



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

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GLOBAL TRENDS IN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Executive Summary

This document briefly outlines global trends in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, focusing on major facts and relevant international trade developments since the 18th Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT).

Suggested action by the Sub-Committee

- Note the recent changes in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, focusing on its resilience.
- Share information and relevant national experiences on recent and expected developments affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sector, focusing on trade.
- Provide guidance for future FAO work in international trade in fisheries and aquaculture products, mainly to enable developing countries and small-scale operators to participate more effectively.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Not only are aquatic products an important source of nutrients, but they are also among the most traded food products, making them a key source of income for many players across many countries, a driver of economic development and a contributor to global food security. In 2021, the trade value of aquatic food products was comparable to that of all terrestrial meats (bovine, pork, poultry, and other meats).

2. Latest developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sector include the strong rebound in 2021 of the world trade of aquatic animal products that reached a new record high at USD 177 billion after declining consecutively in 2019 and 2020.¹ This rise was mainly due to substantial price increases, with the surge in traded quantities being much more subdued. Preliminary data for 2022 indicate continued growth, in line with global food price inflation. Among recent significant developments that can impact future international trade are the new international instruments, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and the conclusion of the draft agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). After over two decades of negotiations, WTO members ultimately agreed on disciplines to address fisheries subsidies in 2022. The rules of the agreement address fisheries subsidies associated with overfished stocks, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and fishing in unregulated high seas. In 2023, members of the United Nations reached a consensus on the draft agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, a new legally binding international instrument designed to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity on the high seas.

OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR

Employment

3. In the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture in 2020, there were an estimated 58.5 million full-time, part-time, occasional or unspecified workers, with 65 percent employed in fisheries and 35 percent in aquaculture. The people directly and indirectly employed along the fisheries and aquaculture value chain, from harvesting to distribution, support the livelihoods of millions of people, with the fishing and aquaculture-dependent population often located in places at exceptionally high risk of extreme events. Most fishers and fish farmers are artisanal and small-scale producers, and most of them live in Asia (about 85 percent). Women play an important role in the fisheries and aquaculture workforce, representing about 21 percent of the people employed in the primary sector and 50 percent when the primary and secondary sectors are considered together.

Production

4. Total fisheries and aquaculture production of aquatic animals reached a record of 182 million tonnes in 2021. This represented an increase of 2.7 percent compared to 2020, following two years of stagnation at 177 million tonnes in 2019 and 2020, primarily due to COVID-19-related disruptions and the El Niño phenomenon, which lowered capture fisheries production from their 2018 peak.

5. Globally, aquaculture contributed to 49.9 percent of global aquatic animal production in 2021. However, the share of aquaculture in total aquatic animal production differed significantly across continents, going from over 63 percent in Asia to 21 percent in Europe, 19 percent in the Americas, 18 percent in Africa and 14 percent in Oceania.

6. Over 2012–2021, the total production of aquatic animals increased by 20 percent at an annual average growth rate of 2.0 percent, with aquaculture alone growing by 43 percent at an annual average growth rate of 3.9 percent. In the same period, capture fisheries production increased by 2.8 percent at an annual average growth rate of 0.3 percent. The pattern of the previous decade, where capture fisheries

¹ Excluding aquatic mammals, reptiles and aquatic products (shells, pearls, sponges and corals).

production remained broadly stable while aquaculture production grew, is expected to continue (Table 1).

Table 1. World Fisheries and Aquaculture Production

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aquatic animals						
<i>million tonnes (live weight)</i>						
Aquaculture	76.5	79.6	82.5	85.2	87.6	90.9
Capture fisheries	89.5	93.2	96.2	92.1	89.6	91.2
Total	166.1	172.8	178.7	177.3	177.2	182.1
<i>Share in total quantity (percentage)</i>						
Aquaculture	46.1	46.0	46.2	48.1	49.5	49.9
Capture fisheries	53.9	54.0	53.8	51.9	50.5	50.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aquatic animals and algae						
<i>million tonnes (live weight)</i>						
Aquaculture	108.2	112.2	115.9	119.8	122.7	126.0
Capture fisheries	90.6	94.4	97.2	93.2	90.7	92.3
Total	198.8	206.5	213.1	213.0	213.4	218.4
<i>Share in total quantity (percentage)</i>						
Aquaculture	54.4	54.3	54.4	56.3	57.5	57.7
Capture fisheries	45.6	45.7	45.6	43.7	42.5	42.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Totals might not match due to rounding.

Source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950-2021 (FishstatJ). In: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division [online]. Rome. Updated 2023. fao.org/fishery/en/topic/166235

7. Despite the increasing role of aquaculture in total aquatic animal production, the capture sector remains dominant for a number of species and vital for domestic and international food security. Since the mid-1990s, overall capture fisheries production oscillated between 86 and 96 million tonnes, with significant variations mainly determined by fluctuations of anchoveta catches in South America and other pelagic species. While improved management has allowed for the recovery of selected resources, with an increase in their catches, some stocks have also shown declines.

8. As a result, and even considering significant improvements in some stocks and overall catch stability, the fraction of fishery stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased from 90 percent in 1974 to 64.6 percent in 2019, with maximally sustainably fished stocks at 57.3 percent and underfished stocks at 7.2 percent. In contrast, stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 35.4 percent in 2019. Nevertheless, despite worsening trends by number, 82.5 percent of the 2019 landings of the assessed stocks monitored by FAO² were from biologically sustainable stocks, a 3.8 percent increase from 2017. This demonstrates that larger stocks are managed more effectively.

9. Asian countries are by far the major global producers of aquatic animals, with a share of 70 percent of the total in 2021, followed by countries of the Americas (13 percent), Europe (9 percent), Africa (7 percent) and Oceania (1 percent). Asia is by far the top aquaculture producer, with 88 percent of the total, while its share in total capture fisheries was 51 percent in 2021. China remained in 2021 the leading producer of aquatic animals with a share of 35 percent of the total, followed by India (8 percent), Indonesia (7 percent), Viet Nam (5 percent) and Peru (4 percent) (Table 2).

Table 2. Relative Shares in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector by Continent and Income Level in

² doi.org/10.4060/cc0461en

2021

	Total production	Aquaculture	Capture fisheries	Exports	Imports
Aquatic animals					
	Percentage share of total quantity			Percentage share of total value	
World	100	100	100	100	100
Asia	70	88	51	36	33
Africa	7	3	11	4	3
Americas	13	5	21	21	22
Europe	9	4	15	37	41
Oceania	1	0	2	2	1
High-income countries	17	8	25	51	76
Upper-middle-income countries	49	61	37	30	19
Lower-middle-income countries	32	31	34	18	5
Low-income countries	2	0	3	0	0
Aquatic animals and algae					
	Percentage share of total quantity			Percentage share of total value	
World	100	100	100	100	100
Asia	74	91	51	36	33
Africa	6	2	11	4	3
Americas	11	4	21	21	22
Europe	8	3	15	37	40
Oceania	1	0	2	2	1
High-income countries	15	7	26	51	76
Upper-middle-income countries	51	61	37	30	19
Lower-middle-income countries	32	30	33	18	5
Low-income countries	2	1	3	0	0

Source: FAO. 2023. Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics. Global production by production source 1950-2021 (FishstatJ) and Global Fish Trade 1976-2021. In: FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division [online]. Rome. Updated 2023. [fao.org/fishery/en/topic/166235](https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/topic/166235)

10. Fish represented 76 percent of the total production of aquatic animals in 2021, followed by molluscs (14 percent), crustaceans (10 percent) and other aquatic animals (1 percent). Marine fishes alone had a share of 38 percent, freshwater fishes 33 percent and diadromous fishes 4 percent. With a share of about 3 percent each, whiteleg shrimp, grass carp and anchoveta were the top three species being produced, with the first two mainly harvested from aquaculture and anchoveta from capture fisheries.

11. Global algae production totalled 36 million tonnes in 2021, up by only 0.2 percent compared with 2020.³ This represented the lowest growth rate since 2000. The main driver was a decline in Indonesian algae production. Asian countries produced over 97 percent of global algae production in 2021, originating almost exclusively from aquaculture. If algae are included, the overall fisheries and aquaculture production reached a new record of 218 million tonnes, with aquaculture representing about 58 percent of the total.

12. Preliminary estimates for 2022 point to a slight increase in global fisheries and aquaculture production, mainly driven by growth in aquaculture production. Yet, according to the projections of the FAO fish model, the next decade is expected to be positive for the fisheries and aquaculture sector.⁴ Major growth will come from aquaculture, which is expected to reach 111 million tonnes by 2032, excluding algae. Except for the years affected by El Niño, global capture fisheries is expected to

³ Include macroalgae (e.g. seaweeds), microalgae (e.g. *Chlorella* spp.), and Cyanobacteria (e.g. *Spirulina* spp.).

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3020en>

increase slightly during the next decade. The main drivers for such a modest rise include the progress in rebuilding certain fishery stocks, implementing more robust management regimes by some countries and optimised utilization of fisheries production through reduced discards and losses, which are expected to counterbalance the pressure on resources that are not effectively managed.

Consumption

13. Aquatic products can be consumed in different forms for either food or non-food uses. The products not consumed as food are processed into fishmeal and fish oil or serve other non-food uses, such as ornamental fish, culturing, fingerlings and fry, bait, pharmaceutical inputs, and as direct feed for aquaculture, livestock and other animals. The proportion of aquatic animal production used for food purposes has increased significantly from 67 percent in the 1960s to about 88 percent in 2021.

14. Global annual per capita consumption of aquatic foods (excluding algae) grew from an average of 9.9 kg in the 1960s to an estimated 20.4 kg in 2021. Growth in per capita consumption was influenced most strongly by the expansion of fisheries and aquaculture production, changing consumer preferences, improved distribution channels, technological advancements, and income growth. International trade also played an important role in broadening aquatic food consumption by allowing many countries to access larger quantities and a wider diversity of aquatic foods unavailable domestically. However, the pace of the increase of aquatic food consumption has slowed over the years, and such a trend is expected to persist. This slowdown is mainly due to lower production growth, relatively higher prices of aquatic products than meat prices, and limited potential for demand growth in some countries, particularly high-income countries, where demand is somewhat saturated.

15. Despite the overall increase in the apparent aquatic food consumption per capita, marked differences exist among and within countries regarding the quantity and products consumed. Availability and incomes are not the only factors boosting aquatic food consumption. Cultural factors, such as food traditions and preferences, in addition to seasonality and prices, also strongly influence the quantity and type of aquatic foods consumed per capita. Apparent consumption of aquatic foods ranges, for example, from under 1 kg per capita in Afghanistan, Ethiopia or Tajikistan to over 80 kg in other countries, such as Iceland, Kiribati and Maldives. Between continents, significant differences also exist. Asia has the highest consumption of aquatic foods, followed by Oceania, Europe, the Americas and Africa.

16. Aquatic foods can play a unique role in increasing access and affordability to healthy diets by providing essential fatty acids and micronutrients such as iron, zinc, calcium, iodine and vitamins A, B12 and D. Even small quantities of aquatic foods can have a significant positive nutritional impact, particularly when total protein intake is low. In addition, consuming aquatic foods can facilitate the absorption of numerous plant nutrients.

17. The share of proteins from aquatic foods in the diets of non-high-income countries tends to be greater than that of high-income countries, reflecting the fact that aquatic foods often represent an affordable source of animal protein, being cheaper and more accessible than other animal protein sources, and part of culinary traditions of these countries. Aquatic foods provided about 13 percent of animal protein intake in high-income countries in 2019, 17 percent in low-income countries, 23 percent in lower-middle-income countries, and 17 percent in upper-middle-income countries. Moreover, for 3.3 billion people, aquatic foods contributed at least 20 percent of the average per capita animal protein intake.

Prices

18. The FAO Fish Price Index (FPI) tracks monthly price fluctuations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The FPI went up from 65 in January 2000 to 130 points in April 2023 in nominal terms, with a record high of 135 reached in June 2022. The FPI showed several fluctuations during the overall period, but the trend is upward. The major drops were experienced in 2009, 2015 and 2020, while the major increases were observed in 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2022 with the record high level. Comparing 2022 to 2021, the FPI grew by 19 percent in nominal terms, corresponding to the most

significant increase. This was followed by an additional 4 percent increase over the first four months of 2023, corresponding to the latest available data. This upward trend in 2023 contrasts with the declines observed in the FAO Food Price Index, which dropped month after month after reaching a peak in March 2022. Being an average, the FPI masks vast differences among species and across the aquaculture and capture fisheries sector. Historically, the capture fisheries sub-index tended to be less volatile than the aquaculture sub-index, but in 2022 it was the opposite. The leading causes for these differences appear to be on the supply side and in the cost structures of each sub-sector.

19. Part of the recent variations in food prices, including aquatic foods, are related to the evolution of shipping costs. In its 2022 Review of Marine Transport, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) indicated that shipping costs increased by 50 percent in 2020, 208 percent in 2021, and then declined marginally by 3.2 percent in 2022.⁵ Hence, shipping costs remained well above pre-COVID-19 levels. The shipping costs rose with the combined effect of the war in Ukraine and related economic restrictive measures, energy costs, and COVID-19 disruptions. UNCTAD simulations suggest that high container freight rates observed between 2021 and 2022 will be passed on to consumers, resulting in a global price increase of 1.6 percent.

Trade

20. Aquatic animal products are a highly traded commodity, reflecting the sector's openness to and integration into international trade. International trade of aquatic animal products has considerably expanded during the last few decades, growing at an annual average rate of 6.5 percent in nominal terms between 1976 and 2021, comparable to the growth rate of the value of global merchandise trade over the same period. This expansion was mainly driven by economic growth, urbanisation, liberal trade policies and technological advancements, allowing producers to access increasingly distant markets and enabling consumers to expand the diversity of their available aquatic foods beyond those produced locally. Including intra-European Union (EU) trade, about 37 percent of total fisheries and aquaculture production was exported in 2021, and 32 percent, excluding intra-EU trade. The aquaculture and capture fisheries supply chain will continue to be complex, as aquatic products frequently cross national borders multiple times before final consumption considering that processing can be outsourced to countries with lower labour and production costs.

21. In 2021, the world trade of aquatic animal products reached a record high of USD 177 billion after two consecutive years of decline due to lower production in 2019 and COVID-19-related disruptions in 2020. In 2021, the trade in aquatic animal products grew by 17 percent in value terms and by 4.7 percent in quantity terms (live weight), reflecting the substantial rise in aquatic food prices. Estimates for 2022 indicate an increase of about 8 percent in value to a new high of USD 190 billion. As in 2021, the rise in value terms is anticipated to outpace the increase in quantity terms, reflecting the continued high prices of aquatic products in line with the higher global food price inflation over 2022. This upward pressure on international prices of aquatic products was caused by increased demand, boosted by the global economic recovery following the COVID-19 recession and supply disruptions, including geopolitical conflicts and weather-related disasters.

22. High-income countries remained the predominant importers in 2021, with 76 percent of the world's aquatic animal product imports. In quantity terms (live weight), their share is significantly less at 55 percent, reflecting the higher unit value of the imported products. High-income countries are highly dependent on imports of aquatic animal foods to meet their demand, with imports projected to represent about three-quarters of their total aquatic food consumption. Yet, their share in global imports is on a downward trend as non-high-income countries have increased imports to supply their processing sectors and meet their rising domestic consumption.

23. The EU remained the largest market for imported aquatic animal products. In 2021 the EU's imports reached USD 58 billion, representing 34 percent of world imports. However, official statistics also include trade among EU members. If intraregional trade is excluded, the EU aquatic animal product

⁵ https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/rmt2022_en.pdf

import value was USD 30 billion in 2021. This still makes the EU the largest market in the world, with about 21 percent of world imports.

24. The United States of America was the second largest global importer of aquatic animal products, accounting for 17 percent (USD 30 billion), followed by China (10 percent or USD 17 billion). China's imports have increased significantly in the last few years, partly because of the outsourcing of processing from other countries. This reflects China's growing domestic consumption of species not produced locally. Japan was the second largest importer until the early 2000s, but its imports have been on a downward trend for nearly 20 years due to dietary changes and a shrinking population. In 2021, Japan accounted for 8 percent of world aquatic animal products imports, compared with a record share of 32 percent in 1995.

25. High-income and non-high-income countries accounted for similar shares (51 percent and 49 percent, respectively) of world aquatic animal product exports in value terms in 2021. However, in quantity terms (live weight), non-high-income countries accounted for a larger share of total exports (56 percent), reflecting the lower unit value of products exported. Over the years, non-high-income countries have increased their share of world aquatic animal product exports at the expense of high-income countries, both in value and quantity terms. As a comparison, in 1976, high-income countries accounted for 72 percent and 67 percent of world exports of aquatic animal products in value and quantity, respectively.

26. Aquatic animal product exports became increasingly concentrated over time, with the five largest exporting countries representing 33 percent of world export value in 2021. This increased concentration reflected the rising importance of exports from China. However, aquatic animal product trade remains less concentrated than other food products. For example, the top five exporters of poultry meat and pork meat accounted for 58 percent of the total export value in 2021.

27. China has become the world's largest exporter of aquatic animal products since 2001. Its exports reached USD 21 billion in 2021, accounting for 12 percent of the global trade of aquatic animal products. Its exports comprised large quantities of domestically produced products and processed products made from imported raw materials. Norway, the second major exporter, accounted for 8 percent of world aquatic animal exports in value in 2021. Its exports included farmed Atlantic salmon and small pelagic species such as cod. Viet Nam was the third largest exporter, followed by India, which exports increased significantly in recent years.

28. Regarding net exports (exports minus imports), high-income countries continued to have a negative balance in value terms for aquatic animal products' trade. In contrast, non-high-income countries had a positive balance. For many non-high-income countries, the trade of aquatic animal products represents a significant source of foreign currency earnings in addition to the sector's important role in income generation, employment, food security and nutrition. Their net-export revenues from aquatic animal products reached USD 44 billion in 2021.

29. Preliminary data for 2022 suggests that China became a net importer of aquatic products in value terms for the first time in history. While the country has been the largest exporter of aquatic products for the past two decades, its imports have risen significantly in recent years. Chinese imports of aquatic products were estimated at USD 27.7 billion in 2022 (up by over 20 percent on 2021), while exports were valued at USD 24.9 billion (up 6 percent on 2021). The traditional large importers will now compete with China to satisfy their domestic import demand. However, in quantity terms (live weight), China has always been a net importer and will remain so in 2022.

30. Trade in algae represented an additional USD 1.2 billion in 2021, an increase of 13 percent compared to 2020. In 2021, the leading importers of algae were China, Japan and the United States of America. Asia accounted for nearly 60 percent of all algae exports in value terms, with the Republic of Korea, Indonesia and China being the major exporters. Asia was also the largest importing continent, accounting for 57 percent of all algae imports in 2021, followed by Europe (25 percent) and the Americas (15 percent).

Main aquatic products traded

31. Over time, the trade in aquatic animal products became more diverse regarding species and product forms. Products range from live aquatic animals to various processed products, such as frozen fillets and fishmeal. Frozen products, whether whole or in fillets, accounted for nearly half of the total value of imports in 2021 (46 percent), followed by fresh products (24 percent) and prepared and preserved products (21 percent). Over the long term, the main change has been the progressive increase in the share of fresh products, while the proportion of meals and cured (dried, smoked, etc.) products has decreased.

32. Due to the drastic increase in aquaculture production, a growing share of the international trade in aquatic animal products consists of aquaculture products. However, as only a few countries distinguish the origin of aquatic products between farmed or captured in the wild in their trade statistics, it is impossible to quantify the share of farmed products in total trade accurately.

33. Salmonoids (salmon and trout) remained the most prominent species group traded in value terms, accounting for 19 percent of the total value of internationally traded aquatic animal products in 2021. Salmonoid exports are highly concentrated, with the top three exporters accounting for 58 percent of the total value of salmonoid exports in 2021. Exports of salmonoids continued to grow strongly in value terms in 2022, while the quantity remained broadly stable. It reflected increasing demand and steady lower production volumes, resulting in record-high prices. The outlook for 2023 is unclear, particularly on the supply side, as the major producing countries are undergoing important moments of uncertainty, such as the modification of tax rates for farmers in Norway and in the Faroe Islands and discussions on a new national fishing law in Chile, which could result in changes to producers' plans.

34. In 2021, shrimps and prawns were the second-largest traded species group in value terms, accounting for 17 percent. Shrimps and prawns are mainly produced in middle-income countries; a significant portion of this production is exported. India, Ecuador and Viet Nam were the top exporting countries, accounting for half of the global value of shrimps and prawns exports in 2021. The leading importers are the United States of America, China and the European Union. In addition, the outlook for shrimps in 2023 is uncertain as the higher production costs of farmed shrimps observed over 2022 have not been fully compensated by price rises, resulting in reduced production volumes, at least in the first months of 2023. The recently signed free trade agreement between Ecuador and China will provide tariff-free access to China for Ecuadorian shrimps, thereby enhancing their market presence in China.

NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

35. In June 2022, the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) adopted the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. This Agreement contains three pillars related to its core objective of regulating fisheries subsidies worldwide: prohibition of fisheries subsidies (1) on overfished stocks, (2) that contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and (3) that involve fishing in unregulated areas beyond national jurisdiction. In addition, during the MC12, WTO members agreed to continue discussions for the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference, which will be held in February 2024, on open issues in Doha's mandate on fisheries subsidies to strengthen further the Agreement's disciplines, including overfishing and overcapacity.

36. The Agreement will become ratified and thus operational once two-thirds of the WTO members have deposited their instruments of acceptance. In parallel, WTO members can initiate the implementation process by identifying and implementing changes to laws and administrative procedures to be ready once the Agreement enters into force.

37. By prohibiting subsidies contributing to the depletion of marine fish stocks and supporting IUU fishing, this Agreement recognizes for the first time that specific trade policies can adversely affect the global commons. Furthermore, by prohibiting subsidies for fishing in the unregulated high seas, it

promotes regional management schemes. It is the first WTO agreement to focus on the environment, the first binding multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability, and only the second agreement reached at the WTO since its inception.

38. The Agreement states specific roles FAO will play in its implementation. In this regard, FAO continues to work with WTO to provide technical assistance to countries to fulfil their obligations under the three pillars of the Agreement. FAO is prepared to provide pertinent capacity-building activities to developing country Members, particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), in stock assessments, data analysis and reporting, and fisheries management in general.

The Draft Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty)

39. In March 2023, 193 members of the United Nations reached a consensus on the draft BBNJ Treaty. This new legally binding international instrument aims to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas, including the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

40. FAO has effectively carried out its essential functions as a data repository and an organization for disseminating knowledge regarding this topic. FAO can provide the BBNJ process with unique ad hoc information and technical advice as the only intergovernmental organisation formally mandated to collect, compile, analyse, and disseminate data and information on fisheries and aquaculture worldwide. In addition to overall capacity development, FAO possesses the expertise and ability to assist in specific technical focus areas under the draft Treaty, supporting Members in its implementation.