



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

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FAO INFORMATION ON MARKETS AND TRADE: GLOBEFISH AND THE FISH INFONETWORK

Executive Summary

This document provides an overview of GLOBEFISH and the FISH INFONetwork (FIN) and it describes the role that they play in information sharing on markets and trade issues of fisheries and aquaculture. It also presents recent developments towards providing more reliable and timely information on global trade analysis of fish and fishery products.

Suggested action by the Sub-Committee

- Comment on GLOBEFISH work within FAO in fostering the dissemination of information on market access and international trade of fish and fishery products;
- Provide recommendations on new topics related to international trade and market access for fish and fishery products to be enhanced or developed by GLOBEFISH;
- Encourage the participation of different stakeholders to support the activities carried out by GLOBEFISH;
- Encourage interested parties to become price correspondents for the GLOBEFISH products;
- Share, with national interested parties, GLOBEFISH and FIN publications and websites, as well as the activities that can be provided by GLOBEFISH and FIN;
- Take into consideration the possible financial support to GLOBEFISH activities.

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BACKGROUND OF GLOBEFISH AND THE FISH INFONETWORK

1. GLOBEFISH¹ is a long-standing multi-donor funded project responsible for gathering, assessing and disseminating information and analysis on international fish trade, with more than three decades of experience in developing regional information networks. As a cross-cutting global project, GLOBEFISH serves both the private industry and governments. Its main objectives are to improve fish market information and analysis, as well as to contribute to an ameliorated level of food and nutrition security and socio-economic development, contributing to the sustainability of the sector.
2. GLOBEFISH is operated by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department and it is jointly financed by the Regular Programme of FAO and GLOBEFISH partners (national government administrations, specialized agencies, academia and other interested parties dealing with fish marketing and trade). New partners from both the public and private sectors would allow the development of new deliverables in the project to meet the diverse demands of a sector undergoing substantive changes in trade and markets.
3. GLOBEFISH focuses on three main outputs:
 - Global fish trade and market information
Produces trade analysis and relevant data on markets of fish and fishery products, with associated capacity development actions in developing countries to facilitate market access.
 - Policy dialogue and consultation among stakeholders
Disseminates a global perspective on trade and markets of fish and fishery products in various events, exhibitions, forums, and online media.
 - Global seafood policy
Provides increased transparency of standards and certification measures; establishes relevant frameworks to foster transparent policies and procedures in the post-harvest processes in different areas such as certification, traceability, food losses and waste, Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries, catch documentation, ecolabelling, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, Codex Alimentarius, among others.
4. Since its establishment, GLOBEFISH has been committed to facilitate international coordination and cooperation by sharing knowledge on international fish trade and markets. This is done with an emphasis on promoting market access and providing accurate and unbiased information to improve the fisheries and aquaculture sectors as a whole, with particular consideration to developing countries, small-scale operators and economies in transition.
5. In addition, GLOBEFISH has been able to foster greater international coordination through the foundation of the global FIN, which links six regional networks across 85 countries. GLOBEFISH coordinates and strengthens the units of the Network, which are independent intergovernmental organizations, to support them in delivering marketing information and technical services. FIN represents the foremost source of up-to-date market and trade information, with periodical analysis reports throughout all levels of the value chain.

¹ www.globefish.org

6. FIN is formed by:
- INFOPESCA covering South and Central America (created in 1977);
 - INFOFISH covering Asia and the Pacific (created in 1981);
 - INFOPÊCHE covering Africa (created in 1984);
 - INFOSAMAK covering Arab countries (created in 1986);
 - EUROFISH covering Central and Eastern Europe (created in 1996); and
 - INFOYU covering China (created in 1997).

MAIN AREAS OF WORK AND RECENT PROGRESS OF GLOBEFISH

7. In today's rapidly changing globalized economy, having a reliable independent provider, like GLOBEFISH, of up-to-date information and data on fish trade and marketing, in conjunction with specialized analysis, represents an important resource, allowing assessments of new market opportunities, and streamlining policies and procedures in post-harvest processes.

8. GLOBEFISH is responsible for a wide range of products and publications, which are regularly developed, published and disseminated to fulfil specific needs, including:

- GLOBEFISH printed publications
 - GLOBEFISH Highlights, which is the GLOBEFISH flagship publication. GLOBEFISH Highlights provides a detailed update on market trends for a variety of major commodities, together with key market data, a short analysis of trends and key events and news affecting major fish commodities. GLOBEFISH Highlights is produced quarterly in English and Spanish, with Chinese and Russian versions coming shortly;
 - Two specific publications focusing on detailed price information for major species and product forms for Europe and China. The European Price Report is published monthly since 1985, and the Chinese Price Report is published bimonthly. The GLOBEFISH price publications are based on input prices reported by a network of correspondents in the private sector. Companies, associations and other related entities can join this network of correspondents by getting in contact directly with GLOBEFISH. Correspondents get access to the full set of GLOBEFISH publications before they are officially released to the market. Having more correspondents in the network will increase the quality and comprehensiveness of the information supplied by GLOBEFISH, covering different areas and species;
 - Themed publications published around five times throughout the year focusing on specific post-harvest issues for fish and fishery products;
 - Specific studies conducted on specific fish species, products or markets based on the needs of the GLOBEFISH Associate Members.
- GLOBEFISH Website
 - Statistical information, short analysis on selected products and relevant news items at the GLOBEFISH webpage, periodically updated;
 - "Global Trade Statistical Update"- an online and downloadable publication focusing on trends in trade flows for major product groups.

9. GLOBEFISH outputs are used in a number of corporate FAO processes and information policy, including the biannual Food Outlook.

10. In order to provide the most relevant information possible, GLOBEFISH continues to expand its coverage by consistently introducing new information and publications involving the marketing of fish and fishery products, with a particular emphasis on emerging issues and areas showing insufficient disseminated data, such as:

- information on trade and production at a glance by country (“GLOBEFISH fisheries profiles”);
- regulatory information, tariffs and trade data by country, in a specific market access area;
- border rejections of fish and fish products by veterinarian controls in major importing countries;
- current regulatory requirements impacting fish trade by country;
- FAO Fish Price Index (FPI), its development, update and formulation in collaboration with other units in FAO;
- information sharing and public consultations on fishery and aquaculture trade-related topics, such as the recent example of FAO’s work on socially responsible fish value chains.

11. In addition, upcoming new products, publications and services will be released shortly on the GLOBEFISH website. Among these new products, a publication listing six-digit codes of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS Codes) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) applicable to fish and fisheries products, unabridged, in order to serve as a tool to have a better understanding on product classification and to reduce the risk of the misinterpretation of products not clearly or specifically identified; a compendium of “specific trade concerns” raised at the World Trade Organization (WTO) involving fish and fish products to facilitate assessments of trade issues in the sector; and a periodically updated area with the main sanitary and technical requirements recently notified by countries to the WTO.

MAIN AREAS OF WORK AND PROGRESS OF THE FIN

12. **INFOPESCA** is the Latin-American and the Caribbean regional network, serving governments, industry associations, and companies in all aspects of the development of aquatic resources, fishing and aquaculture. The main areas of expertise of INFOPESCA include economic analysis of fish and fish products for the region, market promotion, value chain integration, and analysis of the impact of climate change. Recent activities of INFOPESCA include:

- promotion of the integration of fish products in the school feeding of Peru, Honduras, and Angola;
- development of value-added fish products emphasizing climate change impacts in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago;
- techno-economic evaluation of landing sites in Grenada.

13. **INFOFISH** is the Asia-Pacific regional network. Being service-oriented, INFOFISH has become an integral part of the fisheries industry in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. It plays a prominent role in actively disseminating technical and trade information through national, regional and international training programs as well as global trade and commodity conferences. The main areas of expertise of INFOFISH include the promotion of fish and fish products, the provision of consultative services in different areas involving post-harvest activities, sustainability aspects, and specific approaches towards Southeast Asia region. Recent activities of INFOFISH include:

- promotion of processing and marketing of freshwater fish products in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
- enhancement of fish processing activities in Malaysia;
- Regional Workshop on the “Impact of Multilateral Trade Agreements and the current WTO negotiations on the Fisheries Sector”, in Penang, Malaysia.

14. **INFOPÊCHE** provides marketing information and fosters cooperation between relevant stakeholders for fish and fish products in Africa. The main areas of expertise of INFOPÊCHE include trade analysis, data collection, and support and technical assistance to interested parties. Recent activities of INFOPÊCHE include:

- study on cross-border trade in fish and fishery products in Côte d'Ivoire;
- studies to reduce the volume of informal trade while promoting official channels of commerce in African countries;
- promotion of trade and commercial information of fish and fish products in West Africa.

15. **INFOSAMAK** is an intergovernmental organization for trade in fishery and aquaculture products, which promotes investment in the sector within the Arab region. INFOSAMAK provides companies in the sector and governments with information and advice on production, processing, quality control and marketing of fish products, including export promotion. Various projects have been carried out by INFOSAMAK covering diverse issues, such as:

- Technical Assistance for the Upgrading of Small-scale Fisheries and its Integration into International Trade; and
- Project for the Libyan Export Promotion Centre (CPEL).

16. **EUROFISH** is an international organization that contributes to furthering the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Europe. The organization accomplishes its contributions through analytical publications on marketing and industry-related information, and it facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building by organizing various workshops and conferences at national, regional and global levels. EUROFISH publishes printed and electronic publications both regularly and as individual specialized publications. The EUROFISH Magazine is a leading fish and seafood journal in Europe, and the only one to regularly cover the fisheries and aquaculture sector in EUROFISH member countries in English. EUROFISH also carries out specific analytical studies and projects upon request, and these are commissioned either by member states or through other external funding. Recent activities of EUROFISH include:

- Horizon 2020 project PerformFISH – Integrating Innovative Approaches for Competitive and Sustainable Performance across the Mediterranean Aquaculture Value Chain;
- The European Marine Observation and Data Network, Human Activates project funded by the European Union (EU);
- The Danish Green Development and Demonstration Program project Innoskind.

17. **INFOYU** is the Chinese member of the FIN and is based in Beijing, with an additional operation centre in Shenzhen. INFOYU has developed a comprehensive network that links 130 wholesale fish markets nationwide, 60 of which provide fish price reports twice a week. As the leading source of marketing support for producers and exporters in China, INFOYU greatly facilitates FAO access to fisheries and aquaculture information in China. In 2003, INFOYU constructed a national market information collection platform in order to compile and analyse trade information from 72 markets nationwide. In 2017, the platform was updated to a digital platform, allowing the information dissemination on social media platforms, including WeChat.