

PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION
Agenda Item 6
Supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including in the
International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
35th Session, FAO Committee on Fisheries
5-9 September 2022

Our delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for the update and reference document on Small-scale and artisanal fisheries.

The Philippines would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to FAO for the project, “Adopting the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines): An integrated approach to improving the food security and nutrition situation of fisherfolks in selected areas of the Philippines.” This project was started in November 2020.

We also wish to inform the Committee that the Philippines offers a sound model in involving artisanal fishers in policy formulation. The mechanism is through the establishment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMC), which are operating at various levels of geographic governance from the fishing villages up to the national level.

In addition, Filipino artisanal fishers are also actively involved in fishery conservation and law enforcement, in partnership with the government.

Our delegation respectfully recommends for the Committee to sustain the support to popularize the “Illuminating Hidden Harvests” (IHH) framework and methodology for wider adoption and integration of Member Countries in their fishery statistical systems.

The Philippines acknowledges the wealth of practical, yet scientifically sound knowledge and skills possessed by small-scale and artisanal fishers and aquaculturists. Consequently, we respectfully recommend to mainstream “citizen or community science” approach in the process of co-developing appropriate technologies and packaging knowledge products and as a means to empower this fishers group.

The Philippines respectfully recommends to the Committee to support the improvement of rural advisory (extension services) for fisheries as an

integrative approach in providing support and empowerment of small-scale and artisanal fishers and aquaculturists.

The Philippines highly commends the work of the Committee with the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), its related events, development of SSF Guidelines and Women in Fisheries and among others.

Artisanal fishers and aquaculture rightly deserve to be celebrated and recognized with their crucial role in poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable development.

The Philippines is committed to continue supporting artisanal and aquaculture in this IYAFA 2022 and beyond

Thank you.