



Exploring and  
Expanding  
Understandings of  
Gender Identity and  
Expression in Fisheries

# Why do we need to Exploring and Expanding Understandings of Gender Identity and Expression in Fisheries?

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Fisheries are traditionally male-dominated and heteronormative

Women's roles gaining recognition, but LGBTQIA+ voices remain invisible

It's time to explore challenges, opportunities, advocacy, and transformative approaches.

# LGBTQIA: Challenges

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- **Social stigma and discrimination:** LGBTQIA+ fishers and aquaculture workers often face harassment, exclusion, or invisibility within both their communities and workplaces (Pomeroy et al., 2023).
- **Lack of representation:** Fisheries governance frameworks rarely recognize diverse gender identities, instead reinforcing male/female binaries (Kleiber et al., 2015).
- **Economic marginalization:** Discrimination can lead to restricted access to credit, markets, or participation in producer organizations.
- **Safety and wellbeing risks:** LGBTQIA+ individuals may be vulnerable to violence or exploitation, particularly in remote fishing communities.





# Linking Gender-Transformative Approaches to LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Fisheries in Southeast Asia

**Policy reform:** Encouraging governments and regional bodies such as SEAFDEC to broaden gender frameworks beyond binary definitions. For example, gender-responsive fisheries policies could explicitly recognize sexual and gender diversity.

**Capacity building:** Training fisheries officers and extension workers to adopt inclusive practices that respect LGBTQIA+ identities.

**Participatory research:** Documenting the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals in fisheries supply chains, ensuring evidence informs interventions.

**Intersectional analysis:** Recognizing that gender identity intersects with poverty, class, ethnicity, and geography, which shapes experiences of marginalization or resilience.

**Visibility in regional platforms:** Events like the GAF conference offer opportunities to mainstream LGBTQIA+ perspectives into ongoing gender equality discussions.



To conclude, exploring and expanding understandings of gender identity in fisheries means moving beyond binary perspectives and recognizing the full spectrum of human experiences