



COASTAL500

Action Guidebook





Connecting Leaders for Thriving Coastal Communities

Members of the Coastal 500 have committed themselves to key principles for supporting healthy and sustainable fisheries. Each member of the Coastal 500 takes an identical public pledge to build thriving and prosperous coastal communities.

The Coastal 500 Action Guidebook outlines specific programmatic, policy, and financing actions that members can take in support of each pledge.



Promote responsible fisher behaviors that include registration, catch monitoring, participating in management and adhering to regulations.

1. Highlight and publicly recognize a fisher in the local community who embodies responsible fisher behaviors in a speech or written communication.
2. Advocate for the importance and advantages of responsible fisher behaviors in a speech to the community.
3. Organize activities to advocate for responsible fisher behaviors during a social or cultural community event.
4. Encourage a community campaign for mass fisher registration to promote social mobilization and local fisher registration.
5. Host a community event or information campaign to raise awareness of the existing regulations, catch monitoring and/or management approaches, and related benefits of sustainable natural resource management decisions.
6. Set a fisher registration and/or catch monitoring target and develop an action plan for the municipality to achieve it.
7. Include participation in fisher registration, catch monitoring, and other sustainable fisher practices in any policy, statement, and/or regulation.



Invest in strengthening human capacity and financial resources to sustain community-based fisheries management.

1. Facilitate trainings for municipal staff and/or community members on issues related to sustainable fishing, natural resource management, community participation and the fisheries regulatory framework.
2. Encourage municipal staff to identify training opportunities around community-based sustainable fisheries management.
3. Share the knowledge and skills developed by municipal employees on fisheries management, to community leaders most committed to sustainable fishing, through workshops or forums, and/or clearly articulating and championing the linkage with improved sustainable fisheries management with global challenges like climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development.
4. Conduct an environmental services assessment of the fisheries and ecosystems, in partnership with local institutions and local community members and consider including climate data.
5. Conduct an economic assessment of the contribution of fish to the local economy and financial impacts of mismanaged fisheries to demonstrate that financial resources must be prioritized for the sector.
6. Conduct local budget collection and analysis for coastal fisheries activities to understand gaps and opportunities to maintain and / or increase financial allocations for the sector.
7. Conduct policy, capacity and financial assessments to understand gaps and ways to support further fisheries management.
8. Conduct landscape assessment and financing sources (e.g. other government financing, private sector, partners NGOs, innovative financing) to increase investments and allocations for sustainable coastal fisheries management.
9. Increase financial allocation for coastal fisheries management in existing budgets.



Build an empowered and informed community through participatory fisheries management that fairly and equitably regulates effort and employs an accountable and transparent decision-making process.

1. Interview and/or survey members of the community to understand challenges they face and their priorities for the development of fisheries management systems.
2. Encourage representative community participation in your institution's decision-making spaces by dedicating a community meeting to discuss fisheries management and processes and championing the recommendations from the meeting to be taken up.
3. Identify, invite, and empower women to engage in local fisheries co-management forums to ensure their perspective is meaningfully integrated in any actions or plans.
4. Consult with responsible community leaders or fishers on reports and data on the state of the fisheries and their ecosystems and present clear and transparent information to the community.
5. Facilitate workshops and communications to improve understanding of roles and rights in fisheries management, perhaps in partnership with local NGOs or institutions.



Endorse no-take reserves to replenish and sustain fish populations by protecting coastal habitats like coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds.

1. Visit an existing or proposed no-take reserve area to demonstrate political interest to local communities and initiatives.
2. Encourage the allocation of resources for effective management, monitoring and enforcement of no-take reserves in conversation and/or fora with subnational and national entities.
3. Encourage and publicly acknowledge compliance with the regulations of no-take reserves that have been established at an event or in a written communication.
4. Support the establishment process of no-take reserves in communities that have not yet established them by making a public statement of support or facilitating conversation with groups advocating for the establishment, including sharing lessons learned from experience.
5. Prioritize and recognize local community initiatives for establishing no-take reserves by supporting communities to organize internally and facilitate discussion around the process of establishing no take reserves, including related benefits like climate resilience and biodiversity protection.
6. Develop, enhance and/or execute any existing or new policies that establish, enable, or endorse managed access and/or no take reserve.



Recognize, prioritize and advocate for local communities in their access to and use of coastal fisheries.

1. Highlight the social, environmental, cultural and economic importance of responsible artisanal fisheries and the right of access of local communities as established by existing legislation through campaigns or messages in your institutional workplan.
2. Support initiatives, conversations and/or requests at the national government level that improve natural resource management of artisanal fisheries and that clarify and bolster preferential access to coastal areas.
3. Promote coastal fisheries in local, subnational, and/or international fora such as encouraging the inclusion of topics relating to small-scale fisheries at provincial and/or regional government meetings.
4. Facilitate feedback from community members to identify challenges and explore solutions for coastal communities regarding access to and use of coastal fisheries.
5. Integrate local context for coastal fishing communities, including challenges and solutions, in institutional workplans or strategies—such as budget allocations, development plans, climate strategies—and work in collaboration with community representatives to allocate the necessary support.
6. Develop and/or execute local recovery plan (eg post COVID or post disaster) to support coastal fisheries.
7. Develop any science-based policy that will help recognize, prioritize or advocate local communities in their access and use of coastal fisheries.
8. Access and use the Monthly Fisheries Summary data at portal.rare.org for policy and executive decisions.

Continue learning, teaching and inspiring others, by sharing lessons and experiences from my community with leaders from across the country and around the world.



1. Participate in any meeting, event, or learning sessions hosted by Coastal 500.
2. Develop case studies or stories about your municipality to share best practices, challenges, and opportunities to others.
3. Have a regular dialogue with another member of Coastal 500, either in or outside the country.
4. Have a dialogue with any national government leader to discuss issues, solutions and opportunities to elevate the work for sustainable coastal fisheries and communities.



Coastal 500, a global initiative supported by Rare, is the largest network of mayors and local government leaders committed to work towards thriving and prosperous coastal communities.

Rare inspires change so people and nature thrive.

Learn more at portal.rare.org and follow @Rare_org.