



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

# LEVERAGING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT THE WTO AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

for a sustainable and food-secure future

## About the WTO

The World Trade Organization is the international body dealing with the rules of trade between its members. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible, with a level playing field for all its members.

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## A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR-GENERAL NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA



About 260 million people around the globe depend on fisheries for food, income, and employment.

This report examines existing bilateral and multilateral assistance in support of fisheries, including efforts to make them more sustainable. Specifically, it assesses the role of official development assistance (ODA) in the context of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in helping WTO members achieve sustainable fisheries and contribute to global food security.

After years of negotiations, the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference in June 2022 adopted a binding multilateral agreement on curbing harmful fisheries subsidies. The landmark agreement was the WTO's first to place an environmental objective at its core, as well as the first WTO agreement on ocean sustainability and the first to contribute to fulfilling a target for the Sustainable Development Goals (target 14.6).

Once it enters into force following formal acceptance by two-thirds of WTO members, the Agreement will forbid or constrain much of the public financial support that contributes to the depletion of marine resources worldwide. For many developing and least-developed members, however, implementing the new disciplines and detailed reporting requirements present technical and resource challenges. The Agreement explicitly anticipates and addresses such needs for technical assistance and capacity building.

This is the Secretariat's third report on development financing to the fisheries sector. The previous two, published in 2019 and 2022, pointed to a steady increase in overall total ODA commitments and disbursements to the fisheries sector over the past with commitments of almost USD 5.7 billion and disbursements of USD 4.2 billion between 2010 and 2020. The 2022 report also highlighted considerable donor commitment to supporting sustainable marine fisheries and conservation, with ODA commitments for the ocean economy - a subset of ODA to fisheries that focuses on marine activities not limited to fishing - in 2010-2020 amounting to more than USD 5 billion, of which 65% targeted sustainable fisheries.

This report focuses on data not previously available concerning ODA disbursements for the ocean economy. The analysis reveals that out of USD 4.5 billion in disbursements in support of fisheries between 2010 and 2022, 59% was aimed at making fisheries more sustainable. This evidence points to a collective global effort to promote sustainable fisheries management practices and initiatives - momentum that will be critical for effectively implementing the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

These amounts, however, pale in comparison to the estimated USD 22 billion in annual global spending on harmful fisheries subsidies, which exceed the average annual ODA in support of fisheries by a factor of 63.

This report, for the first time, also highlights food security as it relates to fisheries. It shows that ODA disbursements to fisheries projects focusing on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and on nutrition have grown significantly since 2018. For example, disbursements to fisheries projects focused on achieving SDG 2 totalled USD 540.5 million between 2018 and 2022, growing by an annual average of 93% over this period. This trend highlights the increasing role of fisheries in achieving greater food security globally.

As a complement to ongoing assistance, and as provided for by the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, a voluntary WTO funding mechanism - the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism Trust Fund - has been established to assist developing and LDC members with implementing the Agreement. Substantial work is underway to fully operationalize the Fish Fund by the time the Agreement enters into force. I am delighted that numerous WTO members have made significant contributions to the Fish Fund, which to date has received contributions totalling more than CHF 12 million. Additional public pledges have been made amounting to a further CHF 2 million, and engagement by donors and beneficiaries has been very positive.

It is my hope that this report will call attention to the symbiotic role of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and ODA in improving the sustainability of fisheries and advancing global food security.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
Director-General

## **PART 1 – ROLE OF THE WTO AND ITS PARTNERS IN ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE FISHING AND FOOD SECURITY**

### **1.1 Objective of the report**

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (the Agreement), a new and binding multilateral agreement on ocean sustainability, aims specifically at enhancing the sustainability of fisheries resources by prohibiting some of the most harmful types of fisheries subsidies. Implementation of the Agreement will enhance fisheries sustainability, which in turn will make an important contribution to strengthening global food security. This report<sup>1</sup> highlights the importance of international collaboration in assisting developing and least developed country (LDC) members in overcoming the challenges associated with implementing the Agreement.

The next section provides an overview of the existing bilateral and multilateral development finance to fisheries in developing and LDC members. It relies on data collected by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

As discussed in the report, the existing and anticipated development finance to fisheries, particularly assistance that supports sustainable fisheries<sup>2</sup>, should create positive spill-over effects for the effective implementation of the Agreement. While total support to fisheries in developing economies and LDCs remains significantly less than the estimated USD 22 billion<sup>3</sup> per year in harmful fisheries subsidies worldwide, a positive development is the growing number of fisheries projects over the last few years that have focused specifically on achieving zero hunger and on nutrition.

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**Support to fisheries projects specifically aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and enhancing nutrition have seen significant and consistent growth over the last few years, with no such projects recorded before 2018. This trend underscores the growing role of fisheries in ensuring global food security.**

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### **1.2 Background on the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference on 17 June 2022, contributes to meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.6 mandate for the WTO to negotiate disciplines to eliminate subsidies contributing to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfishing, taking into account the needs of developing members. It marks a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting certain harmful fisheries subsidies, which are a key factor in the widespread depredation of the world's fish stocks.

The Agreement introduces a set of new disciplines that will have a significant impact on the sustainability of marine fisheries and fish stocks by curbing subsidies to IUU fishing, prohibiting subsidies to fishing overfished stocks, and prohibiting subsidies to fishing on the unregulated high seas. The [previous \(2022\) report on "Implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing and Least-Developed Country Members"](#) elaborated on the provisions of the Agreement and its potential benefits for developing and LDC members.

The Agreement, which is the first WTO agreement with environmental sustainability at its core, creates new types of requirements that members must implement. These requirements will undoubtedly pose challenges for members, especially developing and LDC members, in areas such as integrating fisheries-related elements into their subsidies policies and putting in place or bolstering their fisheries information and management systems.

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1 The previous two Secretariat reports on development financing to the fisheries sector are available at [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/a4t\\_e/gr19\\_e/bgnote41\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/gr19_e/bgnote41_e.pdf) and [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/rulesneg\\_e/fish\\_e/implementfishagreement22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/implementfishagreement22_e.htm).

2 The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines sustainable fisheries as "fishing activities that allow fish stocks to be harvested at a sustainable rate, meaning the rate at which the fish population can replenish itself naturally without leading to a decline over time".

3 Sumaila UR, Ebrahim N, Schuhbauer A, Skerritt D, Li Y, Kim HS, Grace Mallory T, Lam VWL, Pauly D, (2019), Updated estimates and analysis of global fisheries subsidies, Marine Policy, November.

The Agreement will enter into force when two-thirds of members have deposited their “instruments of acceptance” with the Director General. As of June 2024, 78 WTO members have deposited their instruments of acceptance. The Annex to this report provides information on how WTO members can deposit their instruments of acceptance.

### 1.3 Sustainable fisheries and food security

For millions of people worldwide, fisheries are an important source of vital nutrients and protein and play an important role in food security. Globally, fish accounts for about 15% of animal protein consumption, with some countries relying on fish for up to 50% of animal protein consumption<sup>4</sup>.

The most globally accepted definition of food security is that of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security:

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**Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.**<sup>5</sup>

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Several studies have highlighted the important role of sustainable fisheries in ensuring global food security, including by supporting livelihoods and nutrition in developing economies.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

The FAO's 2024 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) report reveals that global marine fisheries face significant challenges, with the proportion of fish stocks at biologically sustainable levels dropping to 62.3% in 2021 from 90% in 1974.

Developing economies and LDCs face significant challenges in effectively managing their fisheries resources, including limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, lack of technical expertise, and insufficient data, to name a few. These challenges are exacerbated by climate change, which further threatens marine ecosystems and food security. Thus, global partnerships are critical to transform these challenges into opportunities that can ensure a food-secure future.

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4 FAO. 2024. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. Blue Transformation in action. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en>

5 Rome Declaration on World Food Security, World Food Summit, FAO, 1996. <https://www.fao.org/4/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>

6 Hidden Harvest: The Global Contribution of Capture Fisheries, World Bank, 2012. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9f5792ba-cb80-5044-af2e-30dee5040c55/content>.

7 The Sunken Billions: The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform, World Bank, 2009. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/656021468176334381/pdf/476060PUB0Sunk101Official0Use0Only1.pdf>.

8 FAO, 2023. “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/620611b1-fd72-4b98-aead-9216f4af5ddd/content>.

## 1.4 The role of global partnerships in implementing the Agreement

### WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism

As noted above, the Agreement introduces new obligations including in areas that are innovative for the WTO<sup>9</sup>. Developing and LDC members may find it particularly challenging to integrate fisheries-related elements into their subsidies policies, to put in place or strengthen their fisheries information and management systems, and to meet the new notification requirements, particularly on fisheries-related information. To address these challenges, Article 7 of the Agreement envisages the creation of a voluntary WTO funding mechanism to support targeted technical assistance and capacity building to developing and LDC members<sup>10</sup>, for the purpose of implementing the new disciplines.

#### How will the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism assist members?



The Fisheries Funding Mechanism (the Fish Fund) has been established and is in its initial phase of becoming fully operational. The establishment of this dedicated fund to support implementation of the Agreement provides certainty that assistance will be available as an integral part of the Agreement. In this connection, Article 7 of the Agreement refers explicitly to cooperation with other relevant international organizations – including the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

As the Agreement's disciplines will have an effect on both subsidy policies (the typical domain of the WTO) and fisheries sustainability (a domain mainly supported by other international organizations), the Fish Fund is taking an approach to technical assistance and capacity building that aims at integrating and creating coherence between these two domains within the beneficiary governments.

Numerous WTO members have contributed to the Fish Fund. These are: Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden. To date, the Fish Fund has received and signed contributions totalling more than CHF 12 million<sup>11</sup> from 16 WTO members (see Table 1). Additionally, public pledges amounting to a further CHF 2 million<sup>12</sup> have been made.

9 A more comprehensive summary of the Agreement and what it means for developing and LDC members is provided in the previous (2022) report entitled "Implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing and Least-Developed Country Members", available at [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/rulesneg\\_e/fish\\_e/implementfishagreement22\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/implementfishagreement22_e.htm).

10 Developing and LDC members that deposit their instruments of acceptance of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies are eligible for assistance from the Fund once the Agreement enters into force.

11 This amounts to an equivalent of USD 13.14 million (as of May 2024).

12 This amounts to an equivalent of USD 2.2 million (as of May 2024).



**Table 1: Members' contributions to the Fish Fund**

Member	Contract currency	Contribution amount	Contribution amount CHF equivalent
Australia	AUD	2,000,000	1,187,885
Canada	CAD	1,400,000	948,073
European Union	EUR	1,000,000	927,000
Finland	EUR	80,000	74,720
France	EUR	1,000,000	927,000
Germany	EUR	2,000,000	1,854,000
Iceland	CHF	500,000	500,000
Japan	CHF	762,711	762,711
Korea, Republic of	USD	1,000,000	861,000
Liechtenstein	CHF	40,000	40,000
Netherlands	CHF	961,539	961,539
New Zealand	CHF	100,048	100,048
Norway	NOK	9,000,000	730,562
Portugal	EUR	50,000	48,050
Spain	EUR	2,000,000	1,934,000
Sweden	SEK	5,000,000	400,659

Source: WTO Fish Fund

In the current initial set-up phase of its work, the Fish Fund has established its Steering Committee, composed of officials from eight WTO members that have contributed to it and eight developing and LDC members representing the members that could benefit from it. The FAO, the World Bank, and IFAD, which are strategic partners in the Fish Fund, also are represented on the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has been working in thematic working groups to put in place the governance and structure of the Fish Fund, the guidelines for projects and requests for support, and the monitoring and evaluation framework, including specific indicators and reporting requirements. As noted, the focus is on ensuring that the Fish Fund is fully operational by the time the Agreement enters into force. Engagement in this set-up work by both donors and beneficiaries has been very positive, and significant progress is being made in all areas.

Among the guiding principles of this work is that the Fish Fund should leverage and create synergies with existing bilateral and multilateral support to fisheries sustainability and avoid duplication. The Fish Fund aims to fill gaps in assistance that already exists, helping developing and LDC members leverage other forms of assistance to meet their obligations under the Agreement. Therefore, among other things, the Fish Fund is intended to play a coordinating role, linking projects under it in a complementary way to existing development assistance for fisheries. In this respect, WTO cooperation through the Fish Fund with the FAO, IFAD, other international organizations such as the World Bank, and bilateral donors should help to improve policy coherence between ODA for fishing and the sustainability considerations embodied in the Agreement, thus contributing to achieving greater food security. This goal should enhance the effectiveness of all support provided, including that provided by the Fish Fund's strategic partners<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> This is in addition to the regular technical assistance activities of the WTO, which could for example involve support to members with their processes for depositing their instruments of acceptance of the Agreement.

**The Fish Fund, coupled with the new WTO binding provisions on fisheries subsidies, should act as a catalyst for increasing the sustainability orientation of new and existing financing for fishing and the ocean economy, providing a platform for the Fish Fund to have an impact – on the sustainability of fisheries and on food security - beyond what its size relative to overall ODA flows would suggest.**

Article 7 of the Agreement also envisages the provision of technical assistance and capacity building beyond the Fish Fund. In this connection, bilateral and multilateral donors have a long history of providing development finance to the fisheries sectors of developing economies and LDCs. Development finance to fisheries, particularly to support sustainable fisheries, should create positive spillover effects on the effective implementation of the Agreement.

Support provided for sustainable fisheries by the Fish Fund partners is as follows:

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

The FAO, the leading UN agency for fisheries, for many years has been instrumental in assisting developing economies and LDCs with fisheries management and policy development, with the aim of achieving sustainable fisheries resource management and long-term food security. Table 2 highlights projects of the FAO on IUU fishing, food security, and nutrition during the period 2017-2022. No such projects are recorded prior to 2017.

**Table 2: FAO fisheries projects on IUU, food security, and nutrition (2017-2022)**

Year	Project title	Purpose	Income group
2017	Good community fish refuges management practices for food security in four provinces	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2017	Capacity building to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2017	Support for minimizing the risks of IUU fishing in Papua New Guinea under FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2017	Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF): Strengthening fisheries legislation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines - focus on IUU fishing	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2017	TCPF: Strengthening Fisheries Legislation in Trinidad and Tobago - Focus: IUU Fishing	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2018	Capacity building to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Lower middle-income countries (LMICs)
2018	Food security and resilience of fishing communities improved through safer fishing operations	Fishing policy and administrative management	LMICs
2018	Support for minimizing the risks of IUU fishing in Papua New Guinea under FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI)	Fishing policy and administrative management	LMICs
2018	Support to countries to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2018	TCPF: Support to combatting IUU and implementing FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Upper middle-income countries (UMICs)
2019	Capacity building to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing)	Fishing policy and administrative management	LMICs
2019	Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition	Fishery development	Unallocated by income
2019	Food security and resilience of fishing communities improved through safer fishing operations	Fishing policy and administrative management	LMICs
2019	Support to countries to address Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2019	TCPF : Strengthening fisheries legislation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines - focus on IUU fishing	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2019	TCPF: Development of a National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU)	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs

Year	Project title	Purpose	Income group
2019	TCPF: Support to combatting IUU and implementing FAO PSMA	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2021	Soutien au Plan d'atténuation des impacts du Covid-19 sur le secteur agricole et la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle	Fishery development	Least-developed countries (LDCs)
2021	Strengthen regional mechanisms of coordination to combat IUU fishing in West Africa	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2021	TCPF: Ensuring food security through minimizing post-harvest losses in fishery industry	Fishery development	LMICs
2022	2 - Better Nutrition	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2022	Strengthen regional mechanisms of coordination to combat IUU fishing in West Africa	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2022	TCPF: Ensuring food security through minimizing post-harvest losses in fishery industry	Fishery development	LMICs
2022	Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition	Fishery education/training	Unallocated by income

Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

## The World Bank

The World Bank, through its PROBLUE Program, assists countries to repurpose harmful fisheries subsidies and improve fisheries governance aimed at minimizing food waste, among other goals (see Table 3).

**Table 3: World Bank projects for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, 2010-2022**

Year	Project title	Purpose	Income group
2010	Kenya Coastal Development Project	Fishery development	LMICs
2010	Sustainable Management of Fish Resources	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2010	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program	Fishery research	LDCs
2011	Second Adaptable Program Loan (APL-B1) West Af. Reg. Fisheries Program (Guinea Bissau)	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2012	Sustainable Management of Fish Resources	Fishery development	LDCs
2010	Ghana Second Agriculture Development Policy Operation	Fishery development	LMICs
2012	Niger Basin Water Resources Development and Sustainable Ecosystems Management Project	Fishery development	LMICs
2012	Tonga Economic Recovery Operation II	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2014	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project	Fishing policy and administrative management	LMICs
2014	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program	Fishery development	Unallocated by income
2015	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program	Fishery research	LMICs
2015	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)-C1 - Mauritania & Guinea	Fishery development	LDCs
2018	Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries	Fishery development	LDCs
2018	Second Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project - Madagascar	Fishery development	LDCs
2018	West Africa Region Fisheries Program AF Guinea, Sierra Leone & Liberia	Fishery development	LDCs
2019	Sustainable fisheries resources development project (fourth south west Indian Ocean fisheries governance and shared growth project)	Fishery education/training	UMICs
2019	Niger Basin Water Resources Development and Sustainable Ecosystems Management Project	Fishery development	LMICs
2020	Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Credit with a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2020	Fisheries Project	Fishery development	LDCs
2021	Northern Mozambique Rural Resilience Project	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2021	Nicaragua Hurricane Felix Emergency Recovery Project	Fishery development	LMICs
2021	Northern Crisis Recovery Project	Fishery education/training	LDCs
2021	Sustainable Rural Economy Program	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2021	Poverty Reduction Support Credit 4	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2022	Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries	Fishery development	LDCs
2022	Fiji Recovery and Resilience Second Development Policy Operation	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2022	Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC)	Fishing policy and administrative management	Unallocated by income
2022	Senegal: Natural Resources Management Project	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2022	Solomon Islands: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Second Phase for Economic Resilience	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2022	Scaling up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) Food Security Additional Financing	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs

Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

## International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFAD supports improving the livelihoods of small artisanal fishers, who often form the backbone of coastal communities in developing economies and LDCs. IFAD provides finance and technical support for rural development projects in these communities, aiming to improve food security and ensure the long-term sustainability of their fisheries<sup>14</sup> (see Table 4).

**Table 4: IFAD projects for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, 2010-2022**

Year	Project title	Purpose	Income group
2010	Artisanal Fisheries Promotion Project	Fishery development	LDCs
2010	Fisheries Development Project	Fishery development	LDCs
2010	Fisheries Investment Project	Fishery services	LDCs
2010	Fisheries Investment Project	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2011	National Programme for Sustainable Human Development (LOT)	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2012	Mariculture Enterprise Development Project	Fishing policy and administrative management	UMICs
2013	Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project	Fishery services	LDCs
2013	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas	Fishery development	LDCs
2013	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas	Fishery services	LDCs
2013	Programme to Reduce Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas	Fishing policy and administrative management	LDCs
2015	Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project	Fishery development	LDCs
2015	Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Project	Fishery services	LDCs
2015	Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project	Fishery services	LDCs
2015	Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu	Fishery development	LMICs
2015	Support Programme for Rural Microenterprise Poles and Regional Economies	Fishery services	LDCs
2016	Butana Integrated Rural Development Project	Fishery services	LDCs
2016	Fisheries Resources Management Programme	Fishery development	LDCs
2017	Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP)	Fishery development	LMICs
2017	Integrated Agriculture and Marketing Development Project (IAMDP)	Fishery services	LDCs
2017	Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (LIFE-ND)	Fishery services	LMICs
2018	Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP)	Fishery development	LMICs
2018	Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP)	Fishery services	LMICs
2019	Inclusive Agri-Food Value Chain Development Programme (PROCAVA)	Fishery services	LDCs
2019	Small-scale Aquaculture Development Project (PRODAPE)	Fishery development	LDCs
2019	Projet de Diversification Agricole (REDE)	Fishery services	LDCs
2019	Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project (SAAMBAT)	Fishery services	LDCs
2019	Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP)	Fishery services	LMICs
2020	Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project II	Fishery services	LMICs
2022	Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Development Support Programme in Cameroon (PDEA)	Fishery development	LMICs

Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

<sup>14</sup> Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD, IFAD's support to livelihoods involving aquatic resources from small-scale fisheries, small-scale aquaculture and coastal zones, Evaluation synthesis, Report No. 4922, December 2018.



## PART 2 – DEVELOPMENT FINANCE TO THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN DEVELOPING AND LDC MEMBERS

### 2.1 Overview of the OECD ODA dataset and analysis methodology

This section describes bilateral and multilateral development financing to the fisheries sector in developing and LDC members, drawing on data contained in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) database, known as the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). This database, which covers around 90% of all ODA, is widely recognized as the best available data source for tracking global development finance.

#### Breakdown of the CRS data for fishing:

The CRS data for the fisheries sector (under the general heading “Fishing”) is categorized under five purpose codes<sup>15</sup> that cover assistance for projects for the following fishing and fishing-related activities:

- **Fishing policies and administrative management** (31310), which provides data on fishing sector policy and institutional capacity building and advice, ocean and coastal fishing, marine and freshwater fish surveys and prospecting, fishing boats/equipment, and unspecified fishing activities;
- **Fishery development** (31320), which includes exploitation and utilisation of fisheries, fish stock protection, aquaculture, and integrated fishery projects;
- **Fishery education/training** (31381);
- **Fishery research** (31382), which includes pilot fish culture, and marine and freshwater biological research; and
- **Fishery services** (31391), which covers fishing harbours, fish markets, and fishery transport and cold storage.

#### Data collection and methodology

The CRS data are collected from a total of 61 reporting governments and organizations. The analysis in this report of these data follows the OECD's [CRS Reporting Checklist](#) and its Converged Statistical Reporting directives.

Three somewhat overlapping breakdowns of relevant CRS data are presented below: data on overall total fisheries ODA; data on ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries; and data on ODA for the sustainable ocean economy in support of fisheries. One key distinction among these breakdowns is that the first includes inland fisheries and aquaculture, while the latter two are limited to ocean-based activities. The data are available for both commitments and disbursements and for all five purpose codes mentioned above.

#### Overall total fisheries ODA data in the CRS

Overall total fisheries ODA data in the CRS cover projects for both marine and inland fisheries, and capture both wild capture and aquaculture fisheries activities. The fisheries ODA data taken together have a broader scope than that of the Agreement, whose focus is solely on marine wild capture fishing and fishing-related activities at sea.

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<sup>15</sup> In the CRS, there could also be some projects related to marine fishing that are reported under codes other than the five fishing-specific codes. These could be, for example, projects that cover a variety of objectives, one of which is fishing, or where fishing is a secondary objective. For example, purpose code 403010 for multisector aid could include aid for fishing as well as other sectors.

## Categories of fisheries ODA data for the ocean economy

The CRS also provides the basis for the OECD's Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative, which contains data on official ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries<sup>16</sup> (see Box 1). As these data pertain to the ocean, they exclude development assistance for inland fisheries and inland aquaculture. That said, the overall scope of the reported projects for the ocean economy includes but goes well beyond fishing, covering other ocean-based industries (e.g., tourism, minerals, and offshore electricity generation).

### Box 1: OECD's Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative

The OECD's Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative provides data on ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries. To improve transparency and highlight gaps in support, the Initiative tracks ocean-related development assistance. This includes indicators on ODA for the ocean and sustainable ocean economy, ODA to curb plastics pollution, private finance mobilized by ODA for the ocean economy, and philanthropic contributions supporting SDG 14 ("Life below water"). Latest estimates show that [despite a slight uptick in 2022, ODA for the ocean economy accounted for only a small share of total ODA \(1%\)](#), echoing the status of SDG 14 as the most underfunded SDG.

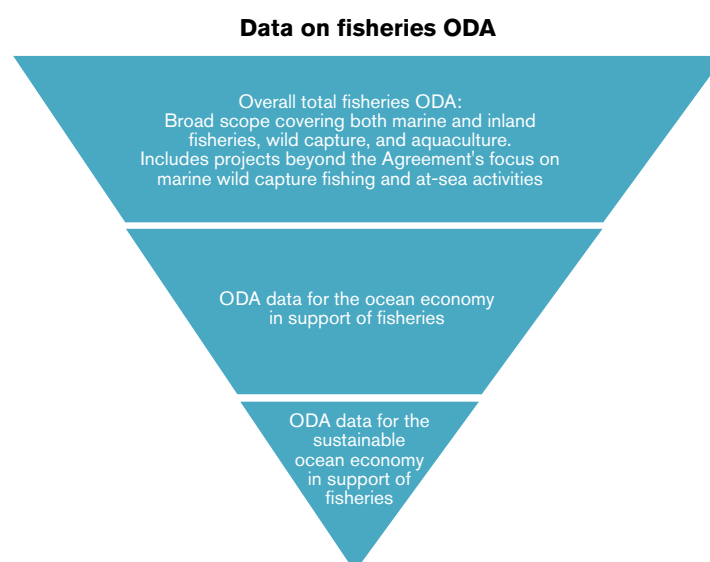
The overarching objective of the Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative is to support a transition to a truly sustainable global ocean economy in a way that benefits the poorest and most vulnerable economies. Many developing economies rely heavily on ocean-based industries such as fisheries and tourism, but the ocean still offers untapped opportunities for developing economies to boost employment, reduce poverty, and enhance food security. At the same time, climate change, pollution, overfishing, and other unprecedented pressures from human activity are pushing the health of oceans to a tipping point. By providing original evidence and policy advice to developing economies, equipping development co-operation providers to strengthen the effectiveness of their ocean-related support, and promoting peer learning and policy dialogue, the Initiative helps developing economies safeguard ocean health and develop their ocean economy sustainably.

In addition to tracking ocean-related development assistance, the Sustainable Ocean for All Initiative is organized around the following areas of work:

- **Guidance for Development Co-operation in support of a Sustainable Ocean Economy:** To mobilize effective and coherent support for ocean-based industries and ecosystems, the Initiative is preparing Guidance to inform ocean-related development assistance. This is being developed through an inclusive process, one that promotes mutual exchange, learning, and coordination between economies and the entire development cooperation ecosystem focused on ocean sustainability.
- **Economy-level analysis and policy advice:** The Initiative conducts holistic assessments of developing economies' ocean economies (including the fisheries sector) and provides recommendations on policies and financing tools to develop the ocean economy more sustainably, namely through the Sustainable Ocean Economy Country Diagnostics ([Cabo Verde](#) and [Indonesia](#)) and the Blue Recovery Hubs ([Fiji](#) and [Samoa](#)).
- **Thematic and region-specific studies:** The Initiative carries out analysis of policy issues central to the pursuit of a sustainable ocean economy, such as on [plastics pollution](#) and innovative financing mechanisms, as well as on specific groups (e.g., small island developing states (SIDS) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)).

<sup>16</sup> ODA for the ocean economy consists of ODA in support of ocean-based industries and marine ecosystems.

The sustainable ocean economy subset of the ODA for the ocean economy contains development assistance for ocean-based industries with sustainability integrated into the projects. Here again, the covered projects include not only fishing and fishing-related activities but also non-fishing projects, such as sustainable coastal tourism. From this subset, data on ODA for fishing as part of ODA for the sustainable ocean economy – i.e., for sustainable marine fishing and fishing-related activities – can be pinpointed. The relationships among these different sets of data on fisheries ODA mentioned above are illustrated below.



It is important to note that the reported ODA flows are considerably greater than the USD 10-20 million target envisaged for the WTO Fish Fund. The scope of activities supported by this Fund, which is focused on the implementation of the Agreement, is much narrower than the gamut of activities covered by the fishing and ocean economy projects reported in the CRS.

## 2.2 Trends in donor support

This part of the report tracks ODA flows to the fisheries sector based on the aforementioned datasets. It examines relationships among key donors, recipients, and project types, and identifies key patterns, including from the perspective of food security.

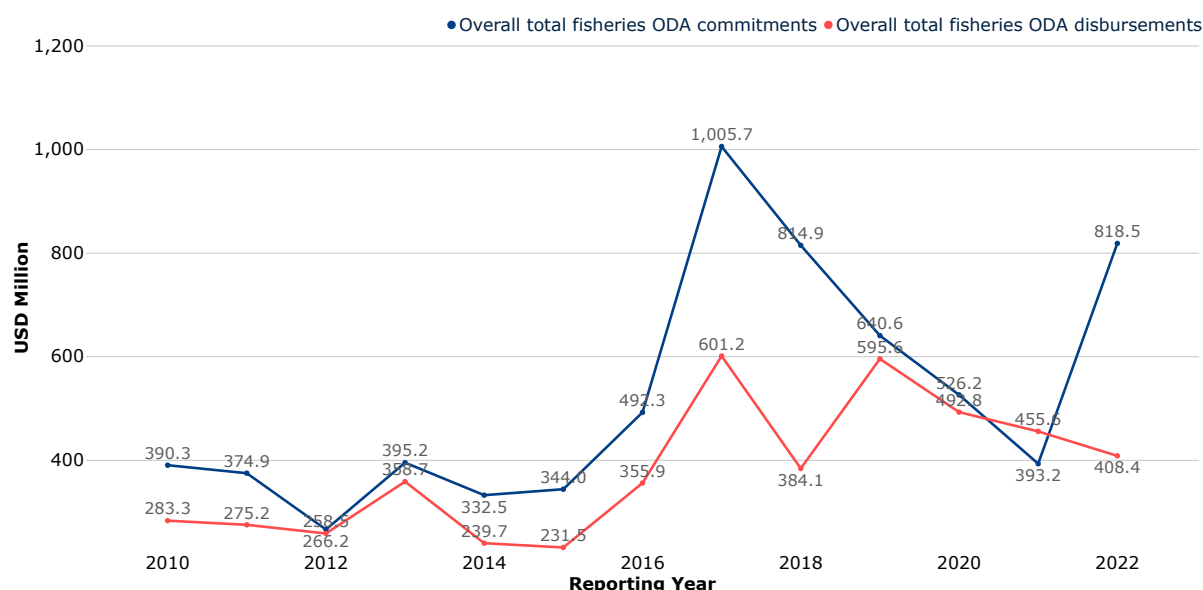
### Overall total fisheries ODA (2010-2022)

This section presents and analyses the CRS data on overall total fisheries ODA (marine and inland) for the period 2010-2022. These CRS data are available for both commitments<sup>17</sup> and disbursements. While a commitment is entered in full in the year the commitment is made, disbursements may be spread over several years.

According to the CRS, over the period 2010–2022, a total of USD 6.8 billion in overall total fisheries ODA was committed and USD 5 billion was disbursed (see Figure 1).

<sup>17</sup> The OECD defines a commitment as a firm obligation, expressed in writing and backed by the necessary funds, undertaken by an official donor to provide specified assistance to a recipient country or a multilateral organization. Definition of commitment available at: <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=385>

**Figure 1: Overall total fisheries ODA commitments and disbursements, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

As shown in Figure 1, the period between 2010 and 2022 experienced volatility in terms of both disbursements and commitments. Both 2017 and 2019 saw significant increases in disbursements, whilst commitments consistently declined between 2017 and 2021. For the first time in years, 2022 saw a sharp increase in commitments – by more than 108% compared to 2021 – surpassing disbursements by approximately USD 410 million. Over the period 2010-2022, commitments increased by an average of about 15% annually. For disbursements, however, the average annual growth was slightly negative, at -1.7%.

Several factors, such as project life cycles, the adoption by the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of the Agreement, and changes in donor priorities to address global challenges such as ocean sustainability and food security, could account for the intricate relationships between the increases and decreases in overall total fisheries ODA (commitments vs. disbursements) over the period 2010–2022, particularly during the latter part of that period.

Table 5 provides information on projects that contributed to the significant increase in overall total fisheries ODA commitments in 2022.

**Table 5: Top ten projects in overall total fisheries ODA commitments, 2022**

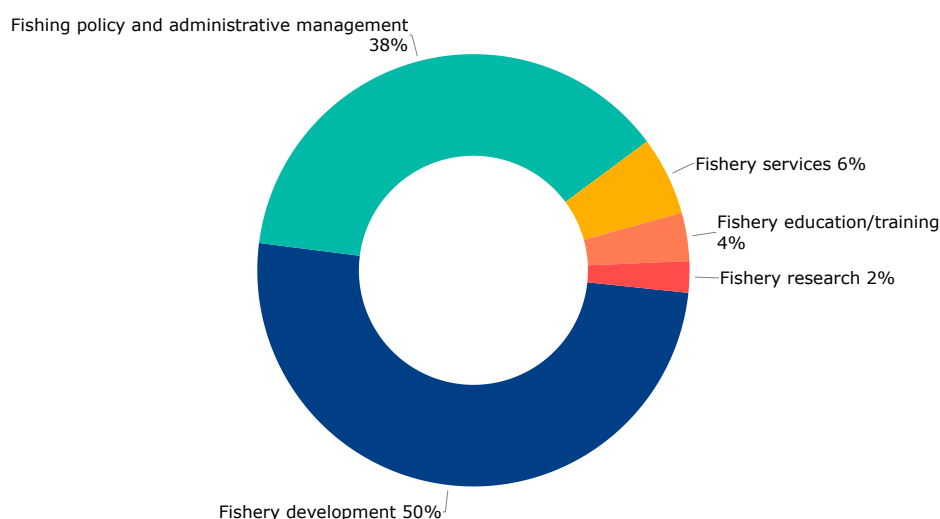
Project title	Donor	Recipient	USD million
Ecoports de pêche [Fishing ports]	France	Indonesia	103.8
Senegal: Natural Resources Management Project	World Bank	Senegal	48.0
Inclusive Green Financing Initiative (IGREENFIN I): Greening Agricultural Banks & the Financial Sector to Foster Climate Resilient, Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture in the Great Green Wall (GGW) countries - Phase I	Green Climate Fund	Africa, regional	38.5
Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries Project	Asian Development Bank	Cambodia	35.2
Emergency Project to Combat the Food Crisis in Cameroon	World Bank	Cameroon	28.0
Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project	OPEC Fund for International Development	Liberia	20.0
Programme gestion pérenne de la ressource halieutique [Sustainable fisheries resource management program]	Germany	Mauritania	19.5
Blue Economy Programme	EU institutions	Tanzania	17.4
Climate Resilient Fishery Initiative for Livelihood Improvement in the Gambia (PROREFISH Gambia)	Green Climate Fund	Gambia	17.2
Better Production	FAO	Bilateral, unspecified	16.8

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

### Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by purpose code

Out of the total of USD 5 billion in overall total fisheries ODA disbursements over 2010-2022, fisheries development received the highest share of support (USD 2.5 billion) within the fisheries sector, representing 50% of the total ODA to fisheries.

The second largest category was fishing policy and administrative management, accounting for USD 1.9 billion (38%) of overall total fisheries ODA. Other disbursements, totalling USD 584 million, were for financing fishery services (6%), fishery research (2%), and fishery education and training (4%) (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by purpose, 2010-2022**

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System



## Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by finance type

Fisheries ODA is disbursed in the following finance types: grants, loans, common equity, interest subsidy, and shares in collective investment vehicles. Several studies<sup>18</sup> reveal that each type of financing plays a unique role in supporting sustainable fisheries management, aligning with the donors' strategic intentions and impact expectations. Standard grants constituted the largest share (75%), followed by standard loans (25%) (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by finance type, 2010-2022**

Finance type	USD million	Percentage (%)
Standard grant	3,684.4	74.6
Standard loan	1,229.3	24.9
Shares in collective investment vehicles	16.1	0.3
Common equity	5.8	0.1
Interest subsidy	4.9	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,940.5</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

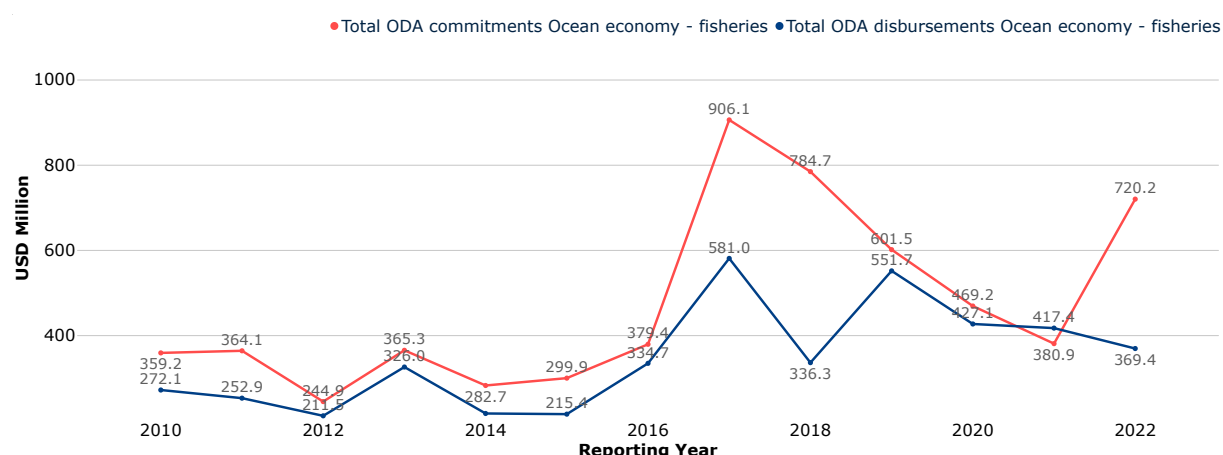
## ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries (2010-2022)

This section presents and analyses the CRS data on ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries for the period 2010-2022. Over this period, ODA commitments and disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries amounted to USD 6.2 billion and USD 4.5 billion respectively (see Figure 3). Annual commitments over this period ranged from USD 244 million in 2012 to USD 906 million in 2017, while annual disbursements ranged from USD 211 million in 2015 to USD 581 million in 2017.

As shown in Figure 3, the trends in ODA commitments and disbursements at times diverged, particularly during the latter part of the period. This pattern reveals intricate relationships that, as for overall total fisheries ODA, could have been influenced by various factors such as project life cycles, the adoption by the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the COVID-19 pandemic, and changes in donor priorities to address global challenges.

<sup>18</sup> <https://oursharedseas.com/impact-investing-in-a-sustainable-ocean-and-global-fisheries/>, <https://www.sustainability-times.com/environmental-protection/a-shift-in-financing-can-make-our-fisheries-more-sustainable/>.

**Figure 3: ODA commitments and disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, 2010-2022**

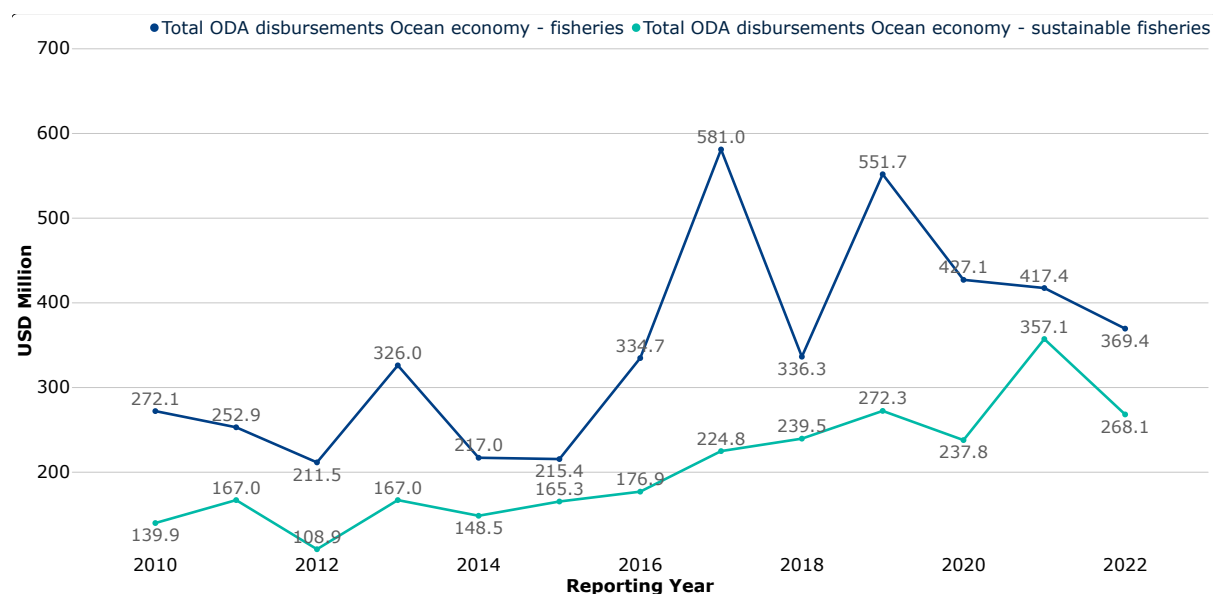


Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

During the period 2010 to 2022, out of the total of USD 4.5 billion ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, USD 2.7 billion (59%) was allocated to sustainable fisheries. The data on ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries for this period include a total of 13,076 entries, of which 7,275 pertain to sustainable fisheries projects.

As shown in Figure 4, support to sustainable fisheries is increasing as a share of total ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries.

**Figure 4: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

In 2010-2022, the 15 largest projects in support of sustainable fisheries accounted for 14% of total disbursements for that purpose. These projects focused on fishery development and fishing policy and administrative management (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Fifteen largest projects in ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries, 2010-2022, by size**

Year	Donor	Recipient	Income group	Purpose	Project title	USD million
2019	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Nansen Programme	24.4
2011	United States	Oceania, regional	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Annual Contribution: South Pacific Forum Fisheries	23.2
2021	Japan	Indonesia	LMICs	Fishery development	Programme for the Development of Fisheries Sector in Outer Islands (Phase 2)	22.9
2020	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	EAF Nansen Programme	20.5
2018	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	EAF Nansen Programme	19.6
2020	Japan	Morocco	LMICs	Fishing policy and administrative management	Oceanographic and Fishery Research Vessel Construction Project	19.4
2017	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	EAF Nansen Programme	18.8
2017	FAO	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishing policy and administrative management	Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner	18.2
2021	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	EAF Nansen Programme	17.6
2022	Norway	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishery development	EAF Nansen Programme	17.4
2021	Japan	Indonesia	LMICs	Fishery development	Project for the Development of Outer Islands and the Enhancement of Fishery Surveillance Capacity	16.8
2021	World Bank	Bangladesh	LDCs	Fishery development	Bangladesh Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries	15.0
2021	World Bank	Fiji	UMICs	Fishing policy and administrative management	Fiji Recovery and Resilience First Development Policy Operation with a Catastrophe-Deferred Drawdown Option	14.9
2014	World Bank	India	LMICs	Fishing policy and administrative management	Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project	14.7
2019	FAO	Bilateral, unspecified	Unallocated by income	Fishing policy and administrative management	Make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable	14.6
<b>Total</b>						<b>278.0</b>

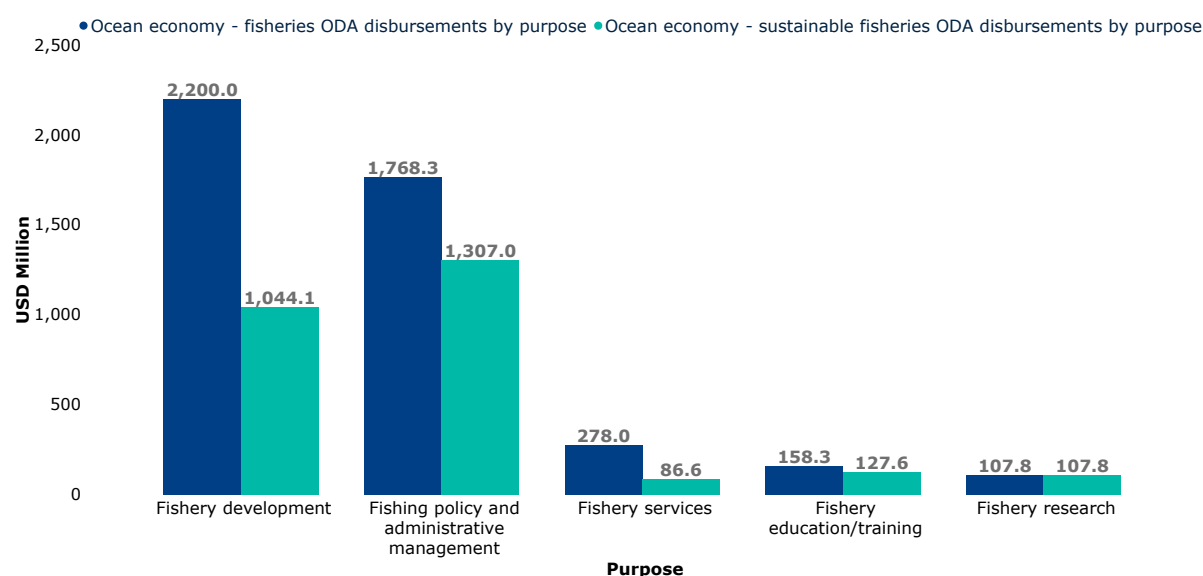
Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

Figure 5 shows ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, and in support of sustainable fisheries, by purpose.

Out of USD 4.5 billion in ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, fisheries development received the highest share of support, amounting to USD 2.2 billion, representing 49% of the total. The second largest category was fishing policy and administrative management, accounting for USD 1.8 billion (39%). Other disbursements, totalling USD 543 million taken together, were for financing fishery services (6%), fishery education and training (4%), and fishery research (2%). Grants accounted for 76% and loans for 23% of these ODA disbursements.

Regarding ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries, fisheries policy and administrative management received USD 1.3 billion, accounting for 49% of these total disbursements, followed by fishery development (39%), fishery education and training (5%), fishery research (4%), and fishery services (3%).

**Figure 5: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries, by purpose, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

Further information about the objectives of support for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and sustainable fisheries, beyond the five shown in Figure 5, can be derived from the detailed descriptions in the database for individual projects. These objectives include: coastal disaster risk reduction; disaster recovery; coastal resources for sustainable development; fish market construction; expansion of fishing ports; increasing contributions to fisheries to reduce poverty; improving living conditions and achieving sustainable development; strengthening institutional capacity to enhance governance in the fishery sector; and improving fishing equipment.

Although the level of detail varies among projects, during the period 2010-2022 some of the frequently-cited objectives included:

- 28 projects specifically cited controlling IUU fishing;
- 166 projects cited sustainable fisheries;
- 83 projects cited sustainable management;
- 157 projects cited fisheries management;
- 179 projects cited food security; and
- 111 projects cited nutrition.

**Support to sustainable fisheries constituted 59% of disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, pointing to a collective global effort to promote sustainable fisheries management practices. This proportion varied from one category to another, from 100% in the case of fishery research to 31% in the case of fishery services. In terms of values, the category of fishing policy and administrative management benefited the most from ODA disbursements to sustainable fisheries. Fishery services, fishery education/training, and fishery research have received considerably less support compared to other categories, indicating possible areas for increased focus and investment.**

## 2.3 Main donors

### Overall total fisheries ODA

During 2010-2022, a total of 61 donors (37 bilateral and 24 multilateral institutions) reported fisheries sector support (disbursements) to the OECD CRS (see Table 8).

**Table 8: Fisheries ODA disbursements by bilateral and multilateral donors to marine and inland fisheries, 2010-2022**

Bilateral donors		Multilateral institutions	
Donor	USD million	Donor <sup>19</sup>	USD million
Japan	1,082.7	World Bank	915.9
Norway	485.2	EU institutions	470.0
United States	214.9	FAO	320.5
United Arab Emirates	179.6	African Development Fund	103.0
Germany	163.0	Global Environment Facility	81.5
Australia	128.8	Asian Development Bank	33.4
New Zealand	124.3	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	16.6
Korea, Republic of	90.4	OPEC Fund for International Development	13.5
Spain	80.2	Nordic Development Fund	11.4
Sweden	63.2	Adaptation Fund	6.2
France	59.0	Inter-American Development Bank	3.6
Canada	53.5	Green Climate Fund	1.9
Iceland	52.2	Climate Investment Funds	1.7
Denmark	36.0	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	1.7
United Kingdom	33.1	Enhanced Integrated Framework	1.2
Belgium	29.8	Others	1.5
Italy	27.6	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,983.6</b>
Finland	18.2		
Netherlands	17.0		
Switzerland	6.6		
Others	11.6		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,956.9</b>		

Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

\* Note: In all data, the EU institutions and EU member states are considered as separate donors. In other words, the EU institutions are considered as a multilateral donor and each EU member as a bilateral donor.

### ODA for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries

Table 9 presents data by donor on 2010-2022 ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries. A total of 61 donors (37 bilateral and 24 multilateral institutions) made ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries. Of these donors, 46 (26 bilateral and 20 multilateral institutions) directed some of these ODA disbursements for the ocean economy to support sustainable fisheries.

Among the top three donors of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, Japan disbursed over USD 1 billion, 24% of which targeted sustainable fisheries. The World Bank's total disbursements amounted to USD 781.6 million, of which 66% targeted sustainable fisheries, while the EU institutions disbursed a total of USD 414.2 million, of which 80% was for sustainable fisheries.

<sup>19</sup> Between 2010 and 2022, IFAD overall total fisheries ODA commitments amounted to USD 481 million. While IFAD's reporting of commitments is granular, its reporting of disbursements is aggregated. As a result, there are no detailed project descriptions for IFAD disbursements, which precludes the estimation of fisheries ODA disbursements for IFAD.



Regarding ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries, 43% came from multilateral donors and 57% from bilateral donors. The top three donors were the World Bank, Norway, and the EU institutions<sup>20</sup>.

**Table 9: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries, by donor, 2010-2022**

Bilateral donors				Multilateral institutions			
Donor	USD million		sustainable fisheries %	Donor <sup>21</sup>	USD million		sustainable fisheries %
	fisheries sector	sustainable fisheries			fisheries sector	sustainable fisheries	
Japan	1,055.6	252.5	24%	World Bank	781.6	516.9	66%
Norway	479.1	456.8	95%	EU institutions	414.2	329.8	80%
United States	211.6	46.2	22%	FAO	316.4	209.3	66%
United Arab Emirates	179.6	-	-	Global Environment Facility	74.3	61.0	82%
Germany	160.7	160.7	100%	African Development Fund	43.3	6.6	15%
Australia	123.0	115.9	94%	Asian Development Bank	17.8	15.8	88%
New Zealand	117.1	92.1	79%	OPEC Fund for International Development	12.7	0.4	3%
Korea, Republic of	87.9	48.7	55%	Nordic Development Fund	11.4	6.1	54%
Spain	76.6	54.8	71%	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	8.5	-	-
Sweden	62.5	62.5	100%	Adaptation Fund	4.8	4.8	100%
France	55.3	46.7	84%	Inter-American Development Bank	3.6	3.6	100%
Iceland	39.5	38.6	98%	Green Climate Fund	1.9	1.9	100%
Canada	32.7	32.5	99%	Climate Investment Funds	1.7	1.7	100%
United Kingdom	32.3	20.6	64%	UNDP	1.7	0.3	19%
Denmark	29.7	26.0	87%	Enhanced Integrated Framework	1.2	-	-
Italy	25.3	20.3	80%	Others	1.5	0.1	10%
Belgium	14.2	14.1	99%	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696.6</b>	<b>1,158.3</b>	<b>68%</b>
Finland	8.5	8.4	99%				
Netherlands	8.2	7.9	97%				
Switzerland	6.2	6.2	100%				
Thailand	2.9	-	-				
Ireland	2.1	1.6	77%				
Saudi Arabia	1.1	-	-				
Türkiye	1.1	0.3	31%				
Others	3.0	1.3	54%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,815.8</b>	<b>1,514.7</b>	<b>54%</b>				

Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

20 ODA data includes assistance provided by the EU institutions separately from that of the EU member states.

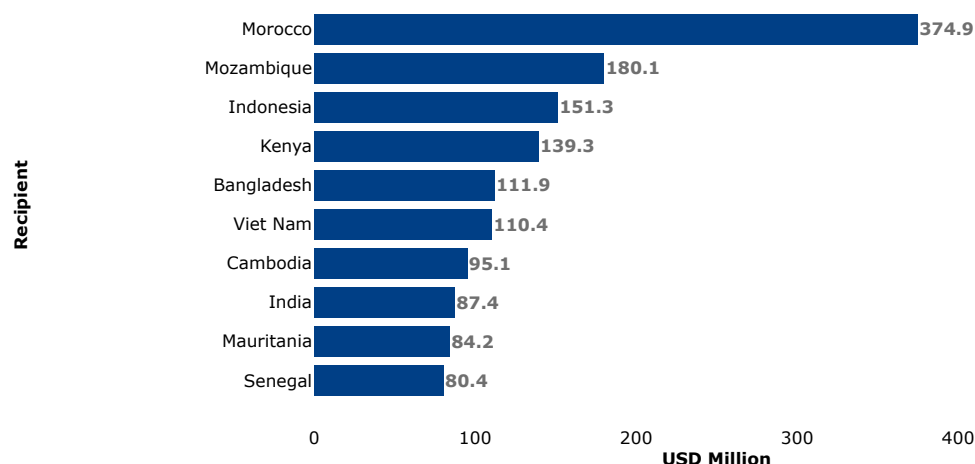
21 Between 2010 and 2022, IFAD ODA commitments for the ocean economy to fisheries and sustainable fisheries amounted to USD 372 million and USD 308 million respectively. While IFAD's reporting of commitments is granular, its reporting of disbursements is aggregated. As a result, there are no detailed project descriptions for IFAD disbursements, which precludes the estimation of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy for IFAD.

## 2.4 Main beneficiaries

### Overall total fisheries ODA

Of the total of USD 5 billion in overall total fisheries ODA disbursements for the period 2010-2022, Morocco was the single biggest beneficiary (8% of total fisheries ODA disbursements), followed by Mozambique and Indonesia (4% and 3%, respectively) (see Figure 6). The top ten recipients accounted for approximately 29% of the total fisheries ODA disbursements.

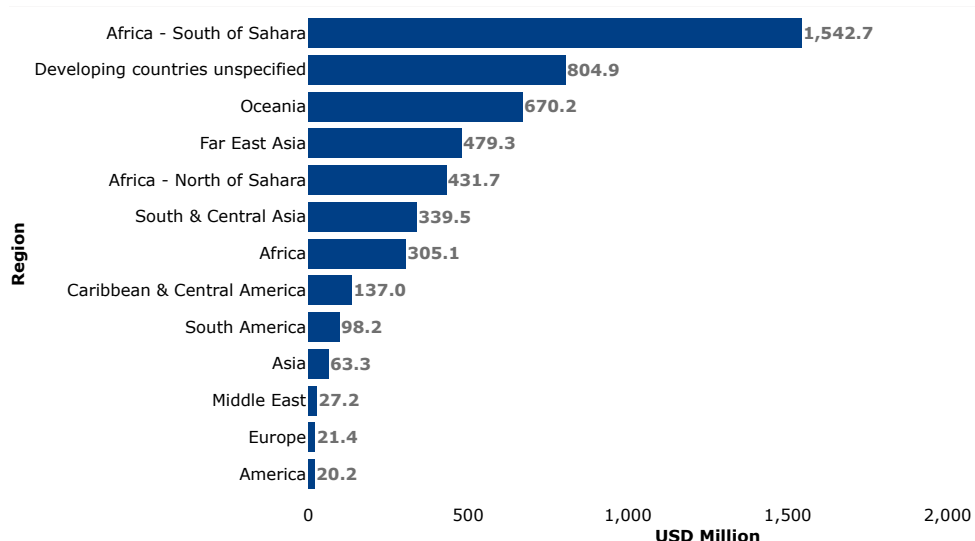
**Figure 6: Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements to top ten recipients, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

Figure 7 presents a regional breakdown of overall total fisheries ODA disbursements during the period 2010-2022. The region of African countries South of the Sahara received over USD 1.5 billion of the total disbursements during this period (31%), followed by unspecified developing countries (16%), Oceania (14%), and Far East Asia (10%). These top three regions (other than unspecified developing countries) accounted for 54% of the overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by region.

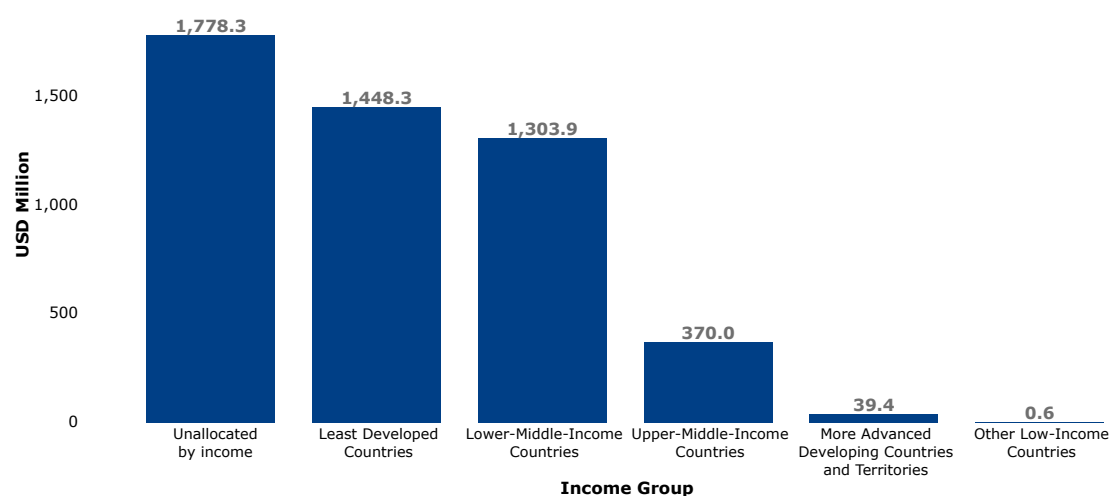
**Figure 7: Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by region, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

Figure 8 presents a breakdown by income group of overall total fisheries ODA disbursements during the period 2010-2022, ranging from USD 0.6 million to USD 1.8 billion. LDCs received over USD 1.4 billion, closely followed by lower middle-income countries (LMICs), which received USD 1.3 billion.

**Figure 8: Overall total fisheries ODA disbursements by income group, 2010-2022**



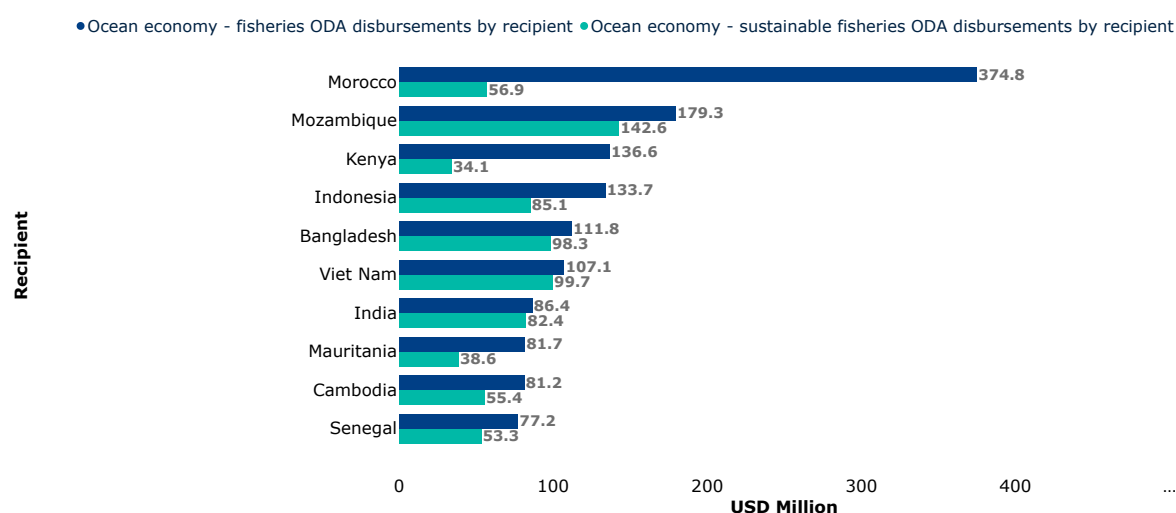
Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

## ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, including sustainable fisheries

Figure 9 shows ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries and in support of sustainable fisheries in 2010-2022 for the top ten recipients. The top ten recipients of ODA disbursements in support of fisheries accounted for over 30% of the total disbursements. Morocco received USD 374.8 million (8% of the total), followed by Mozambique and Kenya (4% and 3%, respectively).

In the case of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries alone in 2010-2022, the top ten recipients accounted for almost 27% of total disbursements.

**Figure 9: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, including sustainable fisheries, to top recipients, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

Table 10 provides more information on the donors of ODA for sustainable fisheries disbursed to the top three recipients: Mozambique, Viet Nam, and Bangladesh, which together accounted for almost 13% of the total. Mozambique received support from 23 donors, totalling USD 142.6 million. Viet Nam received support from 19 donors totalling USD 99.7 million, while Bangladesh received support from 13 donors, totalling USD 98.3 million.

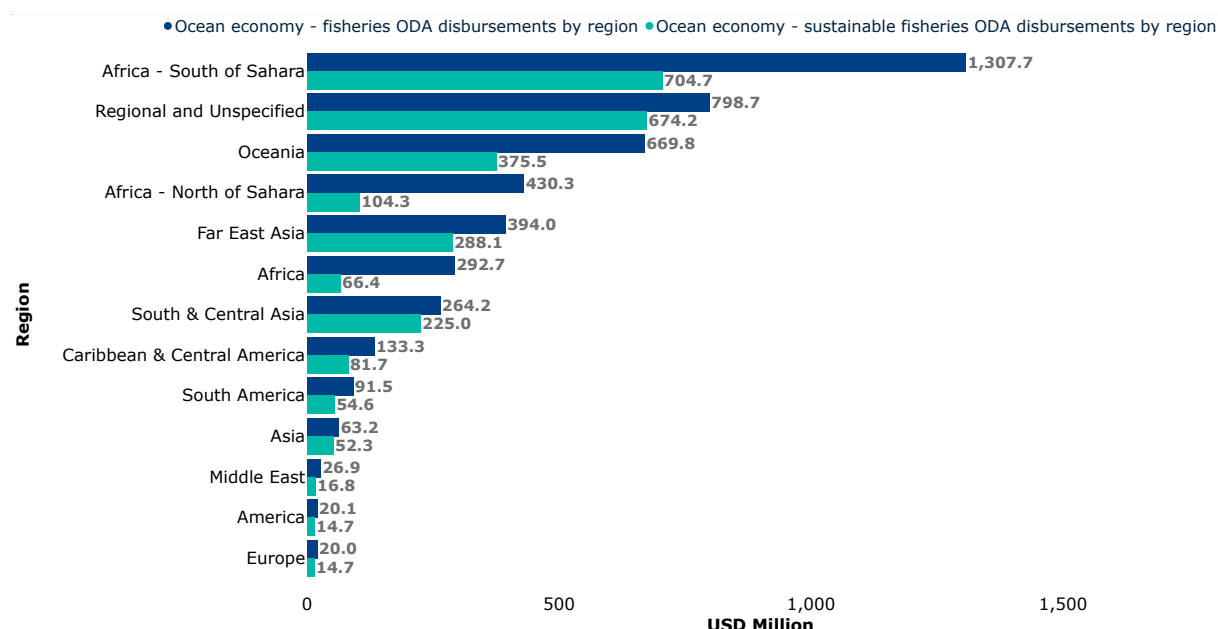
**Table 10: Donors of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries to top three recipients, 2010-2022**

Recipient	Donors	USD million
Mozambique	African Development Fund, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, FAO, France, IFAD, Iceland, Ireland, Islamic Development Bank, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Nordic Development Fund, Norway, OPEC Fund for International Development, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, World Bank	142.6
Viet Nam	Australia, Asian Development Bank, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, EU institutions, Finland, France, Germany, Global Environment Facility, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Norway, Spain, Sweden, United States, World Bank	99.7
Bangladesh	Asian Development Bank, Canada, Denmark, FAO, Global Environment Facility, Iceland, IFAD, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Luxembourg, Norway, United States, World Bank	98.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>340.6</b>

Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

Figure 10 shows the regional distribution of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, including in support of sustainable fisheries in 2010-2022. The data show a substantial ODA focus on sustainable fisheries in Africa South of the Sahara (USD 704.7 million), regional and unspecified category (USD 674.2 million), Oceania (USD 375.5 million), and Far East Asia (USD 288.1 million), highlighting the importance of sustainable practices to ensure long-term food security and economic benefits in regions that heavily depend on marine resources.

**Figure 10: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, including sustainable fisheries, by region, 2010-2022**

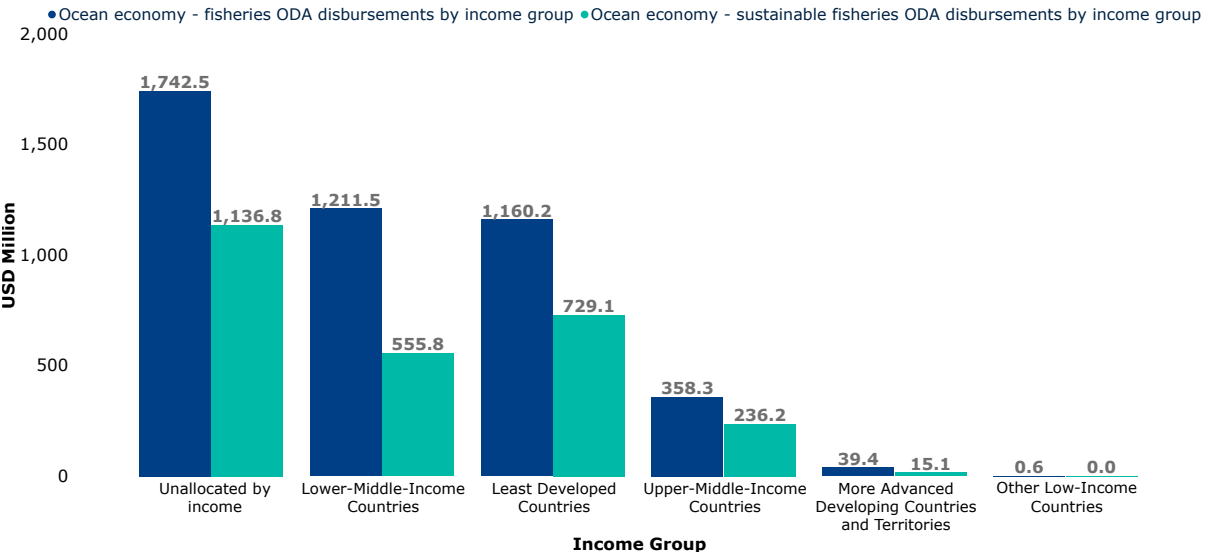


Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

Figure 11 presents a breakdown by income group of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, and in support of sustainable fisheries, during the period 2010-2022. In terms of income groups, the LDCs received USD 1.2 billion in ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, of which USD 729.1 million (63%) targeted sustainable fisheries. In the case of lower middle-income countries (LMICs), the share of ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of sustainable fisheries stood at 46%.

Considering the particular challenges that LDC members can face in adopting sustainable practices (as well as in implementing the Agreement), targeted ODA disbursements to these members for sustainable fisheries are especially important in enhancing their efforts to ensure long-term food security and economic stability. These actions in turn can further global efforts to support sustainable development and food security for all, including the world’s most vulnerable populations.

**Figure 11: ODA disbursements for the ocean economy in support of fisheries, including sustainable fisheries, by income group, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Data Platform on Development Finance for the Sustainable Ocean Economy

The distribution of ODA disbursements to fisheries, including sustainable fisheries, has been diverse in terms of regions and income groups. However, these disbursements have been very concentrated among the top ten recipients by country, and even more so among the top five recipients. Expanding targeted ODA to fisheries and to sustainable fisheries to economies and communities most dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods could help ensure balance in global distribution of support. This could create more opportunities for these communities to adopt sustainable fisheries management practices and facilitate their implementation of the Agreement.

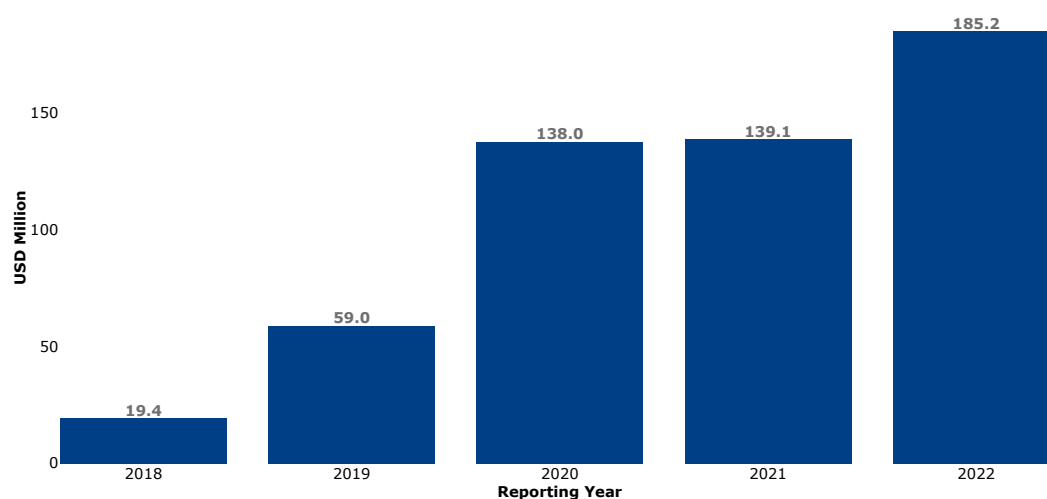


## PART 3 – THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN ENSURING A FOOD-SECURE FUTURE

Fisheries play a crucial role in food security and nutrition, providing a vital source of protein and essential nutrients to millions of people around the world, particularly in developing economies and LDCs. Promoting sustainable fisheries can contribute to preserving fish stocks and supporting the livelihoods of fishing communities. Therefore, the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies not only directly contributes to SDG target 14.6, but also helps advance global efforts to eradicate hunger in accordance with SDG 2 – Zero Hunger. The data on overall total fisheries ODA disbursements reveal an increasing trend for recorded fisheries projects focusing on SDG 2 and nutrition<sup>22</sup>, either exclusively or among other objectives.

As shown in Figure 12, ODA disbursements recorded for fisheries projects focused on achieving SDG 2 have been steadily increasing, beginning in 2018, the first year in which fisheries projects with an SDG 2 focus have been recorded. The total amount of such projects between 2018 and 2022 reached USD 540.5 million, showing annual average growth of 93%. The year 2020 witnessed a particularly sharp increase: 204% compared to 2019. Within overall total fisheries ODA disbursements, the share of projects recording SDG 2 among their objectives has grown from 5% in 2018 to 45% in 2022.

**Figure 12: Fisheries ODA disbursements focusing on SDG 2, 2010-2022**

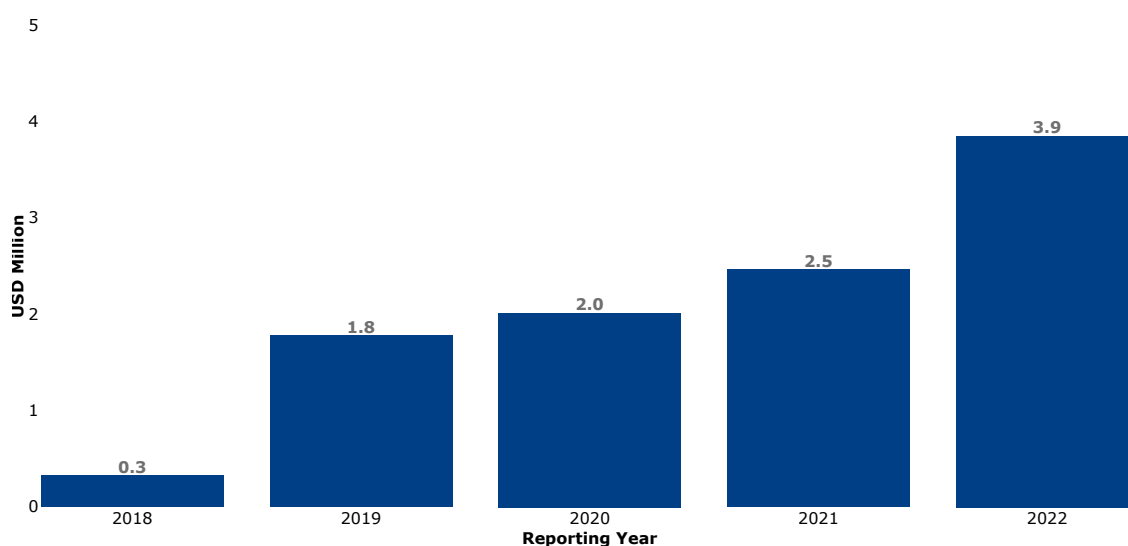


Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

As shown in Figures 13 and 14, since 2018 there has also been a notable increase in fisheries ODA disbursements recorded for projects integrating nutrition as a principal or a significant objective. Fisheries projects with nutrition as a principal objective grew by an annual average of 37% since 2018, amounting to USD 10.5 million over the period 2018-2022. Over the same period, fisheries projects with nutrition as a significant objective increased by an average of 31% annually and totalled USD 91.3 million. No fisheries projects with nutrition among their objectives are recorded before 2018.

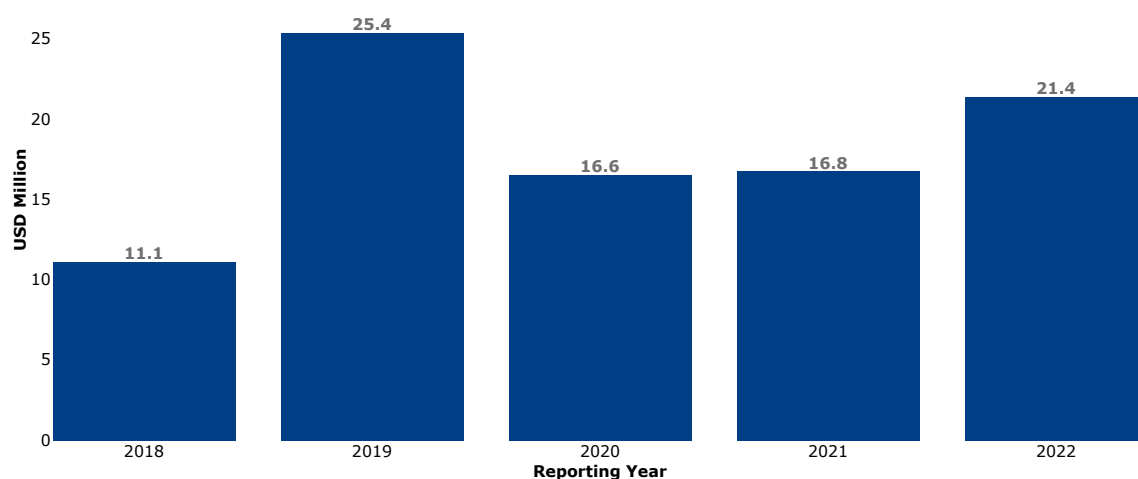
<sup>22</sup> SDG focus and the nutrition marker fields are voluntary fields in the CRS. Not all providers report them or do so systematically.

**Figure 13: Fisheries ODA disbursements with nutrition as a principal objective, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

**Figure 14: Fisheries ODA disbursements with nutrition as a significant objective, 2010-2022**



Source: OECD Creditor Reporting System

Since 2018, many fisheries projects are being reported as focusing on achieving zero hunger and on nutrition, highlighting the increasing role of fisheries in achieving greater food security globally. Nevertheless, the share of disbursements to these projects, especially those focusing on nutrition, in the overall total fisheries ODA disbursements remain very low, indicating the need for more enhanced reporting on the nutrition marker as well as for more targeted support aimed at food security.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of ODA for fisheries in the ocean economy from 2010 to 2022 points to a collective global effort to promote sustainable fisheries management practices and initiatives that can be essential in supporting the implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies as well as contributing to enhancing food security.

Specifically, more than half of ODA to the ocean economy in support of fisheries has been reported as aimed at making fisheries more sustainable. In addition, an increasing number of projects are being reported as focusing on achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and having a principal or significant objective of contributing to nutrition.

Nevertheless, with increasing dependence of many coastal communities on fisheries for nutrition and livelihood, there is a pressing need for continued, increased, and targeted support for sustainable fisheries, including through support for implementing the Agreement. The effective implementation of the Agreement will not only help protect the environment, but also will contribute to economic stability and resilience for developing and LDC members, and hence food security.

Moving forward, there is a need for enhanced collaboration between and among all international institutions dealing with fisheries policies and subsidies, including the WTO, FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, and the OECD. Strengthened global partnerships could help achieve sustainable fisheries management practices and rebuild fish stocks for a food-secure future.

Global efforts should continue to focus on more ODA to sustainable fisheries. While fisheries typically feature prominently in total ocean economy and sustainable ocean economy ODA, ocean-related support is very small as a share of total ODA (1%). Initiatives such as the United Nations Ocean Conference, which seeks to scale up ocean action, are a good opportunity to increase awareness of the need to support the ocean and its resources. Furthermore, the WTO Fish Fund's support for implementing the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to strengthen coherence between subsidies policies and sustainable fisheries represents an important new complement to the existing development finance for fisheries, and for sustainable fisheries in particular.

## ANNEX: HOW TO ACCEPT THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO INSERT THE AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES INTO ANNEX 1A OF THE WTO AGREEMENT

At its twelfth session, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 12 to 17 June 2022, the WTO Ministerial Conference reached a [Decision](#) to adopt an amendment Protocol to insert the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement, and opened the Protocol for acceptance by Members.

According to the WTO Agreement, a Member formally accepts the Protocol by depositing what is referred to as an “instrument of acceptance” for the Protocol with the WTO. As stipulated in the Protocol, it shall enter into force upon acceptance by two thirds of the Members, in accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement. Once the Protocol enters into force, the Protocol shall remain open for acceptance, and will take effect for Members that deposit an instrument of acceptance after that date on such Member’s respective date of deposit.

As of June 2024, 78 Members have deposited their instrument of acceptance as per table below:

Member	Acceptance date
Albania	23 October 2023
Australia	23 October 2023
Barbados	14 February 2024
Belize	16 June 2023
Benin	June 2024
Botswana	23 October 2023
Brunei Darussalam	26 February 2024
Cabo Verde	26 January 2024
Cambodia	6 May 2024
Canada	2 May 2023
Chad	26 February 2024
Chile	12 December 2023
China	27 June 2023
Côte d'Ivoire	23 October 2023
Cuba	23 October 2023
Dominica	14 February 2024
European Union	7 June 2023
Fiji	24 October 2023
Gabon	12 July 2023
Gambia	13 December 2023
Haiti	21 February 2024
Hong Kong, China	21 August 2023
Iceland	10 May 2023
Japan	3 July 2023
Korea, Republic of	23 October 2023
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 May 2024
Macao, China	19 October 2023
Malaysia	26 February 2024
Mauritius	13 May 2024

Member	Acceptance date
Montenegro	14 June 2024
New Zealand	6 September 2023
Nigeria	12 June 2023
Norway	26 February 2024
Peru	19 July 2023
Philippines	27 February 2024
Qatar	22 May 2024
Russian Federation	18 March 2024
Rwanda	26 February 2024
Saint Lucia	23 October 2023
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	26 February 2024
Senegal	14 February 2024
Seychelles	10 March 2023
Singapore	10 February 2023
South Africa	1 March 2024
Switzerland	20 January 2023
Togo	26 February 2024
Türkiye	26 February 2024
Ukraine	17 August 2023
United Arab Emirates	16 May 2023
United Kingdom	13 December 2023
United States	11 April 2023
Uruguay	14 February 2024

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the WTO practice regarding the deposit of acceptances?

The WTO closely follows established United Nations depositary practice, which is based in international treaty law, including the formalities and requirements concerning valid acceptance set out below.

### What must be stated in an instrument of acceptance?

There is no single, uniform approach for drawing up an instrument of acceptance for the Protocol; each individual Member may have its own practice for accepting international treaties and treaty amendments. However, in line with established depositary practice, the instrument of acceptance must give clear and unambiguous expression to the relevant Member's intention and consent to be bound by the agreement in question (in this case, the Protocol).

In particular, the instrument of acceptance must:

- clearly identify the Protocol by its full title and by the place and date of its adoption, i.e. "the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, done at Geneva on 17 June 2022" or, alternatively, reproduce the Protocol as an attachment to the instrument of acceptance;
- state that the Member concerned formally accepts the Protocol and expresses its consent to be bound by it;
- state the date and the place of issuance of the instrument of acceptance;
- be signed; and
- state the name and title of the person signing the instrument.

### Who may sign the instrument of acceptance?

Established practice is for the instrument of acceptance to be issued and signed by the head of state, the head of government, or the minister for foreign affairs (the "Big Three").<sup>1</sup> The instrument may be signed by another official provided that he or she produces official documentation ("full powers") to the effect that one of the "Big Three" has authorized him or her to issue and sign the instrument.

Unsigned instruments in the form of notes verbales, even bearing the seal of the ministry or of the presidency, are not sufficient for accepting the Protocol.

### What are the arrangements for depositing a valid instrument of acceptance?

In practical terms, the instrument of acceptance should be deposited with the Depositary Assistant in the WTO Legal Affairs Division. Only original instruments are valid, and the date of deposit corresponds to the date when the valid original instrument fulfilling the above requirements is received by the Depositary Assistant. Copies in electronic or paper form are not acceptable.

## Model instrument of acceptance

For the Protocol Amending the WTO Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Amendment on Fisheries Subsidies, done at Geneva on 17 June 2022:

[Member]

### INSTRUMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROTOCOL AMENDING THE MARRAKESH AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

Whereas the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies ("the Protocol") was done at Geneva on 17 June 2022 (WT/ MIN(22)/33 – WT/L/1144);

Now therefore, I, [name of signatory], [where applicable: head of state, head of government or minister of foreign affairs] of [Member], do hereby formally declare that [Member] accepts the aforementioned Protocol and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

In witness whereof, I [name and title of signatory] have signed this Instrument of Acceptance, at [place] on this [day] of [month] in the year [year].

[Signature, title and seal]

Interested delegations are invited to contact the [Depositary Assistant in the WTO Legal Affairs Division \(deposit.assist@wto.org\)](mailto:deposit.assist@wto.org), with any further questions, in particular if further assistance is needed with drawing up a valid instrument of acceptance.

#### Notes:

1. Alternatively, where applicable, a Member's competent authority, typically the highest ranking official responsible for external trade matters, may issue and sign the instrument. This is particularly the case for WTO Members that might not have officials with titles directly corresponding to the "Big Three" in a way that is acceptable for the entire WTO Membership.





Further information:

[www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/  
rulesneg\\_e/fish\\_e/agreement\\_  
fisheries\\_subsidies\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/agreement_fisheries_subsidies_e.htm)



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