

# Who's Working On Fishing Gear Design and Construction for Small-Scale Fisheries?

M.J.M. VEGA  
ICLARM

While traditional fishing gear is usually ideal for a region, improvements are always possible. Superior performance synthetic materials have almost universally replaced traditional fishing nets and lines. The development of unused resources, when present, may need gear and techniques previously unused by local fishermen. On the other hand, current fisheries need protection. Regulating net or trap mesh sizes, fishing techniques and seasons can safeguard the resources. Ghost fishing by lost or abandoned fishing gear can be avoided by the inclusion of biodegradable or sacrificial gear components. The most successfully introduced methods and gear are from areas with similar oceanographic, biological, social and economic structures. Imprudently introduced gear or methods would provide only temporary improvement in the fishermen's living conditions as it could accelerate stock depletion or upset social systems.

For this article, the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) covering the period from 1971 to November 1990, the ICLARM Library and professional staff collections were used in the literature search.

We found 162 articles on the topic. In the 1970s, 2.8 articles per year were published. This increased to 11.4 articles per year in the 1980s. Some 35% were journal articles, 33% project reports, 18% books or book chapters, 12% conference proceedings, and 2% in other forms.

The World Symposium on Fishing Gear and Fishing Vessel Design was held 20–24 November 1988 in St. John's Newfoundland, Canada. This followed up on the earlier meetings (1957, 1963, and 1970) organized by FAO. A regional meeting, an ad hoc technical meeting on artisanal fisheries craft, propulsion, gear and security, was held in Benin for the IDAF region (west Africa), 28–29 September 1989.

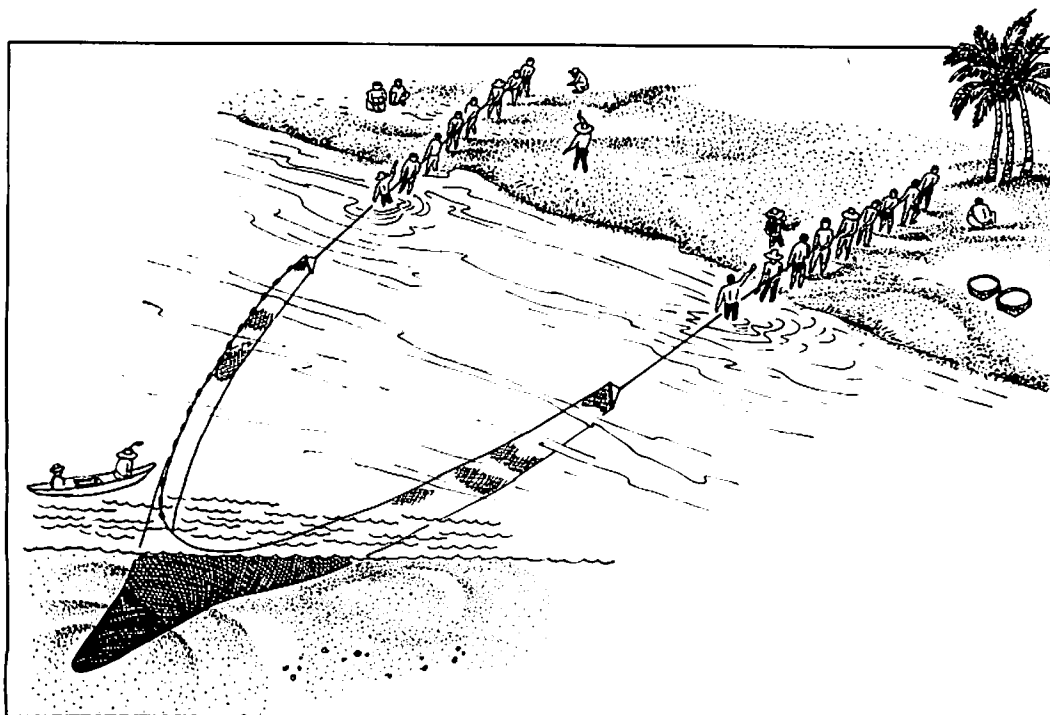
Some of the recent publications include *New small-scale offshore and/or deepsea fisheries in developing countries* by J. Prado in Proceedings of the World Symposium on Fishing Gear and Fishing Vessel Design, 20–24 November 1988, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada, pp. 201–207; *FAO catalogue of small-scale fishing gear*. 2nd edition, Fishing News

Books Ltd., Farnham, Surrey, UK, edited by C. Nedelec and published in 1988; *Mesh size selection in Antillean arrowhead fish traps* by J.A. Ward in Contributions to tropical fisheries biology, Papers prepared by the participants at the FAO/DANIDA follow-up training courses on fish stock assessment in the tropics, Hirtshals, Denmark, 5–30 May 1986 and Manila, Philippines, 12 January–6 February 1987, p. 455–467, edited by S.C. Venema, J.M. Christensen and D. Pauly, published as FAO Fisheries Report 389 in 1988; *Pilot study for the design of a long life fishtrap (gargoor) for Kuwait's fisheries*, by C.P. Mathews, V.R. Gouda, W.T. Riad and J. Dashti, Kuwait Bulletin of Marine Science 9:221–234, published in 1987; and *Notes on the construction of the FAO wooden fishing reel*, South Pacific Commission (SPC) Handbook No. 25, published by the SPC in 1985.

A. von Brandt's *Fishing methods of the world*, 3rd edition, published in 1984 by Fishing News Books Ltd., Farnham, Surrey, UK, is a comprehensive and detailed compilation that serves as an excellent source material.

Some of the organizations/persons you can contact are: the Fisheries Technology Service, Department of Fisheries, Food and Agriculture Organization, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy (contact: J. Prado); Programme for Integrated Development of artisanal fisheries in West Africa (IDAF), Boite Postale 1369, Cotonou, Republique Populaire du Benin (contact: G.V. Everett); the Division of Fisheries, P.O. Box SN 622, Southampton SNBX, Bermuda (contact: J. Ward); and the Fisheries Department, South Pacific Commission, Post Box D5, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia (contact: R. Gillet).

ICLARM can provide more information on fishing gear design and construction for small-scale fisheries. Write to the Selective Fisheries Information Service, ICLARM, MC P.O. Box 1501, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines for details and costs involved.



Pukot (Filipino), a typical beach seine.