

Resumo IFISH

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3B.3 Health issues and difficulties for women in small-scale fishing activity in cities from the North Fluminense in Brazil

This text presents an ongoing study held in the Baixadas Litorâneas from the north of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, being part of the issues investigated within the research project “Women in fishing: map of social-environmental conflicts in cities from the North Fluminense and Baixadas Litorâneas”. The study applies a gender lens in the fishing communities of the region so that the people investigated are women who work in small-scale fishing activity, developing diversified productive activities throughout the productive chain of fishing, such as harvesting, processing and marketing of fish. In the interviews conducted so far, when the health issue is addressed, we can see the recurrence of two matters: 1) there is no specific health program and/or guide to approach regarding fishing work-related diseases (such as spinal problems or repetitive strain injuries from improper posture to execute processing activities) and 2) the women’s difficulty in accessing health-related social security benefits, even when they present problems due to fishery activities, once there is a deep issue of invisibility and, consequently, a non-recognition of women in Brazilian fisheries legislation, especially those who execute processing activities. In spite of direct consequences on the body and health of these women, many of them continue to engage in fishing activities because, on many occasions, it is the only income possibility where they live. This situation reflects the precariousness of public policies targeted to populations whose way of life is based on small-scale fishing and, when the gender lens is applied in the investigation of occupational health, the result is even more worrying.