Agenda item 4

State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture: SOFIA 2018

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COFI/2018/2
SOFIA 2018 highlights the critical importance of fisheries and aquaculture for the **food, nutrition and employment** of millions of people, many of whom struggle to maintain reasonable livelihoods.
Many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are directly relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, in particular SDG 14 ‘Life under water’
Recent FAO-led international developments include:

- Catch Documentation schemes
- Global Record
- Port State Measures agreement
In 2016 reached an all-time high of 171 million tonnes

88 percent utilized for direct human consumption

Thanks to:
- Stable capture fisheries production,
- Reduced wastage and
- Aquaculture growth

Note: Exclude aquatic mammals, crocodiles, alligators and caimans, seaweeds and other aquatic plants
In 2016

- 80.0 million tonnes of food fish (53 percent of total food fish)
- 30.1 million tonnes of aquatic plants

5.8 percent annual growth rate during 2001-2016
The category “Fully Fished” has been re-named “Maximally Sustainably Fished” to avoid confusion.

**The Status of Fishery Resources**

Continues to show worrying trends:

- Overfished stocks increased from 10.0 in 1974 to 33.1 percent in 2015
- Stocks fished within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90.0 in 1974 to 66.9 percent in 2015

- The global picture masks signs of recovery in the developed world
- The sustainability divide between developed and developing countries constitutes a major challenge to achieving SDG14.4
The Status of Fishery Resources

Highest percentage of unsustainable stocks:
- the Mediterranean and Black Sea (62.2 percent, Area 37)
- the Southeast Pacific (61.5 percent, Area 87)
- Southwest Atlantic (58.8 percent, Area 41)

Lowest percentage of unsustainable stocks (13-17 percent overfished):
- Eastern Central (Area 77) and Western Central (Area 71) Pacific
- NE (Area 67) and NW (Area 61)
- Southwest Pacific (Area 81)
In 2016, 151 million tonnes were utilized for direct human consumption.

Global fish consumption in 2015 reached an all-time record of 20.2 kg/capita/year (estimated 20.3 in 2016).
In 2016

- 35% of all fish products enter the international trade
- Exports value of US $143 billion
- Developing countries made up 59 percent of total fish exports volume (54% in value)
- Net trade revenue for developing countries (US $37 billion) exceeds that of all meats, tobacco, rice, sugar combined
- Fish exports (in volume) in 2016 represent a 245 percent increase over 1976.
In 2016

- China is the main fish producer
- Since 2002, China is the largest exporter of fish and fish products, followed in 2016 by Norway and Viet Nam
- The European Union, followed by the United States and Japan, are the major importers of fish and fish products.
In 2016

- 59.6 million people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture.

When including the secondary sector, over 50% are women.
World fish production, consumption and trade are expected to increase.

Expanding world aquaculture production is anticipated to fill the supply–demand gap.

This growth rate will slow down over time.

Prices will all increase in nominal terms while declining in real terms, although remaining high.

Food fish supply will increase in all regions, while per capita fish consumption is expected to decline in Africa, which raises food security concerns.
Suggested Action by the Committee

- Underline the importance of FAO’s role in reporting on the state of world fisheries and aquaculture, and advise on how COFI can best contribute to this and benefit from it.
- Underline the relevance of SOFIA and advise on its role in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Provide advice on how the publication can be improved in future editions.
Online Survey for The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)

Through this survey we would like to get your feedback on the relevance, quality and usefulness of the information and analyses presented in SOFIA, as well as on the main features you would like to see in future editions. We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaire. Your feedback and suggestions will help make SOFIA an even better resource, and inform an ongoing evaluation of FAO’s contribution to knowledge on food, agriculture and natural resources.

Please go to https://goo.gl/vauqQ6