



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

Fisheries Training Programme

## Contribution to the Secretary General's report on oceans and the law of the sea 2015

In the 17 years since the establishment of the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme, UNU-FTP staff, fellows and partner organizations have gained a unique view of the status and development of fisheries and marine management, particularly in developing countries. Three aspects are critical to sector development:

- Knowledge-based management of living aquatic resources based on information on stocks and sound economic principles,
- Practice-led promotion of food security and safety through improved handling and processing,
- Development of informed practice for sustainable aquaculture, the fastest growing food sector in the world

Addressing any of these topics in a rigorous way requires an approach that integrates social, economic and environmental elements. As an interdisciplinary programme, the UNU-FTP draws expertise from academia, the fishing industry and government to provide fellows with a holistic and meaningful perspective on fisheries in their home countries. Working with theories of education for sustainable development is a key feature of the work undertaken by the UNU-FTP.

To date, the UNU-FTP has trained nearly 300 fisheries professionals from 50 countries through the six month post-graduate programme in Iceland. Through coursework, assignments and individual research projects, fellows practice methodologies and analyse available data or a problem central to their work at home.

The UNU-FTP has conducted close to 40 short courses in its partner countries, training over 1000 participants. Short courses are typically designed and run in cooperation with specialists from Iceland and from the target country or region and usually engage former UNU-FTP fellows. The courses integrate local case studies, often from final research projects in the six month training.

The UNU-FTP cooperates with training institutes and universities in partner countries on short course development, which can then develop the course materials further and include them in their regular teaching. The UNU-FTP also cooperates with regional and international organisations, such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) on development and delivery of short courses and training.

Training can be a mechanism for interagency and south-south cooperation. In many cases, developing countries have human power and data that can be used to guide action. Most of the countries where fisheries play an important role are aware of how vital it is to manage fisheries, and have an understanding of sustainability. There is a great potential for countries faced with similar challenges to learn from one another. In addition, fisheries management often involves tackling issues of shared stocks, which is an opportunity for intergovernmental and inter-agency cooperation. For this reason, the UNU-FTP has shifted towards more regional approaches in recent years, both in the selection of fellows for the six month training and with respect to short courses.

United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme  
Marine Research Institute  
Skúlagata 4  
121, Reykjavík Iceland  
Phone: (+354) 575 2000  
Fax: (+354) 575 2001

Web: [unuftp.is](http://unuftp.is)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unufish](http://www.facebook.com/unufish)  
Twitter: @unuftp  
Email: [unu@unuftp.is](mailto:unu@unuftp.is)