



THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals

KEY MESSAGES

→ Food and agriculture are key to achieving the entire set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and many are directly relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, in particular **SDG 14** (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

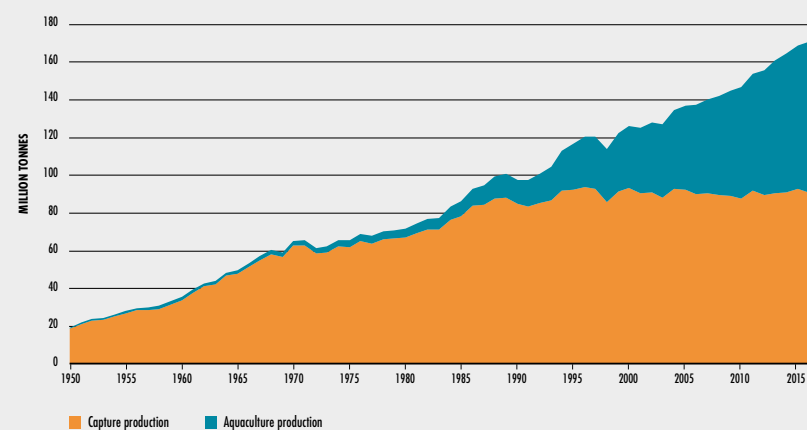
→ *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018* highlights the critical importance of fisheries and aquaculture for the **FOOD, NUTRITION AND EMPLOYMENT** of millions of people, many of whom struggle to maintain reasonable livelihoods.

→ Total fish production in 2016 reached an all-time high of **171 MILLION TONNES**, of which 88 percent was utilized for direct human consumption, thanks to relatively stable capture fisheries production, reduced wastage and aquaculture growth.

→ Since 1961 the annual global growth in fish consumption has been twice as high as population growth, demonstrating that the fisheries sector is crucial in meeting FAO's goal of **A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION**.

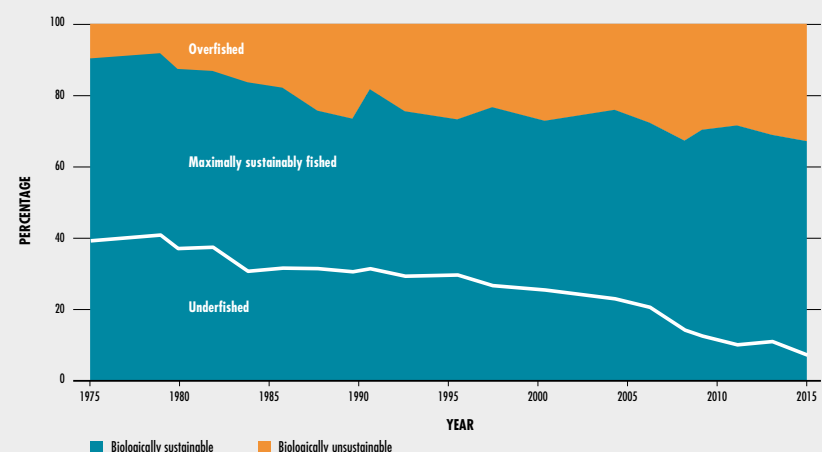
WORLD REVIEW

FIGURE 1
WORLD CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION



NOTE: Excludes aquatic mammals, crocodiles, alligators and caimans, seaweeds and other aquatic plants

FIGURE 14
GLOBAL TRENDS IN THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MARINE FISH STOCKS, 1974–2015



Legend: ■ Biologically sustainable (teal), ■ Biologically unsustainable (orange)

Capture fisheries production

Global total capture fisheries production, as derived from the FAO capture database, was 90.9 million tonnes in 2016, a small decrease in comparison to the two previous years. World total marine catch was 81.2 million tonnes in 2015 and 79.3 million tonnes in 2016. **Total global catch in inland waters was 11.6 million tonnes in 2016**, an increase of 2.0 percent over the previous year and of 10.5 percent in comparison to the 2005–2014 average. In 2016, 16 countries, mostly in Asia, produced almost 80 percent of these catches.

The status of fishery resources

The fraction of fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels has exhibited a decreasing trend, from 90.0 percent in 1974 to 66.9 percent in 2015. In contrast, the percentage of stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 33.1 percent in 2015, with the largest increases in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Aquaculture production

Global aquaculture production (including aquatic plants) in 2016 was 110.2 million tonnes, with the first-sale value re-estimated at USD 243.5 billion. The total production included 80.0 million tonnes of food fish (USD 231.6 billion) and 30.1 million tonnes of aquatic plants (USD 11.7 billion) as well as 37 900 tonnes of non-food products (USD 214.6 million).

Fishers and fish farmers

The most recent official statistics indicate that 59.6 million people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2016, with 19.3 million people engaged in aquaculture and 40.3 million people engaged in fisheries. The proportion of those employed in capture fisheries decreased from 83 percent in 1990 to

FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN ACTION

Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing: global developments

The principles of responsible fisheries management have been prescribed in a number of international ocean and fisheries instruments. However, States do not always satisfactorily fulfil their duties in line with such instruments and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing often occurs, undermining national, regional and global efforts to manage fisheries sustainably. It is not enough for States to detect IUU fishing; they must strengthen fisheries laws and regulations and be able to take effective action against perpetrators to deter non-compliance.

Although States need to improve performance and implement port State measures, there have been important achievements in the fight against IUU fishing. These include the development and adoption of international guidelines to promote the use of catch documentation schemes (CDSs) for better traceability of fish and fish products in the value chain; the global and regional development of fishing vessel records; and the adoption of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

OUTLOOK

The following major trends for the period up to 2030 emerge from predictive models:

- ➔ World fish production, consumption and trade are expected to increase, but with a growth rate that will slow over time.
- ➔ Expanding world aquaculture production, although growing more slowly than in the past, is anticipated to fill the supply–demand gap.
- ➔ 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 concerns in terms of food security.

68 percent in 2016, while the proportion of those employed in aquaculture correspondingly increased from 17 to 32 percent.

Fish consumption

In per capita terms, food fish consumption has grown from 9.0 kg in 1961 to 20.2 kg in 2015, at an average rate of about 1.5 percent per year. Preliminary estimates for 2016

and 2017 point to further growth to about 20.3 and 20.5 kg, respectively.

Governance and policy

With people consuming more fish than ever, **the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) is increasingly relevant as the guiding framework for implementing the principles of sustainable development in fisheries and aquaculture.**



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July 2018
ISBN 978-92-5-130562-1
ISSN 1020-5489
224 pp.
210 × 297 mm
Also available in:
Arabic, Chinese, French,
Russian and Spanish

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, the flagship publication of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, presents a world review of fisheries and aquaculture including trends and statistics. It highlights issues debated worldwide and profiles future scenarios to provide readers with the most current global view and perspectives on fisheries and aquaculture.

Subject categories:
Fisheries,
aquaculture,
food security,
food wastage

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