



**THE STATE OF
WORLD FISHERIES
AND AQUACULTURE
2010**






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2010

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department

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FOREWORD

As the world endeavours to recover from the combined impact of a global food price crisis, financial crash and economic recession, many hundreds of millions of people are facing increased uncertainty and real hunger. It is in this context that *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010* aims to provide all concerned with an informed, comprehensive, balanced and worldwide view of fisheries, aquaculture and related issues.

This publication reveals that the per-capita supply of fish as human food reached a new all-time high in 2008, underscoring the key role of the sector in providing income for subsistence and small-scale fishers and food for billions of consumers who benefit from an excellent source of affordable, high-quality animal protein – protein that is particularly important for mothers-to-be and young children. Although the rate of global aquaculture growth is falling, aquaculture remains the fastest-growing animal-food-producing sector, now accounting for almost half of total food fish supply. While *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010* makes the point that world capture fisheries production has been relatively stable in the past decade, it does voice concern about the state of stocks exploited by marine capture fisheries.

Fisheries and aquaculture are a crucial source of income and livelihood for hundreds of millions of people around the world, with the increase in employment in the sector outpacing world population growth and employment in traditional agriculture. Women play a vital role in fisheries and aquaculture, particularly in post-harvest activities. They represent almost half the people working in small-scale fisheries and this figure jumps to over 50 percent for inland fisheries. Reflecting the sector's continually increasing importance in the global market, this publication reports that exports of fish and fishery products reached record values in 2008.

Looking at broader issues in fisheries and aquaculture, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010* emphasizes the growing need to focus on the many facets of policy and governance, especially in relation to employment and poverty alleviation. Among other topics, it examines the impacts on the sector of climate change, biodiversity loss, quality certification and product traceability. It highlights efforts to curb IUU fishing, rent drain and the impact of derelict gear while promoting transparency in the sector, fostering an ecosystem approach to fisheries and enhancing biosecurity in aquaculture. It also points the way forward by encouraging actors at all levels in the sector to make better use of the Internet, GIS, remote sensing and other technological advances to safeguard biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for the sector.

The Outlook section focuses on inland fisheries, which reported catches setting a new high for 2008, and their significant role in many small communities where they make a vital contribution to poverty alleviation and food security. It stresses the need for inland fisheries to be better reflected in government policies for rural development and particularly in programmes concerning the use of freshwater.

It is my hope that *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010* will give readers an accurate and useful view of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, and that it will also provide an idea of the future the sector is likely to face and of the tools available to help people around the world put into practice and manage responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**ACC**

Aquaculture Certification Council

ACP COUNTRIES

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ALDFG

abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear

APEC

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

CCAMLR

Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

CCRF

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

COFI

Committee on Fisheries

EAF

ecosystem approach to fisheries

EAFM

ecosystem approach to fisheries management

EEA

European Economic Area

EEZ

exclusive economic zone

EU

European Union

FAD

fish aggregating device

FDA

Food and Drug Administration (United States of America)

FIGIS

FAO Fisheries Global Information System

FIRMS

Fishery Resources Monitoring System

FSMS

food safety management scheme

GDP

gross domestic product

GEF

Global Environment Facility

GIS

geographic information system

HACCP

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (system)

ICCAT

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

IMO

International Maritime Organization

IOC

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

IPOA-IUU

FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

ITQ

individual transferable quota

IUU

illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

LIFDC

low-income food-deficit country

LOA

length overall

MARPOL

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

MCS

monitoring, control and surveillance

MPA

marine protected area

MSE

management strategies evaluation

NAFO

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

NAMA

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

NASCO

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

NEAFC

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

NEI

not elsewhere included

NGO

non-governmental organization

NPOA

national plan of action

OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OIE

World Organisation for Animal Health

RAC

Regional Advisory Council

RFB

regional fishery body

RFMO

regional fisheries management organization

RSN

Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

SPS AGREEMENT

Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

SSB

spawning stock biomass

TAC

total allowable catch

TBT AGREEMENT

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNFSA

United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

UVI

unique vessel identifier

VME

vulnerable marine ecosystem

VMS

vessel monitoring system

WHO

World Health Organization

WTO

World Trade Organization

WWF

World Wide Fund for Nature