



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The human cost of fishing

The link between fisher safety

International oversight

Peter Horn

A history of numbers

Earlier estimates

- 80 deaths/100,000 fishers
- Limited reliable data
- “...partially representative”

Our ambition

- Official statistics as well as grey literature, special requests, journalism, and social media (2000-2020)





Who counts as a fisher?

All artisanal, small-scale, industrial, commercial, municipal, diving, inshore, shore based (including shellfish or crustacean gathering), inland or riverine fishing, as well as aquaculture workers.

Processors and recreational fishers are excluded.



 = 1,000 fisher deaths

What we found

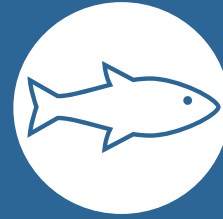
- >100,000 fishers die every year
- Who counts matters
- Consistent drivers



Why is fishing so dangerous?



Climate change



Sustainability



Governance



Poverty



Safety

Global case studies



Image credit: [Abdulai Sayni](#) on [Unsplash](#)

West Coast & Inland Africa

Fatality rate: 1,000-1,800 / 100,000

Climate change, sustainability,
governance, poverty, IUU, human &
wildlife conflict, safety capacity



Spain. Image Credit: Francisco Blaha

European Union

Fatality rate: 85-124 / 100,000

Smaller vessel – greater risk

Climate change, sustainability,
governance, exploitation

Opportunity for action

Global
ratification of
the Cape Town
Agreement

Capacity
development
on safety &
reporting

Joint Working
Group – IMO,
FAO, ILO

3 treaties,
related
synergies –
PSMA, CTA,
C188

Reliable,
accessible &
trusted data

Continue
efforts on IUU
activities
globally

Transparency,
info sharing,
traceability

Investigate
& mitigate
drivers

In-country
focus on small
scale-fishers
and their
livelihoods



In summary...

Groundbreaking, comprehensive look

- Updated fatality numbers
- Clarity on the need for data, and definition of a fisher
- Uncovered trends and drivers, IUU by necessity
- Opportunities to act



A fisherman casts his net on Lake Victoria. Photo: Hennie Stander/Unsplash

Thank you
