What is PROFISH?
The World Bank's Global Program on Fisheries

PROFISH was established with key donors and stakeholders to engage the World Bank in improving the sustainability and economic performance in the world’s fisheries, with a focus on the welfare of the poor in coastal- and fisheries communities in the developing world.

THE OBJECTIVE OF PROFISH

PROFISH was created in 2005 to improve sustainable livelihoods in the fisheries sector and to make concrete progress towards meeting the WSSD’s goals in fisheries.

The objective of PROFISH is to strengthen governance of the world’s fisheries by:

(i) improving the quality of investments made by both public and private sectors;
(ii) assisting countries and regions to establish roadmaps to achieve effective sector governance and reform using improved fisheries management tools; and
(iii) aligning donor interventions.

PROFISH CORE ACTIVITIES

PROFISH undertakes three related activities:

(i) supporting developing countries to build sustainable fisheries initiatives into national plans and poverty reduction strategies, as a basis for national investment and donor support for sustainable fisheries;
(ii) building national and regional consensus on pro-poor sustainable fisheries initiatives and priority activities to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and
(iii) aligning and enhancing international assistance on fisheries and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and catalyzing implementation of agreed initiatives.

THE PARTNERSHIP

PROFISH is a programming and funding partnership between key fishery sector donors, international financial institutions, developing countries, stakeholder organizations, and international agencies.

PROFISH has received financial and in-kind support from UK (DFID), Iceland, France, New Zealand, Norway and Finland (through TFESSD), Japan, FAO and the World Bank. The growing partnership includes regional economic organizations representing developing countries, including the African Union the ASEAN Secretariat. FAO, IUCN and WorldFish Center (the sole dedicated fisheries research organization of the CGIAR) are partners in PROFISH. There is also close cooperation with OECD and NOAA/ NFMS (USA).

PROFISH GOVERNANCE

PROFISH is managed by the World Bank and operates under the guidance of the PROFISH Steering Committee (PSC), the decision making body for the PROFISH partnership. The PSC determines strategies and policies and approves the annual work program. The current chair of PROFISH is from New Zealand. PSC meetings are attended by observers from many non-partner agencies which contribute to sustainable fisheries initiatives.

Financing and support

PROFISH activities are supported by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) to which donors contribute and by World Bank internal resources. The current MDTF donors are Iceland, France, UK (DFID), Norway and Finland. Norway, UK (DfID), Iceland, France, New Zealand.

Building Sustainability

The fisheries sector and marine capture fisheries in particular, face a growing crisis.

In many developing countries the catches are declining, perpetuating a spiral into poverty for increasing numbers of small-scale fishers and landless communities for which fishing is often a livelihood of last resort.

Increasing population pressures, growing demand for fish, growing trade in fish products (with increasing imbalances between production and consumption areas) and failures in governance are driving unsustainable levels of exploitation of living aquatic resources. Pollution, widespread habitat destruction and climate change are irreversibly altering many aquatic ecosystems.

PROFISH products - The Sunken Billions and Rising to Depletion help build an economic justifiation for reform and provide metrics for countries to assess their fisheries governance performance (see briefing note on Global Goods).

Current PROFISH work on the Political Economy of Fisheries Reform provide guidance on tenure and property rights in fisheries and on the pathways to fisheries reform - a politically sensitive and long-term process. Other PROFISH products focus on pro-poor fisheries, illegal fishing and corruption.

New Zealand, FAO and WorldFish Center provide in-kind (staff) support.
PRODUCTS AND BUSINESS LINES

Country-level activities

PROFISH is an instrument to assist World Bank client countries to establish a national consensus on the design and implementation of fisheries sector strategies and plans for sustainable fisheries; and to mainstream these policies and plans into the national economic planning frameworks.

These activities are expected to lead to an increased investment in fisheries policy reform, good governance, pro-poor fisheries strategies and other strategic national and regional investments. PROFISH is not an investment fund, but provides the preparatory policy analyses to underpin both public and private investment.

PROFISH has been active in a wide range of countries and has a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa. PROFISH target countries include:

- **Africa**: West Africa Region, in particular Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana; Madagascar.
- **Asia**: Maldives, India, Vietnam
- **Latin America**: Peru

PROFISH staff and resources also provide support for existing World Bank fisheries activities in: Lake Victoria riparian countries, Tunisia, Morocco, Pacific Island Countries, Cape Verde, Nicaragua, and Caspian basin countries.

Global activities

At the global level PROFISH is helping develop and promote solutions to core fisheries problems, through building knowledge and capacity and awareness.

PROFISH provides a means of increasing awareness of fisheries issues and solutions and a forum for exchange of information on donor plans and initiatives that help align donor interventions on national, regional and global priorities.

**Global awareness building**

- NEPAD Fish for All Summit 2005 (with FAO and WorldFish Center)
- Support for a global conference on small-scale fisheries 2009 (with FAO and others)
- PROFISH Forum - a county and donor dialogue on fisheries (biennial)
- Coherence between development and trade policies (with OECD and DFID).

**Knowledge products**

- Changing the Face of the Waters. The Promise and Challenge of Sustainable Aquaculture
- Rising to Depletion - a country-by-country state of fisheries
- The Sunken Billions. The Economic Justification for Fisheries Reform
- The Political Economy of Reform (series of products in preparation)
- Fisheries Governance - Tackling Corruption (with IUCN) provided a typology of corruption in fisheries and identified means of addressing corruption
- Global Indicators of fisheries, e.g. numbers of small-scale fishers worldwide
- Fisheries and poverty reduction (in preparation)
- Fisheries law best practices (in preparation)

**Fisheries Partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Sub-Saharan Africa is a primary focus of PROFISH activities. It is the only region where per capita fish consumption is declining as a result of increasing population, rising prices and declining incomes.

Nutritionally, fish is of great importance, over 20% of the animal protein consumption in sub-Saharan Africa compared to about 15% worldwide. The gap between supply and demand is growing rapidly, e.g. Nigeria imports almost 0.75 million tons of low-value small pelagic fish, a considerable proportion harvested by foreign vessels fishing in African waters. Export of high value fish to developed countries is of increasing importance. Revenues from fisheries are vital to a number of LDCs, for example, representing over 40% of total treasury receipts in Guinea Bissau.

The World Bank has made a specific effort in sub-Saharan Africa by creating a US$60 million GEF-funded ‘Strategic Partnership’ for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund of in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa to assist countries in forging sustainable fisheries. PROFISH supports preparation of the policy analyses required to access these and other resources.

PROFISH also actively supports the African Union/NEPAD Partnership for African Fisheries aimed at improved fisheries governance, food security and economic growth.

**Independent Evaluation of PROFISH (2009)**

Working from terms of reference approved by the PROFISH Steering Committee an independent team evaluated the performance and assessed the future role of PROFISH. The Evaluation Team found that PROFISH, since its inception in 2005, had made excellent progress in raising World Bank, bilateral donor and client country awareness of fisheries development needs, contributed substantially to global development products on fisheries and aquaculture and assisted World Bank country/regional operations.

In addition to World Bank funds, PROFISH attracted trust funds from 7 agencies and catalysed World Bank investment in sustainable fisheries with a particular focus on good governance and pro-poor fisheries.

PROFISH helped to re-establish the World Bank’s credibility in fisheries and revealed a large, pent-up demand for fisheries expertise.

The evaluation concluded that PROFISH can play an increasingly important and pivotal role in moving developing countries towards sustainable fisheries by (i) focusing on governance and institutions, (ii) including fisheries in the mainstream development agendas and in global themes such as food security and climate change, and (iii) applying the key operational tools of problem diagnosis, sequenced interventions and implementation experience and learning.

**ALLFISH - a new partnership with the private sector**

In 2009, with support from the World Bank (DG), GEF, ICFA (the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations) and FAO, PROFISH established the ALLFISH partnership.

The Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries (see separate brief) will focus on:

- development and application of industry codes of conduct;
- establishment of sustainable seafood value chains;
- improved access to international markets for small-scale producers; and
- extension of the ICFA network to developing countries.