

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





### CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

EDITION



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CODE OF PRACTICE

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# Foreword





CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

> The Codex Alimentarius, "the food code", has a fundamental role in protecting consumers all around the world and ensuring fair practices in food trade. The *Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products* is the essential reference point for technical guidance on the harvesting, processing, transport and sale of fish and fishery products.

> Aquaculture in general plays a crucial role in global food security and together with fisheries plays a significant and growing role in providing food, nutrition and employment in all parts of the world, thereby contributing to the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fisheries and aquaculture offer ample opportunities to reduce hunger and improve nutrition, alleviate poverty, generate economic growth, and ensure better use of natural resources. Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food sector and has the potential to produce the fish needed to help meet the demands of a growing population. Importantly, fish accounts for 17 percent of the global population's intake of animal protein.

> This updated version of the text introduces valuable additional information on how to minimize the risk of histamine build-up in fish and fishery products through technical guidance for the control of histamine formation at key steps in the food chain from harvesting to processing. This guidance will be relevant for both small and large-scale operators.

> As demands for production increase, while limiting food waste or loss, the fisheries sector will continue to face environmental challenges and will be required to adopt policy and management practices that are able to harness technical developments and innovation to ensure business development and trade. Both for countries where fishing or aquaculture is already the backbone of the community and in regions where population growth will require policy makers and regulators to explore new opportunities in food systems, practical Codex texts such as this code of practice can ensure that products that are sold on national or international markets meet the requirements of international standards, protecting health and facilitating trade.

**Bjørn Røthe Knudtsen** Chairperson, Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products Regional Director, The Norwegian Food Safety Authority

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