



# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

### Nineteenth Session

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### REVISED QUESTIONNAIRE ON ARTICLE 11 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES (CCRF)

## ANSWERING THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ARTICLE 11 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES (CCRF)

1. This document provides guidance for FAO Members when completing the questionnaire on the implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).
2. Article 11 of the CCRF relates to post-harvest practices and trade and is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/v9878e/v9878e.pdf#page=35>.
3. The questionnaire is organized into four sections and includes **closed** and **open-ended** questions. This combination allows FAO Members to report on two different levels: the *extent* to which they have implemented the provisions set out in Article 11 on the one hand and the *challenges* identified in its implementation on the other. In the first case, answers are provided in the form of a value ranging from 1 to 5, **where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest**; in the second, answers can be expressed in the respondent's own words, using the open text boxes provided.
4. FAO Members are encouraged to provide as much relevant information as possible under the open-ended questions. These questions enable reporting on additional topics or challenges that are not considered under the closed-ended questions, maximising the scope of the questionnaire reporting system. We encourage FAO Members to respond as comprehensively as possible to these questions, including additional dimensions, such as gender, cultural and social elements, inclusiveness, small-scale production, climate change, research and development, innovation, and any emerging challenges for fisheries and aquaculture products in the respective country.

## FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SECTION

The food safety and quality section of the questionnaire collects data and information on the level of implementation of Section 11.1 of the CCRF on "Responsible fish utilization".

Section 11.1 states that:

- 11.1.1 *States should adopt appropriate measures to ensure the right of consumers to safe, wholesome and unadulterated fish and fishery products.*
- 11.1.2 *States should establish and maintain effective national food safety and quality assurance systems to protect consumer health and prevent commercial fraud.*
- 11.1.3 *States should set minimum standards for food safety and quality assurance and make sure that these standards are effectively applied throughout the industry. They should promote the implementation of quality standards agreed within the context of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant organizations or arrangements.*
- 11.1.4 *States should cooperate to achieve harmonization, or mutual recognition, or both, of national sanitary measures and certification programmes as appropriate and explore possibilities for the establishment of mutually recognized control and certification agencies.*

The food safety and quality section also relates to Section 11.2 of the CCRF on "Responsible international trade", with particular reference to point 11.2.4, which states that:

*Fish trade measures adopted by States to protect human or animal life or health, the interests of consumers or the environment, should not be discriminatory and should be in accordance with internationally agreed trade rules, in particular the principles, rights and obligations established in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade of the WTO.*

"**Food safety**" refers to all those chronic or acute hazards that may make food harmful to the consumer's health, being a non-negotiable element. On the other hand, "**quality**" includes all other attributes that influence a product's value to the consumer. It encompasses negative attributes such as spoilage, contamination with filth, discolouration or off odours, and positive features such as the origin, colour, flavour, texture and processing methods.

This distinction between safety and quality has implications for public policy, and it influences the nature and content of the food control system most suited to meet predetermined national objectives.

To what extent do the following statements apply to the food safety and quality aspects of fisheries and aquaculture products in your country?

Question 1.1 enables FAO to better understand existing national policies regarding food safety and quality, mainly whether fisheries and aquaculture products are part of such policies.

**1.1 A national policy on food safety and quality exists, has been implemented and includes fisheries and aquaculture products.**

1	There is currently no national policy on food safety and quality, and there are no plans to formulate one in the coming two years.
2	There is a plan to formulate a national policy on food safety and quality in the coming two years.
3	A national policy on food safety and quality has been implemented, but there are significant gaps, or fisheries and aquaculture products are not included.
4	A national policy on food safety and quality has been implemented and includes fisheries and aquaculture products, but certain gaps remain.
5	A national policy on food safety and quality has been implemented and includes fisheries and aquaculture products.

Question 1.2 provides information on how national legislation and regulations support food safety policy and if any regulatory gaps affect food safety and quality for fisheries and aquaculture products.

**1.2 Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system exist, are effectively enforced, and include fisheries and aquaculture products.**

1	Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system do not exist, and there are no plans to formulate them in the coming two years.
2	Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system do not exist, but there are plans and/or ongoing work to develop them in the coming two years.
3	Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system are in place and enforced, but significant gaps remain, or fisheries and aquaculture products are not considered.
4	Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system, which includes fisheries and aquaculture products, are in place and enforced, but certain gaps remain.
5	Legislation and/or regulations in support of a food safety and quality system, which includes fisheries and aquaculture products, are in place and effectively enforced.

Questions 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 provide a better understanding of how national food safety standards for fisheries and aquaculture products are set, the level of involvement in international standard-setting processes, and any need for further development of standards.

In this questionnaire, "standards" incorporate a number of food safety and quality requirements. They can address definitions, maximum levels for specific contaminants, maximum residue limits on certain veterinary drugs, and specific commodity-specific standards.

### 1.3 A national body sets food standards covering fisheries and aquaculture products.

1	A national food standards body is not in place.
2	A national food standards body is not in place, but there are plans for an operative food standards body.
3	A national food standards body is in place, but there are significant gaps or inconsistencies in what it oversees, and/or it does not include fisheries and aquaculture products.
4	A national food standards body is in place, and it covers fisheries and aquaculture products, but specific gaps or inconsistencies remain.
5	A national food standards body is in place, and it covers fisheries and aquaculture products.

### 1.4 National food safety and quality standards exist for fisheries and aquaculture products.

*If you gave question 1.4 a score of 1, you can provide the same score to questions 1.5 and 1.7.*

1	National food safety and quality standards do not exist.
2	National food safety and quality standards exist, but fisheries and aquaculture products are not addressed.
3	National food safety and quality standards exist for fisheries and aquaculture products, but significant gaps or inconsistencies exist.
4	National food safety and quality standards exist for fisheries and aquaculture products, but specific gaps or inconsistencies remain.
5	National food safety and quality standards exist for fisheries and aquaculture products.

### 1.5 National food safety and quality standards align with Codex Alimentarius standards.

1	National food safety and quality standards are not based on Codex Alimentarius standards.
2	National food safety and quality standards are based on Codex Alimentarius standards, but fisheries and aquaculture products are not included.
3	National food safety and quality standards are based on Codex Alimentarius standards, but serious inconsistencies exist.
4	National food safety and quality standards are based on Codex Alimentarius standards but are not entirely consistent with them.
5	National food safety and quality standards are based on Codex Alimentarius standards and are entirely consistent with them.

### 1.6 There is active country participation in Codex Alimentarius committees.

1	There is no participation in Codex Alimentarius committees.
2	There is participation in a limited number of Codex Alimentarius committees due to significant impediments associated with a lack of financial or human resources or available expertise.
3	There is participation in Codex Alimentarius committees, but there are some limitations due to a lack of financial or human resources or available expertise.
4	There is active participation in all Codex Alimentarius committees that are important to the country's context.
5	There is active participation in all Codex Alimentarius committees.

Questions 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11 focus on enforcing food safety and quality standards and regulations. They aim to identify possible needs for the control of fisheries and aquaculture products to protect all consumers and facilitate trade.

**1.7 National food safety and quality standards for fisheries and aquaculture products are equally enforced for both domestic and international markets.**

1	National standards are not enforced for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for domestic or international markets.
2	National standards are enforced for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets but not domestic ones.
3	National standards are enforced for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets. However, there are <u>significant</u> limitations when enforcing standards for products intended for domestic markets, such as inspection infrastructure or information systems.
4	National standards are enforced for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for both domestic and international markets. However, <u>certain</u> limitations remain, such as inspection infrastructure or information systems.
5	National food safety and quality standards for fisheries and aquaculture products are equally enforced for domestic and international markets.

**1.8 Consumer protection issue(s) exists (or exist) and is (are) fully operational, covering fisheries and aquaculture products.**

1	A government authority (or multiple authorities) in charge of food safety and associated consumer protection issues does (do) not exist.
2	A government authority (or multiple authorities) in charge of food safety and associated consumer protection issues exists (or exist). However, it does not cover fishery and aquaculture products or is not operational.
3	A government authority (or multiple authorities) in charge of food safety and associated consumer protection issues exists (or exist), covering fisheries and aquaculture products. However, there are <u>significant</u> limitations to its satisfactory operation, such as inconsistencies in inspection infrastructure or a lack of information systems, among others.
4	A government authority (or multiple authorities) in charge of food safety and associated consumer protection issues exists (or exist), covering fisheries and aquaculture products. However, there are <u>certain</u> limitations to its satisfactory operation, such as inconsistencies in inspection infrastructure or a lack of information systems.
5	A government authority (or multiple authorities) in charge of food safety and associated consumer protection issues exists (or exist) and is (are) fully operational, covering fisheries and aquaculture products.

**1.9 Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market.**

1	Food inspection services are not carried out for products intended for the domestic market.
2	Food inspection services are carried out for products intended for the domestic market, but fisheries and aquaculture products are not part of the inspection programme.
3	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market but with <u>significant</u> limitations, such as the number or capacity of inspectors and a lack of means of transport or sampling materials.
4	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market but with <u>certain</u> limitations, such as the number or capacity of inspectors and a lack of means of transport or sampling materials.
5	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market.

**1.10 Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets.**

1	Food inspection services are not carried out for products intended for international markets.
2	Food inspection services are carried out for products intended for international markets, but fisheries and aquaculture products are not part of the inspection programme.
3	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets but with <u>significant</u> limitations, such as the number or capacity of inspectors and a lack of means of transport or sampling materials.
4	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets but with <u>certain</u> limitations, such as the number or capacity of inspectors and a lack of means of transport or sampling materials.
5	Food inspection services are carried out for fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets.



**1.11 Accredited public or private laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are accessible locally or overseas and are duly used.**

1	Laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are not accessible.
2	Laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are accessible and duly used, but they are not accredited.
3	Accredited laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are accessed and duly used, but they are not accredited for a <u>significant</u> number of scopes.
4	Accredited laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are accessible and duly used, but they are not accredited for a <u>certain</u> number of scopes.
5	Accredited laboratory services for the analysis of fisheries and aquaculture products are accessible, duly used and fully accredited.

Question 1.12 reports on national marine and inland water environmental monitoring plans to control the food safety hazards present in aquatic systems.

**1.12 A national marine and inland water environmental monitoring plan exists, is fully operational and covers food safety hazards (physical, chemical and microbiological).**

1	A national marine and inland waters environmental monitoring plan does not exist.
2	A national marine and inland waters environmental monitoring plan is under development and will be operational in less than two years.
3	A national marine and inland water environmental monitoring plan exists and covers all food safety hazards (physical, chemical and microbiological) but is not fully operational.
4	A national marine and inland water environmental monitoring plan exists and is fully operational but does not cover some food safety hazards.
5	A national marine and inland water environmental monitoring plan exists, is fully operational and covers all food safety hazards (physical, chemical and microbiological).

Questions 1.13, 1.14 and 1.15 target the implementation of HACCP-based quality management systems and the efficiency of traceability systems.

**1.13 For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.**

1	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, there are no HACCP-based food safety management systems in place.
2	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, only large food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
3	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, only large or medium-sized food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
4	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, most food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
5	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for the domestic market, all food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.

**1.14 For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.**

1	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, there are no HACCP-based food safety management systems in place.
2	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, only large food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
3	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, only large or medium-sized food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
4	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, most food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.
5	For fisheries and aquaculture products intended for international markets, all food business operators have HACCP-based food safety management systems.

**1.15 Traceability systems exist and allow the withdrawal and recall of fisheries and aquaculture products to protect consumer health.**

1	Traceability systems do not exist, and there are no plans to support their implementation in the coming two years.
2	Traceability systems exist, but they have yet to be implemented. However, there are plans to support their implementation in the coming two years.
3	Traceability systems exist, but fisheries and aquaculture products are not covered.
4	Traceability systems exist but with certain limitations. These might include, among others, a lack of requirements regarding product documentation or labelling to allow the withdrawal and recall of fisheries and aquaculture products to protect consumer health.
5	Traceability systems exist and allow the withdrawal and recall of fisheries and aquaculture products to protect consumer health.

**Open-ended question:**

**1.16 Please identify the current challenges or problems associated with food safety and quality assurance systems for fisheries and aquaculture products in your country.**

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## POST-HARVEST SECTION

To what extent do the following statements apply to your country's fisheries and aquaculture post-harvest activities?

Questions 2.1 and 2.2 provide information on policies to reduce and prevent fish loss, waste, bycatch and discards in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

FAO and its partners provide guidance on methodologies and approaches for assessing and reducing loss and waste. The Save Food initiative is a good source of resources related to the assessment and reduction of food loss: [www.fao.org/save-food/resources/en/](http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/en/)

Further information on food loss and waste is also available on the fish value chains website <https://www.fao.org/flw-in-fish-value-chains/en/>.

### 2.1 Fish loss and waste assessments are carried out on a regular basis and follow an established methodology.

1	No fish loss and waste assessments have been carried out, or none are planned in the coming two years.
2	No fish loss and waste assessments have been carried out. However, assessments are planned for the coming two years.
3	Fish loss and waste assessments are carried out, but not always on a regular basis.
4	Fish loss and waste assessments are carried out on a regular basis, but they do not always follow an established methodology.
5	Fish loss and waste assessments are carried out on a regular basis and follow an established methodology.

### 2.2 Fish loss and waste have been reduced in all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

1	No fish loss and waste reduction activities have been carried out, or none are planned in the coming two years.
2	Fish loss and waste have not been reduced in any of the associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
3	Fish loss and waste have been reduced in a limited number of associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
4	Fish loss and waste have been reduced in most associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
5	Fish loss and waste have been reduced in all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

**2.3 Enhanced awareness and the utilization of bycatch and discards have contributed to reducing fish loss and waste in all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.**

1	There is no awareness regarding fish loss and waste, including the utilization of bycatch and discards.
2	Enhanced awareness and the utilization of bycatch and discards have not contributed to reducing fish loss and waste in associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
3	Enhanced awareness and the utilization of bycatch and discards have contributed to reducing fish loss and waste in a limited number of associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
4	Enhanced awareness and the utilization of bycatch and discards have contributed to reducing fish loss and waste in most associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
5	Enhanced awareness and the utilization of bycatch and discards have contributed to reducing fish loss and waste in all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

For question 2.4, the small-scale fisheries sector mainly comprises small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The fisheries sector at large also includes large-scale industrial enterprises involved in value addition.

**2.4 Promoting value addition in fisheries and aquaculture is an integral part of national policies.**

1	There are no national policies promoting value addition in fisheries and aquaculture.
2	National policies promote value addition in fisheries and aquaculture, but they have not produced the expected results as yet.
3	National policies promote value addition in fisheries and aquaculture but produce limited results.
4	National policies fully promote value addition in fisheries and aquaculture and produce the expected results, although without always considering the specific needs of SMEs.
5	National policies fully promote value addition in fisheries and aquaculture and produce the expected results while considering the specific needs of SMEs.

## 2.5 National policies monitor and minimize the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment.

1	No national policies monitor or minimize the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment.
2	National policies dealing with the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment exist, but they are not yet being implemented.
3	National policies dealing with the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment exist, but they do not yet monitor or minimize their effects.
4	National policies dealing with the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment exist. However, they can only <i>monitor</i> the effects and cannot yet minimize them entirely.
5	National policies monitor and minimize the negative impact of post-harvest fisheries and aquaculture activities on the environment.

## 2.6 National policies promote human consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products.

1	No national policies promoting the human consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products exist, but policies are required.
2	National policies to promote the human consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products exist but are not yet being implemented.
3	National policies promote the human consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products. However, they are not yet producing any, or only limited, results.
4	Due to current national policies producing significant results, the consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products has already reached <i>optimal levels</i> .(*)
5	Due to past government policies, cultural habits, or any other associated action, the consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products has already reached optimal levels. (*)

(\*) An optimal level means that the consumption of fisheries and aquaculture products is at a level that meets national development objectives, particularly in terms of food security.

**2.7 Improvements in post-harvest activities have contributed positively to enhanced market access(\*\*) for fisheries and aquaculture products.**

1	There have been no improvements in post-harvest activities.
2	In most of the associated value chains, improvements in post-harvest activities have not contributed positively to <i>enhanced market access</i> for fisheries and aquaculture products.
3	Improvements in post-harvest activities have contributed positively to enhanced market access for fisheries and aquaculture products in a limited number of associated value chains.
4	Improvements in post-harvest activities have contributed positively to enhanced market access for fisheries and aquaculture products in most associated value chains.
5	Improvements in post-harvest activities have contributed positively to enhanced market access for fisheries and aquaculture products in all associated value chains.

(\*\*) *Enhanced market access means that producers can access new markets or a wider range of markets or that trade barriers may have been lowered.*

**2.8 Post-harvest research and development have contributed to economic, social, environmental or nutritional benefits across associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.**

1	No post-harvest research and development are currently being undertaken.
2	Post-harvest research and development have not contributed to economic, social, environmental or nutritional benefits in any associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
3	Post-harvest research and development have contributed to economic, social, environmental or nutritional benefits in a limited number of associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
4	Post-harvest research and development have contributed to economic, social, environmental or nutritional benefits across the majority of associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
5	Post-harvest research and development have contributed to economic, social, environmental or nutritional benefits across all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

- 2.9 Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures along the fisheries and aquaculture value chains (such as the use of renewable energy, life cycle assessments, adaptation of consumption patterns, adaptation of transport or distribution methods, landing and marketing location) are addressed by national policies and/or integrated with post-harvest research and development activities.**

1	No national policies or post-harvest research and development activities integrate and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in any associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
2	Post-harvest research and development activities include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures along the fisheries and aquaculture value chains, but national policies do not address these.
3	National policies address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures along the fisheries and aquaculture value chains, but these are not integrated into post-harvest research and development activities.
4	National policies and post-harvest research and development activities include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in a limited number of associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
5	National policies and post-harvest research and development activities include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures across the majority or all associated fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

- 2.10 National policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains take into account social issues, including gender, and are effectively enforced.**

1	There are no national policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains.
2	National policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains exist, but they do not take social issues into account.
3	National policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains do not take into account social issues. However, there are plans and/or ongoing work to develop them to incorporate these issues in the coming two years.
4	National policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains exist and take into account social issues, but specific gaps remain.
5	National policies involving post-harvest practices in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains take into account social issues and are effectively enforced.



**Open-ended questions:**

Please provide any additional information pertinent to the answers to the previous questions or other relevant information.

- 2.11 Please identify activities in your country that have enhanced post-harvest practices with associated social benefits. These activities may include reducing fish loss and waste, utilising bycatch, reducing discards, adopting improved technology or technologies, considering the well-being and safety of the workers involved, encouraging fair trade and decent working conditions, providing social benefits, empowering small-scale fisheries, adding value to fish products, optimising water and energy use, and promoting for changes in fish consumption patterns.**

- 2.12 Please identify the primary obstacles or concerns linked with your country's post-harvest activities. These may include limited opportunities to reduce fish loss and waste, partial bycatch utilisation, insufficient discard reduction measures, lack of improved technologies, inadequate realisation of social benefits and equitable resource distribution, restricted support for small-scale fisheries, slow progress in promoting favourable changes in fish consumption patterns and addressing nutritional and food security concerns, as well as persistent barriers to enhancing livelihoods.**

- 2.13 Please enumerate your country's major achievements and challenges regarding women's empowerment and gender equality in post-harvest activities along the value chains for fisheries and aquaculture. They may include women's organisations and networks and gender-sensitive national policies, microfinance schemes, implementing capacity-building programmes and leadership training, addressing gender-based constraints and inequalities, lacking leadership opportunities and having limited participation in decision-making processes and access to resources.**

- 2.14 Please list your country's main accomplishments and challenges regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in post-harvest activities along the fisheries and aquaculture value chains.**

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECTION

To what extent do the following statements regarding the international trade of fisheries and aquaculture products apply in your country?

### 3.1 National measures address the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products.

*Associated CCRF Articles: 11.2.2, 11.2.9, 11.2.10, 11.2.11, 11.2.12, 11.2.14, and 11.2.15.*

*Such national measures may involve measures affecting exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products that are indirectly or directly linked to international instruments or guidelines, such as documentation schemes, certification schemes and the interchange of information with other countries.*

1	No national measures address the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products.
2	A limited number of national measures address the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products.
3	A system of national measures addresses the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products.
4	A system of national measures, in line with the main associated international instruments and guidelines, addresses the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products.
5	A stable and comprehensive system of national measures, in line with the associated international instruments and guidelines, addresses the legality of exported or imported fisheries and aquaculture products, including the periodic interchange of information with other countries.

Questions 3.2 and 3.3 are primarily directed at countries regularly exporting fisheries and aquaculture products. Please disregard these questions if they seem inappropriate for your country.

### 3.2 Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) from the World Trade Organization (WTO) are utilized as a market analysis tool.

*Associated CCRF Articles: 11.2.4, 11.2.5, 11.2.6*

*STCs raised before the WTO SPS and TBT Committees are explained at <http://bit.ly/WTO-STCs>.*

1	STCs are not yet known or explored.
2	The information circulated on STCs is not utilized.
3	The information circulated on STCs is eventually analysed and utilized as a market tool, particularly when it includes traditional national export products.
4	The information circulated on STCs is periodically analysed and utilized as a market tool, prioritizing traditional national export products. The analysis of STCs is considered a valuable source of information about possible measures affecting the exports of the leading national fisheries and aquaculture products.
5	The information circulated on STCs is continuously analysed and utilized as a market tool, regardless of the fisheries and aquaculture products and countries involved. The analysis of STCs is considered a valuable source of information about measures that could potentially affect the exports of fisheries and aquaculture products.

### 3.3 Effective benefits for the exports of fisheries and aquaculture products are obtained from plurilateral, bilateral or unilateral trade preferences

*Associated CCRF Article: 11.2.5*

*Plurilateral or bilateral trade preferences are considered voluntary agreements that set preferential rules for product access, including fisheries and aquaculture products. Unilateral trade preferences are usually those granted by countries based on a specific condition of the recipient country or group of countries (for example, the Generalized System of Preferences towards developing countries and the tariff concessions towards Least Developed Countries, among others). More information on these schemes can be consulted at [http://bit.ly/WTO\\_GSP](http://bit.ly/WTO_GSP) (GSP), <http://bit.ly/WTO-LDC> (LDC Preferences), and <http://bit.ly/WTO-RTAs> (Trade Agreements).*

1	There are persistent problems in complying with preferential rules, including rules of origin, which means that most qualifying exports are carried out on a non-preferential basis.
2	There are occasional problems in complying with preferential rules, including rules of origin.
3	There are currently no trade preferences either at the bilateral or unilateral level.
4	There are no problems associated with the benefits derived from the trade preferences established through preferential or unilateral agreements.
5	There are no problems associated with the benefits derived from trade preferences established through preferential or unilateral agreements. A continuous drive exists to expand preferential access for fisheries and aquaculture products.

**3.4. There are no clauses in any negotiated instrument with third countries (such as trade agreements, fisheries access agreements or arrangements) that condition market access for products or services with requirements that apply only to the parties involved.**

*Associated CCRF Articles: 11.2.6, 11.2.7, 11.2.8*

<b>1</b>	Most negotiated instruments dealing with the trade of fisheries and aquaculture products or services contain conditions for market access that apply only to the parties involved, substantially affecting current and potential trade activities.
<b>2</b>	A limited number of negotiated instruments dealing with the trade of fisheries and aquaculture products or services contain conditions for market access that apply only to the parties involved, affecting current and potential trade activities.
<b>3</b>	A limited number of negotiated instruments dealing with the trade of fisheries and aquaculture products or services contain conditions for market access that apply only to the parties involved, not having any practical or effective impact.
<b>4</b>	None of the negotiated instruments dealing with the trade of fisheries and aquaculture products and services contains any conditions for market access that apply only to the parties involved.
<b>5</b>	Negotiated instruments dealing with the trade of fisheries and aquaculture products and services <u>cannot</u> contain any conditions for market access that apply only to the parties involved.

**3.5. Statistics on the international trade of fisheries and aquaculture products are collected, disseminated and reported on time to the relevant national and international institutions.**

*Associated CCRF Article: 11.3.7*

<b>1</b>	Statistics on exports and imports of fisheries and aquaculture products are rarely collected, disseminated or reported.
<b>2</b>	Statistics on exports and imports of fisheries and aquaculture products are periodically collected. They are disseminated promptly, reported to relevant national and international institutions, and publicly available online. However, collection, dissemination or reporting delays have often occurred in the last two years.
<b>3</b>	Statistics on exports and imports of fisheries and aquaculture products are periodically collected. They are disseminated promptly, reported to relevant national and international institutions, and publicly available online.
<b>4</b>	Statistics on exports and imports of fisheries and aquaculture products are periodically collected. They are disseminated promptly, reported to relevant national and international institutions, and publicly available online. Statistics on exports and imports are collected and disseminated beyond the 6-digit HS code to monitor trade flows more effectively.
<b>5</b>	Statistics on exports and imports of fisheries and aquaculture products are periodically collected. They are disseminated promptly, reported to relevant national and international institutions, and publicly available online. Statistics on exports and imports are collected and disseminated beyond the 6-digit HS code to monitor trade flows more effectively and include specific codes for aquaculture products.

**Open-ended question:**

- 3.6. Please identify your country's major challenges when exporting or importing fisheries and aquaculture products.**

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS SECTION

To what extent do the following statements apply to the fisheries and aquaculture legal framework governing international trade, post-harvest and food safety and quality issues in your country?

### 4.1 The national laws and regulations governing fisheries and aquaculture are developed by following clear, transparent and relevant administrative processes.

1	National laws and regulations are developed following administrative processes that are neither transparent nor clear.
2	National laws and regulations are developed following a limited number of processes, and transparency and clarity of such processes could be improved.
3	National laws and regulations are developed following some relevant processes, but the transparency and clarity of such processes could be improved.
4	National laws and regulations are developed following the most relevant processes, representing an established rule-making process, but it is not always consistent or complete.
5	National laws and regulations are developed following clear, transparent and relevant administrative processes.

### 4.2 The national laws, regulations and administrative processes applicable to fisheries and aquaculture products are clear, easily understood, and publicly available online.

1	The national laws, regulations and administrative procedures are not straightforward and difficult to understand. They are not publicly available online.
2	Some national laws, regulations and administrative procedures are not straightforward and difficult to understand. While some fundamental laws and procedures are available online, most are not.
3	The majority of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures are easy to understand. The online database lists some relevant laws and procedures, but their accessibility and presentation could be improved.
4	The majority of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures are clear and easy to understand; they are accessible through an online page or database.
5	The national laws, regulations and administrative processes are clear, easy to understand, and accessible through an online page or database.

**4.3 National laws and regulations are developed through an active and inclusive consultation process involving diverse and relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter. The consultation process encompasses notification of proposed regulations and drafts and allows for comments or inputs.**

1	National laws and regulations are not developed through consultation, and relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter are not consulted. Drafts of proposed regulations are not published, and stakeholders are unaware of the process.
2	Some national laws and regulations are developed through active consultation, but most relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter are not consulted. Drafts of the majority of proposed regulations are not published, and most stakeholders are not notified or informed of the process.
3	The majority of national laws and regulations are developed through an active and inclusive consultation, but this involves only some relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter. Some of the drafts of proposed regulations are published, and some stakeholders are notified and informed of the process.
4	The majority of the national laws and regulations are developed through an active and inclusive consultation involving relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter. The majority of the drafts of proposed regulations are published, and stakeholders are notified and informed of the process.
5	National laws and regulations are developed through an active and inclusive consultation involving diverse and relevant stakeholders with a legitimate interest in the subject matter. The proposed regulations are drafted during the consultation, and stakeholders are notified and informed of the process.

**4.4 Changes to national laws and regulations affecting international trade in fisheries and aquaculture products are notified to the WTO, interested countries, and other relevant international organizations and include, where appropriate, adequate transition periods for adaptation.**

1	Changes are never or rarely notified, where applicable, to the WTO, interested countries and other relevant international organizations.
2	A limited number of changes to national trade laws and regulations relevant to the trade of fish are notified, where applicable, to the WTO, interested countries and other relevant international organizations. Where appropriate, adequate transition periods are not provided for the majority of new laws and regulations.
3	A substantial number of changes to national trade laws and regulations relevant to the trade of fish are notified, where applicable, to the WTO, interested countries and other relevant international organizations. Where appropriate, adequate transition periods are provided for the majority of new laws and regulations.
4	The majority of changes to national trade laws and regulations relevant to the trade of fish are notified, where applicable, to the WTO, interested countries and other relevant international organizations, and a transitional period is provided, where appropriate.
5	All changes to national trade laws and regulations relevant to the trade of fish are notified, where applicable, to the WTO, interested states and other relevant international organizations and a transitional period is provided, where appropriate.

**4.5 The national laws, regulations and administrative processes applicable to fisheries and aquaculture products avoid duplications or redundancies and ensure coherent and consistent implementation in the case of the involvement of multiple agencies or bodies.**

1	Significant duplications and redundancies exist in the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures. There is no intergovernmental coordination and consistent implementation where multiple agencies or bodies are involved.
2	There are duplications and redundancies in the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, and measures involving multiple agencies or bodies result in incoherent and inconsistent implementation in the majority of cases.
3	Some duplications and redundancies are present, and certain revisions might be necessary to ensure greater coherency and consistent implementation. Where multiple agencies or bodies are involved, there may be some intergovernmental coordination but some inconsistent implementation remains.
4	To a large extent, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures are consistent and largely avoid duplication. Where multiple agencies or bodies are involved, a certain number of measures are in place to ensure coherent and consistent implementation. However, some redundancies and overlapping may occur, and no major impacts exist.
5	National laws, regulations and administrative procedures avoid duplication or redundancies. Where multiple agencies or bodies are involved, measures are in place to ensure coherent and consistent implementation.

**Open-ended question:**

**4.6 Please identify current gaps in the national legislative framework governing fisheries and aquaculture products in your country that result in challenges, inefficiencies or prevent access to certain markets or compliance with the applicable international framework.**

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