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## COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Relevant activities carried out by FAO during the intersessional period  
(June 2023-July 2025)**

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### 1. Introduction

This document provides an overview of the FAO work of relevance to CWP carried out since the intersessional meeting of CWP in June 2023. More detailed information on previous activities is available in the FAO reports presented at [CWP 27](#) in 2022 and [CWP-IS 2023](#).

### 2. Global and regional statistics

FAO is the only global source of comprehensive fisheries and aquaculture statistics, FishStat, which represent a unique asset for sector analysis and monitoring. These data cover a wide range of domains, including total, capture and aquaculture production; processed production of aquatic products; trade of aquatic products; apparent consumption of aquatic products; employment; and fleet data, with time series spanning over seven decades, making them the longest-running statistical series published by FAO.

During the intersessional period, fisheries and aquaculture statistics were released regularly:

- Global production in March
- Processed production and trade of aquatic products in July
- Fleet, employment (in aggregated form), along with food balance sheets of aquatic food in the FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture at years' end.

In addition to global statistics, FAO continued to produce and disseminate three regional capture databases in July for CECAF (Eastern Central Atlantic), RECOFI (Regional Commission for Fisheries, - covering part of Western Indian Ocean), and the Southeast Atlantic.

- FAO continued enhancing FishStat data quality through multiple initiatives:
- Revision of historical time series based on updated information
- From 2018, reinstatement of capture fisheries value data collection, discontinued since 1974
- Development of new guidelines for estimating inland water capture production (to be released in 2025) new employment estimation methodologies, in collaboration with OECD

- Improved methodologies for the estimation of fleet data
- Migration of nearly all fisheries and aquaculture databases to the FAO Corporate Statistical Working System, with an improvement of the estimation methodologies for processed production, trade, Food Balance Sheets and employment. Thanks to this migration, this year will be the fifth year in which FAO also disseminated trade statistics of aquatic products by partners.

Major work was carried out to further revise and improve the FishStat questionnaires used to collect data from member countries also through more proactive actions to interact with national providers of statistics to FAO. In particular, in September 2024, FAO held global training on how to complete the FAO FishStat questionnaires. Conducted five times across time zone, with interpretation in the six FAO official languages and Portuguese, the sessions attracted over 550 national statisticians and scientists responsible for reporting fisheries and aquaculture statistics to FAO from 156 countries. The main objective of the training was to guide national statistical focal points on the filling of the FishStat questionnaires and respond to queries on the content of data to be provided. It also allowed FAO to gather valuable feedback on national data collection challenges for fishery and aquaculture data.

FishStat has dedicated [webpages](#) on the FAO Fisheries and aquaculture pages. Additional enhancement, including interactive graphs, maps and enriched metadata are underway. FishStat data are disseminated through different tools including [FishStatJ](#) (latest version, 4.04.11, released in March 2025), the [online query panel](#), and the [FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics](#). Since its 2020 edition, the FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics was redesigned with analytical tables, graphs and maps. It is generated with R. The 2023 edition will be released in autumn 2025.

In 2024, FAO launched a dedicated [webpage](#) on the FAO Fish Price Index (FPI). This new webpage provides public access to timely and regularly updated information on global price trends of fisheries and aquaculture commodities. The index is available for total, and separated by aquaculture and capture prices, and by six main groups of species. The webpage is updated on a monthly basis, offering a brief analysis of the latest data along with the option to download the data for further use.

In June 2024, FAO released its flagship publication, [The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (SOFIA). This biennial report provides the most comprehensive global overview of the status, trends, and challenges facing fisheries and aquaculture. SOFIA serves as a critical reference for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders, offering in-depth analysis supported by the latest data. In addition to SOFIA, other major publications such as FAO's Food Outlook (biannually released in June and November) and the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook publication (annually released with medium term projections) feature dedicated sections on fish and other aquatic products. These reports provide important short- and medium-term perspectives on production, trade, consumption, and market trends, further contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the sector's role in global food systems.

At corporate level, a substantial effort has been undertaken to align the current FAO flagging system with the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard. This process involved mapping the existing flag definitions to their SDMX equivalents. The goal was to enhance data comparability across systems and facilitate integration with other datasets that adhere to international statistical standards. A revised version of the FAO Statistical Standard Observation status Code list, including the list of the adopted flags, will be soon disseminated at the webpage "[Data and Statistical Standard Series](#)" that also includes the other adopted FAO statistical standards covering Data collection and data sources; Data treatment, processing and analysis; Data dissemination; and Overall quality and statistical relevance, in addition to the overall [FAO Statistics and Data Quality Assurance Framework](#).

Furthermore, FAO is working for the release of a new Statistical Data Warehouse, at present FAODATA explorer beta, that should become in the future the new FAOSTAT. This new dissemination platform has

the scope to access, filter, explore, download and share FAO statistics. The platform is currently a beta version as it is under development and will gradually be populated with existing FAO statistics on food, agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and aquaculture currently disseminated through FAOSTAT and FishStat. At present, FAODATA explorer (Beta version) includes SDG data of the 22 indicators under FAO custodianship, also disseminated in FAOSTAT and the UN Global SDG Database.

In February 2024, FAO launched the FAOSTAT “Food and Diet” domain. This domain provides harmonized data on food and nutrition, drawing from various types of dietary data sources, including FAO Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA), Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys (HCES), individual quantitative dietary surveys, and the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) indicator. Within the SUA dataset, statistics on energy, macro-, and micronutrient supply per capita are presented and disaggregated by 20 food groups—including aquatic products. This allows for the calculation of the contribution of aquatic food products to nutrient supply within countries, supporting more detailed assessments of their role in national and global diets. More information on this domain is available [here](#).

### **3. Inter-agency collaboration in statistics reporting and on development of new tools**

FAO has continued to collaborate effectively with several CWP Member organizations, including Eurostat, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A key area of cooperation has been with the OECD to harmonize fisheries and aquaculture employment statistics, involving a joint data collection for 54 countries and the development of standard imputation methodologies. To reduce the reporting burden on countries, OECD has stopped collecting data on inland fisheries and aquaculture directly, instead sourcing them from FAO disseminated databases. OECD now also extracts trade data from FAO rather than directly from UN Comtrade, which is in any case the main source of FAO trade statistics (with the exception of the European Union countries for which FAO extracts trade data from Eurostat).

Since mid-June 2022, Eurostat has stopped sharing capture fisheries statistics with FAO, following a similar earlier decision regarding aquaculture data, due to an increasing number of countries providing confidential data that Eurostat cannot share. Discussions are ongoing to find a mutually beneficial solution that also reduces duplication of effort for European Union countries. FAO continues to extract fleet and trade data for EU countries directly from the Eurostat website.

### **4. International classifications and manuals**

FAO is currently involved in several international tasks groups working for the revision of selected international classifications, including the Central Product Classification (CPC), the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and the Harmonized System Nomenclature (HS). For the CPC, FAO has proposed the inclusion of additional product codes to better reflect the diversity of fisheries and aquaculture products. In the HS2028 revision process, FAO did not submit proposals directly but attended a few sessions of the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee (HSRSC) to support updates relevant to fisheries and aquaculture, including new codes for rays and skates.

Regarding ISCO, FAO proposed splitting employment classifications to distinguish between inland and coastal fisheries. However, the proposal has faced challenges, as the differentiation is expected to be based on gear types or vessels rather than environment. FAO is also contributing to the newly established Task Team on International Trade Statistics, which is leading revisions of the *Manual on International*

*Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010* (IMTS 2010) and the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* (MSITS 2010).

The ASFIS list of species is annually updated and released each year. New species items are annually added to accommodate new species included in the national production data received or in response to specific requests received from national authorities and other international organizations, including CWP members. As of the 2024 edition, the list includes 13 567 species items and features a significant revision based on a multi-year process. Requests submitted by December each year are reflected in the following year's release, with updates published on the ASFIS [webpage](#) and announced to registered users by email. More on the ASFIS revision process and references is available [here](#).

The latest version of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) has been implemented in FAO's FAO fisheries and aquaculture reference data repository, with all related [fishing gear fact sheets](#) updated accordingly with the new ISSCFG codes and acronyms. A content review was completed for 12 fishing gears fact sheets, which were published on the FAO fisheries and aquaculture website.

Related to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV), thirty-eight FAO Fishing Vessel Types fact sheets (of which eleven are new), were adjourned upon the new FAO publication [Classification and definition of fishing vessel types](#). The full list can be accessed at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/vesseltype/search>.

Under the FAO fact sheets domain *Marine mammal bycatch mitigation*, twelve fact sheets were developed by FAO in collaboration with IWC and they can be browsed at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/bycatch-mitigation-mammals/search>, with an introduction and bibliography at <https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/collection/bycatchmitigationmammals> Several of these fact sheets contain references to relevant fishing gear type or vessel type when relevant.

## 5. Capacity building in fisheries and aquaculture statistics

FAO has played a significant role in developing the statistical capacity of its member countries, particularly in fisheries data collection systems. Since the 1970s, FAO has supported fisheries national institutions through projects, training activities, publications, and software. The initiatives include the promotion of well-established tools like [Open ARTFISH](#) and the [Calipseo platform](#), and the development of new tools (e.g. *artfishr* R package for Artfish statistics computation), which aid in collecting and managing fisheries data.

FAO collaborates with various regional and international bodies to enhance these capacities. Specific projects supported by international organizations such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (e.g., GFCM), the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, as well as national governments such as Japan, have enabled the successful deployment of these systems in the recent years, including in Grenada, Guyana, Lebanon, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia and Suriname.

Collaboration with other Regional Fisheries Bodies [Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), Fisheries Committee for the West-Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and RECOFI] have led to the development of Data Collection Reference Frameworks and corresponding regional dissemination databases to ensure consistent and comparable reporting at the national and regional level. In the case of FCWC, the organization developed webpages and webservices (APIs) for catch and effort data of its members. In addition, country field missions were conducted in three FCWC member countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana) in 2024 to assess the status of fisheries data collection and information management systems, and agree recommendations on possible future support.

FAO's capacity building efforts also extend to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically under SDG 14, where they provide a framework for national reporting and regional and global indicators. These capacity-building activities contribute to better data management and reporting, ultimately supporting sustainable fisheries management worldwide (see Section 8.1).

## 6. The Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)<sup>1</sup> Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like species

The FIRMS Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like species (GTA) collates and harmonizes public domain datasets from all five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (t-RFMOs) and it is under the governance umbrella of FIRMS, as per decisions taken at the FIRMS FSC11.

Thanks to the active support of the t-RFMOs and IRD, the GTA was updated in April 2025 to now include data up to the statistical year 2023. Three t-RFMOs successfully adopted the CWP standard data exchange format based on the work of the CWP TG-Reference Harmonisation and the Fisheries Data Interoperability mechanisms.

The GTA dissemination services were further improved including capacity to filter data according to catch types (aligned with the latest CWP catch concepts) and processing level. This update was announced on 2 May 2025, on the same date as the World Tuna Day 2025.

The FIRMS GTA technical working group (GTA e-TWG) includes a core group of FAO stakeholders and representatives from the five t-RFMOs. It continues to lead GTA activities and its achievements and recommendations are reported for endorsement at the FIRMS FSC.

The GTA currently includes the most recent (up to 2023) statistical datasets available from all five t-RFMOs which have been processed into *level 0* datasets and made available as harmonized nominal catches and geo-referenced catches by 1°x1° and 5°x5° grids (as well as a combination of the two).

In addition to the regular update and improvement of level 0 datasets and related services (map viewer, metadata catalogue, DOIs, etc.), the GTA e-TWG is also progressing with the preparation of *level 1* datasets that will include catches in number converted into catches in weight on the basis of spatialized average-length-to-average-weight conversion factors. A data paper is under preparation to further promote the collaborative work between FAO, IRD, and the five t-RFMOs.

Following endorsement by CWP-26 of the *CWP standards for Reference Harmonization (RH)* and of the first version of their *digital implementation guidelines* by CWP-27, the GTA e-TWG has also worked intersessionally to pilot the adoption of the proposed CWP RH digital implementation guidelines, including the proposed data exchange format standard (CWP-IS\_2023/5.4.c) with the goal of streamlining the annual data submission from t-RFMOs to the GTA, and to test and further contribute to the development of the RH guidelines themselves.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), and the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) successfully

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<sup>1</sup> Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) <https://firms.fao.org/> FIRMS is an information sharing partnership to facilitate the monitoring of stocks status and fisheries among 19 intergovernmental organizations encompassing 23 Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs). FIRMS aims to facilitate access to high-quality information on the status and trends of marine resources and fisheries for decision makers and other relevant stakeholders to develop effective fisheries policies and management plans. The FIRMS database is handled by FAO which holds the FIRMS Secretariat. The database contains information on shared stocks under RFBs mandates, but also information on national stocks / assessment units and status of national fisheries.

piloted the adoption of the standards (which are now part of their data dissemination workflow) with challenges and outcomes of this exercise reported to the CWP Task Group on RH.

## 7. Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF)

GRSF is a global repository of uniquely identified stocks and fisheries resulting from collation and merging of records across multiple data sources and namely FIRMS, RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database, FishSource (program of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership), FAO SDG 14.4.1. questionnaires and FAO State of Stocks Index (SoSI) regional consultations.

The GRFS is a collaborative instrument to collectively support the global monitoring of fish stocks and fisheries status. It can be tailored for use by countries / regional organizations / fishery-related institutions etc. to enable/facilitate the dissemination and monitoring of their information. Likewise, the Tuna Atlas, the Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) stems from a FAO initiative funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 BlueBRIDGE project (2016-2018). Find the public version of the GRSF at <https://i-marine.d4science.org/web/grsf/data-catalogue>

The main technical challenge in the setting up of the GRSF is the harmonization of the different existing standards (international, regional and national) from different data sources, with the aim to build unique identifiers for stocks and fisheries. To address this, the GRSF proposes a global standard for Unique Identifiers of stocks and fisheries, which was developed to distinguish/aggregate stocks and fisheries records extracted from the source databases. Two type of identifiers were conceived:

1. the Universally Unique Identifier (UUID), a machine-readable code for the unique identification of GRSF records; and
2. the GRSF Semantic Identifier, a human-readable code and label for the GRSF records metadata.

The UUID aims to respond to the required global IT standards: it is made of two URL components, the resolver, and the UUID per se. Designed to be human readable, the Semantic Identifier is made of codes and labels which combined together result in unique identification of stocks and fisheries.

<Species> + <Assessment Area(s)> are the two key pieces of information needed to identify a fishery stock; for fisheries the following information is required for the identification of fishing units: <Species> + <Assessment Area(s)> + <Management Authority(ies)> + <Management or Reporting Area(s)> + <Flag State> + <Gear type>.

Unique fishery stocks or fisheries are therefore validated against the above fields. It should be noted that fishery records are identified as per the fishing unit concept from the point of view of fishing activity (1 species, 1 gear, 1 flag state). Each field is based on global standards (e.g. ASFIS, WoRMS, ISSCFG, ISO3 country), but “local” standards can be adopted if they are maintained. More information on the GRSF standard can be found in the FIRMS FSC14 meeting document “[FIRMS FSC14/2025/Inf.7 - The GRSF standard](#)”.

Progress on the GRSF was already presented to CWP in 2017 (CWP-IS/2017) and in 2023 (CWP-IS-2023), with focus on the new standard for the unique identification of stocks and fisheries. Latest major updates on the GRSF during the intersessional period include: In particular: i) improving georeferencing of national fish stock units through the identification of relevant national GIS layers and their mapping with the fish stock records; ii) along with the improved georeferencing, the further review of fish stocks records and approve for publishing, and iii) the upload of the SoSI reference lists of stocks as reported in the recently published FAO publication [Review of the state of world marine fishery resources – 2025](#) (see Section 9)

As of May 2025, 2 691 fish stock records of which 211 archived (i.e. no longer monitored) are disseminated to the public, the work is in progress to assign unique identifiers to new SDG 14.4.1 and SoSI records.

Regarding the geospatial improvements, the progress to date includes a total of 7 744 areas retrieved from official sources, grouped in 143 code systems from 79 agencies (national institutions or organizations, regional fishery bodies, etc.), encompassing 39 countries and 20 international organizations and RFBs. These areas are categorized as statistical areas, management areas, assessment areas, and biological distributions. Such areas have been added in the FAO GIS database within a metadata structure based on the CWP GIS recommended standards.

The GRSF Areas Database is available at:

- GeoInfo map viewer: [https://www.fao.org/fishery/geoserver/geoinfo/?dataset=grsf\\_areas](https://www.fao.org/fishery/geoserver/geoinfo/?dataset=grsf_areas)
- GRSF map viewer: [https://grsf-admin.d4science.org/map-viewer/?dataset=grsf\\_areas](https://grsf-admin.d4science.org/map-viewer/?dataset=grsf_areas)

## 8. SDGs and related methodologies, tools and activities

The FAO *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2024* reported the biennial monitoring of the [four SDG indicators of SDG 14](#) for which FAO is the custodian agency.

### 8.1. SDG 14.4.1

#### 8.1.1. Global monitoring and reporting strategy, e-learning

SDG 14.4.1 ‘Proportion of fish stocks within biological levels’ is a Tier I indicator currently based on FAO stock status indicator published in SOFIA, which covers a time series starting in the 1970s and relies on regional estimates. SDG 14.4.1 requires countries to report on their national indicator and FAO, as custodian agency for the indicator, to provide a framework for consistent and comparable national reporting as well as to estimate regional and global indicators. Reporting occurs through a specific questionnaire, and monitoring will benefit from the issuing of unique identifiers for stocks through FIRMS/GRSF, which are built upon CWP standards. The deadline for the third data call was the end of March 2025 and results are currently being analysed. Results of the previous data call, reported in SOFIA 2024 indicated that many of the challenges faced in the 2019/20 call remain, as countries are hindered by limited capacity to effectively address deficiencies in fisheries data collection and management, with poor coordination among agencies involved in the reporting process. FAO’s efforts and support to build countries’ capacities contributed to increased reporting and improved quality of responses by countries. Though these positive trends are encouraging, indicator scores require more frequent reporting by countries in order to stabilize. FAO will build on this experience to enhance its support to countries, particularly developing countries, ensuring a progressive convergence between national SDG reporting and the revised FAO State of Stocks Index (SoSI).

At present, an e-learning course aimed at providing guidelines to stakeholders for the monitoring and reporting on SDG 14.4.1 was published and made available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. The training was complemented by support services and resources including the Virtual Research Environment platform for online community support, data collection and stock monitoring training toolkits, and direct assistance to countries during the reporting exercises. Different workshops and regional capacity development trainings have been carried out to support countries, of which many of them carried out in conjunction with the revision of the FAO methodology for SoSI, which now uses national SDG 14.4.1 reporting, in addition to other resources, to build the regional and global SDG 14.4.1 indicator. The new methodology, based on a tiered approach to stock status determination, builds on an expanded reference

list of stocks (from 531 stocks in 2024 to 2570 in 2025), developed with the engagement of countries, with a focus on transparency. It will continue to generate stock status indices at FAO fishing regions level, where gaps in assessment can be narrowed over time in a process of continuous improvement. Interim results were published in SOFIA 2024 and the new *Review of the state of world marine fishery resources – 2025* publication was launched on 11 June 2025. More information is available in section 8 of this FAO report.

### *8.2. SDG 14.6.1*

This indicator is dedicated to monitor the Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

A framework of international instruments have been developed addressing different aspects of fisheries management which together provide a powerful suite of tools to combat IUU fishing, including the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures. The indicator is based upon responses by States to selected sections of the questionnaire for monitoring the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments (CCRF). The latest analysis on trends of this indicator was published in SOFIA 2024.

Key developments relevant to Indicator 14.6.1 have occurred with the adoption in 2022 of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the launch in 2023 of the Global Information Exchange System (GIES), allowing states to exchange compliance information on fishing vessels. These instruments have enhanced further the international efforts to combat IUU fishing. The FAO Global Capacity Building Programme has expanded its technical assistance to support states, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), improve reporting on Indicator 14.6.1, and develop legal and policy, monitoring, control and surveillance operations, training, and electronic information exchange. <https://www.fao.org/global-record/en/>

### *8.3. SDG indicator 14.b.1*

The FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in June 2014. These guidelines represent a global consensus on SSF governance and development and are the result of a long and participatory development process. Grounded in the human rights based approach, they provide a tool for various stakeholders to improve the conditions of the sector.

The SDG Indicator 14.b.1 measures policy progress of SSFs towards access to resources and markets. The indicator is built on the responses from countries, regional organizations and observers to a dedicated section of the CCRF questionnaire, which is collected on a biennial basis by FAO. The Indicator has been upgraded as a Tier I indicator. It is expected to provide an improved understanding of the SSF sector and to support the monitoring of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. An e-learning course on the Indicator has been developed in six languages and can be accessed from the SDG14.b.1 webpage.

### *8.4. SDG indicator 14.7.1*

SDG indicator 14.7.1 (Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in Small Island Developing States, least developed countries and all countries). This indicator, under FAO custodianship, expresses the value added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a proportion of GDP. In the present methodology, the quantity of marine capture fisheries as a proportion of total production is used as a proxy for the proportion of value added. Efforts of FAO and CWP Parties to collect the monetary value of capture fisheries, starting with publishing this socio-economic dimension as a global standard in the CWP handbook, will contribute to improvements in national GDP estimates.

## Additional information and activities

### 9. Review of the state of world marine fishery resources – 2025

On 11 June 2025, FAO launched an updated version of its regular reviews of the state of the world's marine fishery resources initiated in 1971, based on stock assessments and complementary information. The [2025 review](#) was based on an updated FAO methodology for providing the state of stocks index, which involved a highly participatory and transparent process (including 19 regional workshops and consultations, with around 650 in-person experts representing 92 countries and 200 organizations). Importantly, the total number of stocks in the assessments included in this report has significantly increased to 2 570 stocks from about 500 stocks. The methodology section gives a detailed overview of the updated FAO process for providing the state of stocks index. Discussions on major trends and changes at the global level are explored in a dedicated global overview chapter, while more detailed information on the status of stocks for each of the FAO Major Fishing Areas is set out in dedicated regional chapters. Special sections address the global issue of tunas and tuna-like species, and other high-profile fisheries such as deep-sea fisheries in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and highly migratory sharks. Summary tables are provided for each species grouping used in this assessment, indicating the number of stocks included, their sustainability classification between overfished, maximally sustainably fished, and underfished categories, and the number of stocks classified into tiers based on the availability and quality of information and thus the assessment methods used.

### 10. FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) and the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)

The [Global Record](#) is a phased and collaborative global initiative to make available certified data from State authorities about vessels and vessel-related activities. The programme aims towards providing a single access point for information on vessels used for fishing and fishing-related activities with the primary objective being to combat [illegal, unreported and unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#) by enhancing transparency and traceability across the sector. Over time, it also aims to strengthen fisheries management, promote sustainability, and enhance food security and livelihoods, particularly in coastal and rural communities. A core feature of the Global Record is the **Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI)**, a global unique number that is assigned to a vessel to ensure traceability throughout its lifetime, through reliable, verified and permanent identification of the vessel, regardless of changes in name, flag, or ownership. A study commissioned by FAO, indicated the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Number was the most suitable UVI for Phase 1 which targets vessels of 100 gross tonnage, or of 24 metres in length, or above. To date, over 23 000 fishing vessels worldwide have been assigned IMO Numbers, reflecting global commitment to transparency and traceability in the fisheries sector activities. Possessing a UVI and being included in the Global Record database facilitates their registration, port entry and vessel inspections. Some FAO Members and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) are amending their regulations to make the IMO Numbers mandatory for specific categories of fishing vessels.

The IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme, originally created for merchant ships, was extended in 2013 through IMO Resolution A.1078(28), co-sponsored by FAO, to include fishing vessels of 100 gross tonnage and above. In 2014, the Thirty-first meeting of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI) agreed that the IMO Number should be used as the Global Record's UVI for Phase 1. In 2017, the IMO Assembly further expanded the scheme to cover all ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, including fishing vessels with steel and non-steel hulls, as well as all motorized inboard fishing vessels 12 metres or longer authorized to operate beyond national jurisdiction. The scheme is managed by IHS Maritime and Trade (formerly Lloyd's Register-Fairplay) on behalf of the IMO.

## 11. Revised CWP webpages and Handbook

The CWP webpages and Handbook are featured under the FishStat Products and Services (<https://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/en/>). CWP parties are encouraged to regularly consult and review the revised webpages and Handbook and contribute to their ongoing development, including the section on regional references which is intended to set out CWP parties' best practices in relation to the implementation of CWP recommendations, including frameworks for the acquisition of fishery, aquaculture or socio-economic data. Some regional references are currently available for the socio-economic dimension and all parties are encouraged to submit further information on capture fisheries, aquaculture and/or the socio-economic dimension. CWP parties may also contribute short news items and updates of interest to the CWP community at any time for publication in the 'Highlights' and 'Did you know' sections of the CWP homepage. Further revisions and updates are underway to continue to improve the content and coverage of the CWP webpages and Handbook, and following CWP-27 and CWP-IS-2023 discussions and recommendations. These include a new, expanded section on aquaculture statistics, and updated sections on capture fishery statistics and the socio-economic dimension. Some of this work was implemented online prior to CWP-28, while other aspects of the work require further consideration including discussion and development within TGs. Additional information about the CWP webpages and Handbook is provided in document CWP-28/2025/13.1 and in some TG progress reports.

## 12. Conclusions

Looking ahead, FAO will continue to strengthen its statistical systems and tools to support better monitoring, analysis, and decision-making in fisheries and aquaculture. Key priorities include expanding the coverage and quality of statistical data, improving coordination with national and regional partners, and enhancing the user experience through more interactive platforms and visualizations. Efforts will also focus on the development and adoption of international standards and classifications to ensure data consistency and comparability. Capacity development remains a central pillar, with targeted support to countries to improve data collection, reporting, and use. These actions aim to further empower countries and the global community to make informed, evidence-based decisions that promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture worldwide.

### Additional information

Comprehensive information about FAO activities are available on the previous reports of FAO to CWP at [CWP 27](#) and [CWP-IS-2023](#). These reports offer deeper insights into topics such as international cooperation, socio-economic and small-scale fisheries statistics, and FAO's contributions to SDG monitoring relevant to CWP.