Fisheries Subsidies and the Current WTO Negotiations

The Fisheries International Framework, the Main Pillars of the WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies and their Crosslinks with FAO Instruments

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Why the Importance of the WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies?
An Important Commodity

FISH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Unique Importance of Fish in International Markets
Exports (US$)

$56%$ Fish

- $18%$ Beef
- $14%$ Pork
- $12%$ Poultry

$37%$ of fish production enters international markets

Total $Exports$
US$165 billion
An Inclusive Participation of Countries
Fisheries – Its Uniqueness and WTO

The Uniqueness of Fisheries at the WTO

Traditional products
- Attachment to a geographical territory

Fish
- Without any pre-determination of origin

Subsidies at the WTO

Agriculture Products

Industrial Products and Fish
Main “Fish Concepts” in the WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies

Overcapacity  Overfishing  IUU Fishing
WTO Negotiations
Main Concepts

- IUU Fishing
- Overfishing
- Overcapacity
- Special and Differential Treatment
- Small-Scale Fishers

FAO Fish Instruments
Main Applicable FAO Instruments

- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) – 1995
- International Plan of Action IPOA-IUU - 2001
- Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) - 2009
- International Plan of Action IPOA-Capacity - 2009
- Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fishers - 2014
- Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) - 2017

Other Applicable Instruments

- UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Basic Principles
- Maritime Zones
- Shared stocks
- Sustainability Issue
- Coordination among States
UNCLOS Maritime Zones

- Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles from baseline)
- Exclusive Economic Zone (up to 200 nautical miles from baseline)
- High Sea
- Contiguous Zone (up to 12 miles)
- Continental Shelf
- Area (deep sea bed)

FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

Comprehensive Instrument

Basic Axiological Values
- Solid, sustainable, precautionary and inclusive actions
- Shared responsibilities
- Holistic approach
- Good source of guidance for the main pillars of WTO Fisheries Subsidies negotiation process

Main Covered Areas
- Fisheries management
- Overfishing
- Small-Scale Fishers
- Specific approach
- Post-Harvest Issues
Possible FAO Instruments to inform the WTO Negotiation Process

- **Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fishers (2014)**
  - Facilitate Market access
  - Promote non-discriminatory trade
  - Access to information on markets and trade

- **Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) (2017)**
  - Supporting tool to assess the legality of the origin of the product
  - Value-chain instrument
  - Aligned with International and national regulations
  - Global Market implications

- **Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) (2009)**
  - Focused on Countries
  - Basic principle of cooperation
  - Risk reduction of unloading illegal fish
  - Mandatory instrument

Possible FAO Instruments to inform the WTO Negotiation Process

SDG Mandate

- 17 Goals
- 169 Targets
- 232 Indicators
Information on Fish Markets

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GLOBEFISH

- Market Analysis
- International Trade
- Training
- Participation in Events and Conferences
- Website
- Publications
- Trade Statistics
- Price Correspondents
- Project Contributors

Sustainable Fish Trade
For Today and Tomorrow

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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