



Subsidies and the fisheries sector: a measurement challenge

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

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Some basics on Subsidies data

- **Availability of data has been a challenge since the beginning of WTO negotiations**
 - Lack of transparency and lack of definition of what are harmful subsidy support measures
 - Low number and unharmonized WTO notifications by countries on fisheries subsidies
 - Insufficient data collection at national level
 - Political reluctance
- **Why better estimates and accurate data is of key importance?**
 - Need to better understand the nature and size of the problem
 - Inform policy makers and other stakeholders
 - Gather political will for appropriate action
 - Monitor implementation if a multilateral trade agreement is reached.
- **To date, two main sources of data:**
 - Informal: UBC Fisheries Center (based on data gathering efforts but without 3rd party validation)
 - Formal: OECD's Fisheries Support Estimate Database (based on OECD Members notifications)
 - UNCTAD has a NTMs classification and database, but data collection efforts have not yet covered fisheries subsidies. A detailed subsidies classification is in the making by a Multi Agency Support Team (including 7 multilateral agencies and UNCTAD).

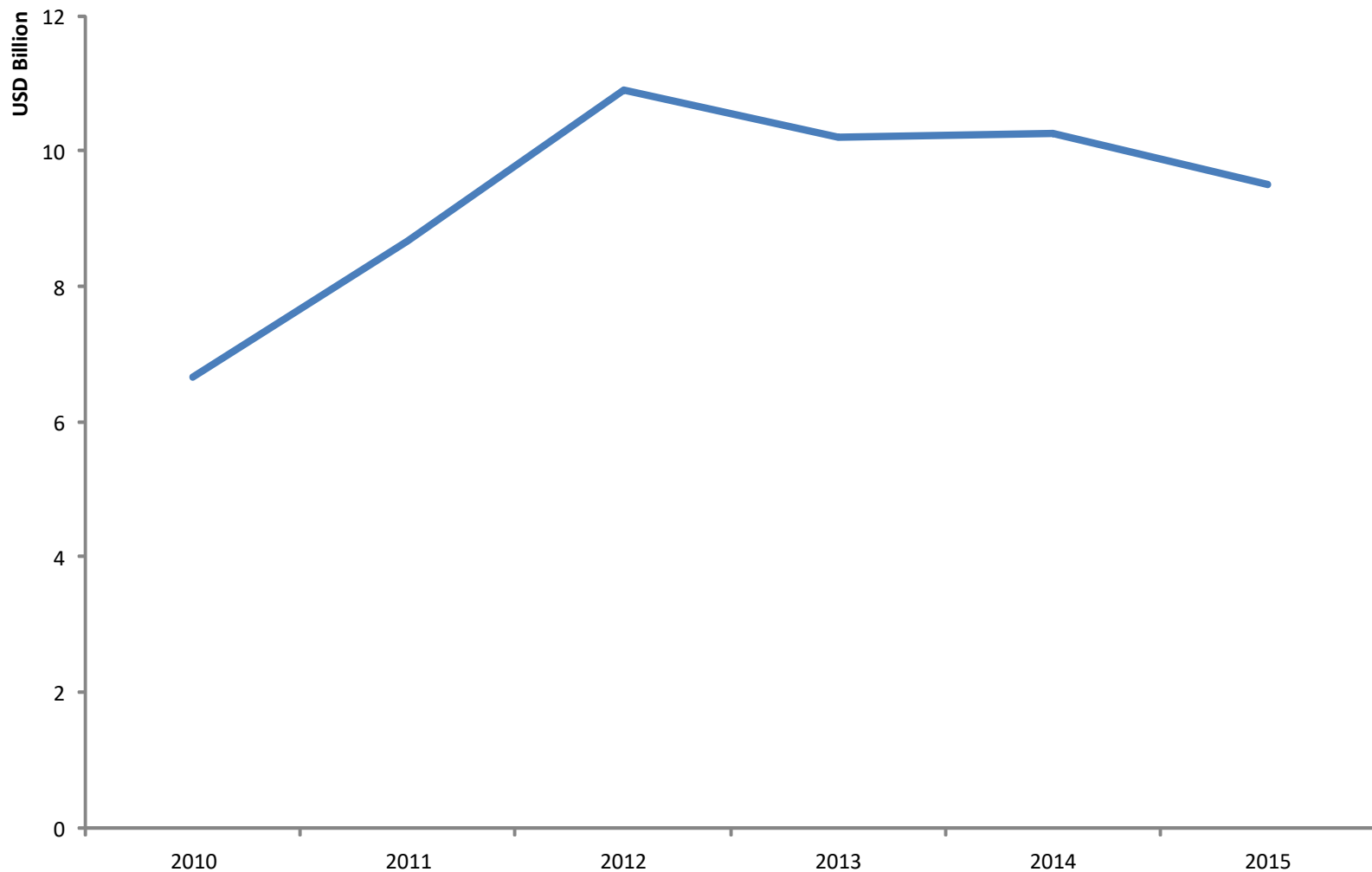
Who benefits from lack of transparency in fisheries subsidies allocations?

So far, what can we affirm about data on fish subsidies

Estimates to date include:

- Total global subsidies in the range of US\$ 35 billion/year, with over US\$ 20 billion being in the form of capacity-enhancing subsidies (UBC - Sumaila 2009; 2013).
- Fisheries subsidies tend to foster inequality, as 84 percent of them benefit large scale fleets (Schuhbauer et al, 2017).
- OECD 2016 figures covering about 31 OECD countries has estimated overall subsidies in such countries at US\$ 7 billion/year (OECD, 2017).
- A recent report by the EU points at US\$ 9.7 billion / year of fish subsidies between 2013 and 2015 in countries outside the EU, such as China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States (EU Commission, 2017).
- Regardless of these estimates, insufficient data on the magnitude of the problem and lack of transparency **should not stand on the way of finding a multilateral solution by 2019 or at the latest by 2020.**

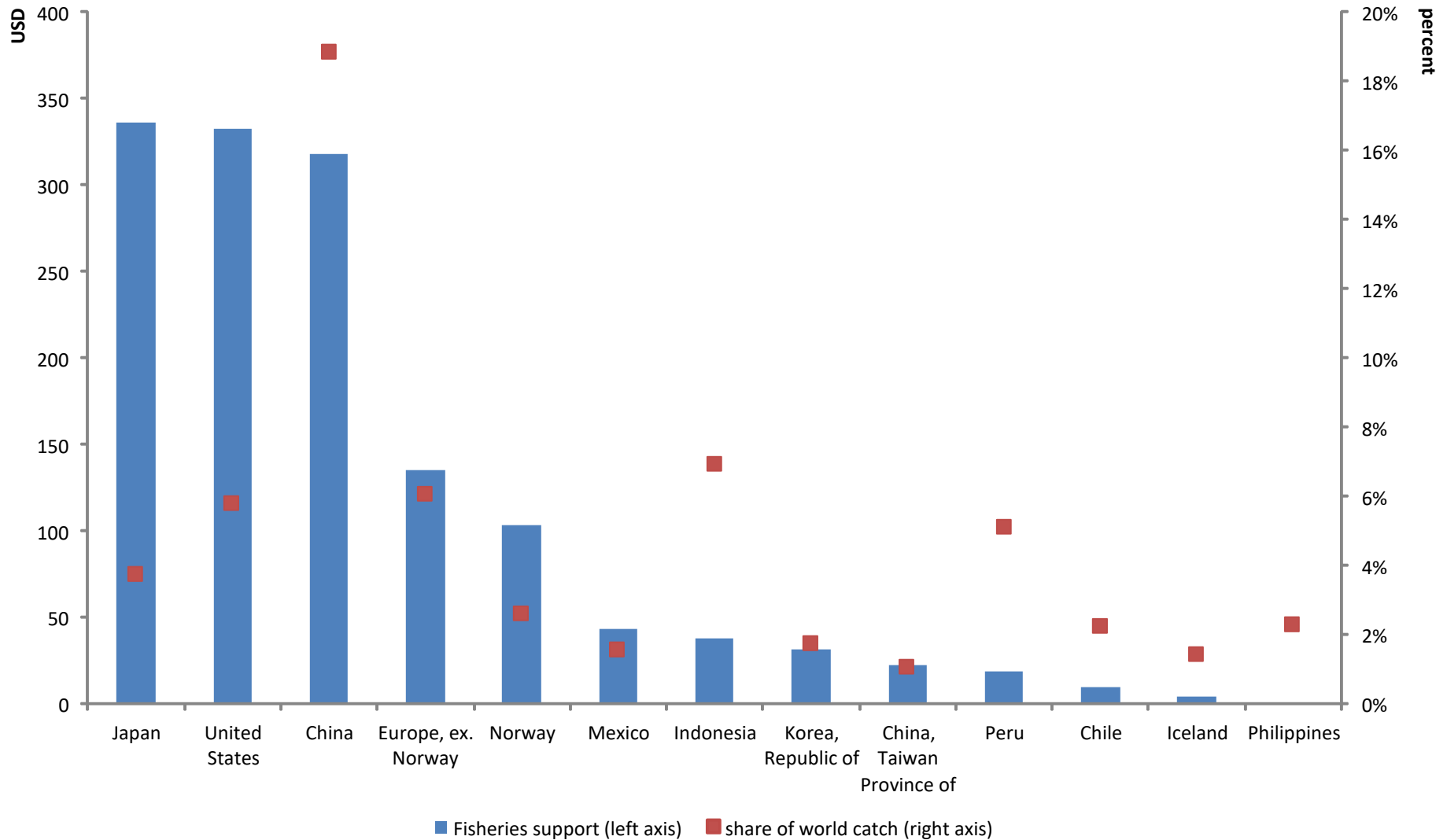
**Figure 1. Annual fisheries support estimate, total, 2010-15
(data from 28 OECD Members and observers)**



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data OECD Fishing Support Estimates (FSE) database, 2018

Note: OECD estimates of government support include budgetary and non-budgetary measures. Year totals are calculated using countries for which data were available in each year of the reference period

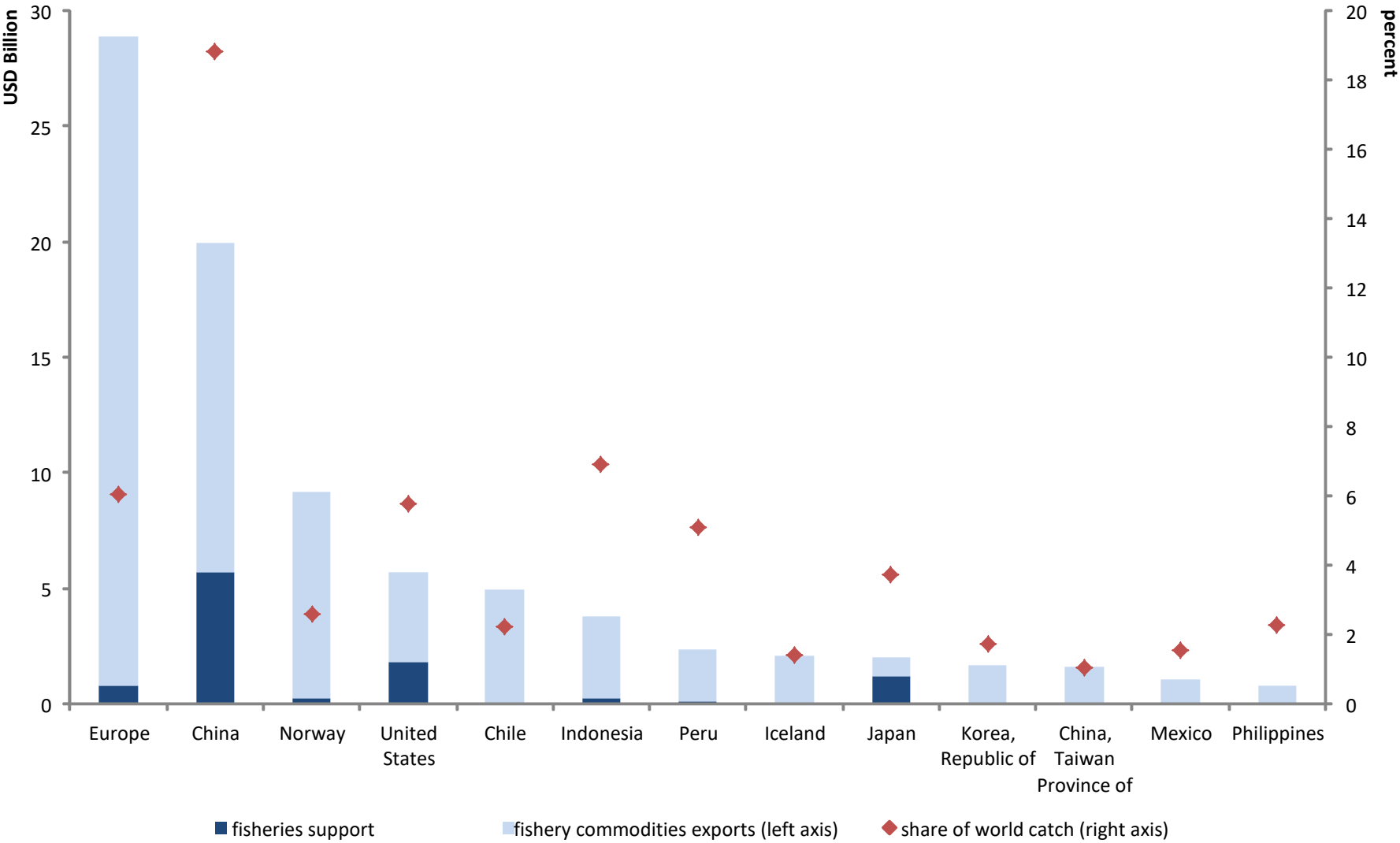
Figure 2. Fisheries support estimate (total) per ton of catch, 2015



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data OECD Fishing Support Estimates (FSE) database and FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, 2018

Note: OECD estimates of government support include budgetary and non-budgetary measures. The figure includes top 20 countries by wild catch for which data were available

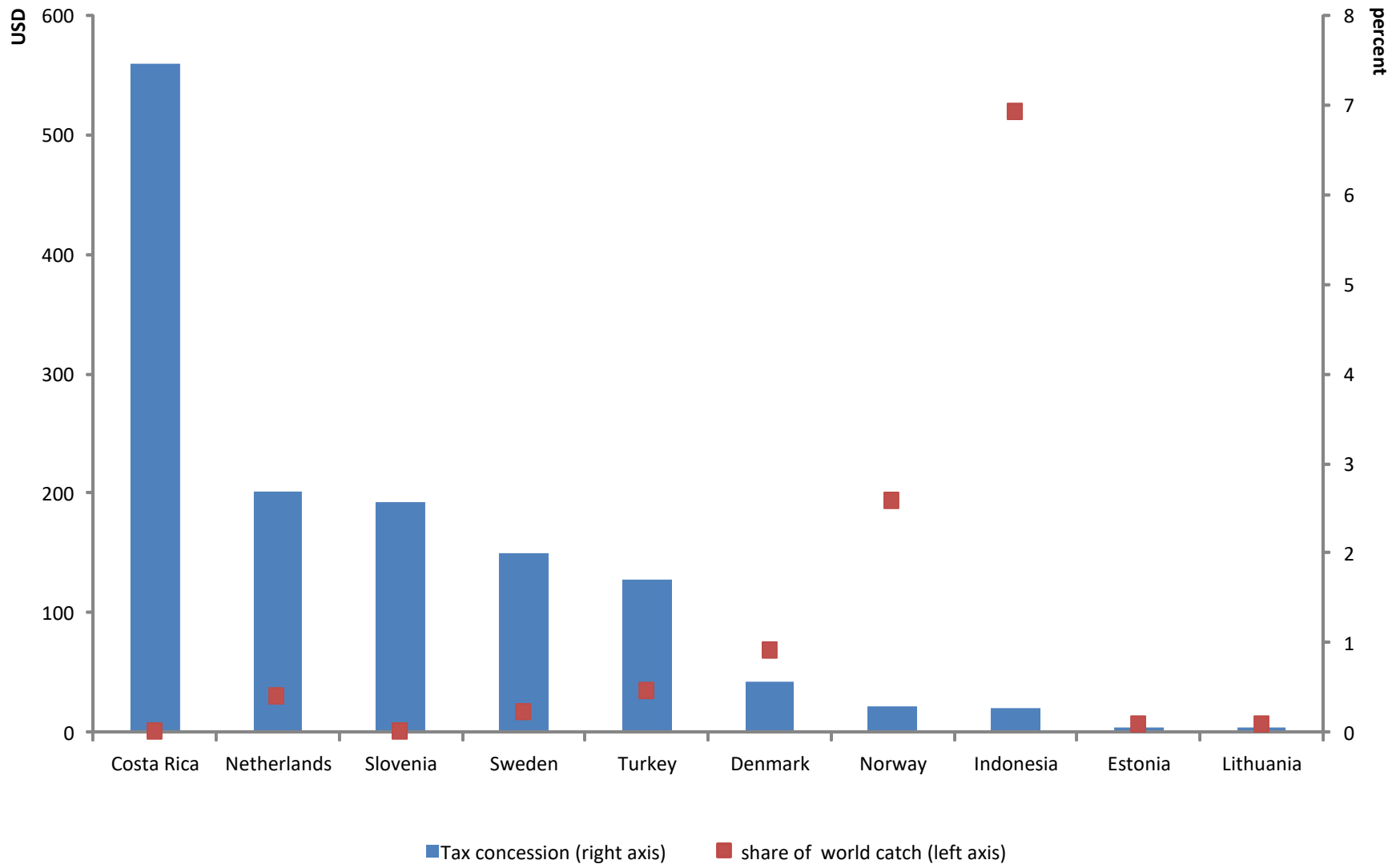
Figure 3. Weight of fisheries support on fishery commodities exports, 2015



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data OECD Fishing Support Estimates (FSE) database and FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, 2018

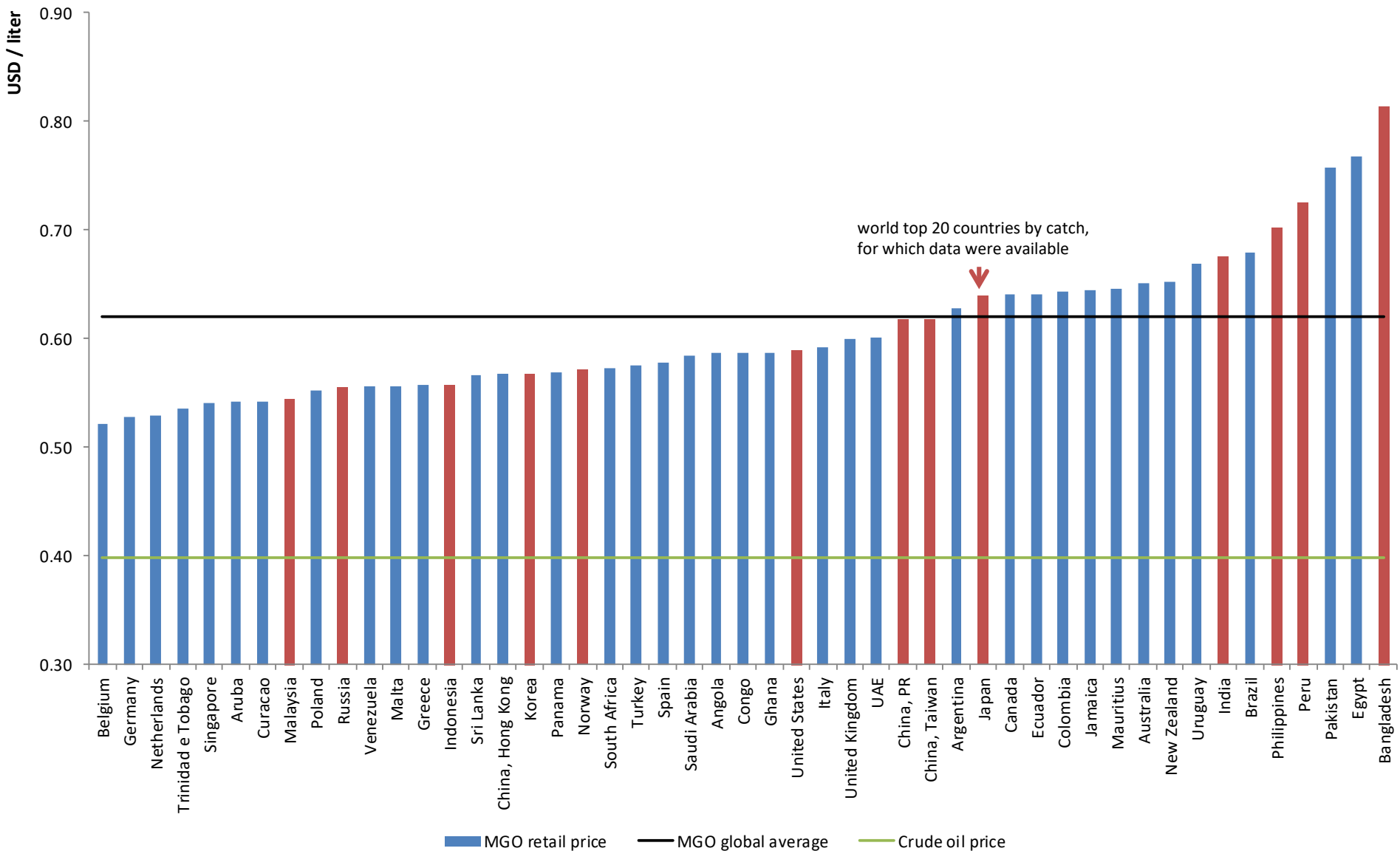
Note: OECD estimates of government support include budgetary and non-budgetary measures. The figure includes top 20 countries by wild catch for which data were available

Figure 4. Fuel tax concessions per ton of catch, 2015



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data OECD Fishing Support Estimates (FSE) database and FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, 2018
 Note: OECD estimates of government support include budgetary and non-budgetary measures. The figure includes top 20 countries by wild catch for which data were available

Figure 5. World pricing of marine gasoil (MGO), 2018



Source: UNCTAD calculations based on data shipandbunker.com, oilmonster.com and FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, 2018

Note: Analysis based on a global sample of 166 ports from 60 countries. Country data points are averages of national surveyed ports as of 7 february 2018. Conversions to liter has been made according to the following scale: 1mt = 1130l

"Harmful fisheries subsidies do not make any economic, social or environmental sense. We are running into a senseless race to the bottom, where we all will be losers when fish is gone"

Dr. Mukisha Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary General

Many thanks