



Food and Agriculture  
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# THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE



## Contributing to food security and nutrition for all

**T**his edition of *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* comes out in the wake of major international agreements: **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement.**

Hence, the publication examines both the likely impacts of these agreements on the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and the vital contribution that the sector can and must make in order to achieve their stated societal, economic and environmental aims.

Global total fisheries production (excluding aquatic plants) reached 167.2 million tonnes in 2014, with 93.4 million tonnes from capture and 73.8 million tonnes from aquaculture. Excluding fish destined for non-food uses, a milestone was reached in 2014 when, **for the first time ever, the world's population consumed more farmed fish than wild-caught fish.** When aquatic plants are included, world aquaculture production reached 101.1 million tonnes in 2014, representing 52 percent of total fisheries production (195.7 million tonnes).

The share of commercially assessed fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels was 68.6 percent in 2013. Thus, 31.4 percent of fish stocks were overfished. Of the total number of stocks assessed in 2013, fully fished stocks accounted for 58.1 percent and underfished stocks 10.5 percent.

The share of world fish production utilized for direct human consumption has increased significantly in recent decades, up from 67 percent in the 1960s to 87 percent, or more than 146 million tonnes, in 2014.

Growth in the global supply of fish for human consumption has outpaced population growth in the past five decades, with world per capita apparent fish consumption doubling from about 10 kg in the 1960s to 20 kg today.

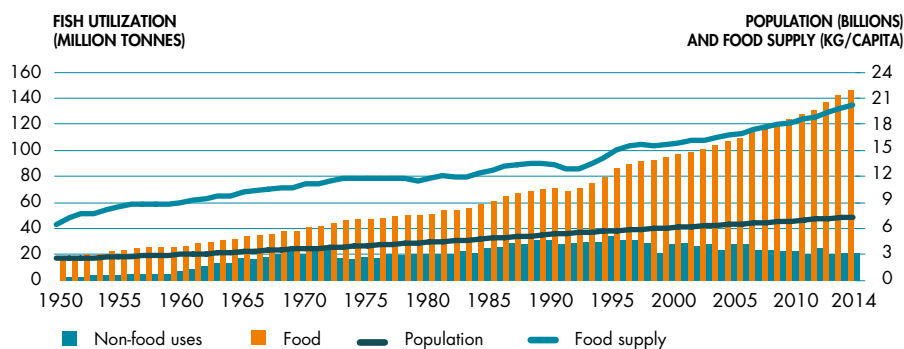
In 2013, fish accounted for about 17 percent of the global population's intake of animal protein and 6.7 percent of all protein consumed. Moreover, fish provided more than 3.1 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average *per capita* intake of animal protein.

In 2014, 84 percent of the global population engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture sector was in Asia. An estimated 56.6 million people were engaged in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2014, while of the 18 million engaged in fish farming, 94 percent were in Asia. Women accounted for 19 percent of all people directly engaged in the primary sector in 2014, but about half of the workforce when the secondary sector (e.g. processing, trading) is included.

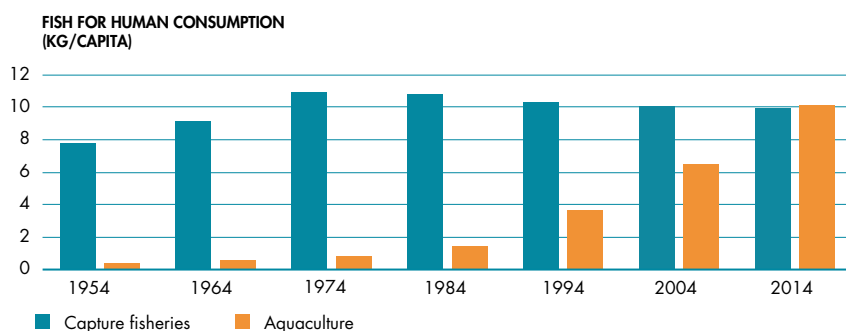
In 2014, fishery exports from developing countries were valued at US\$80 billion, and their fishery net-export revenues (exports minus imports) reached US\$42 billion.

FAO's Blue Growth Initiative assists countries in developing and implementing the new global agenda in relation to sustainable capture fisheries and aquaculture, livelihoods and food systems, and economic growth from aquatic ecosystem services. Reflecting the objectives of several SDGs, it especially targets the many vulnerable coastal and fisheries-dependent communities where ecosystems are already under stress from pollution,

## WORLD FISH UTILIZATION AND SUPPLY



## RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF AQUACULTURE AND CAPTURE FISHERIES TO FISH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION



habitat degradation, overfishing and harmful practices.

For the past 20 years, the **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries** has served as the global reference instrument for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Endorsed in 2014, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication represent a global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries governance and development towards enhanced food security and nutrition.

The coming into force and implementation of the **FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing** is expected to be a major advance in combating IUU fishing.

The **Common Oceans / ABNJ Program** aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction to achieve internationally agreed global targets. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility and coordinated by FAO in close collaboration with other GEF implementing agencies and a variety of partners.

Other themes highlighted in *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016* include: promoting decent work; cutting bycatch and discards; aquatic invasive alien species; responsible inland fisheries; and nutrition. The 2016 Outlook section describes the most plausible trends for the fishery and aquaculture sector in the next decade. It also outlines the potentially beneficial roles of the SDGs and FAO's Blue Growth Initiative in shaping future developments.

# KEY MESSAGES

### ▶ WORLD AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

continues to grow and now provides half of all fish for human consumption.

### ▶ THE 2030 AGENDA

for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement will have a strong influence on the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and the sector must play its part in order to achieve their stated societal, economic and environmental aims.

### ▶ THE FAO AGREEMENT

on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is expected to be a major advance in combating IUU fishing.

▶ **TWENTY YEARS ON** from its adoption, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries remains an internationally accepted benchmark and framework for the sustainable use of aquatic resources.

### ▶ THERE IS GROWING RECOGNITION

of the great potential of the oceans and inland waters to contribute significantly to food security and adequate nutrition for a global population expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050.

### ▶ THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL

Conference on Nutrition confirmed the importance of fish and seafood as a source of nutrition and health for many coastal communities, and especially during the "1 000 day window".

