



# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

### Fifteenth Session

Agadir, Morocco, 22-26 February 2016

## REPORT ON FISH TRADE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN FAO

### Executive Summary

This paper presents a short overview of policy goals and selected activities undertaken by FAO of relevance to international fish trade. The majority of activities are carried out by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (FI) on its own, or in cooperation with other FAO units, such as the Legal and Ethics Office (LEG), the Economic and Social Development Department (ES) and with other relevant institutions, within the FAO Strategic Framework, mainly under SO2 and SO4.

### Suggested action by the Sub-Committee

- Comment on FAO's trade-related activities;
- Provide information on relevant national, regional and inter-regional experience;
- Provide guidance for FAO's further work on trade-related activities, in particular on capacity-building for developing countries and for the small-scale sector;
- Provide guidance for FAO's further work on areas of relevance for market access for fisheries and aquaculture;
- Provide suggestions to FAO on possible amendments or additions of fishery species and/or product forms to be included in the next revision of the Harmonized System classification;
- Note the progress achieved with collaboration with other international organizations and bodies;
- Requests guidance on further work in seafood traceability systems; and
- Comment on the gap analysis and provide guidance for further work on seafood traceability systems.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The economic activity associated with fish has an important historical component – trade. Fish and fishery products are traded at substantially higher levels than other animal protein (close to 40 percent enter international markets). This “globalization of fish” has many economic and development outcomes for producers, operators, exporters, and countries. In addition, taking into consideration the export pattern of the supply of fish and fishery products from developing countries to developed countries, the importance of fish trade for the developing world can be significant. On the contrary, many developed countries rely on international trade to fulfil local demands for fish and fishery products, as do developing countries with limited domestic supply.

2. The wide range of economic actors engaging in fish production (artisanal fishers, local communities, cooperatives, individual fishers, industrial fishing companies, vessel owners, processing industries) makes fish an important driver of economic activity, with natural corollaries for food security, local subsistence, employment generation, foreign exchange revenues, and economic development.

3. International trade and the production in the fisheries sector, including the increased importance of aquaculture in providing fish and fishery products, contribute to the creation of sophisticated global supply chains. In recognition of trade as an important tool to access food security and nutrition, FAO continues its efforts to provide technical expertise and qualified information to create market awareness and opportunities to add value throughout the supply chain, and to empower stakeholders, with a special emphasis on local communities, cooperatives, artisanal fishers and developing countries.

4. This international pattern for fish and fishery products also poses new challenges for participating actors, especially on market access and price transmission issues. A sophisticated global supply chain, with players spread around the globe, faces many obstacles in the form of non-tariff barriers. In addition, this international interconnected market has impacts on domestic and regional markets.

5. Taking into consideration all these specificities, in the last biennium, FI has carried out several activities to support countries to better integrate into the international trade of fish and fishery products. Those activities encompassed information dissemination on different and important aspects of market access for fish and fishery products, economics and statistics, including collaboration with other international organizations and bodies. One of FAO’s main objectives was to reduce the information gap and knowledge asymmetries between countries, and to allow their local actors to reap the potential from international fish trade. Capacity building and information facilitation tools were key elements utilized by FAO to reach this goal.

## FAO'S ACTIVITIES

6. FI continues its efforts to implement more integrated approaches in dealing with food security, resource management and food commodity problems for fish and fishery products, taking especially into consideration the FAO Strategic Objectives (SOs)<sup>1</sup> in areas such as nutrition, food security, coastal management, livelihoods and international food systems.

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<sup>1</sup> SOs represent the five main areas of work on which FAO concentrates its efforts in striving to achieve its vision and global goals: (SO1) eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; (SO2) increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; (SO3) reduce rural poverty; (SO4) enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels; (SO5) increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

7. FAO continues to provide support to countries for better inclusion of fish and fishery products in their economy in relation to trade, such as value adding throughout the supply chain, fish loss reduction, and more equitable gender integration<sup>2</sup>. The growing importance of aquaculture in the supply and trade of fish and fishery products, as well as the increase of its economic importance for many developing countries, has led to a natural integration between FAO's activities in aquaculture and trade.

8. FAO continues its efforts in the strengthening of legislative and governance frameworks, at national, regional and global levels, in conformity with international maritime law and international fisheries instruments to curb and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. However, effective progress on those issues depends on the collective performance of flag States, port States and market States in fulfilling their fisheries management, monitoring, control and trade responsibilities. Enhancing the capacity of developing States in monitoring and controlling fishing activities of vessels flying their flag, as well as of vessels flagged by other States operating within their waters, or seeking entry into their ports to land their catches or to make use of port facilities, continues to be a key challenge. It is also widely recognized that the development of internationally agreed market access instruments would help to stem the flow of IUU fishing products from entering international trade and hence deterring IUU fishing practices.

9. The twenty-year anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) was celebrated at the First International Fisheries Stakeholder Forum<sup>3</sup>. The event attracted 600 international participants, including 70 country delegations from five continents<sup>4</sup>. International, multi-stakeholder panels covered issues related to trade and markets, market outlooks, fisheries management, IUU fishing, sustainability and certification and a Ministerial Roundtable on Blue Growth<sup>5</sup>. The event served as an excellent opportunity for FAO to engage simultaneously with governments, industry, fisheries experts, and civil society organizations, facilitating a crucial dialogue between them, thereby receiving inputs and guidance on how FAO can play a role in strengthening the Code of Conduct, including trade and market aspects. Much of the discussion focused on the fact that much more can still be achieved to ensure socio-economic sustainability.

10. Information and knowledge dissemination on trade aspects associated with fish and fishery products continues to be one of the main goals of FI. In that sense, FAO-GLOBEFISH continues to provide market access facilitation for fish and fishery products and to assist users in designing and implementing efficient and inclusive trade strategies. In addition, the FAO Fish Price Index<sup>6</sup> continues to be published regularly<sup>7</sup>. FAO-GLOBEFISH and the FAO Fish Price Index have proven to be valuable communication tools in reaching broader audiences on fish trade developments.

11. During the last few years, FI has enhanced its work on fisheries outlook models, through improved collaboration with other international organizations. In the overall Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-FAO agricultural projections, this was the fifth consecutive year in which the modelling of future demand and supply for fish and fishery products has been included, as a result of the excellent cooperation between the OECD and FAO.

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<sup>2</sup> It is important to highlight that gender issues are receiving increased attention in FAO projects, both in dedicated activities and as an integrated part and, since 2014, it has been included as a cross-cutting SO in the FAO Strategic Framework.

<sup>3</sup> Vigo, Spain, 8 and 9 October 2015, co-organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of the Government of Spain, the regional Government of Galicia, Asociación Española de Mayoristas, Importadores, Transformadores y Exportadores de Productos de la Pesca y Acuicultura (CONXEMAR), the Spanish seafood industry, and FAO.

<sup>4</sup> The delegations included 10 ministers, 12 vice-ministers and 10 general directors of fisheries organizations, including the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

<sup>5</sup> Side events covered promoting women in the seafood industry; the official launch of the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Benchmark tool; experiences of the Nordic Council; decent employment in fisheries and aquaculture; and aquaculture perceptions.

<sup>6</sup> The FAO Fish Price Index is carried out in cooperation with several partners, the Norwegian Seafood Council, the University of Stavanger, the University of Florida, Institut de Ciències del Mar de Barcelona and the European Commission-European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA).

<sup>7</sup> In the quarterly FAO-GLOBEFISH Highlights and the biannual FAO Food Outlook.

12. FAO continues its work on providing technical expertise by participating in regional events and capacity building initiatives related to trade regulation on fisheries, especially those associated with the World Trade Organization (WTO). In those events, FAO experts received information about the difficulties producers face in obtaining market access for their seafood products in developed countries and the existence of limited trade networks to support growth in intra-regional seafood trade. The insufficient dissemination of information on market access requirements and traceability, as well the importance of capacity building to allow the operators (especially small-scale or in developing countries) to access national and international markets, were also a major factor constantly raised. Towards this end, both the FAO-GLOBEFISH project and the FISH INFONetwork have carried out a number of activities.

13. In paragraph 49 of the report of the Fourteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT) in February 2014, COFI:FT noted that the report on seafood traceability systems presented lacked a gap analysis. In this regard, FAO prepared a gap analysis (COFI:FT/XV/2016/Inf.8) and requests guidance on further work in seafood traceability systems.

14. The increased utilization of eco-certification and ecolabels has resulted in a growing number of requests for assistance in addition to the work mandated by COFI:FT and the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), especially on FAO certification guidelines and on how national schemes can be compliant in terms of principles and requirements.

15. FAO continued to foster alliances with other organizations working on issues of relevance to international fish trade, in particular in its capacity building activities. Those alliances include closer cooperation with academia on trade and marketing related issues, and through international networks of technologists, fish inspectors, fisheries and trade economists, as well as with fisheries industry associations and with civil society.

16. In the FAO planning and priority setting process, FAO regional conferences continue to play an important role and the inclusion of fisheries issues within regional priorities needs to continue and be further strengthened.

## **FISHERIES GOVERNANCE**

### **Legal and Ethics Office in FAO**

17. The Development Law Branch (LEGN) continues to support the evolution of international instruments that entail market related measures to improve the sustainability of fisheries operations, and to address IUU fishing, among others. LEGN furthermore assists FAO member countries to facilitate the implementation of requirements derived from international instruments in national legislation through national and regional legislative projects<sup>8</sup>.

18. Through the activities of LEGN in the field of fish trade, FAO Members benefit from legal support in developing appropriate legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and for ensuring market access in line with WTO Agreements, as well as other bilateral and multilateral agreements<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Including the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). In addition, a number of these projects aim at the implementation of standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in relation to aquatic animal health and those developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in relation to food safety. For example, LEGN is currently involved in projects in Suriname and in a number of countries in the Western Balkans that facilitate the implementation of international standards on aquatic animal health in national legislation. In addition, LEGN has been collaborating with FI and fisheries officers in relevant FAO decentralized offices to respond to countries' request for technical assistance to address the risk of such countries being identified by the European Union as uncooperative countries in the fight against IUU fishing.

<sup>9</sup> Particularly projects for the implementation of standards in the context of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). In addition, for "CITES-FAO Collaboration on Immediate Actions in Support of the Implementation of CITES Listings of Sharks and Manta Rays", LEGN has undertaken, through its

### **Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

19. The coming into force and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is expected to accelerate the progress in combatting IUU fishing, as an increasing number of PSMA-compliant ports around the world will start to block the landing of IUU fishing-derived catches by vessels not flying the flag of the port State. However, for the PSMA to take full effect, it must be backed up by improved performance by flag States, in relation to their international responsibilities, and supplemented by market access and trade measures, such as traceability and catch documentation.

20. Progress by market States in developing such schemes has been generally slow, and better appreciation of their potential role in the fight against IUU fishing is required. However, action taken in recent years by the European Union (Member Organization) and the United States of America, to prohibit seafood products derived from IUU fishing from being imported, has instigated countries worldwide to step up their efforts and capacity to effectively control fishing operations at sea and landings in their ports.

21. Furthermore, recognizing the impact of IUU fishing products on their supply chains, seafood market leaders have started to invest in traceability systems of their own to ensure that consumers are supplied with products from sustainable and legal sources. In addition, catch documentation and catch certification schemes have also been adopted and implemented by some Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) with the aim of better enforcing compliance by countries with conservation and management measures for their fish stocks. Nevertheless, traceability mechanisms remain scarce and catches from IUU fishing often find their way directly into markets, or laundered through processing plants, where controls are weak or non-existent.

22. In this regard, governments and stakeholders should be strongly encouraged and assisted to adopt effective trade and market-related measures, which will provide long-term benefits for the sustainability and economy of their fishing industries.

### **Crime in the fisheries sector**

23. Taking into consideration its particular profile, the fishing sector is particularly vulnerable to the occurrence of tax crimes<sup>10</sup> and crimes of other nature<sup>11</sup>, which are generally also linked to IUU fishing.

24. FAO is working together with the OECD to support efforts and reinforce international cooperation to combat tax crime and other serious crimes in the fisheries sectors. The OECD will present a report on this issue at the next COFI Session and a joint workshop on crimes in the fisheries sectors will be organized by the last quarter of 2016.

25. Effective combatting of those crimes would result in an increase in tax revenue and a reduction in unfair competition. In addition, by reducing IUU fishing and the pressure on possible overexploited stocks, a win-win result can be achieved. Countries are encouraged to participate in this workshop, sharing their experiences.

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ongoing FAO legal assistance projects in fisheries, to carry out additional activities on implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) obligations in relation to the recent shark and manta ray listings.

<sup>10</sup> Such as incorrect declarations of fish origin to evade import duty, non-reporting or under-reporting the size of a catch, incorrectly describing the species or products caught and sold, and other tax frauds broadly related to international businesses such as evading or wrongly reclaiming tax.

<sup>11</sup> Such as trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons.

## MARKET ACCESS

### FAO-GLOBEFISH

26. In 2015, FAO-GLOBEFISH went through internal restructuring focusing on data and information sharing. In this area, efforts are directed to streamline policies and procedures in post-harvest processes, transparency of standards and certification measures, and information on fish trade and market analysis. In addition, capacity building support is being provided on a regular basis for developing countries to increase market access opportunities. FAO-GLOBEFISH's overall objective is continuously reinforced by constant policy dialogue and consultation among stakeholders, including through various events and fora, and utilization of media.

27. During the period 2014–15, FAO-GLOBEFISH welcomed three new Associate Members. GLOBEFISH continues to produce a number of publications on trend analysis (GLOBEFISH Highlights), data time series (Commodity Updates), market studies (GLOBEFISH Research Programme), and price information (GLOBEFISH Price Report<sup>12</sup>). These also serve as inputs for other FAO publications such as the Food Outlook and the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook. In 2014, FAO-GLOBEFISH initiated a new communication strategy to incorporate new means of communication and to reach a wider audience<sup>13</sup>. In September 2015, a new website was launched, and a mobile version is under development. During autumn 2015, two new publications were published – one on social perception of consuming aquaculture products and the other a recipe book to encourage fish consumption.

### Fish safety and quality

28. At the national level, fish safety and quality remain the focus of regulatory requirements in international fish trade. FAO continues its efforts in providing to member countries detailed guidance on food safety<sup>14</sup>, in collaboration with academia. For specific commodities, FAO has developed target programmes to help countries overcome local sanitation problems<sup>15</sup>.

29. Having regard to member countries' obligations under the WTO Agreements, and more particularly within the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Agreement<sup>16</sup>, FAO along with the World Health Organization (WHO) continues to provide scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission to disseminate technical information to help implement Codex standards and texts<sup>17</sup>.

30. FI maintains scientific and technical support for normative work through partnership with relevant agencies and academia involved in food safety and value chains to support the fisheries sector<sup>18</sup>.

31. In the capacity building area on fish safety and quality, FAO efforts were concentrated on providing developing countries with the necessary knowledge and tools to improve market access, to

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<sup>12</sup> This publication changed its name from “European Fish Price Report” because of an expansion of coverage to market prices in China and Latin America.

<sup>13</sup> Several steps have already been done in achieving this aim and further implementation is planned for the future. As of October 2014, GLOBEFISH started its presence on Twitter with the hashtag #GLOBEFISHNews in FI account @FAOfish. Shortly thereafter, the GLOBEFISH Newsletter has been reintroduced, reaching 400 subscribers in 7 months (December 2014 to July 2015) with an average opening rate of 50 percent.

<sup>14</sup> For example, on issues related to hot smoking techniques or maximum limits of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).

<sup>15</sup> In the case of bivalve molluscs, FAO is working towards the development of technical guidance for the implementation of sanitation programmes in line with the Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products. In the development of those guidelines, FAO is working together with WHO and a core group of experts.

<sup>16</sup> The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

<sup>17</sup> Recently, FAO has been working on a technical paper to explain to member countries the application of “toxicity equivalent factors (TEF)” for biotoxin chemical analogues associated with bivalve mollusc species.

<sup>18</sup> Specifically, advice was provided for the Codex Committee on Contaminants, which is discussing the maximum limits for methylmercury in fish; development of risk analysis tools for use by national governments based on risk assessment for histamine in fish; action plan to minimize impacts on public health and trade of ciguatera fish poisoning; setting policy targets and drawing practical interventions to meet international standards for hot-smoked fish and fishery products.

reduce post-harvest losses, to add value to their products and to disseminate among them market requirements issues (including SPS and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), labelling, traceability and certification programmes)<sup>19</sup>.

### **Voluntary certification**

32. In the area of ecolabelling, taking into consideration the request by COFI for further analysis and research of their impacts on seafood trade and markets, and existing FAO budget constraints, the Secretariat provided technical and logistical support<sup>20</sup> to the State of Sustainability Initiatives (SSI), a multi-stakeholder non-governmental organization (NGO). SSI produced a Marine Review<sup>21</sup> of seafood certification<sup>22</sup>.

33. FI participates in the work of the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI)<sup>23</sup> to develop a global benchmarking tool to evaluate third party voluntary certification schemes against criteria laid out in the CCRF, the FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of fish and fishery products from marine/inland capture fisheries, and the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification. This project was initiated in 2013, based on the successful model of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GSFI), and FAO sits on its steering board, as an affiliated member, along with non-governmental organizations<sup>24</sup>. The GSSI benchmarking tool was officially launched in October 2015, in Vigo, Spain.

## **ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS**

### **Fish Price Index (FPI)**

34. The FAO Fish Price Index continues to be a useful analytic tool in analysing price development for fish and fishery products both in the aggregate, in different markets and based on production methods. Work is in progress to develop another version to include it in the overall FAO Food Price Index, which at present does not include fish and fishery products. This highlights the need to harmonize the methodology and the typology of prices used. This activity will be undertaken by FI in close cooperation with the Economic and Social Development Department (ES) of FAO, which is responsible for the overall FAO Food Price Index.

### **Fisheries outlook models**

35. In July 2015, the FAO Director-General and the Secretary-General of the OECD officially launched the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2015–2024 publication, covering medium-term perspectives on supply and demand for selected agricultural commodities, including capture fisheries, aquaculture, fishmeal and fish oil. The overall OECD-FAO model still treats fish and fishery products as a separate sector, but the results are integrated into the global projections. The aim is to arrive at a fully integrated and dynamic model. The results are important, not only for the fisheries sector overall but also for the linkages and interdependencies with the other food sectors, in particular for feed and terrestrial animal production.

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<sup>19</sup> Those actions include a database on value-added products in international markets and the labelling requirements for these products; supporting regional networks of fish inspectors; organization of the World Seafood Congress, jointly with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Association of Fish Inspectors (IAFI).

<sup>20</sup> A venue at FAO headquarters and FAO fisheries data and access to FAO-GLOBEFISH market information.

<sup>21</sup> Information about the SSI Marine Review and its research findings can be accessed on the SSI website [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org).

<sup>22</sup> It includes data and analysis of seven third party certification schemes, presented in June 2015 at the 9<sup>th</sup> FAO capacity-building workshop on WTO issues, market access and fish trade, Yerevan, Armenia.

<sup>23</sup> A consortium of 32 private seafood companies and a German government agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)) formed in response to market concerns about the rapidly increasing number and diversity of voluntary certification schemes.

<sup>24</sup> WWF and Boston Aquarium.

## **SPECIFIC PROJECTS**

36. In July 2015, the FAO-led Deep Sea Project within the Common Oceans Programme<sup>25</sup> became operational, along with the Challenge Fund and the Capacity Building Projects. Coordination of activities between programmes as well as full programme reporting is now underway. The Tuna Project is engaging several countries in the development of catch documentation schemes (CDS) and complementing the broader development of the Catch Documentation Scheme Guidelines currently ongoing in FAO. They also include activities to reduce the impacts of fishing on biodiversity. The engagement of the private sector has been unexpectedly high with many tuna companies interested in both the testing of technologies to reduce IUU and fishing impacts and the market opportunities from the uptake of management measures such as CDS, as well as other improved fisheries management.

37. Under the Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programme FAO is coordinating, FI is leading two projects: the West Africa project with a significant component on trade and post-harvest processing and the Global Partnership to develop a fisheries performance assessment tool. It is anticipated that these projects will commence in mid-2016.

## **FAO COLLABORATION AND WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES**

### **The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**

38. During the last biennium, the ongoing co-operation between the UNSD and FAO was further strengthened. Major areas of active collaboration included the sharing of the trade statistical collection and the revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC)<sup>26</sup> and the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA)<sup>27</sup>.

39. FAO released the first guideline for fishery and aquaculture surveys within a census framework in 2015. For the first time, the guideline of the FAO World Census of Agriculture (WCA) for the 2020 round will also include a fisheries module. FAO continues to promote active utilization of WCA guidelines, in particular, the separation of “fishery and aquaculture” from “agriculture” for employment in population census and the use of aquaculture and capture fisheries modules in population or agriculture census. FAO is also developing the guidelines on the enhanced use of administrative information (e.g. licenses), Global Positioning System (GPS) and satellite imageries to create survey frames, specifically of small holders and operators that can be used in the design of an effective sampling scheme.

### **The World Customs Organization (WCO)**

40. FAO continues its collaborative work with WCO to improve the quality of fish trade coverage through an improved specification for species and product forms in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). The present version (HS 2012), and the next one (HS 2017<sup>28</sup>), both reflect the modifications proposed by FAO.

41. The HS 2017 will include amendments related to fish and fishery products for species and product forms that need to be monitored for food security purposes and for better management of resources, in particular for potentially endangered species, including sharks, skates and rays. In total, 36

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<sup>25</sup> Formerly called the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Programme.

<sup>26</sup> The CPC provides a framework for the international comparison of commodity statistics. On 11 August 2015, the new version 2.1 was released with the modifications proposed by FAO to improve the breakdown for fish and fishery products including the separation of primary commodities by wild and farmed origin.

<sup>27</sup> SEEA is a statistical framework providing internationally agreed upon concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and standard tables for producing internationally comparable statistics on the sustainability of the use of natural resources in relation to economic activities, including fisheries and aquaculture.

<sup>28</sup> The HS 2017 will enter into force on 1 January 2017 for all Contracting Parties to the Harmonized System Convention.



new subheadings were created, and 36 subheadings were amended. In developing the proposal, FAO also took into account some of the suggested amendments for HS 2017 received during the Thirteenth Session of COFI:FT. Due to the limitation of available free codes, it was not possible to revise the HS (HS 2012 and HS 2017), including all the species/product forms relevant for trade or in need of being monitored.

42. Taking into consideration that the revision of the HS is done on a regular basis, with five-year intervals, the process leading to an updated HS 2022 has started. FAO is examining the possibility of continuing its cooperation with WCO to improve further the coverage and scope of the agriculture, forestry and fishery products to monitor better the trade flows. If considered feasible, the proposal will need to be submitted to WCO during the biennium 2016–2017. Therefore, COFI:FT is invited to take into account this possibility and provide proposals for possible amendment/addition of fishery species and product forms to be included in the HS 2022 to the FAO Secretariat.

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

43. FAO continues to cooperate with the IUCN, also in connection with the Red List of Threatened Species<sup>29</sup>.

44. Specifically, in the context of following-up on the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the required monitoring of indicators for SDG targets 14.4 and 15.5 an ad hoc joint FAO-IUCN Technical Expert Group<sup>30</sup> has been established.

45. As different approaches for sustainability and biomass parameters are currently being taken into consideration in assessing the condition of fish stocks, incoherencies may arise between the FAO fish stocks indicator and the Red List Index indicator when applied to aquatic species of commercial interest. FAO and IUCN agreed on the need for a qualification of the Red List Index indicator and for the application of a specific consultation mechanism to facilitate sound interpretation of relevant data sets in certain conditions.

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<sup>29</sup> The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on plants, fungi and animals that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction.

<sup>30</sup> In the case of possible overlap in species coverage with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator under target 14.4, it is envisaged that the Technical Expert Group shall (1) explore the identified overlap areas and issues between the suggested indicators for SDG 14.4 and SDG 15.5; (2) develop agreed recommendations on the use and interpretation of the Red List Index indicator and required data sets, for the purposes of global monitoring of progress made in implementing the relevant SDG target; (3) provide relevant technical advice to Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators Secretariat.

### ANNEX I: SELECTED PROJECTS COORDINATED BY FAO

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	END DATE
Strengthening controls of food safety threats, plant and animal pests and diseases for agricultural productivity and trade in southern Africa	Two activities: one at the regional level and one at the national level, for strengthening bivalve safety management in the participating countries which have significant bivalve resources.	Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique and Namibia	June 2017
Capacity building to improve market access for fish and fishery products	To fill critical technical gaps in fish handling practices, inspection and certification of products from capture fisheries and aquaculture to meet international market requirements.	Myanmar	April 2015
Strengthening of Food Safety Agency to meet the international market requirements for fish and fishery products	To address specific technical gaps restricting international market access for fish and fishery products in Georgia.	Georgia	December 2015
Upgrading of seafood quality standards, value addition and increase of exports	To improve sustainable production of high quality locally produced and commercially valuable seafood products in several forms of value-added products accompanied by increased value of landed catches.	Yemen	October 2015
Strengthening College of Marine Science and Technology	To improve laboratory facilities of the Department of Marine Biotechnology, to strengthen technical competencies in the local staff of Ministry of Marine Resources, as well as operators along the fish supply chain.	Eritrea	December 2015
Evidence provision in support of the shift from traditional to new fish smoking techniques for consistent food safety objectives and minimal occupational safety and health impact	An analytical study to develop fish producers' guidelines and policy recommendations for risk management of smoked fish production and consumption.	Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana	June 2016
Post-harvest fish loss assessment in small-scale fisheries in Indonesia	Four assessments in different fisheries hotspots in Java (Indonesia) to identify fish losses and wastes to prioritize interventions with significant technical, economic, social and environmental impacts.	Indonesia (similar process in India and the United Republic of Tanzania in January 2016)	December 2015

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	END DATE
Support to strengthening the capacity and regulatory framework in post-harvest loss prevention and reduction	Value chain actors provided with the adequate tools and knowledge to implement and gauge fish loss reduction with prevention of post-harvest losses.	Côte d'Ivoire	February 2016
Enable women to benefit more equally from agri-food value chains addressing four commodities, including fisheries	Technical assistance and policy support provided to reduce barriers to women fish farmers/producers, processors and retailers to participate in local, national and global markets. Capacity building enabling institutions to improve women's participation in and control over the benefits of value chains development.	Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Tunisia	December 2018
FAO-GLOBEFISH	Providing Governments, researchers, stakeholders, academia, and international organizations with timely, accurate and easily accessible data and analysis to assist them in designing and implementing efficient and inclusive market and trade strategies. Facilitate the organization of international fora, regional workshops, and research projects to encourage discussions and dialogue among the key players in the global seafood market.	Global	September 2020
Fisheries management and marine conservation within a changing ecosystem context: traceability of fisheries products	Ten country case studies on traceability systems and a summary report that develops indicators of good practice in national traceability systems to combat IUU fishing.	Global	July 2018
Sustainable management and utilization of bycatch trawl fisheries (REBYC)	Utilization of sustainable bycatch, primarily processed into food or eventually processed for feed purposes.	Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago	2017
Advanced Course in Bivalve Shellfish Safety Management	Organized in cooperation with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM, Spain) to build capacity for the management and inspection of bivalve production.	Global	September 2015
Advanced Course on Applied Seafood Marketing Data: understanding statistics and forecasting market trends	Organized in cooperation with CIHEAM (Spain) to build capacity in market data collection, management and the design, production and use of seafood statistics.	Global	February 2015

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE</b>	<b>END DATE</b>
Feasibility study on processing tuna by-products for human consumption	Study of the necessary investments and potential revenues for producing a micronutrient rich product based on tuna bones.	Ecuador	2014–2015
Technology development for producing low-cost nutrient dense fishery products	Optimized milling technology for fish powder of by-products and testing.	Uganda	2014–2015
Development of nutrient rich product based on local underutilized fish and fish by-products	Products produced and tested. Manual on fish powder processing elaborated.	Ghana	2014–2015
Develop a marketable fish powder for human consumption based on fish by-products	Optimized processing of products, particularly drying methods, labelling and assurance for product safety standards.	Uganda	2015–2016
The role of fish in school meals in Latin America	First forum on fish in school meals. A report including recommendations and follow-up prepared.	Uruguay	2015
Improved fisheries management for sustainable use of marine living resources in the face of changing systems	Case studies on national seafood traceability systems to determine common practices and develop draft indicators of good practice in national/regional traceability systems to combat IUU fishing.	Global	2014–2015
National and regional good practices in seafood traceability in Asia	Workshop for government officials (financed by CITES) to initiate development of indicators of good practices for national/regional traceability systems and build resiliency along the seafood value chain in face of climate change.	Asia	2016

## ANNEX II: FAO TECHNICAL EXPERTISE PROVIDED FOR EXTERNAL EVENTS

EVENT	PLACE	DATE	GENERAL INFORMATION
<b>Fisheries Governance and Regulatory Framework</b>			
Joint Session on Policy Coherence for Development	Paris, France	April 2014	Organized by FAO and OECD, and the World Bank about RFMOs, IUU fishing, aquaculture, governance and rebuilding efforts for depleted fisheries.
Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Guidance for the Development of Shellfish Sanitation Programs	Rome, Italy	November 2015	Organized by FAO and WHO, to draft the Technical Guidance for the implementation of bivalve sanitation programs in line with the Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products.
Expert Meeting on the Public Health Risk of Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	Rome, Italy	December 2015	Organized by FAO with WHO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding the development of a coordinated action plan to help countries address health risks of ciguatera fish poisoning.
<b>Fisheries Outlook Model</b>			
Joint workshop with the China Society of Fisheries and INFOYU	Shenzhen, China	April 2014	Identification of relevant parameters for China to be included in the fish model for the OECD-FAO projections 2015–2024.
<b>WTO and market access</b>			
8 <sup>th</sup> regional workshop on “WTO framework for international market access in fisheries and aquaculture”	Casablanca, Morocco	June 2014	Capacity building for 32 government officials from countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Some national and regional trade challenges were identified by participants: market access of seafood products to developed country import markets, need to target non-traditional markets in developing countries, weak domestic and regional markets for seafood in many MENA countries and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, limited trade networks for intra-regional seafood trade.
9 <sup>th</sup> FAO capacity-building workshop “WTO, market access and fish trade issues”	Yerevan, Armenia	June 2015	Thirty-one government officials from 20 countries in eastern and central Europe made trade recommendations for dissemination of information on market access requirements, traceability, resources management, and logistics to relevant stakeholders and supporting small-scale operators and the private sector to access national and international markets.

EVENT	PLACE	DATE	GENERAL INFORMATION
ISO Technical Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture	Trondheim, Norway Paris, France	November 2014 June, 2015	FAO is participating in initial stages of developing an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) sustainability standard for marine capture fisheries.
UNCTAD Expert Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries Trade	Geneva, Switzerland	September– October 2015	Organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Commonwealth Secretariat to provide a platform to discuss possible approaches and options within the trade policy toolbox to mainstream sustainable fishing practices, and trade fish and fish products in the multilateral trading system, trade negotiations, and relevant UN and Commonwealth processes, while enabling the conservation of fisheries resources, marine ecosystems for the livelihoods of current and future generations.
Technical Workshop on Elements of Fisheries Subsidies Proposals	Geneva, Switzerland	November 2015	Technical briefing on the background of specific elements present in proposals for disciplines on fisheries subsidies at the WTO, drawing on the negotiating history of the issue and the extensive work done by specialized agencies, in particular by FAO.
<b>Fish Safety and Quality</b>			
34 <sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fish and fishery products	Ålesund, Norway	October 2015	This Session recommended the adoption of the Draft Standard for fresh and quick frozen raw scallops and performance criteria for reference and confirmatory methods for biotoxins in the Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs.