

The opportunities and challenges for aquaculture to act as catalyst for blue growth and food security

Conveners:

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Aquaculture presently contributes with more than half of the world's present fishery production with an estimated total value of more than 140 billion USD. While the dominating share of the world's aquaculture production is taking place in lower middle-income countries in Asia, the aquaculture sector in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to develop fast the coming years. FAO projects that by 2030, aquaculture could provide as much as two thirds of global food fish consumption. However, the rapid expansion of aquaculture takes place amidst a long-standing debate regarding its capacity to substantially contribute to sustainable development.

On the one hand, aquaculture is portrayed as increasingly compensating for declining wild catches, as well as having the potential to be instrumental for both food security and a pro-poor "blue growth" of the economy. On the other hand, aquaculture expansion is associated with fears of substantial, negative environmental and socio-economic impacts, including ecosystem destruction, new pressures on wild fisheries, and human rights violations.

The proposed panel therefore invites papers engaged with opportunities and challenges for aquaculture to act as a catalyst for blue growth and food security. This broad theme includes questions related to social, economic and environmental impacts of aquaculture across scales, innovations towards sustainable aquaculture, pathways and barriers to good governance of aquaculture, as well as critical studies on the political ecology & political economy of global aquaculture.