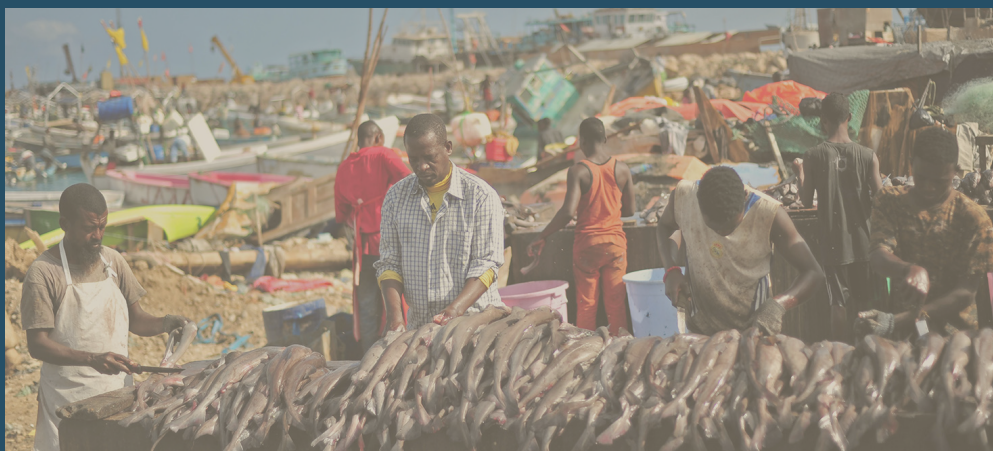


# SECURE FISHERIES

Programming & Focus Areas



one earth  
FUTURE



SECURE FISHERIES

Advancing Sustainable Fisheries

a program of One Earth Future

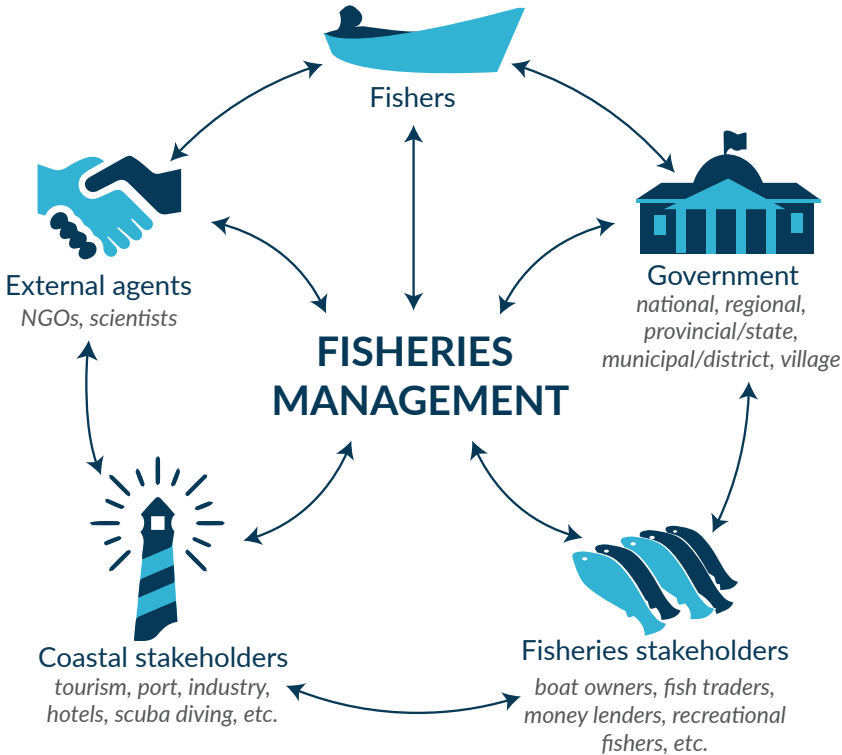
# INTRODUCTION TO SECURE FISHERIES

Secure Fisheries is dedicated to promoting sustainable fisheries across the Somali region as a source of long-term food and economic security. The Somali fishing sector has the potential to provide sustainable coastal livelihoods through employment opportunities that support community resilience. Since the program’s launch in 2015, which was anchored by the influential report *Securing Somali Fisheries*, we have provided objective scientific research on fisheries in the Somali region. Today, through on-the-ground efforts throughout the region, we connect fisherfolk, fishing companies, scientists, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, and government to improve cooperation while guiding investment to effectively and sustainably support sector capacity. Secure Fisheries staff members are based in Hargeisa, Somaliland; Garowe, Puntland; and the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu; with support from One Earth Future headquarters in the US state of Colorado.

## PROGRAMMING & FOCUS AREAS

### Fisheries Co-Management

Cooperative management (co-management) is a partnership between government and resource users that provides an effective governance structure for localized fisheries management. Around the world, co-management has successfully developed more sustainable, equitable, and effective fisheries management systems. Fisheries co-management is particularly well-suited for areas like the Somali region that have low government capacity for central regulation and enforcement coupled with remote fishing communities.



*Fisheries co-management brings together stakeholders from across the sector to promote shared authority and responsibility for sustainable fisheries management planning.*



Secure Fisheries is working in Bander Beyla, Puntland, and Zeila, Somaliland, to facilitate fisheries co-management. In the initial stages, Secure Fisheries led participatory assessments to identify community needs, fishing grounds, critical stakeholders, and sources of resource conflict. Capacity-building is also critical to an effective co-management association. With the help of external funders and partners, Secure Fisheries has organized community training sessions in net-making, boat repair, hygiene and sanitation, environmental education, and business administration. In 2020, Bander Beyla and Zeila both formally established co-management associations through power-sharing agreements with regional governments. The agreements outline the scope of the co-management associations and the roles of each involved party. Secure Fisheries signed these agreements as an implementing partner to support each co-management association. The next steps for each association will be to develop conflict resolution mechanisms and fisheries management plans.



*(Left) Community members convene to discuss the formal establishment of a co-management association in Bander Beyla. (Right) A woman in Bander Beyla learns how to make and repair fishing nets.*

## Fisheries Data Collection Working Group

Somali government fisheries officers and data enumerators are spearheading a fisheries data collection project—the first since the country’s civil war. The project, known as the Fisheries Data Collection Working Group (FDCWG), is a region-wide fisheries catch data collection program to produce national estimates of fish catch. It currently spans six landing sites, one in each coastal Federal Member State.

Secure Fisheries developed data collection protocols and organized training sessions for fisheries officers and data enumerators on fish identification, measuring and weighing catch, creation of landing site profiles, spatial data collection, and shoreline mapping surveys. In the first year of the project, data collectors continuously surveyed boats from December 2019 through August 2020, identifying over 31,000 individual fish across all six sites and developing the beginning of a crucial database to be used by fisheries managers.



*Members of the Puntland Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources trained in fisheries data collection*

## Project Kalluun

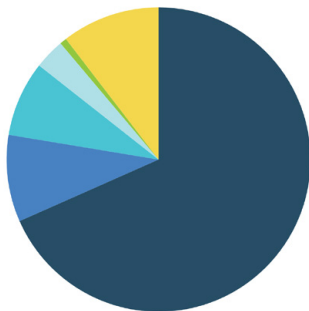
Fisheries catch data are critical for management and sector development, and marine science students at local universities are the future of Somali fisheries governance and research. Secure Fisheries is partnering with students and faculty at Somali universities to collect data on fish catch in Somali waters and develop students' fisheries science skills. [Project Kalluun](#) was piloted in 2018 with our partner, City University in Mogadishu, then expanded to Berbera Maritime and Fisheries Academy in Somaliland, East Africa University in Puntland, and the University of Kismayo in Jubaland.



*A student team leader records fish catch data*

Secure Fisheries trains teams of students to collect catch data from local fishers. Monthly reporting from this data collection gives students the opportunity to hone their fish identification and data-collection skills, while a lecture series with international and Somali experts expands their knowledge base. Many graduates of Project Kalluun are now pursuing advanced degrees in marine science, and the resulting data have generated published educational materials. In 2018, Project Kalluun was featured by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as the first effort to collect fisheries data in the Somali region since before the civil war in 1991.

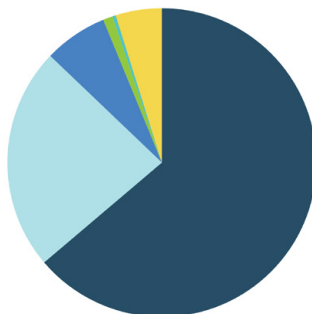
**Catch Composition at Neck Fish (Berbera) Landing Site**



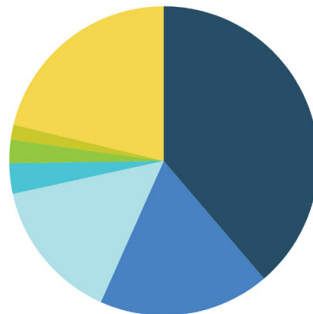
**Catch Composition at Kibora (Kismayo) Landing Site**



**Catch Composition at Neck Fish (Bosaso) Landing Site**



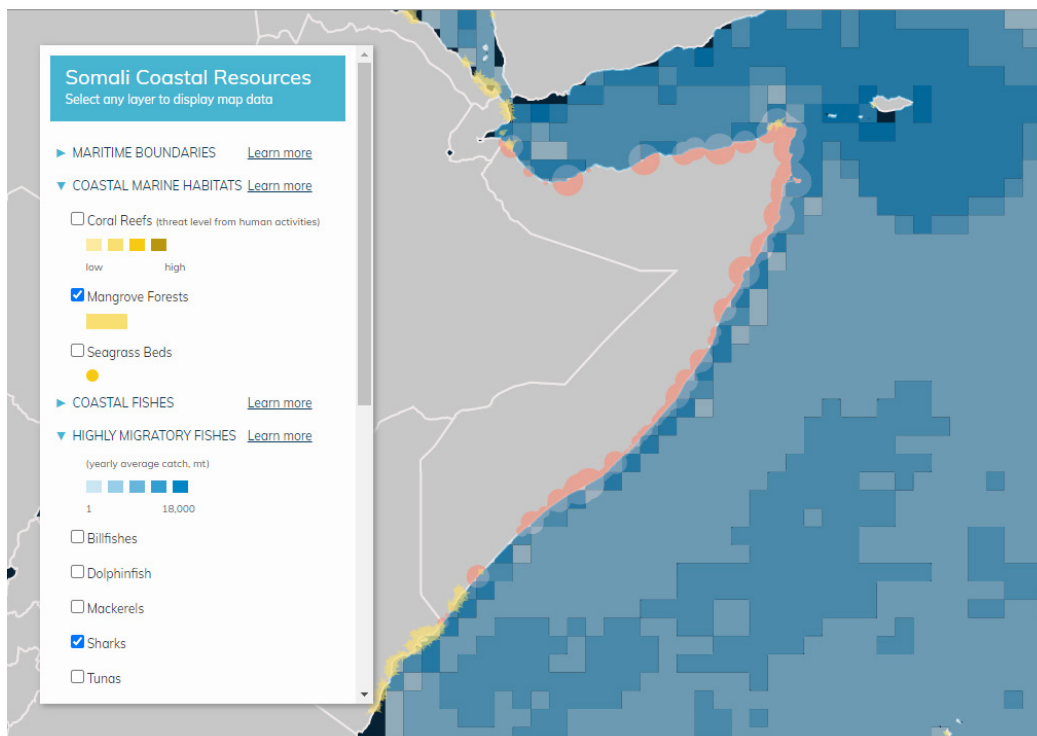
**Catch Composition at Lido (Mogadishu) Landing Site**



*These graphs show types of fish and the proportion of each by abundance caught at each of the Project Kalluun sites.*

## Project Badweyn

Secure Fisheries created [Project Badweyn](#), an online interactive mapping tool, to explore the connections between Somali coastal activities and marine resources. Project Badweyn is a resource for government officials, investors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and students to use to understand the variety and quality of information available about marine resources and their uses in Somali communities. Visualizing interactions in the maritime space can inform strategies to build economically and ecologically sustainable communities while avoiding future conflicts over the marine domain. Using our comprehensive maps of Somali fish landing sites and locations of international donor-funded development projects, fisheries stakeholders can identify gaps in support where they can target future work. By highlighting the stakeholders working in the coastal Somali region, Project Badweyn fosters coordination and collaboration among groups that have a common goal of stabilizing the region and expanding economic security to foster sustainable peace. It also provides a foundation of knowledge about the marine environment in Somali waters that is useful to students and researchers alike.



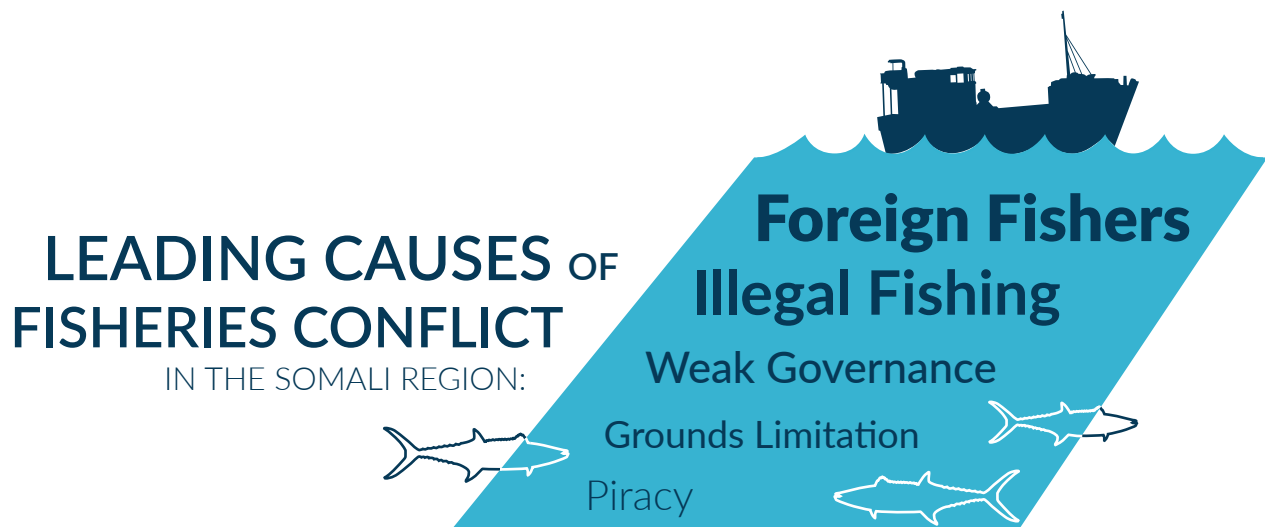
*Project Badweyn allows users to map the locations of important marine resources in the Somali region. Shown here: mangroves in yellow, shark distribution in blue, and fish landing sites in orange circles.*

## Fisheries Conflict Research

In line with One Earth Future’s mission to eliminate the root causes of war, Secure Fisheries is dedicated to implementing projects and policies that reduce and prevent fisheries conflict. In the Somali region, the stability of fisheries and the maritime domain more broadly are linked to the economic and physical security of the Somali people. As competition for finite fisheries resources increases, the risk of violent conflict over fisheries also rises.

## Fisheries Conflict Database

Secure Fisheries has created the [Fisheries Conflict Database](#) to investigate conflict in East African waters and to improve understanding of conflicts over fisheries resources. In the Somali region, fisheries conflict emerged from unmanaged competition over fish stocks and was exacerbated by institutional instability within the Somali fishing sector. Our research highlights five significant causes of fisheries-related conflict in the Somali region: the presence of foreign fishers, territorial disputes, illegal fishing, weak governance, and piracy. We use this database to inform our programming, especially for developing conflict resolution mechanisms in the co-management communities.



## Fisheries Conflict Research Consortium

Secure Fisheries is also dedicated to advancing awareness of fisheries conflict more broadly. In 2017, we launched the [Fisheries Conflict Research Consortium](#) (FCRC) to bring together academics, policy advisers, and non-governmental organizations. The FCRC establishes formal channels of communication among researchers, coordinates research efforts, raises awareness about threats of fisheries conflict, and promotes effective interventions. This global network of researchers collaborates on research, writing, fundraising, and outreach.



## PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Secure Fisheries engages a diverse group of partners in our work. Through research and sector development projects, in person and remotely, we partner with stakeholders to work toward our common goal of Somali fisheries being peaceful and sustainable. Within OEF, we partner with our sister program, Shuraako, on fisheries sector events and increasing access to credit for Somali fishing businesses. The first Somalia Fisheries Forum (SFF 2017) convened over 600 fishing community members, business owners, investors, government officials, technical experts, and donors dedicated to enhancing the Somali fishing sector. The second Somalia Fisheries Forum in 2019 built upon the outcomes and partnerships developed at SFF 2017 to catalyze momentum towards a roadmap for small-scale fisheries, with a focus on establishing fisheries co-management in the region. The forum exhibited the strength of Somalia’s fishing sector and businesses with full support and sponsorship from Somali organizations. It was an example of how important public–private dialogue and crafting an inclusive foundational network are to building new opportunities and addressing the obstacles facing Somali fisheries. It also laid the foundation at the federal and state levels for adoption of co-management approaches to fisheries management.



*Three Field Fishers Schools were established in Somaliland through a partnership with the UN FAO, Secure Fisheries, and funded by USAID. The schools emphasize, “learning by doing.”*

Those forum dialogues resulted in new opportunities to direct investment and build capacity in the Somali fishing sector. In that vein, we are working with [Future of Fish](#) to create innovative methods of increasing value in Somali fisheries by combining research, local knowledge, and economic principles to identify small changes to the value chain that will result in big benefits for the sector. Private-sector partners also see potential in the fishing sector and rely on our research and presence to find where their products will be the most profitable and beneficial for Somali coastal communities and their economies.

One ongoing public–private partnership developed from the UN75 Global Governance Forum. “Cold Catch: Demonstrating a Cold Chain Infrastructure for the Somali Fishing Industry” is designed as a demonstration of an unbroken cold-chain system, from catch to consumer, that can serve as a model for food security solutions in Somali coastal communities. The project has gained the support of the Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) at the federal level and in the state of Puntland (northeast Somalia). We are linking Somali export associations, global cold-chain experts, local energy companies, and coastal fishing villages to demonstrate how a combination of sustainable fisheries co-management, community-driven data collection, and cold-chain infrastructure can improve business and health outcomes.

# SECURE FISHERIES' CORE PRINCIPLES

## Equity and Inclusion

The empowerment of women and other marginalized groups in the fisheries sector promotes resource sustainability, economic growth, and food security. We incorporate a gender perspective throughout our projects, research, and monitoring and evaluation framework by examining the different roles of men and women in the areas in which we work and ensuring that both women and men benefit from our efforts. Our guide to gender mainstreaming outlines our approach to incorporating gender perspectives into fisheries management.

Equity is critical for successful fisheries co-management. Secure Fisheries incorporates questions about equity into its needs assessments, interviewing fishers and local women's associations to understand the unique needs and challenges of women in these communities. The program works with government and community leaders to determine which community members, especially those in marginalized groups like women and youth, could benefit most and ensures that they are involved in Secure Fisheries-facilitated trainings and represented in the co-management associations. Secure Fisheries has hosted six community-level practical trainings, based on community requests, in which one-third of the participants were women, including majority-women trainings in net-making and hygiene-focused fish handling.

## Decolonization

As a program of a US-based foundation with staff shared between the US and the Somali region, Secure Fisheries acknowledges the history of US imperialism and Western colonization in the Somali region. We are aware of the power imbalances between our staff and the beneficiaries of our work. We seek to ensure that our work will support decolonization rather than perpetuating colonial power structures and relationships. Our work is led by local community members and government stakeholders, and Secure Fisheries provides external support to further the goals and address the needs of Somali beneficiaries. Decolonization is a process and we seek to learn more about how our actions can be modified to support decolonization.

## Science-Based Development

Secure Fisheries' work is based on scientific research and methods grounded in the experience of experts and communities in the Somali region and around the world. Our projects are underpinned by scientific inquiry and data. Where data are not available, we develop ways to fill those gaps. While quantitative data are useful, our approach to project development and implementation is from a participatory, needs-based perspective that seeks the input and leadership of the communities in which we work. Secure Fisheries aims to expand the knowledge and understanding of Somali marine resources and spread that knowledge to current and future resource users and researchers.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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- Paige M. Roberts, Laura C. Burroughs, and Ahmed-Yasin Osman Moge, “The Potential for Fisheries Co-management in the Somali Region,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, October 10, 2019, <http://www.securefisheries.org/fisheries-co-management-somali>
- Laura C. Burroughs and Mohamed Mohamed Abdullahi, “Co-Management Associations in the Somali Region: A Guide for Government and Change Agents,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, April 9, 2021, <https://www.securefisheries.org/co-management-associations-guide>
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- Colleen Devlin, Sarah M. Glaser, Cierra Villegas, and Natasia Poinatte, “Rough Seas: The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict in Somali Waters,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, January 28, 2020, <http://www.securefisheries.org/rough-seas-fisheries-conflict-somali-waters>
- Sarah M. Glaser, Colleen Devlin, Joshua E. Lambert, Ciera Villegas, and Natasia Poinatte, “Fish Wars: The Causes and Consequences of Fisheries Conflict in Tanzania,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, November 21, 2018, <http://www.securefisheries.org/fish-wars-tanzania>
- “Somalia Fisheries Forum 2019 Outcome Report,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, September 24, 2019, <http://www.securefisheries.org/somalia-fisheries-forum-2019-outcome-report>
- Kaija J. Hurlburt, “Somalia Fisheries Forum 2017 Outcome Report,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, April 2, 2018, <http://www.securefisheries.org/somalia-fisheries-forum-outcome-report>
- Laura Burroughs, “Gender Mainstreaming,” Secure Fisheries, a program of One Earth Future, March 8, 2018, <http://www.securefisheries.org/gender-mainstreaming>

## ONE EARTH FUTURE

[oneearthfuture.org](http://oneearthfuture.org)     

One Earth Future Foundation (OEF) is an incubator of innovative peacebuilding programs that designs, tests, and partners to scale programs that work hand-in-hand with those most affected by conflict to eliminate the root causes of war. We believe in a world beyond war, where sustainable peace is truly possible.

## SECURE FISHERIES

[securefisheries.org](http://securefisheries.org)  

Secure Fisheries is dedicated to promoting peaceful and sustainable fisheries as a source of food security, economic security, and community resilience. We connect fisherfolk, fishing companies, investors, scientists, and the government to support the fishing sector while mitigating root causes of armed conflict. Secure Fisheries is a program of One Earth Future Foundation (OEF). Other OEF programs designed to prevent or end violent conflict and build sustainable peace globally include Shuraako, Our Secure Future, Open Nuclear Network, and PASO Colombia.

Contact Secure Fisheries at [securefisheries@oneearthfuture.org](mailto:securefisheries@oneearthfuture.org).



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Advancing Sustainable Fisheries

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