

Our Ocean Conference 2026 Side Event

Data in support of Food Security and Nutrition – Aquatic Foods for Resilient Food Systems

Host: Global Action Network Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

Co-hosts: Angola, Brazil, Tanzania, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) / The EAF Nansen Programme, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Institute of Marine Research, Norway (IMR), Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), University of Bergen, University of Pretoria, Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), and European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)

Date: 17th June 2026

Time: 13:00 – 14:15

Room: Baracuda, Ocean Bay

Venue: Pride-Inn Paradise Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya

Duration: 75 min

Concept

This side event will bring together participants from across regions, including governments, UN agencies, research institutions, private sector actors, and young and local voices from Africa and beyond. The event will highlight the importance of integrating food security and nutrition into ocean governance and development cooperation, as well as the importance of aquatic food systems for food security, supporting livelihoods, improving diet quality, and building resilience. This initiative aims to strengthen coordinated action at the ocean–food–nutrition nexus through improved data-sharing, enhanced regional collaboration, and stronger science–policy integration.

Aquatic food systems play a critical role in food security and nutrition, yet their full contribution remains underutilized due to persistent gaps in nutrient and contaminant data, which constrain evidence-based fisheries management and nutrition policymaking. Within the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, there is a strategic opportunity to strengthen knowledge systems linking ocean and inland water resource management with health and nutrition objectives.

A key outcome will be the launch of a regional African working group on food composition data under the Global Action Network. This initiative aims to strengthen coordinated action at the ocean–food–nutrition nexus through improved data-sharing, enhanced regional collaboration, and stronger science–policy integration.

Program

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Welcome by the Global Action Network	<i>Maria Wik Markhus</i> , Secretariat lead Global Action Network, and Research Professor at the Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Introduction to the event by moderator	<i>Christina Hicks</i> , Professor, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, UK

High-level opening	
High-level opening remarks	<i>Astrid Bergmål</i> , State Secretary for the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs
High-level opening remarks	<i>Carolina Rodrigues da Costa Doria</i> , Vice-Minister of Registry, Monitoring, and Research, Brazilian Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture
High-level opening remarks	<i>Mohammed Sheikh</i> , Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of the United Republic of Tanzania
High-level opening remarks	<i>Sara Mbago-Bhunu</i> , Director, East and Southern Africa Division, International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Part 1: Walking the talk – Sharing knowledge and solutions	
Strengthening Aquatic Food Evidence Through Analytical Capacity Building: Contributions of the EAF-Nansen Programme	<i>Marian Kjellevold</i> Research Professor, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Integrating Nutrition into Aquatic Food Systems: A Nutrient-Sensitive Approach	<i>Johnstone Omukoto Omuhaya</i> , Senior Scientist, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
Cookie is Fighting Malnutrition in Kenya: How Innovation Meets Consumer Choice?	<i>Francis Thoya</i> , Founder, SeaBerry Snacks, Kenya
From Guidance to Action: Mapping the Path to National Roadmaps for Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems	<i>Maximilian Schwarz</i> , European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Part 2: Panel discussion	
<p>Looking forward, how can we integrate nutrient data to maximize both ocean sustainability and nutritional security?</p> <p>How can nations collaborate regionally to share nutrient data and best practices for sustainable fisheries and better nutrition?</p> <p>How can nutrient data (information) be communicated effectively to the public, managers and decision-makers and other stakeholders to create measurable positive change in human nutrition?</p>	<p><i>Manuel Barange</i>, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)</p> <p><i>Erik Olsen</i>, Co-chair, Decade Visioning Challenge 3 - Sustainably nourishing the world's population, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, IOC-UNESCO</p> <p><i>Essam Yassin Mohammed</i>, Director General, WorldFish</p>
Closing remarks	<i>Josephine Marigu</i> , Young Voice, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute