



## UNOC 2025 Side Event

### Sustainable fisheries: The role of trade from oceans to plate

#### Concept Note

##### **Background**

The overarching theme of the Third United Nations Ocean Conference ([UNOC3](#)) to be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025 is "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean". The Conference aims to support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and identify further ways/means to support the implementation of SDG 14. It will build on existing instruments to form successful partnerships towards the swift conclusion and effective implementation of ongoing processes that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean.

Under this framework, the WTO in collaboration with Costa Rica and France, as co-hosts of UNOC3, and in partnership with FAO and UNCTAD will be hosting a side event (ID 120) titled: "**Sustainable fisheries: The role of trade from oceans to plate**" on **13 June 2025** from **8:45 to 10:00 am** in **Room 5** of the main conference venue (Blue Zone).

This side event will showcase the role of trade, trade policies, and a rules-based global trading system in the sustainable fisheries value chain. International trade rules are relevant at every step of the value chain of marine fisheries catch, trade and consumption. The side event will aim to navigate through the relevant international trade rules and global initiatives, to highlight their importance for ocean sustainability and food security.

##### **Guiding questions**

What are the key trade and sustainability challenges facing coastal economies, Small Island Development States (SIDS) and LDCs to ensure their food security as regards fisheries products?

What role can international trade have to ensure more sustainable fishing?

How can South-South trade contribute to the sustainable use of fish stocks?

How have policies to fight IUU been evolving across all steps of the value chain and how effective are they? With domestic policies, catch certification schemes, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, and the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS), are we finally closing the gap?

Why is it important that WTO members ratify the AFS, including to ban subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and fishing related activities? What is the biggest change on the ground that the AFS will bring about? What possible efforts can be made to conclude negotiations on additional provisions to prohibit subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing?

What is the role of private certification schemes for the sustainability of traded fisheries products? How effective and reliable are they? How can small scale fishers afford the costs involved?

Can we realistically expect a change in the trend of sustainability of marine fish stocks worldwide in the near future (share of unsustainable fish stock went from 10% in 1974 to 38% in 2022). How can the FAO, UNCTAD, WTO and other stakeholders play a role in reversing this trend?

### **High Level Segment**

#### *Welcome/Opening Remarks*

- Angela Ellard, Deputy Director-General, WTO

#### *Keynote Statements on "Sustainable Fisheries - the Role of Trade" by UNOC3 co-hosts*

- H.E. Arnold André Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica
- H.E. Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, France

### **Panel Discussion**

**Moderator:** Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO

#### **Panellists**

- Vera Agostini, Deputy Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO
- Chantal-Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment & Sustainable Development, UNCTAD
- Iván López van der Veen, Chair of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
- Alice Tipping, Director, Trade and Sustainable Development, IISD (tbc)

(Moderator will pose the guiding questions to the panellists as per the run of show)

#### **Q&A/Interactive discussion**

(Aim is to set aside time for Q&A towards the end of the panel discussion)

### **Side Event Registration/Participation**

The side event (**ID 120**) will be held on **13 June 2025** from **8:45 to 10:00 am** in **Room 5** of the UNOC main conference venue/Blue Zone in Nice, France and will be open to all stakeholders registered and participating at the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.

Prior registration and a badge are mandatory to participate at the UNOC and can be obtained at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/participate>

For any further information on this event contact: Mr. Sajal Mathur, Counsellor, Trade and Environment Division, WTO at: [sajal.mathur@wto.org](mailto:sajal.mathur@wto.org) or Mr. Joao Nunes, Fisheries Subsidies Officer, Rules Division, WTO at: [joao.nunes@wto.org](mailto:joao.nunes@wto.org).

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