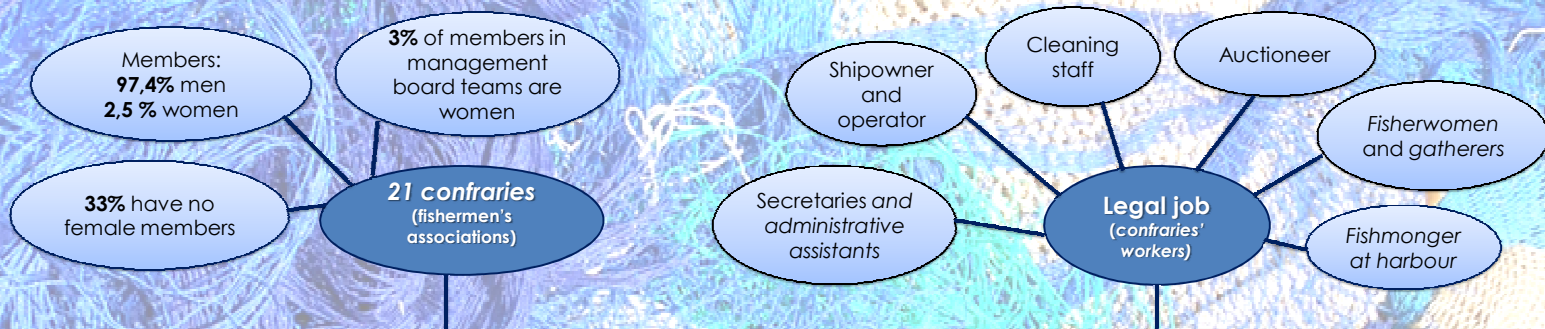


# Women in fisheries management at Valencian Country's Mediterranean Coast under an ecofeminist perspective

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There is a clear connection between women and nature as both create and maintain life in exchange of nothing; the relationship of exploitative dominance between man and nature, and the exploitative and oppressive relationship between men and women still prevails in most patriarchal societies, even modern industrial ones.

Women are responsible of everyday life in artisanal fisheries; they take care of the household and children, manage the family business, weave and repair fishnets and even sell fish at streets. All this work is not recognized by the state, sometimes neither by the community itself; they don't receive a wage, don't have an insurance and don't receive a pension when they retire. Nevertheless, women's unpaid work supposes the base management of the fishing community and the sustenance of all the visible tasks in fisheries.



**Confraries** are mostly created and organized by men; there is a low % of women and almost none is at decision making positions. **Women are underrepresented** within this organization; they usually don't participate at confraries' meetings.

Higher % of women on land than on board ships; **part-time jobs** and **unstable work**. Women have **lower salaries** and more tasks than men at the same position. Women who are **shipowners** usually share the property with their husbands.

Lack of gender equity in fisheries and limited gender specific data on fishing activities. No research has been done regarding gender participation in fisheries at the Valencian Country, nor studies based on a feminist perspective.

Difficulty in finding women in fisheries and interview them; deficit of self-confidence and self-consciousness.

Lack of techniques aimed at calculating the labor force given by women's collective.

## Women's role in small-scale fisheries



Women are directly dependant on fisheries resources but have no decision capacity on them.

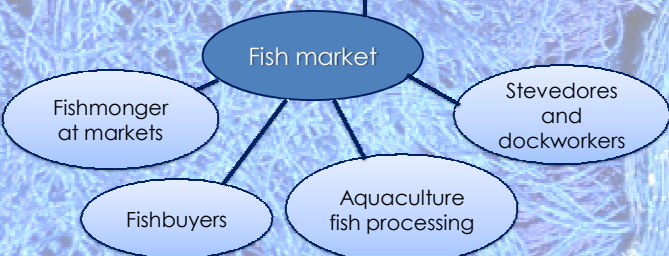
Development based on capitalism, gender division of labour, invisibility of women's work and feminization of poverty are key concepts to take into account.



Women are double (or triple) affected by resources status and its management; gender relationships are crucial to understand unequal access to resources and to reach a proper co-management shared among community, researchers, scientists and politicians.

There is a high % of women working at fish markets and fish processing plants; these are considered dirty jobs. In aquaculture, they suffer **precarious conditions; no insurance and long working hours**.

Women mostly do **unpaid and unrecognized work**; they are 100% in charge of domestic labour; **working double shift**. They don't have National Insurance nor retirement rights; they are **depend upon their husbands**. Traditionally called "helpers" on land; most of the times their status is "**collaborative spouse**", as her work is considered a help for the family.



Worst and less recognized working conditions for women are evident. When talking about **fisheries co-management**, maybe we should use a more appropriate concept: "**fisheries multi-management**". Sea women are clearly who administer a double (sometimes even triple) work; domestic, family business and salaried. Most of the times, they combine both; legal and unreported employment. Nevertheless, in many cases, women dedicate 100% of their time to non-recognized work.

In a markedly masculine sector, power positions are occupied by men. Few women are part of the management board teams and almost no one participate at decisions making. There is a clear underrepresentation of women at confraries, nevertheless, they are who call the tune.



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