

To: Chairman of the 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries
From: The World Aquaculture Society

The World Aquaculture Society (WAS) congratulates the chairman, FAO and all its members on the successful 34th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, despite the challenges that a global virtual meeting represent. The World Aquaculture Society strongly believes that information and technology exchange and policy development in aquaculture are key factors for sustainable aquaculture development. More than ever, global collaboration is essential for the responsible growth of aquaculture.

During the last decade, WAS has actively participated on the Committee on Fisheries, and more relevantly, on the COFI Sub-Committee in Aquaculture. Our organization strongly supports all the recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI-Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Trondheim, Norway, 23-27 August 2019, especially the importance of:

- Setting up a new coherent aquaculture program “Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture (GISAP)” recognized, supported and funded by its member states.
- The rollout of the next phase of the “Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance”.
- The report “State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” and the preparation of a specific “Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources”.
- The Global Conference on Aquaculture 2020, to be held in Shanghai on September 2021, and the importance of the involvement of all the stakeholders in setting the path of aquaculture for the future.

The World Aquaculture Society also strongly agrees on the relevance of addressing climate change and other environment-related matters in fisheries and aquaculture through collaboration between all the nations and stakeholders in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the 2nd, Zero Hunger, in which aquaculture is a major player at the present and will increase its relevance in the years to come.

We congratulate FAO and the government of Mexico on their decision to organize the 11th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in Merida, Mexico from the 15th to the 19th of November 2021. We are particularly encouraged and motivated as the Subcommittee will be organized in parallel with the World Aquaculture conference for the first time. This will consolidate the partnership that FAO and WAS have built throughout the last decade in benefit of all the aquaculturists of the world.

We invite members, government agencies, both national and international, and the private sector to envision WAS as your global partner for promoting the educational, scientific, and technological advances of aquaculture; gathering and disseminating technical information on aquaculture; and encouraging aquaculture research, development, and educational activities. We are confident that we will achieve our goals faster when working together.

Finally, WAS expresses its support and gratitude to FAO and the more than 100 country members that have interacted with us through our 51 years of history in the development of sustainable aquaculture worldwide. We cordially invite all the aquaculture community to actively participate at AQUACULTURE 2021 in Merida, Mexico from November 15th to 19th 2021.