

Working Group 3

Secure and equitable access to resources for food security and nutrition – Fisheries and aquaculture

(1) Topic outline

Fisheries and aquaculture increasingly contribute to the protein supply of the population in developing countries and are an important source of income. Due to rising demand, around one third of the world's fish stocks are now overexploited. Competition for access to and use of fishery resources is constantly growing. As a result of surplus capacities in the fisheries sector, fishing licences and quotas which are unjustified from both a social and ecological perspective as well as illegal fishing, the competition between industrial and non-industrial fishing is on the increase, with particular implications for those people, especially women, whose livelihoods depend on this activity. In many countries, the protection zones reserved for non-industrial fishing are not respected.

In many developing countries, aquaculture contributes to food security and income generation.

The applicability of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests is currently being examined with regard to a more sustainable use of resources and a more equitable access to land and fish farming.

(2) Aim of the working group

The aim of the working group is to draw up recommendations as to how a contribution can be made towards improving a sustainable, non-discriminatory and equitable access to fishing grounds in rivers, lakes and oceans as well as access to fish farming. In the process, special attention should be paid to small-scale fishermen and women as well as to other marginalised and endangered groups.

(3) Concrete questions to the working group

Lead questions

- What different national and international regulations exist governing access to waters for fishing and aquaculture?
- How can the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, which are currently being negotiated, contribute to a more sustainable use of resources, more equitable access to waters for fishing and fish farming and towards improving food security and reducing poverty?

Working questions

- How are the international obligations for securing the right to food and for reducing poverty governed in current regulations regarding access to aquatic resources?
- What safeguards are there in place in existing regulations and in the draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests to ensure that the best possible scientific findings on the condition of resources and on their impact are taken into account in decisions regarding the use of aquatic resources?
- When granting licences, issuing quotas, etc. in relation to fishing grounds or when making investments in relation to fish farming, how do the existing access regulations safeguard transparency and participation in respect of parliaments, civil society, small-

scale fishermen, women working in the fish-processing industry, or land users and smallholder farmers?

- Which regulations are in place to protect small-scale producers involved in fisheries and aquaculture against the loss of access to fishing grounds or agricultural areas through granting licences and issuing quotas to the fisheries sectors or through the reassignment of land for aquaculture?
- Which international and national instruments can be used to encourage a balance between non-industrial and industrial fishing or between land users and investors in aquaculture?
- What experiences have been gained with projects designed to promote sustainable aquaculture or sustainable fisheries management?
- What instruments are there to encourage the participation of women in fishing and aquaculture? What additional measures or further developments are required in this respect? How can special consideration be given to the local population's de minimis rights as well as shared rights to fishing or water use (e.g. for aquaculture)?

Process orientation

- Effects of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests on the areas of fisheries and aquaculture as well as the implementation of the Guidelines.
- Recommendations regarding fisheries and aquaculture are being drawn up for the next stage of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. These concern the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines in particular.
- The recommendations of the working group are, among other things, being incorporated into the process for formulating the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

(4) Reference documents:

CFS	CFS Website on land tenure http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/land-tenure/en/
FAO	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/v9878e/v9878e00.HTM
FAO	The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2010. http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1820e/i1820e.pdf
FAO	Report of the Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries “Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development” Bangkok, Thailand, 13–17 October, 2008 http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1227t/i1227t.pdf
FAO	Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/018/ak810e.pdf
FAO	Technical Guidelines in support of sustainable aquaculture development http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/13547/en

