



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

AT A GLANCE

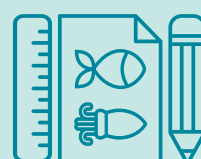
BLUE
TRANSFORMATION

The EAF-Nansen Programme: science for decision-making

Data and information are vital for effective management of fisheries capable of nourishing a growing global population. Scientific advice is central to making key decisions involved in fisheries management such as controlling fishing effort, setting quotas, advising on fishing patterns, and establishing spatial and temporal management measures.

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) is a holistic management approach that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) considers to be the principal framework for achieving sustainable fisheries. Data and knowledge are also important for the EAF, which aims for sustainable and resilient fisheries that can provide economic and social benefits for people while maintaining a healthy, productive and resilient ecosystem. When data and information are limited, the EAF recommends following a precautionary approach to ensure that management measures are in place.

FAO's EAF-Nansen Programme is developing capacities for knowledge-based decision-making and functional fisheries management aligned with the EAF, ultimately contributing to enhanced food and nutrition security for people in partner countries.



2017-2023

Carried out **62** research surveys, involving over **650** scientists.

Shared data contributed to enhance the fisheries management practices of Regional Fisheries Bodies.

Discovered **24** species new to science.

Contributed to science-based fisheries management plans benefiting nine countries.

Trained over **800** individuals in fisheries management, stock assessment, and research.

THE EAF-NANSEN PROGRAMME

The EAF-Nansen Programme is a longstanding partnership between FAO, Norway, and regional and national partners dating back to 1975.

The Programme uses the research vessel *Dr. Fridtjof Nansen* to advance scientific knowledge on marine resources and ecosystems. Through the collection of unique data, the vessel's work contributes to the monitoring and assessment of fisheries resources, while also addressing pressing global concerns such as biodiversity conservation and the impacts of climate change, pollution, and human activities on marine ecosystems.



RESEARCH VESSEL DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN

The Programme has had three research vessels, all named after the late Norwegian scientist, explorer and humanitarian renowned for his ocean research contributions, *Dr. Fridtjof Nansen*. The current ship is a state-of-the-art research vessel that besides gathering data and information, also serves as a training facility for researchers and early-career scientists. The vessel has modern laboratories and instrumentation for the monitoring and analysis of fish, plankton, benthos, and seawater. It also features a cutting-edge acoustic centre to monitor and record underwater data captured by several types of echosounders.



WHEN SCIENCE SERVES SUSTAINABILITY

Over the years, the Programme has gathered extensive data collections from marine areas around Africa, Asia, South America, and Central America. These collections are accessible to member countries where surveys are conducted. A dedicated online metadata portal is now available, enabling interested stakeholders to find relevant information on these surveys.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FISHERIES

Understanding the impacts of climate change is highly relevant when addressing the sustainability and resilience of fisheries resources and global food security. Climate change alters the structure and function of marine ecosystems. Time series on the distribution and abundance of resources and their environment can be used to investigate this issue. By generating data on ocean acidification, the Programme has created a time series that can contribute to assessing climate change impacts on marine organisms and habitats.

PHASES OF THE PROGRAMME

Over the years, while food and nutrition security has been an overall goal, the focus of the Programme's work has shifted from developing the fisheries sector to making it more sustainable, responding to new challenges and the needs of recipient countries such as climate change and pollution.

From 2024 to 2028, the EAF-Nansen Programme will intensify its efforts to improve food and nutrition security in partner countries, placing a stronger focus on strengthening fisheries management in response to the impacts of climate change.

Scan this code to read more about the EAF-Nansen Programme:
www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen/en/



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