



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Virtual Dialogues on the Path to the 34th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries

15-17 July 2020

Zoom Webinar

Fisheries and aquaculture sustainability: lessons from SOFIA 2020

16 July 2020 – 13:00-14:30 (CEST)

This event is only open to members and observers of COFI via invitation

Event Summary

Since 1994 the FAO publishes a biennial *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report* (SOFIA), a flagship publication that has become a global reference on the status and trends in global and regional fisheries and aquaculture. The data, statistics and information provided are important tools to support science, management and decision-making processes for Members to improve resource sustainability. The Report is usually launched in time for Members to discuss its findings at the biennial FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed these plans, with COFI 34 being postponed until 2021. Instead, SOFIA 2020 was launched at a global and open webinar on June 8, Oceans Day. Within the framework of the *Virtual Dialogues on the Path for COFI 34*, this side event provides an opportunity for COFI members and observers to offer their views on the recommendations emerging from SOFIA 2020.

Furthermore, influenced by the successful [FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability](#), and the [SOFIA 2020](#) Report, the Bureau of COFI has been drafting a *COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture*, to be presented for endorsement by members at COFI 34. In this side event the main messages from SOFIA 2020 and from the *Declaration* will be presented, followed by interventions from COFI members on these documents. To ensure all voices are heard, members and observers are encouraged to submit beforehand written statements by the 9 of July, as these will be compiled and presented at the COFI 34 meeting.

AGENDA

Thursday 16 July 2020

**13:00-14:30 FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SUSTAINABILITY:
LESSONS FROM SOFIA 2020**

Welcome and introduction

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|
| 13:00-13:05 | Welcome and instructions | Vera Agostini Deputy Director FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (Moderator) |
| | Opening remarks | Maria Helena Semedo Deputy Director-General FAO Climate and Natural Resources |

Lessons from SOFIA 2020

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| 13:05-13:10 | SOFIA 2020 overview | Short video |
| 13:10-13:25 | Key messages from SOFIA 2020 to drive sustainability forward | Manuel Barange Director FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department |

Draft Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 13:25-13:35 | Presentation of the draft Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture | Renée Sauvé Director International Oceans Policy, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, Fisheries and Oceans |
|-------------|---|---|

Open discussion

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 13:35-14:20 | Interventions from FAO members ¹ | Each panelist will be given 3' to offer their views on SOFIA 2020 and the COFI Declaration. |
| 14:20-14:25 | Responses to interventions | Manuel Barange Director FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department |

Closing remarks

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| 14:25-14:30 | Closing remarks and next steps towards COFI 34 | Sidi Mouctar Dicko (Guinea) Chair of COFI |
|-------------|--|---|

¹ Given the time constraints up to two FAO members from each Regional Group will be invited as panelists in the event. Bureau members will be consulted to select the FAO members invited as panelists.

This event is only open to members and observers of COFI via invitation

Twitter: #COFIDialogues

Webpage: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/cofi34-virtual-dialogues/en/>