



IPC Statement on Item on State of world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments

Esteemed COFI Members and Observers,

We, WFFP, WFF, IITC and LVC united in the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty,

- We highlight that SOFIA states that capture fisheries make an enormous contribution to secure livelihoods and poverty alleviation, while aquaculture production employs just 35 % of people involved in aquatic food production, 65% make a living in capture fisheries.
- We are very alarmed by the increasing trends to promote intensification of aquaculture as an alternative to capture fisheries, that's why we urgently call upon on FAO and COFI members to continue including strongly small-scale fisheries in their efforts towards poverty alleviation and in eradicating hunger
- We recall that small scale fishers and Indigenous Peoples play an essential role in Food Sovereignty, employment, local economies, the transmission of knowledge, and the protection of aquatic ecosystems. Indigenous and small-scale fishers are not a relic of a system that must be replaced. We are the future of our food systems.
- Fisher Peoples and Indigenous Peoples know from their lived experience that merely adding the word 'sustainable' to an export-oriented, profit-driven, environmentally- and socially destructive industry, does not effectively make it sustainable.

We ask:

- to explicitly distinguish between industrial aquaculture and traditional, artisanal, Indigenous, and subsistence forms of aquaculture;
- to ensure that future policies regarding aquatic foods do not prioritize industrialization and increased production volumes at the expense of nature, small scale fishers, Indigenous Peoples, and the communities that depend on them;
- To prioritize capture fisheries and the human rights, Fishers and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, territories, and livelihoods of Fisher Peoples, Indigenous Peoples, and fishing communities, implementing the SSF Guidelines and supporting the Global Strategic Framework for the SSF Guidelines Implementation (SSF GSF)