PROFISH
THE WORLD BANK’S GLOBAL PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The fisheries sector faces a growing crisis. Increasing population pressures, growing demand for fish, growing trade in fish products with increasing imbalances between production and consumption areas and failures in governance are leading to unsustainable levels of exploitation of living aquatic resources and destruction of aquatic ecosystems. In many developing countries the catches are declining, perpetuating a spiral into poverty for increasing numbers of small-scale fishers and landless communities for which fishing is often a livelihood of last resort.

The World Bank has established a Global Program on Sustainable Fisheries: “PROFISH” in association with key donors and stakeholders to meet the challenge of the growing crisis in the world’s marine fisheries and the impact of the crisis on poor people in coastal- and fisheries communities around the world.

Objectives.

The objective of PROFISH is to strengthen governance of the world’s marine fisheries by:

(i) improving the quality of investments made by both public and private sectors;
(ii) assisting countries and regions to establish roadmaps to achieve effective sector governance and reform using improved fisheries management tools; and
(iii) aligning donor interventions

It is intended that PROFISH would improve sustainable livelihoods in the fisheries sector and to make concrete progress towards meeting the WSSD’s goals in fisheries through three complementary activities:

(i) ensuring sustainable fisheries initiatives are included in national plans and poverty reduction strategies;
(ii) building national and regional consensus on pro-poor sustainable fisheries initiatives and priority activities to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and
(iii) aligning and enhancing international assistance on fisheries and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and catalyzing implementation of agreed initiatives.

The Partnership
PROFISH is a programming and funding partnership between key fishery sector donors, international financial institutions, developing countries, stakeholder organizations, and international agencies. PROFISH currently receives financial and in-kind support from Iceland, France, Norway and Finland through TFESSD, Japan, FAO and the World Bank. The growing partnership includes regional economic organizations representing developing countries, FAO, IUCN and WorldFish Center, the sole dedicated fisheries research organization of the CGIAR.

Country-level

PROFISH is not an investment fund but a means to assist World Bank client countries to establish a national consensus on the design and implementation of sector strategies and plans for sustainable fisheries and mainstream these policies and plans into the national economic planning frameworks. These activities are expected to lead to an increased investment in fisheries policy reform, good governance, pro-poor fisheries strategies and other strategic national and regional investments.
Global-level

At the global level PROFISH will help develop and promote solutions to core fisheries problems, including knowledge building, control of fishing capacity and poverty issues in fisheries. PROFISH will provide a means of increasing awareness of fisheries issues and solutions and a forum for exchange of information on donor plans and initiatives to help align donor interventions on national, regional and global priorities.

Sub-Saharan Africa, a primary focus of PROFISH, is the only region in the world where per capita fish consumption is declining as a result of increasing population, rising prices and declining incomes. Nutritionally, fish is of great importance, representing 23% of the animal protein consumption in sub-Saharan Africa compared to 15% worldwide. The gap between supply and demand is growing rapidly; with Nigeria alone importing almost 0.75 million tons of low-value small pelagic fish, a considerable proportion harvested by foreign vessels fishing in African waters. At the same time trade in high value fish from Sub-Saharan Africa to developed countries is of increasing importance. Revenues from fisheries are vital to a number of LDCs, for example, almost 50% of total treasury receipts in Guinea Bissau. The World Bank has made a specific effort in sub-Saharan Africa by creating a US$60 million GEF-funded Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund of in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa to assist countries in forging sustainable fisheries. PROFISH undertakes cutting-edge analyses to help countries prepare the policy framework to access these and other resources.

Financing and support. PROFISH activities are supported by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and the World Bank’s Development Grant Facility. The current MDTF donors are Iceland, France, Norway and Finland. Norway, Japan and FAO provide in-kind (staff) support.

PROFISH Activities

Current target countries

- Africa – Madagascar, Mauritania, Guinea, South Africa, Sierra Leone
- Asia – Maldives
- Latin America – Peru
- PROFISH staff and resources also provide support for existing World Bank fisheries activities in: Gabon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania and in countries recovering from the effects of the Dec. 2004 tsunami.

Global awareness

- NEPAD Fish for All Summit (with FAO and WorldFish Center)
- Establishment of a global list of illegal fishing vessels (with IUCN and partners)
- Coherence between development and trade policies (with OECD and DFID)

Knowledge management

- technical guidelines on marine protected areas (with FAO/ IUCN)
- small-scale fisheries toolkit (with FAO/ WorldFish/ other donors)
- maintenance and enhancement of global portals on sustainable fisheries (with FAO/ other donors)

Special studies

- Global estimate of resource rent loss in fisheries (FAO/ others)
- Alternate livelihoods in African aquaculture (WorldFish Center)

Visit World Bank fisheries at: www.worldbank.org/fish