FAO, CITES, fisheries and aquaculture

The importance of fisheries & aquaculture and what we are doing
What is at stake?

- Over **500 million** people depend – directly or indirectly – on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods.

- Aquatic foods provide essential nutrition for **3 billion people** and at least 50% of animal protein and minerals to 400 million people in the poorest countries.

- Fish products are among the most **widely-traded foods**, with more than 37% by volume of world production traded internationally.
Drivers of Change

Affecting biological processes
- Pollution/Water quality
- Climate
- Acidification
- Overfishing
- Altered habitats
- Etc...

Affecting human choices
- Governance and politics
- Legal systems
- Technological change
- Markets
- Capital/labor flows
- Demographics
- Culture
- Etc...

Fisheries and Aquaculture systems
Fish trade

- Global trade worth US$ 102 billion
- 39% exported
- Developing countries account for 55% world fish exports
- China biggest exporter valued over US$ 10 billion
Global trends in the state of world marine stocks since 1974

- Underexploited + Moderately exploited
- Fully exploited
- Overexploited + Depleted + Recovering

Percentage of stocks assessed

53%
32%
15%
FAO-CITES MoU (2006)

- ... communicate and exchange information ...
- cooperate ... to facilitate capacity building in developing countries ...
- FAO ... provide advice to CITES on ... the CITES listing criteria
- ensure adequate consultations in the scientific and technical evaluation of proposals ... based on the criteria agreed by the Parties to CITES
Are countries missing opportunities to use a potentially useful tool for fisheries management because of differences of opinion and polarization?
Way forward for effective application of CITES for fisheries

It is essential for national and regional fisheries agencies and CITES authorities to work more closely together, capacity-building in both groups will often be required.
The COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 2011

“The Sub-Committee ... recognized the role of CITES as a global instrument for the regulation of international trade of species listed in its appendices. Some Members noted that CITES could be an additional trade-related measure to support the conservation of fishery species. Some Members noted that this was particularly the case where fisheries management based on best practices was lacking.”
What CITES Secretariat is doing

• Cooperation with FAO
  – Bring together CITES authorities and fisheries-related agencies
  – Reaching out to RFMOs and RFBs
  – Linking to IPOA-sharks (and NPOA)

• Regional/national capacity-building

• Efforts to ensure that CITES regulations are implemented efficiently and integrated as much as possible into fisheries management regimes
What CITES Secretariat is doing: Regional/national capacity-building

- Cooperation between CITES Authorities and fisheries-related agencies
- Party-driven capacity needs and work plan towards implementation
  - Legality (legal acquisition, national laws)
  - Sustainability (stock assessments, NDFs)
  - Traceability (identification, reporting, databases)
- Support to activities with direct links to outcome = improving CITES implementation
Thank you for your attention!

*CITES and FAO working for legal, sustainable and traceable international trade in sharks and manta rays, supported by the European Union*