



FISHNET ALLIANCE

WHAT IS FISHNET ALLIANCE?

FishNet Alliance is a network of fishers engaged in and promoting sustainable fishing in line with ecosystem limits. We stand in solidarity against extractive activities in water bodies - including rivers, lakes and oceans.



PRINCIPLES OF FISHNET ALLIANCE

- 1.** FishNet Alliance aims to halt the expansion of extractive activities such as mining and oil/gas exploitation in our inland waters and oceans.
- 2.** FishNet Alliance is a network of like minds from different coastal communities that believe in solidarity, dignity and respect of the indigenous rights.
- 3.** The Alliance promotes, mobilizes and supports fishing activities that are in consonance with the natural cycles of the marine ecosystems.
- 4.** FishNet Alliance respects diversity and sustainable local knowledge.
- 5.** We are against indiscriminate displacement of fishing settlements and sand-filling of fishing creeks and rivers.
- 6.** We believe in and propagate the principles of knowledge generation and sharing to build capacity of fishers and engender improved sustainable engagements with the marine environment from a holistic perspective – including human rights, climate change, biodiversity conservation, ecological debt and external debt.
- 7.** We are against the use of chemicals and explosives to enhance fishing in our waters.
- 8.** FishNet Alliance engages in exchange visits to promote ties, solidarity and cross-cultural practices in fishing practices.
- 9.** We promote the principle of “what affects one – affects all” hence we take distributive actions in solidarity with any member(s) whose offshore and inland waters are/have been affected adversely by the extractive industry.
- 10.** We campaign for the rights of the fishers to earn a living from the fishing and contribute to the economy of their countries. We press for justice and/or compensation in cases where these rights have been abridged by corporations and governments.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

1. To develop a regional and trans-regional strategy for coastal communities affected by the activities of the extractive industry; aim for clean and healthy offshore environment and defend their collective rights.
2. Promote and facilitate exchange of information on sustainable fishing practices derived from local knowledge.
3. Campaign against policies and actions that put the rich biodiversity of offshore and inland waters at risk.
4. Increase environmental awareness from a regional level to a global level
5. Establish a relationship between the destruction of biodiversity, climate change, violations of human rights and the plunder of resources.

WHO ARE ITS MEMBERS?

FishNet Alliance, a network of fishers with roots in Africa initially had members from Nigeria, South Africa, Togo and Ghana. We cherish the rich diversities and knowledge exchange; hence even though the network has roots in Africa and the global South, the Alliance is open to admit members from all over the world. Our vision is to connect fishers and work to engender a movement from below to restore and reclaim the marine environment from the polluting extractive industry.

The network is open to fisher folks and fishers' associations who believe in our core principles and are ready to work accordingly to promote healthy coastal and marine environments.



COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

FishNet Alliance is coordinated from offices in countries where the network exists. The international steering committee with members are elected every two years at the General Assembly of the Alliance.

PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION

- FishNet Bulletin for its members in English and other languages of members is circulated.
- Popular and technical reports and books of activities of the Alliance and of effects of the extractive industry on the marine and coastal environment.

SUPPORT CAMPAIGNS

FishNet Alliance aims to:

- support campaigns proposed by the members of the network
- develop links between campaigns
- network with other alliances with compatible principles.

HOW TO BE PART OF THE NETWORK

Fishers and associations of fishers, NGOs and networks of NGOs interested in working in a network of resistance to extractive activities in water bodies can be part of FishNet Alliance. To be a part of the network the interested party must agree with the principles and strategies of the network and could ask for a membership at the focal point of their home country, at the regional office or the International Secretariat hosted by Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF).



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