

WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR LATIN AMERICA

10-11 April 2019 | Hotel Real InterContinental, San Salvador, El Salvador

The overarching objective of the regional workshop is to support WTO members from the region as they seek to fulfil the commitment made in December 2017 to successfully negotiate new fisheries subsidies disciplines by December 2019. Specifically, the workshop will assemble policy makers from across the region and experts for an in-depth discussion of WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations. In particular, the workshop is designed to help Latin American countries answer the following three fundamental questions:

- What is the reality of global, and specifically Latin American fisheries, and relevant subsidy policies?
- How could WTO rules on fisheries subsidies impact on subsidy policies and fisheries in Latin America, and what are the potential implications for local reform efforts?
- How best can an agreement be designed to reflect the interests of Latin American countries and help support local reform efforts?

The workshop will address these questions by providing delegations with the input of experts and presenting new pieces of research, including a draft case study on shrimp fisheries off the Pacific coast of Latin America. The event will also provide government officials with an opportunity to discuss key questions in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies in a regional and non-negotiating setting.

Agenda

Wednesday 10 April

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:15

Welcome remarks

Alice Tipping, Lead, Fisheries Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Ernesto Fernandez Monge, Officer, Reducing Harmful Fishing Subsidies, The Pew Charitable Trusts

14:15 – 15:15

Session 1 – The state of the world's oceans and the landscape of global fisheries subsidies

This session will explore the economic reality of fisheries subsidies globally, their impact on fish stocks and their link with sustainable development. It

will also look at the most recent data on fisheries subsidies in Latin America.

Presenter

Andres Cisneros-Montemayor, Programme Manager, Nereus Program, and Research Associate, University of British Columbia

Open discussion

15:15 – 16:15

Session 2 – Fisheries, subsidies, and related policy challenges in Latin America

This session will examine the key policy issues for Latin and Central America in the context of WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies – including with regards to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, overfished stocks, and overfishing and overcapacity – and discuss how a WTO agreement in this area could help address them.

Presenters

Reinaldo Morales, Regional Director, Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA)

Ernesto Godelman, Executive Director, Centro Desarrollo y Pesca Sustentable (CeDePesca)

Open discussion

16:15 – 16:30

Coffee

16:30 – 17:30

Session 3 – WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies: What is on the table?

This session will provide participants with an overview of the current state of play in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies, including by looking at the various approaches and options on the table. It will also examine some of the key legal questions that WTO members will need to solve.

Presenters

Gustavo Cunha Machala, Tercer Secretario, Misión Permanente de Brasil ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio

Luis Adolfo Fernández López, Consejero, Misión Permanente de Costa Rica ante la Organización Mundial del Comercio

Jorge Miranda, Asesor Principal sobre Comercio Internacional, King & Spalding

Open discussion

19:30 – 21:00

Dinner

Thursday 11 April

09:00 – 11:00

Session 4 – Shrimp fisheries in Latin America: Exploring the impact of WTO rules and pathways for reform

This session will present the first draft of a case study on the potential impacts of new WTO rules on fisheries subsidies on shrimp fisheries off the Pacific Coast of Latin America. It will provide an opportunity for participants to provide their feedback on the study and its preliminary results.

Presenter

Andres Cisneros-Montemayor, Programme Manager, Nereus Program, and Research Associate, University of British Columbia

Open discussion

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee

11:15 – 12:15

Session 5 – How could WTO disciplines support reform efforts in Latin America?

This session will explore how new WTO rules on fisheries subsidies could support or help trigger fisheries subsidies reform efforts that would support sustainable development in the region, including by looking at the specific case of Mexico.

Presenters

Enrique Sanjurjo, Subdirector, Oceans, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Mexico

Ernesto Godelman, Executive Director, Centro Desarrollo y Pesca Sustentable (CeDePesca)

Open discussion

12:15 – 13:00

Session 6 – Modelling the potential implications of WTO rules on fisheries subsidies

This session will present a model now under development by Chris Costello's team at the University of California in Santa Barbara for assessing the impacts of various options for potential WTO rules on fisheries subsidies.

Presenter

Ernesto Fernandez Monge, Officer, Reducing Harmful Fishing Subsidies, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Open discussion

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 15:30

Session 7 – Designing an agreement that reflects Latin America's interests and support reform efforts

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to assess the various approaches and options on the table in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies, and to assess their implications for Latin American countries.

Discussion in three breakout groups on disciplines related to: (1) overfishing and overcapacity, (2) overfished stocks, and (3) illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee

15:45 – 16:45

Group report back to plenary and open discussion

16:45 – 17:00

Closing