

Event Summary

Mini conference at the One Ocean Week, Bergen (Norway) | 20 April 2026

Aquatic Foods for Resilient Food Systems

This mini conference was part of the series of events organized by the Global Action Network marking the extension of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. It highlighted the importance of aquatic foods for sustainable food systems, global food security and nutrition - bridging the Decade of Nutrition and the Decade of Ocean Science. During the conference knowledge for actions was shared across the key dimensions of food security: sufficiency, safety, nutritional value, and alignment with dietary needs and food preferences, all while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The conference took place at the Tall Ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl in Bergen, Norway and was also shared online. A total of 297 participants, from UN agencies, governments, research institutions, NGOs, industry, and civil society across 60 countries, signed up for onsite and online participation. Also, H.R.H the Crown Prince of Norway attended.

Norway's Minister of Fisheries and the Ocean opened the event and launched a new working group within the Global Action Network on aquatic food consumption. The program brought together ministers from Sri Lanka, ambassadors from Brazil and Peru, and leaders from WHO, FAO, UNESCO/IOC, UNDP, CGIAR, WorldFish, Nofima, and the Institute of Marine Research. A segment with young voices, highlighting aquatic food consumption and ocean initiatives was also included.

During the Thematic Dialogue Session, over 20 speakers contributed. Addressing important topics in advancing aquatic foods for global food security, nutrition, and sustainability. Strong political commitment was underscored as key for tackling climate change, promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and the vital role of aquatic food for nutrition and health benefits and preventing non-communicable diseases. A key message was the need for a holistic food chain approach and ensuring coordination across sectors. Discussions were framed around key dimensions of food security:

- **Sufficient:** Addressing fisheries crime, illegal fishing, and strengthening international cooperation and governance. Solutions such as the Blue Justice global partnership were highlighted, and the importance of combining technology (satellite data, AIS tracking), legal and institutional capacity-building, and national ownership to fight organized crime that threatens global food security and sustainable management of ocean resources.
- **Nutritious:** Promoting the importance of nutrient composition data, laboratories and staff training as well as underscoring important links between diets and sustainability goals. Aquatic food is a diverse group of foods with unique valuable nutritional profiles



important to public health. There are gaps between dietary guidelines on aquatic food consumption and actual consumption, aquatic foods must be integrated into nutrition strategies, including by building on food culture and nutrition education, especially for children

- **Safe:** Highlighting monitoring of contaminants: safe and trusted aquatic foods depend on robust integrated monitoring of both the ocean and the food itself, covering nutrients and contaminants as the basis for risk-benefit assessments. Trust and transparency between industry, regulators and consumers depend on shared data and responsibility. This requires government prioritization, international collaboration, sustained investment in monitoring infrastructure, and active, coordinated action.
- **Preferences:** Addressing consumer behavior there is a clear gap between potential and practice, between knowing aquatic foods are healthy and including it in the diet. Closing the gap requires a mix of affordability, convenience, trust - building and investment in early exposure and food skills, in addition to information campaigns encouraging dietary shifts including through social influence.
- **Leaving no one behind:** Highlighting the importance of building capacity through national ownership, visibility and right based, cross sectorial governance, with development cooperation playing a catalytic role in helping countries leapfrog toward more resilient and inclusive food security outcomes. Supporting inclusive governance, connecting policy on fisheries, food security, health and education to ensure that aquatic foods do not fall between the cracks.

Finally, the “Budstikke” concept was introduced as a symbolic tool to share key messages globally and foster collaboration across science, policy, and practice. The session concluded with recognition of leadership and ongoing efforts to sustain momentum beyond current global initiatives.

Key messages:

- Aquatic foods are essential for food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems - a holistic approach is needed - building capacity - leaving no one behind.
- Sustainable fisheries require stronger governance and international cooperation, crime must be addressed to secure access.
- Strong analytical data is the foundation for keeping seafood safe, nutritious, and trusted - locally and globally.
- Monitoring and building knowledge on safe and nutritious aquatic foods require cross sectorial collaboration. Gaps between guidelines and consumption must be closed.
- Bridging the Ocean Decade and the Decade of Nutrition can accelerate global action.