



WBG SCORECARD FY24-FY30 METHODOLOGY NOTE

WBG Client Context & Vision Indicators

The purpose of this note is to ensure the rigor, transparency, and reproducibility of the WBG client context and vision indicators included in the new WBG Scorecard FY24-FY30, as well as their alignment with the WBG’s vision. Technical teams were asked to provide a sufficiently detailed methodology so that anyone who reads this note can understand its rationale, theory of change, data sources, and method of calculation.

Definitions included in this template are aligned to the WBG Scorecard paper endorsed by the Board on Dec 19th, 2023. The methods notes are living documents and will be subject to updating and revision pending operational inputs and implementation lessons over time.

OVERVIEW	
INDICATOR NAME	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
SUB-INDICATORS	N/A
VISION / CLIENT CONTEXT	<input type="checkbox"/> Vision indicator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Client context indicator
OUTCOME AREA	<input type="checkbox"/> Protection for the Poorest <input type="checkbox"/> Healthier Lives <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green and blue planet and resilient populations <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable food systems <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all <input type="checkbox"/> Digital services <input type="checkbox"/> More and Better Jobs <input type="checkbox"/> No Learning Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and equitable water and sanitation services <input type="checkbox"/> Connected Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Digital connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and youth inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Better Lives for People in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence <input type="checkbox"/> More private investments
SDG ALIGNMENT	<p>See https://sdgs.un.org/ for further details on SDGs:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Poverty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Zero Hunger <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Good Health and Well-being <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Quality Education <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Gender Equality <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Clean Water and Sanitation <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Affordable and Clean Energy <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Industry Innovation and Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Reduced Inequalities <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Responsible Consumption and Production <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Climate Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. Life Below Water <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Life on Land <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Partnerships for the Goals
UNIT OF MEASURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of people <input type="checkbox"/> Number of countries <input type="checkbox"/> USD <input type="checkbox"/> GW <input type="checkbox"/> Hectares <input type="checkbox"/> tCO2eq/year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Percentage
LEGACY INDICATOR NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> WB Old Scorecard indicator: <input type="checkbox"/> WBG Old Scorecard indicator: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
RATIONALE	
DEFINITION	The percentage of fish stocks classified as "within biologically sustainable levels" as part of the total number of stocks being reported upon. This indicator measures the sustainability of the world's marine capture fisheries by the abundance of the reported fish stocks. It constitutes SDG indicator 14.4.1, estimated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and which measures

	<p>progress toward reaching SDG Target 14.4 focused on ending overfishing and SDG Goal 14 to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”</p> <p>The indicator assesses whether fishing activities are conducted in a manner that does not deplete fish stocks or harm the overall health of the marine ecosystem. It measures the percentage of fish populations that are being harvested at levels allowing them to maintain their population size and reproductive capacity over the long term. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is usually used to reflect biological sustainable levels. MSY is commonly defined as the greatest average amount of catch that can be harvested in the long term from a stock under constant and current environmental conditions (e.g., habitat, water conditions, species composition and interactions, and anything that could affect birth, growth, or death rates of the stock), without affecting the long-term productivity of the stock. A fish stock for which the abundance is equal or greater than the level that can produce the MSY is classified as biologically sustainable. In contrast, when abundance falls below the MSY level, the stock is considered biologically unsustainable.</p>
<p>DEVELOPMENT RELEVANCE</p>	<p>Overfishing and destructive fishing practices threaten the marine environment, marine biodiversity, and the livelihoods of those who depend on it. Our ocean is a vital source of food, nutrition, livelihood, and jobs for billions of people worldwide and plays a crucial role in regulating the earth's climate. Maintaining healthy marine ecosystems contributes to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, sustainable growth, climate resilience and the overall health of the planet. It is thus important to regulate fishing activities and eliminate overfishing, and destructive fishing. Overfishing occurs when too many fish are caught too quickly, without giving the population time to recover, putting at risk the diverse ecosystems and species that inhabit the world's oceans. This SDG 14.4.1 indicator is crucial as it promotes the conservation of marine biodiversity and assesses whether marine capture fish stocks are maintained at levels that can provide a sustainable and reliable source of food and livelihoods for current and future generations.</p>
<p>LIMITATIONS</p>	<p>Reliable and comprehensive data on fish stocks are often challenging to obtain, especially in low-capacity environments and for certain stocks. FAO relies on member countries to voluntarily report country-level data, resulting in data gaps and varying data quality and reliability. Inconsistent reporting practices and varying methodologies make it difficult to uniformly compare data across countries. To mitigate some of these limitations, FAO adds a level of quality assurance as it reviews the national data provided through questionnaires. This process focuses on completeness and quality of the information, as well as the reliability, robustness, and transparency of the data. Currently, the estimates are only available at global level and for a limited number of countries. Furthermore, delays in data reporting hinder real-time monitoring of fish stocks and do not reflect the current status of fish stocks.</p> <p>The indicator focuses on marine fish stocks, while freshwater ecosystems also face threats from overfishing and habitat degradation. This limitation restricts the indicator's applicability to global fisheries sustainability. Each fish stock is classified under a binary score (biologically sustainable or biologically unsustainable), which does not allow for fully capturing the evolution within each of these categories. The list of fish stocks (the “Reference List”) used for reporting on the global indicator is based on 1970s references, which do not reflect the current social, economic, and ecological context and importance of fisheries in different parts of the world. FAO is however <u>revising its methodology</u> for its global assessment to base its analysis on an updated and more comprehensive list of fishery stocks with expanded engagement with the local communities and experts. The improvements are planned to be completed by 2025 and include: (i) an updated and expanded list of monitored stocks; (ii) improved processing of data and information collation; (iii) improved method and process for stock status categorization; (iv) improved reporting process. This may result in inconsistencies with past estimates.</p>
<p>DATA AND CALCULATION</p>	
<p>DATA SOURCE(S)</p>	<p>Data are sourced from FAO’s SDG Indicators Data Portal and FAO’s biennial publication The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture. FAO collects national data through a questionnaire sent to the Principal Focal Point (PFP) of each country. The PFP identifies the competent authorities for</p>

developing a reference list of stocks and completing the questionnaire, generally the National Statistics Office or the Ministry of Fisheries or Agriculture.

Global and regional data are generated by FAO, based on selected country assessments as well as external sources. For shared stocks, FAO may consult with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), who are mandated to assess and manage stocks based on data provided by RFB member countries and conduct stock assessment when necessary.

The methodology used for this indicator is that [developed by FAO for SDG indicator 14.1.1](#) and builds on FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper, [No. 569](#). For each level of reporting (national and global), the indicator is calculated as the ratio between the number of exploited fish stocks classified as "within biologically sustainable levels" and the total number of stocks in the Reference List that were classified with a determined status (within/not within "biologically sustainable levels"), as per the equation below:

$$P_s = \frac{N_s}{N} \times 100 = \frac{N_s}{N_s + N_u} \times 100$$

P_s is the percentage of stocks classified as "within biologically sustainable levels" for the Reference List of fish stocks.

N_s is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "within biologically sustainable levels."

N_u is the number of stocks in the Reference List classified as "outside biologically sustainable levels."

$N = N_s + N_u$ is the total number of fish stocks in the National Reference List that have been classified as within or outside "biologically sustainable levels."

Country-level reporting

Every two years, countries are requested to update and complete a sustainability fish stock assessment based on the following steps:

- Each country is responsible for establishing a National Reference List of fish stocks following three key criteria:
 - The Reference List should represent at least 60% of the national total landed and/or reported catch.
 - It should contain stocks of major importance in terms of catch, ecosystem role, economic value, and social/cultural considerations.
 - It should remain unchanged for at least five years to better reflect changes in stock status at the national level and minimize the effect of translating the reference lists of stocks into global indicators.
- Each stock is classified as biologically sustainable or biologically unsustainable according to its abundance.
- FAO Review and Adoption process: FAO carries out a series of validations on the provided data. The validation process consists of: (i) identification of errors, mistakes and missing values in the data and, (ii) correcting errors, mistakes and missing values in consultation with the countries concerned.

Global-level reporting

Significant variations exist in fishery types, the nature of the stocks, and available data across regions and countries. To report a globally representative assessment encompassing various fish stocks, and to use the best available information, the FAO uses a broad range of data and

	methodologies. It relies on two main measures: one is consultation with local and regional experts on the fishery, and the other is seeking supplementary information when the stock assessment is based on limited information, qualitative methods, or unpublished information. The information feeding into the calculation for the global indicator is thus based on additional data sources from those used for national level reporting. FAO is however revising its methodology – to be rolled out in 2025 - to base its analysis on an updated and more comprehensive list of fishery stocks with expanded engagement with the local communities and experts. ¹
METHOD OF CALCULATION (DISAGGREGATION)	The data are reported at country-level and can be aggregated to country groupings or subsets (e.g., Regions, FCS, or Income Levels) as required.
VERSION	Version 1. Revised March 28, 2024

¹ For more information, please see Box 3 of FAO’s [“The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022”](#)