NEW DISCIPLINES ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES TO ACHIEVE SDG14 AND IMPROVE OCEAN GOVERNANCE
Global Ocean and Coastal Observation: From Science to Decision-Making

New Disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies to Achieve SDG14 and Improve Ocean Governance

High-Level Briefing on the 2022 UN Ocean Conference
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- Duarte BUÉ ALVES | Consul General of Portugal in Manchester, UK
- Christophe BELLMANN | Head of Policy Analysis and Strategy, Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS)

The Global Challenge of Overfishing and Overcapacity
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Christophe BELLMANN
Head of Policy Analysis and Strategy, Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS) | Moderator

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Bruno POZZI
Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme

GENEVA BLUE TALKS
Life below water

**Challenges**

- **Over three billion people** depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. Pollution threatens the world's largest source of protein.

- **40% of world's oceans** suffer from overfishing, poor fishing practices, and poor waste management.

- **Coral reefs**, which provide a home to 25% of all marine life, are being destroyed at an alarming rate.

**Solutions**

- **Reduce pollution and protect marine and coastal ecosystems**.

- **End harmful fishing subsidies** and stop unreported, unregulated, and destructive fishing practices.

- **Fight climate change**, reduce sedimentation, stop coral mining, and promote sustainable tourism.
14 LIFE BELOW WATER

TARGET 14-1
REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

TARGET 14-2
PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 14-3
REDUCE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

TARGET 14-4
SUSTAINABLE FISHING

TARGET 14-5
CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

TARGET 14-6
END SUBSIDIES CONTRIBUTING TO OVERFISHING

TARGET 14-7
INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES

TARGET 14-A
INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN HEALTH

TARGET 14-B
SUPPORT SMALL SCALE FISHERS

TARGET 14-C
IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL SEA LAW
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Charlotte DE FONTAUBERT

Global Lead for the Blue Economy, World Bank

GENEVA BLUE TALKS
The starting point (WB Sunken Billions Report) 
By reducing global fishing effort by 40% we can achieve:

- An increase in global fish biomass from 215 to 580 million tonnes
- Higher sustainable harvest levels achieved with far lower fishing effort (increase in maximum economic yield – MEY)
- Estimated average landing prices increasing by more than 24% (more of the larger fish, which fetch higher prices)
- An almost 30-fold increase in the net benefits that could be derived from sustainably managed global fisheries ($86.3 billion versus $3 billion in 2012) – due to combination of much lower fishing costs and higher harvest
Role of subsidies in recovering the Sunken Billions

• Reducing the fiscal cost of support to fisheries that is counterproductive in the long term; and

• Redressing the distortion they create, thus reducing the drive towards overcapacity and overfishing

• Does not necessarily mean governments need to disengage from sector investment

• But rather encourage them to redirect this support along a more productive path
What the World Bank can bring to the table

• Ongoing work on fisheries subsidies in a broader context

• Assistance with identifying and estimating subsidies: PERs

• Identifying better use (redirection) of public support:
  • Helping cover the cost of necessary reforms
  • Diverting support to measures that will strengthen fisheries sustainability

• Greatest comparative advantage: financing needed fisheries reform
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*Recent data findings, links to other processes, Recommendations of the 4th United Nations Oceans Forum*

David Vivas Eugui, UNCTAD

Geneva Blue Talks

23 May 2022
Public fisheries support continues to grow and can grow even more with energy & commodities price peaks in a post COVID-19 (2010-2018)

Source: UNCTAD based on OECD (2022) Fisheries Support Estimates data
Incidence of the fisheries support over exports and share of world catch (2018)

Source: UNCTAD based on OECD (2022) Fisheries Support Estimates data
Typologies of fisheries subsidies in economic literature

- Capacity enhancing (harmful), non-capacity enhancing (neutral) & Sustainable purpose (environmental)
A WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement is at our doorstep

Massive political efforts and high-level discussions

• Political and technical “acquis”
• Three pillar set of prohibitions (balance between obligations & flexibilities)
• S&DT should be seen as enabling factor / transparency & notifications

Links with other processes

• A WTO Agreement on fish subsidies would be the most important ocean governance outcome for 2022
• Negotiations on Marine biodiversity in ABNJ, FAO guidance on social sustainability, an international instrument to address plastic pollution

WTO Members pledged to conclude negotiations

• Fish week for final negotiations (S&DT as one of the remaining critical issues)
• WTO Ministerial Conference (week of 12-15 June 2022)

Second UN Oceans Conference + 2022 UN HLPF

• Portugal (27 June – 1 July 2022)
• Progress assessment for SDG 14 (5 July - 15 July)
Recommendations from the 4th United Nations Oceans Forum (Geneva, April 2022)

• To adopt and sign a WTO fisheries Subsidies Agreement supportive of SDG 14, with due attention given to addressing the burden of obligations between Members and clarifying the implementation process.

• To identify and implement policy and technical changes ahead of the entry into force of the agreement.

• To disavow the subsidization of vessels fishing outside the country's Economic Exclusive Zone.

• To provide adequate investments in data collection and analysis tools to support evidence-based fisheries management, implementation, & enforcement.

• To implement comprehensive and transparent regulations, policies and tools to fight IUU fishing

• To put in place adequate technical assistance and capacity development programs by FAO and UNCTAD, to support Members’ implementation of the fisheries agreement to be agreed at the 12th WTO MC
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Humphead (Napoleon) wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus)
- CITES Appendix II since 2004

Rachel GAUGHAN
Legal Consultant, CITES Secretariat

GENEVA BLUE TALKS
Rachel Gaughan, CITES Legal Unit

New Disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies to Achieve SDG14 and Improve Ocean Governance
Geneva Blue Talks
24 May 2022
CITES is...

...The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

...a multilateral legally binding agreement that was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force in 1975

...regulating international trade in specimens of 38’000 species of wild fauna and flora with the aim to ensure such trade does not threaten their survival

... a dynamic and adaptive instrument with three Appendices that are amended regularly (at least every 3 years)

...almost universally binding (184 Parties)
The CITES regime and the fisheries sector interact where there is an international trade transaction (i.e. import, export, re-export, or introduction from the sea) involving a CITES-listed aquatic species.
The CITES Appendices: international commercial trade is...

**Appendix I**
Species threatened with extinction

...generally prohibited

**Appendix II**
Species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but for which trade must be regulated to avoid their becoming threatened and “Look alike” species

...permitted but controlled

**Appendix III**
Species for which a country is asking Parties to help with its protection

...permitted and monitored
Trade under CITES – Legal, Reported, Regulated

Requirements include:

- the specimen must be **legally acquired**;
- the trade must be **non-detrimental** to the survival of the species; and
- **Reporting** must be provided to the CITES Secretariat.
Support for Implementation

- National Legislation Project
- Workshops
- Capacity building
- Inclusive of livelihoods and rural communities
- Strong collaboration with partner organisations
Thank you!

More information on
• www.cites.org

• https://cites.org/eng/prog/ifs.php

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The Global Challenge of Overfishing and Overcapacity
- Bruno POZZI | Director, Europe Office, UNEP
- Charlotte DE FONTAUBERT | Global Lead for the Blue Economy, World Bank

Status and Expectations for the WTO Negotiations
- Alastair MACFARLANE | International Fisheries Management Expert, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand
- Alice TIPPING | Lead on Fisheries Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Remi PARMENTIER | Founder and Director, Varda Group & Adviser to Friends of Ocean Action

Addressing Overfishing in Other Multilateral Fora
- David VIVAS EUGUI | Legal Officer, Trade, Environment, Climate Change & Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD
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Open Discussion

Closing Remarks
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THANK YOU!

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Moderated by:

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NEW DISCIPLINES ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES TO ACHIEVE SDG14 AND IMPROVE OCEAN GOVERNANCE