

TRADE-RELATED FISHERIES TARGETS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14



SUMMARY DOCUMENT
INFORMAL PREPARATORY WORKING GROUP 4
High-Level United Nations Conference to Support
the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14



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United Nations

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All the experts of the IPWG-4 acted on their personal capacity, and their opinions do not necessarily represent the views of the institutions or organizations with whom they are affiliated. UNCTAD and FAO, as the compilers of this summary, do not necessarily endorse the viewpoints expressed by the experts.

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Abbreviations

BLIM	Biomass limit (the biomass level below which stock productivity is likely to be seriously impaired)
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
CSOs	Global civil society organizations
CTE	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
FADs	Fish Aggregation Devices
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
IAEG-SDG	Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICTs	Information and communication technologies
IPGW-4	Informal Working Group 4 of the Advisory Group of the United Nations Oceans Conference (2017) co-convened by Fiji and Sweden
IPOA	International Plan of Action
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield
MCS	Monitoring, compliance and surveillance
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NCEM	NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures
NG Rules	WTO negotiating Group on Rules
NTMs	Non tariffs Measures
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLA/DOALOS	United Nations Office of Legal Affairs / Division of Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Seas
PSMs	Port State Measures
PSMA	FAO Port State Measures Agreement
PPP	Public-private partnerships
RFBs	Regional Fisheries Bodies
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
SAI	Significant Adverse Impacts
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
TBT	Technical barriers to trade
TACs	Total allowable catches
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement
UBC	University of British Columbia
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
United Nations Fish stocks agreement	The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VGGT	FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
SSF Guidelines	FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems
WEF	World Economic Forum
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

FOREWORD

One of the particularities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the United Nations Summit held in New York in September 2015, was the adoption, for the first time, of a Global Goal on oceans and seas. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 is exclusively dedicated to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. It includes ten targets relating to marine pollution, protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, minimizing ocean acidification, sustainable management of fisheries and ending harmful fisheries subsidies, conserving coastal and marine areas, increasing economic benefits to Small Island Development States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The fisheries sector represents one of the oldest economic activities carried out by humanity and remains one of the most relevant for many developing countries. It is also one of the sectors where more concerted efforts will be needed if we want to reach SDG 14, especially when today around 31.4% of fish stocks are estimated as being fished at biologically unsustainable levels. Recognized drivers of this trend are overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, and the existence of harmful incentives including certain types of fisheries subsidies. In addition, the sector also faces impacts of climate change, and several forms of pollution.

Under SDG 14, there are three targets explicitly focused on the trade-related aspects of fisheries:

Target 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;

Target 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

Target 14.b

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

The achievement of these three targets is no small matter and is related with other targets and global goals such as SDG 2 - “no hunger”. Also, two of the targets are part of the so-called “early harvest” of the 2030 Agenda, meaning they should be accomplished by 2020 – ten years before any other target and only three years from now.

Additionally, these targets are linked to processes and negotiations within the United Nations System and the World Trade Organization. Due to current political uncertainty in trade policy and global and regional cooperation in general, significant efforts to advance these goals are particularly needed.

On 22 December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 70/226, within which the United Nations General Assembly decided to “convene the High-Level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (United Nations Oceans Conference), from 5 to 9 June 2017 in New York, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”. This global conference is expected to give a significant impetus to global cooperation and efforts toward the attainment of SDG 14.

Within this process, the conference co-conveners (the Missions of Fiji and Sweden to the United Nations) called for the creation of Informal Preparatory Working Groups (IPWGs) in order to obtain specific advice

in the preparatory phase by key agencies and stakeholders. UNCTAD and FAO were entrusted to be the co-conveners of IPWG-4 dealing with targets 4, 6 and b of SDG 14.

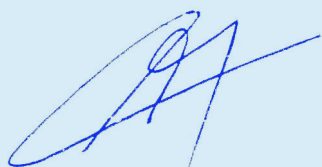
After several IPWG-4 meetings and intense consultations with more than 20 group members, including various inter-governmental organizations, business associations, civil society organizations and academia, the group produced a summary document titled *Advancing Sustainable Management and Trade-Related Fisheries Targets under SDG 14*.

With the intention that such a summary can contribute to informed discussions and negotiations on the road to the United Nations Oceans Conference, the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference as well as other intergovernmental processes, UNCTAD and FAO have compiled, revised and made available this analytical and forward-looking summary arising from the United Nations Conference advisory process, so that all stakeholders can benefit from its findings and insights.

Although the results and conclusions in this summary are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of UNCTAD and FAO, this report provides a state-of-the-art review, case studies, information on partnerships, identification of gaps, opportunities, and challenges. It also addresses possible recommendations on how to regulate harvesting and IUU fishing, implement science-based management and restoration plans, addresses the phase-out of fisheries subsidies, and promotes access to markets and resources for small-scale artisanal fishers.

The complexities of the fisheries sector, when analysed from different viewpoints in a cooperative environment, can lead to innovative paths for reaching mutually agreeable and feasible solutions. The diversity of members participating in the working group directly reflects a commitment to a multilateral and collaborative approach, which will be vital in achieving the fisheries related targets under SDG 14.

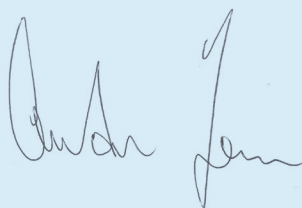
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INTRODUCTION

This summary document was prepared to help facilitate the work of the Informal Preparatory Working Group¹ on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 targets 4, 6 and b and to provide requested advice to the co-conveners of the United Nations Oceans Conference in New York (Fiji and Sweden), 5-9 June 2017.

The Informal Preparatory Working Group 4 (IPWG-4) focused its work on targets relating to the sustainable management of fisheries, fight against IUU fishing, the elimination of fisheries subsidies, and the need to provide market and resource access for small-scale artisanal fishers (SDG 14 targets 4, 6 and b). It is the only IPWG entrusted with three targets.

The IPWG-4 has an extended membership of 21 representatives of Intergovernmental organizations, RFMOs, global civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and academia. The membership includes representatives from CECAF, GFCM, GEF, Conservation International, IATTC, Memorial University of Newfoundland, NAFO, Oceana, OECD, OLA/DOALOS, Pew Charitable Trusts, University of British Columbia, UNEP, UNDP, United Nations Global Compact, World Animal Protection, WEF, WTO, and WWF. The IPWG has been co-convened and coordinated by FAO and UNCTAD. All representatives participate in their personal capacity.

The current summary document is structured in three parts associated to each SDG target: 4, 6 and b. It seeks to provide baseline information on main trends, challenges, gaps, opportunities and to put forward proposals on new partnerships, recommendations and future actions to accelerate the implementation of the relevant targets of SDG 14 provided by the membership. This summary document is the result of collegial discussion, thinking and action by all IPWG-4 members.



1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGET 14.4 END OF OVERFISHING BY REGULATING HARVESTING, ADDRESSING IUU FISHING AND IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT PLANS TO RESTORE STOCKS RAPIDLY

1.1 Trends

According to FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016,² 68.6% of stocks were at sustainable levels – both as fully sustainably fished stocks (58.1%) and under fished stocks (10.5%); and 31.4% of fish stocks were estimated as fished at a biologically unsustainable level and therefore overfished. After 1990, the number of stocks fished at unsustainable levels continued to increase, albeit more slowly than in the late 1970s and 1980s. Although many stocks are subject to regulation by coastal States and/or flag States, including through regional fisheries management organizations, there is unevenness in the effectiveness of management and its results.

Overfishing persists despite decades of efforts to manage fisheries to successfully conserve stocks at sustainable levels. SDG 14 target 4 specifically recognizes the need to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and to implement science-based management plans to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can

generally recommended international minimum standards, whether sub regional, regional or global.^{4 5}

1.1.1 Trends in efforts to end overfishing

UNCLOS requires States to determine the total allowable catch of the living resources in its exclusive economic zone, and defines jurisdiction. The coastal State, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it, shall ensure through proper conservation and management measures that the maintenance of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone is not endangered by over-exploitation. As appropriate, the coastal State and competent international organizations, whether subregional, regional or global, shall cooperate to this end. It also requires States to take measures to conserve and cooperate to conserve and manage high seas fish stocks (articles 117 and 118).⁶

1.1.2 Trends in harvest regulation

Increasingly, harvest regulations are being understood as a combination of measures that bring together economic, social and conservation concerns and are based on systems that can encourage, not discourage, conservation whilst facilitating sustainable and economically viable fisheries and communities.

Regulating the harvest of fish is a combination of measures to manage both the numbers of fish that can be caught as well as limits on efforts to catch fish. Such measures can include combinations of total allowable catches (TACs), efforts to limit fishing such as limited days, amounts of gear and numbers of vessels allowed to participate in conjunction with complementary conservation rules such as closed areas (including vulnerable portions of ecosystems), restrictions on time spent fishing, restrictions on gears and types of gear, the size of fish that can be caught, bycatch, and so forth.

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