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IN THE WATERS OF
THE ORGANIZATION
FISHING
LIFE AND DIGNITY



WHAT IS THE CPP?

The Pastoral Council of Fishermen and Fisherwomen (CPP) is a Social Pastoral affiliated with the Episcopal Pastoral Commission for Socio-Transformative Action of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB). With an ecumenical spirit and interreligious dialogue, it works alongside artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen in defense of life, territories, human rights, and socio-environmental justice in Brazil.

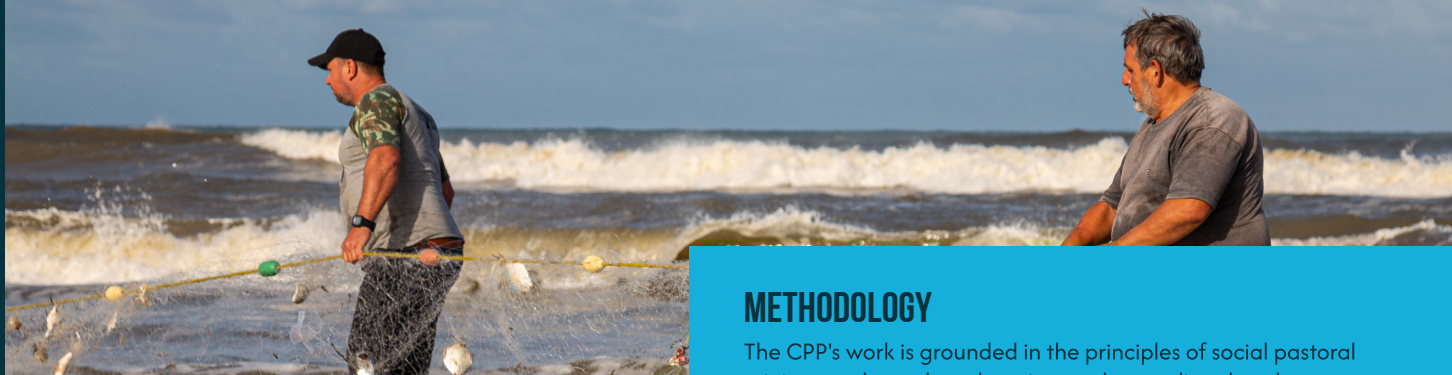
Founded in 1968 by Friar Alfredo Schnütgen, OFM, the CPP began its mission among the fishing communities of the Carmo and Rio Doce beaches, in Olinda (PE). In 1976, it was officially recognized by the CNBB.

Made up of pastoral agents, community leaders, laypeople, religious men and women, and priests — always in communion with fishermen and fisherwomen — the CPP guides its work according to its Statute and its National Guidelines.



MISSION

To proclaim to fishermen and fisherwomen the liberating power of the gospel revealed to the poor, and through it, to promote the transformation of the structures that generate injustice, helping them become agents of their own history and builders of a new society.



OBJECTIVES

To be a presence of evangelical gratuitousness among artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen, thereby cultivating the seeds of the Kingdom that exist among them:

- To collaborate in the just aspirations of their lives, respecting their culture;
- To encourage organization;
- To inspire, train, and fraternally coordinate those who serve artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen within this pastoral work;
- To fight, using all necessary and possible means, for the preservation of the environment.

LINES OF ACTION AND WORK

Territory and Environment

Artisanal fishing depends on the conservation of rivers, lakes, mangroves, estuaries, and seas, which make up the traditional fishing territory. These territories are threatened by the advance of agribusiness, mining, hydroelectric dams, and oil and gas exploration, causing pollution, environmental degradation, and socio-environmental conflicts.

Rights and Organization

Historically rendered invisible, fishermen and fisherwomen find in the CPP an agent for strengthening community organization and defending social, welfare, territorial, and environmental rights, moving toward a more just and democratic society.

Solidarity Economy

As an alternative to a model that concentrates wealth and widens inequalities, the CPP encourages solidarity economy initiatives that generate work, income, and autonomy for fishing communities, valuing traditional knowledge and their continued presence in their territories.

METHODOLOGY

The CPP's work is grounded in the principles of social pastoral ministry and popular education, understanding that the transformation of reality arises from the active participation of communities. This methodology strengthens the leading role, autonomy, and collective political organization of fishermen and fisherwomen, respecting the cultural, ethnic-racial, generational, and gender diversity of the territories. Present in every dimension of the CPP's work — from training and community advisory support to political advocacy — the methodology is guided by the **See, Judge, and Act** method:

- **See** – Getting to know the reality of the territories, listening to communities, and understanding their challenges and conflicts.
- **Judge** – Reflecting on this reality in light of socio-environmental justice and the values of solidarity, dignity, and the defense of life.
- **Act** – Collectively building actions of organization, mobilization, and advocacy capable of securing rights, defending territories, and strengthening the Bem-Viver (Good Living) of the peoples of the waters.



HOW IT WORKS

The highest governing body is the General Assembly, which meets every three years. Another space for decision-making and planning is the National Council, which meets three times a year and is made up of the board of directors, the national secretariat, and representatives from the CPP's regional bodies.

In addition, there is a Fiscal Council, the body responsible for overseeing and controlling the CPP's financial initiatives and activities. There are also regional bodies, which foster closer engagement between pastoral agents and artisanal fishermen and fisherwomen.