

COFI 32 Side Event

Event title	Reliable fishery statistics and importance for food security assessments
Organizer	FAO
Co-sponsors	The Governments of The Gambia and The Bahamas, and PEW Foundation
Date	Tuesday July 12 th , between 12h30 and 14h00
Meeting room	Ethiopia room
Format	Presentations, followed by moderated Panel
Duration	1h 30mn
Contributors	Chairperson – Fred Kingston (NAFO)
	Member Countries: The Bahamas, Cameroun, The Gambia, Senegal
	University of British Columbia / Sea Around Us project
	FAO: Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (FIA)

THEME

The side event will address the theme: use of fishery statistics in national or global assessments of food security, with a focus on answering the question: which data approaches, including catch reconstructions, can contribute to better implementation of COFI's guidelines concerning Small-Scale Fisheries, and facilitate efforts to ensure the food security of coastal communities which livelihoods depend on fisheries; how States eventually improve their national data collection and reporting systems in support of such goal.

PROGRAMME

This side event will be an opportunity for COFI Member States and all other interested parties to review how FAO fishery statistics are elaborated and used, and to learn about the various approaches that are being taken to improve the quality of statistics with a focus on Small Scale Fisheries, food security and livelihoods.

The structure of this side event will consist of a series of short presentations (10 to 15 minutes) by scientists of the catch reconstruction approach, four government representatives, and FAO. The presentations will be followed by a moderated exchange between panel members and the audience, which will focus on how to enable with best scientific evidence COFI's guidelines concerning small-scale fisheries and facilitate efforts to ensure the food security of the 1 billion people living in coastal communities.

PART 1 – PRESENTATIONS (1 hour)

1. Welcome and introduction by chairperson (Fred Kingston; 5 mins)

The side event will be chaired by Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary, NAFO); NAFO is a RFMO member of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

2. Catch reconstructions: Approach, results and implications in a data poor context (by Dyhia Belhabib, *Sea Around Us* project – 10 mins)

Catch reconstructions are the process in which unreported marine fisheries catches are estimated. The decade-long catch reconstruction project by the Sea Around Us uncovered varying degrees of under-reporting depending on the country and the sector. Here we presents the results for Africa and discuss their implications on fisheries policy and management

3. Four national stories (by 4 National representatives, 35 mins)

Delegates from four Member States (The Bahamas, Cameroun, The Gambia, and a 4th country to be confirmed) illustrate how fishery statistics are developed, what deficiencies have been identified, what approaches have been followed to address such deficiencies and the resulting findings, and what countries expect from FAO and from other partners.

a) The Bahamas: "The 'other' half of the story: unreported recreational catch data for The Bahamas", (by Nicola SMITH, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources in The Bahamas)

Like many countries, The Bahamas presently only accounts for commercial landings in their official statistics. However, catch from non-commercial sectors like marine recreational fisheries can be substantial, particularly in small-island states where tourism is vital to the economy and a large number of visitors fish for recreation. Using a catch reconstruction approach, we provide a comprehensive accounting of Bahamian fisheries catches from commercial and non-commercial sectors for 1950-2010 (update to 2014 is in progress). Reconstructed total catches (i.e., reported catches + estimates of unreported catches) over this time period were 2.6 times the landings reported by The Bahamas to the FAO, with the discrepancy primarily due to unreported catches from the recreational fishery, which accounted for 55% of reconstructed total catches for 1950 through 2010.

b) Cameroun: "Improvement of data collection on small scale fisheries in Cameroon through the FAO's TCP with COREP countries" (by Sébastien DJIENOUASSI, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries)

Cameroon is one of the five African countries participating in the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) "Strengthening of fisheries data collection in Central Africa" developed in collaboration with the Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP). The project allowed to revise the national data collection system for catch statistics with an emphasis on the small scale sector. Shifting from a system for revenue purposes to a sample based system by type of fishing gear, the TCP-COREP was able to identify that the annual catches of the artisanal fleet were underestimated in the previous system. The project also developed an application to collect data using mobile devices (tablets or cell phones)

- c) **The Gambia: “Development of Fisheries Statistics in the Gambia”** (by Salifu CEESAY, Department of Fisheries-The Gambia)

Fish being an important part of the dietary intake, supplying about 40% of the total animal protein consumed in The Gambia, employing some 30,000 people with about 200,000 people depending on the sector for their livelihood. There is a need for more accurate and timely information (Data) to reach at community level and result in a better-informed public that supports efforts to manage the resources in a responsible manner. However, inadequate in human and financial resources often resulted in poor quality of information that further led to non- or inadequate use of statistics for fishery management and policy development

- d) **Senegal: “Improvement of statistic data collection in Senegalese fisheries, a collaborative work between CRODT and DPM”** (by Ndiaga THIAM, Program Coordinator, CRODT/ISRA)

An amount of 450 000 t of fisheries products are actually landed in Senegal, West Africa, among which 80 % come from the artisanal sector. The monitoring of landings is ensured by both CRODT and DPM in order to improve the reliability of the system. Human and technical means are granted to both of these structures while fisheries policies are deployed to ensure fisheries sustainable development.

4. **FAO’s approach to improve statistics in support of Food Security and the SDGs** (by Manuel Barange, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Division at FAO - 10 mins)

The presentation will recall the nature of FAO Fishery Statistics and provide an overview of the approaches used by FAO to help Member Countries improve their statistics, in particular in the context of Small Scales Fisheries (SSFs), food security and rural livelihoods.

PART 2 – PANEL-AUDIENCE DISCUSSION on the theme: How to improve national fishery statistics for securing SSFs (30 mins)

The chairperson will moderate the panel ensuring participation from the audience. The panel is composed of Part 1 Speakers, one additional representative of a Member Country (Philippe Michaud, The Seychelles), one additional FAO staff (Luca Garibaldi). Chairperson’s template for the debate will include: what role for fishery statistics? How quality can be improved? What is expected from FAO and from other partners.