

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IORA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF IORA ACTION PLAN ON FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Webinar on Enhancing the knowledge on international trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products in the IORA region**

**12 October 2021**

#### **DRAFT REPORT**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Fish is the most traded food commodity in the world. International trade of seafood products not only enhances food security but also contributes to the general economic growth processes in developing countries. Fish trade businesses and activities have created much needed jobs (both formal and informal); and the sustainability of livelihoods for millions.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) includes 23 countries around and in the Indian Ocean. These countries vary greatly with regards to economies, development stages, infrastructure, fisheries and trade. The total population of the IORA region is estimated to be above 2.27 billion (2017), occupying a land area of some 20.5 million km<sup>2</sup>. Their combined Exclusive Economic Zone amounts to over 28 million km<sup>2</sup>, and there are very rich fishery resources in this area. Some of the largest fishing nations in the world are found in this region.

According to FAO, the total capture volume for the IORA region in 2018 amounted to 21.8 million tonnes, or about 22 percent of the world's total catch. Aquaculture production in the region amounted to 16.7 million tonnes (excluding aquatic plants), valued at USD 39 billion. Some of the countries of the region have advanced fish processing industries, while others, mostly least developed nations appear to have almost none. Shrimp and tuna are major commodities that are processed, either as frozen or canned products.

While consumption of seafood also varies a great deal from country to country, the average consumption per person per year in 2017 was estimated to be 14.8 kg within the IORA region. This is lower than the world average of 20.3 kg (FAO, 2020).

The countries of the region as a group are major players on the international market for seafood products, and the region's exports and imports have risen markedly over the years. A distinct feature

of this trade is that the region as a whole imports less than it exports, and import prices are lower than export prices. In other words, the region as a group has a positive trade balance, although this also varies from country to country. The trade performance of the region is largely positive, indicating that most of the countries are performing well, while a few are not performing so well. Intra-regional trade between IORA member states is relatively low, and could be enhanced with better access to market information and opportunities, including through inherent bilateral or multilateral trade arrangements.

Some of the major challenges facing the region include: food security, trade facilitation and capacity development, infrastructure, marketing information as well as other and emerging threats such as IUU fishing, climate change and pandemics.

## **B. PROPOSAL**

In order to enhance the knowledge and understanding of international trade situation for seafood products within the IORA region, a webinar session was organised, based on reports that have been produced as part of the AFD technical assistance to IORA - *a literature review and data gap analysis* followed by a *general review of fish trade, which also included country profiles of each IORA member*. The general review unpacked some of the challenges faced by the countries; and proposed steps and recommendations for consideration by IORA Member States to improve fish trade. The webinar also included a case study from one IORA member state (Malaysia), and a contribution from FAO Globefish.

## **C. OBJECTIVES**

The general objective of the webinar was to present information on trends and status on international fish trade in the IORA region, with recommendations to improve such trade.

The specific objectives are the following:

- To present the findings of the Technical Report No. 7, *“International Trade Study – Review of Fish Trade in the IORA Region”* based on literature review carried out;
- Present some proposed recommendations to address some of the salient issues for improving international fish trade in IORA region;
- To present a case study of fish trade from one IORA member state and the perspectives of FAO Globefish on international fish trade;
- To interact with participants and discuss the prospects and recommendations for improved fish trade, as a way forward.

The entire recording of the webinar can be accessed by clicking below:

[Play recording](#) (2 hrs 28 mins)

Recording password: IORAafd2021

## D. OPENING AND SPEAKERS

**Opening:** Dr Shamimtaz Sadally, Project Manager Blue Economy at IORA

**Moderator:** Mr. Daroomalingum Mauree, Main Resident Expert for the AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO

The flyer of the speakers for this webinar can be accessed from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/sgcpggzvez44molx8md6k/Flyer-for-Trade-Webinar-04-10-2021-FINAL.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=om1gfz8ozx2uywdh8ttuodv12>

### Speakers:

1. **Marcio Castro de Souza** (Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO, Rome Italy)
2. **Erik Hempel** (International Trade Expert: AFD Technical Assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO)
3. **Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy** (Director of INFOFISH, Malaysia)
4. **Blessing Mapfumo** (International Trade Expert AFD Technical Assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO)

The webinar agenda and the profiles of the Speakers are presented in Annexes I and II.

## E. ATTENDEES

A total of 151 persons pre-registered for the webinar.

There was a total of 98 participants who attended the webinar, and 68 active connections were recorded one hour after the start of the webinar. On the response to the question “Where are you working”: 54% were from Government Institutions; 17 % from International Organizations/Agencies; 8% were Research Institutions; 4% were from private sector; and 17% were from other sectors. This is indicated in pie chart below.



## F. PRESENTATION BY SPEAKERS

1. Presentation by Mr. Marcio Castro de Souza, Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO: **Review of global seafood trade and trends**

The presentation provided the main trends in production, trade and markets involving fisheries and aquaculture products. It highlighted the importance of the sector in international terms, the sustainability challenges, the development of aquaculture in recent years, the main importing markets and the mostly traded species at a global level. It also mentioned the current challenges associated with fish trade, including the pandemic and the recent developments of the markets shaping production and trade.

A copy of the presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/80e9fummtm44aw7/1.FAO%20Presentation%20-%20IORA%20-%20Trade%20and%20Markets%20-%20Oct%202021.pdf?dl=0>

2. Presentation by **Mr. Erik Hempel**, International Trade Expert– AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO: **Review of international seafood trade in the IORA region – status and trends.**

The presentation gave an overview of production, processing, and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products in the IORA region. Seafood production in IORA region has grown steadily since 1950 until today, but since around 1990, aquaculture production has grown exponentially. The presentation examined the total fisheries and aquaculture production in 2018 and the resulting processed products. It also focused on the development of trade, the composition of traded products and on export and import trends for the region; as well as the direction of trade to and from the IORA region, and the intra-regional trade. Major challenges facing the seafood trade in the IORA region were also emphasized.

A copy of the presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/Ovf5pbal4gsud7s/2.%20Review%20of%20international%20trade%20in%20IORA.pdf?dl=0>

3. Presentation by **Ms. Shirlene Anthonysamy**, Director of INFOFISH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: **Developments in the Seafood Market and Trade in Malaysia and Southeast Asia**

The presentation provided an overview of the fishery market and trade in Southeast Asia with a special focus on Malaysia. It highlighted the trends in the domestic markets, seafood consumption patterns and trade as well as the impact of COVID-19 to the fisheries sector. Malaysia in 2018 had a total seafood production of almost 1.9 million tonnes, of which 391 000 tonnes came from aquaculture and 1.5 million tonnes came from capture fisheries. While capture fisheries production has been relatively stable in recent years, aquaculture production has declined since 2014, mainly because of a reduced production of aquatic plants. Malaysia's imports of seafood are higher than its exports in terms of volume, but in terms of value the country has a healthy surplus, indicating that it imports less expensive items and exports high-value products. The most important trading partners are neighbouring Asian countries, and China is the most important export market accounting for almost 30% of the total export value and over 20% of the import value.

A copy of the presentation can be accessed at:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jihtmsbok9qrns08kf4i8/3.-ShirleneIORA\\_SA2021.ppt?dl=0&rlkey=0obpxkvc4srl761ep5radyvny](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jihtmsbok9qrns08kf4i8/3.-ShirleneIORA_SA2021.ppt?dl=0&rlkey=0obpxkvc4srl761ep5radyvny)

4. Presentation by **Mr. Blessing Mapfumo** International Trade Expert – AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO: **Salient issues and general recommendations on improved fish trade in IORA region**

The presentation covered some of the key findings from the recently concluded report: *“Technical Report No. 7 – International Trade Study – Review of Fish Trade in the IORA Region”* The presentation began by providing an overview of some of the strengths identified out of the IORA region with regards to fish trade. It then highlighted some salient issues and general recommendations to improve fish trade over the long term. Such issues include the establishment of a fish trade network (encompassing all IORA countries), the need for capacity building for fish trade actors (policymakers, fish trade business associations, civil society, etc.) to enhance their understanding of fish trade dynamics, of agreements, and to strengthen their capacities to implement fish trade reforms. Other salient issues such as informal fish trade dynamics, the COVID pandemic and its impact to fish trade, trade agreements and other issues were also presented. Lastly, as a way forward, a proposal to develop a *trade strategy for intra-IORA fish trade* was briefly presented.

A copy of the presentation can be accessed at:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1z0jz3qcbd2j2owry0uit/4.-IORA\\_AFD-Webinar-Blessing-presentation-12.10.2021\\_gro.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=hgqum9a3mhtixsttp3nt7tn5f](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1z0jz3qcbd2j2owry0uit/4.-IORA_AFD-Webinar-Blessing-presentation-12.10.2021_gro.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=hgqum9a3mhtixsttp3nt7tn5f)

5. Presentation by **Mr. Erik Hempel**, International Trade Expert– AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO: **Proposal: Establishment of a trade information network – “FISHTRADE”**

Based on the situation described in the trade study *“Technical Report No. 7 – International Trade Study – Review of Fish Trade in the IORA Region”*, and in particular the information needs of regional producers and traders, a proposed market and trade information system was presented for the IORA region. The system is based on the FAO model which has materialised in several regional information services such as INFOFISH and INFOPECHE. The proposal includes the establishment of an-ad hoc expert group or service supporting the IORA secretariat in Mauritius, but with strong operational ties to the INFOFISH organization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the GLOBEFISH service in FAO in Rome. The expert service would provide information on a subscription and on-demand basis to the industry in IORA member States and would also be able to offer help in finding and interpreting such information.

A copy of the presentation can be accessed at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/aln0x1n3spnlpck/5.%20Proposal%20for%20market%20information%20system.pdf?dl=0>

## G. QUESTION AND ANSWERS

**Md. Mamun Ur Rashid Askari**

*Is it possible to develop a global harmonisation of microbiological standards for fish and fishery products?*

Marcio Castor de Souza: There are some initiatives in this regard and FAO is participating in many of them. To contact us at FAO to be linked to the relevant person in charge of the topic or <https://cc.co/IKwSvGy2E?f=0> . FAO also presents a new GLOBEFISH publication *“the Harmonized System Handbook”*, which contains a comprehensive list of HS codes for fisheries and aquaculture products organised in any easy way to read. This can be accessed and downloaded on <https://bit.ly/HS-Handbook>. In addition, if anyone would like to receive periodical information on

trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products from FAO to contact [Marcio.CastroDeSouza@fao.org](mailto:Marcio.CastroDeSouza@fao.org)

Erik Hempel: This is a specialised area with regards to trade and as INFONETWORK, what they normally do is to have a specialist in the subject area who will conduct some training courses or seminars and also provide technical advice and guidance to industry.

Shirlene Anthonysamy: The CODEX Alimentarius for fisheries addresses this subject and it gets updated on regular basis. A contact with the FAO CODEX division for fisheries or the website would add more insights on this.

**Md. Mamun Ur Rashid Askari**

*How tariffs and non-tariffs barriers in fish and fish products sector could be addressed in the IORA region? Is it possible to address through existing mechanisms or new mechanisms are required?*

Daroomalingum Mauree: tariffs are basically dealt with at country bilateral and or multilateral level and in some cases during trade negotiations between countries and regions whereas non-tariff barriers emerge when one is trying to deal with specific or target markets, where regulations and product standard act as barrier to trade.

Shirlene Anthonysamy: This is an area INFOFISH also looks into in the region. There are different aspects to look at and options by country that can be emulated.

Blessing Mapfumo: This has been identified in the assessment report on fish trade and of course there are disparities within countries. The need to understand clearly what are the tariffs, NTBs, what can be done or learnt from other countries who are faring well and how policy can be informed for any changes. This is complex matter and takes time, understandably as it varies by country regulations.

Marcio Castor de Souza: The need to have country focal points in the info network systems is important in the understanding of NTBs, which are mostly faced by exporters. Focal points will provide a clear understanding of the status quo in the country with regards to all tariffs and how the GLOBEFISH can then provide technical advice and information on improvements or addressing problem areas.

Regarding tariffs and non-tariffs barriers, he suggested checking a FAO GLOBEFISH publication which analyses non-tariff measures faced by Indian exports to the US, the EU and China.

**Helene GOBERT**

*What are the trends regarding packaging/reduction of plastic use in the fish trade sector?*

Daroomalingum Mauree: there is an example of Rwanda which has now outlawed the use of plastics for the benefit of their environment.

Marcio Castor de Souza: FAO is also working on the issue to try identifying best plastic use that is sustainable and safe for the environment.

**Helene GOBERT**

*To all experts: can you tell us about the current negotiations on fisheries subsidies in WTO and how it can affect the fish trade in the region?*

Daroomalingum Mauree: From his understanding, there will be a ban of subsidies on those countries engaged in IUU fishing and overcapacity, but there will be a carve out for subsidies for least developed countries (LDCs). Negotiations are still ongoing in line to MDGs.

Erik Hempel: This is a long-term discussion issue, and it appears subsidies have become controversial in some quarters as they are perceived to be counterproductive. For instance, in Norway, there were fisheries subsidies in the 1940s to 1990s, but in 1990s the country decided to do away with them and soon after fisheries sector began to experience profitability and sustainably. So, if one removes subsidies, the results could potentially be positive as exemplified by this Norwegian seafood case study.

Marcio Castor de Souza: Yes, subsidies negotiations have gone on for a while now. The WTO is looking at benchmarking its negotiations on IUU fishing, overfishing and overcapacity. Negotiations are now underway as to how to practically address these, for instance there will be a global meeting in Geneva later this year. At GLOBEFISH they will be looking at how this would affect trade, and that is also when the Port State Measures Agreement would come into play.

**Abdullahi Orire - Nigeria**

*My questions are; 1. how can FAO assist Nigeria to develop her abundant coastline and freshwater bodies for seafood and freshwater fish and fish products. 2. Nigeria's fish practically dominated by a monospecies which is catfish, how will FAO assist in developing a new Aquaculture candidate with high market value e.g tilapia or carp with fast growth? 3 Nigeria's fish products are not making it to international markets, how can FAO assist Nigeria fish to access International markets.*

Daroomalingum Mauree: This question will be referred to the International Aquaculture Expert for the AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO.

**Andrea Bernatzeder (South Africa):**

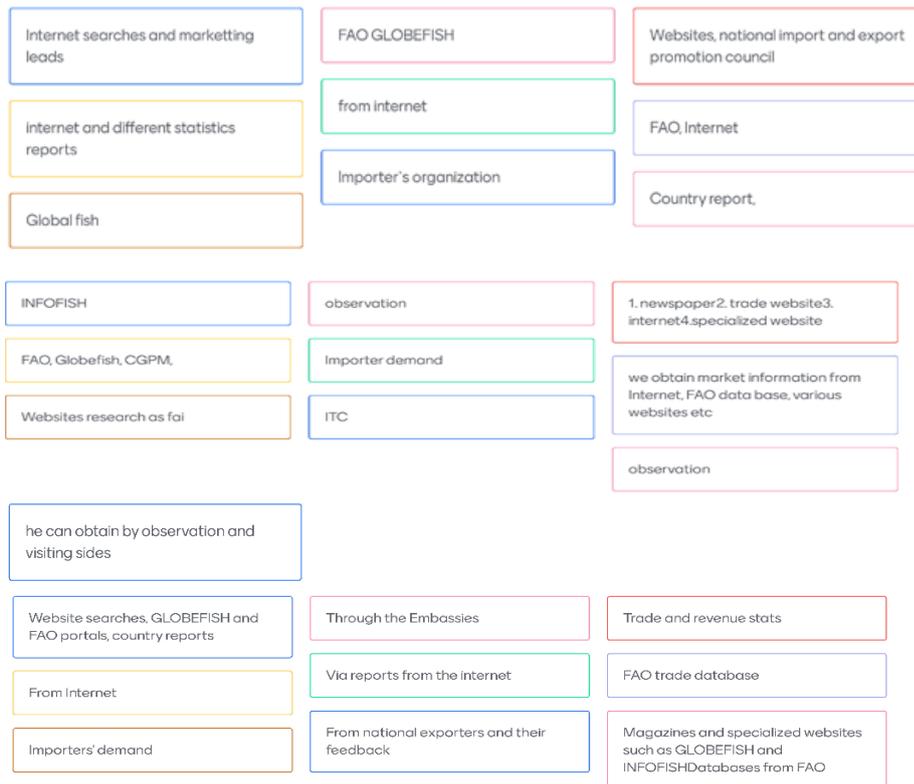
*Are there initiatives to increase voluntary third-party auditor capacity in the African region to reduce cost for farms to comply with eco-labelling and certification*

Blessing Mapfumo: The AUDA-NEPAD is working on a new initiative with ARSO on standards and certification using an Africa label called ECOMARK. This is still under trials testing for tilapia and catfish SME farms in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and elsewhere.



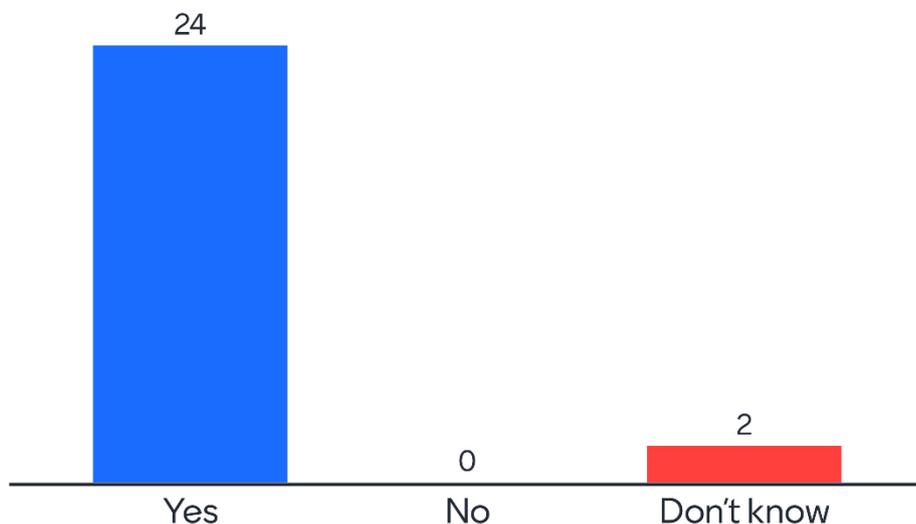
Out of the responses, obviously high value marine species such as tunas, shrimps, other crustaceans (eg lobsters) and molluscs are topping the list of major exports. This affirms the key findings from the literature review on *Fish Trade in IORA Region*. There has been a mention of some marine finfishes such as hake, small pelagics which, understandably have to some extent become important for some intra-IOA trade especially Southern Africa states.

### 3. How do you obtain market information on fisheries and aquaculture products today?



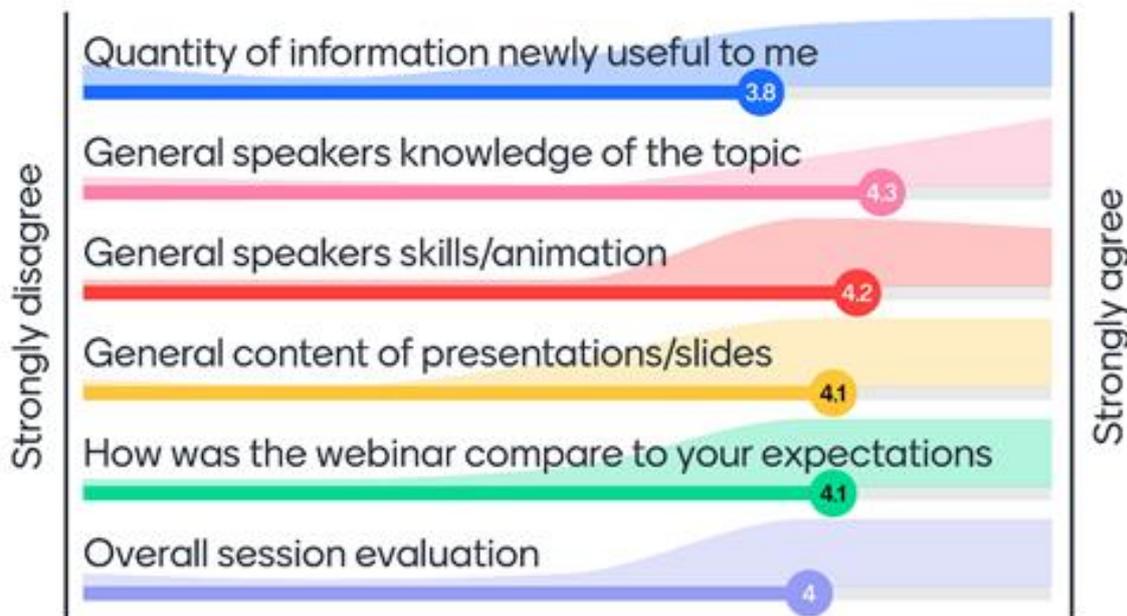
From the poll, it was apparent that the majority of audience obtains most of its information through general internet searches. There is also an indication that the emergence of specialised marketing information organisations such as GLOBEFISH, INFOFISH and other portals such as ITC have been useful in the supplication of marketing information for fish and fishery products.

#### 4. Would a central information service be helpful in your search for market information?



Out of the 26 votes, it was by far clear from the audience that a central information service would be helpful in their search for market information. This, in a way justifies the need to establish an INFOFISH-like marketing information centre for the IORA for addressing issues to do with information gaps.

#### I. EVALUATION OF THE WEBINAR



Twenty-eight (28) participants evaluated the webinar. Scores ranged from 3.8 to 4.3 (highest score), out of 5. The average score out of the evaluation was 4.1 out of 5. The highest score of 4.3 was obtained for: General speakers' knowledge of the topic, whereas the quantity of information newly

useful to me polled 3.8. The overall session evaluation of 4.0 out of 5 indicates that the webinar session had a strong positive review to the audience, thus justifying its success.

## **J. CONCLUSION**

This was the fifth webinar that was successfully held as part of the AFD Technical Assistance to IORA in fisheries, aquaculture and environment. The webinar was valuable as a precursor to the development of an intra-regional trade strategy for the IORA and as a first step for the establishment of a regional marketing information system as one strategic way forward. The involvement of the FAO to provide some lessons as well as a special case study on *Developments in the Seafood Market and Trade in Malaysia and Southeast Asia* enriched the webinar session. The questions posed to the presenters and their responses were engaging and stimulating. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to take all of the questions, and participants were invited to forward these and any other related ones to the presenters, and the Main Resident Expert, keeping IORA in copy. Responses to the questions and the polling provide interesting insights that can stimulate further actions for the consideration of the IORA Secretariat with regards to enhancing the knowledge of IORA MS on international trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products.

## Annex I: Webinar agenda



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IORA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION OF IORA ACTION PLAN ON FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

## Webinar on enhancing the knowledge on international trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products in the IORA region

12 October 2021

0700 hrs (GMT)

### AGENDA

6:45 to 7:00

- Arrival and connection to the webinar

7:00 to 7:05

- **Dr Gatot H. Gunawan** (Acting Secretary-General/Director of IORA)
- ⇒ Opening remarks

7:05 to 7:10

- **Mr. Daroomalingum Mauree** (Main Resident Expert for the AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO)
- Introduction and presentation

7:10 to 7:30

- **Mr. Marcio Castro de Souza** (Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO)
- ⇒ First presentation: **“Review of global seafood trade and trends”**

Mr. Castro de Souza’s presentation will address the main trends in production, trade and markets involving fisheries and aquaculture products. It will highlight the importance of the sector in international terms, the sustainability challenges, the development of aquaculture in recent years, the main importing markets and the mostly traded species at a global level.

He will also mention the current challenges associated with fish trade, including the pandemic and the recent developments of the markets shaping production and trade.

7:30 to 7:50

- **Mr. Erik Hempel** (International Trade Expert– AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO)
  - ⇒ Second presentation: “**Review of international seafood trade in the IORA region – status and trends**”

The presentation will give an overview of production, processing, and trade of fisheries and aquaculture products in the IORA region. Seafood production in IORA region has grown steadily since 1950 until today, but since around 1990, aquaculture production has grown exponentially. The presentation will examine the total fisheries and aquaculture production in 2018 and the resulting processed products. The presentation will focus on the development of trade, the composition of traded products and on export and import trends for the region. Another aspect that will be highlighted is the direction of trade to and from the IORA region, and the intra-regional trade. Major challenges facing the seafood trade in the IORA region will also be emphasized.

7:50 to 8:10

- **Ms. Shirlene Anthonysamy** (Director of INFOFISH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
  - ⇒ Third presentation: “**Developments in the Seafood Market and Trade in Malaysia and Southeast Asia**”

The presentation will provide an overview of the fishery market and trade in Southeast Asia with a special focus on Malaysia. It will highlight the trends in the domestic markets, seafood consumption patterns and trade as well as the impact of COVID-19 to the fisheries sector. Malaysia in 2018 had a total seafood production of almost 1.9 million tonnes, of which 391 000 tonnes came from aquaculture and 1.5 million tonnes came from capture fisheries. While capture fisheries production has been relatively stable in recent years, aquaculture production has declined since 2014, mainly because of a reduced production of aquatic plants. Malaysia’s imports of seafood are higher than its exports in terms of volume, but in terms of value the country has a healthy surplus, indicating that it imports less expensive items and exports high-value products. The most important trading partners are neighbouring Asian countries, and China is the most important export market accounting for almost 30% of the total export value and over 20% of the import value.

8:10 to 8:30

- **Mr. Blessing Mapfumo** (International Trade Expert – AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO).
  - ⇒ Fourth presentation: **Salient issues and general recommendations on improved fish trade in IORA region**

The presentation will cover the key findings of the assessment covered in the recent report: “*Technical Report No. 7 – International Trade Study – Review of Fish Trade in the IORA Region*”

prepared with the support of the AFD through the Technical Assistance to the IORA. The presentation will first provide an overview of some of the strengths identified out of the IORA region with regards to fish trade. It will then present some salient issues and general recommendations to improve fish trade over the long term. Such issues include the establishment of a fish trade network (encompassing all IORA countries), the need for capacity building for fish trade actors (policymakers, fish trade business associations, civil society, etc.) to enhance their understanding of fish trade dynamics, of agreements, and to strengthen their capacities to implement fish trade reforms. Other salient issues such as informal fish trade dynamics, the COVID pandemic and its impact to fish trade, trade agreements and other issues will also be covered. Lastly, as a way forward, a proposal to develop *a trade strategy for intra-IORA fish trade* will be briefly presented.

08:30 to 08:45

- **Mr. Erik Hempel** (International Trade Expert – AFD technical assistance to IORA implemented by COFREPECHE and SOFRECO, Norway)
  - ⇒ Fifth presentation: **“Proposal: Establishment of a trade information network - FISHTRADE”**

Based on the situation described in the trade study *“Technical Report No. 7 – International Trade Study – Review of Fish Trade in the IORA Region”*, and in particular the information needs of regional producers and traders, a market and trade information system is proposed for the IORA region. The system is based on the FAO model which has materialised in several regional information services such as INFOFISH and INFOPECHE. The proposal includes the establishment of an ad hoc expert group or service supporting the IORA secretariat in Mauritius, but with strong operational ties to the INFOFISH organization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the GLOBEFISH service in FAO in Rome. The expert service would provide information on a subscription and on-demand basis to the industry in IORA member States and would also be able to offer help in finding and interpreting such information.

08:45 to 09:05

- Question and answers

09:10 to 09:25

- Webinar polling and evaluation exercise

09:30

- Webinar Closure

## Annex II: Profiles of the Speakers

### Mr. Marcio Castro de Souza



Marcio Castro de Souza is a Senior Fishery Officer for international trade and the Team Leader for Trade and Markets at the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. He is also the Secretary of the FAO Subcommittee on Fish Trade (COFI:FT), the main global *forum* for consultations between countries on technical and economic aspects of international trade of fisheries and aquaculture products, including production and consumption; and the coordinator of GLOBEFISH – a specific FAO project responsible for the dissemination of information and analysis on international fish trade and markets.

The main activities that Mr. Castro de Souza promotes and manages in FAO include the development of studies, projects, analysis, and policy orientation on topics related to international trade and markets on fisheries and aquaculture products, including market access aspects and regional trade agreements; their interconnectivity and the main existing instruments regulating fisheries activities internationally, as well as their impacts on trade and sustainability. His area of work also covers the development and deliverable of training on fish trade in addition to trade and economic topics discussed by countries at COFI:FT.

### Mr. Erik Hempel



Erik Hempel holds an M.Sc. in Political Science from the University of Oslo and also studied Political Science and Psychology at the University of Delaware (USA). He has a long experience from marketing information services in Asia and Africa. As an FAO employee, he served as Director of INFOFISH (Kuala Lumpur), INFOPÊCHE (Abidjan) and INFOSA (Windhoek) between 1981 and 2008. In addition, he has served as special advisor to the governments in Norway, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Namibia and Tanzania, and he has undertaken several projects for the World Bank, UNDP, FAO, NORAD and the European Commission. Since 2008 he has participated in numerous development projects in Asia and Africa in cooperation with large consulting groups and individual governments.

Hempel has undertaken trade studies in Africa and Asia, including studies on informal trade around the Lake Victoria region; trade strategy development in several African and Indian Ocean countries (under the SmartFish programme); value chain study of fish trade in Tanzania; development of a fish marketing system in Aceh, Indonesia; development of market diversification strategy for Namibia; and market analyses of various seafood commodities under the FAO GLOBEFISH programme.

### **Ms. Shirlene Maria Anthonymsamy**



Shirlene brings with her more than 19 years of experience in monitoring and reviewing the Asia Pacific fishery industry; carrying out consultancies related to international fishery trade for private companies and national bodies; publishing articles related to international fishery trade and markets; conducting training and facilitation on trade promotion, marketing and database; and coordinating national and international workshops and conferences. She holds a Masters in Food Biochemistry and Bachelors in Biochemistry and Microbiology from University Putra Malaysia.

Shirlene has been heading INFOFISH as Acting Director since May 2016 and became Director of INFOFISH in December 2018. Prior to that, she was Trade Promotion Officer at INFOFISH for 16 years.



### **Mr. Blessing Mapfumo**

Blessing Mapfumo (citizen of Zimbabwe) has nearly 20 years of work experience in the field of fisheries and aquaculture, where he has worked mostly in the advisory capacity, for various national, regional and international projects. This includes projects by governments, IGOs (including AU agencies, FAO, EU, World Bank); and some private sector entities. Much of Blessing's fish trade experience began at INFOSA, *the intergovernmental organization for marketing information and technical advisory services in Southern Africa* (an INFOPECHE sub-unit which was based in Namibia (2004 - 2011). From 2012, Blessing became a key fish trade expert for the IOC-SmartFish Programme where he featured on several capacity building project assignments (including some studies, training workshops and meetings). From 2014-2016, Blessing was the fisheries and aquaculture advisor at FAO in South Africa, executing various projects for the government of South Africa, SADC and FAO. In 2020, Blessing also worked for the IOC-ECOFISH programme to "*support the SADC Secretariat and the IPMU in the setting up of the programme's governance structures*". Both the ECOFISH and SmartFish programmes and other cross-cutting projects have affirmed Blessing's experience in the East and Southern Africa region of the IORA. Consequently, Blessing recently took up the role as one of the fish trade experts for the project "*Enhancing the knowledge of IORA member states on international trade and markets for fisheries and aquaculture products*".

Since 2019, Blessing has also been seconded by some African countries and organizations to be the first Executive Officer of the World Aquaculture Society (African Chapter), where he solely looks after the Chapter's administrative and communications functions, being also the central communications person for the upcoming global *1<sup>st</sup> Aquaculture Africa Conference* scheduled for Egypt in December 2021.