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SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

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THE FAO GLOBEFISH PROJECT COMPREHENSIVE MARKET INTELLIGENCE FOR THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR

Introduction

1. FAO GLOBEFISH¹ is a multi-donor funded project, established by the FAO World Fisheries Conference, held at FAO headquarters in Rome in 1984. The Conference was attended by 62 ministers responsible for fisheries and aquaculture, delegates from 147 countries, 14 representatives of the United Nations, observers from 24 intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and 29 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
2. Since its founding in 1984, the project has focused on improving international coordination, information sharing, dialogue, and management to support global trade and market development in the fisheries and aquaculture sector among governments, industry, academia, and both national and international stakeholders.
3. The FAO GLOBEFISH project is structured around three main components as follows:
 - **Standards and policies:** This component focuses on enhancing transparency while establishing an international framework to streamline policies and procedures in post-harvest processes. Activities

¹ FAO. FAO GLOBEFISH – Information and Analysis on Markets and Trade of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/en/>

in this area are tailored to raise awareness of global market requirements and standards, identify critical issues in the post-harvest and trade sectors, and develop appropriate training programmes, best practices, tools, and mechanisms to help countries and regions develop capacities, access new markets, and operate more efficiently within increasingly complex and globalized value chains.

- **Data and market analysis:** The work in this area focuses on the regular production and dissemination of comprehensive market studies, price reports, and statistical analyses on the markets and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products.
- **Dialogue and consultation:** This area of work is dedicated to establishing a permanent platform for communication and dialogue, enabling the exchange of information on national and international policies, strategies, challenges, and constraints. It supports informed discussions and fosters collaborative solutions. Activities include organizing meetings, regional workshops, and conferences, as well as promoting and supporting FAO Members' participation in international fora and events.

4. As part of FAO, the FAO GLOBEFISH project is fully integrated into FAO's Strategic Framework 2022–2031 and actively contributes to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It benefits from global trust, independence, and technical expertise, leveraging FAO's extensive knowledge and networks, to maximize its impact worldwide.

5. In addition, FAO GLOBEFISH actively encourages cooperation across various policy areas, including trade, environment, labour, food safety, and economic development, by strengthening links among relevant international organizations. This collaborative approach helps promote consistency and synergy in global efforts. Key partners in this process include the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

6. The FAO GLOBEFISH project plays a crucial role in fostering international collaboration through the FISHINFONetwork (FIN), a unique global network of regional organizations dedicated to enhancing fisheries and aquaculture market access, transparency, and post-harvest practices. Originating from FAO-led development projects in the 1970s and 1980s, the FIN today encompasses six regional organizations covering all the globe: the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOPESCA)² the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH),³ the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE),⁴ the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region (INFOSAMAK),⁵ the International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe (EUROFISH),⁶ and the China Fish Marketing Information and Trade Advisory Service Center (INFOYU).

7. The FAO GLOBEFISH project serves as the coordinator for FIN, facilitating interregional exchange through exchange of information, participation in events, mutual market analysis support,

² INFOPESCA. *Centro para los Servicios de Información y Asesoramiento sobre la Comercialización de los Productos Pesqueros en América Latina y el Caribe*. <https://www.infopesca.org>

³ INFOFISH. *the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region*. <https://v4.infofish.org>

⁴ INFOPÊCHE. *Organisation intergouvernementale d'information et de coopération pour la commercialisation des produits de la pêche en Afrique*. <https://www.infopeche.co/fr>

⁵ INFOSAMAK. *Centre d'information et de conseil sur la commercialisation des produits de la pêche dans les pays arabes*. <https://www.infosamak.org>

⁶ EUROFISH. *International Organisation for the Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Europe*. <https://eurofish.dk>

institutional support, and other related issues, including participation in events, such as FIN-led commodity conferences, particularly on key species such as tuna, shrimp, and tilapia.

FAO GLOBEFISH Strategy: Bridging Data and Analysis on Trade and Markets in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

8. The globalization and liberalization of markets, along with economic growth in developing countries, rising domestic demand, the growing significance of aquaculture, and various external shocks, have significantly shaped the fisheries and aquaculture industry, particularly in terms of fisheries and aquaculture trade and markets. As regional and global trade continues to expand, the fisheries and aquaculture industry has become increasingly reliant on credible, unbiased market information to navigate evolving market dynamics.

9. Since 1984, FAO GLOBEFISH has regularly produced and disseminated trade and market information on fisheries and aquaculture products through its publications, website, conferences, training programmes, networks, and social media.

10. The regular publications of FAO GLOBEFISH include:

- GLOBEFISH Highlights⁷ – a quarterly analysis on market trends for 13 major commodities including bivalves, cephalopods, crab, fishmeal and fish oil, groundfish, lobster, pangasius, salmon, seabass and seabream, shrimp, small pelagics, tilapia, and tuna. It is the flagship publication of FAO GLOBEFISH and serves as the basis for FAO GLOBEFISH’s contribution to the FAO Food Outlook.⁸
- European Price Report⁹ – market analysis for the major fisheries and aquaculture products traded in Europe, including prices for over 700 species.
- Chinese Price Report¹⁰ – policy updates, market trends, and analysis of key species in the People’s Republic of China, including abalone, crayfish, Chinese snakehead, grass carp, Golden pomfret, Hybrid grouper, Largemouth bass, Mandarin fish, and whiteleg shrimp.

⁷ FAO. 2025. FAO GLOBEFISH Highlights. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. [https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=54d47e08-27e4-4d8d-afda-1c111992ac50&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.:](https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=54d47e08-27e4-4d8d-afda-1c111992ac50&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.)

⁸ FAO. 2025. Food Outlook – Biannual report on global food markets. in: Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). Rome. [Cited 9 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/reports/food-outlook/en/>

⁹ FAO. 2025. European Price Report. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. [Cited 7 July 2025]. [https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=54d47e08-27e4-4d8d-afda-1c111992ac50&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.:](https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=54d47e08-27e4-4d8d-afda-1c111992ac50&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.)

¹⁰ FAO. 2025. Chinese Fish Price Report. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. [Cited 7 July 2025]. [https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=13bf095f-fac6-421a-9a62-5b59f382fc4d&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.:](https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=13bf095f-fac6-421a-9a62-5b59f382fc4d&searchMode=all&contentType=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.)

- GLOBEFISH Insights¹¹ – analysis on different themes affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sector, particularly associated with trade and market development.
- Quarterly Species Analysis¹² – up-to-date analysis on international seafood market trends covering trade flows by species, including bivalves, cephalopods, crab, fishmeal and fish oil, groundfish, lobster, pangasius, salmon, seabass and seabream, shrimp, small pelagics, tilapia, and tuna.

11. In addition to the periodic and ad-hoc publications, FAO GLOBEFISH has a dedicated website that serves as a comprehensive portal for disseminating up-to-date information and analysis on fisheries and aquaculture trade, which includes:

- The European Price Dashboard:¹³ weekly updates on over 350 fisheries and aquaculture product prices across Europe. By consolidating data from first-sale sites and wholesalers into a single, interactive interface, it transforms complex pricing information into accessible insights, helping stakeholders make informed decisions in an increasingly fast-paced global seafood economy.
- Information on food safety regulations for fisheries and aquaculture products and food safety regulations for bivalve molluscs:¹⁴ a summary of regulatory frameworks and legislation in force in a variety of countries in different regions, to facilitate market access for fisheries and aquaculture products.
- Import notifications for fisheries and aquaculture products¹⁵ include information on rejections, detentions, recalls, and other issues reported by competent authorities in Australia, the People's Republic of China, the European Union, Japan, and the United States of America. Data is classified into six categories: *microbiological*, *chemical*, *toxins*, *histamine*, *parasites*, and *other causes*. This dataset is key to exploring and identifying food safety and quality issues associated with specific commodities. It also draws attention to emerging challenges that warrant further investigation and action. This information provides exporters with a clearer understanding of risk-based import control systems, supporting compliance with international food safety regulations and enhancing trade efficiency.
- The Harmonized System (HS) Codes for fisheries and aquaculture products:¹⁶ this publication, developed by FAO and the World Customs Organization (WCO), builds on the Harmonized

¹¹ FAO. 2025. GLOBEFISH Insights. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. [Cited 7 July 2025]. [https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=ba5d7382-fc3b-4860-9906-f1d1befcdd91&searchMode=all&contentTypes=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*. *](https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=ba5d7382-fc3b-4860-9906-f1d1befcdd91&searchMode=all&contentTypes=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.)

¹² FAO. 2025. Quarterly Species Analysis. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. [Cited 7 July 2025]. [https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=e7594f06-2bcf-4ce2-ac13-382dfc304df7&searchMode=all&contentTypes=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*. *](https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/publications/en?indexCatalogue=search-index-globefish&wordsMode=AllWords&fallbacklang=en&category=e7594f06-2bcf-4ce2-ac13-382dfc304df7&searchMode=all&contentTypes=FAOResources.FaoResourcesPublications&searchQuery=*.)

¹³ FAO. 2025. FAO GLOBEFISH European Price Dashboard. In: FAO GLOBEFISH. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/prices/en>

¹⁴ FAO. 2025. Food safety regulations for fisheries and aquaculture products. In: *FAO GLOBEFISH*. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/markets---trade/food-safety-regulations-for-fisheries-and-aquaculture-products/en>

¹⁵ FAO. 2025. Import notifications for fisheries and aquaculture products. In: *FAO GLOBEFISH*. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/markets---trade/import-notifications-for-fisheries-and-aquaculture-products/en>

¹⁶ FAO & WCO. 2023. *HS Codes for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products – Harmonized System. Nomenclature 2022*. Second edition, updated and expanded. Rome and Brussels. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6347en>

System: Nomenclature, presenting all possible classifications for fisheries and aquaculture products by species, with a complete description of each HS code, to facilitate its use and understanding.

- The country briefs¹⁷ provide a snapshot by country on fish production, imports, exports, as well as an overview of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in over 200 countries and territories.

12. Latest market news¹⁸ and updates on global fisheries and aquaculture trade, market trends relating to shifts in supply, demand, imports, exports, trade disruptions, key economic drivers, and market dynamics in major producing and consuming regions worldwide are regularly published on the FAO GLOBEFISH website.

13. FAO GLOBEFISH is actively involved in supporting the implementation of Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF),¹⁹ which is relevant to post-harvest practices and trade, worldwide. This support includes in-country training and technical assistance activities at the national, regional, and global levels. Among the instruments developed to support the implementation of Article 11 of the CCRF is the online e-learning course on the international trade of fisheries and aquaculture products.²⁰ It delves into the primary international frameworks and instruments relevant to fisheries and aquaculture products and is available free of charge as a global public good. It covers FAO fisheries and aquaculture instruments, the HS nomenclature, and preferential access and rules of origin, with all the nuances associated with the sector.

14. The GLOBEFISH project also supports the coordination and organization of regional workshops, exhibitions, events, and international fora to foster dialogue and cooperation across the fisheries and aquaculture sector. With a strong history of building reliable networks and trust, FAO GLOBEFISH continues to respond to industry requests for capacity-building, including knowledge exchange activities.

15. FAO GLOBEFISH also contributes to the development of the FAO flagship publication, the State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)²¹ report, a biennial publication of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division.

16. The FAO GLOBEFISH newsletter serves as a vital outreach tool, offering timely updates on international trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products, project activities, recent publications, and global events.²²

FAO GLOBEFISH vision for 2026–2027

17. In light of emerging priorities and shifting trade dynamics, the FAO GLOBEFISH workplan for the 2026–2027 biennium emphasizes not only providing its traditional knowledge and information but also identifying new opportunities for impact. This includes enhancing market transparency tools, expanding

¹⁷ FAO. 2025. Country briefs. In: *FAO GLOBEFISH*. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/country-briefs/en>

¹⁸ FAO. 2025. News. In: *FAO GLOBEFISH*. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/news-events/news/en>

¹⁹ FAO. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Rome, FAO. 1995.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/v9878e>

²⁰ FAO. 2023. International trade in fisheries and aquaculture products. In: *FAO elearning Academy*. Rome. [Cited 7 July 2025]. <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=949>

²¹ FAO. 2024. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024 – Blue Transformation in action*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en>

²² To subscribe to the FAO GLOBEFISH newsletter, access *subscribe to the newsletter*: https://newsletters.fao.org/k/Fao/globefish_subscription_form_en

the scope of technical assistance at the country and regional levels, and further engaging youth to promote sustainable development and inclusive participation across the sector. In particular:

Enhancing global price transparency

18. Building on its well-established European Price Dashboard, regional price monitoring dashboards for North America, Africa, Latin America, and Asia are in development. The goal is to establish a comprehensive global system that provides reliable, automated, and accessible fish price data across key markets. This will provide producers and operators, particularly in developing countries and among small-scale operators, with real-time insights, enabling them to make informed decisions and access markets more efficiently and effectively.

Strengthening regulatory compliance through the GLOBEFISH Market Hub

19. A centralized, user-friendly digital platform that provides up-to-date, practical information on export requirements for major import markets, including the European Union, the United States of America, and the People's Republic of China. By consolidating fragmented regulatory data and linking directly to official portals and documentation, the "FAO GLOBEFISH Market Hub" will facilitate exporters in meeting international standards and national requirements, reducing border rejections, increasing competitiveness, and enabling a broader range of products to reach global markets, thereby promoting smoother trade flows.

Supporting national capacities through technical training

20. Targeted training and capacity-development initiatives in response to the needs identified by FAO Members, including through Article 11 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries questionnaire. These initiatives will focus on trade regulations, food safety, certification schemes, value chain analysis, and social responsibility, with a particular emphasis on youth, women, and small-scale actors. The aim is to build local expertise to engage more equitably in international markets.

Engaging youth and addressing rural migration

21. Develop youth-oriented activities to tackle the growing issue of rural-to-urban migration and cultivate the next generation of professionals in fisheries and aquaculture. These include interdisciplinary training sessions, study tours, and internship programmes designed to increase awareness of career options in the sector, including less conventional careers, and encourage stronger rural participation in the blue economy.

Support and Engagement with FAO GLOBEFISH

22. The FAO GLOBEFISH project is one of the oldest and longest-living initiatives within FAO. The continued success and global relevance of the FAO GLOBEFISH project are made possible through the strategic and sustained support it receives from a broad base of external donors and partners, as well as FAO's Regular Programme. The project began with the generous support of a few donors and has now grown to include a wide range of donors from both the public and private sectors worldwide.²³ Engagement

²³ More information on how to participate in the FAO GLOBEFISH is available at <https://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/get-involved/en>

with the FAO GLOBEFISH project helps maintain its relevance, adaptability, and responsiveness to the evolving needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.