



Status of global trade in fisheries in the road to the UN Oceans Conference



Conference of Marine resources management,
Geneva, June 2017

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Trade related targets of SDG 14



By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to (IUU) fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

A PAN-AFRICAN VISION

- AU 2050 AIM Strategy, Agenda 2063

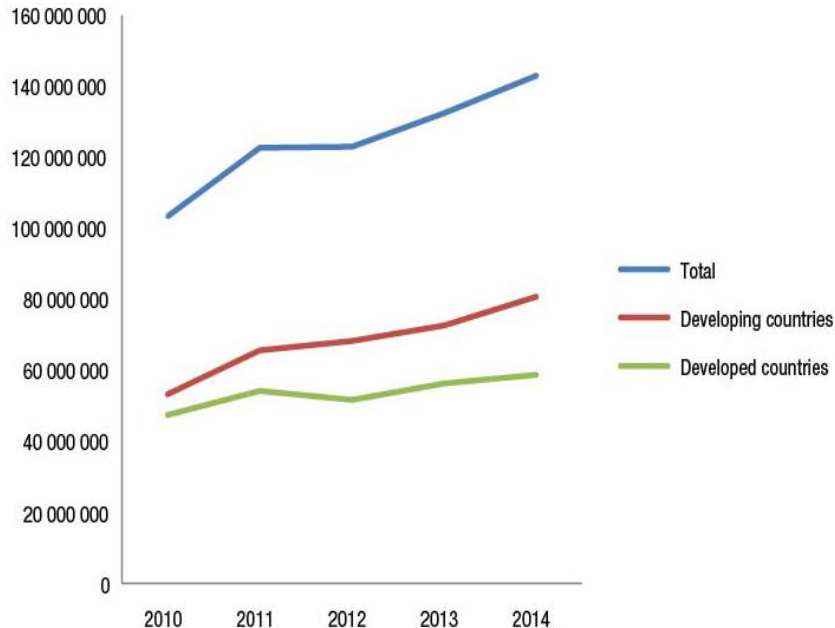
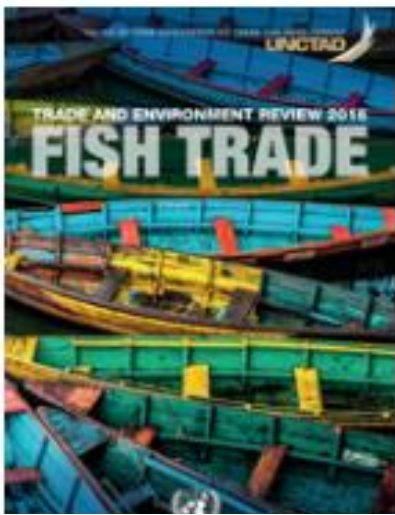
“..to foster wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable, thriving blue economy ...”

Over-arching Goals:

**Human well-being
Food security
Poverty alleviation
Social equity
Participation**



Fish Trade: Trade & Envir Review 2016



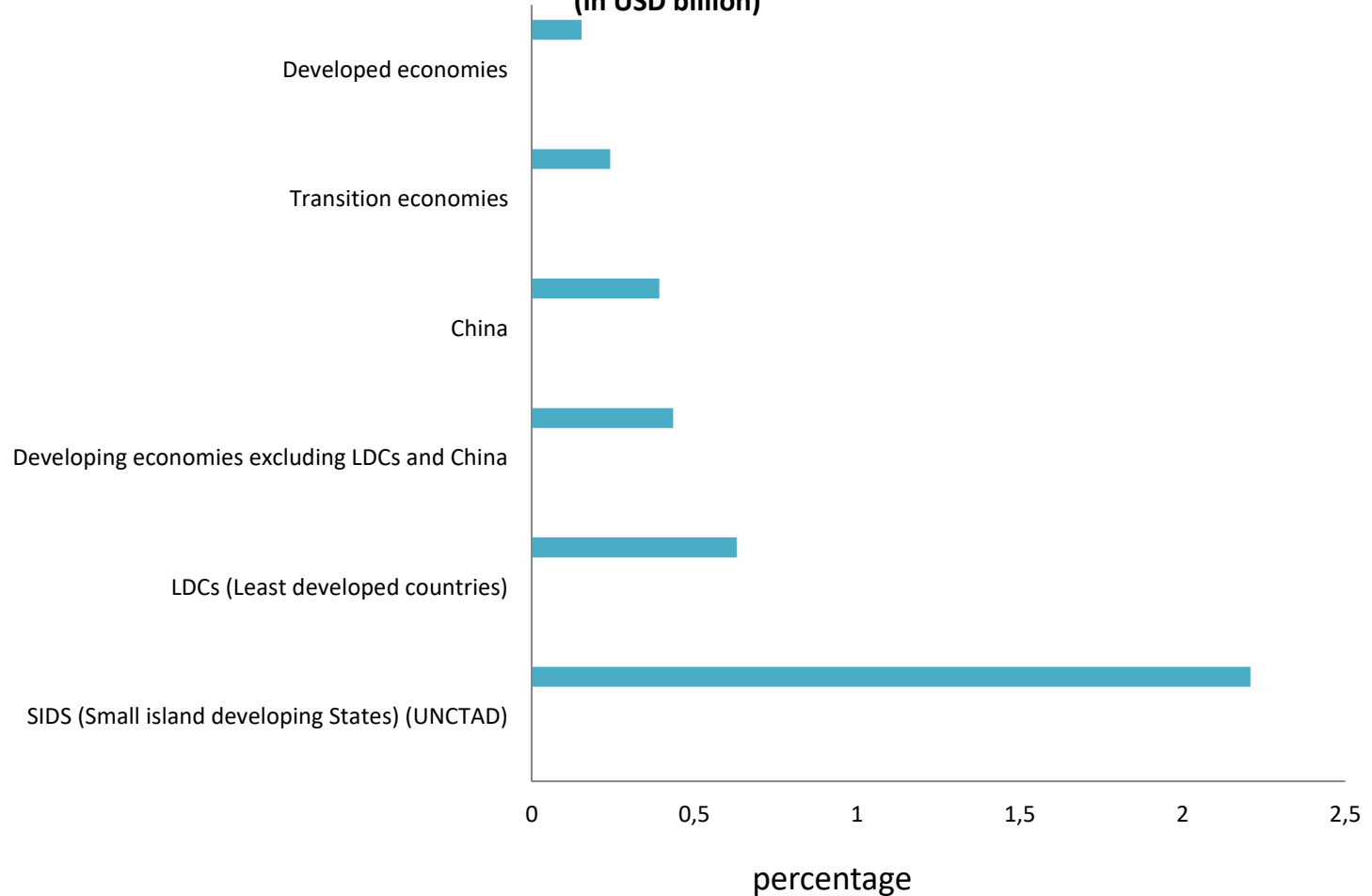
- Current level of wild catch = 90 million tons. with good fish management policies may reach 93-94 million tons by 2035
- Fish exports reached a record of **\$146 billion in 2014**
- DCs are the main exporters at **56% of total world exports by 2014 (in value)**

Source: UNCTAD (2016)



Fish exports as share of GDP

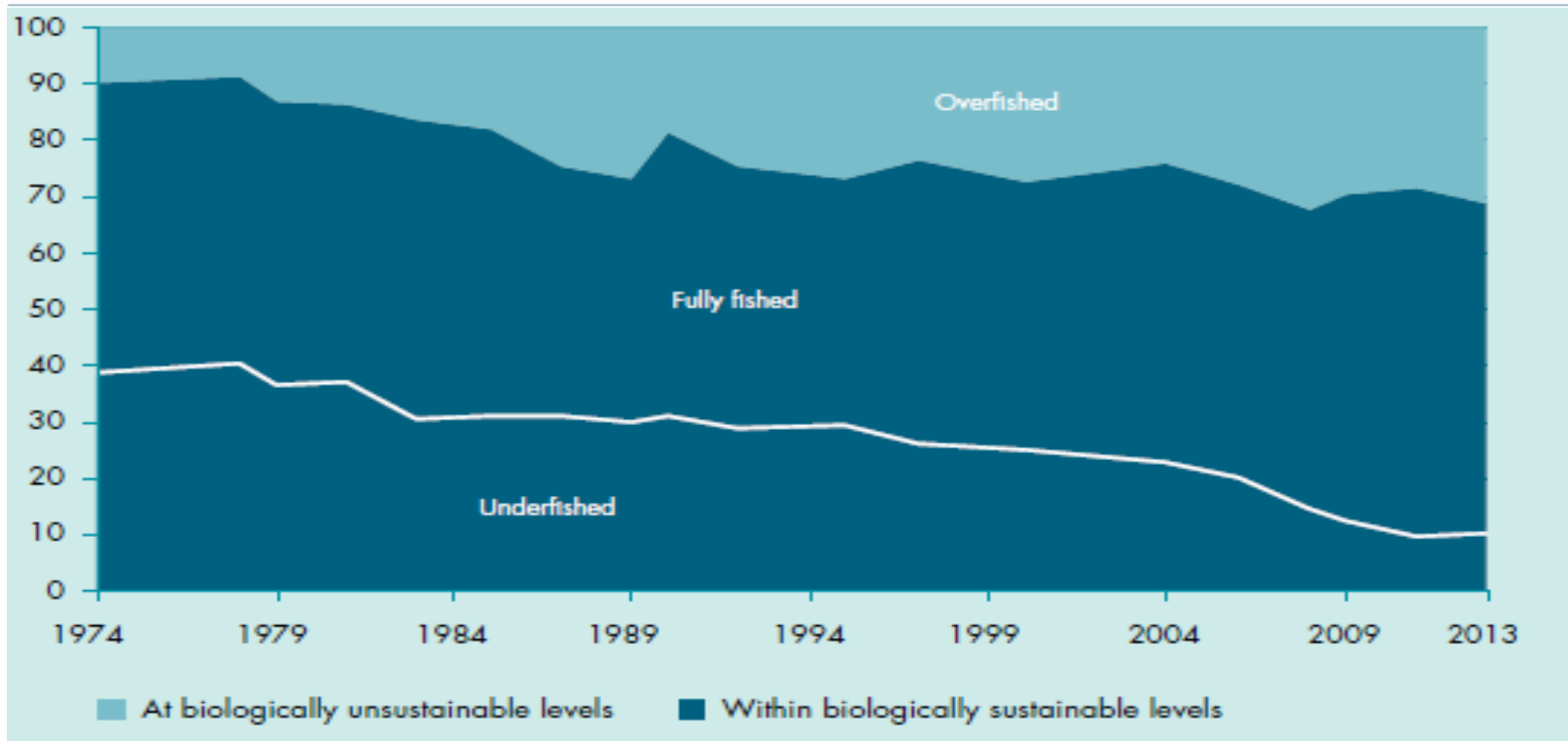
Figure 1: Exports of fish and fish products as a share of GDP (2014)
(in USD billion)



Source: UNCTAD Stats (2017)



Status of Fish Stocks



- **31.4% of overfished stocks**
- **68.6% of stocks fished within biologically sustainable levels**
- **We have reached the limit, but some signs of recovery due to improved management of some of the stocks in some species and areas**



Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

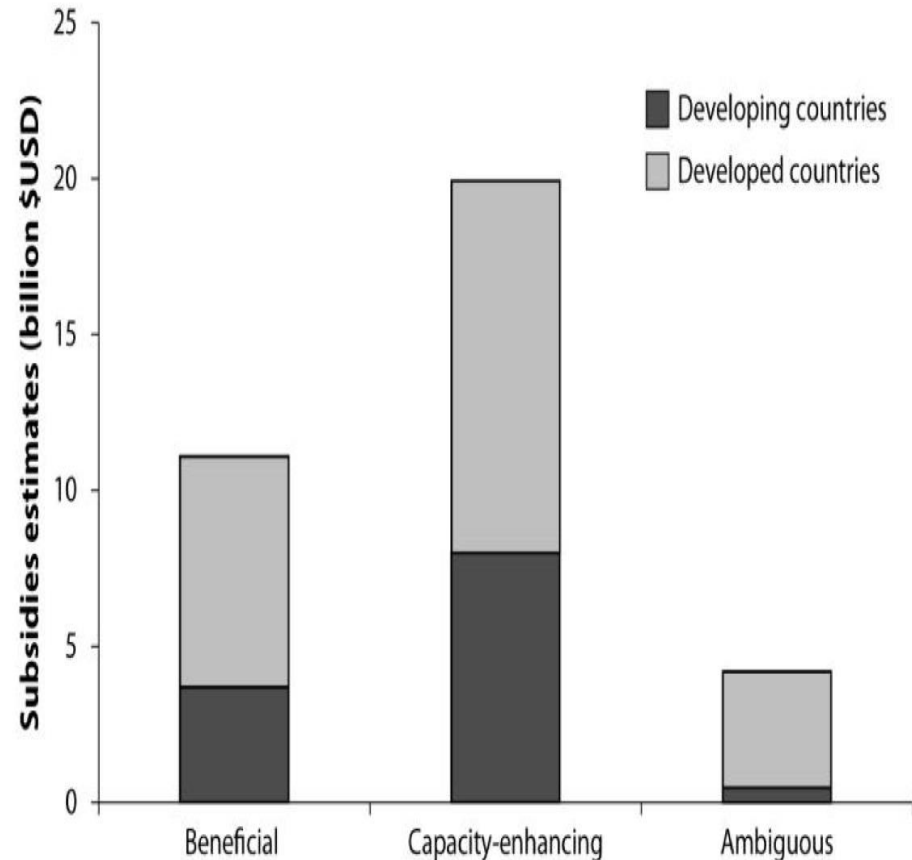


- IUU fishing is estimated to be 10 to 23.5 billion per year. It is linked to other illegal activities such as piracy, human trafficking, labour rights violations and smuggling
- West Africa loses more than USD 1.3 billion in IUU fishing (Africa Progress Report, 2014)
- Several FAO instruments are designed to tackle IUU fishing: code of conduct of responsible fisheries, IPoA on IUU fishing, and the Port State Measures Agreement



Harmful incentives: the effects of certain fish subsidies

- Global fisheries subsidies have been estimated at \$20-35 billion worldwide, of which about 22% fuel subsidies;
- About 57% of fishery subsidies can be categorized as negative, enhancing capacity to extract an already depleted natural resource
- Disciplines on fish subsidies are under negotiations in the WTO since 2000



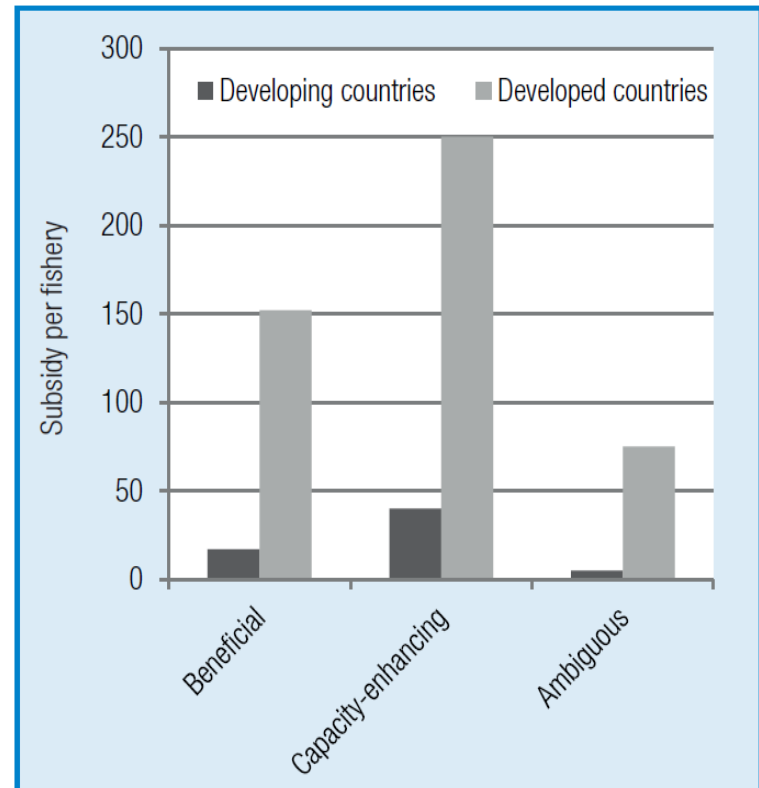
Source: Sumaila et al. (2013), Global Fisheries Subsidies, EU Parliament.



Harmful incentives: the effects of certain fish subsidies

Certain fish subsidies can contribute to:

- IUU fishing
- Overfishing and resource depletion
- Overcapacity
- GHG emissions
- Unfair trade
- Inequality
- Consumer burden



Source: Subsidies: Sumaila et al., 2013. Jobs: Teh and Sumaila, 2013.

Source: UNCTAD TER (2016)



- Joint Statement, support by +90 MS, highlighting the importance of having international regulatory framework to streamline fisheries subsidies



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



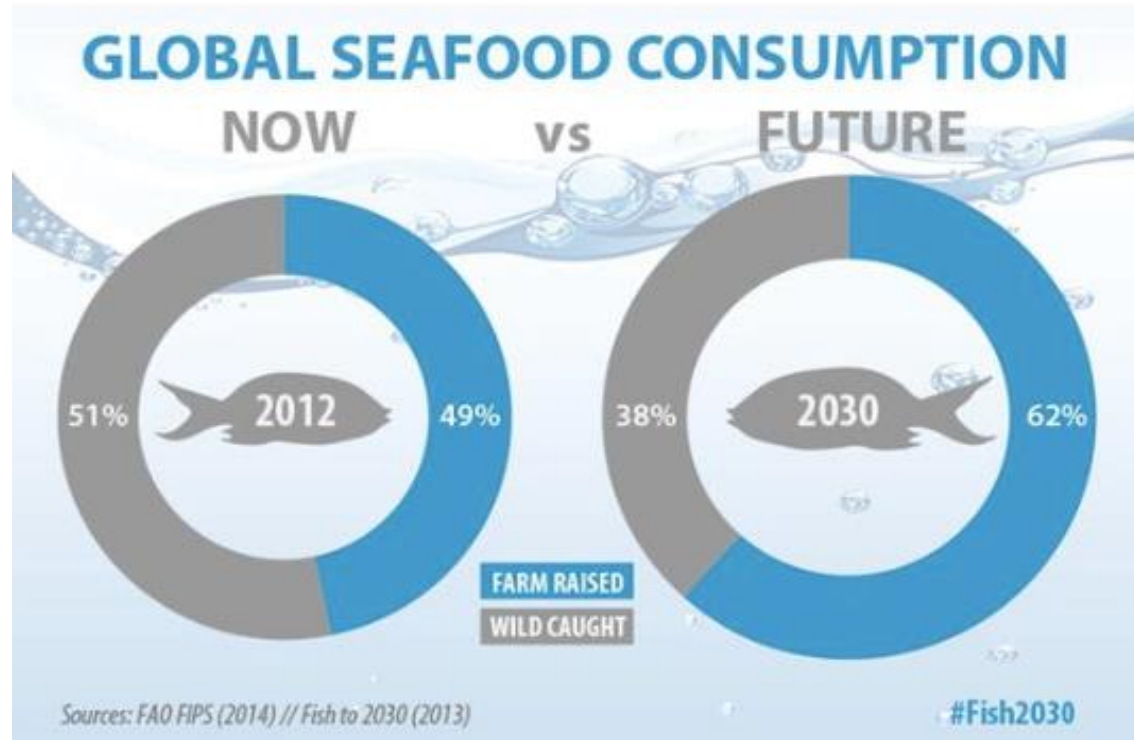
Roadmap towards ending harmful fishing subsidies

- **Four-point plan:**
 1. Require countries to provide information on what subsidies they are providing
 2. Prohibit those subsidies which contribute to overfishing and illegal fishing
 3. Introduce new policies tools to deter the introduction of new harmful subsidies
 4. Provide special and differential treatment to developing countries, in particular the LDCs and SIDS



Raise of Aquaculture

- The gap in supply of fish will be filled by aquaculture by 2030
- Importance of global fish and sustainable aquaculture management

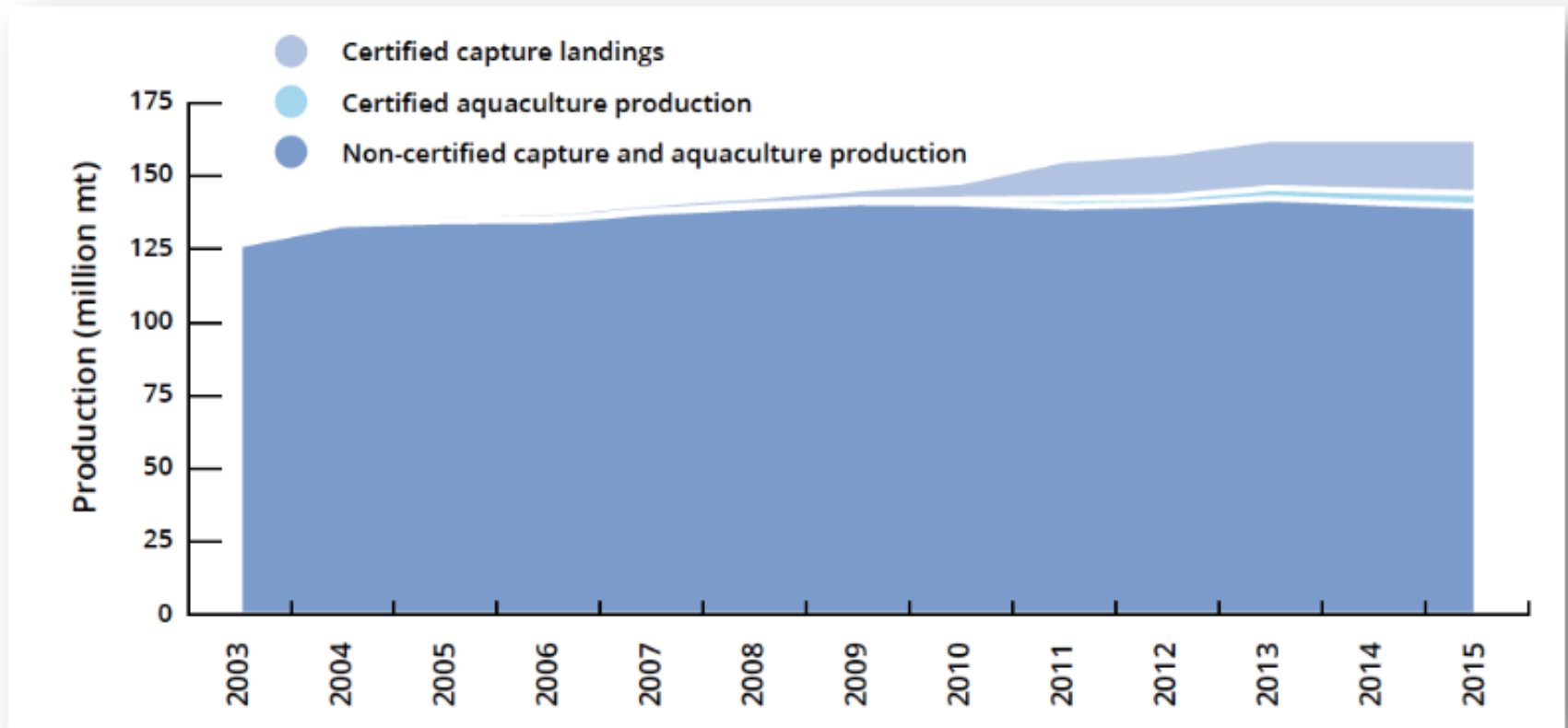


- Aquaculture business will be located mainly in developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa & Middle-East



Rapid Growth

- Certified wild catch = 14% of total certified seafood production
- Certified aquaculture growing faster



Certified and non-certified wild catch landings and aquaculture production, 2003-2015





THE
OCEAN
CONFERENCE
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 5-9 JUNE 2017

- **Main theme:**

Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

- **Key objective:**

Support the implementation of SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

- **Dates and venue:**

5 to 9 June 2017, United Nations Headquarters, New York
To be kick-started by World Environment Day on 5 June

Expected outcomes



1. **"Call for Action"** - A concise, focused, intergovernmental agreed declaration by consensus
2. **Seven partnership dialogues**
3. List of **voluntary commitments** for the implementation of SDG 14 (bottom up approach). So far 320 commitments.

See: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>

Expected outcomes



- (m) End destructive fishing practices and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, addressing their root causes and holding actors and beneficiaries accountable by taking appropriate actions, so as to deprive them of benefits of such activities, and effectively implementing flag State obligations as well as relevant port State obligations.
- (n) Accelerate further work and strengthen cooperation and coordination on the development of interoperable catch documentation schemes and traceability of fish products.
- (o) Strengthen capacity building and technical assistance provided to small-scale and artisanal fishers in developing countries, to enable and enhance their access to marine resources and markets and improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management.
- (p) Act decisively to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, including through accelerating work to complete negotiations at the World Trade Organization on this issue, recognising that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of those negotiations.



Thank you!

UNCTAD Oceans Economy and fisheries page:

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/Oceans-Economy.aspx>

UNCTAD's page on regulating fish subsidies:

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment/Regulating-Fisheries-Susidies.aspx>

Trade and Environement Review 2016: Trade in Fish

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1243>