

id21 insights

communicating international development research

The importance of fisheries for development

The increasing global demand for fish puts pressure on wild resources. This threatens the contribution of fisheries to poverty reduction and nutritional security in developing countries. Can these trends be reversed?

Declining fish stocks and degraded aquatic environments are easily overlooked in debates about sustainable development. This issue of *id21 insights* aims to bring these challenges forward. It examines the problems facing the fisheries sector and shows possible ways to address them.

Fisheries and development

More than 200 million people worldwide are fishworkers, which is just under three percent of the global agricultural labour force. Over 90 percent live in developing countries, working in small-scale, household-based or artisanal fishing enterprises. Global capture fisheries production in 2001 was worth US\$ 78 billion at first sale, and aquaculture (fish farming) was worth US\$ 60 billion in 2002.

Fisheries contribute to economic growth and human welfare in many poor countries:

- Fish are an important source of nutrients, protein, fatty acids and minerals, particularly where fish consumption is high.
- Fish landing sites and ports are often the focus for local growth and centres for markets and cash economies.
- Fishing incomes support service industries, and mobile fishing groups are important buyers of agricultural produce in areas remote from other markets.

More than 50 percent of fish production is traded internationally, with a net flow from developing to developed countries. **John Kurien** discusses how to manage the fish trade so that it could benefit poor people.

The growth of aquaculture is another important development opportunity. Farmed fish now provides 43 percent of the fish eaten worldwide, compared to 9 percent in 1980. **David Little** highlights the benefits of the recent growth in aquaculture in southeast Asia, with

implications for other developing regions.

A global fisheries crisis?

Despite these benefits, the growth of the fishing industry brings several challenges. The main concern is declining fish catches. Bigger fish (such as swordfish, sturgeon and the Mekong Giant

In this issue

Editorial	1
Investing in Africa's fisheries	2
Tackling illegal fishing	3
A sustainable global fish trade	4
The role of NGOs in fishing	5
Benefits from aquaculture	5
FAO Code for Responsible Fisheries	6
Useful web links	6

James Muir from the University of Stirling, UK, provided academic advice for this issue of *id21 insights*: j.f.muir@stir.ac.uk

Catfish) have declined or even disappeared from many regions. In many areas, boats now go further out to sea (or up river), fish for longer and use more or larger fishing gear. Industrialised fishing fleets often head towards countries with limited capacity to monitor their activities, or to negotiate fair payments for resources in their Exclusive Economic Zones. Management regimes have often failed to work, even in richer countries.

There is also increasing competition and conflict. For example, aquaculture can have environmental and social impacts – shrimp farming attracts criticism for destroying mangroves and preventing people from using coastal resources. Many fisheries lose value through illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. This demonstrates wider problems with compliance and regulation in globalised industries, particularly those that take place at sea. As **David Agnew** reports, tackling IUU fishing is an urgent priority for governments and fisheries organisations.

Fishing people are often labelled 'the poorest of the poor', but fishing incomes can be higher than wages from farm labour. However, many people in fishing communities live in deprived conditions. Vulnerability to natural hazards (such as floods and storms) is high, due to physical exposure and vulnerable livelihoods. Many settlements are temporary and unofficial, and do not benefit from state-delivered services such as health and education.

Fish farmed from rice paddy, Bangladesh
University of Stirling, UK, 2006



► New approaches to managing fisheries

Many of these problems relate to poor governance and a past failure by national governments and international financial institutions to recognise and value the contributions of fisheries. Addressing governance failure is the focus of much present support for fisheries development.

Fisheries governance is changing, with attempts to combine participatory, local-level management and improve market management with a set of global principles and codes. A key initiative is the 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. **David Douman** and **Rolf Willmann** explain how it has developed and how it is applied today.

Fisheries management organisations and fishing communities are determined to find innovative solutions to the formidable challenges facing the sector. As well as addressing the challenges identified, fisheries management must consider influences outside the sector. These include climate change, demographic change, water resources management and future changes in food production and trade.

Engaging with wider development initiatives is particularly important. For example, the FAO's Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programmes in west and central Africa are considering how fisheries can contribute to poverty reduction, improve the welfare of fisherfolk and sustain resources.

The move towards local management of aquatic resources is critical. This could improve compliance with international

regulations (such as the FAO Code of Conduct) and empower small-scale fishing communities, who are often socially and politically marginalised. Non-governmental organisations could play an important role, but few have been involved in the sector. This is because the specialised, technical nature of fishery management, and the limited attention to social issues, meant that there was little information available on poverty and social exclusion in the sector. **Brian O'Riordan** introduces the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, which advocates the interests of small-scale fisherfolk.

Much current fisheries research focuses on Africa. **Sloans Chimatiro** explains how the New Partnership for African Development's Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Programme aims to manage Africa's wild fish resources and guide investments into aquaculture.

The future for fisheries

Much depends now on the success of efforts to improve governance, particularly in capture fisheries. Aquaculture is likely to become increasingly important in reducing the gap between supply and demand, but this industry will need to observe social and environmental issues. In coastal areas and high seas, the number of workers in fishing may decrease, because of the move towards larger-scale, export-focused industries.

Effective governance should result in more sustainable catches. This will allow depleted stocks to recover and increase in value. Small-scale fishing, which

has considerable poverty and livelihood implications, will remain a vital part of development strategies. This sector needs greater recognition and effective and equitable management.

To achieve a sustainable fishing sector that contributes to poverty reduction and improves livelihoods, policymakers should:

- recognise the great potential of this sector for future benefits, and the vulnerability of fisherfolk to ineffective policies and poor management
- ensure that fisheries are fairly represented in wider social and economic development processes, such as national poverty reduction strategies
- promote the inclusion of fishing communities in programmes to improve rural social services
- work towards greater policy coherence, both within the fisheries sector and with water, agriculture, trade and coastal zone planning sectors ■

Edward H. Allison

School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK e.allison@uea.ac.uk

See also

New Directions in Fisheries: Policy Briefs, Food and Agriculture Organization/Department for International Development, Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme, 2006

www.sflp.org/briefs/eng/policybriefs.html

Fisheries and the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, WorldFish Center, 2006 (PDF)

www.fishforall.org/ffa-summit/English/FisheriesMDGs_22_8_lowres.pdf

Saving Fish and Fishers: Building Sustainable and Equitable Fisheries and Governance, World Bank, 2004 (PDF)

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/SavingFishandFishers.pdf>

Investing in Africa's fisheries

Fisheries contribute to the food security of 200 million Africans and provide income for over 10 million people. They support economic growth through exports and provide environmental services, for example increasing the value of water. However, the potential of the sector is not being fulfilled.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) launched a Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme in August 2005. The aim is to guide investments and realise the potential of aquaculture, inland fisheries, and coastal and marine fisheries. The main objectives are to:

- Increase fishing communities' access to new technologies and services. This includes better fish farming methods and sources of fingerlings (young fish).
- Make successful technologies available across Africa. One approach is mutual learning under the NEPAD Continental Outreach, operated by the Regional Economic Communities and National Programmes.
- Develop policies that enable private

companies, public organisations and civil society organisations to sustain and, where possible, expand fish production.

- Enable fishing communities to benefit from expanding markets and trade by improving their access to markets.
- Share benefits from fisheries (such as access to fishing grounds and income) more fairly amongst poor people.

Government and donor support

African governments increasingly include fisheries in national planning and financing processes. For example, the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme supported the inclusion of fisheries into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. This should ensure more reliable funding from national governments for fisheries and improve accountability of how funds are spent.

Government support should encourage more private sector investments in the fisheries sector. The NEPAD Fisheries and Aquaculture Programme provides a framework for planning, implementing and monitoring these diverse investments, to ensure they have the maximum impact.

The Programme has renewed commitment to the fisheries sector amongst African governments and development partners. Several countries have declared Presidential Initiatives on Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, including Nigeria, Senegal and Malawi.

The WorldFish Center has launched two African regional programmes on aquaculture and small-scale fisheries. The World Bank and partners established the Program on Fisheries (PROFISH) partnership. This helps countries reach a consensus about fisheries strategies and introduce these into national economic planning. The World Bank also started the Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa, which provides grants to country-level fisheries projects.

It is hoped that all the projects under the NEPAD Fisheries and Aquaculture programme will benefit African governments. They allow fisheries and aquaculture to support national development objectives and emphasise the value of the sector. This will enable governments and cooperating partners to make strategic investments in the sector and realise its huge potential ■

Sloans K. Chimatiro

NEPAD Secretariat, Development Bank of Southern Africa, 1258 Lever Road, P.O. Box 1234, Halfway House, Midrand 1685, South Africa sloansc@nepad.org
T +27 11 313 3824 F +27 11 313 3450

See also

New Partnership for Africa's Development

www.nepad.org

Report of the Consultation on integrating small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction planning in West Africa, Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa, SFLP/FR/15, 2002 (PDF)

www.sflp.org/ftp/dload/frpt15.pdf

Time to tackle illegal fishing

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing includes poaching in national waters and unregulated fishing on high seas. It is common when management systems are weak or corrupt, where the value of the fish is high and where enforcing laws is difficult, as it is in remote seas and developing countries.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing causes several problems:

- It threatens the sustainability of fish stocks through overexploitation and prevents governments from monitoring catches and developing good management strategies.

Glossary of terms

Aquaculture – the controlled cultivation and harvest of aquatic plants and animals (such as fish, shellfish and algae) for consumption or sale

Artisanal fisheries – traditional fisheries involving households (as opposed to commercial companies), with simple equipment and relatively small fishing vessels (if any)

Capture fisheries – the harvesting of naturally occurring living resources in marine and freshwater environments. This includes industrial, small-scale, artisanal and recreational fishing

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – the area of sea in which a state has special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources. This is usually a distance of 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coast

Fisherfolk – people who make their living by fishing and harvesting marine life

Fishers – people who catch fish, usually as a significant part of their livelihood

Fishfarming – the aquaculture of fish (although this term is sometimes applied more widely)

Fishworkers – people who earn a living handling and processing fish catches, adding value to the product. Some definitions include everyone working in the sector

High seas – seas that do not belong to any one state or nation i.e. outside Exclusive Economic Zones

Small-scale fisheries – similar to artisanal fisheries, referring to households who catch fish for a living, as opposed to large commercial activities

People prepare the ground for growing aquatic vegetables on the outskirts of Hanoi, Viet Nam (see article on page 4)

David Little, 2006



- It deprives local fishermen of resources and creates conflict between them and those fishing illegally.
- Illegal boats without specialised equipment can damage marine birds, seals and turtles. By ignoring conservation laws and safety practices, illegal fishing vessels also experience lower costs and cause huge revenue losses for the legitimate fishing industry. This supports a climate of illegality and may add to wider national governance problems.

Governments are concerned that illegal fishing undermines their attempts to manage fish resources, especially on the high seas. Each country has legal control over fishing in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Regional Fisheries Management Organisations control high seas fishing, but they only have legal power over member countries. IUU fishing in high seas is usually practised by boats registered in countries that have not signed these agreements. This makes it difficult to control.

The global scale of illegal fishing

A study by the UK Marine Resources Assessment Group in 2005 estimated that the global value of illegal fishing is between US\$ 4 billion and US\$ 9 billion annually. This is significant for developing countries, where the value lost can be up to five percent of Gross National Product. The study estimated that IUU fishing in sub-Saharan African EEZs (calculated as the first sale value of illegally caught fish) is worth almost US\$1 billion; this is mostly by vessels from developed countries. The review also identified a link between the standard of governance in a developing country and the amount of illegal fishing in its waters.

The international response

In 2003, a group of fisheries ministers and heads of international non-government organisations created the High Seas Task Force to tackle IUU fishing and the difficulties in reducing it. In March 2006, the task force identified several priorities:

- expand the capabilities of the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network to analyse specific IUU problems and provide greater training to its members
- develop a global information system on vessels capable of fishing on the high seas
- improve high seas governance by encouraging more states to ratify the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

Toothfish: a success story

Illegal fishing for toothfish in waters managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has dropped significantly. In the last two years, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catches have been about 3,000 tonnes, compared to about 10,000 tonnes three years ago. IUU catches are now less than 15 percent of the total toothfish catch in Antarctic waters, compared to 72 percent in 1997. This has been achieved by limiting markets for IUU caught fish (for example through the Catch Document Scheme, which certifies legal toothfish landings) and increasing the risk of being caught and prosecuted for poaching toothfish.

See also

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Report of the 24th meeting of the Scientific Committee, October 2005
www.ccamlr.org

- encourage Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to work more effectively by coordinating their MCS activities
- increase scientific knowledge of the effects of IUU fishing by creating a monitoring network and increasing scientific observation on legal vessels
- assist developing countries with their actions against IUU fishing by developing MCS activities.

The UK Department for Rural Affairs and the UK Department for International Development have set up a Sustainable International Fisheries Team to coordinate these initiatives. The UK is also funding a network to monitor IUU fishing, to raise awareness of and combat IUU fishing in sub-Saharan Africa ■

David Agnew

Department of Biology, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London, UK d.agnew@mrag.co.uk

See also

Closing the net: Stopping illegal fishing on the high seas, final report of the Ministerially-led Task Force on IUU fishing on the High Seas, March 2006 (PDF)
www.high-seas.org/docs/HSTFFinal/HSTFFINAL_web.pdf
Review of Impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on Developing Countries, Marine Resources Assessment Group: London, 2005 (PDF)
www.high-seas.org/docs/IUU_DFD_Final_report_MRAG_2005.pdf

Aquaculture: benefiting rural and urban people

The global aquaculture industry is growing by ten percent each year – quicker than any other food sector. The most impressive changes are found around the cities of developing countries, particularly south and southeast Asia.

The demand for fresh fish and aquatic foods (animal and vegetable) has increased over the last few decades as cities have grown and people have moved from rural areas, particularly in developing countries.

Recent studies, by the Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme, UK, the Production in Aquatic Peri-Urban Systems in Southeast Asia organisation and the UK Natural Resources Systems Programme, show that this increasing urban demand stimulates nearby aquaculture, even where fishing is common nearby.

Aquaculture can be successful in both rural and peri-urban areas, if water supplies are available. Good market access and infrastructure also stimulate growth. For example, increasing demand in Hanoi, Viet Nam, has driven the recent growth in carp production in Hai Duong, which has good

access to Hanoi. The relatively low labour demands of aquaculture mean it can be a profitable part of diverse income-generating activities in both rural and urbanising areas.

Poor people benefit from aquaculture in several ways:

- Increasingly denied access to wild stocks, many poor people rely on markets for food. Small fish from aquaculture farms provide cheap food.
- Expanding aquaculture increases opportunities for employment, ranging from seed and input supply to processing and marketing.
- There is evidence in some places (such as Bangladesh) that poor people are setting up their own aquaculture farms, as the costs can be low.

As the links between urban and rural areas improve, changing work opportunities can also increase poor people's access to land, through leasing and sharecropping arrangements. For example, the most profitable enterprises in West Bengal, India, are not owner-managed systems but leased ponds used to nurse young fish.

Most semi-intensive aquaculture has no environmental impacts, and can even be positive. For example, aquatic vegetables remove nutrients and improve water quality. Little or no water exchange occurs in culture ponds and they act as storage reservoirs. This is particularly important in areas without enough water, and where poor people are disproportionately vulnerable to seasonal water availability.

The future of aquaculture

Improving export opportunities and economic growth encourage the intensification of aquaculture. However, this may negatively affect poverty reduction and cause environmental damage (for example the rapid growth in production and subsequent decline of black tiger shrimp in south and southeast Asia).

The rapid growth of aquaculture should not necessarily be slowed, but policymakers must understand and support different options to realise the potential of this industry. In particular, governments, aid organisations and the aquaculture industry should:

- consider the role of aquaculture in peri-urban as well as rural areas
- promote a balance between export earning and supporting domestic consumption
- consider zoning and promoting aquaculture clusters that permit nutrient recycling and pollution control ■

David C. Little

Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA, UK d.c.little@stir.ac.uk
T +44 (0)1786 467923 F +44 (0)1786 472133

See also

Aquaculture and Fish Genetics Research Programme (AFGRP)

www.dfid.stir.ac.uk/Afgrp

Production in Aquatic Peri-Urban Systems in Southeast Asia (PAPUSSA)

www.papussa.org

Land-water interface production systems in peri-urban Kolkata project, Natural Resources Systems Programme

www.dfid.stir.ac.uk/dfid/nrsp/kolkata.htm

The role of NGOs in fishing

The fisheries sector is highly polarised. At one extreme, semi-industrial export operations create huge benefits for boat owners and generate large foreign exchange earnings. These operations depend on high levels of technology and capital. At the other extreme, communities struggle to survive from small-scale subsistence fishing.

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was founded in India in 1986 to promote and defend small-scale and artisanal fisheries. The ICSF is a global network promoting fisheries

that are sustainable, community based, co-managed, fair for men and women and share benefits throughout communities.

However, the ICSF no longer supports all small-scale fisheries practices. In many places, the nature of small-scale fishing has changed in the last twenty years:

- The temporary migrations of workers to fishing from agriculture and other sectors are now permanent.
- Rural communities have disappeared into urban sprawls. They are no longer separate entities, or have been displaced, so do not retain their identity as fishing communities.
- Many national artisanal sectors have doubled or more in size, due to population growth, permanent in-migration and outside investment. The 1996 census in Peru listed 6,000 vessels and 30,000 marine fishermen. Estimates for 2006 are 10,000 vessels and 80 to 100,000 fishermen.

These changes have been caused by the overexpansion of small-scale fisheries, poor management and poor governance. To improve the contribution of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development, policymakers must:

- recognise the small-scale fisheries model for entire Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). With technological

advances, most small-scale fishing operations are now able to fish an entire EEZ

- protect the livelihood, settlement and fishing access rights of small-scale fishing communities
- promote fisheries trade that enhances food security whilst sustaining resources
- campaign to remove subsidies that unfairly benefit larger fisheries over unsubsidised artisanal fisheries
- promote benefit-sharing arrangements for small-scale fishing communities
- support the legal movement of fishworkers across international borders
- recognise the rights of fishworkers to safe working conditions, including access to social security
- recognise the role of women in fisheries and fishing communities ■

Brian O'Riordan

ICSF Brussels Office Secretary, Sentier des Rossignols 2, 1330 Rixensart, Belgium briano@tiscali.be
T +32 265 25201 F +32 265 40407

See also

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

www.icsf.net

'Sharing the Fish 2006' Conference

www.fishallocation.com

Allocation of Fisheries Resources: A Small-scale Fisheries Perspective, Presentation to the 'Sharing the Fish – Allocation Issues in Fisheries Management' meeting, by Chandrika Sharma and Ramya Rajaopalan, ICSF, 2006 (PDF)

www.icsf.net/jsp/english/presentations/presentationDocs/1146286368158***sharing_the_fish.PDF

The morning catch: women fish sellers in Peru prepare pejerrey (smelts), a popular local fish
Brian O'Riordan, ICSF, 2006

Achieving a sustainable global fish trade

Fish often travel long distances after they are caught, mainly from developing countries to developed countries. Over one third of the world's fish catch for human consumption and reduction (processing fish into fish meal and oil) is traded internationally – the highest ratio for any primary commodity.

This global trade is increasing and today it is worth over US\$ 71 billion. The participation of developing countries has grown impressively:

- For developing countries, the net receipts (the value of exports minus imports) from fish are about US\$ 18 billion – greater than the net exports of all other primary commodities (coffee, rice, tea, bananas for example) together.
- This expansion coincided with a growing demand for fish in developed countries. Major breakthroughs in storage and transport technologies enabled a highly perishable product to reach markets quickly and in good condition.

Landing the shark catch from deep water artisanal fisheries in Peru Brian O'Riordan, ICSF, 2006



The global fish trade is an important source of income in developing countries and can increase their food security. For people in developed countries, it is a source of healthy food.

Problems with a globalised fish trade

This rapid growth has put pressure on fisheries resources, however. Modern technologies used to harvest fish often damage aquatic ecosystems, both seas and inland waters. A recent study of 11 developing countries by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation showed that the international trade in fish products has a negative impact on the fish resources of all countries. The opportunities for making profits from trade cause these depletions.

The study also showed that a globalised fish trade benefits developing nations, supporting fishers and fishworkers and providing for consumers. However, this income may not be well distributed along the value chain.

Clearly, these trends are conflicting and unsustainable. If the benefits are to continue, policymakers must manage fisheries more sustainably. They must adopt mutually beneficial strategies, including:

- the use of more environmentally friendly fishing techniques, such as pots, traps and lines that only select the target species
- exporting larger volumes of value-added products and high quality fresh fish
- encouraging responsible fish consumption patterns in developed countries.

One way to support these strategies is socio-ecological product labelling, such as Fair Trade certification. To be successful, these initiatives must involve developed country trade representatives, consumers and developing country fish producers. The participation of mutually acceptable third parties, such as state representatives and environmental organisations, is also necessary to steward the process and make international trade more inclusive.

A productive future for the global fish trade will only be achieved when sustainable fish production and consumption are in place. This is the challenge of the day ■

John Kurien

Centre for Development Studies, Ullloor, Trivandrum
695 011, India
T +91 471 244881 F +91 471 2447137
kurien.john@gmail.com

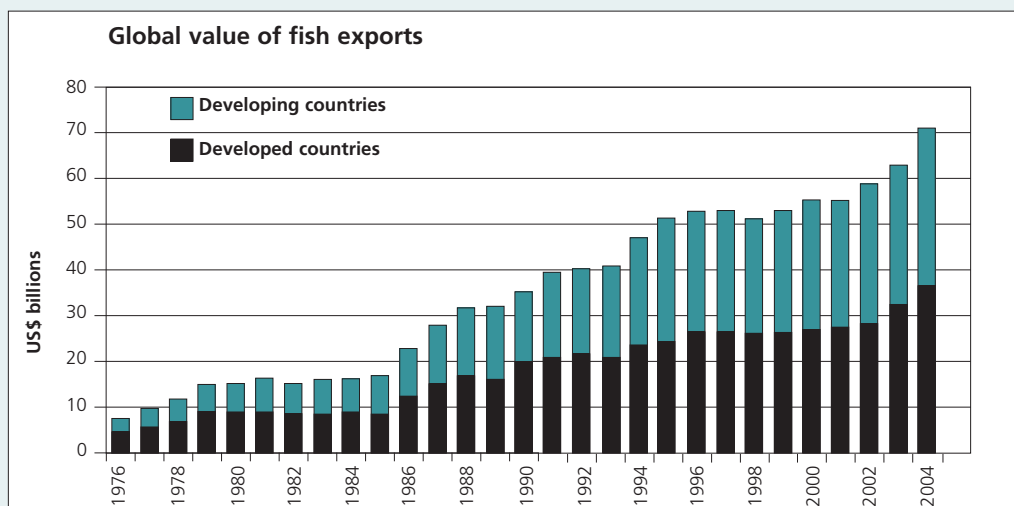
See also

Responsible fish trade and food security, FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 456, Rome, by John Kurien, 2005 (PDF) www.globefish.org/files/tp_456_290.pdf
Trade and marketplace measures to promote sustainable fishing practices, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva & High Seas Task Force, Paris, by Cathy Roheim and John G. Sutinen, 2006 (PDF) www.ictsd.org/pubs/ictsd_series/nat_res/Roheim_Sutinen_2006.pdf

The growth of the global fish trade

In terms of value, developing and developed countries have roughly the same share in world fish exports. Developing country exports have exceeded those of developed countries in recent years. The total value of world exports was US\$ 71,300 million in 2004 and is expected to grow even further in coming years. It should be noted that whilst trade expanded strongly in the 1970s and 1980s, total fish trade has grown relatively less in recent years.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization, 2006



FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Fish stocks declined worldwide in the late 20th century and the international fish trade is increasing. To guarantee enough fish for future generations, everyone in the fishing industry must help to conserve and manage the world's fisheries.

With this in mind, more than 170 members of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in 1995. Negotiations included FAO Members and non-government organisations representing environmental groups, the fishing industry, small-scale fisheries and fishworkers. Governments and stakeholders (including industry and fishing communities) are responsible for implementing the Code. The FAO's role is to promote implementation by providing technical support.

The Code includes goals, principles and proposals for responsible actions for all fisheries sectors, including aquaculture:

- The underpinning philosophy is that the 'right to fish' carries the obligation to do so responsibly. This means maintaining the quality and availability of fishery resources in sufficient quantities for present and future food security, poverty alleviation and development objectives.
- The Code calls for the protection of all critical fishery habitats in marine and freshwater ecosystems, including wetlands, mangroves, reefs, lagoons, fish nurseries and spawning areas.
- The Code emphasises a participatory approach, including consultation among stakeholders and the effective participation of industry representatives, fishworkers and environmental organisations in decision-making processes.
- The Code recognises the contributions of subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fisheries. It calls upon states to

protect these groups' rights and, where appropriate, give them preferential access to traditional fishing grounds and resources.

Using and enforcing the Code of Conduct

Many governments use the Code to encourage long-term sustainability. As a non-binding 'soft law' instrument, there is no formal acceptance process. However, the countries' commitment, combined with recent public attention to the world fisheries crisis, has created strong moral persuasion for countries to conform. Many governments are developing compliant fisheries policies, including national legislations and codes of good practices in Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Japan, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand and the USA. Several regional fisheries organisations are also committed to implementing the code, including the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation.

The Code also guides the fisheries policies of the World Bank, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF, Greenpeace International and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers. The Marine Stewardship Council bases its sustainable fisheries eco-labelling programme on the Code.

The future of the Code of Conduct

The FAO Fisheries Department is promoting the Code in many ways. These include

- providing policy and technical advice to governments, development banks and other agencies about critical technical aspects of the Code and how to implement it
- monitoring and reporting on the Code's implementation to the FAO Committee on Fisheries, giving special attention to small-scale fisheries that employ 90 percent of fishers worldwide
- publishing and disseminating the Code's technical guidelines, including recent guidelines on how to alleviate poverty and attain better food security through small-scale fisheries, and simple language versions of other Code documents.

Recent findings indicate that progress is being made with implementing the Code. However, developing countries need technical and financial assistance to ensure that this continues ■

Useful web links

Environmental Justice Foundation – Illegal Fishing
www.ejfoundation.org/page162.html

FishCode Programme
www.fao.org/fi/fishcode.htm

Global Aquaculture Alliance
www.gaalliance.com

GLOBEFISH
www.globefish.org

Illegal Fishing.info
www.illegal-fishing.info

Marine Stewardship Council
www.msc.org

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
www.enaca.org

oneFish Community Directory
www.onefish.org

Post-Harvest Fisheries Research Programme
www.phfp.uk.com

Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme
www.sflp.org

UN Atlas of the Oceans
www.oceansatlas.org

WorldFish Center
www.worldfishcenter.org

WWF – Fishing problems: Illegal fishing
www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/problems/problems_fishing/illegal_fishing/index.cfm

Joan Baron Varley joan.baron@fao.org

David Douman and Rolf Willmann

Fisheries Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy
T +39 06 57056752 F +39 06 57056500 david.douman@fao.org
T +39 06 57053408 F +39 06 57056500 rolf.willmann@fao.org

See also

FAO Fisheries Department
www.fao.org/fi/default.asp

Increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation and food security, FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries 10, Rome: FAO, 2005 (PDF)
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0237e/a0237e00.pdf](http://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0237e/a0237e00.pdf)

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?xml=CCRF_prog.xml&dom=org



id21 insights is published ten times a year and is online at www.id21.org/insights. The id21 site also offers free access to hundreds of short easy-to-read highlights on international development topics such as health, natural resources, education and social policy. To subscribe to our email newsletters email id21@ids.ac.uk with the words 'subscribe id21 news'. To subscribe to *id21 insights* see www.id21.org or contact us at the address below.

id21
Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex
Brighton BN1 9RE, UK
T +44 (0)1273 678787
F +44 (0)1273 877335
Email id21@ids.ac.uk



Institute of Development Studies

id21 is hosted by IDS and supported by the UK Department for International Development. Views expressed in id21 insights do not necessarily reflect those of DFID, IDS or any other contributing institution. Unless rights are reserved in specific cases any article may be copied or quoted without restriction, providing the source (id21 insights) and author are properly acknowledged and informed.
© Institute of Development Studies 2006;
ISSN 1460-4205 IDS is a Charitable Company no 877338 limited by guarantee and registered in England

Editor: **Tim Woods**
Senior Editor: **Louise Daniel**
Editorial & technical support: **id21 team**
Design: **Robert Wheeler**
Printed by: **APR Ltd**
Printed on paper produced from sustainable forests

Keywords: aquaculture, artisanal, fisheries, fishworkers, governance, illegal fishing, trade