

Our Ocean Conference 2019 (Oslo)
23 October 2019; 5:30pm-6:30pm
Central Park A, Clarion Hotel The Hub

Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture: the human faces of an inclusive and sustainable Blue Economy

Co-hosts: African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States; European Commission; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Food and Agriculture Organization; Monterey Bay Aquarium; OECD; Rare

Format: High-level, 50 participants (~20 reserved seats with the remainder open to all), visual presentations and moderated interactive session(s)

Target group: Our Ocean participants - governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), intergovernmental bodies, seafood industry, finance institutions, development organizations and media.

Purpose:

Small-scale producers in fisheries and aquaculture are the human face of an inclusive blue economy and they face a range of challenges that have not been comprehensively addressed through existing sustainability improvement models and approaches. Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture provide underestimated socio-economic value as they support the majority of fishing related livelihoods, support local markets that sustain food security and nutrition, and also contribute to global supply chains and national development goals. This event will highlight concrete examples and approaches for scaling sustainable small-scale seafood production that are critical to achieving SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda, including the role of empowered local communities, connected local and national leadership, a partnership assurance model, value chain improvements, and new tools to value ocean assets.

Justification:

In many important seafood-producing regions the aquaculture sector is dominated by small-scale farmers, and the largest group of ocean-users globally are the women and men who fish, process and trade in small-scale fisheries. Highlighting small-scale seafood producers as the “human face” of the Blue Economy and solutions tailored to address challenges specific to their sector will connect across a number of Our Ocean Conference pillars, including food and livelihoods, overfishing, ocean governance, and a sustainable ocean economy. In addition, these solutions indicate pathways for successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and Agenda 2030.

In recent years, the Our Ocean Conference provided a platform for governments, industry and civil society to make commitments in support of sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and a Blue

Economy. Previous commitments, including those made by event co-hosts, reflect a growing awareness of the urgent need for sustainable seafood production, and resilient coastal ecosystems and communities in the face of climate change. There is increasing awareness that solutions must achieve market expectations, address food security and nutrition concerns, and protect livelihoods of millions of people around the world. However, there are limited tools and approaches available for small-scale fishermen and aquaculture farmers that make up the majority of production in key regions, such as Southeast Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

New approaches, partnerships, tools and projects must recognize the unique needs of small-scale producers and work toward comprehensive solutions with the support of markets, governments and diverse stakeholders.

Several initiatives that promote an inclusive approach to sustainable small-scale seafood production will be highlighted.

- **A Partnership Assurance Model** to address the unique needs of small-scale aquaculture farmers while improving the sustainability of the supply chain and protecting livelihoods. The Partnership Assurance Model requires a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to co-design, implement and verify comprehensive improvements to achieve sustainability. This scalable approach can support development of inclusive value chains and will accelerate with technology, financing and other assets. The Partnership Assurance Model is being implemented in Vietnam and will inform global efforts to improve small-scale aquaculture as part of a sustainable blue economy.
- **A community-rights based approach to small-scale fisheries management** that emphasizes participatory management and a strong connection with local government to inform policies and priorities across multiple governance levels. Sustainable small-scale fisheries can result greater local value creation that if properly accounted for can influence long-term financial and management decisions of fishers, communities, and governments and can be supported by innovative blue finance products.
- **New initiatives to improve the measurements of value of ocean natural assets and the ocean economy** (Portugal). As part of building an inclusive and sustainable blue economy, focus must partly be placed on the value of ocean assets and how valuing assets can promote further investment, stimulate innovation and strengthen the human face of the blue economy. SSF are generally undervalued, and can serve as a good example of valuing assets in terms of capital value and the value of ecosystem benefits they produce for livelihoods, food security, disaster management etc.
- **A new approach to fish value chains** that will contribute to the development of sustainable fish value chains in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, looking both at economic profitability, social equity and impact on natural environment with the view to contribute to SDG target 14.7 of the 2030 Agenda.

FORMAT

DRAFT AGENDA

5:30 pm

Scene setting introduction (FAO) 5 min

5:35-55 pm

-Addressing challenges in small-scale aquaculture (Monterey Bay Aquarium and partners) 10 min

-Addressing challenges in small-scale fisheries (Rare and partners) 10 min

5:55-6:20 pm

Moderated discussion with high level panel

Moderator: Hon. John Kerry (tent.)

6:20-6:30 pm

Announcements and Closing