

International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022



HISTORY

The proposed International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022) is based on the recognition of the fundamental role of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in terms of livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and the urgent need to take specific actions in supporting these two sub-sectors.

For capture fisheries, this recognition has already been expressed through the endorsement by COFI of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in 2014. The challenge lies in translating these SSF Guidelines into a series of realistic and impactful actions to ensure positive change on the ground in a coherent manner. In this regard, during the discussions on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines held during the **32nd Session of COFI in July 2016** the proposal for an international year on artisanal fisheries and aquaculture through the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) was tabled. COFI endorsed the proposal, considering that the Year would sensitize public opinion and governments about the importance of adopting specific public policies and programmes to promote activities in support of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, especially for those in the most vulnerable rural areas that are constrained by poor governance and low capacity for sustainable use aquatic resources. The proposal was endorsed by **FAO Council 155 in Dec 2016** and adopted by **FAO Conference 40 on 8 July 2017**.

In Dec 2017, The United Nations General Assembly 72th session proclaimed¹ 2022 to be the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)² (see Annex 2) and invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as lead agency for the International Year, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. FAO was also requested by the Committee on Fisheries in 2018 to prepare a planning roadmap for IYAFA.

During this year, a range of initiatives and activities will help raise awareness, globally as well as locally, about the importance of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture for food security, poverty eradication and sustainable resource use.

¹ [A/RES/72/72](#)

² UNGA draft resolution was initially sponsored by: Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and Tonga.

Following countries also joined to sponsor: Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Kiribati, Latvia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Samoa, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 2019 Secretariat established, an email account³ created
- 2020 IYAFA website launched⁴ in all FAO languages with a visual identity for the Year, as well as a basic information flyer⁵ in all UN languages.
- March 2020 ISC formed (see Annex 1 for full list of ISC members).
- August 2020 IYAFA Regional Committee for the Caribbean formed
- September 2020 1st ISC meeting planned (virtual meeting)

ANNEX 1

Members of the IYAFA International Steering Committee

Member countries from the seven FAO regions

	Region	Member	Alternate	Observer
1	Africa	TBC	TBC	
2	Asia	Indonesia	Thailand	
3	Europe	Spain	TBC	
4	GRULAC	Peru	Argentina	Chile
5	Near East	Kuwait	TBC	
6	North America	USA	Canada	
7	Southwest Pacific	Kiribati	Australia	

Non-state actors and IOs

	Member
1	World Fish
2	International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
3	IPC Fisheries Working Group
4	Too Big To Ignore research partnership (TBTI)
5	InFish network
6	SlowFish
7	Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA)
8	World Aquaculture Society (WAS)
9	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
10	The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

³ IYAFA@fao.org

⁴ www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022

⁵ www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA6973EN

ANNEX 2

Text from UNGA Resolution A/RES/72/72

31. *Proclaims* the year beginning on 1 January 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve as lead agency for the International Year, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present paragraph, above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the implementing agency, should be met from voluntary contributions.