Contents

1. Foreword 01
2. Highlights 02
3. Why aquatic foods? 03
4. Overview 05
5. Who we are 07
6. What we do 09
7. Areas of work 10
   Sustainable aquaculture 10
   Sustainable fisheries 12
   Sustainable trade and value chains 14
   Cross-cutting 16
   FAO decentralized offices, regional fishery bodies and agreements 18
Foreword

Fisheries and aquaculture are crucial in the fight against hunger and poverty. Total food demand is projected to increase by 60 percent by 2050 compared to 2013, and fish and aquatic food are expected to contribute a larger proportion to the food basket than today to fill the food gap. The contribution of marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture to the global fight to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in all its forms and dimensions, will have to increase if we are to achieve the goals set in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition, the number of people facing acute food insecurity and requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance and support is on the rise. Between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 – as many as 161 million more than in 2019. Future projections predict increasing challenges as a result of conflict, climate change, and of course the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

To overcome these challenges and reaffirm Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)´s leadership to defeat hunger and achieve global food and nutrition security while preserving the planet’s resources and reducing our environmental footprint, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division focuses its work on the opportunities provided by a further transformation of aquatic foods systems to become more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

This booklet outlines the Division’s new broad, agile, modular and interdisciplinary structure. The structure was designed to: a) be aligned with the new FAO Strategic Framework; b) enhance effectiveness and impact; and c) support the ongoing transformation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

We need to meet urgent and growing demands for nutritious, safe and affordable food through sustainable ecosystems, economies and societies that leave no one behind, to address the complex 21st century challenges ahead. I am confident that this new structure will help us do that.

Manuel Barange
Director – Fisheries and Aquaculture Division
Natural Resources and Sustainable Production stream
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
The world population will reach 8.5 billion by 2030.

Annual fish consumption is predicted to exceed 21.2 Kg per capita by 2030.

Since 1950, the global fisheries and aquaculture production has increased by 820%.

Algae and aquatic plants reached 35.8 million tonnes in 2019, 97% from aquaculture.

In 2019, 92.5 million tonnes of fish from capture fisheries and 85.3 million tonnes of fish from aquaculture (aquatic plants not included) were produced.

40% of capture fisheries production is from small-scale fisheries.

90% of all employed in capture fisheries value chains are in small-scale fisheries.
Why aquatic foods?

Rich source of protein with multiple nutrients

Minerals

Iron (Fe)
Essential for brain development and cognitive function in children and adolescents, and increases maternal survival rates.

Iodine (I)
Essential for brain development in fetus and young children and helps prevent stillbirth.

Zinc (Zn)
Crucial for childhood survival, reduces stunting in children and fights diarrhea.

Essential Fatty Acids
Helps prevent preeclampsia, preterm delivery, low birth weight and supports cognitive development in the first 1000 days and throughout adolescence.

Vitamins

Vitamin A
Essential for childhood survival, prevents blindness, helps fight infections and promotes healthy growth.

Vitamin B12
Essential for healthy pregnancy, helps prevent brain and spinal cord birth defects and supports healthy maintenance of nervous systems and brain in children.

Vitamin D
Essential for the development of strong, healthy bones, teeth and muscles in children and helps prevent preeclampsia, preterm delivery and low birth weight.

Adapted from Ahern, M.; Thilsted, S.H. and Oeneme, S. 2021. The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets. UN Nutrition
Overview

Marine and freshwater food systems have a crucial and growing role in providing billions of people with essential protein and nutrients, as well as livelihoods and other services, assisting society in overcoming hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Since the endorsement of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in 1995, the fisheries and aquaculture sector has changed significantly, urged by a constantly growing demand and consumption of aquatic food, and with aquaculture becoming an increasingly important source of food. This transformation is recognized in the 2021 Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of the FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI). The Declaration outlines a number of areas where additional effort is needed to promote more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable aquatic food systems, and to increase the contributions of the sector to the objectives of Agenda 2030. The needs identified by the Declaration are captured in the vision and roadmap of Blue transformation, which has become a Priority Programme Area within FAO.

The Blue transformation roadmap outlines three important areas of focus:

1 – Sustainable expansion and intensification of aquaculture to satisfy global demand for aquatic food and distribute benefits equitably

2 – Effective management of all fisheries to deliver healthy stocks and secure equitable livelihoods

3 – Upgraded value chains to ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems

Through the effective implementation of Blue transformation, it is estimated that the annual per capita consumption of fish and fish products could grow from the current 20 kg to 25.5 kg by 2050. Such a per capita growth as we approach 10 billion people would make a significant contribution to address hunger and malnutrition.
## Who we are

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division is one of the FAO’s core technical divisions under the Natural Resources and Sustainable Production stream at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. It comprises more than 430 staff and consultants with a broad range of expertise working in an interdisciplinary manner, organized in teams under different thematic and cross-cutting areas, aligned with the Blue transformation roadmap.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>430</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Thematic areas</td>
<td>Thematic teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-cutting teams</td>
<td>RFBs secretariats(^1)</td>
<td>Agreements secretariats(^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. The European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

2. The 2003 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement) and the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA).
Better Production
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food supply chains, ensuring resilient and sustainable food systems.

Better Nutrition
End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets.

Better Life
Promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities.

Better Environment
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and combat climate change.
What we do

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division is committed to support FAO Members and partners meeting the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the FAO aspiration of leaving no one behind through sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life.

By developing and supporting implementation of internationally agreed standards, transferring knowledge and helping to develop capacities of FAO Members and stakeholders, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division promotes national, regional and global enhanced fisheries management, expanded sustainable aquaculture and upgraded value chains. As part of the work on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division is custodian of the following indicators under SDG 14: 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1.
Sustainable aquaculture

Aquaculture is the fastest growing food producing sector, now yielding half of the world’s aquatic food for direct human consumption. Teams in the sustainable aquaculture thematic area support the development and implementation of normative guidelines that facilitate sustainable expansion and intensification of aquaculture to satisfy global demand of aquatic food and distribute benefits equitably.

They also work with FAO Members to build aquaculture knowledge networks, promote investments, develop and adapt sustainable aquaculture tools, technologies, efficient resource utilization and good farming systems and practices, and develop capacity to facilitate the contribution of aquaculture to sustainable development. In particular, the teams in this area address:

- Effective **cooperation, planning, and governance** at national, regional and global levels to enhance aquaculture development and management.
- **Innovative technology and management** to support the expansion of sustainable and resilient aquaculture systems.
- Equitable **access to resources and services** to deliver new and secure existing aquaculture-based livelihoods.
- **Aquaculture operations** that minimize environmental impacts and use resources efficiently.
- **Regular monitoring and reporting** of the state and the ecological, social, and economic impacts of aquaculture development.
- Coordination with and provision of the **secretariat for the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture**.
Sustainable fisheries

Capture fisheries is the only major food production industry that relies on the natural cycles of a highly diverse group of wild populations. Teams in the sustainable fisheries thematic area work alongside FAO Members to transform fisheries management by applying an ecosystem approach to deliver healthy stocks and secure equitable livelihoods.

This includes support to fisheries assessment and monitoring for sustainable fisheries development, living resources management, livelihoods improvement, capacity development and policy implementation, as well as biodiversity and ecosystem conservation concerns. The teams in this area address a variety of issues crucial for the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the capture fisheries sector, including:

- **Analysis and monitoring** of the status and trends of fishery resources, ecosystems and endangered species across the world.

- Effective **policies, governance structures and institutions** to support fisheries.

- Equitable **access to resources and services** to enhance the livelihoods of fishers and fish workers.

- Effective **fisheries management systems** to address ecological, social and economic objectives and consider trade-offs.

- Efficient, safe, innovative and profitable **fishing fleets**.

- Coordination of the **COFI secretariat and secretariats for agreements adopted under the FAO constitution**, including regional fishery bodies.
Aquatic food is one of the most internationally traded foods. The sustainable trade and value chains thematic area provides policy, strategic and technical advice, and capacity development support to FAO Members on aquatic food and related products, focusing on post-harvest activities, to transform and upgrade value chains and markets to ensure the social, economic and environmental viability of aquatic food systems.

Its main areas of work include food safety, quality and nutrition, health management of aquatic organisms, value chain development, information on markets, market access and international trade. In particular, the teams under this thematic area address:

- **Efficient value chains** that increase profitability and reduce food loss.
- **Transparent, inclusive and gender equitable value chains** to support sustainable livelihoods.
- Efficient **access to international markets** of fisheries and aquaculture products.
- Increased **sustainable consumption of aquatic food**, particularly in areas with low food and nutrition security.
- Increased **access to healthy, safe and high quality aquatic food**.
- Coordination with and provision of the **secretariat for the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade**.
Cross-cutting

Recognizing the interlinked nature of the workstreams, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division also houses cross-cutting teams and areas of work that focus on issues relevant to the entire fisheries and aquaculture sector:

- **Statistics:** this team is responsible for the collection, compilation, validation and analysis of global statistics for the fishery and aquaculture sector, and the coordination of the **secretariat of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)**. It also enhances the capacity of Members to better support evidence-based policy and science-based decision-making through the provision of standards, guidelines, tools, expertise, capacity development and training on data collection and analysis of fishery and aquaculture statistics.

- **Information and knowledge management:** this team provides access to global trends, cross-disciplinary knowledge and analysis on the fishery and aquaculture sector via publication services, corporate library resources, internet-based information systems and data services. It also promotes digital innovations that build on the highest standards and the best available technologies, supports the development of a coherent and comprehensive knowledge base on fisheries and aquaculture, facilitates partnership arrangements that support the collation and sharing of information on fisheries and aquaculture, and assists Members with their data management challenges.
**Resilience:** this team addresses the need to mainstream biodiversity considerations and coordinate the development and implementation of climate change adaptation, mitigation and risk reduction measures across the full range of fisheries and aquaculture practices, through field operations, normative work, and partnerships. It assists Members on the updating of national plans in accordance with international biodiversity and climate initiatives, and the implementation of actions required to service provisions of those agreements, including through nature-based solutions that promote the restoration and conservation of ecosystems, and to help achieve biodiversity, climate and food security goals.

**Gender:** this area of work supports the development, planning, and implementation of the gender strategy of the FAO and Aquaculture Division that addresses the legal, social, and economic discrimination that women in the sector often face, and supports gender equality and women’s rights in the sector to help accelerate actions to reach the SDG targets and improve the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It supports the development of projects and programmes working towards the implementation of a gender transformative approach for women’s economic empowerment throughout the work of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.
At regional level, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division together with FAO decentralized offices, address the development of fisheries and aquaculture around the world in support of a Blue transformation. The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division also provides support to Members through dedicated agreements and regional fishery bodies (RFBs) established within the framework of the FAO Constitution.

- **FAO decentralized offices**: Staff in regional, sub-regional and country offices work with the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, in particular with fisheries and aquaculture technical professionals sharing the same discipline or main disciplinary interest, to help support the quality and integrity of knowledge across the organization. FAO decentralized offices also provide support for the execution of global programmes under FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division’s responsibility.

- **Article VI RFBs** have an advisory function. FAO hosts the secretariats for the following Article VI bodies:
  - Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
  - Committee on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA)
  - Commission for Small-Scale, Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC)
  - European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)
  - Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC)
  - Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

- **Article XIV RFBs** have regulatory functions, in addition to a broad advisory role, and operate through formal arrangements and decisions taken by their Contracting Parties. FAO provides secretariat support to the following Article XIV bodies:
  - Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)
  - Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)
  - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
  - Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
  - Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI).

- **Other Article XIV agreements** for which the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division discharges the functions of secretariat include:
  - 1993 Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (FAO Compliance Agreement)
  - 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA).
Areas of competence

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

DIRECTOR’S OFFICE
Director: Manuel Barange, Deputy Directors: Vera Agostini, Audun Lem and Xinhua Yuan
Divisional support and project cycle unit: Steven Ciocca

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
Led by Vera Agostini
Global and regional processes: Matthew Camilleri
Equitable livelihoods: Nicole Franz
Assessment and management: Pedro Barros
Technology and operations: Raymon van Anrooy

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE
Led by Xinhua Yuan
Global and regional processes: Matthias Halwart
National planning and development support: Nathanael Hishamunda
Technology and production: Xinhua Yuan (ad interim)

SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND VALUE CHAINS
Led by Audun Lem
Trade and markets: Marcio Castro de Souza
Value chain development: Nianjun Shen
Food safety, nutrition and health: Melba Reantaso

CROSS-CUTTING
linked to the Director and Deputy Directors
Statistics: Stefania Vannuccini, Information and knowledge management: Marc Taconet
Resilience: Kim Friedman, Gender focal point: Jennifer Gee

RFBs, linked to the Director
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
Executive Secretary: Miguel Bernal
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Executive Secretary: Chris O’Brien