Recent developments in the Multilateral trade system and updates from the 3rd Ocean Forum

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Recent development in the multilateral trade system related to fisheries

- WTO Fish subsidies negotiations (2020 deadline)
- WTO Environmental Database (EDB)
- Launching of the Draft Inter Agency Plan of Action on SDG 14 (UNCTAD-FAO-UNEP)
- 3rd Oceans Forum on Trade-related aspects of SDG 14
- FAO Sub Committee on Fisheries, Vigo, November 2019
  - Work on trade in fisheries services
  - Guide on social aspects of fisheries and aquaculture value chains
3rd Oceans Forum

- The only global multilateral forum dedicated to the trade-related aspects of the blue economy (Part of the UN Trade FORUM)

- 7 partner agencies

- A unique space for:
  - Knowledge sharing and consensus building
  - Policy orientation and recommendations

- Key topics in 2019:
  - Oceans economy and climate change action
  - Toward a comprehensive WTO agreement on fish subsidies
Healthy and productive oceans and seas underpin human livelihoods and all ocean-based economic activity

A transition to sustainable ocean/blue economies is indispensable to expand and maintain the value of the oceans and their sustainable use

Adaptation and economic diversification measures requires new data and analysis of climate vulnerabilities faced by the fisheries and aquaculture sector

Assistance is needed to enhance the production base for selected blue & green value-added exports in order to connect them to relevant markets

3RD OCEANS FORUM

Toward a comprehensive WTO agreement on fish subsidies

Urgency in meeting SDG targets 4 and 6 by 2020 and act swiftly by addressing overfishing, overcapacity, IUU fishing, & harmful fisheries subsidies

A future WTO subsidies agreement should include the following elements:

- A sufficient/credible level of ambition
- Flexibility for sustainability priority areas of subsidization
- Transparency, accountability & Enforceability

S&DT should incorporate capacity building support to undertake stock assessments, on effective monitoring, control and surveillance systems, & on subsidies reform

Any agreement and commitments negotiated at WTO 12th Ministerial should be subject to a review mechanism

The draft Inter Agency Plan of Action for SDG 14 (IAPoA), developed by UNCTAD-FAO-UN Environment, can be a valuable instrument

Thank You!