 790 por mês durante dois anos e está procurando doadores para ajudar a financiar.  
Info: René Schärer, fishnet@uol.com.br

### Artisanal fishermen in Brazil need support

Prainha do Canto Verde, a fishermen's village in Northeast Brazil, has been selected by the Rare.org foundation for projects to improve fisheries' sustainability and access to higher price markets. The main costs are covered by Rare, but the village has to cope with a share of USD 790 per month, for two years, and is looking for donators who can help.

Info: René Schärer, fishnet@uol.com.br



Palautours.com

**Ban industrial fishery.** The government of the island republic Palau in the South Seas plans to ban industrial fisheries in its waters, a surface of France's size at least, thus quite considerable for the repopulation of an opulent marine fauna. If the Palau parliament decides the ban, the biggest hurdle will be to enforce it against chinese, korean and other trawlers. We follow the developing.  
facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153889237029428

# Seegras gegen Klimawandel?

**Wenn es hart auf hart kommt, entdeckt man plötzlich das unauffällige, langweilige und bei Badenden unbeliebte Seegras.** Die rund 60 Seegrasarten sind schon immer wichtig gewesen, auch wenn die meisten Menschen das nicht wahrzunehmen vermochten. Seegras wächst entlang der flachen Meeresufer und bietet dort zahlreichen Lebewesen (Fischen, Seekühen, Meerschilkröten usw.) einen wichtigen Lebensraum.

## Combating climate change with seagrass?

Researchers at the University of York think that in combating climate change, seagrass ecosystems could play a key role, and thus advocate to stop its declining<sup>1</sup>. The question however arises if it were not more efficient to reduce the man made sources of climate change directly while preserving seagrass for its intrinsic values.

<sup>1</sup> [marinesciencetoday.com/2015/05/28](http://marinesciencetoday.com/2015/05/28)

Überdies sind Küsten mit vorgelegerten Seegraswiesen besser geschützt vor grossen Wellen und Erosion.

Die jahrzehntelange Missachtung der Seegräser hat dazu geführt, dass heute bereits etwa ein Viertel ihrer Arten als gefährdet gilt. Ursache: Störung durch menschliche Aktivitäten

im untiefen Wasser entlang der Küsten. Doch jetzt sollen die Gräser die Welt retten: Forscher an der Universität York haben herausgefunden, dass Seegras eine entscheidende Rolle in der Bekämpfung des Klimawandels spielen könnte. Denn Seegraswiesen speichern grosse Mengen von Kohlenstoffdioxid (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Wenn nun bald einmal Kampagnen zur Wiederansiedlung und zum Schutz von Seegras lanciert und bestimmte Küstenabschnitte zu Meeresschutzzonen erklärt werden, ist das vermutlich gut für zahlreiche Meereslebewesen. Eher nicht so gut wären derartige Kampagnen fürs Klima, falls daneben einfach fortgefahren wird mit dem Verbrauch fossiler Brennstoffe. Denn irgendwann wird auch das CO<sub>2</sub>-Speichervermögen alter und neuer Seegraswiesen erschöpft sein. Ganz zu schweigen davon, was passiert, wenn Seegras als Quelle für Nahrung (Protein) und nachwachsende Energie entdeckt wird.

Also: Seegraswiesen fördern und schützen – und das CO<sub>2</sub>-Problem direkt an der Quelle lösen!

[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153892030304428](https://www.facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153892030304428)



## Books we are waiting for

■ **Daniel Pauly's** famous «Sea Around Us» team will soon publish its final report revealing global catch data much above the ones of FAO  
[nature.com/news/fisheries-eyes-on-the-ocean-1.17121](http://nature.com/news/fisheries-eyes-on-the-ocean-1.17121)

■ **Jonathan Balcombe's** books *Pleasurable Kingdom* and *Second Nature* present animals in a new light. Now he **wants your fish stories:** [jonathanbalcombe.com](http://jonathanbalcombe.com)

## Books to read · Büchertips

**Mojib Latif: «Das Ende der Ozeane»**

Der Klimaforscher am Kieler Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung führt auf 200 Seiten in den unbekanntem ozeanischen Lebensraum, schildert dessen Vergiftung und gegenwärtigen Zustand und blickt in dessen ungewisse Zukunft, aus der auch für uns Menschen Übel kommen könnte. Für interessierte Laien. Herder, Freiburg DE, 2014, geb., 319 S. ISBN978-3-451-31237-3

**Ilan Karplus: «Symbiosis in Fishes»**

In his comprehensive book about the «Biology of Interspecific Partnerships» one of the doyens of Israeli fish and aquaculture research presents a full range of associations between fishes and sponges, anemones, corals, siphonophores, medusae, molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms. For scientists. Wiley Blackwell, Oxford UK, 2014, hardc., 449 p., illustr. ISBN 978-1-4051-8589-9

**Susan Middleton: Spineless**

In her «Portraits of Marine Invertebrates, the Backbone of Life» the artist-photographer presents large-sized and impressive pictures of more or less unknown sea dwellers accompanied by insightful texts revealing how threatened their life is. A beautiful (picture) book for nature lovers of all ages. Abrams, New York, 2014, hardc., 256 p. ISBN 978-1-4197-1007-0

**Susan Middleton: In den Tiefen des Ozeans**

In Ihrem Buch über «Die schillernde Welt der Wirbellosen» stellt die Künstlerin und Foto-

grafin in ganzseitigen, eindrücklichen Bildern mehr oder weniger unbekanntem Meeresbewohner vor, begleitet von einfühlsamen Texten, welche die Bedrohung dieses Lebens deutlich machen. Ein wunderschönes (Bilder-)Buch für Naturfreunde jeden Alters. Knesebeck, München, 2014, geb. 256 S. ISBN 978-3-86873-744-8



## scale



The ambiguity of our quarterly's title is intended, from the fish's scale to setting the benchmark.

«scale» is open to your contributions relating to fish welfare, fair trade and ecology in fisheries or aquaculture. We read you in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish or Portuguese.

Der englische Titel unserer Zeitschrift ist gewollt mehrdeutig, von der Schuppe bis zum Setzen des Massstabs.

«scale» ist offen für Ihre Beiträge über Fischwohl, Fairen Handel und Ökologie in Fischerei und Aquakultur.

Le titre anglais de notre revue trimestrielle est ambigu – avec intention: il va de l'écaille jusqu'au bindex de référence.

«scale» est ouvert à vos contributions sur le bien-être des poissons, le commerce équitable et l'écologie dans le cadre de la pêche et de l'aquaculture.

scale · 31.07.2015 · ISSN 2297-1742

Quarterly · 4x jährlich : Jan · Apr · Jul · Oct  
Editor, texts: Billo Heinzpeter Studer (hps)  
fair-fish.net association · Zurich · Switzerland  
T: 0041 44 586 97 45  
Correspondence: [international@fair-fish.net](mailto:international@fair-fish.net)



## «Sustainabilise» fish for the North?

A recently published study concludes: «In order to increase the supply of sustainably produced fish, buyers, NGOs and governments have set up «fishery improvement projects» (FIPs), which aim to increase the volume of fish certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).... Two thirds fail to make further changes once they receive market access. By selling fish from these fisheries retailers not only risk stalling progress towards sustainable fisheries production, but also misleading consumers.»

[facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153815460304428](https://www.facebook.com/fair.fish/posts/10153815460304428)

The crucial question is: Does MSC provide the right tools for a sustainable turn of artisanal fisheries in Third World countries? The MSC certification system has been developed for industrial fisheries in the North. Later, MSC developed a special protocol to integrate data deficient artisanal fisheries into this system, a handbook for auditors that reads like a doctor thesis to be applied in an in-

formal sector. We were always sure that this cannot work.

We know the task as we once led the development of a fair-fish certification scheme for fair-trade, animal welfare and sustainability with artisanal fisheries in Senegal. It is not possible to gain valid and reliable results in this field with a top-down approach.

Fish for people in those countries simply does not mean the same as it does for people of the industry in the North. And besides that, artisanal fishing communities in the South often dispose of their own systems for preserving stocks and marine environment but are overruled by (home-made as well as imported) corruption and by ruthless fishing activities from foreign fleets.

Do we need sustainable labelled fish from the South to complement the supply in our shelves? Or do we want to help the fisheries in the South to overcome the reasons for loss of sustainability?

See also: <http://www.fair-fish.ch/english>