



## COMMISSION OF SMALL-SCALE, ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### EIGHTEENTH SESSION

San Jose, Costa Rica, 29-31 March 2023

### MEASURES TAKEN REGARDING DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE XVII ORDINARY SESSION OF COPPEAALC

#### Introduction

During the Seventeenth Regular Session of COPPEAALC, held virtually and chaired by the Government of Peru, from 27 to 29 October 2021, the representatives of the member countries established priority lines of work in line with FAO's strategic framework and, in particular, to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda). The agreements gave rise to the Commission's work plan for the 2022-2023 biennium. Following there is a summary of actions undertaken during the Commission's reporting period that have contributed to addressing the recommendations and the work plan referred to.

#### Development of activities per thematic area

##### International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture

In November 2021, in line with the global launch of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA-2022) at the FAO headquarters in Rome, the regional launch of the Year ([www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1450093/](http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1450093/)) was carried out virtually, as the starting point for the celebration of the IYAFA in Latin America and the Caribbean and was attended by various sectoral actors, including national fisheries and aquaculture authorities, fisher and fish farmer organisations and civil society organisations ([www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/1456796/](http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/1456796/)).

In order to promote inclusive actions in the framework of the IYAFA, three Subregional Committees were created in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with the participation of all COPPEAALC countries, to promote actions in the framework of the IYAFA-2022: South America, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. Table 1 summarises the structure and main

To minimise the impact of FAO's working methods on the environment and to contribute to climate neutrality, a limited number of copies of this document have been issued. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to refrain from requesting additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

actions promoted in the Committees' work plans. It is important to note that it is expected that the dialogue mechanisms established for the coordinated management of aspects of importance to strengthen artisanal fisheries and aquaculture will continue to operate for the benefit of the workers in these productive sectors.

Table 1. Actions in the framework of IYafa in Latin America and the Caribbean

Committee	Members	Core elements of the action plan	Main achievements
South America	Representatives of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Authorities of Argentina, The Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the support of FAO.	<p>1. Establish mechanisms for dialogue and exchange of experiences and good practices between men and women working in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, and</p> <p>2. Develop joint actions to strengthen small-scale artisanal fishers and fish farmers as guarantors of food security through their work, culture and identity.</p>	<p>The South American committee for IYafa 2022 carried out a characterization of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture through surveys and interviews with national fisheries and aquaculture authorities of the 10 member countries of the South American Committee, based on the results of the characterization, three publications were prepared with public policy recommendations aimed at strengthening the sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Gallardo Lagno, A., Aguilar-Manjarrez, J., Norambuena Cleveland, R., Mienert Rauna, A. y Ivanovic Willumsen, C. 2023. Characterisation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in South America and public policy recommendations. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 692. Santiago de Chile, FAO</li> <li>-FAO. 2023. Public policy recommendations for the sustainable development of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in South America. Policy guidelines for policy makers. Santiago de Chile, FAO.</li> <li>-FAO. 2023. Recommendations for the sustainable development of artisanal small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in South America. Policy guidelines for men and women working in artisanal small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Santiago de Chile, FAO.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, two webinars were held as part of the characterization study: one on fish consumption in South America, and the other one on associativity for the development and innovation of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO. 2022. Fish consumption in South America - Prospects for increasing its contribution to human nutrition. In: FAO. Santiago de Chile. [Accessed on 26 January 2023]. <a href="http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1512837">www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1512837</a></li> <li>FAO. 2022. South American countries promote fish consumption. In: FAO. Santiago de Chile. [Accessed on 26 January 2023]. <a href="http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/1539926/">www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/1539926/</a>.</li> <li>FAO. 2022. Associativity for the development and innovation of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in South America. In: FAO. Santiago de Chile. [Accessed on 26 January 2023]. <a href="http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1601550/">www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1601550/</a></li> <li>FAO. 2022. FAO strengthens associativity in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. In: FAO. Santiago de Chile.</li> </ul>

			[Accessed on 26 January 2023]. <a href="http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1603589">www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/en/c/1603589</a>
Mesoamerica	OSPESCA representing the fisheries and aquaculture authorities of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Dominican Republic; CONAPESCA-Mexico; CONFEPESCA; Alianza de Pescadores Indígenas de Centroamérica; CONMECOOP-Mexico; Fish Farmers Associations of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras; Dominican Republic.	1. Promotion of the inclusion of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture workers in national social protection systems. 2. Strengthening partnership and competitiveness of small-scale fish farmers. 3. Strengthening dialogue and interaction of artisanal fishers and small-scale fish farmers.	- Diagnosis of the social protection status of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in Mesoamerica. - Mesoamerican Forum to Promote the Inclusion of Artisanal Fishers and Small-scale Aquaculture Producers in National Social Protection Schemes ( <a href="http://www.fao.org/fishery/en/publication/298948">www.fao.org/fishery/en/publication/298948</a> ). - Board of agreements in El Salvador with progress regarding the inclusion of fishermen in the national PS. - Creation of the Mesoamerican Network of Small-scale Aquaculture Farmers (REMAPE). ( <a href="https://mexico.un.org/es/197480-nueva-red-mesoamericana-de-acuicultores-de-pequena-escala-promovera-desarrollo-del-sector-en">https://mexico.un.org/es/197480-nueva-red-mesoamericana-de-acuicultores-de-pequena-escala-promovera-desarrollo-del-sector-en</a> ). - Regional Forum for the Exchange of Experiences in Aquaculture Extension in LAC. ( <a href="http://www.estrategiaynegocios.net/centroamericaymundo/impulsan-el-extensionismo-acuicola-con-un-enfoque-de-autogestion-PD11307383">www.estrategiaynegocios.net/centroamericaymundo/impulsan-el-extensionismo-acuicola-con-un-enfoque-de-autogestion-PD11307383</a> )
Caribbean			

### **Strengthening national systems for registration, monitoring of fishery resources and sectoral statistics**

Support was provided to various countries to strengthen their fishery resources registration, monitoring and management systems. In Argentina, the project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 'Strengthening the coastal-marine biodiversity management and protection in key ecological areas and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries' has made substantive contributions to the knowledge of the country's fishery resources, as well as providing the basis for fisheries management under the EAF, through its implementation of a sessile resource in fishery, the Patagonian scallop, through the participation of producers and the close interaction of the institutions in charge of environmental protection (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development) and fishery management (Undersecretariat of Fisheries and the Federal Fisheries Council), demonstrating that intersectoral dialogue with a scientific basis allows for more participatory and sustainable fisheries management.

In Chile, FAO is providing technical assistance to the GEF Project "Strengthening of management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of global

importance in coastal marine ecosystems in Chile" financed by the GEF. The project is being implemented since March 2022, projecting its completion towards the end of 2025 (<https://gefgobernanza.mma.gob.cl/>).

Various projects have been formulated at the request of the member countries, to strengthen fisheries management and the protection of coastal marine biodiversity. Such is the case of project ideas in Brazil to improve the connectivity of marine and coastal protected areas, without undermining the social use of ecosystems, which have been approved by the GEF; as well as in Mexico where funds have been approved for the formulation of a project aimed at promoting the co-management of resources in fishing reserve areas.

The project 'Reducing Bycatch in Shrimp Fisheries' (REBYC-II-LAC), in which Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have participated, ended its activities in 2021 with excellent results, as judged by its target populations and by the Global Environment Facility in its own evaluation. The project gave rise to an important range of institutional and legal mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and platforms that allow for a substantive improvement in the monitoring and management of shrimp resources, as well as the sustainable management of bycatches of multiple species that have benefited from technologies to reduce their unintentional fishing.

In Mexico, at the request of CONAPESCA, FAO provided technical assistance through international consultancies, although remotely due to the restrictions imposed by the CoVid19 pandemic, in the design and manufacture of a highly selective network with specific characteristics for the capture of the Gulf corvina (*Cynoscion othonopterus*), thereby minimising bycatch of highly threatened species such as totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) and endangered species such as vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*).

Several projects have been formulated at the request of member countries to strengthen fisheries management and the protection of marine-coastal biodiversity. Such is the case of project ideas in Brazil to improve the connectivity of marine and coastal protected areas, without undermining the social use of ecosystems, which have been approved by the GEF; as well as in Mexico where funds have been approved for the formulation of a project aimed at promoting the co-management of resources in fishing reserve areas.

In Costa Rica, with the support of the World Bank, INCOPESCA has been assisted in the formulation of the National Training Programme for institutions and resource users. A proposal was formulated and will be implemented through the project financed by the World Bank.

In Panama, the Aquatic Resources Authority has been assisted in the drawing up of the Regulations of its new Fisheries and Aquaculture Law, including multiple elements aimed at strengthening its system for the registration and monitoring of fishery resources.

At the regional level, the online course 'Fisheries management with an ecosystem approach' ([www.fao.org/in-action/capacitacion-politicas-publicas/cursos-autoaprendizaje/es/](http://www.fao.org/in-action/capacitacion-politicas-publicas/cursos-autoaprendizaje/es/)) At the regional level, the online course "Fisheries management with an ecosystem approach" has continued in its second edition, allowing more than 1 500 technicians, students, academics and managers in the region to strengthen their capacities in this important area.

**Contribution to nutrition and strengthening resilience of food systems related to fisheries and aquaculture**

During the reporting period, the Regional webinar 'Fish consumption in South America: prospects for increasing its contribution to people's nutrition' was held within the framework of the action plan of the Subregional Committee for the celebration of the IYFA2022, with broad virtual participation, providing important policy recommendations on the subject. ([www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1512837](http://www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/en/c/1512837)).

Similarly, progress has been made in pilot projects and efforts to promote the inclusion of fish in school feeding programmes in Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay with the work of INFOPECA in this country, supported by FAO. A project was launched in Honduras to extend the pilot phase of including fish dishes in the diets of several schools, after the results of the first phase showed a significant nutritional impact on schoolchildren. ([www.agrodiario.hn/web/2019/12/presentan-resultados-de-inclusion-del-consumo-de-pescado-en-la-alimentacion-escolar/#:~:text=El%20proyecto%20de%20inclusi%C3%B3n%20de,y%20productores%20pe-squeros%20y%20acu%C3%ADcolas](http://www.agrodiario.hn/web/2019/12/presentan-resultados-de-inclusion-del-consumo-de-pescado-en-la-alimentacion-escolar/#:~:text=El%20proyecto%20de%20inclusi%C3%B3n%20de,y%20productores%20pe-squeros%20y%20acu%C3%ADcolas)). This project, carried out in close coordination with national and local authorities, links small-scale fish farmers with institutional procurement schemes, resulting not only in nutritional outcomes, but also in access to markets for small rural producers.

Through a letter of agreement with FAO, the University of Concepción carried out a review for the region that included case studies for selected countries, as well as interviews with experts at the country level, to validate some results and learn about their experiences and perceptions on adaptation of aquaculture to climate change. The result of this work is a FAO publication (soon to be published) entitled "Situation of aquaculture adaptation policies and plans to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean" that will serve as baseline information to strengthen efforts of COPPESAALC to address climate change in the region. It is the first time that a diagnosis of aquaculture policies and plans in the face of climate change in the region has been carried out.

### **Combating IUU Fishing**

FAO's regional agenda of technical assistance to COPPESAALC member countries in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been profuse in the last biennium, despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. Of particular note is the recent technical assistance to develop the regulations of the new Fisheries and Aquaculture Law of Panama, as well as the Regional Coordination Meeting on the Port State Measures Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama City in 2022 (<https://mida.gob.pa/panama-es-sede-de-la-reunion-regional-sobre-pesca-ilegal-no-declarada-y-no-reglamentada/>) in which 33 delegates from 18 countries participated..

On the other hand, the Information and Experience Exchange Network to Combat IUU Fishing in Latin America (<https://redpescaindnr.org/>), promoted by FAO and hosted and managed by the Vice-Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Peru, continues its consolidation process, with regular monthly meetings and a very dynamic exchange of information and regular workshops to strengthen the institutional capacities of member countries.

In Chile, FAO technically supported the implementation of strategies and measures in order to strengthen their capacities to implement international responsibilities and achieve an effective

fight against IUU fishing with the Project "Assistance for the strengthening of the national capacity of the Republic of Chile to prevent, discourage and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing" ([www.fao.org/chile/noticias/detail-events/fr/c/1598980](http://www.fao.org/chile/noticias/detail-events/fr/c/1598980)).

**Strengthening artisanal fisheries and small-scale aquaculture**

In addition to the creation of the Mesoamerican Network of Small-Scale Aquaculture Farmers, which provides an important space for dialogue, cooperation and exchange of knowledge and opportunities in this important segment, efforts have been made on two important fronts, which have also been reflected in the IYAFA2022 action plan, namely: Social protection in fisheries and aquaculture and strengthening aquaculture extension.

In the first case, as briefly mentioned in table 1 on the achievements of the IYAFA2022, a Regional Forum was held in coordination with OSPESCA, with the participation of national fishery authorities, parliamentarians with legislative responsibility and organisations of artisanal fishers and small-scale fish farmers. The report of the meeting has been published (<https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/publication/298948>) and contains both the expressions and demands expressed by producers, and a series of policy recommendations to be implemented by the national authorities, as well.

The Meeting for the Exchange of Experiences in Extension in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in 2022, with the participation of speakers from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and representatives of the Mesoamerican Network of Small-scale Aquaculture Farmers (REMAPE), who offered their point of view from the perspective of the users of aquaculture extension. The report, which was requested by the Commission in its Work Plan for the current biennium, contains a series of policy recommendations and is in the process of being published for dissemination among member countries.

**Aspects to be executed in 2023**

The topics and actions prioritized and recommended by the Commission for its 2022-2023 work plan that have not yet been executed are presented in Table 2, therefore the Secretariat requests the delegates to reiterate their interest, prioritizing the activities for the rest of the year, considering that the action plan for 2024-2025 will have to be defined within the framework of this XVIII Ordinary Meeting.

Table 2. Actions prioritized by the Commission for its 2022-2023 work program still to be executed.

Thematic Area	Prioritized Action
Post-COVID-19 economic recovery and strengthening of sectoral resilience	Workshop on exchange of successful response and recovery experiences (institutional and user) including analysis of value chains, fisheries and aquaculture food systems, and marketing strategies.
Strengthening of national registration systems, monitoring of fishing resources and sectoral statistics	Seminar on exchange of experiences on administrative simplification and environmental licensing in the management of aquaculture and fishing activities, including regulation of water use (licensing) and import and use of exotic aquaculture species (normativity).  Regional meeting of exchange of information on management programs for inland fisheries based on stocking (aquaculture fisheries).