

# ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN SERGESTID SHRIMP (ACETES SPP.) CATCHING, PROCESSING, AND TRADING IN OTON AND TIGBAUAN ILOILO PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES

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## BACKGROUND

Shrimp is considered as one of the most traded fishery products in the world (Gillet, 2008). More than half of the estimated annual gross production (almost 6 million tons) comes from catching from the wild (60%) and the rest from farming (40%).

For the Philippines, shrimp production in 2012 was estimated at 10,245.98 metric tons (Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, 2013). One-third of this amount was contributed by Region VI. Within the region, the province of Iloilo contributed the biggest share with 2,793.27 metric tons (83.92%).

Specifically, sergestid shrimp (*Acetes* spp.) are found in shallow waters less than 50 meters in depth (FAO, 1984). They are small, with a maximum size of 30mm and dwells in shallow water over muddy bottom.

Sergestid shrimp or locally known as "hipon", is a familiar catch in only two municipalities - Oton and Tigbauan - in Iloilo Province. The local sergestid shrimp industry has contributed to the local economy in terms of revenue and livelihood of the people from shrimp catchers to raw shrimp traders, processors and traders of processed shrimp.

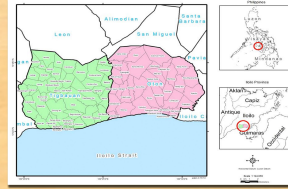
As an important source of livelihood in the community, the sergestid shrimp industry needs to be examined in terms of the roles performed by the men and women to understand better the access of men and women to this livelihood towards addressing discrimination and bias.

## OBJECTIVES

The study identifies and describes the roles performed by men and women in sergestid shrimp catching, processing, and trading in Oton and Tigbauan, Iloilo

## METHODOLOGY

**STUDY SITE:** Tigbauan and Oton, Iloilo, Philippines



Data in this study was part of a bigger study assessing the value chain of sergestid shrimp

### DATA COLLECTION

#### Personal Interviews

Shrimp catchers (12 men and 2 women);  
Raw shrimp traders (8 women and 1 man);  
Shrimp processors (6 men and 5 women); and  
A female shrimp product trader  
Key informants at the local government level

#### Focused Group Discussion or FGD (5 women and 3 men)



## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### In SHRIMP CATCHING

Shrimp catching is dominated by men and only few were women.

The physically-taxing tasks were seen to be more suitable to men. The tasks include pulling of nets, storing and sorting of shrimp, unloading of shrimp from the boat, and carrying the strainers of shrimp to the commission house. (Table 1)

Few women were involved in storing, sorting, and unloading shrimp, pulling of nets and repairing of machines.

To the men, the women are the "source of strength." Women prepare the food that sustains the catchers in the sea.

Table 1. Tasks and Gender Roles of Shrimp Catchers

Tasks	Men		Women	
	n = 95	%	n = 3	%
Pulling the nets	97	93.68	1	33.33
Sorting	81	85.26	3	100.00
Storing	70	73.68	3	100.00
Unloading	52	54.74	1	33.33
Carrying	42	44.21	0	0.00
Setting up nets	27	28.45	0	0.00
Loading	32	33.68	0	0.00
Sewing nets	28	29.47	0	0.00
Looking for shrimp	25	26.32	0	0.00
Repairing nets	20	21.05	1	33.33
Bringing the boat	14	14.74	0	0.00
Selling	8	8.42	0	0.00
Driving	2	2.11	0	0.00

<sup>a</sup>0 values in the total laborers employed by the shrimp catchers regardless of labor type.

Table 2. Tasks and Gender Roles of Raw Shrimp Traders

Tasks	Men		Women	
	n = 15	%	n = 11	%
Carrying	9	60.00	6	54.54
Loading	9	60.00	0	0.00
Cleaning	9	60.00	0	0.00
Unloading	8	53.33	0	0.00
Selling	6	40.00	8	72.73
Listing (office)	4	26.66	2	18.18
Goodwill	4	26.66	0	0.00
Purchasing	3	20.00	8	72.73
Driving	2	13.33	0	0.00

<sup>a</sup>0 values in the total laborers employed by the raw shrimp traders regardless of labor type.

### In RAW SHRIMP TRADING

Both men and women participate in the trading aspect.

Taxing roles were again performed by men while women perform accounting roles.

The establishment of the commission houses in the area in 2000 increased the participation of women in trading.

### In SHRIMP PROCESSING

Most owners of shrimp processing business were men. As owners, they make decisions and perform activities that still require physical strength like mixing shrimp with the ingredients and pounding the shrimp.

Women participate in the drying of shrimp, buying of ingredients, taxing and selling of shrimp products. They sometimes help men in selling and purchasing raw shrimp, and in the delivery of shrimp products to market outlets.

Large scale production of shrimp paste is dominated by men; the activities involved require physical strength.

Small scale production is dominated by women. Shrimp crackers, being confined with women, require meticulous work.

Table 3. Tasks and Gender Roles of Shrimp Processors

Tasks	Men		Women	
	n = 40	%	n = 16	%
Mixing	27	67.50	5	31.25
Drying	25	62.50	9	56.25
Salting	23	57.50	6	37.50
Pounding	21	52.50	5	31.25
Taxing	15	37.50	7	43.75
Purchasing	9	22.50	6	37.50
Chopping the shrimp using the feet "binas"	9	22.50	0	0.00
Others	8	20.00	1	6.25
Delivery	7	17.50	6	37.50
Selling	3	7.50	7	43.75
Buying the ingredients	3	7.50	9	56.25
Carrying	2	5.00	1	6.25

<sup>a</sup>0 values in the total laborers employed by the shrimp processors regardless of labor type.

## CONCLUSION

Men and women are involved in the local sergestid shrimp industry. Men dominate the catching while the women dominate the trading and specifically areas in processing, particularly of the small scale business. Women extend her reproductive role in the home to the work sphere.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Study Participants  
FGD Participants  
Key Informants

