

# Exploring Gender Mainstreaming for Sustainable Fisheries in Nigeria

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Mundus maris - Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl

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# What are we talking about?

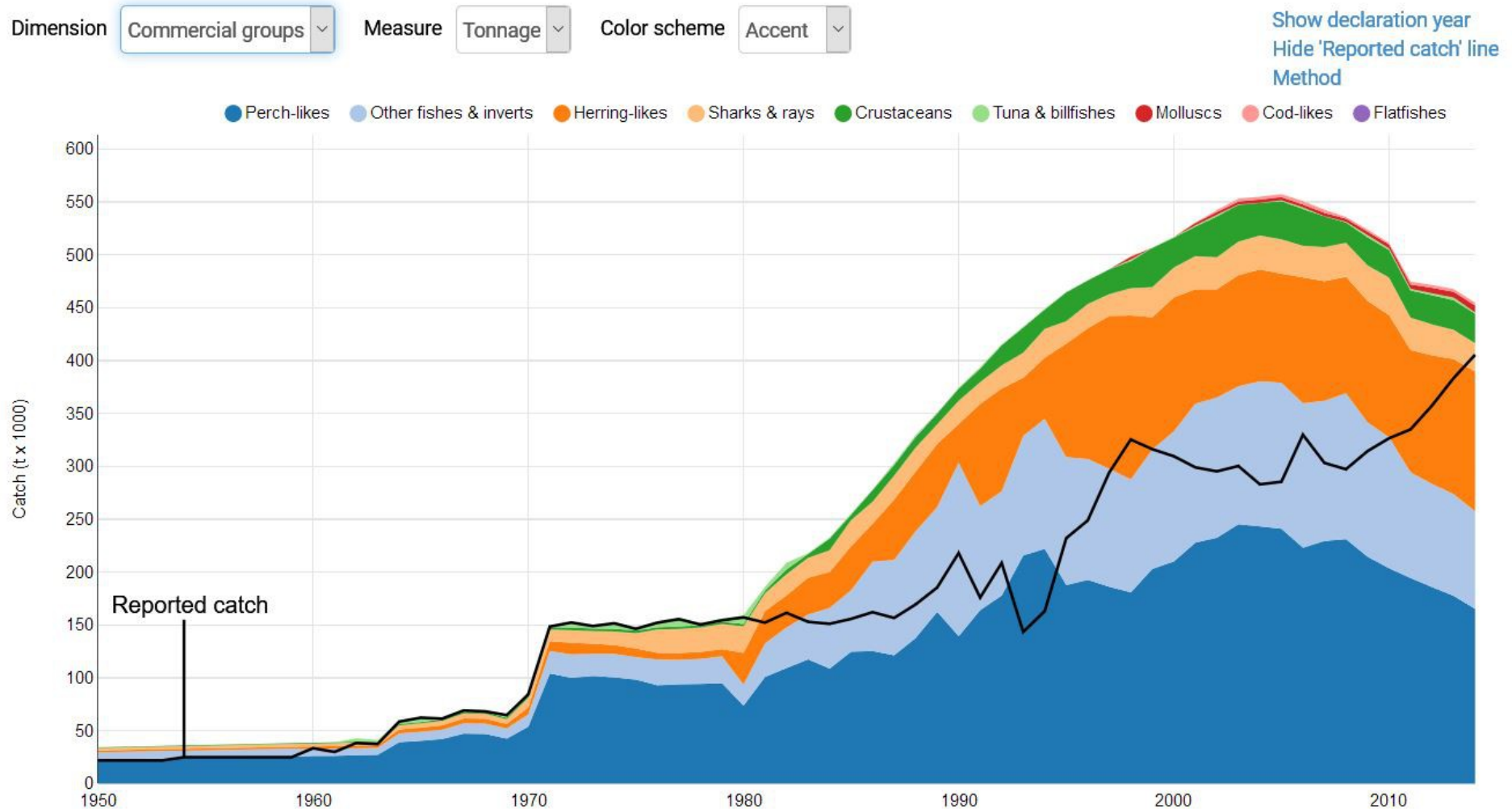
Fisheries was recognized as a potential tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of poverty alleviation, general welfare/wellbeing and health especially of women and children

According to Areola (2013), the fisheries sub-sector contributes about 5% to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through the export of shrimps and the subsector is a major contributor to food security, employment-creation, income generation, source of raw materials for food and animal feeds industries.

The FAO recognized Nigeria with an Achievement Award on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in Rome for achieving MDG 1 Target on Hunger by 2012, three years ahead of the 2015 Target.

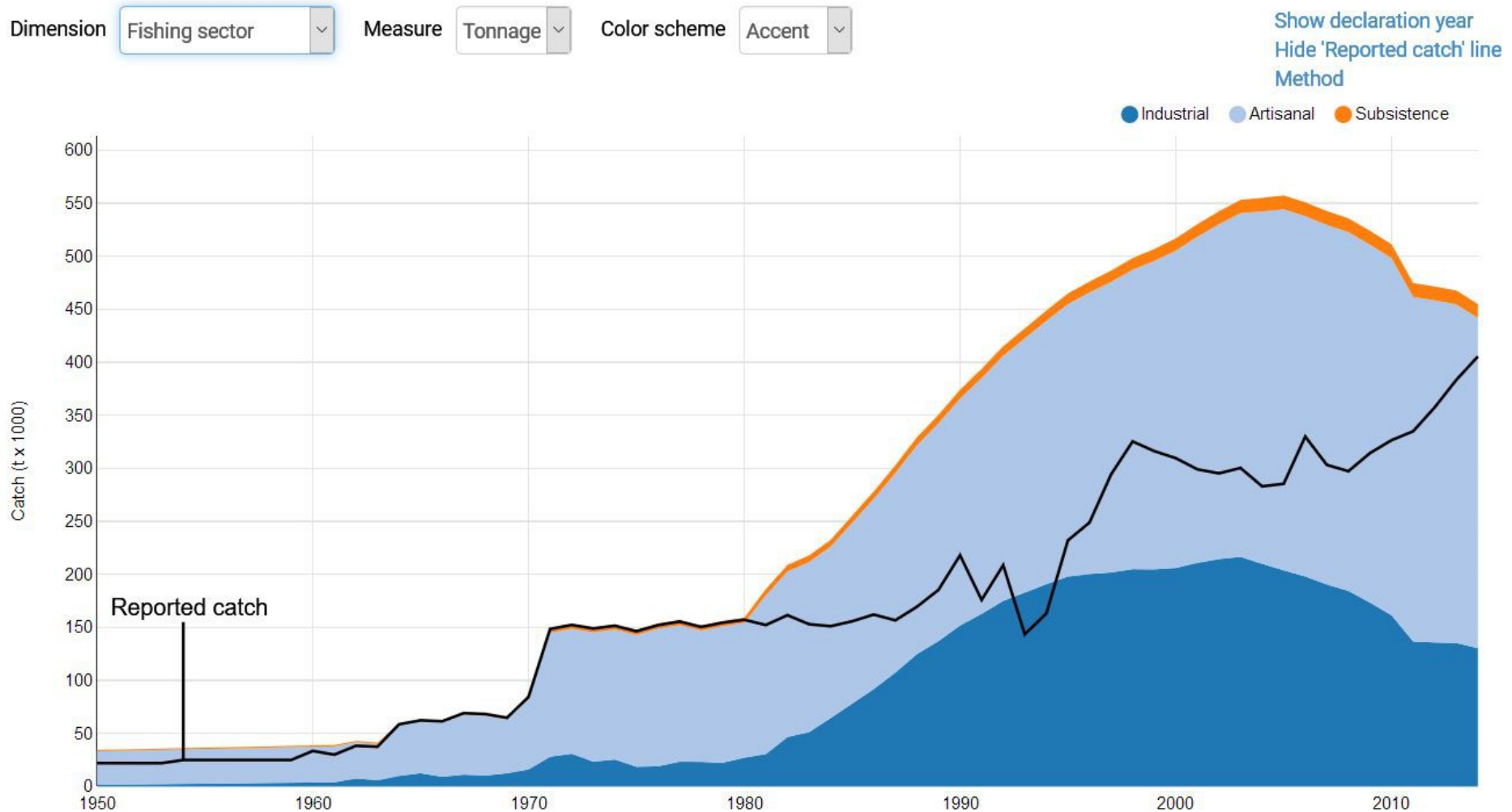
# First some facts about marine fisheries (1)

## Catch reconstructions by commercial group for Nigeria by SAU:



# First some facts about marine fisheries (2)

## Catch reconstructions by fishery for Nigeria by SAU:



<http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/#/eez/566?chart=catch-chart&dimension=sector&measure=tonnage&limit=10>

# Gender distribution – bird's view

**Three subsectors are distinguished:** industrial fishing, small-scale and aquaculture – gendered stats are not always available (even production records are incomplete)

Women are most numerous in pre- and postharvest activities of artisanal fisheries in maritime Nigeria, but lack recognition for their social and economic contributions.

Few women made it to top business positions in industrial fisheries.

Women are prominent in aquaculture, except in direct production and pond maintenance.

What about sector administration, educational and research institutions, professional associations and CSOs?

# Findings from questionnaires (1)

Gender awareness in all the institutions started late. This influenced the recruitment, staffing and appointments of personnel.

Few women have been Heads of the Institutions or Directors in most of the strategic Departments in all the institutions investigated.

NIOMR example of achieving quasi gender parity with policy.

NIFFR is only gradually improving after reducing admin. hurdles against women in leadership positions

Agricultural Research Outreach Centres (**AROCs**) initiative emphasized gender mainstreaming

Gender Policy and Action Plan for the **ARCN** spelled progress

## Findings from questionnaires (2)

Fisheries-based Research Institutes and Federal Colleges of Agriculture participated in the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (**WAAPP-Nigeria**): 2012 and 2016.

Gender-focus led to gendered data collection leading now to gender policy development.

Conversely, the **Federal Department of Fisheries** was strongly male-dominated in the absence of such policies; out of 12 directors only one acting female served for two years.

Out of 36 State Departments of Fisheries only Lagos has had a female Head since 1968.



## Findings from questionnaires (3)

In some places, **teaching** at tertiary level has seen gradual increase of women lecturers over male colleagues who prefer higher-paid careers.

In FUTA, conversely, women are outnumbered by men at most levels 1:2 from undergrads to professors

With some females in executive positions or senior cadres in the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology, the school has experienced improved female participation and increase in the number of females admitted as students.

Of the 9 strong **Associations** of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria only 3 had female leaders at one stage or other; 2 are focused on gender: AwFishnet and NiWARD.



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# Female teaching staff is often engaged beyond the call of duty, here for WOD at Fed. College of Fisheries and Marine Technology



# Summary and Conclusion

**Where initial issues were overcome, such as**

- Discrimination
- Power struggle
- Fear mongering
- Economic and Social constraints

by adopting **gender sensitive policies** and concrete support for gender balance through qualification of women and men, great strides have been made for inclusiveness

**Even more is achievable by systematically working for the implementation of the interconnected SDGs:**

notably 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health), 4 (education), 5 (gender equality) and 14 (life under water)



**Thanks for your attention**

More info on

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