

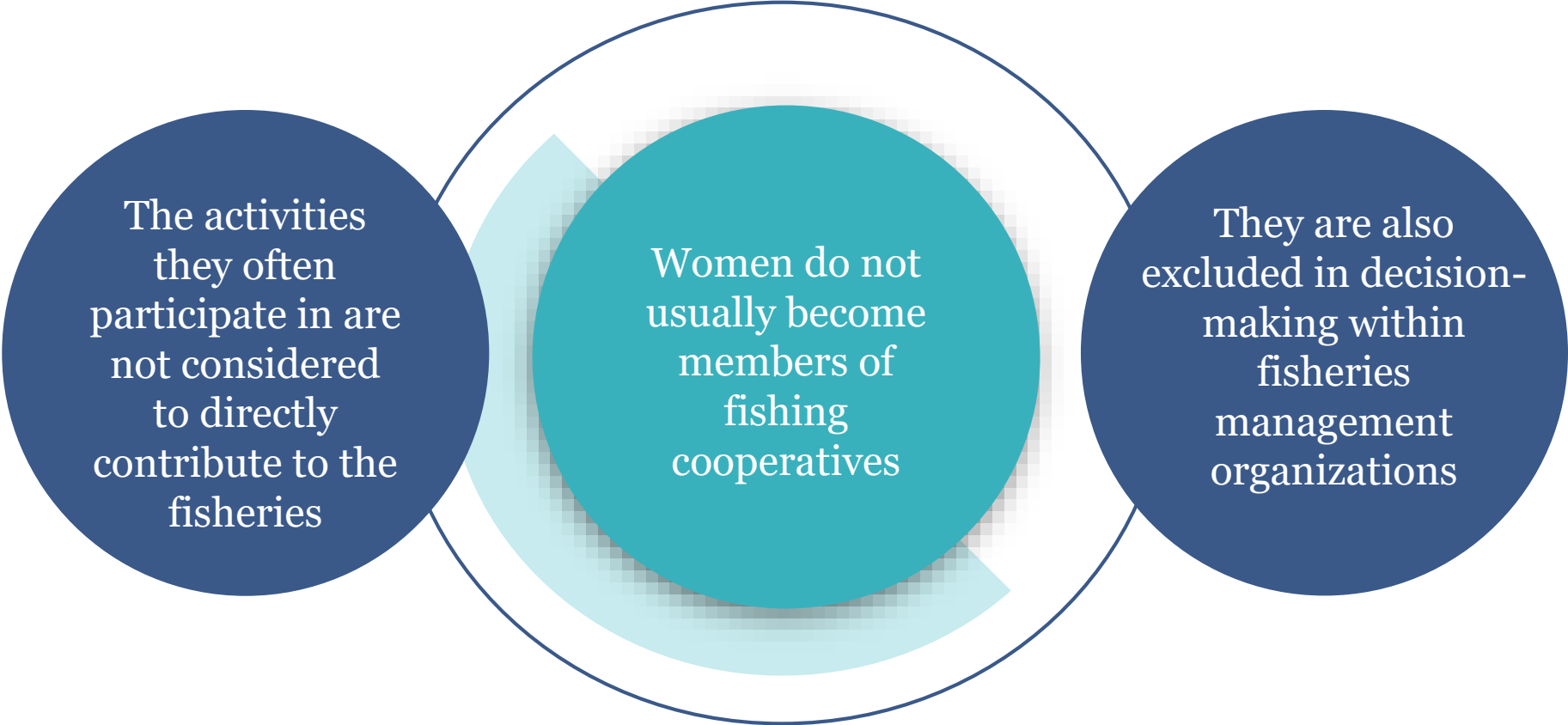


Masculinities: Challenges and opportunities for women's access to the management of fishery resources

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Participation of women in fisheries management

Women make up half of fisheries workers worldwide (FAO, 2020), but they do not usually become members of fishing cooperatives.



The activities they often participate in are not considered to directly contribute to the fisheries

Women do not usually become members of fishing cooperatives

They are also excluded in decision-making within fisheries management organizations

Fisheries management organizations

Belonging to a fishing cooperative is considered a right of association in the Mexican constitution.

Advantages of being a member of a fishing cooperative:

- Ownership rights
- Guaranteed work
- Economic income
- Health care
- Education



Gender inequalities associated with access to fishing cooperatives are due to the cultural construction that the fishing world belongs to men.

- The identity of man is built from work, from fishing.
- Legitimizing male privilege and preventing women from obtaining the same rights as men.
- If a woman does not participate in the extraction, she cannot belong to the cooperatives.

“To meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development regarding gender equality, it is essential to work and collaborate with men”.



Methodological proposal

Objective: characterize the expressions of masculinity and their influence on the participation of women in fisheries in three marine ecosystems of Mexico.

Study area

- Mexican Pacific
- Gulf of California
- Mexican Caribbean

Information gathering

Sixteen semi-structured interviews (5-6 men and women per fishery)

Information analysis

The information was transcribed using MAXQDA

- Organizing the content
- Identifying meanings
- Defining categories



Geographical locations of the fishing communities

Characterization of masculinities in Mexican SSF

The results show four expressions of masculinity:

+ 50 years

Reluctant traditional masculinity, their point of view was what mattered, and they did not accept the participation of women in fisheries.

40-50 years

Flexible traditional masculinity, accepted the participation of women in the working areas of the fisheries.

30-40 years

Transitional masculinity, were those who incorporated notions of gender equality and who were open to the participation of women in fisheries.

-30 years

Apprentice masculinity, may develop into traditional masculinity or move towards gender equality.

Principle characteristics	Reluctant traditional	Traditional flexible	Transition al
Born in a fishing community	X	X	X
Men over 50 years of age	X		
Men between 40–50 years of age		X	
Men between 30–40 years of age			X
Socialized in activities related to fishing	X	X	X
Endorsed by other experts	X	X	X
Body and mind used in the work of the fisher	X	X	X
A part of a fishing team or fishing cooperative	X	X	X
Fishing is the only work activity	X		
Established as a couple	X	X	X
They are considered the breadwinner and main family authority	X	X	

Principle characteristics	Reluctant traditional	Traditional flexible	Transition al
They consider that women's activities should be exclusively domestic	X	X	
They manifest superiority towards women	X	X	
They are observed as superior to other men	X		
They are reluctant to change	X		
They accept that reality has changed		X	X
Women are accepted into various fishery activities		X	X
They consider other life options outside the fishery			X
They accept the empowerment of women			X
They try to be co-responsible within the home			X

Possibility of women's involvement in management

- The exclusion of women in fisheries are the result of thought processes centered on traditional masculinities that resist change.
- Training courses provoke new ways of thinking about gender equality.
- If this is seen as a process to improve working and living conditions, men will allow their masculinities to become more flexible for the good of the cooperative.

“I have noticed something in my time here in the organization: It is hard for them [reluctant traditional masculinities] to accept that women are now part of the cooperative, that we are their partners.”

“Many people do not see the women's actions, and since they do not see them, they cannot say that what they are doing is very valuable. What they are doing is very important for the company!”



Finals messages

1

Masculinities are part of the institutional structures that condition the participation of women in management positions.

2

Masculinities are not static and represent different approaches to being a man and largely reflect a gender culture that is based on inequality.

3

The primary efforts should be aimed at younger generations. The work with youth is essential to move towards more equitable social relations.



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