



36TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES - COFI 36



8-12 July 2024



Rome, Italy - FAO Headquarters

Information Note on COFI Side Events

General Information

The 36th Session of the Committee on Fisheries will take place from **8-12 July 2024** at FAO's headquarters in Rome, Italy. The session will offer two innovative and dynamic additional opportunities for Members and accredited COFI observers to contribute to the programme:

1. Formal **COFI Side Event** proposals (open to Members only)
2. **Speaker's corner** (open to Members and accredited observers)

I. SIDE EVENTS

Side events should be dynamic and action-oriented, relevant and complementary to the COFI agenda, providing examples of good practices at national or regional level, increasing visibility and awareness of science-driven innovations, emphasizing solution-oriented approaches in fisheries and aquaculture and facilitating exchanges and networking opportunities to achieve a Blue Transformation.

Format and Criteria

A maximum of six side events will be accommodated throughout COFI week. All side events will take place during the recess of the COFI plenary discussions, during the lunch time break (12:30-14:00hrs). Side events will take place on **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** (two per day). It is suggested that the events are limited to 1 hour to facilitate flow with the plenary programme. All side events are open for attendance to all registered COFI delegates and observers, FAO staff and accompanying speakers.



The timetable of side events is as follows:

Tuesday, 9 July 2024	Wednesday, 10 July 2024	Thursday, 11 July 2024
Time: 12:30-13:45		
Side Event 1	Side Event 3	Side Event 5
Side Event 2	Side Event 4	Side Event 6

Side Events Eligibility

All Members of COFI are eligible to submit proposals or topics for side events. Proposals by more than one Member will be given priority. Members are encouraged to explore the possibility of engaging with other Members from the various FAO Regional Groups as well as with Members from under-represented regions (SIDS, LDCs) and youth. The inclusion of accredited observers to COFI when designing the program of speakers of a side event is encouraged.

Key Themes

Side events proposal should take into consideration one or more of the following criteria:

- Contribute to the COFI36 discussion and outcomes;
- Showcase tangible actions and outcomes, emphasizing opportunities for replicability or scaling up;
- Display cross-cutting issues and/or interdisciplinarity;
- Consider diversity, inclusivity, and geographical representation, with a comprehensive engagement of under-represented groups, women, and youth.

Each event should focus on domains that are essential to achieve **Blue Transformation** such as:

- Data and science for decision-making;
- Exchange or presentation of good practices;
- Success and impact from the field;
- Innovative and technological approaches.

Selection Process

Side event proposals (or topics for consideration as side events) should be submitted to the COFI Secretariat at FAO-COFI@fao.org by **30 April 2024** and by filling in the dedicated submission [form](#). Successful applications will be contacted with further details on the preparation and logistics of the proposed side event.



Proposers of side events should take some responsibility for the structure and format of the side event (supported by FAO staff). Should catering and livestreaming be required the proposers may be required to cover the costs. FAO will provide free of charge the meeting room equipped with a screen and laptops, but no interpretation services due to the heavy demands to support the COFI plenary.

II. SPEAKER'S CORNER

An interactive Speaker's Corner space will be set up in the Atrium to enable FAO Members and accredited COFI Observers to share perspectives, approaches, and solutions for sustainable aquatic food systems. The Speaker's Corner will offer the opportunity for participants to engage in a live debate as well as to promote a side event or invite audience to an ad-hoc Fisheries and Aquaculture related theme.

Format and Criteria

The designated space will accommodate events of approximately 30 minutes, and it is suggested that half of the time be allocated for a Q&A session with the audience. Speakers could be Members, Observers, FAO Fisheries staff, or a combination of the above.

Talks are encouraged to be conversational and tailored for an informal setting with a focus on:

- technologies, practices, or innovations
- addressing cross-cutting themes in the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector
- providing examples of activities relevant to the COFI agenda

The designated Speaker's Corner space will feature a podium for speakers, equipped with a table, laptop, and screen for presentations. Limited seating will be available around the podium, but standing room facilitated. Attendance will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All talks are scheduled in the mornings (08:30 - 09:30 AM) before the COFI Plenary session and in the afternoons (17:00-19:00 PM) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the COFI 36 week.

The proposed timetable of the Speaker's Corner is as follows:

Tuesday, 9 July 2024	Wednesday, 10 July 2024	Thursday, 11 July 2024
Time: 08:30-09:30 AM		
Talk 1 Talk 2	Talk 5 Talk 6	Talk 9 Talk 10



Time: 17:00-19:00 PM		
Talk 3	Talk 7	Talk 11
Talk 4	Talk 8	Talk 12

Depending on demand, the schedule may be expanded to other lunch times.

Selection Process

Proposals for the Speaker's Corner should be submitted to the COFI Secretariat at FAO-COFI@fao.org no later than **20 May 2024** by filling in the dedicated submission [form](#).

Successful applications will be contacted in due course.

