



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

THE BLUE TRANSFORMATION

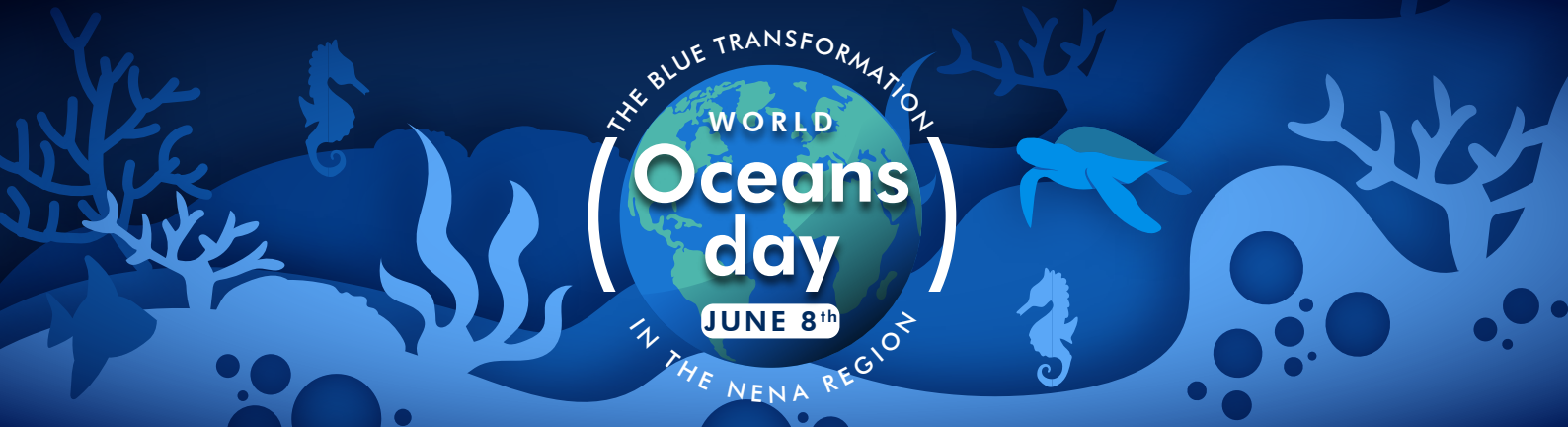
WORLD
Oceans day

JUNE 8th

IN THE NENA REGION

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER





BACKGROUND

Oceans are an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem - a source of biodiversity, food, and life.

On 8 June, **World Oceans Day** will be celebrated worldwide to emphasize their importance in our daily lives. FAO in North Africa and Near-East will join the global celebration by proposing a specific event on the necessary Blue Transformation of aquatic food systems.

First proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, **World Oceans Day** was officially introduced in 2008 with the UNGA resolution 63/111. The reasoning is to remind everyone about the relevance of oceans, inform the public of the impact of human actions, develop a worldwide movement, mobilize and unite the world's population to achieve the sustainable management of the ocean, while celebrating its beauty, wealth and promise.

SCOPE

Healthy oceans are more important than ever. Oceans host **80 percent** of all biodiversity, provide food, nutrients, and as fish are among the most widely traded food commodities, provides important sources of income. Despite the common need for healthy oceans, they are under great pressure, not least with overexploitation, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification.

FAO is working with countries and partners across the world to ensure oceans, seas and marine resources are used sustainably for the benefit of present and future generations, and is responsible for binding and non-binding instruments negotiated with member countries that can help achieve the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14**. As the custodian agency for four **SDG 14** indicators, FAO also provides countries with information on optimum levels of fishing, aquaculture, and fair and secure access to living aquatic resources and markets.

Fish products, from both marine but also inland origin, are essential in the fight against hunger and poverty. Growing consumption globally, and in the global south, means that fish must be better included in food security and nutrition strategies in the context of sustainable and transformative food systems.

The Blue Transformation is a new process which acknowledges the major changes that aquatic food have gone through in the past decades, and proposes a strategy and roadmap to build sustainable aquatic food systems. Between 1995 and 2019, aquaculture production has increased by **250 percent**, fish trade by more than **300 percent** and per capita fish consumption by **37 percent**.

The Blue Transformation provides a new narrative that recognizes fish unique benefits for food and nutrition security, livelihoods & trade, as well as cultural & social values to gel societies together. A narrative that acknowledges successes while facing head on sustainability challenges.



SPEAKERS



Abdulhakim Elwaer

FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa



Manuel Barange

Director, FAO Fisheries Division



Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted

Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish
Vice Chair, UNFSS 2021 Action Track 4: Advance Equitable Livelihoods
World Food Prize Laureate 2021



A voice from NENA region: Farha Zahir Alkindy

Chief executive officer of Sea Delight (Oman)



AGENDA

TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021

TIME (09:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
09:00 a.m. - 09:10 a.m.	Topic: Fisheries and aquaculture in North Africa and Near East	Abdulkhkim Elwaer FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa.
09:10 a.m. - 09:20 a.m.	Topic: The Blue Transformation	Manuel Barange Director, FAO Fisheries Division.
09:20 a.m. - 09:35 a.m.	Q&A	
09:35 a.m. - 09:45 a.m.	Topic: Aquatic Food Systems for Nourishing Nations	Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish.
09:45 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.	Q&A	
10:05 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Topic: Empowering women in the aquatic food systems	Farha Zahir Alkindy Chief executive officer of Sea Delight (Oman).
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Q&A	

REGISTER NOW! 

The event will be in **English** with live interpretation in **Arabic** and **French**.



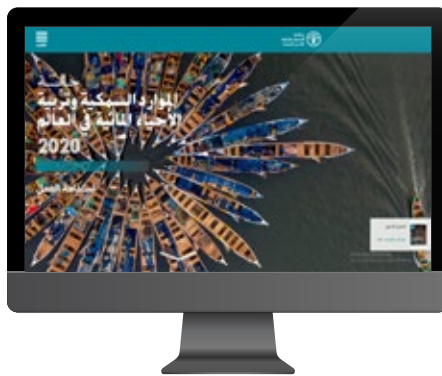
RESOURCES

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020.

English



Arabic



French



2021 COFI Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.

English



Arabic



French



The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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