

Title: **Dollars, Work and Food: Understanding Dependency on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector**

Authors: Marie Caroline Badjeck, World Fish Centre (Malaysia)
Joeri Scholtens, University of Amsterdam / World Fish Centre
(NeTherlands)

Abstract: In many developing countries the fisheries and aquaculture sector is a vital source of food, foreign exchange earnings and employment. We examine the concept of fishery dependency and develop indicators that capture its multi-dimensional meaning at the national level. These indicators allow both the development of national dependency profiles as well as cross-country comparisons. A study of 17 countries reveals that reliance on global databases often leads to an undervaluation of a countrys actual dependency of fisheries. The studys aim is to better understand the nature of fishery dependency and the critical role it plays in determining countries vulnerability from a food security stand point. This will aid management, planning and policy measures aimed at maintaining and improving food security.