



## FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture e-Bulletin

May 2012

Welcome to this edition of the **FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture e-bulletin**, bringing you our most recent news, publications and developments. Many of the latest online features you will find – from maps to statistical tools – are the fruit of several years of collaborative and intense work among staff and partners. We hope that all this information will also help you in your own fisheries and aquaculture work.

### Highlights

- **8 June – World Oceans Day** This year's celebration of World Oceans Day will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the landmark UN Law of the Sea convention ([learn more](#)).
- **20-22 June - Rio+20**  
The international community is revving up for Rio+20 - the short name for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil next month. This historic opportunity will bring together world leaders along with thousands of participants from government, private sector, NGOs and civil society to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all. [Oceans-related issues](#) highlighted as a priority area.

FAO will be participating in a number of events at Rio+20, including as co-organizer for both

Oceans Day (organized by the Global Ocean Forum) and a GEF-initiated event on sustainable management of global tuna fisheries in the context of the GEF/FAO program on Global Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. As part of the private sector focused Global Compact Sustainability Forum, FAO will contribute, among others, to a session on governance to incentivize investments into sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

**[Consult the full list of Rio+20 side events.](#)**

- **9-13 July - FAO Committee on Fisheries**

The 30th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries will take place at FAO headquarters on July. COFI is the only global intergovernmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture issues are discussed and recommendations addressed to governments, regional fishery bodies, NGOs, fishworkers, FAO and the international community. More info on COFI [here](#).

## Web-based products

- **[High Seas Vessels Authorization Record \(HSVAR\)](#)**

The HSVAR offers a space of sharing information submitted according to the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Compliance Agreement). This HSVAR page is now totally renovated. The new portal will provide dynamic access to the most updated information of authorized high seas vessels to the Parties of the Compliance Agreement and downloading and uploading facilities for easy submission of updates.

Parties of the Agreement are urged to request necessary HSVAR user credentials to [HSVAR-Administrator@fao.org](mailto:HSVAR-Administrator@fao.org).

The public page of HSVAR also indicates the status of Compliance Agreement, submission of information by Parties and general quality of data submitted. For further information or requests, please write to [HSVAR-Administrator@fao.org](mailto:HSVAR-Administrator@fao.org).

This new HSVAR portal is powered by, and takes advantage of, the efficient operability offered by the Vessel Record Management Framework (VRMF), a versatile set of tools and methodologies developed by FAO to assist and standardize the management of vessel information registries.

- The **Geographic Information** gateway page has been improved by giving easy access to the recently enhanced map viewers:
  - **Species distribution maps**
  - **Atlas of Tuna and Billfish Catches**
  - **Regional Fishery Bodies map viewer**
  - **NASO aquaculture maps**
- **Database on Port State Measures** – now updated with information on 51 port States with a total amount of 1127 Fact Sheets.

## Statistics

- **2010 Global Production statistics released**

Global Aquaculture Production and Capture Production statistics have been updated to include 2010 data, available by consulting the **online query panel** or downloading the datasets for **FishStatJ**.

- **FishStatJ 2.0**

A new version of FishStatJ - software for fishery statistical time series is now available.

FishStatJ is the latest generation of the well-known and widely-used FishStat Plus software.

Thanks to users' feedback on the first release, fifty-three bug fixes were implemented.

Among the new main features of this 2.0 version, users can:

- Import Workspaces as combinations of global and regional datasets and time series;
- Browse and select datasets and items in an enhanced interface.

Click here to download and enjoy [FishStatJ 2.0](#).

- [ASFIS List of Species](#) 2012 version now available. This list, established in 2000 for fishery statistics purposes, includes 441 new species items for a total of 12 000 records included in this 2012 release. This year the downloadable file also includes a version of the ASFIS List with Arabic (2118), Chinese (2117) and Russian (577) names.

## [Fishery Resources Monitoring System \(FIRMS\)](#)

- Users' access to Marine Resource and Fishery fact sheets is facilitated thanks to a clickable world map added in the FIRMS home page.
- See the [latest updates for FIRMS Status and Trends Reports](#)

## [Recent publications](#)

- [Review of the state of world marine fishery resources](#) - FAO has just published the Review of the state of world marine fishery resources, a comprehensive, objective and global review of the state of the living marine resources of the oceans. It is based mainly on official catch statistics up until 2009 and relevant stock assessment and other complementary information available until 2010. The document summarizes the information available for each FAO Statistical Area; discusses the major trends and changes that have occurred with the main fishery resources exploited in each area; and reviews the stock assessment work

undertaken in support of fisheries management in each region.

- **FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics** - Starting from the 2009 edition released in November 2011, the FAO Yearbook of Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics is available mainly through CD-ROM and downloadable files. The statistics tables in the Yearbook will be revised promptly following the updates of individual section statistics. The next issue will be released in July 2012 with the updated capture and aquaculture productions and will include fleet data for the first time since 1998.

**Booklet** - For an at-a-glance the booklet of the Yearbook, a brief description of major trends and issues with a selected set of tables, notes and classifications on capture, aquaculture, commodity and food balance sheets.

- Browse the latest titles available online at the **Publications** page

## Projects

- **iMarine** - By joining the **iMarine Channel** and subscribing to its **eNews**, you can follow progress and become part of the iMarine Community of Practice. The iMarine initiative aims at developing an innovative and sustainable data e-infrastructure that will support the challenging, cross-disciplinary needs of the Ecosystem Approach (EA) to Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources. iMarine offers a wide range of e-services to foster collaborative science on the EA through interconnecting concerned actors around common data, information and knowledge-building.
- **Preserving the world's last global commons** - FAO is coordinating a five-year GEF programme, **Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)**, comprising four projects and focusing on tuna and deep-sea fisheries with the aim of protecting vulnerable and important

ecosystems and species.

Check out the latest [Meetings and News](#)

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