



An agenda for sustainable fisheries



Expert Meeting on Trade in Sustainable Fisheries

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Bonapas Onguglo

Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch

**Division of International Trade in Goods and Services,
and Commodities**

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OUTLINE

- Key issues for discussion & attention
- Why a fish agenda?
- A 2030 agenda for sustainable fisheries
- Concluding remarks



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Key issues for discussion & attention





Key issues for discussion & attention...

Overfishing



Key issues for discussion & attention...



Subsidies



Key issues for discussion & attention...



IUU



Key issues for discussion & attention...



Fish Trade



Key issues for discussion & attention...

**Tariff peaks
and
escalation**



Key issues for discussion & attention...

NTMs



Key issues for discussion & attention...

Certification



Key issues for discussion & attention...



Aquaculture



Key issues for discussion & attention...



MPAs



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Why a fish agenda?



I. The importance of fish: Multi-functional role

- sector plays significant role in economic development, food security, employment for coastal populations, especially in SIDS and coastal LDCs.
- value addition expands job opportunities, generates backwards and forward linkages.
- fish consumption growing as population expands, placing intense pressure on fish stocks.



I. The importance of fish (cont.)

- most of the world's marine fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.
- aquaculture is filling the gap between the global fish demand and supply.
- “sustainable fisheries” policies and practices required to allow fish populations to recover.



II. The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: SDG 14 *An Oceans Goal with fish targets*

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- will affect how we craft economic & sustainability policies & agreements affecting fish in the future.



II. The UN's 2030 Agenda: SDG 14 ...

- End overfishing, IUU fishing & other destructive fishing practices & to restore fish stocks (Goal 14.4)
- Take action on (prohibit & refrain from introducing new) subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing (Goal 14.6).
- Explicit target to increase the economic benefits to SIDS & LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources (Goal 14.7 & 14.b).






III. International Trade & Trade policy

- fish are one of the most traded food commodities today.
- exports reached record levels in 2013 (\$136 billion). 
- fish and products account for over 7 percent of total SIDS exports and about 1.5 percent in LDCs.



III. International Trade & Trade policy

- average applied tariffs for fish and fish products have been decreasing and are not particularly high compare to bound rates. 
- *however, some tariff peaks exist, and tariff escalation affects processed fish products.* 
- non-tariff barriers (NTMs) affecting fish exports are increasing. 



III. International Trade & Trade policy

- certification schemes have emerged (sustainably harvested, organic, mercury free, etc).
- many distributors, retailers now source mainly certified products.
- cost of certification is usually borne by harvesters; small scale and artisanal fishers need assistance.



III. International Trade & Trade policy

- Subsidies:
 - Good ones that support fisheries development and livelihoods of fishers.
 - Bad ones that support excessive fishing capacity to continue extracting and depleting an already scarce resource.
- *the international community is seeking effective solutions to harmful subsidies.*



IV. Harmful Fishing Practices: Case of IUU Fishing

- Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing represents a significant threat to sustaining fish stock levels.
- wide recognition for multilateral and regional action against IUU.
- unilateral/national schemes to combat IUU have been established.



IV. Harmful Fishing Practices:...

- *however, efforts need to be deployed to ensure that national IUU requirements do not become an obstacle to trade.*
- schemes should be applied consistently and uniformly, based on levels of risks and capacities of countries.
- effective TC & ToT will be fundamental for developing countries to cope with the effort.



V. Sustaining fish stocks: complementary approaches

- national fish management systems are considered a pre-requisite for fish stocks conservation.
- RFMOs have a fundamental role in stocks management of migratory species.
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) expand the potential for fish stocks and ecosystems recovery.
- the promotion of fish farming (aquaculture) also reduces marine fish stock extraction levels.
- NGERs - a trade approach



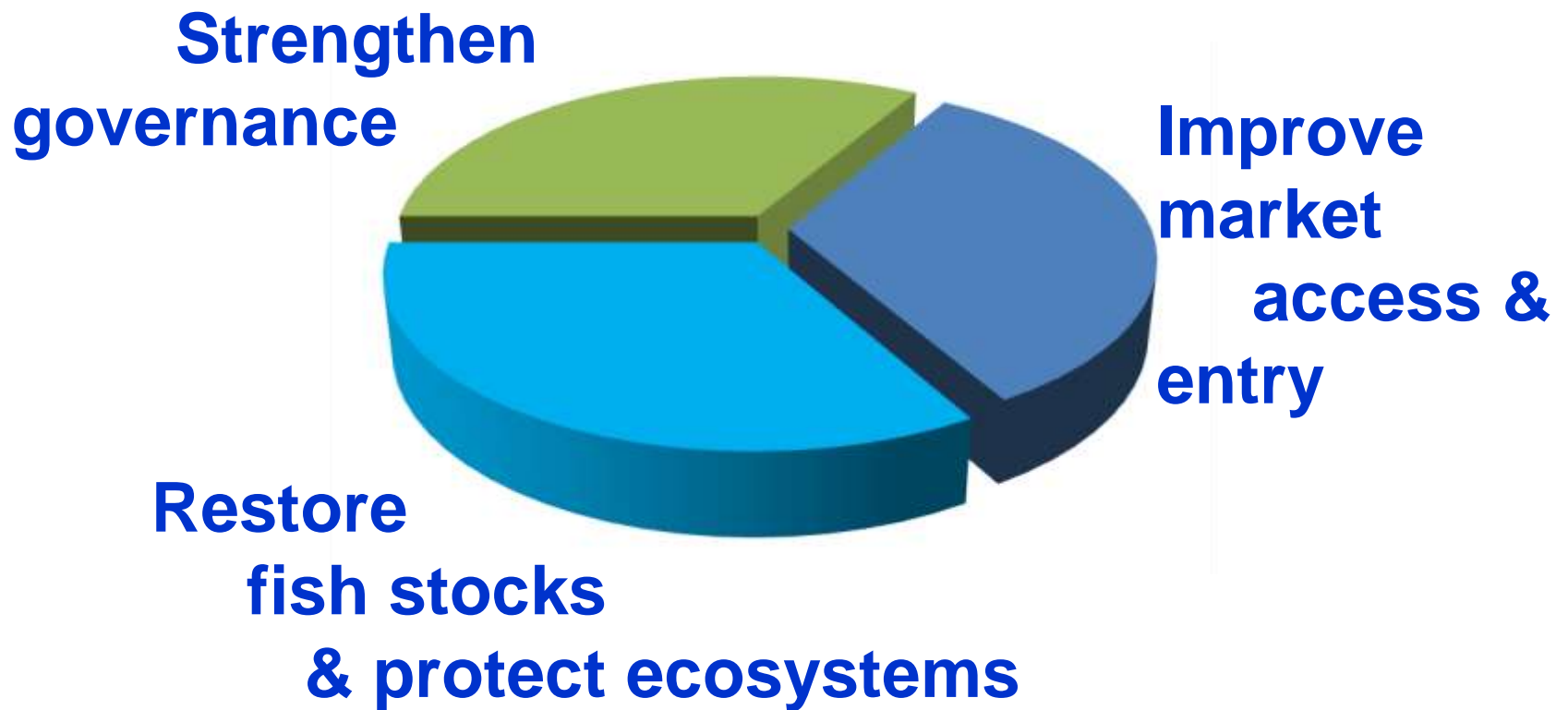
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A 2030 agenda for sustainable fisheries: Some suggestions



A Comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries

A. Strengthen sustainable fisheries governance systems

- improve and strengthen coordination among the different fish governance bodies.
- enhance participation in relevant UN and FAO treaties.
- make annual reviews of progress in the implementation of oceans SDG Goal 14.
- ensure bilateral fisheries agreements are transparent, fair and support better governance of the fisheries sector in the developing countries & provide adequate licensing fees.
- *Strengthening RFMOs by increasing their capacity for surveillance, inspection, administrative and scientific activities as well as data collection and compilation.*



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B. Improve market access and entry conditions for sustainably harvested fish products

- address market access issues, including NTMs, that affect fish products within the WTO Doha Round.
- facilitate the use of certification schemes by developing countries.
- enhance transparency on fisheries access agreements.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries

B. Improve market access and entry conditions for sustainably harvested fish products

- address, with a view to eliminating, harmful subsidies, including in the WTO Doha Round.
- encourage and strengthen effective reporting, monitoring, and surveillance of fish subsidies.
- expand that AfT supports to institutional capacity building on SPS/TBT measures, and private standards.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries

C. Restore fish stocks & protect marine ecosystems

- support sustainable harvesting of fish and local value addition by developing countries.
- provide developing countries with technical support on fish management systems.
- apply low cost traceability systems.
- support national green exports and value addition strategies that incorporates the fisheries sector.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries

C. Restore fish stocks & protect marine ecosystems

- enhance consumer awareness on sustainable practices in fish harvesting, preparation and trade.
- promote the creation of MPAs and EBSAs, and
- Introduction of fishing moratoriums as needed to rebuild stock levels.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Fisheries

C. Restore fish stocks & protect marine ecosystems

Stop IUU fishing without undermining fishing nations export potential:

- strengthen efforts to curtail IUU fishing practices.
- ensure that IUU measures are based on clear & objective criteria, do not discriminate between countries, & that IUU audits are transparent.
- support and strengthen institutional & technical capacity of developing countries to put in place measures to combat IUU fishing.



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Concluding remarks



From A Tragedy Of Commons To A Triumph Of Commons



Thank you

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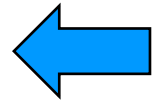
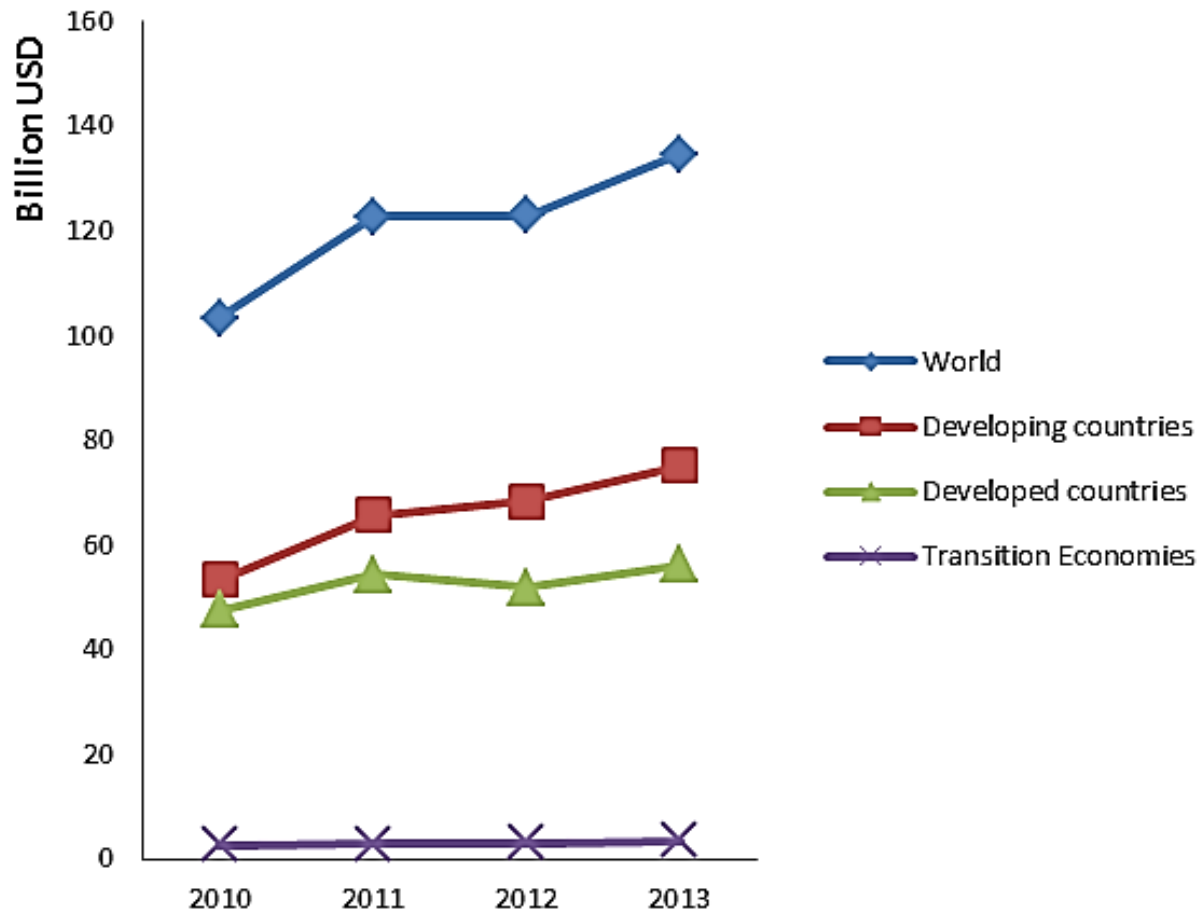
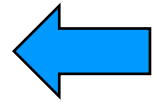
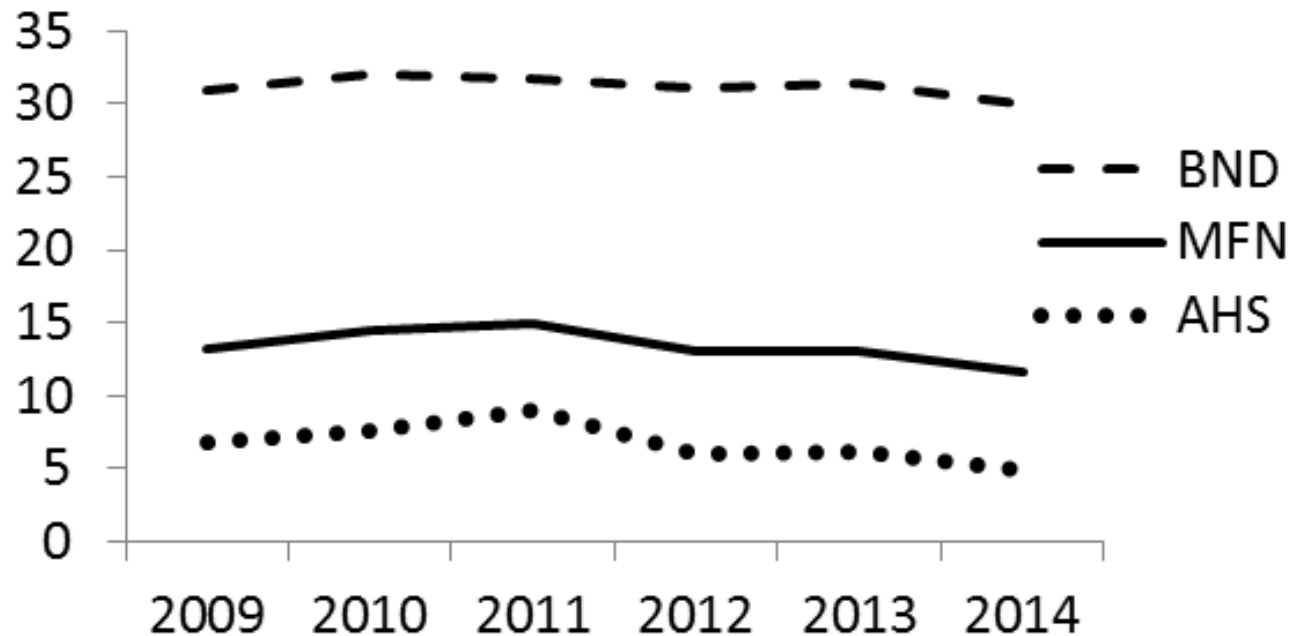


Figure 4. Exports of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and preparations thereof (2010-2013)





**Figure 7. Average World Tariffs for All Fish Products (2009-2014)
percent Ad-Valorem**



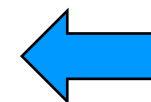
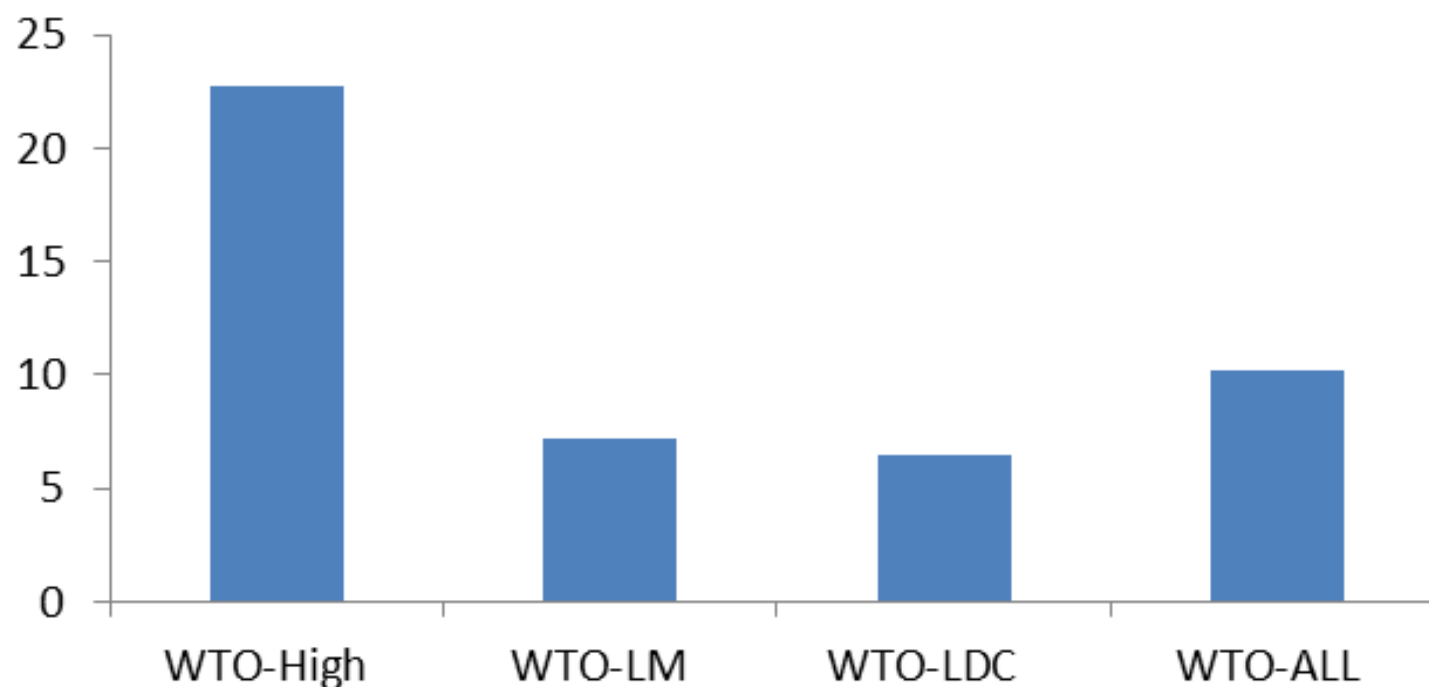


Figure 10. Average number of tariff peaks per country in group in 2014 (All Fish Products)



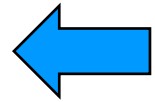


Figure 11. SPS and TBT measures for fish and fish products (HS codes 03, 1604 and 1605 / 2010-2015 / accumulated)

