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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Relevant activities carried out by FAO during the intersessional period
(July 2022-June 2023)

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1. Introduction

This document provides an overview of the FAO work of relevance to CWP carried out since CWP 27 in June 2022. More detailed information on previous activities is available in the [FAO report](#) presented at CWP 27.

2. Global and regional statistics

FAO is the only source of global fisheries and aquaculture statistics, which represent a unique global asset for sector analysis and monitoring. The FAO Statistics Team (NFISS) of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) is responsible for the collection, compilation, validation, analysis and dissemination of these statistics, which are structured within different data collections (total, capture and aquaculture production, processed production of aquatic products, trade of aquatic products, apparent consumption of aquatic products, fishers and fish farmers and fleet data.

FAO fisheries and aquaculture statistics are currently available for more than seven decades (1950-2021) for the majority of the datasets – the longest time-series of any statistical dataset published by FAO. Fisheries and aquaculture production statistics up to 2021 were the first data released in March 2023 and work is in progress to finalize the update and release of the other data (trade, processed production of aquatic products, fleet, employment and food balance sheets) during the year, starting with trade data of aquatic products and food balance sheets in June-July.

In addition FAO is expected to release three regional capture databases for CECAF (Eastern Central Atlantic), RECOFI (Regional Commission for Fisheries, - covering part of Western Indian Ocean), and the Southeast Atlantic during summer 2023. At present fleet and employment statistics are only publically disseminated for selected countries and in aggregated format in the FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics.

Work continued to further improve the quality of the FAO statistics through revision and improvement of questionnaires used to collect data from member countries; ad hoc collection of value of capture fisheries; support to selected member countries to facilitate their reporting of data; revision of historical time series in the light of new information; new estimation methodologies on employment carried out together with OECD; the migration of the quite totality of the fisheries and aquaculture statistical databases to the FAO Corporate Statistical Working System with an improvement of the estimation methodologies for processed production,

trade and Food Balance Sheets. Thanks to this migration, this year will be the third year in which FAO will disseminate trade statistics of aquatic products by partners, in addition to trade data by countries, flows and products.

The FAO fisheries and aquaculture statistics are disseminated through different tools including the [online query panel](#), [FishStatJ](#) and the [FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics](#).

FishStatJ is a desktop application (Windows and Mac) that is the best option for use by advanced users to access FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics. Through it, data can be extracted and aggregated according to different level of details and international standard classifications. It consists of a main application and several workspaces that include the datasets. In May 2023, an enhanced version of FishStatJ (version 4.03.02) was released, which features minor improvements.

In late 2021 FAO disseminated a new query panel for the dissemination of its fisheries and aquaculture statistics. The metadata for the new query panel is based on the FishStatJ data model, thus providing the same functionality for filtering and aggregation as FishStatJ in a modern web-based user interface. Some further improvements are expected to be implemented in particular with the addition of metadata.

FishStat has now new dedicated [webpages](#) on the revamped Fisheries and aquaculture pages. More work is expected to be carried out with the addition of dynamic and interactive graphs and maps and improved metadata.

A revised version of the FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics will be disseminated in the next few months. In 2023 two issues are expected to be released: one covering data up to 2020 (last year release) and another with 2021 data. This new version is totally revised as presenting data and statistics through more analytical tables, graphs and maps rather than simply extractions or aggregations as in the previous yearbook. It is generated with R in order to update it in more automated way every year.

3. Inter-agency collaboration in statistics reporting and on development of new tools

On the sharing of fisheries and aquaculture statistics, FAO has continued to have a good collaboration with many CWP Member organizations including Eurostat, SEAFDEC, GFCM, IWC and OECD. FAO and OECD are actively working together to streamline the collection of fisheries and aquaculture employment statistics with an harmonization of the employment data and a joint collection for 50 countries. In addition, work has been carried by the two organizations to improve the quality of the employment statistics also through the development of standard imputation methodologies. Furthermore, OECD has decided to stop collecting data on inland fisheries and aquaculture and source them directly from FAO disseminated databases. OECD is also extracting trade data directly from FAO and not anymore from Comtrade, which is in any case the main source of FAO trade statistics, with the exception of the European Union countries for which FAO extracts trade data from Eurostat.

Since mid-June 2022, Eurostat stopped the sharing of capture fisheries statistics, as already done for aquaculture data in the past few years, due to an increasing number of countries providing confidential data that Eurostat cannot share. Discussions are currently on-going between the two organizations to find a solution that will benefit both organizations and reduce the burden on the reporting countries. For the European Union countries fleet and trade data are directly taken by FAO from the Eurostat website.

FAO has also recently collaborated with the World Bank on the development of a fishery module to be used in household surveys and data questionnaires for fisheries and of a Statistical Capacity Assessment Tool (F-SCAT) to obtain a preliminar assessment of the capacity of statistical and related agencies to collect, collate, curate, analyse, and disseminate fisheries data.

4. Collaboration in the revision of international classifications and manuals

FAO is currently involved in different international tasks groups for the revision of selected international classifications including the Central Product Classification (CPC), the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and the Harmonized System Nomenclature (HS). For the CPC, the proposal is to include additional products to improve the breakdown of fisheries and aquaculture products in the classification. For the HS, FAO has not done directly a proposal in the revision process for HS2027, but FAO attended the recent meeting of the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee (HSRSC) of the World Customs Organization

(WCO) on 5-9 June 2023 to support a few proposed changes on some of the HS subheadings in relation to fisheries and aquaculture.

For the ISCO classification, FAO proposed the split of the current classification for employment for inland and coastal fisheries. In addition FAO is part of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics recently created that has the main role to revise the Manual on the International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010 (IMTS 2010) and the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010), Work on all these revisions has recently started. FAO can collaborate with other CWP Members interested in the improvement of those classifications and manuals.

The ASFIS list of species was created in 2000 to: a) revise and update the taxonomic classification of the species items represented in the FAO statistics; b) streamline the inclusion of new species, for which statistics were reported, in the FAO databases; and c) provide fishery commissions and national institutions with a common coding system for species related to fishery activities. The ASFIS list is annually updated and new records are assigned for newly reported species or according to requests by CWP Members. In its last update (released in July 2022), the ASFIS list included 13 417 species items. The next release of the ASFIS list is planned for July-August 2023 and the updated list will be made available promptly in the [ASFIS webpage](#) and the users will be informed through an e-mail message.

The new International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) was implemented within the FAO fisheries and aquaculture reference data repository and all [fishing gear fact sheets](#) have been updated with the new ISSCFG codes and acronyms. In collaboration with the FAO Fishing Technology and Operations Team (NFIFO) of FAO NFI, a content review was also completed for 12 fishing gears fact sheets and were published in the new NFI website.

An immediate use of the new ISSCFG and ISSCFV codes was for the new FAO fact sheets domain "Marine mammal bycatch mitigation". Twelve fact sheets were developed by FAO in collaboration with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and they can be browsed at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/bycatch-mitigation-mammals/search> while an Introduction to marine mammal bycatch and relevant bibliography can be found at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/bycatchmitigationmammals> Several of these fact sheets contains references to fishing gear type or vessel type when relevant. Inquiries can be addressed to the Technology and Operations Team of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.

5. Capacity building in fisheries and aquaculture statistics

FAO has been active since the 1970s in supporting efforts by national institutions to improve national data collection systems, through the development of projects, training activities, publications and software. Whenever possible, collaboration with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) has been always sought to develop such activities. Different countries have received capacity building support from FAO the majority of which on methodologies for data collection in small scale marine fisheries and supporting information system.

Initiatives to support and strengthen capacities in data collection include the utilization of Open ARTFISH developed by Stamatopoulos (2002) and de Graaf et al. (2014). The overall approach is described in the "*International training course in fisheries statistics and data collection*" which has been published (in English and in French). It is a has been regularly used by many countries since 2011 (last deployed in Djibouti in 2021) and it is being currently upgraded to a more user-friendly version.

Support to FAO Members also includes the Calipseo platform, a web-based platform for simple and easy deployment and rolling-out of National Fisheries Statistics and Management Information System in requesting Member Countries. It targets FAO Members with more advanced resources in IT and statistics than required for the deployment of OpenArtFish. The platform provides IT solutions to manage administrative data (vessel registries, fishers licences), exploitation data (landing, catch, effort), biological and socio-economic data as well as computation resources to produce statistics (e.g., catch and effort), and analytical dashboards for interactive reporting. The analytical dashboards allow exporting aggregated data reports for regional frameworks based on the CWP Reference Harmonization (RH) digital implementation guidelines (e.g., Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission WECAFC)- Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), RFMO reporting templates (e.g. GFCM, ICCAT) and global reports (FAO). The platform is a FAO corporate tool based and implementing standards concepts (CWP), definitions (CWP, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business - UN/CEFACT) and classifications (ASFIS, ISSFCG, ISSFCV, etc.). It is planned to be published as an open-

source project and options for long-term maintenance are being explored to secure support after the end of implementation projects.

Through different projects supported by Japan's Government (GCP/INT/228/JPN and GCP/GLO/193/JPN projects) DG MARE (Phase 1 to 3 of WECAFC-FIRMS agreement) and World Bank (Bangladesh Trust Funds), GEF (CC4FISH project on Climate Change, REBYC II LAC on reduction of by catch) Green Climate Funds (Saint Lucia Readiness project), GFCM funds and TCP projects (Guyana). Calipseo has now been successfully deployed in Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Grenada, Lebanon and Bangladesh. It's being finalized for Dominica and prepared for Saint Lucia, Guyana, Mauritius and Albania. The application is now fully operation and stable; it can read data collected with a kobotoolbox mobile application and further development will include creation of a dedicated mobile application for catch and effort data collection and enrichment with more data flow such as trade data. Communication materials have been developed and published (leaflet, [FAO Calipseo webpage](#)).

In collaboration with the WECAFC, FAO has also developed the WECAFC Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF), with the aim to provide WECAFC members a data collection and reporting framework with the definition of minimum data requirements to support countries to effectively monitor fishing activities. DCRF has been endorsed by WECAFC during its eighteenth Commission Meeting in July 2022. WECAFC DCRF has contributed to hands-on implementation of CWP reference harmonization principle by providing standard data exchange format for Catch (task II.1) and effort (task II.2) harmonized with FIRMS and Tuna Atlas.

The WECAFIS is now based on the pilot FIRMS Data Collection Framework [dcf-shiny](#) tool developed by FAO as part of EC Blue-Cloud project and FIRMS. The tool (and then WECAFIS) builds on top of digital implementation guidelines (see document CWP-IS_2023_5.4.c) as ongoing standard proposal from the CWP ad hoc task group on Reference Harmonization.

Since 2020, FAO has continued to collaborate with the the Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) to support the FCWC Secretariat and countries to align their regional database to the CWP reference harmonization standard, in addition to ensuring consistency and comparability with the FAO capture production database. Different capacity building activities were organized as also trainings in FIRMS and fishery statistics with the goal to finalize the pending inventories and to expand the FCWC regional database to industrial fisheries. In 2022 the FAO-FCWC activities continued by improving the regional database both in terms of data submissions and by implementing data services (FCWC APIs). The FCWC data services include queries for artisanal and industrial catch and effort by species, fishing units and countries. Where applicable, unique identifiers of the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) were also added. A fisheries statistical assessment in Nigeria was also performed in October 2022 to evaluate the current status of Nigeria's fisheries data collection. The outcome of these activities is a continued collaboration expected to strengthen the knowledge and expertise within FCWC member states in terms of fisheries data collection systems required for successful data reporting at national, regional and global level. Moreover, it is aimed to achieve a streamlined workflow for the FCWC regional fisheries database, and to provide support to CECAF – Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic and its working groups.

As a result of these capacity building activities, an inventory of 38 fisheries for the six FCWC Member States were built and information publicly disseminated in form of FIRMS Fishery fact sheets (reporting year 2020-2022). The FCWC regional database on small scale fisheries is operational and currently hosts time series of data for the recent year (2018-2021) while the collection and submission of data for the year of reference 2022 is in progress. Moreover, the structure of the FCWC regional database has been configured to host industrial fisheries statistics on catch and effort.

FAO has also collaborated during the last few years with Zambia to strengthen their aquaculture statistical data collection system. A new questionnaire has been developed for the collection of data

In addition, FAO has carried out training courses in fisheries statistics: for Panama and other Central American Countries in June 2022, in Saint Lucia in April 2023 and other trainings are expected to be carried out for WIOMSA countries (on data management).

As custodian agency of four SDG indicators under SDG 14, FAO has been active to provide a framework for consistent and comparable national reporting as well as to estimate regional and global indicators, which includes an important effort into capacity building (see Section 9.1).

6. Regional and global workshops

Three regional workshops and one global workshop have been convened on-line on 12-13 July 2022 for Americas (90 participants from 32 countries out of 35), 26-27 July 2022 for Asia and Pacific (58 participants from 28 countries out of 54), and 13-14 September 2022 for Africa, Mediterranean, Middle East (104 participants from 52 countries out of 84), with a good global coverage for all regions. These regional workshops were co-organized with InfoFish as a forum where responsible officers and experts in each region could discuss all together on issues and challenges faced in the collection of fisheries statistics, with the goal to identify the key priorities and needs for the region.

A global workshop was convened 8th and 9th November 2022 with 90 FAO Members represented to draw conclusions from the outcomes of the three regional workshops on fisheries statistics (Americas, Asia and Pacific, and Africa, Mediterranean and Middle East). Main endorsed recommendations from FAO Members were to have “Improved trainings for data collectors, observers, statisticians, etc”, put “Higher priority for digitization and rapid data flow” and “Align budget and human resources to fisheries institution mandate”, highlighting the main concerns and needs of Members in the production of fisheries statistics. The global workshop concluded by endorsing the need for a global strategy for fisheries statistics which could be built on the FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (STF) initiated in 2000 and implemented until 2010.

7. The Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like species

During the intersessional period work continued on the development of the Global Tuna Atlas (GTA) that was released at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/firms-tuna-atlas?lang=en> and officially launched with promotional support on the 1st May 2022 on the occasion of the World Tuna day 2022.

The GTA collates and harmonizes public domain datasets from all Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) and it is under the governance umbrella of the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), as per decisions taken at the FIRMS FSC11.

A FIRMS TWG on the GTA has been set up, including a core group of FAO stakeholders and representatives from the five t-RFMOs. Its achievements and recommendations were presented and endorsed at the FIRMS FSC12 (October 2021) with revisions to the “Fishing fleet” concept developed by this TWG formally endorsed by the CWP27 and accepted for publication in the CWP handbook. The GTA currently includes the most recent statistical datasets available from the 5 t-RFMOs (up to 2021), which are processed into *level 0* datasets and made available as harmonized nominal catches and geo-referenced catches by 1°x1° and 5°x5° grids (and a combination of the two).

The GTA TWG has also prepared *level 1* datasets that include catches in number converted into catches in weight on the basis of spatialized average-length-to-average-weight conversion factors, and with recommendation to FSC13 for its publishing.

The GTA currently offers online access to level 0 datasets through different tools including its map viewer, a metadata catalogue, and DOIs.

Following endorsement of the CWP standard for Reference Harmonization (RH) by CWP26, and of the first version of its implementation guidelines by CWP27, the GTA TWG has also worked intersessionally to pilot the implementation of the proposed CWP RH digital implementation guidelines including its proposed data exchange format standard (Cf. Document CWP-IS_2023/5.4.c) with the goal to streamline the annual data submission from tRFMOs to the GTA, and to test and further contribute to the development of the RH guidelines. Both ICCAT and IOTC successfully implemented the pilot and results are being reported by the CWP Task Group on RH.

8. Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF)

GRSF is a global repository of uniquely identified stocks and fisheries resulting from collation and merging of records across multiple data sources and namely FIRMS, RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database, FishSource (program of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership) and FAO SDG 14.4.1. questionnaires.

The GRFS is a collaborative instrument to collectively support the global monitoring of fish stocks and fisheries status. It can be tailored for use by countries / regional organizations / fishery-related institutions etc. to enable/facilitate the dissemination and monitoring of their information.

Likewise, the Tuna Atlas, the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) stems from a FAO initiative funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 BlueBRIDGE project (2016-2018).

The GRSF was already presented to CWP in the 2017 at the CWP Inter-sessional Aquaculture and Fishery Subject Groups Meetings (Copenhagen, Denmark 19-22 June 2017), particularly the standard for the unique identification of stocks and fisheries.

As that report reads <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7805e.pdf>: the main technical challenge in the setting up of the GRSF is the harmonization of the different existing standards (international, regional and national) from different data sources, with the aim to build unique identifiers for stocks and fisheries.

To address this, the GRSF proposes a global standard for Unique Identifiers of stocks and fisheries, which was developed to distinguish/aggregate stocks and fisheries records extracted from the three source databases. Two type of identifiers were conceived: the Universally Unique Identifier (UUID), a machine-readable code for the unique identification of GRSF records; and the GRSF Semantic Identifier, a human-readable code and label for the GRSF records metadata.

The UUID aims to respond to the required global IT standards: it is made of two URL components, the resolver, and the UUID per se. Designed to be human readable, the Semantic Identifier is made of codes and labels which combined together result in unique identification of stocks and fisheries.

<Species> + <Assessment Area(s)> are the two key pieces of information needed to identify a fishery stock; for fisheries the following information is required for the identification of fishing units: <Species> + <Assessment Area(s)> + <Management Authority(ies)> + <Management or Reporting Area(s)> + <Flag State> + <Gear type>

Unique fishery stocks or fisheries are therefore validated against the above fields. It should be noted that fishery records are identified as per the fishing unit concept from the point of view of fishing activity (1 species, 1 gear, 1 flag state) . As reported above, progress is being achieved in developing the GRSF GIS layer with national layers with the aim to map the fishing units with the adequate geospatial code. Each field is based on global standards (e.g. ASFIS, WoRMS, ISSCFG, ISO3 country), but “local” standards can be adopted if they are maintained. More information on the GRSF standard can be found in the FIRMS FSC13 meeting document “FIRMS FSC13/2023/Inf.7 - The GRSF standard”.

Work also continued on the GRSF during the intersessional period. To address the problem of the harmonization of the different existing standards (international, regional and national) from different data sources, the GRSF proposes a global standard for Unique Identifiers of fish stocks and fisheries, which was developed to distinguish/aggregate stocks and fisheries records extracted from the three source databases. Two type of identifiers were conceived: the Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) a machine-readable code for the unique identification of GRSF records; and the GRSF Semantic Identifier, a human-readable code and label for the GRSF records metadata. A pilot release of the GRSF is available through the iMarine e-infrastructure.

Following FIRMS FSC12, efforts in 2022/23 focused on: i) improving georeferencing of national fish stock units through the identification of relevant national GIS layers and their mapping with the fish stock records; ii) along with the improved georeferencing, the further review of fish stocks records and approve for publishing, and iii) the first upload of the reference lists of stocks from 28 national SDG14.4.1 questionnaires submitted by countries in the first November 2019 call and validated by FAO through its quality assurance process.

As of June 2023, 2 514 fish stock records of which 147 archived (i.e. no longer monitored) are disseminated to the public. These include new stock units (348) submitted by countries through the SDG14.4.1 questionnaire and validated by FAO through its Quality Assurance review process.

Regarding the geospatial improvements, the progress to date includes a total of 2 837 areas defined from 14 countries and 15 international organisations and RFBs; these areas could be grouped by categories into 402 assessment areas, 921 statistical areas, 1 209 management areas and 305 biological areas. Such areas have been added in the GRSF GIS database and water areas_vocabulary within a metadata structure based on the CWP GIS recommended standards.

9. SDGs and related methodologies, tools and activities

The main focus of this section is on the four indicators of SDG 14 for which FAO is custodian. All four indicators are in the Tier I category.

FAO is continuously conducting workshops at national, regional and global levels to support countries in collecting, analyzing and using the SDG indicators in decision-making. These activities were reported in SOFIA 2022 and for the first time, SOFIA 2024 will include the biennial monitoring of these four SDG indicators in its Part 1 on sectoral trends. A recent example (May to November 2022) is FAO coordinating a working group for Latin American countries to develop monitoring capacity on the four SDG 14 indicators under FAO custodianship.

9.1. SDG 14.4.1

9.1.1. Global monitoring and reporting strategy, e-learning

SDG 14.4.1 ‘Proportion of fish stocks within biological levels’ is a Tier I indicator currently based on FAO’s SOFIA stock status indicator which covers a time series starting in the 1970s and relies on regional estimates. SDG 14.4.1 requires countries to report on their national indicator and FAO, as custodian agency for the indicator, to provide a framework for consistent and comparable national reporting as well as to estimate regional and global indicators. An [e-learning course](#) aimed at providing guidelines to stakeholders for the monitoring and reporting on SDG 14.4.1 was published and made available in [French, Spanish and Russian](#). The course addresses various audiences and explains the practical significance of the indicator, reviews the existing assessment methodologies, teaches new methods applicable in data limited contexts, and explains how to calculate the indicator and meet the reporting requirements. The driving principles to the guidelines include transparency, consistency, communication and collaboration with RFBs, and timeliness and adherence to international standards in their data and statistical production. Reporting occurs through a specific questionnaire, and monitoring will benefit from the issuing of unique identifiers for stocks through FIRMS/GRSF, which are built upon CWP standards. SDG 14.4.1 is an opportunity for FAO to improve the granularity of reference stocks upon which the SOFIA regional and global indicator is based. The results of the first 2019 questionnaire call were reported to UNSD in February 2022 and published, and the submissions from countries to the second questionnaire call (November 2022) are currently being analysed with the reporting to UNSD planned for February 2024.

Regional capacity development trainings are a major part of the outreach to countries towards improving monitoring and reporting of their coastal fisheries. These have taken place since 2019, and include a workshop in Bangkok for countries in South and South-East Asia, and in Zanzibar for countries in the Western Indian Ocean. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, workshops moved online and included a training on all four SDG14 indicators from July to December 2021 for the Pacific Island States. A global series of online courses in three different languages (English, Spanish, French) was carried out during November 2021 to February 2022. The workshops were language-oriented, with an English workshop for West Africa, the Mediterranean, English-speaking Caribbean, Southern and Southeast Asia and East Africa; a workshop in French for the Mediterranean, Western and Northern Africa, and French-speaking Caribbean ; and a workshop in Spanish for Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean . In each region-language case, any additional countries sharing the same language but outside the focus regions were invited to participate, taking into account time lags among regions. The general objectives of the workshop and training series were to raise awareness and understanding of the tools and methodologies developed on SDG Indicator 14.4.1; discuss challenges related to data collection, data availability and sources, analysis and reporting, to identify solutions and priority capacity development needs at the national level; provide hands-on training towards reporting the Indicator; and engage in dialogues between national fisheries agencies, national statistics offices and national SDG focal points to facilitate SDG 14.4.1 monitoring and reporting. More recently, a specific workshop was delivered to RECOFI members in August 2022 upon request of RECOFI Secretariat, and a workshop to raise awareness and foster participation of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries in reporting on SDG14.4.1 was organized by IORA in partnership with FAO in January 2023.

FAO is revising and piloting a new methodology for State of Stocks (SOS) that feeds into SOFIA, which will then become the SDG 14.4.1 regional and global indicator. The new methodology, based on a tiered approach to stock status determination, will build on an expanded reference list of stocks, developed with the engagement of countries, with a focus on transparency. It will continue to generate stock status indices at FAO

fishing regions level, where gaps in assessment can be narrowed over time in a process of continuous improvement. Interim results will be published in SOFIA 2024.

9.2. *SDG 14.6.1*

This indicator is dedicated to monitor the Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing¹.

A framework of international instruments have been developed addressing different aspects of fisheries management which together provide a powerful suite of tools to combat IUU fishing. The FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, the first international binding Agreement developed expressly to combat IUU fishing, since its coming into force in June 2016.

The indicator is based upon responses by States to a certain sections of the questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (CCRF). The first analysis on trends of this indicator was published in SOFIA 2022.

9.3. *SDG indicator 14.b.1*

9.3.1. *Status of SDG indicator 14.b.1*

The FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in June 2014. These guidelines represent a global consensus on SSF governance and development and are the result of a long and participatory development process. Grounded in the human rights based approach, they provide a tool for various stakeholders to improve the conditions of the sector.

The SDG Indicator 14.b.1 measures policy progress of SSFs towards access to resources and markets. The indicator is built on the responses from countries, regional organizations and observers to a dedicated section of the Questionnaire of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which is collected on a biennial basis by FAO. The Indicator has been upgraded as a Tier I indicator. It is expected to provide an improved understanding of the SSF sector and to support the monitoring of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. An e-learning course on the Indicator has been developed in six languages and can be accessed from the SDG14.b.1 webpage². The first analysis on trends of this indicator was published in SOFIA 2022.

9.4. *SDG indicator 14.7.1*

SDG indicator 14.7.1 (Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island Developing States, least developed countries and all countries). This indicator, under FAO custodianship, expresses the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a proportion of GDP. In the present methodology³, the quantity of marine capture fisheries as a proportion of total production is used as a proxy for the proportion of value added. Efforts of FAO and CWP Parties to collect the monetary value of capture fisheries, starting with publishing this socio-economic dimension as a global standard in the CWP handbook, will contribute to improvements in national GDP estimates. The first analysis on trends of this indicator was published in SOFIA 2022.

Additional information and activities

9. Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH): use of case study approach

In March 2023 the publication Illuminating Hidden Harvests (IHH) was officially launched. It represents a global study into the contributions and impacts of small-scale fisheries in the context of sustainable development. The study has been led by FAO, Duke University and the CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems led by WorldFish. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Oak Foundation and CGIAR Trust Fund have provided funding for the study. The IHH study represents one of the most extensive efforts to compile available data and information on small-scale fisheries around the world. It aims to contribute evidence to inform global

¹ <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1461/en/>

² <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/14b1/en/>

³ <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1471/en/>

dialogues and policy-making processes to enable fishers, civil society organizations and NGOs to advocate for productive, sustainable and equitable small-scale fisheries.

The IHH study has used a case study approach to engage with local expertise in priority countries that have substantial small-scale fisheries sectors or notable nutritional dependence on small-scale fisheries, both from marine and inland systems. A global synthesis was built from country case study data, available global and regional datasets and responses to a FAO ad-hoc questionnaire to all countries. In addition, a series of thematic studies highlighted available information on important themes, for example: gender, indigenous peoples and cultural identity. The study also used the matrix approach at scores fisheries with respect to the scale of their operation across multiple characteristics, to better understand the nature of the fisheries in the 58 country and territory case studies analyzed by the report. As there are no prescribed scoring cutoffs that can be used to separate small-scale fisheries from large-scale fisheries, data from the matrix do not point to a unique, universal definition of small-scale fisheries. However, the matrix provides a standardized approach that can be applied to any fishery to determine where it lies along the continuum of small-scale to large-scale fishing operations, with higher-scoring fishery units sharing many if not all of the characteristics of large-scale fisheries. Furthermore, by scoring each of the fishery characteristics using value ranges drawn from a variety of sources (e.g. from official censuses to expert elicitation), this matrix approach is also suitable for data-limited fisheries. The testing of the matrix will be also analyzed by the CWP ad-hoc Task Group on Small-Scale Fisheries (TG-SSF) during the intersessional work of CWP in 2022-2025.

10. New FAO fisheries and aquaculture webpages

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture website www.fao.org/fishery has been recently revamped with a new design and new informative and structured content. The site presents FAO's vision and work in the three areas of Blue Transformation: Sustainable Aquaculture, Sustainable Fisheries and Sustainable Value Chains. The wealth of publications, events, articles and highlights have been made visually appealing and easy to access. A new calendar can be browsed to access information and meeting documents for FAO and its bodies and partners.

The aim of such renovation is to facilitate access to data and knowledge which represent the added value of FAO's activities, thus improving the web presence and fostering an increased utilization of the FAO web products.

More specifically, the new section FAO FishStat is a key component of the new website with the aim to offer a comprehensive overview of FAO's work on fishery and aquaculture statistics and the knowledge generated. FishStat will also promote standards, methods, software and tools for collecting data in fishery and aquaculture and supports member countries' capacities on statistics related to the sector. The CWP web pages and Handbook are showcased under the FishStat Products and Services. CWP parties are encouraged to use and review the revised Handbook and contribute to the new webpages on sharing practices and regional references, including developing reference material for capture fisheries and aquaculture statistics. CWP parties may also contribute short news items and updates of interest to the CWP community at any time for publication in the 'Highlights' and 'Did you know' sections of the CWP homepage. More changes will be implemented in the FishStat revised pages during 2023 and 2024.

11. Revised CWP Handbook and CWP webpages

Further revisions and updates are underway to continue to improve the content and coverage of the CWP Handbook and CWP webpages, and following CWP-27 and CWP-IS-2022 discussions and recommendations. Some of this work may be implemented online prior to CWP-IS-2023 while other aspects of the work require further consideration including discussion and development within TGs.

The following work is underway (paragraph numbers refer to the report of CWP-27) and an update on progress will be provided at the meeting:

- Implement the term **aquatic organisms** in lieu of **fish** (paragraph 18)
- Publish the catch concepts diagram and glossary (paragraph 19)
- Publish the fishing effort concepts diagram and glossary (paragraph 19)
- Publish the capture fisheries concepts diagram and glossary (paragraph 19)
- Publish the revised definition of **fishing fleet** (paragraph 19)
- Adapt the Handbook pages to reflect the updated understanding of WJA (paragraph 19)
- Publish the logbook data structure (in sharing practices) (paragraph 19)

- Publish the CWP guidelines for reference harmonization (version 1) for the agreed data structures (in sharing practices) (paragraph 19)
- Publish the new Aquaculture section (paragraph 33)
- Update **Highlights** and **Did you know** sections (paragraph 33)
- Move all definitions used by CWP into a glossary and add dynamic links from the glossary to instances of terms on the website (website administration)
- Address feedback and shortfalls raised users (website administration).

The CWP Secretariat is currently considering options to engage a communication specialist to further develop the website and improve the information flow, presentation of material, search function and general access to definitions (paragraph 33).

CWP parties are encouraged to review the revised Handbook and website and contribute to the **Highlights** and **Did you know** news items as well as the development of the section on **regional references**. The section on regional references seeks to set out CWP Members' best practices in relation to the implementation of CWP recommendations and including Members' frameworks for the acquisition of fishery, aquaculture or socio-economic data. Material is currently available for the socio-economic dimension and Members are encouraged to contribute to regional references covering other aspects of the CWP Handbook and CWP work.

Additional information to this report are available on the previous report of FAO at CWP 27 available at <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0595en/cc0595en.pdf> / That reports contains more details on all the above mentioned activities, but it also includes a detailed overview of many other relevant activities covering aspects such as international cooperation, socio-economic statistics, Small-Scale Fisheries statistics, SDGs, etc. carried out by FAO relevant to CWP.