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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups

Eighth Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group(AS) and Twenty-Ninth meeting of the Fisheries Subject (FS)

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OECD activities report to CWP

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Document Summary

This document provides an overview of the OECD work of relevance to CWP carried out since CWP Intersessional Meetings in November 2021 and other relevant activities since CWP 26 in May 2021.

I. Introduction

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. OECD's goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

The fisheries team in the OECD Directorate of Trade and Agriculture manages and coordinates the work of The Committee of Fisheries (COFI). The Committee is expected to draw on lessons learned from national and international efforts to achieve environmentally sound fisheries and sustainable aquaculture that support resilient communities, provide quality food and secure livelihoods. Within this broad area, the Committee has the responsibility to examine the most relevant policy issues for member countries and partner economies.

As reflected in its mandate, the overall aims of the Committee are:

- To promote sustainable well-managed, efficient and resilient fisheries and aquaculture that contribute to healthy ecosystems, support sustainable livelihoods and communities, and contribute to food security, responsible trade and consumption;
- To promote mutual understanding of developments in fisheries and aquaculture policies;
- To achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, i.e. biological, economic and social sustainability through effective and sustainable management, good governance and sound business arrangements of fisheries and aquaculture;
- To improve the effectiveness and transparency of fisheries and aquaculture policies at domestic and international levels.

II. Review of relevant statistical activities since the CWP intersessional meeting in November 2021

In order to achieve the Committee's mandate, statistics on fisheries and aquaculture are collected annually by the OECD Secretariat from OECD countries and from economies participating to the work of the Committee.

Data are processed and subsequently released on an annual basis in the OECD data platform ([OECD.Stat](#)) and every two years into the flagship publication [OECD Review of Fisheries](#).

The latest edition of the publication was released in 2020 and it is available also as [web-book](#). Next edition will be released in 2022, and its preparation is underway.

The country notes released with the publication provide additional country level data and details on institutions and policies based on contributions by participating countries and economies. Their latest version is available in tab *Review of fisheries: Country notes* of the [OECD Fisheries and Aquaculture webpage](#).

The last data call was launched in the summer 2021, and it was aimed at collecting information in the following domains:

- **Marine landings:** information is collected on the quantity and value of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates/animals landed in national and foreign ports and reported on a landed weight basis regardless of the landed state (i.e. whole, gutted, filleted, meal, etc).
- **Fishing fleet** (for OECD / non-EU countries): information is gathered on the number and gross tonnage of fishing vessels, broken down by length categories.
- **FSE (Fisheries Support Estimate):** the aim of this data collection is to gather information on national programs that support domestic fisheries, individually (as individual fishers) or collectively (as a sector) with the ultimate goals of maintaining employment, improving fishers' welfare, preserving traditional communities, securing production of food or ensuring the sustainability of the sector and the resources it relies on.

Examples of programs directly benefiting individuals and companies are income support and special insurance systems, decommissioning schemes, payments for early retirement, and programs lowering the cost of inputs like payments to reduce the cost of ice or bait or payments for vessel construction and modernisation, including support for fuel.

Examples of programmes benefiting the fisheries sector are governmental expenditures for fisheries management, support to fishing communities' well-being, investment in education and training, marketing and promotion or research and development, or investment in infrastructure like ports.

- **Key management tools and fish stock status:** the purpose of this data gathering is twofold: to collect information on the tools used to manage stocks of the top-5 species (by landings value) and to gather information on fish stocks where management objectives have been set and status has recently been quantitatively assessed with respect to associated reference points.
- **Employment:** the information collected covers the number of fishers, fish farmers and fish processors. Since 2019, this data collection is jointly run with FAO, thanks to an intense work of collaboration and coordination between the two organizations, which has started in 2018, and it is still ongoing. Efforts were done to harmonized data, metadata, contact points and working processes across organizations; in order to reduce reporting burden on countries and to remove useless duplication of work across them, OECD and FAO have worked together to build a unique data workflow, including a joint questionnaire and a shared model for the estimation of missing values.

Following the same logic, the OECD has also decided to use wherever possible external data sources (e.g. data collected and released by other organizations) to compile information required by the work of the Committee. This is actually done to cover the following domains:

- **Aquaculture production:** data in quantity and value are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **Inland fisheries:** quantity data on inland capture are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **International trade of fisheries commodities:** value data are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **Fishing fleet (for OECD / EU countries):** data on the number and gross tonnage of fishing vessels are collected from Eurostat

III. Towards G7 action to combat ghost fishing gear

This [report](#) was the result of a collaboration between the OECD Environment Directorate (ENV) and the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (TAD), in consultation with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It was developed at the request of the United Kingdom

as a contribution to the 2021 UK G7 Presidency. The OECD gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the UK Government.

The report provides in-depth analysis of the drivers, impacts and best practices to address ghost fishing gear, and places the issues of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear within the larger context of marine plastic pollution. Ghost gear is particularly harmful because it negatively affects fisheries, non-target species (e.g. entanglement of wildlife), habitats, navigational safety, and coastal tourism. As a significant source of marine pollution, ghost fishing gear contributes to environmental and health risks of plastic pollution. The report identifies good practices and policies to prevent gear loss, reduce its impacts, and to recover lost gear. It reviews current policy efforts at the international level and in G7 countries and recommends a comprehensive policy response through international co-operation and circular economy approaches.

IV. Eliminating government support to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

This [report](#) was prepared by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Unit of the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate with a voluntary contribution from the Ministry for Primary Industries of New Zealand. It assesses how to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing benefitting from government support. Based on a survey of OECD countries and partner economies participating in the work of the OECD Fisheries Committee conducted in 2021, it recommends actions that can be undertaken by countries to maximise the chances of excluding individuals and companies with links to IUU fishing from government support, and to minimise the risk that such support benefits IUU fishing ex ante, given the inherent difficulty to take action ex post. Eight specific recommendations are presented.