

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

12 March 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the global economy. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates, global value chains were disrupted due to the lockdown measures to contain the virus. International trade recorded a 5% drop in the third quarter of 2020 compared with the same period last year, mostly due to the pandemic measures implemented by governments.

The pandemic has hit almost all industries and sectors worldwide with long-term implications, including on fisheries and aquaculture, at a time when global supply chains are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected. The pandemic has also amplified pre-existing concerns over the suitability of global supply chains. Fisheries and aquaculture products currently constitute the most highly traded food commodity internationally, with 221 states and territories having some fish trading activity. Fisheries and aquaculture exports for human consumption, in value terms, are higher than the exports of all other animal proteins combined. Therefore, the impact of COVID-19 on the fish supply chain and operations has still been profound. The broken supply chain, on the other hand, negatively affected demand.

Countries in Europe and Central Asia have experienced varying degrees of impacts from the COVID-19, based upon the various responses at the country and local levels. However, the industry impact of the pandemic has not been adequately registered in these countries.

The webinar creates an opportunity for sharing government, non-governmental civil society, and industry experiences in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

2. Objectives

The main webinar objectives are:

- Provide a better picture of the global markets of fisheries and aquaculture, with a particular emphasis on specific characteristics with direct influence on the impacts of COVID-19;
- Inform of mitigation measures and responses to address the impacts of COVID-19 in specific markets in the world in order to inform of good practices that might be adopted in the region;
- Examine the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on fisheries and aquaculture value chain of the countries in Europe and Central Asia, including aspects of food security,
- Offer an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic responses adopted by governments in the region in support of the sector;
- Share needs and solutions of the industry and civil society in a open dialogue to mitigate and overcome the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including good practices and practices to improve resilience in the long-term.

3. Participants

The webinar targets government officials, private sector representatives, civil society participants, research institutes, and academia, direct or indirectly linked to the sector of fisheries and aquaculture in Europe and Central Asia.

4. Organization

The webinar is organized as part of the FAO Regional Initiative “Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”.

5. Webinar language

The webinar will be conducted in English and Russian through simultaneous interpretation.

6. Pre-Webinar Instructions and Thematic Preparation

The event will be virtual on Zoom. Before the webinar, the participants will receive connecting instructions, including a personal password.

Before the webinar, panelists and country representatives are encouraged to have basically assessed and compiled basic information regarding:

- The major impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture in your country;
- Overview of government’s response to COVID-19 in support to the sector (economic and human dimensions);
- Examples of industry and civil society responses to COVID-19; and
- Needs of the industry to mitigate immediate impacts of COVID-19 and improve resilience in the long-term.

7. Webinar contact persons

- Mr. Haydar Fersoy, Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer (Haydar.Fersoy@fao.org)
- Ms. Timea Tutto, Programme Associate (Timea.Tutto@fao.org)

8. Webinar provisional agenda

Webinar

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

12 March 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TIME	EVENT
Opening Remarks	
10:00 h	– Moderator: Mr. Haydar Fersey, Senior Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, FAO REUT – Mr. Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
The Global Scenario of Fisheries and Aquaculture and COVID-19	
10:05 h	“FISH TRADE - Current Situation, Trends and the Pandemic” Mr. Marcio Castro de Souza, Senior Fishery Officer (International Trade), FAO Rome
10:20 h	“Fisheries and Aquaculture and the COVID-19 Pandemic – Mitigation, Adaptation Measures and other Good Practices – Examples from Asia and the Pacific” Ms. Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy, INFOFISH Managing Director
Major Impacts of COVID-19 on Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains in Europe and Central Asia – Country Roundtable	
10:35 h	“The Impact of COVID-19 on the Fisheries Sector in Europe” Ms. Ekaterina Tribilustova, Senior Project Manager, EUROFISH
10:45 h	the effects of COVID-19 on pre-harvesting and processing [name of the person], Country A
10:50 h	the effects of COVID-19 on distribution and retail [name of the person], Country B
10:55 h	new trends and habits shaping the fisheries and aquaculture markets after COVID-19 (for example, new markets, trends, resilience, consumer habits and changes in the HORECA sector) [name of the person], Country C
11:00 h	the effects of COVID-19 on small-scale actors, gender and vulnerable groups [name of the person], Country D
Open Debate	
11:05 h	Open debate of the effects of COVID-19 on the fisheries and aquaculture value chains based on elements brought in the discussions <i>(particular focus on good practices, mitigation and adaptation measures, the role of the government, and the building of long-term resilience)</i>
Closing Remarks	
11:25 h	Closing Remarks Mr. Marcio Castro de Souza, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO Rome