



20 YEARS

of the **CODE OF CONDUCT**
for **RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES**

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) is a groundbreaking, negotiated document laying forth principles and standards for national and international efforts to ensure sustainable exploitation of aquatic living resources in harmony with the environment.

Drafted by 170 nations, negotiated at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and adopted unanimously by member states at the FAO Conference on 31 October 1995, the Code remains a remarkably robust and forward-looking document.

Much has changed over the past twenty years, and additional agreements and measures have been adopted to support the Code, including instruments in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, ecolabeling for certification, and guidelines on small-scale fisheries.

Most countries have fisheries policies and legislation compatible with the Code, and FAO is assisting others to more closely align their policies and legislation with these principles and standards.

In order to strengthen the fisheries sector and position it to play a key role in ensuring food security for a world population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, the Code and its related instruments will be key for ensuring the sustainability of the world's fisheries and aquaculture.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

1995-2015

The Code of Conduct is a living document, and has served as the basis for various instruments and measures in its key areas of work that have been developed over its first two decades.

TACKLING FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

Roughly one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, translating into about 1.3 billion tonnes per year. Work is ongoing to utilize parts of fish that have previously been seen as waste or byproducts: bones, heads, and other fish parts are being crushed and processed into various products rich in minerals, proteins, and Omega3 fatty acids. Projects in Africa and Latin America have been successful in using these powders in school feeding and other nutrition programmes to provide a boost of nutrients to vulnerable populations.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERS

Twenty years ago, the Code recognized that those engaged in subsistence, small-scale, and artisanal fisheries should have access to a secure and decent livelihood. In June 2014, the Committee on Fisheries endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Based on a human rights approach, the Guidelines not only address the key issues of fisheries tenure governance and management, but also social issues, decent work and employment, gender equality, climate change and disaster risk management.

COMBATING IUU

The Code made clear the role port states play in supporting its objectives. A key measure adopted in 2009, is the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, designed to prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports. Under the terms of the treaty, vessels must request permission for port entry; port and port services use must be denied to offending vessels after regular inspections. Eleven countries have currently ratified the Agreement, but that number must reach twenty-five for the treaty to enter into force, an important first step to combating IUU.

SUPPORTING MARKET ACCESS

Seafood products are already among the most widely traded commodities in the world – totaling around 145 billion USD per year. Looking ahead, the market for fish and fish products is growing rapidly, and there are opportunities for developing nations to compete on the international stage in fish trade. Networks such as Globefish will be important for gathering, assessing, analyzing and disseminating up-to-date fish marketing and trade information worldwide, with an emphasis on supporting developing country producers to become more competitive in international markets.



Celebrating 20 YEARS

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Further information:
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<http://www.fao.org/fishery/code/en>



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1995-2015

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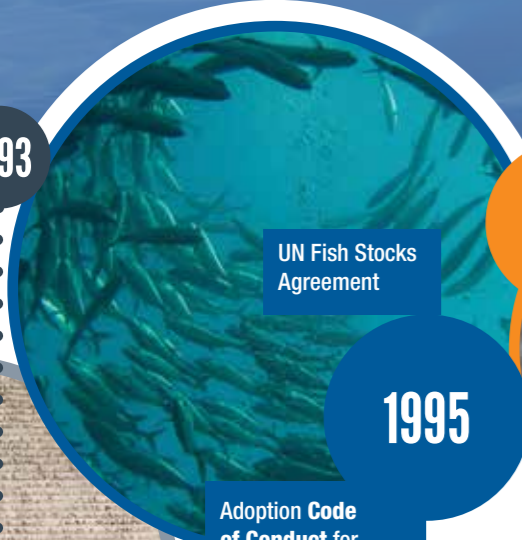
1992

1993

Magna Carta (*Magna Charta Libertatum*) Includes several articles on fishing access

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Summit)

Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas



1993 UN Fish Stocks Agreement

1995 Adoption Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries



1996 World Summit on Food Security

1997

1999 Rome declaration implementation Code of Conduct

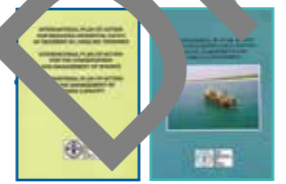
1999 Rome declaration implementation Code of Conduct



2000 Establishment of the Millennium Development Goals

2000

2001



International Plans of Action

2002

2005 Rome Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

2005



2005 FAO ecolabelling guidelines for marine capture fisheries

2009

2009 Port State Measures Agreement



2011

2011 FAO ecolabelling guidelines for inland capture fisheries

2011 FAO ecolabelling guidelines for aquaculture certification

2013

2013 Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance

2013 Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

2013 FAO launches the Blue Growth Initiative at the Global Oceans Action Summit in the Hague



2014



2014 20th anniversary of the Code of Conduct celebrated during the 1st International Stakeholders Forum in Vigo

2015



FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries

