



WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2020
MARKED ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2020

THEME

VOICES FROM THE SEA

A message from the Principal Secretary, State Department for
Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Blue Economy

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Background

The World Fisheries Day is marked globally on 21st November 2020. This year's day will be marked on 20th November 2020 in line with recommendations from FAO.

A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries have been overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of factors such as the loss of essential fish habitats, pollution, and global warming.

The **World Fisheries Day** helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. Water forms a continuum, whether contained in rivers, lakes, and ocean.

Fish forms an important part of the diets of people around the world, particularly those that live near rivers, coasts and other water bodies. Several traditional societies and communities are rallied around the occupation of fishing.

Therefore, most human settlements, whether small villages or mega cities, are situated near water bodies. Besides the importance of water for survival and as a means of transportation, it is also an important source of fish and aquatic protein.

But this proximity has also led to severe ocean and coastal pollution from run-off and from domestic and industrial activities carried out near-by. This has led to depletion of fish stocks in the immediate

vicinity, requiring fishermen to fish farther and farther away from their traditional grounds.

Besides, overfishing and mechanisation has also resulted in a crisis, fish stocks are being depleted through 'factory' vessels, bottom trawling, and other means of unsustainable fishing methods.

Unless we address these issues collectively, the crisis will deepen. The World Fisheries Day helps to highlight these problems and moves towards finding solutions to the increasingly inter-connected problems we are facing, and in the longer term, to sustainable means of maintaining fish stocks.

Facts on global fisheries

- Small-scale fisheries (marine and inland) employ about 90 percent of those involved in fisheries.
- 65 percent of the reported catch from inland fisheries is from low-income food-deficit countries.
- Estimates vary, but from around 30 million to over 60 million people in the developing world are involved in inland fisheries; it is thought that about 50 percent are women.
- More than 25% of the world's dietary protein is provided by fish.
- The human population consumes over 100 million tons of fish annually

- World aquaculture production attained another record high of 114.5 million tonnes in live weight in 2018 with a total farmgate sale value of USD 263.6 billion
- In 2018, inland aquaculture produced 51.3 million tonnes of aquatic animals, accounting for 62.5 percent of the world's farmed food fish production. This refers to aquaculture produced either from inland natural water sources, such as rivers and lakes, and fish farms.
- Over 200 million of Africa's 1 billion people regularly consume fish and nearly half of this comes from inland fisheries. Aquaculture is growing exponentially with a recorded 527% rise in aquaculture production from 1990 to 2018 compared to a 14% rise in capture fisheries production in the same period (SOFIA 2020).

Facts on Kenya fisheries

- The annual national fish production in 2019 was 146,543 metric tons valued at Kes. 24.546 billion. Inland capture fisheries produced 102,331 metric tons which contributed 69.8 % of Kenya's total fish production. Marine artisanal fish production was 25,670 metric tonnes equivalent of 17.5 % of the national production while aquaculture production amounted to 18,542 metric tonnes contributing 12.6 % of the total production. Notably, whereas inland Fisheries recorded a decline, marine artisanal fisheries stagnated, aquaculture recorded a 3 % increase.

- Kenya has a deficit of 350,000 Metric Tonnes of fish annually if every person is to consume 10kgs/person/year which is the continental per capita fish consumption.

Involvement of ABDP in Aquaculture Development

In the face of the above problems, Aquaculture is seen as the means to bridge the gap in fish demand. There is therefore need to support intervention towards aquaculture development with ABDP being one of such interventions. The Programme goal is Reduced poverty and increased food security and nutrition in rural communities with a corresponding Programme Development Objective (PDO) of increasing the incomes, food security and nutritional status of the wider communities of poor rural households involved in aquaculture in the targeted Counties.

In commemorating the World Fisheries Day,

- All 15 ABDP Implementing Counties will conduct targeted Eat more fish campaigns aimed at promoting fish consumption and good dietary diversity. ABDP is promoting two pathways in promoting consumption. The income pathway is being promoted at farmer group level to earn income from farmed fish whereas own consumption pathway is being promoted in public schools to entrench fish farming and consumption among the young minds.

- ABDP has also re-printed and disseminated an FAO Fish Recipe Booklet “*Upishi wa Samaki wa Maji Matamu*” to support community nutrition initiatives at the County level.

As we commemorate this day, my appeal to everyone is;

- *Eat More fish for health and wealth, and observe dietary diversity*
- *Take care of your environment: Take care of rivers, dams, fish farms and the sea as these are important habitats for fish and aquatic organisms.*

Thank you