

Milestones in advancing the right to food through sustainable small-scale fisheries and resilient aquatic food systems

Monday, 21 October 2024

Iran Room & Online

13:30-14:45

Languages: EN, ES, FR

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/CFS52milestones>

2024 marks significant milestones in global efforts to protect the right to food, build resilient aquatic food systems, and support sustainable small-scale fisheries. It has been twenty years since the FAO council adopted the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food Guidelines (RtF Guidelines), and ten years since CFS Members endorsed policy recommendations on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition. Additionally, it has been a decade since members of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).

The RtF Guidelines emphasize the State's responsibility to ensure that all individuals have access to adequate food. The CFS policy recommendations affirmed the central position of the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture as fundamental for food security and nutrition and the SSF Guidelines call for action by States and non-State actors to secure all aspects of socioeconomic and environmental sustainability in small-scale fisheries based on the human rights-based approach, ensuring participatory and inclusive processes.

It is now time to assess progress made since adopting these guidelines and recommendations, and the opportunities for advancing the global agenda for strengthened protection of the right to food, resilient aquatic food systems, and sustainable small-scale fisheries. This event seeks to commemorate these

milestones by bringing together stakeholders to reflect on past achievements, share lessons learned, and develop strategies for effectively integrating the RtF Guidelines and the SSF Guidelines, into national and regional policies, programmes, projects, as well as reviewing the policy recommendations, contributing to the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work.

Objectives:

This side event will focus on stocktaking the implementation of the Right to Food Guidelines, SSF Guidelines, and reviewing the recommendations of the HLPE report. It will highlight their mutually supportive and complementary role, which includes identifying successes, challenges and lessons learned to inform future actions such as contributing to the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work.

It will:

Examine the contribution of small-scale fisheries and of resilient aquatic food systems in the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, global food security, nutrition, livelihood security, poverty eradication, and sustainable development.

Showcase how inclusive participatory approaches of small-scale fishers and their communities in decision-making processes are essential to secure their rights and sustain their livelihoods

Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, financial institutions, and small-scale fishing communities, to jointly implement the RtF Guidelines, SSF Guidelines, and apply the CFS recommendations.

Promote the inclusion of fish and fishery products from small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in programs aimed at tackling nutrition deficiencies, particularly among children and women, while identifying financing gaps and opportunities to support sustainable and climate-resilient aquatic food systems.

Organizers

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Aquatic Blue Food Coalition (MS), Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (AC), World Bank (WB), WorldFish, Environmental Defense Fund, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Iceland, Oceana. Government of Norway, Global Action Network Foods from the Oceans and Inland Waters for FSN, UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and CGIAR.

Agenda

13:30-13:32	Welcome and introduction - Moderator – Shakuntala Thilsted, CGIAR
13:32-13:37	Opening remarks - Jón Erlingur Jónasson, Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland
13:37-14:18	Speakers intro: Moderator – Shakuntala Thilsted, CGIAR
	Small-scale fishers perspective – Cairo Laguna, World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
	Government perspective – Lilian Ibangwe – Ministry of fisheries of Tanzania.
	Right to food perspective – Therese Arnesen, OHCHR
	Science/Nutrition perspective - Wanjiku Gichochi, Nutrition Lead, WorldFish
	Finance perspective - Julien Million, World Bank
14:18-14:33	Q&A
14:33 – 14:38	Intervention - Bjørg Sandkjær, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Norway.
14:38-14:45	Closing remarks – Juan Echanove, FAO, Right to Food Team leader

