

The Republic of Ghana

This one-pager is part of a broader project¹ examining how gender considerations are reflected in fisheries governance. A systematic content analysis of fisheries governance documents from 20 countries assessed how gender is addressed across policy language, institutional arrangements, objectives, and strategies. Project findings are intended to strengthen recognition of women's contributions across the sector and support equitable access to marine resources, share of benefits, and participation in decision-making.

Each one-pager summarizes key findings for a focal country, analysing fisheries governance documents as a collective policy bundle to identify system-level patterns. The analysis draws on documents collected up to July 2025, and the findings inform both this one-pager and the governance section of the corresponding country fact sheet.²

Taken individually or collectively across the 20 countries, these one-pagers aim to inform decision-makers, civil society actors, funders, and researchers by providing insights on gender considerations in fisheries governance.

| Area of Analysis | Country Findings |
|--|--|
| Total number of documents analysed | 17 |
| Number of documents with women/gender terms only | 6 |
| Number of documents with she/her pronouns only | 0 |
| Number of documents with both terms and pronouns | 1 |
| <i>Qualitative assessments are based only on documents with women/gender terms (6), she/her pronouns (0), or both (1).</i> | |
| Structural integration <i>Low / Medium / High</i> | High: Gender considerations are embedded across fisheries governance through sectoral strategies, statutory mandates, and co-management arrangements, with equality and women's empowerment positioned as operational priorities. |
| Objective of gender integration <i>Ecological / Economic / Social</i> | Ecological (primary): Gender integration supports effective fisheries management through co-management, stewardship, and improved compliance. Economic and Social (secondary): Measures aim to strengthen livelihoods, market participation, and women's representation within post-harvest value chains. |
| Approach to gender integration <i>Reach / Benefit / Empower / Transform</i> | Benefit and Empower: Gender integration is operationalized through mandated representation in decision-making bodies, targeted livelihood support, and improved access to finance. |

Methodology Snapshot

Qualitative Assessment Framework

Qualitative assessments reflect how gender considerations are articulated within the reviewed documents. They are derived from content analysis of texts referencing women, gender, or feminine pronouns. The categories below outline the criteria guiding this framework.

Structural integration (extent of institutional embedding)

- *Low* – Gender considerations appear in governance texts without shaping policy goals or structures.
- *Medium* – Gender considerations inform policy goals or institutional commitments without binding mandates.
- *High* – Gender considerations are embedded in binding mandates, quantified targets, or formal representation.

Objective of gender integration (intended aim)

- *Ecological* – Linked to sustainability or natural resources management effectiveness.
- *Economic* – Linked to livelihoods, income generation, or value chains.
- *Social* – Linked to equity, participation, or women's rights.

Approach to gender integration (mode of operationalization)

- *Reach* – Women are recognized, referenced, or included in consultation or governance processes.
- *Benefit* – Targeted resources improve women's access or material outcomes.
- *Empower* – Women hold decision-making representation or influence within governance processes.
- *Transform* – Institutional or structural reforms address underlying norms, power imbalances, or inequalities.

Governance Document Selection Criteria and Content Search

Document selection criteria were established to identify fisheries-specific governance instruments addressing:

- fisheries management and regulations;
- fisheries production systems and value chains, including pre-harvest, harvest, processing, and trade activities;
- broader development and economic strategies explicitly linked to fisheries-sector activities.

Key gender-related terms – including “gender,” “women,” “girls,” “mothers,” “she,” and “her” – were systematically searched across the selected documents and analysed in context. For full methodology, see the accompanying metadata³ document.

Selected Fisheries Governance Documents for Analysis

Documents and key attributes are compiled in a project database⁴, with hyperlinks to original text where available.

Co-management policy for the fisheries sector 2020.

Ministerial Directive Regarding the Implementation of Closed Seasons for Industrial Trawlers under The Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana (2015 -2019).

National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for the Fisheries Sector.

Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations (L.I. 2217 of 2015).

Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana. A National Policy for the Management of the Marine Fisheries Sector 2015-2019.

Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2014 (Act No. 880).

National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2014.

Sector Medium-Term Development Plan (2014-2017).

Guidelines for the registration & licensing of fishing vessels (industrial and semi-industrial) in Ghana.

Republic of Ghana Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development Plan 2011 to 2016.

Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1968).

Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act No. 625 of 2002).

Fisheries Commission Act, 1993 (Act No. 457 of 1993).

Fisheries Law, 1991 (Law No. 256 of 1991).

Fisheries Regulations, 1979.

Fishing Boats (Certificate of Competency as Skippers and Second Hands) Regulations, 1972.

Wholesale Fish Marketing Act, 1963 (Act No. 156).

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The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the organisations listed above.



¹ Project website – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/>

² Country fact sheet – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/#ghana>

³ Metadata document – <https://oceanrisk.earth/fact-sheets/#supplementary-material-for-country-fact-sheets>

⁴ Zenodo database – Cutting, A., Wabnitz, C.C.C., Woodhead, A.J., & Norström, A. (2025). Database of Fisheries Governance Documents for Gender Equity Analysis [Data set]. Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15098509>