



COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 14 INDICATORS UNDER FAO CUSTODIANSHIP

Executive Summary

This document provides a summary of the 2024 edition of the biennial FAO flagship publication, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA). It reviews the key role of SOFIA within the global framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in supporting the work of decision-makers, and provides an overview of the current status, trends and prospects in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This document also provides a summary of the progress of the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) and related instruments by Members, as well as an update on the status of progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 indicators under FAO custodianship.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- (i) Comment on the importance of FAO's role in reporting on the state of world fisheries and aquaculture in the context of the COFI mandate and suggest improvements;
- (ii) Underline the relevance of SOFIA in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (iii) Reflect on the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, including synergies with other Sustainable Development Goals;
- (iv) Note the record response rate by Members to the Questionnaire for Monitoring the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, and
- (v) Welcome the key role played by FAO in monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 indicators under FAO custodianship, and in providing inputs for publications such as the Global SDG progress report.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Manuel Barange
Assistant Director-General/Director
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division
Email: Manuel.Barange@fao.org

I. STATE OF THE WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Introduction

1. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2024 is the sixteenth edition of the biennial series which started in 1994. Launched in Costa Rica on 8 June 2024, at the High-Level Event on Ocean Action *Immersed in Change*, its preparation and production are the result of 15-month process, supervised by an editorial board under the overall direction of a core executive group. SOFIA 2024 contributions were prepared by FAO authors, in collaboration with external experts where appropriate. The publication was peer-reviewed both internally and by highly respected external experts.

2. This SOFIA 2024 edition is devoted to “*Blue Transformation in action*”, illustrating activities and initiatives led by FAO in collaboration with Members, partners and key stakeholders, with the objective of integrating aquatic foods into global food security and sustainability, enhance policy advocacy and accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The longstanding Part 1 on the world review of status and trends in the sector, as well as on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14) indicators under FAO custodianship, has benefitted from improved data collection methodology, tools and analyses. Part 2 sets the scene for reporting and demonstrating Blue Transformation in action in global and regional fora, as well as in the field. Part 3 presents an outlook on future trends up to 2032 based on FAO projections, and addresses contemporary issues related to aquatic food systems with evidence-based information, providing policy and technical insights on challenges and innovations shaping the sector.

Role and influence of SOFIA Publication

4. SOFIA has evolved over the decades, asserting its importance at the science–policy interface. This has been recognised previously by the Committee and through authoritative studies,¹ user surveys and evaluations,² and publications.³

5. Media and citation analysis and web traffic confirm the wide interest in SOFIA, making it the most consulted FAO flagship publication. By April 2024, SOFIA 2020 had totalled an exceptional 6,018 citations⁴ in scientific publications, a score significantly boosted by COVID- related digital hyperactivity. Likewise, SOFIA 2022 performed equally well with an average of 54 citations⁵ per month. Across all SOFIA products, including the In Brief for policy makers, the Interactive Story for the media and general public, and the Full Interactive Report in digital version, SOFIA 2022 had 561,000 page views and 40,000 pdf downloads, 15 percent higher – within 22 months following publication – than SOFIA 2018 which was mainly engaging its audience through the main book pdf product (420,000 downloads representing 86 percent of user interactions). SOFIA increasingly reaches a diverse audience, with an impressive growing interest for the Full Interactive Report (379,000 page views or 68 percent of all web user actions).

¹ In-depth analysis on the impact of SOFIA, in partnership with Dalhousie University of Halifax Nova Scotia, as part of a project under the ‘Environmental Information: Use and Influence’ initiative.

² Specific assessment conducted in 2014–15 by FAO’s Office of Evaluation, within a broader overall evaluation of FAO flagship information products, assessed the extent to which SOFIA is achieving its intended outcomes.

³ Ababouch, L., Taconet, M., Plummer, J., Garibaldi L. & Vannuccini, S. 2016. Bridging the science–policy divide to promote fisheries knowledge for all: the case of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In B.H. MacDonald, S.S. Soomai, E.M. De Santo & P.G. Wells, eds. Science, information and policy interface for effective coastal and ocean management, pp. 389–417. Boca Raton, Florida, USA, CRC Press.

⁴ Statistics from the Web of Science Core Collection since launch in June 2022 to April 2024.

⁵ Statistics from Altmetrics DOI-based citations since launch for each publication. Altmetrics statistics are accounting the number of times a publication’s digital object identifier (DOI) is used in a digital product, thus enabling to monitor the effectiveness of SOFIA’s promotion through news outlets, blogs, and social media.

6. In 2022, SOFIA⁶ was launched during the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon through a high-level event and a press conference, significantly bolstering SOFIA's media presence. Over 1150 articles were published in various languages. Notable newswires and renowned newspapers from all continents extensively covered the report's key findings and messages. A video news release to FAO media lists also contributed to wider dissemination.

7. More than ever before, SOFIA continues to provide evidence-based information to stakeholders and guidance to policy and decision makers in charge of fisheries and aquaculture. SOFIA 2024 includes an Executive Summary and infographics to illustrate its content and key messages. The following section reports key facts of SOFIA 2024. For comprehensive information, readers are invited to consult⁶ the full publication or its In Brief version.

Highlights of Part 1 in SOFIA 2024 – World Review

8. Total fisheries and aquaculture production reached an all-time record of 223.2 million tonnes in 2022, consisting of 185.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals and 37.8 million tonnes of algae, a 4.3 percent increase from 2020. This growth was driven by aquaculture which produced 130.9 million tonnes, comprising 94.4 million tonnes of aquatic animals and 36.8 million tonnes of algae. For the first time aquaculture contributed a larger aquatic animal production (51 percent) than capture fisheries. World capture fisheries produced 92.3 million tonnes, 1.3 million tonnes of algae and 91.0 million tonnes of aquatic animals, comprising 80 million tonnes from marine environments and 11.3 million tonnes from inland waters. The fraction of marine fishery stocks within biologically sustainable levels decreased to 62.3 percent in 2021, 2.3 percent lower than in 2019.

9. Estimated at 4.9 million vessels in 2022, the world fishing fleet continued to decrease from the 2019 peak of 5.3 million vessels, with Asia hosting 71 percent of the total fleet, followed by Africa (19 percent), Latin America and the Caribbean (5 percent). The primary sector employed around 61.8 million people, 54 percent in fisheries and 36 percent in aquaculture. Where data are disaggregated by sex, women accounted for 24 percent of the jobs in those in the primary sector, reaching 28 percent in the case of inland fisheries and 62 percent in those involved in processing jobs.

10. Utilization and processing of aquatic products continue to improve, supplying 89 percent (165 million) of aquatic animals for human consumption in 2021, equivalent to 20.6 kg per capita. Globally, aquatic animal foods provided 15 percent of animal proteins and 6 percent of all proteins. They contributed 20 percent of the per capita protein supply from all animal sources to 3.2 billion people. Global trade of aquatic products continues to grow, involving over 230 countries and generating a record USD 195 billion in 2022. It represented over 9.1 percent of total agricultural trade (excluding forest products) and about 1 percent of total merchandise trade value.

11. The SDG 14 indicators under FAO's custody have recorded advances in developing the monitoring and reporting methodologies and in the actual uptake of international guidelines and policies to combat IUU fishing (SDG 14.6.1) and to support small-scale fisheries (SDG 14.b). Unfortunately, the indicators for increasing economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources (SDG 14.7.1) and improving resource sustainability (SDG 14.4.1) are lagging.

Highlights of Parts 2 and 3 in SOFIA 2024 – Blue Transformation in action and Outlook and Contemporary Issues

12. In 2021, FAO launched the Blue Transformation vision, aimed at maximizing the opportunities presented by aquatic food systems to enhance food security, improve nutrition, eradicate poverty and support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁶ Official SOFIA webpage www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-world-fisheries-andaquaculture/2022/en

13. In aquaculture, FAO collaborates with Members and a global network of practitioners and experts to support initiatives and disseminate innovations and technology, aiming to achieve healthier, more efficient and safer aquaculture production. Examples include development of the global Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture; implementation of the Global Plan of Action related to Aquatic Genetic Resources ; adoption and implementation of the Progressive Management Pathway for aquaculture biosecurity and antimicrobial resistance; piloting the transfer and adoption of innovative systems and technologies to expand aquaculture into new regions, improve feeding management, encourage aquaculture digitalization; and establishing the Global Sustainable Aquaculture Advancement Partnership.⁷

14. FAO-led initiatives in capture fisheries support the adoption and implementation of international instruments and sustainable practices to enhance national and regional capacity to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; to develop and implement participatory National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOAs-SSF); to strengthen the capacity of regional fishery bodies; to upgrade science-based approaches to manage world fishery resources; and to disseminate cost-effective technologies and innovations on responsible fisheries and aquaculture.

15. With the aim to upgrade aquatic food value chains, FAO supports Members in their efforts to comply with trade agreements and market access requirements; development of global guidance on social responsibility and traceability; dissemination of multidimensional solutions to reduce food loss and waste; and support to the FAO/WHO work on the risks and benefits of aquatic food consumption.

16. The outlook and contemporary issues addressed in SOFIA 2024 focus on the nutritional and health benefits of aquatic foods highlight, for example, home-grown school feeding programmes to produce more aquatic foods and improve nutritional outcomes, at reduced cost and minimising environmental impact. It describes FAO's efforts to increase public awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of aquatic foods. The section also portrays the increasing recognition of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture in global fora in providing sustainable solutions for improving food security, health, economic development and environmental preservation, as seen, for example, in the United Nations Food Systems Summit dialogues, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies and the ongoing negotiations on reducing plastic pollution.

17. The FAO 2022–2032 outlook for fisheries and aquaculture foresees an increase in world production, apparent consumption and trade for the period up to 2032, although at slower rates compared with previous decadal projections. World production of aquatic animals is projected to reach 205 million tonnes in 2032, 111 million tonnes from aquaculture and 94 million tonnes from capture fisheries, with 184 million tonnes destined for human consumption, supplying around 21.3 kg per capita. Per capita apparent consumption will increase in all continents, except in Africa, and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, where production growth may not keep up with population growth. Exports of aquatic products will continue to grow and expected to affect 34 percent of total production.

⁷ www.fao.org/in-action/sustainable-aquaculture-partnership/en

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS

Introduction

18. Article 4 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code) states, *inter alia*, that FAO will report to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) concerning its implementation. This document is the tenth report prepared by the COFI Secretariat to present the key findings on the progress of implementation of the Code and related instruments based on the responses to the questionnaire by Members, RFBs and NGOs. A detailed analysis of the information submitted, namely on the activities and applications of the Code at national level, as well as activities of RFBs and NGOs, is presented in a supplementary information document COFI/2024/Inf/19. Statistical tables summarizing Members' responses are also made available on the COFI Website and in the document COFI/2024/SBD/7 to be read in conjunction with the information document.

19. The questionnaire web-application was re-developed, due to elements of the previous application becoming obsolete. The new application brought back all features present in the old system, while adopting a modern look and feel. With the recent adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment, a new section was developed for Members to report on its implementation.

20. For the 2024 report, 136 Members including the European Union (EU)⁸ (69 percent of Members)⁹ responded to the questionnaire,¹⁰ an increase in comparison to 2022 where 98 Members and the EU responded whilst also marking the highest ever response rate for the questionnaire. Furthermore, 32 RFBs¹¹ and 13 NGOs¹² submitted responses in comparison to 32 and six, respectively in 2022.

21. Since the last report to the Committee in 2022, FAO has published 3 technical guidelines to support the implementation of the provisions foreseen in the Code: Methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing:

⁸ The EU responded on behalf of its Member States, except for sections 19.2, 19.3, 20, 21, 41 and 51. In the case of 41 and 51, both the EU and its Member States have provided a response.

⁹ In this report, reference to "Members" in the context of the analysis of the responses to the questionnaire refers only to those FAO Members that submitted a response to the questionnaire, whose responses were taken into account in compiling the report.

¹⁰ The questionnaire was circulated to FAO Members, RFBs and NGOs by email through the Code questionnaire web-based system on 30 January 2024. Five "registration" reminders and five "submission" reminders were sent between 19 February 2024 and 08 April 2024. One deadline extension was sent on 28 March 2024.

¹¹ Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels; Benguela Current Convention, Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization; Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission; Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna; The Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa; European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission; Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea; General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean; Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission; International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; International Whaling Commission; Mekong River Commission; Network of Aquaculture Centers In Asia-Pacific; Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization; North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission; North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission; North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission; North Pacific Fisheries Commission; Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization; North Pacific Marine Science Organization; Regional Commission for Fisheries; Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization; Pacific Community; South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation; Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission; Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission; South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement; and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission.

¹² Birdlife; Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements; The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers; Friend of the Sea; International Coalition of Fisheries Associations; International Collective in Support of Fishworkers; International Confederation of Sport Fishing; International Seafood Sustainability Association; Integrating Wildlife; Markets and Conservation; Marine Stewardship Council; Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries; Pew Charitable Trusts; and Trygg Mat Tracking.

1.1 Principles and approaches, 1.2 A practical guide to delivering an estimate, and 1.3 A catalogue of examples. The total number of Technical Guidelines in the series is now 37.

Summary on the Progress of the implementation of the Code and related instruments by Members

22. Almost all Members reported having a fisheries policy in place, and on average Members reported that their policy, legislation, institutional framework and operations and procedures were moderately in conformity with the Code. Of those with marine and/or inland fisheries, most reported to have developed and implemented fisheries management plans.

23. Nearly all Members reported to have taken steps to control fisheries operations within their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), while most have also taken such steps outside of their EEZ. Within the EEZ, this was most commonly done through strengthening their MCS schemes and outside their EEZ through mandatory authorisation schemes.

24. Aquaculture development occurs in almost all countries, although global production is dominated by a small number of countries ([FAO, 2024](#)), and only about half the Members have complete and enabling policy, legal and institutional frameworks specifically for aquaculture. Nevertheless, most Members have adopted codes or instruments to promote responsible aquaculture practices, and in many cases the private sector had also done so.

25. Complete and enabling policy, legal and institutional frameworks for integrated coastal zone management have been put in place by just under half of Members with a coastline, with most of the remaining Members having partially developed frameworks. The most common conflicts reported within the coastal area were between different fisheries gear types; however, most of the concerned Members have conflict resolution mechanisms in place.

26. Food safety and quality assurance systems for fish and fisheries products are largely complete and enabled in just over half of Members. Post-harvest losses and waste were reported to be a problem by almost all Members; however almost all of them report having taken appropriate measures to minimise these effects. Measures to improve bycatch utilization have also been widely applied.

27. On average, approximately half of stocks targeted by fishing fleets of Members are subject to formal stock assessments. Three-quarters of Members collect statistics on catch and fishing effort in a timely, complete and reliable manner and two thirds report having sufficient qualified personnel to generate data to support sustainable fisheries management.

28. Members reported on the implementation of various binding international fisheries instruments, or relevance to the Code. Overall, Members reported a high level of implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea¹³ and medium to high level of implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)¹⁴ with regard to their governance framework. Some Members that were not Party to these agreements reported to have initiated the process of becoming so.

29. As regards the Compliance Agreement,¹⁵ Members reported a medium to high level of implementation into their governance framework. In addition, a study conducted by FAO on the Compliance Agreement revealed that the implementation and effectiveness of this Agreement, adopted under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, should be strengthened to bolster the performance of flag States in fulfilling their responsibilities to monitor and control their fishing vessels engaged in fishing

¹³ United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.

¹⁴ 2016 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Revised Edition

¹⁵ 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

operations, operating on the high seas. Furthermore, the study drew up a range of options to be considered in operationalizing the Compliance Agreement to enhance its effectiveness. The study was reviewed and concluded by an expert workshop held on 29–30 April 2024, and is available in the document COFI/2024/SBD/8.

30. In implementing the Code almost all Members face some constraints, which mainly relate to insufficient budgetary and human resources. Access to more financial and human resources, and improving research and statistics were among the primary solutions identified by Members to overcome these constraints.

10th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)

31. 2024 marks the 10th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The first decade has seen increasing levels of uptake and implementation, embedding the SSF Guidelines firmly in global and regional policy processes, within fisheries and beyond. FAO and partners have provided a large amount of guidance, materials and resources, including e-learning and communication materials, to promote these processes. Most importantly, significant uptake at country level has started, paving the way for moving from an international voluntary instrument to firm expressions of political will at national level. This is taking various forms. Several countries in Africa as well as the Philippines have engaged in the development of National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries. Other countries have directly taken up the SSF Guidelines in management plans, policies and legislation. To preserve the participatory spirit of the SSF Guidelines in their implementation, small-scale fisheries organizations at all levels partner in capacity development activities to assess and strengthen their own skills, lead assessment initiatives on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and directly advocate for their interests in relevant policy processes. More information is available in document COFI/2024/INF/13.

III. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 14 INDICATORS UNDER FAO CUSTODIANSHIP

Introduction

32. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continues to shape the strategies of countries, international organizations and civil society, striving for a fair, prosperous and sustainable world in which no one is left behind. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which form the 2030 Agenda are central to the achievement of inclusive, sustainable growth that encompasses environmental, economic and social concerns.

33. FAO provides overall support to Members in integrating the SDGs into national development plans. Food and agriculture are key to sustainable development and FAO continues to support policymaking, partnership-building, capacity development and project implementation built on the three dimensions of sustainability. Both the SDGs and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 are geared towards tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building a fairer society and leaving no one behind. In this regard, FAO fulfils many roles, compiling data and information, setting standards, providing capacity development, and working towards generating advice in support of national decision-making.

34. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) are the expert groups mandated to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Both groups are composed of Members and include regional and international agencies as observers.

35. At the request of Members, and considering the IAEG comprehensive review in 2025, FAO has undertaken an internal review to assess the accuracy and utility of the relevant SDG 14 indicators under its custodianship. It has been noted that alignment between some SDG targets and indicators could be improved, especially as new information becomes available. For example, the eventual implementation of the recently agreed World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies may facilitate the development of an additional indicator in support of SDG 14.6, however, due to strict requirements for data availability and established methodologies, it is not possible to propose such an indicator via the IAEG comprehensive review at this time. Nor is it clear that FAO should lead development of an indicator specific to the WTO Agreement.

36. Finally, as regards concerns from COFI35 in relation to SDG indicator 14.6.1, FAO has not proposed to the IAEG-SDG changes to the methodology of the indicator that would break the time series, such as inclusions of other instruments not currently covered by the indicator. However, the Secretariat would like to clarify that the methodology does account for situations whereby a State may implement the provisions of an Agreement while not being Party to it, for example where relevant measures are implemented in following with a conservation and management measure of a regional fishery management organization. States that are not Party to any of the relevant Agreements and with no intention of becoming a Party, would still fall within the margins of band 5, the highest band, if they had implemented all relevant provisions.

Status of SDG 14 indicators under FAO custodianship¹⁶

37. FAO is the custodian agency for 4 of the 10 indicators for SDG 14. All indicators under SDG 14 for which FAO is the custodian agency are classified as Tier 1, indicating well-established and internationally applicable methodologies.¹⁷ The four indicators are:

14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.

14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries.

14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries.

38. As custodian and coordinator of these SDG indicators,¹⁸ FAO has the direct responsibility to:

- 1) Lead methodological development and documentation of indicators.
- 2) Support statistical capacity of countries to generate and disseminate national data.
- 3) Collect data from national sources and ensure their comparability and consistency.
- 4) Disseminate the data to enable monitoring of progress at the global, regional and national levels.
- 5) Contribute to the annual global SDG progress report for the High-Level Political Forum.

39. Below is a status summary by target and indicator. Status, trends and challenges of these indicators are comprehensively reviewed in SOFIA 2024 (see also paragraph 13). Additional information, including a brief assessment of trends for each indicator, and a summary of further actions required to progress towards achieving the targets, is provided in COFI/2024/INF/20.

¹⁶ Access data on the 21 SDG indicators under FAO custodianship at the global, regional and country levels: www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/data/

¹⁷ SDG indicators classified as Tier 1 are conceptually clear, with an internationally established methodology and available standards, with data regularly produced by countries for at least 50 percent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

¹⁸ For more information see: <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-data-portal/en>

SDG INDICATOR 14.4.1 – Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

40. TARGET: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.

Status assessment: far from target

Trend assessment: deterioration globally, with differing regional trends

SDG INDICATOR 14.6.1 – Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

41. TARGET: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Current status: very close to target

Trend assessment: slight improvement

SDG INDICATOR 14.7.1 – Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

42. TARGET: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

Status assessment: not possible due to absence of a numerical yardstick in target

Trend assessment: slight decline

SDG INDICATOR 14.B.1 – Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

43. TARGET: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Current status: Very close to target

Trend assessment: Slight deterioration