Virtual Dialogues on the road to the 34th COFI

Impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture: Workers Perspective

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60 million workers in aquaculture, and capturing live fish, plus post harvest operations.
COVID 19 in Fish processing: working conditions and health and safety

Many cases of COVID19 in commercial fish farms and fish processing plants around the globe, temporary and long term lockdown;

Intensification of production of canned and frozen categories and reduction of processing capacity to meet social distancing measures lead to increase of workload at canning plants;

Switching the main product processed to others that require a smaller workforce in processing plants and have steady market demand required fast skills upgrade.
COVID 19 in Fish processing: safety and social security

Special safety protocols; in the absence of government aid, some companies ensured the availability of basic supplies to fishing communities and facilitated advanced payments of salaries and benefits to workers.
The COVID-19 crisis is affecting the personal safety and health of fishers, their conditions of work and their ability to join and leave their vessels, with a consequent impact on their capacity to perform their key role in ensuring transport by sea, and harvesting seafood.

- Migrant workers
- Crew changes
- Medical care
- Safety on board

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Can we consider this system sustainable?

COVID-19 and essential questions from the essential workers
Focus on Human Rights

- Secure jobs and safe workplaces, which are free of discrimination, child and forced labour in the seafood industry - at sea and on the land
- Universal access to medical care, unemployment funds, social protection and income stability
- Freedom of association, trade union representation in health and safety action planning and policy debates on global food security - from workplace level to UN agencies, FAO, ILO, WHO
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