



## The Impact of COVID-19 on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus

28 January 2021

### 1. Introduction

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the global economy, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates, global value chains were disrupted as a result of the lockdown measures to contain the virus. Global trade recorded a 5% drop in the third quarter of 2020 compared with the same period last year, mostly due to the pandemic measures implemented by governments.

The pandemic has hit almost all industries and sectors worldwide with long-term implications, including those of fisheries/aquaculture, at a time when global supply chains are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. The pandemic has also amplified pre-existing concerns over the suitability of global supply chains. Fish and fish products currently constitute the most highly traded food commodity internationally, with 221 states and territories having some fish trading activity. Fish exports for human consumption, in value terms, are higher than the exports of all other animal proteins combined. Therefore, the impact of COVID-19 on fish supply chain and operations has still been profound. Demand has also been negatively affected by the broken supply chain. The seven countries covered by the FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia, namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have experienced the pandemic's impact to varying degrees, based upon the various responses at the country and local levels. However, the sectoral impact of the pandemic is not well-documented in these countries.

The webinar will create a platform for government, non-governmental, civil society, and industry representatives to share experience on responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the webinar are as follows:

1. Examine impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries and aquaculture industries and food security in the invited countries,
2. Gain an overview of Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support industry,
3. Share good practices regarding industry and civil society responses to the COVID-19 pandemic
4. Learn what are the industry needs to mitigate immediate impacts of COVID-19 and improve resilience in the longer term

### 3. Process

Prior to the workshop, each participating country is requested to prepare a 10-minute country presentation with a focus on the following issues:

- What impact has COVID-19 had on fisheries and aquaculture in your country?
- Overview of Government's response to COVID-19 to support industry
- Examples of industry and civil society responses to COVID-19

- Needs of industry to mitigate immediate impacts of COVID-19 and improve resilience in the longer term

The event will be conducted virtually through Zoom. Prior to the webinar, the participants will be provided with a webinar ID and password to attend the webinar.

#### **4. Participants**

The following countries will be invited to nominate up to 20 participants for the webinar: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The event targets key stakeholders of the fishery and aquaculture industries (i.e. policy makers, representatives of organizations of fishers and fish farmers, companies, traders, investors, academicians and researchers).

#### **5. Organization**

The Virtual Regional workshop is organized as part of the FAO Regional Initiative “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”.

#### **6. Webinar language**

The webinar will be conducted in English and Russian languages through simultaneous interpretation.

#### **7. Webinar contact persons**

Haydar Fersoy, Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer ([Haydar.Fersoy@fao.org](mailto:Haydar.Fersoy@fao.org))

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#### **8. Webinar provisional agenda**

The provisional agenda for the webinar is given below.

**28 January 2021**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

*\* Please note that the time-schedule displays Budapest time (CET)*

**Moderator.** Haydar Fersoy, Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAO

<b>Time</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>
09.30-09.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- NFI</li><li>- Raimund Jehle, FAO Regional Programme Leader for Europe and Central Asia</li></ul>
	<b>Session 1. Country presentations</b>
09.40-09.50	Azerbaijan
09.50-10.00	Kazakhstan
10.00-10.10	Kyrgyzstan
10.10-10.20	Tajikistan
10.20-10.30	Turkey
10.30-10.40	Turkmenistan
10.40-10.50	Uzbekistan
10.50-11.20	<b>Session 2. Questions and panel discussion</b>
11.20-11.30	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-</li><li>- Viorel Gutu, Subregional Coordinator for Central Asia, FAO Representative in Turkey</li></ul>