



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

Nineteenth Session

11-15 September 2023

CONCEPT NOTES OF THE SIDE EVENTS

Please refer to the Provisional Timetable (COFI:FT/XIX/2023/Inf.1) or announcements made during the session for the precise schedule of these two side events.

THE BLUE PORTS INITIATIVE (BPI)

Background

1. The FAO Blue Ports Initiative (BPI) helps ports improve their strategic planning capabilities by including inclusiveness, competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and efficiency in their development efforts.
2. The BPI is committed to assisting fishing and port authorities in contributing to a Blue Transformation by increasing their capacity to provide technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives and share best practices and experiences, including comprehensive guidance, through a network of ports. The BPI is designed and implemented collaboratively, including the shared creation of a work plan and the holding of various seminars to promote awareness, expand knowledge, and lay the framework for accomplishing sustainability goals. The engagement of international organizations was also critical in co-designing the BPI actions and activities.
3. Since its launch in 2019, the BPI has attracted an increasing number of fisheries and port authorities, international organisations, and Members. Establishing a worldwide network, including pilot initiatives, and strengthening collaboration among academia, governments, the commercial sector, and civil society are all part of the BPI.

Objective

4. The BPI side event aims to demonstrate the initiative's strategic and operational approach as a tool for development in regions of influence of ports. Furthermore, it will elaborate on the need for networking among representatives of fishing ports and administrations to ease and improve the exchange of good practices and develop helpful information for the continuous development of the cooperation pattern – a fundamental principle of the BPI.
5. The side event will, in particular, outline the BPI's purpose, methodology, expected outputs, and activities, exchange best practices from fishing and port authorities within the scope of the BPI, and inform on upcoming events, activities, and needs.

Program

TIME	TOPIC
5 minutes	Welcome <i>FAO</i>
10 minutes	Presentation of the BPI – objectives, approach, outputs and activities <i>FAO</i>
10 minutes	Benefits of being a Blue Ports <i>National Delegation representative</i>
5 minutes	Final message and conclusions <i>FAO</i>

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT REVIEW 2023
HOW TO SUSTAINABLY CAPITALISE ON FISH TRADE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BOUNCING BACK AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SUBSEQUENT CRISES?

Background

6. The ocean economy and fish trade are interconnected aspects that significantly impact the global economy, food security, and the livelihoods of millions of people around the globe, being dynamic and evolving sectors influenced by technological advances, shifting consumer preferences, environmental concerns, and geopolitical changes. Sustainable management and responsible trade practices are crucial to ensure the long-term viability of these industries and preserve marine ecosystems.

7. Fish trade is indispensable to the ocean economy and global food systems. In 2021, the anticipated export value of ocean-based goods, such as fisheries, ships, and port equipment, and services, such as shipping and coastal tourism, was USD 1.6 trillion. The ocean economy provides immense opportunities for developing countries to foster innovative and resilient economies and accelerate trade by adopting socially and environmentally responsible practices.

8. The Trade and Environment Review 2023, entitled "Building a sustainable ocean economy"¹ examines and analyses several emerging topics, such as sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and seaweed sectors as levers for a sustainable economic recovery; fisheries subsidies and non-tariff measures reform; the decarbonization of shipping and maritime supply chains; and the impact of plastic pollution on the food chain. The Report provides a bottom-up list of action and policy recommendations to forge a new relationship with the marine environment and create a more sustainable and resilient ocean economy beyond 2030.

Objective

9. The session will present the Trade and Environment Review 2023, examining contemporary trends in trade and identifying policy gaps and barriers impeding developing countries' active participation in the international fish trade in a sustainable manner.

Program

TIME	TOPIC
5 minutes	Welcome <i>FAO</i>
10 minutes	Presentation of the Trade and Environment Review 2023 <i>UNCTAD</i>
10 minutes	Debate <i>FAO and a COFI:FT Observer</i>
5 minutes	Final message and conclusions <i>FAO</i>

¹ <https://unctad.org/publication/trade-and-environment-review-2023>