



# Strategies to Integrate Women's Economic Empowerment in Seafood Sustainability

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Seattle Based Seafood Company

Sources Seafood Globally

Customers include Retailers and Restaurants in  
the U.S. and Canada

Seafood Forever Program is designed to be  
inclusive of all sustainability issues



# Where are we in the Sustainable Seafood Movement?

The sustainable seafood movement started by focusing on environmental sustainability (2006 – 2016)

From 2016 to today there has been more focus on Human Rights Due Diligence, Traceability, and Carbon Accountability

Sustainability compliance is getting harder but that all issues relevant to sustainability are not yet fully represented nor is their value captured by the marketplace

# THE PROBLEM

- Most seafood certification programs mainly focus on environmental sustainability and do not consider social and economic well-being
- Some certifications include labour rights, but do not include community or gender issues.
- Social sustainability is a holistic issue that impacts people across supply chains
- Women are a very important part of seafood supply chains and more is need to recognize and celebrate their work



# Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment in Seafood Sustainability



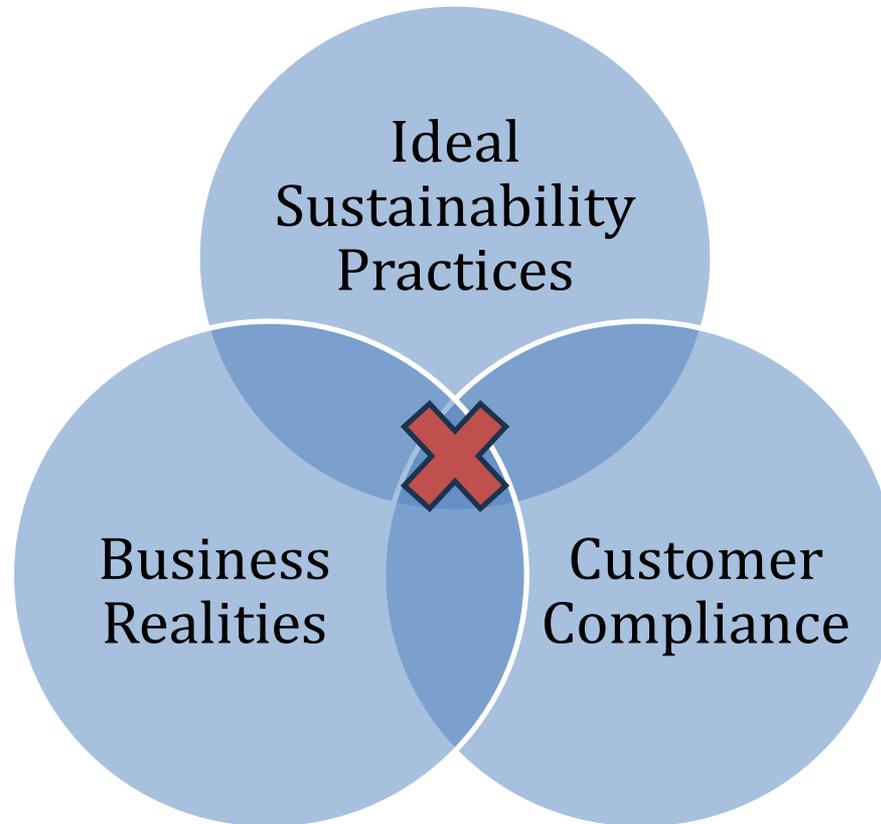
# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN SEAFOOD

- Find ways for a **gender mainstreaming** approach throughout standards used for sustainability compliance
- Create improvement options address underlying **drivers of inequality** including social norms and perceptions, gendered roles and responsibilities, and participation in leadership and decision-making





# Finding the Right Balance





## Opportunities to Integrate WEE

Unfortunately, with a few notable exceptions, WEE is not prominent in sustainable seafood conversations

- WEE projects exist already have some very interesting storied seafood options
- The Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative built a social and gender responsibility standards for seafood via a multistakeholder process

ASIC

Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative

# ASIC SOCIAL AND GENDER STANDARD CORE PRINCIPLES



## Social & Gender Standard

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Addressing the salient industry needs of aquaculture operations to support in improving livelihoods for smallholder producers, promote human rights in the seafood supply chain, and foster access to equal opportunities and gender equality

1. No Child Labor
2. No Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, Slavery
3. Freedom of Association
4. Equality and Non-discrimination
5. Women Economic Empowerment
6. Fair Recruitment and Decent Working Conditions
7. Safe Working Environment
8. Respect for Local Communities

# ASIC SOCIAL AND GENDER STANDARD HISTORY





## Ways Forward for WEE

Unfortunately, the ASIC project ran out of funds before the standard could be operationalized

The ASIC standard remains a tool that could be used to support gender mainstreaming in sustainable seafood

Aqua Star is looking for example projects to test the standard and ideally build commercial relationships

We welcome anyone to reach out to us to discuss ways that we might work together to realize this goal



# THANK YOU

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