

## WorldFish comments on 34th Session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI)

### Agenda Item #13.1: Terms of Reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture

WorldFish supports the terms of reference of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture. The explosion of big data, the internet of things and digital technologies offers opportunities for smart, resilient and sustainable food systems. Digital innovations play an increasingly important role in shaping the behavior of actors in fish and aquatic foods supply chains and in developing new modes of value chain governance. These innovations are altering the nature of and possibilities for value chain research in food and agriculture.

A “Blue” Big Data Revolution and growing AgriTech investments can support the delivery of a flexible, intelligent and transparent (FIT) food system. A FIT data-driven food system can optimize the way in which fish and aquatic foods are harvested, farmed, traced, processed, traded, stored, transported, marketed, distributed and made accessible and safe for human consumption.

In addition, a digital platform on food and agriculture has an important role to play in bringing multiple actors, at all levels, and across sectors, to support policy actions in Member States for fisheries and aquaculture contributing to national development. WorldFish has a strong *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)* online platform which includes our research data and evidence, knowledge sharing and partnerships, at sub-national, national, and global level, and which can contribute to the Platform.

Collaboration between FAO and WorldFish on a digital Platform can be further strengthened through the implementation of the new WorldFish 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy up to 2030: Aquatic Foods for Healthy People and Planet. We are also fully supportive of using innovative information and communication technologies and data-rich technology platforms to share, translate and communicate research data, knowledge and insights with the largest numbers and broadest kinds of stakeholders in fast, compelling, engaging and cost-effective ways.

Lastly in any new area of technology development, we encourage precaution to ensure that a digital platform on food and agriculture is inclusive and considers governance beyond infrastructure.



**Gareth Johnstone, Ph.D.**  
Director General

Read our **WorldFish 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy**  
(available to [download here](#))