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Oceans economy and trade:
Sustainable fisheries, transport and tourism



**TRADE-RELATED INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SDG 14**

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Introduction

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- Targets – SDG Goal 14
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Targeting the SDGs

- Benchmarking Progress;
- Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators for the SDGs (IAEG);
- Framework to quantitatively assess progress;
- 229 Goal indicators – 149 Green – (*consultations complete*) & 80 Gray;
- National & Regional ‘indigenous’ indicators.

Targeting the SDGs

It is proposed that the list of indicators will be classified into three tiers:

- A first tier - established methodology exists and data are widely available (e.g. the Indexing of Coastal Eutrophication for 14.1)
- A second tier - methodology has been established but data are not easily available; and,
- A third tier – an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed.

Targets – Goal 14

14.1

- By 2025, **prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities**, including marine debris and nutrient pollution (Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density)

14.2

- By 2020, **sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems** to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans (Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches)

14.3

- **Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification**, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels (Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations)

Targets – Goal 14

14.4

- By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics (Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable limits)

14.5

- By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information (coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas)

14.6

- By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation (Progress by countries in the degree of implementation aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing)

Targets – Goal 14

14.7

- By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism (Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, Least Developed Countries and all countries)

14.a

- Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries (Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology)

14.b

- Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets (Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries)

14.c

- Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

Sticks and a few Carrots

- Objectives of goal 14 can be loosely classified as such – Sticks and Carrots?
- Sticks: responsibilities, benefit sharing and positive action (conservation and sustainability measures) and carrots - cross cutting economic and social benefits);
- Goal 14 contains both generalised objectives and specific aims Viz., 14.2 ‘By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems’ versus 14.5 ‘by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas...’;
- Indicators must therefore yield the expected results as envisaged in each Goal, while allowing countries at different levels of development to differentially implement national and regional strategies;

What is the framework for implementation and assessing progress?

- The SDGs will be implemented through the existing legal/institutional architecture. What are the tools available:

Institutional and Enforcement Mechanisms

- UNCLOS – has been ratified by almost every country (except the US) but is weak as it relates to conservation and has no power of enforcement (167 parties);
- Port State Measures Agreement (**not in force yet**);
- FAO Code of Conduct – insufficient resources to monitor compliance;
- FAO - IPOA – (International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – **Voluntary Instrument**);
- UNGA resolution on Sustainable fisheries of December 2013;

Institutional and Enforcement Mechanisms

- UN Fish Stocks Agreement (framework for cooperation & conservation (83 parties);
- Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Reference (VGFSP) (**Voluntary IUU**);
- IMO - Ship Identification numbering Scheme;
- WTO Agreements;
- Regional Trade Agreements /Autonomous Liberalization;
- Transparency - access agreements;
- Enhanced traceability;
- CDS – Catch Documentation Schemes;
- FAO – Committee on Fisheries (COFI) guidelines – Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance;
- Non-Binding best practice;
- RFMOs

State of Play

- Veritable state of nature Or Concordance??
- International cooperation against some of the elements of Goal 14 has been frustrated due to overlapping mandates of international bodies and agreements;
- The Global Oceans Commission has described the patchwork of voluntary rules and fragmented institutions as a **'coordinated catastrophe'**

State of Play

- Conservation measures in Europe and the US will put increased pressure on stocks in developing countries;
- Financial support to fisheries fleets, directly and indirectly is approximately 27 billion dollars or 41 percent of the reported value of the global catch.

State of Play

- The Monitoring Control and Surveillance of many fisheries agreements, particularly with developing countries have proven difficult to enforce given the limited resource of developing country partners;
- Inadequate transparency measures - pay-fish-go' agreements;
- Many RTAs agreements have inadequate conservation measures and do not address sustainability.

Projections towards 2030

- Developed countries continue to be the main importers of fish for human consumption with their share in world imports projected to remain above 50% in terms of quantity;
- World fisheries production is expected to be 17% higher by 2023. The growth will be primarily driven by gains in aquaculture outputs which is projected to reach 49% of total fish production by 2023;
- World per capita consumption is projected to increase from an annualised rate of 19.2 KGs in 2011 – 2013 to 20.9 by 2023 simulated by higher demand for fish and led by developing countries;
- World Fisheries production is projected to reach 186 MT in 2023 17% higher than the base of 2011 – 2013. With 89% of fish production is destined for human consumption.

Projections towards 2030

- Developing countries are expected to account for 96% of the projected production growth, and their share of total production will increase by 2023;
- Overall market growth and increased demand from developing countries will erode developed countries' share of global imports from 55% in (2011 – 2013) to 51% in 2023.

Trade Agreements

- Most RTAs and PTAs go beyond WTO commitments as it relates to the liberalisation of the fisheries sector;
- Preferential agreements under the GSP principally regulate market access and Rules of Origin - the scope of regional trade agreements is far more expansive and treat with a host of trade, and behind the board measures, including subsidies;
- The proliferation of RTAs and the different rules that have emerged both trade rules as well as private standards have increased the cost of trade, particularly for small-scale fishers.

Trade Agreements - WTO

WTO Market Access:

- Fish and fish products are captured within the HS code as industrial goods;
- Current formula proposed: Swiss with modulated approaches for developing countries;
- 14 sectors have been identified for sectoral initiatives including, fish and fish products;
- The objective of Sectoral Initiatives is to achieve 0% tariffs Average applied tariff for fish products under HS 03 is about 14% (WTO 2015).

Trade Agreements - WTO

Negotiations on Rules – Subsidies and Countervailing Duties sought inter alia to prohibit subsidies:

- Those that benefit: acquisition, construction, repair, renewal of fishing vessels;
- Subsidies that benefit of which are conferred on transfer of fishing or service vessels to third countries;
- Those conferred on operating costs of fishing or service vessels;
- Subsidies for port infrastructure, or other physical port facilities for activities related to marine wild capture fisheries
- Income support for those engaged in marine wild capture fishing etc

Trade Agreements - WTO

WTO Negotiations are stalled. Limited progress on NAMA or Fisheries - Nairobi was a missed opportunity to achieve meaningful progress;

Need to ensure parallel progress on both Rules and Market Access to ensure that further liberalisation does not undermine stocks.

Regional Trade Agreements - TPP

TPP - 'seek to operate' fisheries management systems that regulate marine wild capture fishing; Each party shall promote the long-term conservation; prohibit subsidies that contribute to overfishing;

'each Party shall make best efforts to refrain from introducing new, or extending or enhancing existing, subsidies within the meaning of Article 1.1 of the SCM Agreement, to the extent they are specific within the meaning of Article 2 of the SCM Agreement, that contribute to overfishing or overcapacity'

Regional Trade Agreements - TPP

- Prohibits subsidies provided to any fishing vessel listed by its flag state or an RFMO for IUU fishing;
- ‘Each Party shall notify the other Parties, **within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement for it and every two years thereafter**, of any subsidy within the meaning of Article 1.1 of the SCM Agreement’;
- The Parties **recognise the importance of concerted international action to address IUU fishing**;
- ‘Implement Port State Measures’

Regional Trade Agreements – Canada/EU

Canada – EU

- ‘Parties recognise the importance of the conservation and the sustainable and responsible management of fisheries and aquaculture and their contribution....’;
- adopt or maintain effective monitoring control and surveillance measures;
- adopt or maintain actions and cooperate to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Cooperate with, and where appropriate, in regional fisheries management organisations.

Economic Partnership Agreement – CARIFORUM/EU

- Economic Partnership Agreement – Urged adherence to the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible fisheries;
- Urged improvements in compliance;
- Proposed cooperation in Capacity building measures....
- **TFTA** - could potentially control fisheries subsidies through trade rules and disciplines, commitments, and/or other measures

Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders

Trade Related Indicators (Benchmarks)

- Coordinated action against IUU in international trade (WTO/UNEP/FAO);
- Enhanced transparency Mechanisms on fish trade (WTO/FAO/UNCTAD);
- Mandatory global registration of vessels & Traceability (IMO);
- Enforcement of Port State Measures;
- Disciplining of fisheries subsidies multilaterally (WTO);
- Binding rules within new RTAs against IUU and harmful practices & mandatory Management and Monitoring, Surveillance and Control;
- Catch documentation schemes should be included in all new agreements (bilateral & multilateral);

Trade Related Indicators

- Sustainable harvesting from the fisheries sector – what percentage of wild catch is subsidized?;
- Enhanced Market access for LDCs and SIDS – what is the contribution of LDCs and SIDS to overall exports in line with 14b?;
- Technical assistance provided in support of Monitoring, Surveillance and Control re fisheries exports?
- Transparency for SPS and TBT measures affecting fisheries;
- Liberalisation of environmental goods – that support mitigation and conservation in the fisheries sector;

Conclusion

- Coordination of multilateral rules through the WTO;
- Enhanced awareness and monitoring of trade flows related to SDG14 through enhanced notifications;
- FAO – oversight of the PSM and IPOA – notification process – embedding PSM and IPOA in multilateral agreements;
- RFMOs empowered to collate and transmit data on both conservation measures and yields – coordinated process;
- UNCTAD can play a leading role as a central repository and aggregator of Trade related data relevant to SDG14;
- UNCTAD – establish a implementation framework that include both objective indicators re SDG 14 but indicators that include trade performance;
- Deepen partnerships between agencies aimed at collative initiative;
- Reinvigoration of the WTO negotiations on Rules and Market access

Thank You