

The Republic of Maldives

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 December 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	37
Number of documents with women/gender terms only	3
Number of documents with she/her pronouns only	0
Number of documents with both terms and pronouns	0
<i>Qualitative assessments are based only on documents with women/gender terms (3), she/her pronouns (0), or both (0).</i>	
Structural integration <i>Low / Medium / High</i>	Medium: Gender considerations are articulated within legislation and policy frameworks, where equity is framed as a foundational and cross-cutting principle in fisheries governance.
Objective of gender integration <i>Ecological / Economic / Social</i>	Economic and Social: Sector policies recognize women as a significant share of the fisheries workforce and aim to strengthen their participation and livelihoods, while acknowledging emerging risks to women's livelihoods within the sector.
Approach to gender integration <i>Reach / Benefit / Empower / Transform</i>	Benefit: Gender-responsive measures focus on strengthening women's livelihoods and economic participation in fisheries, including through targeted employment schemes.

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.

Gulper Shark Fishery Management Regulation.

Gulper Shark Fishery Management Plan.

Reef Fishery Management Regulation (Regulation No. R-4/2025).

Sea Cucumber Fishery Management Regulation (Regulation No. R-3/2025).

Third Amendment to the Tuna Fisheries Regulations of the Maldives (Regulation No. R-17/2025).

Regulation No. 2025/R-15—Second Amendment to the General Fisheries Regulations of the Maldives.

2024/R-121 Regulation on Fishermen's Registry.

2023/R-142 Regulation on leasing and Renting Uninhabited Islands and for the Purpose of Fisheries and Agriculture.

Fisheries-related Activities Licensing Regulations (No. 2023/R-82).

Regulation No. 2023/R-123—First Amendment to the General Fisheries Regulations of the Maldives.

2022/R-2 Grouper Fishery Regulation.

2022/R-122 Licensing Regulation for Foreign Fishing Vessels for Purchase of Tuna.
Tuna Fishery Management Regulation (Regulation No. R-139/2022).
First Amendment to the Fisheries Act of the Maldives (No. 10/2022).

2021/R-62 Billfish Fishery Regulation.

Maldives Tuna Fishery Management Plan, 2021.

General Fisheries Regulation of the Maldives (Regulation No. R-75/2020).

Maldives Billfish Fishery Management Plan, 2020.

Maldives Diamondback Squid Fishery Management Plan, 2020.

Maldives Grouper Fishery Management Plan.

Maldives Lobster Fishery Management Plan.

Maldives Marine Aquarium Fishery Management Plan, 2020.

Maldives Reef Fishery Management Plan.

Maldives Sea Cucumber Fishery Management Plan.

Regulation No. 2020/R-4 on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing.

Regulation No. 2020/R-74 on Administration of Penalties for Fisheries Related Offences.

Regulation No. 2020/R-91 on issuing permits for the establishment of fisheries project.

Regulation No. 2020/R-92 on the General Process of Issuing Licenses and Permits for Fishing, Fishing Related Activities and Aquaculture Activities.

Regulation No. 2020/R-93 on minimum price for sales and purchase of fish.

Fisheries Act of the Maldives (No. 14/2019).

Maldives National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU).

National Fisheries and Agricultural Policy 2019-2029.

National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2015.

General Fisheries Regulations.

Regulations for Issuing the Licence to Fish in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Maldives.

Fisheries Law of the Maldives (Law No. 5/87).

Law No. 1/74 relating to Fishing in the lagoons of Maldives (enacted 1374 Hejira, amended by laws 19 of 1971 and 22 of 1975).

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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/#maldives>

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>