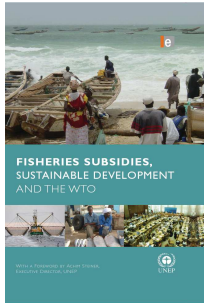




UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

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UNEP Publication:

Fisheries Subsidies, Sustainable Development and the WTO

Background

There is a universally recognized link between fisheries subsidies and overfishing and the need for fisheries subsidies reform. Overfishing – driven by overcapacity and an increased demand for fish products – is a key factor for the global fisheries crisis and leads to a significant loss of potential economic benefits. Even though fisheries subsidies reform falls eventually under the responsibility of national governments, an international mechanism is required to generate momentum to appropriately restructure fisheries subsidies. Launched by the Doha Ministerial Conference in 2001, negotiations to clarify and improve WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies are ongoing and take place within the framework of the WTO.

UNEP work on fisheries subsidies reform

UNEP attaches high importance to the work on fisheries subsidies reform and has helped draw international attention to the issue of fisheries subsidies since 1997. Since this time, UNEP has played a lead role in facilitating effective dialogue amongst trade, environment and fisheries policy-making communities and in producing policy-relevant analysis. It has contributed to the international discussion on fisheries subsidies reform through workshops, analytical papers and country projects.

Overview of the publication

The new UNEP book responds to the need for a comprehensive reference manual for use by a broad audience, including policymakers in the field of trade, fisheries, environmental economics and international environmental governance, as well as academics and interested laypeople. The book explains why and how the reform of fisheries subsidies has become

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one of the most important international efforts to achieve global, environmental, economic and developmental policy coherence. It provides a historic overview, synthesis and analysis of key issues regarding fisheries subsidies reform and the current development of fisheries subsidies negotiations at the WTO. The book also contains country experiences illustrating the impact of subsidies and reform processes.

Book Outline

The book is organised in 6 chapters. Chapter 1 locates the fisheries subsidies discussion in the wider globalization, sustainable development and fisheries debate. Chapter 2 provides a categorization of subsidies and discusses the resource impacts of different subsidy types under different management and biological conditions. Chapter 3 presents three national perspectives and experiences with fisheries subsidies and their reform (Ecuador, Norway and Senegal). Chapter 4 documents the roots of the international debate and illustrates its development into one of the most important issues related to trade and the environment. Chapter 5 then showcases UNEP's contribution to the technical discussion at the WTO by discussing 4 issues critical to the negotiations: Special and Differential Treatment for Developing Countries, Artisanal Fisheries, Access Agreements and Sustainability Criteria. The final chapter identifies seven overarching challenges in need of urgent attention by governments and stakeholders along the path towards sustainability and fisheries subsidies reform.

Accompanying the manual is a CD-ROM containing the most important UNEP documents and relevant source material from other organisations for further reading.

Contacts

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