

Announcement

Webinar on *Fisheries and aquaculture sustainability: lessons from SOFIA 2020*

Virtual Dialogues on the Path for COFI 34

16 July 2020 13:00 hrs CEST

The Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee, scheduled to take place at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy from 13 to 17 July 2020, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this challenge, FAO will host a series of *Virtual Dialogues on the Path to the 34th Session of COFI* from 15-17 July 2020.

COFI Members and Observers are cordially invited to join the webinar on *Fisheries and aquaculture sustainability: lessons from SOFIA 2020*.

This webinar will provide an opportunity for COFI members and observers to offer their views on the information, conclusions and recommendations emerging from *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report, SOFIA 2020* (<https://bit.ly/2USbjxk>). These views will be invaluable when we prepare for SOFIA 2022.

Furthermore, influenced by the successful *FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability* (<https://bit.ly/2y0L93v>), and reinforced by the messages in the SOFIA 2020 Report, the Bureau of COFI has been leading the development of a *COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture* (<http://tiny.cc/v5d8qz>), with the aim to present it for endorsement by Members at the next COFI meeting (COFI 34), as part of the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). This Declaration aims to acknowledge the achievements since the endorsement of the CCRF, and to gather momentum to tackle the remaining challenges to ensure the sector's sustainability.

In this webinar the main messages from SOFIA 2020 and from the *Declaration* will be presented, followed by interventions from COFI members on these documents. As the side event has limited time for interventions, and to ensure all voices are heard, Members and observers are encouraged to **submit written statements in any of the UN official languages on both SOFIA 2020 and the draft Declaration beforehand through this questionnaire by the 10 of July** (<https://bit.ly/3eAwJa8>). These statements will be collated and made available to COFI 34, and will be considered in the finalization of the *Declaration*.

Interpretation will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. We hope you will join us, please register in advance by clicking on the following link: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2J7GiFXMTeCu1QvHs1AxFA

In addition, you are invited to join the following webinars of the *Virtual Dialogues on the Path for COFI 34*, which are open to the public.

	13:00-14:30	16:00-17:30
15 July	What does the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework mean for Fisheries and Aquaculture?	Innovative biosecurity approaches for a healthier aquaculture industry

16 July	Fisheries and aquaculture sustainability: lessons from SOFIA 2020	Unlocking the potential of fisheries and aquaculture value chains: FISH4ACP Broadcast
17 July	Illuminating Hidden Harvests: The Contributions of Small-Scale Fisheries to Sustainable Development	Impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture: Effects, good practices and recommendations

Further information and pre-registration links to these events are available on the following web site: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/cofi34-virtual-dialogues/en/>

For any additional information and enquiries, please contact FI-registration@fao.org

We look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,



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