



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



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The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022). FAO is the agency leading the advocacy activities for the Year, in collaboration with other UN entities. Celebrating IYAFA 2022 gives important recognition to the millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers who provide healthy and nutritious food to billions of people and contribute to achieving Zero Hunger.

OBJECTIVES OF THE YEAR

The objective of celebrating IYAFA 2022 is twofold: the Year aims to focus world attention on the role that small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers play in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources – thereby increasing global understanding and action to support them.

The celebration is also an opportunity to enhance dialogue between different actors, and not least to strengthen small-scale producers to partner up with one another and make their voices heard so they can influence the decisions and policies that shape their everyday lives – all the way from local community level to international and global fora.

WHAT IS 'ARTISANAL' AND 'SMALL-SCALE'?

There is no universal definition for what type of fisheries or aquaculture count as 'artisanal' or 'small-scale'. Commonly, these terms are used for describing fisheries and aquaculture that use relatively small production units with low input and output, and low levels of technology or capital investment. Fishing for sport or recreation are excluded.



SUPPORTING THE SDGs AND THE DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING

As IYAFA 2022 falls within the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF 2019-2028), the two celebrations will complement one another and provide greater visibility to small-scale producers.

Similarly, the Year will stimulate action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, in particular SDG 14.b.



NUMBERS: SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

- **40 million** people are directly engaged in capture fisheries worldwide (FAO, 2018). This increases to **120 million** if indirectly engaged people are also considered (World Bank, 2012).
- **90 percent** of the total work force are small-scale fishers and fish workers, and almost **50 percent** are women (World Bank, 2012).

NUMBERS: AQUACULTURE

- **20 million** people are directly engaged in aquaculture worldwide (FAO, 2018). This increases to up to **50 million** if indirectly engaged people are also considered (FAO and WorldFish 2016).
- **80 percent** of world aquaculture production comes from developing countries (FAO and WorldFish 2016).

Sources:

FAO. 2018. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018*. Rome. www.fao.org/3/i9540en/i9540en.pdf

World Bank. 2012. *Hidden Harvest: The Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries*. Washington. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/515701468152718292/pdf/664690ESW0P1210120HiddenHarvest0web.pdf>

FAO and WorldFish. 2016. *Aquaculture Big Numbers*. Rome. www.fao.org/3/a-i6317e.pdf

TIME TO GET PREPARED!

IYAFA 2022 will be an opportunity to showcase the potential of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and point to the benefits which can be gained from strengthening these small-scale sectors. FAO aims to engage with policymakers, development partners, academia, the private sector, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture organizations, and the general public.

To make the most of this opportunity, it is time to think creatively, join hands and start making plans now for how to make IYAFA 2022 a memorable year. Let us give small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers the attention they deserve!

LEARN MORE

www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022

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