

Oceans and Coasts Newsletter



Exchange of information, knowledge and expertise on oceans and coasts
A service by the Task Team Oceans and Coasts

Dear Friends of the Oceans and Coasts,

Our newsletter is almost in time for the World Oceans Day 2021 on June 8, 2021. A day to remind us all of the important role oceans have in our everyday life, and provide information on major human impacts on the oceans and coasts and their effects on climate, environment and mankind. This year it also marks the beginning of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The newsletter contributions again cover a wide range of topics, from fisheries and aquaculture, marine pollution, (marine) botanical medicine and nutrition to sustainable sea transport, supply chains, maritime security and others.

Have a good read!

Mecki & Volker

AFRICA

- » New Launch: Swaims News – West Africa Integrated Maritime Security
- » From business as usual to successful fish farmer groups
- » The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

GLOBAL

- » Upcoming International Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in September 20
- » Blue Leadership Journey
- » Blue Champions Award
- » GIZ Internal Aquaculture Roundtable
- » Dr. Shakuntala Harksingh Thilsted named 2021 World Food Prize Laureate
- » Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative Opens Benchmark for Social Compliance Schemes

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- » Traditional fisherwomen launch website to sell seafood online
- » Phytotherapy based on coastal biodiversity

ASIA AND PACIFIC

- » Sustainable Sea Transport in the Marshall Islands

PUBLICATIONS

- » UN discussion paper on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets
- » Position Paper Marine Litter
- » About the recent Netflix documentary Seaspiracy – MUST READ !

Africa

New Launch: Swaims News – West Africa Integrated Maritime Security



The first issue of SWAIMS News was launched 1st April 2021, a roundup of the latest developments from Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS) – a project of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Regional Security Division. SWAIMS is funded by the European Union.

Subscribe [here](#) or contact under [swaimsproject](#).

Contact: [Mecki Kronen](#)



From business as usual to successful fish farmer groups

Low production and a lack of farm and group management skills are some of the many challenges affecting the development of aquaculture. This also applies to many Fish Farmer Groups (FFGs); one of the major value-chain players in Malawi. Having learned about this challenge, SEWOH Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP) supports operationalization of FFGs. Capacity-building activities such as hands-on training and follow-up coaching loops support FFGs in strengthening their management skills. This approach has enabled FFGs to become efficient, effective and successful as they are now able to make and implement growth strategies such as having stable financial sources and developing group governing rules; empowering them to become more sustainable. To date, AVCP has conducted over 100 FFG trainings in the three regions of Malawi.

Contact: [Ladislao Di Domenica](#)



Mdimwa Fish Farmer Group drafting a constitution in Rumphi district, Northern Malawi, ©Madalitso Msyalie, GIZ-AVCP



The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)



FiTI is a non-profit organisation that supports and advocates transparency and multi-stakeholder collaboration for the sustainable management of marine fisheries. The GIZ Sector Programme on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture has been engaged through an observer status as well as some financial input. FiTI was established from 2013-2017 through a Strategic Alliance funded by BMZ's develoPPP program, and GIZ provided the Secretariat. FiTI's HQ is located at Victoria, Mahé and is run by 6 employees.

On May 18, 2021 FiTI will launch Mauritania's 1st report to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative
[read more](#)

Contact: [Annika Mackensen](#)



Global

Upcoming International Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in September 2021

Together for a global strategy to end marine litter and plastic pollution: The Governments of Ecuador, Germany, Ghana and Vietnam are jointly organizing a Ministerial Conference to build consensus on the global threat of marine pollution. In regard of the decision to facilitate an international Conference, a kick-off panel discussion was held on March 31st, 2021. Further information can be found [here](#).

Contact: [Coralie Marszewski](#)



Blue Leadership Journey



Bildunterschrift...

The Blue Solutions Initiative has focused on practical, methodological and technical knowledge for the purpose of capacity building with a special focus on Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning. Over the years, we have experienced that leadership is key to successful implementation of marine strategies and policies. Our aim is to support leaders in the marine & coastal realm to develop collective and individual leadership skills, to

implement change and to make a difference for sustainable marine and coastal ecosystems management.

The training provides leaders to experience 'concepts to-go' and tools that enable good leadership in complex und uncertain times.

Listen to leaders from the ocean community on their perception of leadership skills: [Blue Leadership Journey by Blue Solutions](#)

Contact: [Katrin Muench](#)



Blue Champions Award

Blue Solutions has launched the Blue Champions Award for outstanding practitioners all over the world. We are looking for practitioners who take action in marine and coastal conservation, share their knowledge and learn from peers.



We have received numerous applications and are preparing a pitch event where the finalists will present their solutions. Finally, 5 award winners will receive a financial grant of up to 10,000 € for their project of change.

Save the date for May 11th, 3 – 6 pm CET to listen to the final pitches. Stay tuned for more information next week!

News Blue Solutions

Contact: **Katrin Muench**



GIZ Internal Aquaculture Roundtable

To improve internal exchange and learning across a growing number of colleagues from various sectors being engaged in aquaculture development, the internal aquaculture round table has been established in February 2021.

The first meeting served to (a) gain an overview of the various projects and team partners in the aquaculture sector, (b) determine common priorities and topics of interests for exchange and learning, and (c) to develop a concept how to best proceed.

David Runge presented his experiences and lessons learned from the Nigerian aquaculture industry in on 24th March 2021.

Information on the Aquaculture Roundtable, technical, organisational information and upcoming thematic discussions are available on **TOPIC Oceans & Coasts**

Contact: **Mecki Kronen**



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Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted named 2021 World Food Prize Laureate



Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Global Lead for Nutrition and Public Health at WorldFish, is named the 2021 World Food Prize Laureate. The news was announced during the webcast event by the World Food Prize Foundation today. Thilsted is honored for improving

the quality, quantity, and availability of food in the world thanks to her pioneering scientific work on nutrition, fish, and aquatic food systems. Her groundbreaking research insights and landmark innovations have led to the development of nutrition-sensitive approaches in aquatic food systems and integrated food production from land and water.

[Read more](#)

Contact: [Dr. Mark Prein](#)



Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative Opens Benchmark for Social Compliance Schemes

PARIS, 10th May 2021 – The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) has today opened its social benchmark to the fishing, agriculture and land-based aquaculture sectors with the launch of benchmark requirements for its new At-Sea Operations and Primary Production scopes. The benchmark requirements, which include Social and Scheme Management Criteria, have been developed in close collaboration with the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI), bringing together the SSCI's experience in supply chain social compliance and the GSSI's expertise in the seafood sector, with support from IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative.



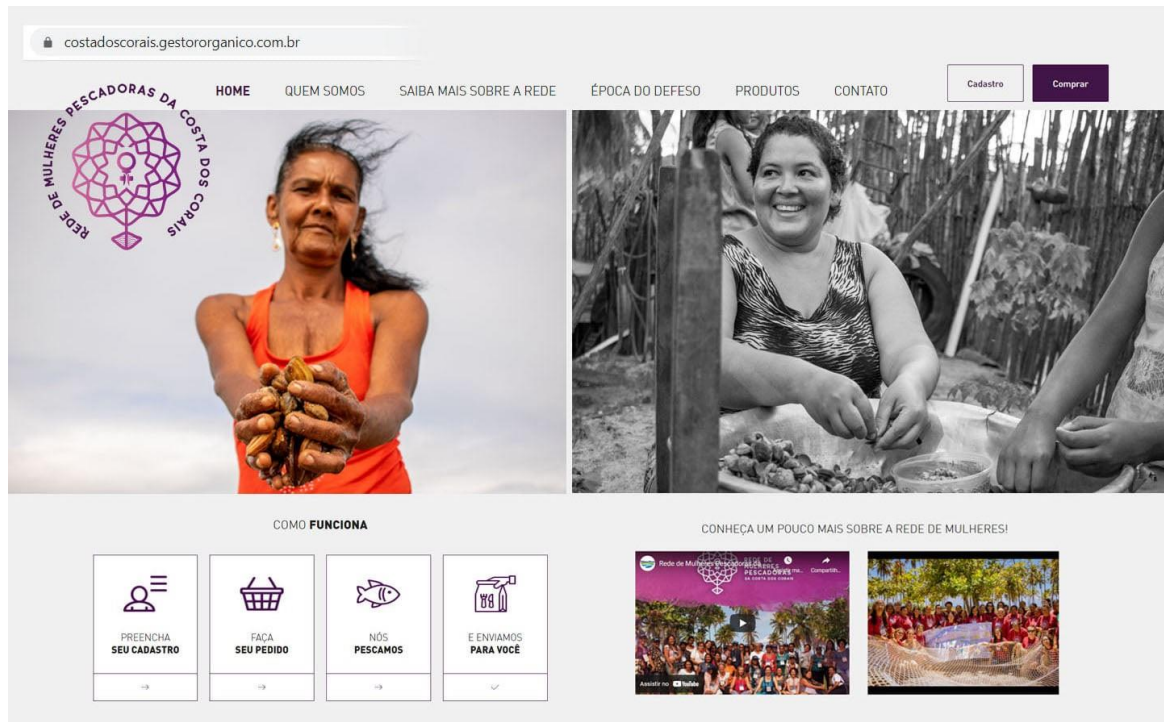
[Read more](#)

Contact: Annika Mackensen



Latin America and the Caribbean

Traditional fisherwomen launch website to sell seafood online



Copyright: Natie Paz/GIZ

In celebration of the International Women's Day, the Costa dos Corais Fisherwomen's Network launched the e-commerce platform Gestor Organico Costa dos Corais to sell seafood from their coastal communities online.

Physical markets, restaurants and hotels have been heavily impacted by restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative aims to provide local fishing communities with an alternative to current market opportunities and to support women in the local fisheries sector in the process. This is part of a larger initiative of the Project TerraMar (IKI/GIZ) to develop the capacities of the network of more than 400 traditional fisherwomen in the Brazilian States of Pernambuco and Alagoas.

[website](#)

Contact: [Fabiana Cava](#)



Phytotherapy based on coastal biodiversity

In April, more than 100 women from traditional fishing communities in Southern Bahia, Brazil, participated in a virtual training on phytotherapy and traditional knowledge of medicinal herbs. The course aims to reconnect the women to ancestral knowledge of coastal biodiversity and botanical medicine.



The training is implemented using various support mechanisms, including YouTube video lessons, a WhatsApp-Group with the instructors, and a handbook on local herbs, their medicinal properties as well as recipes for medicinal teas, potions and brews, based on local traditional knowledge. The training is part of a broader initiative of the Project TerraMar (IKI/GIZ) to support the network of traditional fisherwomen in protected areas (Reservas Extrativistas, IUCN Category VI) in Southern Bahia.

Full Link to the [Youtube Videos](#)

Contact: [Ivana Lamas](#)



Asia and Pacific

Sustainable Sea Transport in the Marshall Islands

The Low Carbon Sea Transport Initiative is moving ahead with its implementation. Since the last update two boatbuilding workshops have been implemented with Marshallese Trainees in new buildings techniques for custom made cargo boats for lagoon-based transport. Furthermore, the Marshall Islands purchased a sailing cargo freighter to provide governmental low emission shipping services through the nation. GIZ is jointly with the partner organizations currently concluding the design phase for at 45 m long modern Sailing Cargo Ship that will be delivered in 2022 to the partner country. With a strengthened voice, RMI is speaking up clearly at IMO negotiations for a low emission shipping future.

Link: [Facebook Page](#)

Contact: [Raffael Held](#)

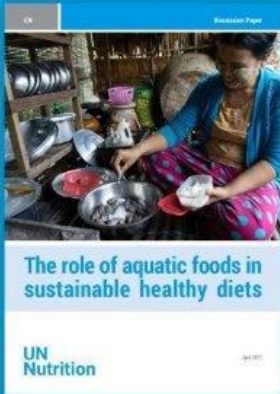


The WAM (Canoes of the Marshall Islands) Catamaran Design in usage during sea trialing in the Majuro Atoll lagoon. Copyright: Raffael Held/GIZ



Publications and Events

UN discussion paper on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets



LAUNCH EVENT

UN Nutrition Discussion paper

**Friday
7 May 2021**

from 2:00pm to 3:30pm (CEST)

Speakers will include experts from FAO, WorldFish, UN Nutrition and others.

Sustainable healthy diets are central for preserving the wellbeing of people, animals and ecosystems while leaving no one behind.

**UN
Nutrition**

In collaboration with:



#sustainablehealthydiets

For further information, contact info@unnutrition.org

This new UN Nutrition discussion paper aims to build consensus on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets, presenting the breadth of evidence available to inform and steer policy, investments and research to make full use of the vast potential of aquatic foods in delivering sustainable healthy diets and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Read more](#)

AP: [Mecki Kronen](#)



Position Paper Marine Litter

To address the increasing importance of marine litter and its impacts in our partner countries, the KCs 4D20 and 4D40, in close cooperation with GloBe, developed the Marine Litter Position Paper (and service offer), which presents our approach to marine litter reduction. The focus is on interactions between waste management and marine biodiversity. We look at waste flows from source to input into marine ecosystems.

Our goal is to avoid losses of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. We are guided by the principle of the waste hierarchy: avoid, recycle, dispose.

To the [position paper](#); to the [service offer](#)

Contact: [Mecki Kronen](#), [Lisa Oberkircher](#)



About the recent Netflix documentary Seaspiracy – MUST READ !

Dyhia Belhabib from Ecotrust Canada, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; Shackleton Research Trust, Palm Beach, FL, USA published in nature ecology & evolution on 12th May 2021 an article in response to the popular Netflix documentary Seaspiracy made by filmmaker and ocean advocate from the UK Ali Tabrizi and his conclusion: Everyone should simply stop eating fish to save our oceans.

Belhabib argues that the discussions around the issue of 'if the world turned vegan, the ocean is embedded in privilege and colonialism'. In her article she discusses in a very interesting way neo-colonial science and the decolonization of advocacy.

[READ MORE](#)

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