**Women’s Access to Productive Tools and Roles in Fisheries Management**

Angela Lentisco\*1 and Robert Lee2

1 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 39 PraAthit Road, Bangkok, Thailand

2 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, 39 PraAthit Road, Bangkok, Thailand

**Abstract**

### It has been increasingly recognized in the academic literature that despite women’s important roles and contributions to the fisheries sector, they are being left out of fisheries management. In order to ensure sustainable management of the resources and viable livelihoods in fisheries, it is important to guarantee the participation of all the relevant stakeholders in the sector, highlighting and understanding better the roles of women. This paper draws on bibliographic literature on the theme of women’s access to production tools (including primary tools such as boats and gears), processing equipment, and their role in fisheries management. It will review case studies where women have owned the productive tools and will aim at finding evidence of the efficiency and efficacy with which women run and operate micro and meso fishing enterprises. In particular, the paper will look at the practices, challenges and the factors (support, policies, organizational requirements) that lead to successful women led enterprises in the fisheries sector, and strategies that enhanced women’s roles in resource management. The study will also look for examples where the non access to productive tools and to fishery products have led to situations which pose threats to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and family health, including vulnerable groups and children. The paper’s aim is to make a case for identifying situations and opportunities to scale up the role of women in responsible fish production and processing and thereby giving better access to women’s voices in fisheries policy formulation and dialogue, as well as to improving their participation in decision making mechanisms and fisheries management bodies.