

Report on the First Visit of the OECD's Fisheries Committee (COFI) to PERU

What is the OECD's Fisheries Committee (COFI)?

The OECD's Fisheries Committee (COFI) is a specialized body that brings together representatives from member and non-member countries to coordinate and develop **international policies related to fisheries and aquaculture**.

It was established in 1961, and its main objective is to **promote sustainability in the management of fishery resources, ensure the protection of the marine environment, and encourage responsible fishing practices**. The committee provides analysis, reports, and recommendations that guide governments in implementing more efficient and equitable policies in the fisheries sector.

Although COFI does not have a binding legal instrument under its supervision, its work has been crucial in consolidating a global framework for cooperation on fisheries policies. COFI has exerted significant influence in international negotiations, such as those conducted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding **fisheries subsidies**, and has **actively promoted transparency in data exchange**.

Additionally, COFI has played a crucial role in promoting global priorities such as Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the G20 and G7 agendas. Its involvement underscores its significant contribution to the development of sustainable fisheries policies and the integration of environmental and social considerations into global strategies.

First Visit of COFI to Peru

COFI is one of the 24 technical committees of the OECD involved in assessing Peru's accession process. In this context, the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) acts as the representative of the Peruvian government before COFI, with its main role being to coordinate and facilitate activities related to the evaluation process conducted by the Committee, ensuring effective communication and adequate representation of Peru's interests in this area.

At the beginning of 2024, **COFI expressed its interest in visiting Peru to hold meetings** with representatives from government institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and fishing associations. The purpose was to gather relevant information on the country's fisheries and aquaculture sectors **in order to conduct a comprehensive evaluation and provide informed recommendations on the management and development of these sectors in Peru**.

In that context, between June 10 and 13, **PRODUCE hosted COFI at its facilities**.

Members of the COFI Technical Secretariat



Members of the COFI Technical Secretariat, **William Symes** and **Lorena Rivera**, along with the Minister, **Sergio Gonzáles Guerrero**.

Peruvian Delegation

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
 - Ambassador Ana Rosa Valdivieso Santa María, Peru's High Representative for the OECD Accession Process.**
 - Minister Catherine Lovón Balta, Technical Secretary of the Peru-OECD Multisectoral Commission.
- Ministry of Production (PRODUCE):
 - Lourdes del Pilar Álvarez Chávez, Lead Officer on OECD-related matters.**
 - Kelly Patricia Quispe Pandia, Coordinator of the Office of Economic Studies.
 - Jesús Iván Camasca Giraldo, Specialist in Evaluation at the Impact Assessment Office.

COFI and PRODUCE Discussions



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Key Participants in COFI's Visit: A Comprehensive Approach to Fisheries Management



- Asociación Federación de Pescadores y Armadores Artesanales la Región Ancash
- Cooperativa Pesquera Jehová es mi Pastor-La Tortuga
- Federación de Integración y Unificación los Pescadores Artesanales del Perú (FIUPAP)

Strategic Collaboration: PRODUCE and the Private Sector Present Progress to COFI

The presentations during COFI's visit were divided into eight topics and included three guided tours. PRODUCE highlighted progress such as the **formalization of over 47,000 artisanal fishers** and the approval of the **National Aquaculture Policy through 2030**.

The initiatives of the National Program "A Comer Pescado" were also presented, such as the organization of more than **28,700 fairs for the commercialization of hydrobiological products** over the past 4 years. Meanwhile, FONDEPES presented its lines of work, highlighting that in 2023 it granted **loans valued at S/ 17.7 million to artisanal fishers and vessel owners, primary processors, and aquaculturists**.

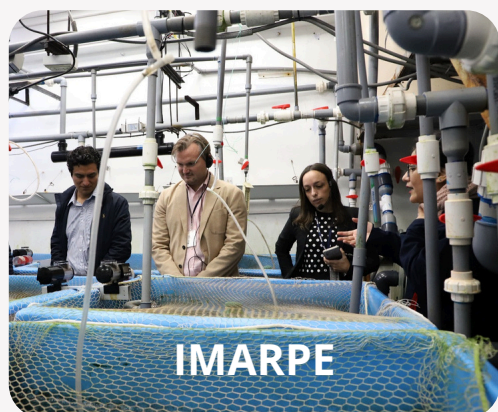
Additionally, measures to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing were presented. Progress in environmental regulation and the Roadmap towards a Circular Economy in fisheries and aquaculture were also highlighted. Lastly, the fiscal benefits and tax treatment of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors were discussed.

What topics were presented?

1. Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector
2. Biological Data and Scientific Research in Fisheries and Aquaculture
3. Food Security, Health, and Safety in the Production Chain
4. Technology Transfer and Technical Assistance
5. Productive Infrastructure and Credit Programs for Fisheries
6. Control, Monitoring, and Enforcement
7. Environmental Regulation
8. Taxes on Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Artisanal Fishing

In the Fisheries Sector: COFI Visits SANIPES, IMARPE, and ITP

COFI visited the Peruvian Sea Institute (IMARPE), the National Fisheries Health Agency (SANIPES), and the Productive Innovation and Technology Transfer Center - CITE Callao. **These visits allowed COFI to see firsthand the facilities, the work in research and development, and the services provided by these key institutions in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.**



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Open Dialogue: Fisheries Sector Roundtables and Their Contributions to COFI

With the Industrial Sector

As environmental cycles shorten, it is crucial to continue researching the sea in order to adequately plan fishing activities. IMARPE's work is key and must be strengthened and provided with resources.

The Aquaculture Executive Board is a key space for dialogue between the private sector and the government, facilitating the identification and resolution of obstacles.

With Academia

Collaboration between IMARPE and universities strengthens research capacity and the application of scientific findings in daily fishing practices.

Roundtables

What was said?



With NGOs

There remains a need to improve transparency and access to information, an area in which significant progress has been acknowledged.

With the Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The formalization of fishing cooperatives is a key strategy to improve competitiveness and regulatory compliance, but efforts must be made to reduce the high costs and complexity of the process.

Key Topics for COFI and PRODUCE's Response

COFI: How Is Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Addressed in the Sector?

PRODUCE: IUU Fishing in Peru is managed through administrative and criminal sanctions. **While these measures have not completely eliminated illegal activities, they have significantly reduced non-compliance.** Additionally, Peru actively participates in international initiatives to combat IUU fishing and uses satellite monitoring to enhance surveillance. However, it is important to note that the coverage of this monitoring is limited for the artisanal fleet.

PRODUCE is developing regulations to expand this control and strengthen oversight in collaboration with regional governments. Additionally, **operations are carried out to close informal shipyards and sanction fishers involved in illegal activities.**

COFI: How Are Interinstitutional Relations Managed in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector?

PRODUCE: Peru actively participates in international **initiatives against IUU fishing**, collaborating with countries such as Ecuador, the United States, Canada, China, Argentina, and Chile. At the national level, PRODUCE has decentralized responsibilities to regional governments and establishes **agreements to promote joint actions.**

In some cases, regional governments require greater alignment with directives, prompting the **organization of working groups** and, in specific situations, the implementation of legal measures to ensure compliance. PRODUCE also coordinates with other ministries and entities such as the Navy and the Police to regulate and monitor fishing activities.

In addition, **consultations with civil society** are held before publishing regulations, ensuring a participatory process. Interinstitutional challenges remain, such as the need to strengthen academic training in fisheries sciences and to improve coordination in remote areas.

COFI: How Does the Allocation and Control of Fishing Quotas Work?

PRODUCE: The allocation of fishing quotas for anchoveta in Peru is regulated by **Legislative Decree No. 1084** of 2008, based on percentages derived from historical fishing data and the capacity of the vessels. **IMARPE conducts two annual assessments** to analyze the state of the fishery resource, and PRODUCE uses this data along with socioeconomic factors to establish the quotas. The quotas are allocated annually and can be transferred under certain conditions set by the regulatory framework. To ensure compliance, PRODUCE implements a **real-time monitoring system and supervises landings at processing plants.**

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Key Topics for COFI and PRODUCE's Response

COFI: What Actions is the Sector Taking to Increase the Formalization Rate?

PRODUCE is promoting the formalization of artisanal fishing vessels, focusing primarily on fishing cooperatives. As part of this effort, in 2023, a regulation was issued to manage permanent permits, and there are currently **over 1,140 vessels with temporary permits and around 640 with permanent permits**.

However, although the construction of new vessels is prohibited, some have been identified in the process of being built. The formalization of non-boat fishers has also increased, driven by government grants, though this has attracted some individuals from outside the sector. To prevent abuse, PRODUCE is evaluating the implementation of stricter measures.

Additionally, **the migration of fishers to aquaculture and other alternative activities is being encouraged**. Nevertheless, informality remains a challenge in both artisanal fishing and aquaculture, hindering stock assessment and the export of products. To facilitate formalization, procedures have been simplified in **coordination with regional governments and MIDAGRI**, improving access to rights such as water use.

COFI: How Is the Sector Organized to Address Environmental and Climate Change Issues?

PRODUCE, through its General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Environmental Affairs, regulates fishing practices via the Environmental Management Directorate and the Climate Change and Biodiversity Directorate. The Environmental Management Directorate prohibits harmful practices such as dynamite fishing and **coordinates with OEFA and regional governments** to oversee compliance with regulations. Additionally, it classifies fishery projects according to their environmental impact, streamlining evaluation and certification processes, especially with the **Aquaculture Single Window**. The Climate Change Directorate, on the other hand, collaborates with international organizations on climate change adaptation projects and manages access to genetic resources.

Closing Remarks: Insights and Acknowledgments

On the last day of the visit, the **Minister of Production, Sergio Gonzáles Guerrero**, joined the Commission to receive their initial feedback on the technical meetings held as part of Peru's OECD accession process.

In this regard, **William Symes personally thanked the Minister for the excellent cooperation that the OECD's production sector team has maintained with the Fisheries Committee**.

Symes stated, "The information gathered so far from the sector will be a crucial determinant for taking another step forward in Peru's OECD accession process..." "The excellent hospitality provided by all the different institutions in the sector, as well as their willingness to provide information, has allowed the Commission to gain a comprehensive understanding of Peru's fisheries and aquaculture sectors".

Similarly, **Ana Rosa María Valdivieso, Peru's High Representative for the OECD accession process, thanked the COFI Delegation and highlighted the importance of fact-finding missions as an essential part of the process**, emphasizing the hard work and commitment required to conduct successful visits.

