

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2022

DECLARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2022 the [International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (IYAFA 2022).

The IYAFA 2022, proclaimed in 2017 during the 72nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations ([UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/72](#)) aims at unifying the world under the common goal of empowering small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and securing a sustainable future for these important sectors.

FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the year in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and supporters coming from various sectors, as international and regional bodies, farmers and producer organizations, academic and research institutions, civil society, governments, the private sector.

[The objectives of celebrating the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) are as follows:

- enhance global awareness about, understanding of, and action to support the contribution of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development, and more specifically in relation to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and the use of natural resources;
- promote dialogue and collaboration between and among small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, governments and other key partners along the value chain, as well as to further strengthen their capacity to enhance sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture for their social development and well-being.

The UN Year website highlights that fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants are fundamental, essential and indispensable foods eaten by people around the world as part of healthy diets, cultural heritage and culinary tradition. Small-scale artisanal fishers and fish farmers produce a large portion of this food, and IYAFA 2022 is an opportunity to highlight the importance of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture for food systems, livelihoods, culture and the environment. Small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers hold enormous potential to promote transformative changes in how, by whom and for whom fish and fishery products are produced, processed and distributed with positive ripple effects felt throughout the global food system.

Nevertheless, despite their high potential, small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture face unique and complex challenges. For example, habitat degradation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and overfishing, are core challenges that compromise the very basis of the ecosystems on which they depend. Economically, small-



There is no universal definition of 'artisanal' or 'small-scale' fisheries or aquaculture. In general, these terms describe fisheries and aquaculture that use relatively small production units with relatively low input and low output, and limited levels of technology and small capital investment. They are commonly managed on a family level, sometimes with a small group of employees, or at a community level. The fish are often sold in local markets, but can also reach national and international markets. For the purpose of IYAFA, small-scale and artisanal are used interchangeably.



scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture often face power imbalances in value chains, unnecessary barriers to trade and lack the appropriate skills and services to access markets with healthy products at a fair price. Additionally, social sustainability requires serious redressing to ensure that fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and their communities can obtain proper social services such as healthcare, education, housing, financial and legal services. The recognition and respect of the role of women remains another core, cross-cutting challenge. Lastly, the need for resilience strategies in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture is becoming ever more evident for communities to be better prepared for environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change.

The [International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) aims at working together with all interested partners and taking concrete actions for a world in which small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers are fully recognized and empowered to continue their contributions for human well-being, food systems security and poverty alleviation through the responsible and sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

IYAFA 2022 falls within the [UN Decade of Family Farming \(UNFFF 2019-2028\)](#), and the two celebrations will reinforce one another in providing greater visibility to small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers. Similarly, the Year can act as a springboard towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#) by 2030, in particular [SDG 14.b](#).

The [Global Action Plan designed for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) outlines a series of themes, interconnected actions and the following seven pillars of the work:

- Environmental sustainability: Use biodiversity sustainably for the longevity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- Economic sustainability: Support inclusive value chains for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- Social sustainability: Secure social inclusion and well-being of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
- Governance: Ensure effective participation of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in building and strengthening enabling policy environments.
- Gender equality and equity: Acknowledge that women and men in small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture are equals.
- Food security and nutrition: Promote the contribution to healthy diets from small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in sustainable food systems.
- Resilience: Increase the preparedness and adaptive capacity of small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to environmental degradation, shocks, disasters and climate change.

An [International Steering Committee \(ISC\)](#) provides overall guidance and assistance to the development and implementation of the IYAFA 2022 action plan, including the establishment of regional committees, as well as mobilization of political and financial support. The IYAFA-ISC is composed of representatives from the 7 FAO Regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America and Southwest Pacific), representatives from global non-state actors in fisheries and aquaculture, and representatives from IFAD.

[The website invites all interested actors](#) to use their influence and networks to make IYAFA 2022 an international success by spreading the word through media outlets, public events and campaigns on the importance of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture for food systems and environment.



The website of the IYafa 2022 presents materials, documents and extensive information on initiatives underway in different countries, international events, news, opportunities, and indicates how to participate. The website also invites all interested actors to subscribe to the IYafa Newsletter to keep up to date with IYafa events and initiatives.

To know more

[International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture website](#)

[UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/72](#)

[International Year launch ceremony](#)

[About the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in IYafa2022 website](#)

[Global Action Plan IYafa 2022](#)

[Fisheries and Aquaculture in FAO website](#)

[Fisheries and aquaculture stories in FAO website](#)

[World Small-Scale Fisheries Regional Congresses](#)

[Launch of the IYafa2022 in CGIAR website](#)

[Launch of the IYafa2022 in WorldFish website](#)

[UN Decade of Family Farming \(UNDF 2019-2028\)](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 website](#)

