



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Outcomes of the 37th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (Rome, 7–11 September 2026)



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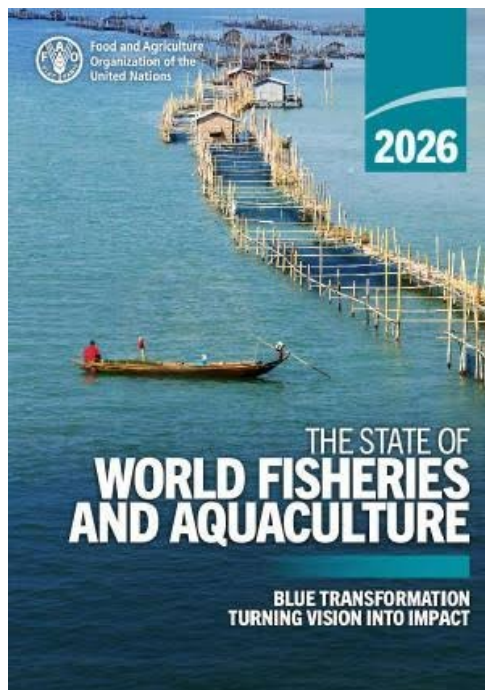
- 60th anniversary of COFI
- Attended by 107 Members, 18 observer Members, 37 IGOs and 43 NGOs



- High-Level Special Event commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).



- Site events and speaker's corner events

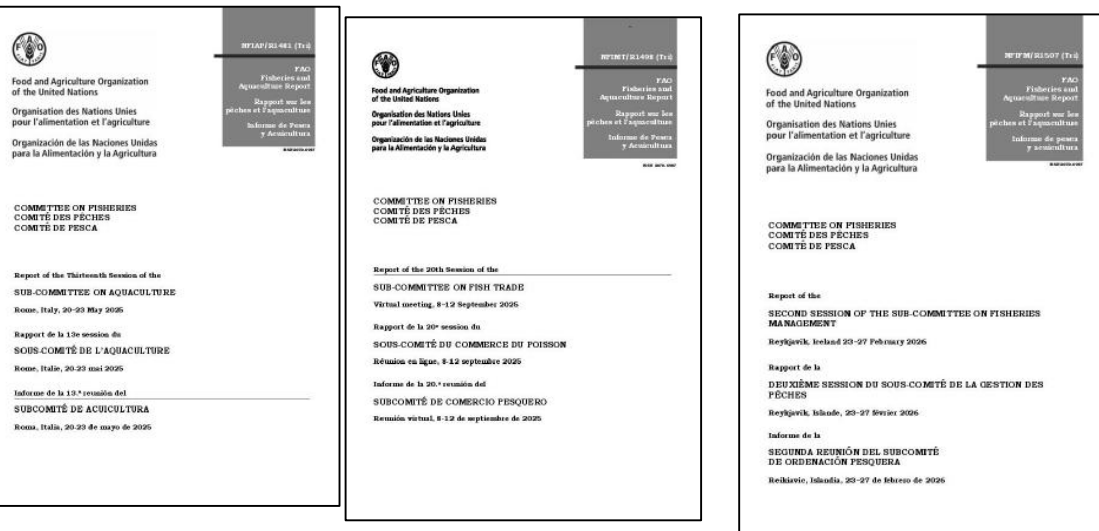


State of world fisheries and aquaculture and implementation of the Code

- Global aquaculture production exceeded 100 million tonnes for the first time.
- 62.4 percent of marine stocks remain biologically sustainable, but the long-term trend remains concerning.
- COFI emphasized the importance of science-based and precautionary fisheries management.
- Key decisions/recommendations: strengthen assessments, monitoring, fisheries statistics, scientific cooperation and SDG 14 reporting.

Outcomes of the COFI Sub-Committees

- COFI endorsed the reports and recommendations of all three Sub-Committees.
- Aquaculture: reaffirmed contribution of sustainable aquaculture to food security and livelihoods; next session in Indonesia in 2027.
- Fish Trade: stronger support for market access and ecolabelling approaches benefiting small-scale fisheries.
- Fisheries Management: address data gaps, improve stock assessment methodologies and strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance.
- Follow-up: FAO requested to undertake a gap analysis of flag State performance under the Compliance Agreement.





Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

- IUU fishing remained a priority area for strengthened global action.
- PSMA reaffirmed as the leading anti-IUU fishing instrument.
- Support for wider PSMA implementation and accession to the Compliance Agreement.
- FAO's Global Record and GIES recognized as key tools.
- Stronger MCS, e-monitoring, traceability and VMS encouraged.
- FAO to examine governance of unregulated high-seas fisheries.
- Capacity building prioritized for developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



International agreements and global fisheries governance

- Climate change and extreme events remained a priority concern.
- Integration into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and disaster risk strategies encouraged.
- Climate-resilient aquatic food systems promoted.
- FAO encouraged to support adaptation and mitigation actions.
- Climate adaptation knowledge-sharing and regional cooperation encouraged.



Climate change, adaptation and resilience

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Small-scale fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture

- Strong recognition of the contribution of small-scale fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition, employment and livelihoods.
- Continued support reaffirmed for the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) and the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture.
- Greater emphasis on participatory governance, co-management and integrated resource management approaches.
- Recognition of traditional, local and Indigenous knowledge as an important component of decision-making processes.



FAO Programme of Work and Blue Transformation

- Strong support for the Blue Transformation Roadmap.
- Priorities remain sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture and sustainable value chains.
- Growing demand from Members for FAO technical assistance noted.
- Calls for stronger results-based reporting and greater budget transparency.
- Particular attention requested for developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPow) and governance matters

- MYPow 2026–2029 approved.
- Broader virtual participation in COFI and its Sub-Committees supported.
- Review of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management to continue before COFI 38.

Key follow-up actions emerging from COFI-37

- Improve stock assessments, scientific cooperation and fisheries data systems.
- Support implementation of the PSMA and strengthen anti-IUU measures.
- Undertake a study on governance of unregulated high-seas fisheries.
- Conduct a gap analysis of flag State performance under the Compliance Agreement.
- Support implementation of the BBNJ Agreement and WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.
- Strengthen climate adaptation support and resilience-building initiatives.
- Advance Blue Transformation, especially in developing countries and SIDS.