**About this Tool**

SubsidyExplorer is an online, interactive toolkit that allows users to learn more about fisheries subsidies and to explore potential biological and economic tradeoffs associated with subsidy reform. This tool was created to support the negotiations currently underway at the World Trade Organization (WTO). SubsidyExplorer is first and foremost intended to be an educational tool. While the hope is that the insights gleaned from this toolkit may be useful for WTO Members whose fisheries may be directly or indirectly affected by subsidy reform, the purpose of this tool is not to make judgments or suggestions regarding a “best” course of action for negotiators.

SubsidyExplorer is organized into two sections. The first section allows users to explore how fishery catches, stock biomass, and fishing mortality might change in the future under different possible subsidy reform scenarios. In this section, users can choose to explore different WTO Member subsidy reform proposals or to design their own policies. The creators of SubsidyExplorer have strived to make the policy selections included within the tool as representative as possible of those that have actually been proposed to the WTO. However, in some cases this was not possible, largely due to data limitations, and these omissions are clearly noted where applicable. The presence of an omission in this toolkit does not discount the validity of the corresponding proposal, nor does it mean that it should be given any less consideration. In situations where data limitations could be overcome with reasonable assumptions, users are presented with this as an option.

The second section allows users to learn more about the global distribution and magnitude of fisheries subsidies, learn more about the fisheries sectors of individual countries, compare fishery statistics across countries, and view the global footprint of industrial fishing effort.

Brief summaries of the data and methods underlying each section are included throughout the toolkit, but users are encouraged to download the complete methodology for more information.

Users are also encouraged to refer to the peer-reviewed publication describing the development of the tool and the results contained within it: [SubsidyExplorer: A decision-support tool to improve our understanding of the ecological and economic effects of reforming fisheries subsidies](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0265829).