

## SIDE EVENT on “Climate Change on the Ground” At the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries

12 June 2014, Austria Room (C-237)  
12:30pm to 2:00pm



### Description

It is often overlooked that over 500 million people depend, directly or indirectly, on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods. In addition, fish provides essential nutrition for over 4 billion people and at least 50 percent of animal protein and essential minerals to 400 million people in the poorest countries. Trade is also an important characteristic of the fisheries and aquaculture: fish products are among the most widely-traded foods, with more than 37 percent by volume of world production traded internationally. But climate change is bringing an ocean of change to the world's fisheries, which are already in crisis from over-fishing and poor management.

Climate change is modifying the distribution and productivity of marine and freshwater species and is already affecting biological processes and altering food webs. The consequences for sustainability of aquatic ecosystems for fisheries and aquaculture, and for the people that depend on them, are uncertain. Some countries and fisheries will benefit while others will lose – the only certainty is change and decision-makers must be prepared for it.

It is clear that fishers, fish farmers and coastal inhabitants will bear the full force of these impacts through less stable livelihoods, changes in the availability and quality of fish for food, and rising risks to their health, safety and homes. Many fisheries-dependent communities already live a precarious and vulnerable existence because of poverty and their lack of social services and essential infrastructure. The well-being of these communities is further undermined by overexploited fishery resources and degraded ecosystems. The implications of climate change for food security and livelihoods in small island states and many developing countries are profound.

The *Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture* (PaCFA) is dedicating itself to improved understanding of the implications of climate change and ocean acidification, of how the sector can help its most vulnerable prepare and of the steps the sector can take to become climate smart. This side event will showcase actions taken on the ground by researchers and practitioners around the world and provide participants with the opportunity to share experiences specific to their country or region.



## Draft PROGRAMME

Moderated by TBD

### LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

12:30 hrs Join us for light refreshments

### INTRODUCTION

12:45 hrs Introduction to PaCFA and an overview of climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture and support from FAO

**FAO**

### PANEL DISCUSSION

13:00 hrs Panelists

**WorldBank** - Climate Change, Hydrological Infrastructure and Fish

**The Nature Conservancy** - Assessing the vulnerability of tropical fisheries: a case study from the Caribbean

**Benguela Current Commission** - Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in the Benguela Current Fisheries System

**Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)** – Efforts to climate proof Asian aquaculture

**Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA)** - Results of the Regional Policy of Fisheries and Aquaculture under the System of Central American Integration

### OPEN DISCUSSION

13:50 hrs Questions and Open Discussion

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## Biographies



**Vera Agostini** is a Senior Scientist, with The Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Team. She is a fisheries ecosystem oceanographer with 20 years of international experience in climate and fisheries, providing technical expertise across a range of multi-disciplinary efforts. Dr. Agostini has held marine science positions across three sectors: non-governmental, U.S and international government, and academic/educational. Her experience ranges from comprehensive ecosystem research to broad policy and planning. Vera work is currently focused on integrating people and human well-being into conservation. Examples include Ecosystem based Climate Adaptation, Ecosystem approaches to fisheries, marine zoning, and protected area network design. Vera holds a PhD in Fisheries from the University of Washington, USA and a Masters in Oceanography from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA. She is fluent in English and Italian, and has a working knowledge of Spanish and French.



**Randall Brummett** is a fish biologist. Growing up on a houseboat on the Columbia River, he fell in love early with rivers and fish. After obtaining a PhD in fisheries at Auburn University, he spent 30 years in the Near East and Africa building fish farms, teaching aquaculture and fisheries biology, and undertaking a wide range of research and extension projects focusing on aquaculture, fish biodiversity and community based fisheries management systems. He joined the World Bank as a Senior Specialist in 2010 where his job is to develop a portfolio of investments in sustainable aquaculture and inland fisheries. He is currently working with a wide range of academic and policy teams on projects in Brazil, Jamaica, Vietnam, Ghana, Indonesia, Romania, the Philippines, India and Sri Lanka to explore ecosystem approaches to aquaculture, environmental and disease management, the potential of recreational fisheries as a development intervention and the interaction between hydrological infrastructure and fisheries.



**Cassandra De Young** is an environmental and natural resource economist, with a particular interest in promoting discussions on the social and economic contributions of the aquatic systems as part of integrated management efforts. Most of her 12-year tenure at the FAO has related to the development of fisheries management plans and strategies and supporting the ecosystem approach to fisheries. Understanding human choices and drivers of change, the benefits derived from the sector as well as the sector's impacts on the aquatic systems have always been central to her work. She currently chairs the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department's Climate Change Working Group.



**Hashali Hamukuaya** is a fisheries biologist by training and, as the Executive Secretary of the Benguela Current Commission, bears overall responsibility for the BCC Secretariat and provides strategic leadership to the Commission, ensuring that it fulfils its mandate. Dr Hamukuaya has worked as Executive Secretary of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and Director of the BCLME Programme. Prior to his taking on these regional management positions, Dr Hamukuaya worked for the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for 11 years.



**Doris Soto** is a Chilean National, has a degree in limnology in Chile in 1975 and Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of California, USA, in 1988. She worked as Professor at the Aquaculture Institute of the Austral University in Puerto Montt, Chile, until 2004 where she was actively involved with the sustainable management of aquaculture systems, both in freshwater and marine environments. She joined FAO in 2005 where she has been assisting the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) and compliance with the aquaculture elements of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). She has worked in various aspects of aquaculture sustainability including environmental costs of aquaculture, environmental impact assessment, integrated mariculture, aquaculture-fisheries interactions. She has been leading activities related to climate change implications for aquaculture, adaptation options for the sector and aquaculture contribution to GHG emissions and mitigation. She has also contributed to FAO climate change efforts such as FAO ADAPT and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). She has published numerous scientific papers and reports on aquaculture sustainability and led different types of projects to advance aquaculture also considering climate change.



**Cherdasak Virapathas** recently became the Director General of NACA. Before joining NACA, Mr. Virapat was the Executive Director of the International Ocean Institute (IOI), where he worked since May 2008. He previously served as an officer of the Royal Thai Government for 27 years. He worked as a fishery biologist for the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives during 1981–2002. He was appointed director of IOI–Thailand Operational Centre by the Office of the Thai Marine Policy and Restoration Committee, Office of the Prime Minister, and worked voluntarily in this position during 2000–2008. He was also chief of the Public Sector Development Group, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, during 2003–2005 and chief of International Coordination and assistant executive director of Thailand's National Disaster Warning Center, Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Information & Communication Technology, during 2005–2008. He holds a BSc in fishery management from Kasetsart University, Thailand; an MSc in fishery science from the University of Helsinki, Finland; and a PhD in fisheries management from Dalhousie University, Canada. While serving in the Royal Thai Government, he obtained the Royal Decorations of the Exalted Order of the White Elephant and the Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand.