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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الاغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS
Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups Joint Session
Eighth Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS) Thirty meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)
28- 30 June 2023
Meeting place: Hybrid - NEAFC headquarters London, United Kingdom/Webex
Relevant activities carried out by OECD during the intersessional period (July 2022-June 2023)
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1. Introduction

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. OECD's goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.

The fisheries team in the OECD Directorate of Trade and Agriculture manages and coordinates the work of The Committee of Fisheries (COFI). The Committee is expected to draw on lessons learned from national and international efforts to achieve environmentally sound fisheries and sustainable aquaculture that support resilient communities, provide quality food and secure livelihoods. Within this broad area, the Committee has the responsibility to examine the most relevant policy issues for member countries and partner economies.

As reflected in its mandate, the overall aims of the Committee are:

- To promote sustainable well-managed, efficient and resilient fisheries and aquaculture that contribute to healthy ecosystems, support sustainable livelihoods and communities, and contribute to food security, responsible trade and consumption;
- To promote mutual understanding of developments in fisheries and aquaculture policies;
- To achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, i.e. biological, economic and social sustainability through effective and sustainable management, good governance and sound business arrangements of fisheries and aquaculture;
- To improve the effectiveness and transparency of fisheries and aquaculture policies at domestic and international levels.

2. Review of relevant statistical activities during the intersessional period (July 2022-June 2023)

In order to achieve the Committee's mandate, statistics on fisheries and aquaculture are collected biennially by the OECD Secretariat from OECD countries and from economies participating to the work of the Committee, with the exception of employment data, which are jointly collected with FAO on an annual

basis. Data are processed and subsequently released in the OECD data platform ([OECD.Stat](#)) and into the flagship publication [OECD Review of Fisheries](#).

FSE (Fisheries Support Estimate) and stock status data are also released and available for bulk download in the [OECD Fisheries and Aquaculture webpage](#), recently revamped and enriched with additional content, such as the *Policy Briefs* for the *OECD Review of Fisheries 2022* available in multiple languages, including English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Korean.

The latest edition of the *OECD Review of Fisheries* was released in December 2022 and it is available also as [web-book](#). In this last edition the web book has been enhanced with the addition of interactive and customizable dynamic charts, improving its visual appeal and navigational experience.

The country notes released with the publication provide additional country level data and details on institutions and policies based on contributions by participating countries and economies. Their latest version is available in the section *Country notes: Explore fisheries data for individual countries* of the [OECD Fisheries and Aquaculture webpage](#) and additionally in the section *Country profiles* of the [Compare your country - Review of Fisheries 2022](#), a newly designed webpage that includes an array of support intensity indicators, elegantly presented through an interactive world map available in the *Overview* section.

The forthcoming edition of the *OECD Review of Fisheries* is scheduled for release in the first quarter of 2025; its preparation will start soon with the launch of next data call in July 2023.

Information will be collected in the following domains:

- **Marine landings:** information is collected on the quantity and value of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates/animals landed in national and foreign ports and reported on a landed weight basis regardless of the landed state (i.e. whole, gutted, filleted, meal, etc).
- **Fishing fleet** (for OECD / non-EU countries): information is gathered on the number and gross tonnage of fishing vessels, broken down by length categories.
- **FSE (Fisheries Support Estimate):** the aim of this data collection is to gather information on national programs that support domestic fisheries, individually (as individual fishers) or collectively (as a sector) with the ultimate goals of maintaining employment, improving fishers' welfare, preserving traditional communities, securing production of food or ensuring the sustainability of the sector and the resources it relies on.

Examples of programs directly benefiting individuals and companies are income support and special insurance systems, decommissioning schemes, payments for early retirement, and programs lowering the cost of inputs like payments to reduce the cost of ice or bait or payments for vessel construction and modernisation, including support for fuel.

Examples of programs benefiting the fisheries sector are governmental expenditures for fisheries management, support to fishing communities' well-being, investment in education and training, marketing and promotion or research and development, or investment in infrastructure like ports.

- **Key management tools and fish stock status:** the purpose of this data gathering is twofold: to collect information on the tools used to manage stocks of the top-5 species (by landings value) and to gather information on fish stocks where management objectives have been set and status has recently been quantitatively assessed with respect to associated reference points.
- **Employment:** the information collected covers the number of fishers, fish farmers and fish processors. Since 2019, this data collection is jointly run with FAO, thanks to an intense work of collaboration and coordination between the two organizations, which has started in 2018, and it is still ongoing. Efforts were done to harmonize data, metadata, contact points and working processes across organizations; in order to reduce reporting burden on countries and to remove useless duplication of work across them, OECD and FAO have worked together to build a unique data workflow, including a joint questionnaire and a shared model for the estimation of missing values.

Following the same logic, the OECD has also decided to use wherever possible external data sources (e.g. data collected and released by other organizations) to compile information required by the work of the Committee. This approach is specifically implemented in the following domains:

- **Aquaculture production:** data in quantity and value are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **Inland fisheries:** quantity data on inland capture are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **International trade of fisheries commodities:** value data are collected from FAO FishStatJ
- **Fishing fleet (for OECD / EU countries):** data on the number and gross tonnage of fishing vessels are collected from Eurostat.