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**1. *How can the implementation of the FAO “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Aquaculture” be further improved globally for sustainable aquatic resource management?***

Essential aspects for the further improvement of the sustainability of fisheries on a global scale from the German point of view are:

* Improvements in the mode of operations, cooperation and efficiency of regional fishery organizations
* Enhanced scientific knowledge of fish stocks
* Effective monitoring of the different fishery regulations and tough sanctions in the event of violations
* Intensified and internationally coordinated action against illegal fishing
* Application of the surplus principle within the framework of fisheries partnership agreements
* Introduction of eco-labeling: eco-labels foster the above-mentioned measures and enable consumers to reward them

***2. How will nations maintain the integrity of the resource base (the source of food) in the face of these pressures, and the livelihoods dependent on them?***

In order to support an **ecosystem approach within a bio-based economy,** it is nec­essary to have a tough strategy for sustainability along with a declared intention to real­ize it. Sustainability has now advanced to become the guiding principle for all federal poli­cies in Germany. The **German National Sustainable Development Strategy** was first implemented more than ten years ago. It is constantly being refined as a basis for political action. According to this strategy, thinking to the future is regarded as the key for innovation, competiveness and efficiency. A set of indicators has been established to track progress and to identify the need for action. And, of course, numerous legislative acts have established the basis for minimizing waste generation, en­hancing efficiency in resource utilization, reducing environmental impact and making the best possible con­tribution to food security.

Food, agriculture and consumer protection – including forest and fisheries affairs – are the key areas for maintaining the integrity of the food resource base in Germany. Within the German government, these areas fall under the remit of the BMELV. The BMELV’s aim is to create the optimal conditions for enabling the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in Germany to be modern, multifunc­tional and innovative. The BMELV initiated a broad-ranging social dialog on the challenges ahead for the German agri-food sector. The results of this dialog were incorpo­rated into the **Charter for Agriculture and Consumers** which the BMELV pre­sented in early 2012. In five spheres of action, the Charter outlines important measures for the future shaping of policy while also taking consumer expectations into account. We are convinced that sustainability requires responsible action – both for present and future generations, both nationally and internationally. This objective must be pursued in consensus with all the stakeholders.

**Today’s agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in Germany** are modern areas [of](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/of) bu[siness](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/siness). Enterprises generate added value in rural areas through their production and investment. They offer [employment](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/a) opportunities [to](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/to) [people](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/people) [who](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/who) [live](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/live) [in](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/in) [structural](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/structure)ly [weak](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/weak) [regions](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/regions). In Germany, more than 5  [million](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/million) people work [in](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/in) food [production](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/production) [and](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/and) the related [service](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/service) [chain](http://de.pons.eu/englisch-deutsch/chain).

***3. What are the key socioeconomic issues which affect the sustainability and development of fisheries and aquaculture?***

One of the issues under discussion here is a rights-based management system to restrict access to fisheries. This point also needs to be examined in a study. But it is important to note that “rights-based” is not the same as tradable property rights for fishing resources.

Annotation: Fishing in Germany is generally rights-based. But a compulsory system of tradable fishing rights is rejected by the majority of EU member states because living marine resources are considered to be a public resource which should not be uncontrollably privatized. Therefore in most EU member states, fishermen are granted fishing rights on an annual basis – but these do not represent property rights.

Sustainability in fisheries management is achieved by setting catch limits based on scientific recommendations in line with the MSY principle (maximum sustainable yield). Furthermore, special management plans apply to certain stocks (see Question 1 above).

***4. To what extent can contributions be made to policy development and have considerable impact on securing small-scale fisheries /artisanal fisheries in their fundamental rights and creating benefits, especially in terms of food se­curity and poverty reduction****?*

Access to fishing rights is explained in the answer to Question 3.

***5. How can the gender specific needs and rights of women be protected through enforceable rights over land, water resources, credit and other related matters?***

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security address gender equality and the need for gender-sensitive approaches. The implementation of these Guidelines would be an important first step.

In Germany, women have the same rights as men. Thus they have access to credit, the right to acquire land and the right to set up companies in the fisheries sector. They can act as both the operational managers and owners of these companies.

However, the proportion of women in the fisheries sector is extremely low. This is not simply the result of traditional perceptions but is often due to the strenuous physical nature of the work. The proportion of women in aquaculture is also low, except in smaller aquaculture businesses where women are often employed as family labor. Here they are frequently responsible for the direct marketing of the fish produced by the family business and/or are involved in bookkeeping. Small percentages of women handle the business management of these companies. By contrast, the number of women employed in fish processing and fish marketing is roughly the same as the number of men. Most women are employed in lower-paid wage brackets. In order to change the proportion of women in management positions, careers in the fisheries sector must be made more attractive for women. This particularly applies to the area of aquaculture. Women are not sufficiently aware of the career opportunities in the entire fisheries segment. Furthermore, there is a need for accompanying measures outside the fisheries sector.

Generally speaking, women in rural areas and peripheral coastal regions in Germany were extremely quick to recognize the importance of interest groups for enforcing their rights and for ensuring a fair involvement in social developments. Rural women’s associations exist throughout Germany. With these associations, rural women have created a platform for actively lobbying on behalf of women in agriculture, forestry and fishing. From the outset, one of the key goals of their activity was to establish professional qualifications for women as a core issue in the association’s work. The Rural Women’s Association has thus taken on the decisive function of improving women’s living and working conditions in rural and peripheral coastal areas. Thanks to their entrepreneurial skills, women in these regions have managed to open up new sources of revenue, improve the income situation of their companies and create new jobs.

***6. What continuous improvements in institutional capacities (both national and regional) are critical for the success of management and governance of sustain­able fisheries and aquaculture?***

One precondition for successful fishing policy is the existence of close and agreement-based collaboration between government authorities at different levels. On certain issues, this means basing decisions on scientific reports and consulting the affected interest groups, giving them the opportunity to voice their position. Processes with high levels of agreement are essential here, along with ongoing collaboration between all the responsible parties. This has been the standard procedure in policymaking in Germany ever since the Federal Republic was founded*.*

**7. *How can sustainable aquaculture be promoted for food security and nutri­tion as well as livelihoods in the longer term?***

Integrated resource use planning with stakeholder participation should be pro­moted in order to further improve the largely established regulatory frameworks. However, it should be noted that the aforementioned disease outbreaks (salmon in Chile, oysters in Europe, marine shrimps in various countries) do not have a direct impact on food secu­rity and nutrition (FSN) in the countries in question because these commodities are mainly international. Diseases reported from China are more likely to affect food security and nutrition – for example, the Koi herpes virus (KHV) caused high mortality rates in many cyprinid species cultivated for the domestic market in China and other Asian countries. The strategies required for rural, mainly small-scale aquaculture opera­tions that contribute directly to FSN are therefore different than those required for the typically more capital intensive, industrial aqua­culture production of fish and seafood for export which only contributes to FSN indi­rectly via income generation.

Germany supports the expansion of sustainable aquaculture / polyculture and promotes the greater utilization of their value-adding potential. It does this via appropriate measures within the framework of the pending fisheries policy reforms – which include the reform of the common organization of the market and the proposed European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. In order to strengthen marine aquaculture, research and development must be increased and there must be better coordination of research into sustainable aquaculture / polyculture. In the area of marine spatial planning, Germany also supports the multiple use of marine areas in order to better utilize their value-adding potential (e.g. the use of wind farm areas for aquaculture).

**8. *What policies are necessary for fair and improved trading?***

Trade with non-EU countries is continuing to rise. Germany and the EU can only cover a small part of their demand for fish and fishery products with their own catches. This means that imports play a major role in supplying the raw materials for the fish-processing industry and in providing end consumers with fresh fish. As the world’s most important import market for fishery products, the EU has a special global responsibility for the sustainable management of living maritime resources and for fair trading conditions. Im­ports into the EU are subject to strict regulations that require specific standards and traceability certificates.

**9. What would promote fish value chain development that supports food secu­rity and nutrition?**

In Germany, the logistics of fish marketing along the entire chain from trawler to supermarket are the sole responsibility of the commercial operators involved. However, the relevant statutory hygiene and labeling regulations must be observed. Compliance with these regulations is monitored by the relevant authorities. This is an important precondition to build and retain consumer trust.

**10. *What other policies and relevant technology options are available for waste minimization, better resource accountability and management?***

Consumer policies can promote greater awareness in our approach to food. In Germany, the topic of wasted food is now receiving more attention because food is a precious commodity. In affluent and “disposable” western societies, food is not always properly appreciated and it often ends up in the trash. This is why Germany initiated the “*Too good for the bin*” consumer awareness campaign. Germany’s main objective here is to focus attention on the proper appreciation of food and to find new ways of preventing waste. Consumers are addressed via the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection’s internet portal and app, at trade shows and events, and through flyers, posters, postcards, etc. In addition, talks with the other players along the food chain were held at the ministerial and technical level.

On the production side, a realignment of fisheries policy is an essential precondition for the sustainable use of resources. This includes reducing the amount of unwanted by-catch via the introduction of landing obligations and discard bans. Furthermore, research efforts must be intensified in order to deepen the existing knowledge about the entire ecosystem and to develop improved catching methods that are more selective. Please also refer to the answer to Question 1.