



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

TAKING STOCK

Online Transparency of Fisheries
Management Information



REPUBLIC
OF CHILE

2024 Summary Assessment Report

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This 'TAKING STOCK: Online Transparency of Fisheries Management Information' assessment for Republic of Chile (2024) has been funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this assessment. All information was believed to be correct as of November 2024. Nevertheless, the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) cannot accept responsibility for the consequences resulting from the use of this assessment or its contents by others.

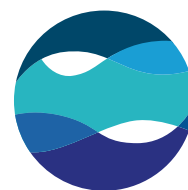
Furthermore, in conducting this assessment, the FiTI did not investigate the veracity or completeness of the published information and did not make any judgement about the integrity of the information or practices disclosed.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this assessment do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the FiTI concerning the legal or constitutional status of the assessed country, territory or sea area, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

We would like to thank all the individuals and institutions who contributed to the various stages of research and preparation of this assessment.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that strengthens transparency and collaboration in marine fisheries management.

By making fisheries management more transparent and inclusive, the FiTI promotes informed public debates on fisheries policies and supports the long-term contribution of the sector to national economies and the well-being of citizens and businesses that depend on a healthy marine environment.



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TAKING STOCK: Online Transparency of Fisheries Management Information assesses the level of information that national authorities in Chile publish on government websites regarding the country’s marine fisheries sector.



CONTENTS

Sustainable fisheries need transparency	04
About this assessment	07

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON MARINE FISHERIES IN CHILE	10
KEY FINDINGS	12
Public access to fisheries information	12
Giving meaning to transparency: Notable examples	15
A DEEP DIVE INTO PUBLIC ACCESS TO FISHERIES INFORMATION	18
Available online?	19
Up to date?	21
Easy to find?	22
‘Good transparency practices’	24
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILE’S NATIONAL AUTHORITIES	26



Transparency needs trust	28
ANNEX: Assessment procedures	29

Chile’s TAKING STOCK: Online Transparency of Fisheries Management Information assessment consists of this Summary Assessment Report, as well as an in-depth Detailed Assessment Report.

Both reports, as well as information on the methodology, can be found at: www.fiti.global/taking-stock



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES NEED TRANSPARENCY

For millennia, those who dedicated themselves to fishing, whether for food, income or recreation, did not need to worry about the sustainable management of this natural resource. Fish stocks replenished themselves with ease. **This is no longer the case.** The ocean is under increasing threats from myriad impacts, like climate change, pollution, and overfishing.

Governments have the fundamental obligation to manage common resources, such as fish, on behalf of their citizens. But this invokes a complex challenge: to ensure that fishing and fish trade contribute to income, employment, food and nutrition for millions of people, while conserving marine biodiversity for present and future generations.

Public availability of information is critical to achieving sustainable fisheries. Yet, transparency in fisheries management has not been a priority. Many governments do not disclose basic information on their fisheries sectors, such as laws, permits, fishing agreements, stock assessments, financial contributions, catch data and subsidies. Additionally, there are widespread concerns that companies are not consistently reporting accurate information on catches, fishing practices and payments to governments. The data that is already publicly available is too often incomplete, outdated, unverified, or not readily accessible.



Lack of basic transparency could be seen as an underlying facilitator of all the negative aspects of the global fisheries sector – IUU fishing, fleet overcapacity, overfishing, ill-directed subsidies, corruption, poor fisheries management decisions, etc. A more transparent sector would place a spotlight on such activities whenever they occur, making it harder for perpetrators to hide behind the current veil of secrecy and requiring immediate action to be taken to correct the wrong.

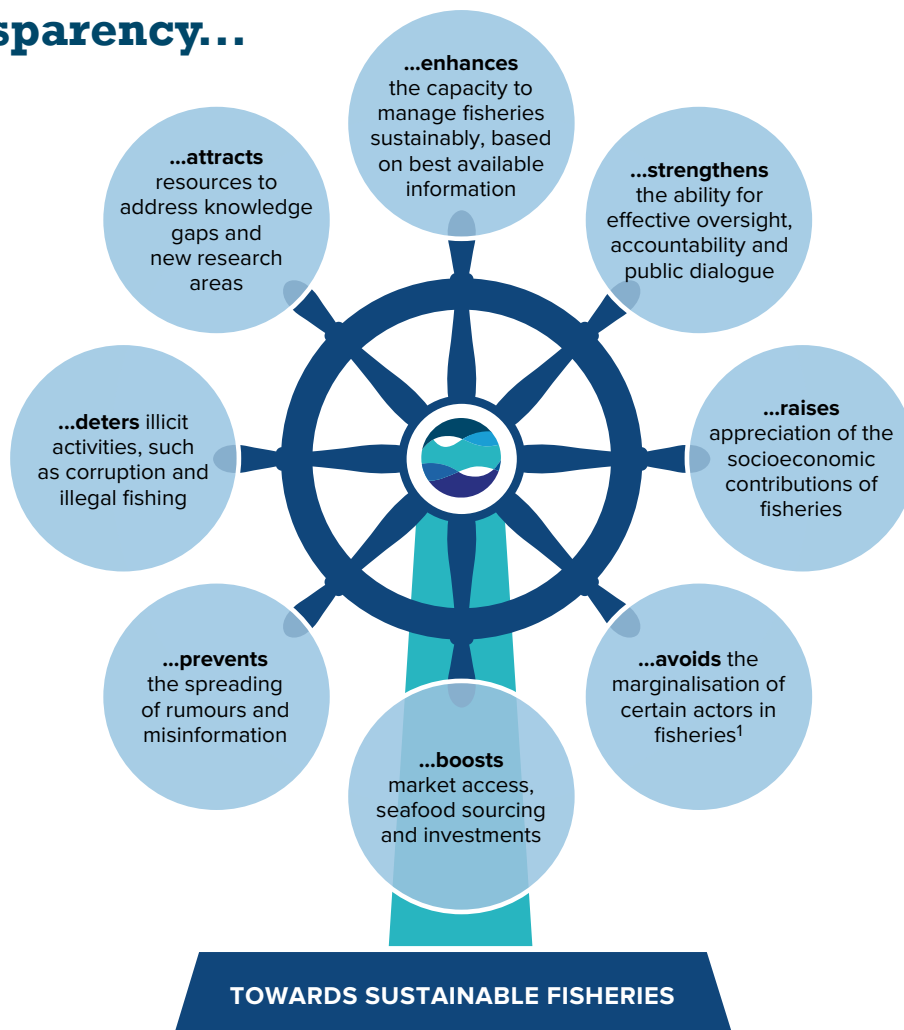
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010



Enhancing transparency in fisheries management appeals to all stakeholders that appreciate the enormous value of marine fisheries – whether that relates to food and nutrition security, employment, the value to national economies, or the cultural importance of fishing.

Transparency in fisheries management yields multiple benefits, and their relevance and applicability vary depending on the national context.

Transparency...



Promoting these positive features of fisheries lies at the heart of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

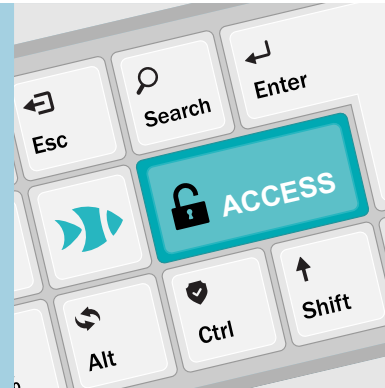


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¹ In particular small-scale fisheries and women.

Transparency is not voluntary. It is a government's duty and a citizen's right!

The provision of accessible, timely and credible information on a country's marine fisheries is increasingly becoming a **legal requirement for governments**, stemming, among other things, from Freedom of Information laws. Such laws are frequently based on three key principles: *public participation, access to justice and access to information*. The last of these principles implies that the public should be able to obtain environmental information (including information about their country's fisheries sector) with only limited, explicitly defined exceptions arising from justifiable confidentiality claims and security matters.



In the case of Chile, **access to information is a fundamental right recognized in Article 8** of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Chile², which establishes the principles of integrity and transparency in public service. Additionally, Law No. 20.285 on Access to Public Information³ outlines the obligations of state institutions to ensure proactive transparency, including the publication of relevant information on their official websites, as described in Article 7. The principle of publicity is also emphasized, ensuring that everyone has the right to access public information, except in cases where legal exceptions are justified.



- Since 2011, Chile has been a member country of the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)**⁴, demonstrating its commitment to becoming more open to its citizens by implementing principles and practices that promote transparency and access to information, as well as civic participation, accountability, and public integrity.
- Since 2023, Chile has expressed its intention to become a member country of the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)**⁵, which is recognized as the global standard for good governance of oil, gas, and mineral resources.
- Since 2019, Chile has been collaborating with Global Fishing Watch (GFW) to enhance transparency in the information regarding its fishing vessel operations.⁶
- In April 2024, the government of Chile announced its commitment to joining the **Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)** to promote transparency in the marine fisheries sector.



The importance of public access to government information is also emphasised in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Target 16.10 of the SDGs calls on all states to adopt legislation or policies guaranteeing the right to information, which is essential not only for the achievement of Goal 16, but is an enabler to achieving other SDGs.

2 <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=242302>

3 <https://www.bcn.cl/leychile/navegar?idNorma=276363>

4 <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/chile/>

5 <https://eiti.org/news/chile-confirms-its-intention-join-eiti>

6 <https://globalfishingwatch.org/our-work-in-chile/>

ABOUT THIS ASSESSMENT

This is the first time that Chile has been assessed regarding the online transparency of its marine fisheries sector.

This TAKING STOCK assessment covers 12 thematic areas of fisheries management, as defined by the FiTI Standard.³

The **FiTI Standard** is the only internationally recognised framework that defines what information on fisheries management should be published online by national authorities. The FiTI Standard was developed over two years in a global multi-stakeholder endeavour. Its objective is to contribute to the sustainability of marine fisheries by increasing the accessibility and credibility of national fisheries management information.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|-----|--|------------------------------------|
| #1 |  | Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents | #7 |  | Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade |
| #2 |  | Fisheries Tenure Arrangements | #8 |  | Fisheries Law Enforcement |
| #3 |  | Foreign Fishing Access Agreements | #9 |  | Labour Standards |
| #4 |  | The State of the Fisheries Resources | #10 |  | Fisheries Subsidies |
| #5 |  | Industrial Fisheries | #11 |  | Official Development Assistance |
| #6 |  | Artisanal Fisheries | #12 |  | Beneficial Ownership |

For this assessment, these 12 thematic areas have been broken down into a total of **39 transparency elements**.⁴

³ <https://fiti.global/fiti-standard>

⁴ An overview of these 39 transparency elements can be found in the section '[Key findings](#)'.

This assessment evaluates whether basic information on Chile's marine fisheries sector is **freely available** on government websites, whether it is **up to date** and whether it is **easy to find**.⁹



Additionally, this assessment:

- Considers whether information is published in a way that renders it easy to **(re)use**, e.g. to download, search and filter;
- Documents instances of **'good transparency practices'**, where published information allows non-experts to draw reliable conclusions;⁶ and
- Proposes practical **recommendations** to improve online transparency around Chile's marine fisheries sector.



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This assessment is intended to support national authorities in Chile to improve transparency in fisheries management and to stimulate interest in fisheries among a wide range of stakeholders.

It also establishes a comprehensive benchmark for evaluating progress over time.

⁹ For more information about the assessment's methodology, please refer to <https://.fiti.global/taking-stock/methodology>.

¹⁰ For example, national authorities may utilise innovative techniques to help visualise information, such as online information systems or fact sheets.



Public disclosure of information cannot be directly equated with actual progress towards sustainable fisheries management.

A lack of transparency in fisheries management is not always a deliberate state of affairs. Governments with poor levels of transparency are often viewed negatively, as if driven by the desire to hide information from public scrutiny. However, what may be perceived as opacity or secretive practices is often the result of other factors, such as the complexity of the fisheries sector, a lack of technology, expertise and staff, or legal concerns. Some government ministries or national agencies, particularly those that are underfunded, may not prioritise transparency. Unfortunately, these arguments can also be used as a convenient excuse to avoid scrutiny.

A low level of transparency in this **TAKING STOCK** assessment may not be a sign of wrongdoing, but rather highlights an opportunity for national authorities to enhance disclosure to stakeholders. Likewise, a high level illustrates strong disclosure systems, but this may not reflect operational success regarding the sustainable management of marine fisheries.

Transparency should also not be misinterpreted as a direct indicator for ethical behaviour, such as honesty and integrity.

This assessment is therefore not an end in itself. Instead, it takes stock of current disclosure practices against an internationally recognised transparency framework – the FiTI Standard – with a view to starting a conversation with all relevant stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector of Chile.

The ambition is that this and future **TAKING STOCK** assessments will contribute to making government transparency the global norm in fisheries management.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION ON MARINE FISHERIES IN CHILE



Length of the coast:¹¹
6,435 km

Chilean sea:¹²
4,095,823 km²

Marine Protected Area:¹³
1,469,441.59 km²
46.64% (de la EEZ)

Recent developments relevant to the marine fisheries sector in Chile

 Chile's fisheries authority has proposed a bill for a new General Fisheries Law, which considers transparency as a guiding principle.

 The fisheries authority has been implementing participatory processes to involve sector stakeholders in the development of relevant regulations, such as the new fisheries and aquaculture laws.

 Chile became the first country to ratify the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and has expressed its intention to host the Secretariat of this treaty in the city of Valparaíso.

11 Source: <https://www.gob.cl/nuestro-pais/>

12 The Chilean Sea comprises four zones: the territorial sea (120,827 km²), the contiguous zone (131,669 km²), the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) (3,681,989 km²), and the continental shelf (161,338 km²). Source: <https://www.gob.cl/nuestro-pais/>

13 Source: <https://mma.gob.cl/ministerio-del-medio-ambiente-lanza-nuevo-reporte-de-analisis-de-la-situacion-ambiental-del-pais/>



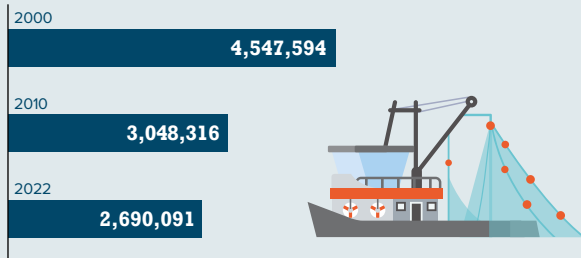
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The marine fisheries sector in Chile plays an important role in fulfilling the economic, employment, food security, and nutrition needs of its citizens.¹⁴

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Capture fisheries production

(tonnes, live weight)

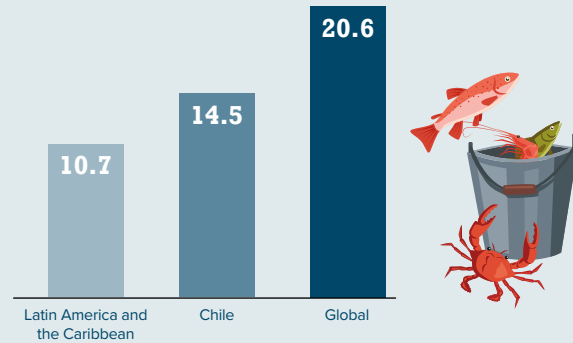


Chile is the second-largest fishing nation in Latin America, after Peru (based on capture volume).

Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics from FAO 2022 (published 2024)

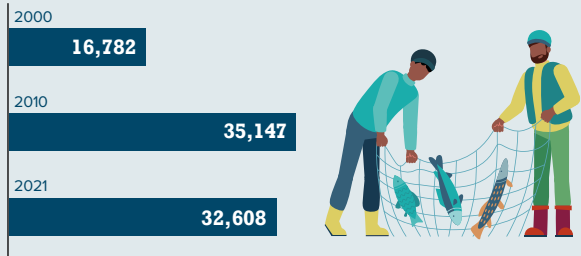
Fish available for consumption

kg/per capita



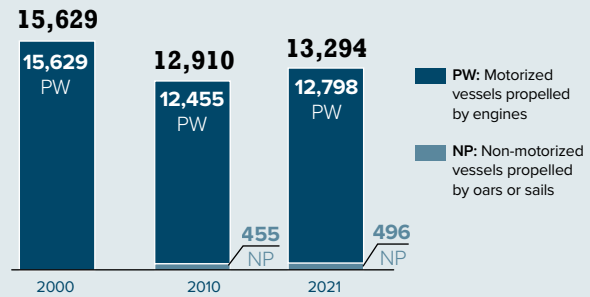
Source: FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024

Number of fishers



Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics from FAO 2021 (published 2024)

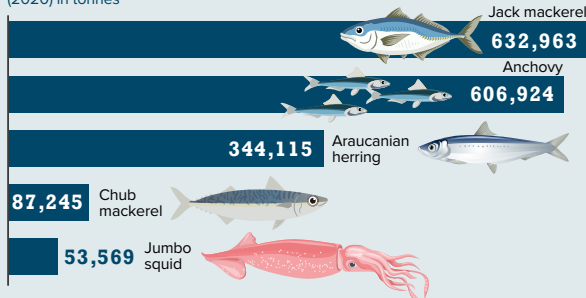
Number of fishing vessels (estimates)



Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics from FAO 2022 (published 2024)

Top 5 species

(2020) in tonnes



Source: Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics from FAO 2020 (published 2024)

Export of fish and fish products

Chile is the largest exporter of fishery commodities in Latin America.



Source: Consolidated Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Report (2022–2023) – SUBPESCA

14 This information reflects international statistics (e.g. from the United Nations FAO), which in some cases may differ from national statistics. In addition, this report does not state the contribution of Chile's fisheries sector to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Although this is a common way of expressing the economic value of fisheries, GDP is not sufficient for fully representing the overall social, economic and environmental costs and benefits of the sector.

KEY FINDINGS

PUBLIC ACCESS TO FISHERIES INFORMATION



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KEY FINDINGS
Public access to fisheries information



Chile's national authorities collate and produce significant information about the country's fisheries sector. The country is therefore not data deficient. However, a significant amount of information is not accessible to the public, and the quality of what is available online can often be improved.



For **27 out of 36** applicable transparency elements, Chile's national authorities publish information online (,Public Access').



For **6** transparency elements there is no information published.



For **3** transparency elements no information has yet been produced by Chile's national authorities.

Not produced

Information for 3 transparency elements has **not been collected** or **compiled yet**.

Strong public access

Information for 18 transparency elements is **available online, up to date** and **easy to find**.

No public access

For 6 transparency elements, **no information is published online**, even though there is evidence that this information is available to national authorities.

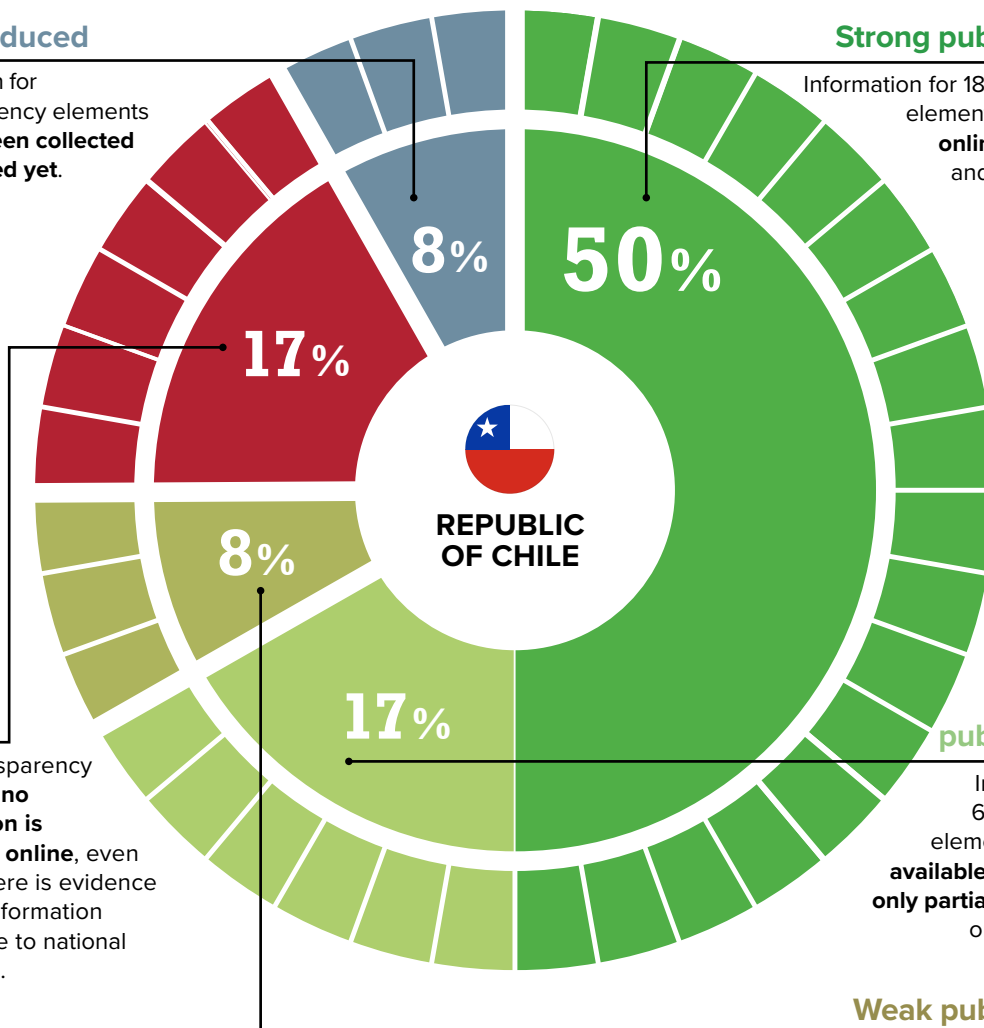
Moderate public access

Information for 6 transparency elements is **mostly available online**, but is **only partially up to date** or **easy to find**.






Weak public access







Information for 3 transparency elements is **only partially available online**, and is **also neither fully up to date** nor **easy to find**.

3 of the 39 transparency elements are considered as **not applicable** to Chile's marine fisheries sector (see [Annex](#)).










DETAILED OVERVIEW







Thematic area		ID	Transparency element	AVAILABLE ONLINE?	UP TO DATE?	EASY TO FIND?	
	Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents	1-A	Laws on marine fisheries	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		1-B	Fisheries policy documents	✓	✓	✗	Moderate public access
		1-C	Fisheries management plans	✓	✓	⚠	Moderate public access
	Fisheries Tenure Arrangements	2-A	Commercial fishing (industrial and artisanal fishing)	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		2-B	Coastal subsistence fishing	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		2-C	Scientific and exploratory fishing	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		2-D	Recreational fishing	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	Foreign Fishing Access Agreements	3-A	Foreign-flagged vessels fishing in Chile waters	—	—	—	Not applicable
		3-B	Chile-flagged vessels fishing in foreign waters	—	—	—	Not applicable
	The State of the Fisheries Resources	4-A	National reports on the state of marine fish populations	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		4-B	Scientific stock assessments	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	Industrial Fisheries	5-A	Vessels	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		5-B	Payments	✗	—	—	No public access
		5-C	Catches within Chile waters	⚠	✓	✓	Strong public access
		5-D	Catches outside Chile waters	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
		5-E	Landings in Chile ports	⚠	✓	✓	Strong public access
		5-F	Transshipments and landings in foreign ports	✗	—	—	No public access
		5-G	Discards	✗	—	—	No public access
		5-H	Fishing effort	✓	✓	✗	Moderate public access

 To a full extent
  To a large extent
  To a limited extent
  No
  Not produced
  Not applicable



DETAILED OVERVIEW

Thematic area	ID	Transparency element	AVAILABLE ONLINE?	UP TO DATE?	EASY TO FIND?	
 Artisanal Fisheries	6-A	Vessels	✓	✓	✓	Moderate public access
	6-B	Licenses	—	—	—	Not applicable
	6-C	Fishers	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	6-D	Payments	✗	—	—	No public access
	6-E	Catches	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	6-F	Discards	✗	—	—	No public access
#6						
 Post-Harvest Sector and Fish Trade	7-A	Imports	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	7-B	Exports	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	7-C	Employment in commercial fisheries	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	7-D	Employment in informal fisheries	✗	—	—	No public access
#7						
 Fisheries Law Enforcement	8-A	Enforcement of laws	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
	8-B	Sanctions for major offences	✓	✓	✓	Strong public access
#8						
 Labour Standards	9-A	Enforcement of labour standards	✓	✓	✓	Weak public access
	9-B	Sanctions for labour standard offences	✓	✓	✗	Moderate public access
#9						
 Fisheries Subsidies	10-A	Government financial transfers or subsidies	✓	✓	✓	Moderate public access
#10						
 Official Development Assistance	11-A	Assistance for national fisheries development	✓	✓	✓	Weak public access
	11-B	Assistance for foreign fisheries development	✓	✓	✓	Weak public access
#11						
 Beneficial Ownership	12-A	Legal basis for beneficial ownership transparency	⊘	⊘	⊘	Not produced
	12-B	Beneficial ownership registry	⊘	⊘	⊘	Not produced
	12-C	Beneficial ownership disclosure in fisheries	⊘	⊘	⊘	Not produced
#12						

 To a full extent
  To a large extent
  To a limited extent
  No
  Not produced
  Not applicable



GIVING MEANING TO TRANSPARENCY: NOTABLE EXAMPLES



The value of this TAKING STOCK assessment does not only lie in understanding what information on a country’s marine fisheries is available online, and where gaps exist. Fundamentally, and in very simple terms, **public access to fisheries information is important to help answer critical questions about the sustainability of the sector.**



Given the complexity of fisheries management, answering such questions is not always a straightforward task. However, by increasing public access to fisheries information, governments provide their citizens and business partners the necessary means to engage in informed public debates.

Chilean national authorities proactively disclose certain fisheries-related information that helps the public understand and appreciate the sector while addressing key questions.

✓	How is the fisheries sector regulated in Chile?	The SUBPESCA website features a regulations section containing this information, which can also be found on the website of the National Congress Library of Chile.
✓	What is the status of Chile's main fishery resources?	SUBPESCA publishes an annual report on the status of its main fisheries, providing insights into exploitation levels and other relevant fishery information. This report is based on scientific assessments by IFOP and fishery data.
✓	How many fishery commodities does Chile import and export?	Through various sources (e.g., Customs, Central Bank, and the Undersecretariat for Foreign Affairs), detailed import and export information is made available via dashboards and downloadable datasets.
✓	What are Chile's fisheries enforcement efforts?	SERNAPESCA publishes an annual fisheries and aquaculture enforcement report, detailing the actions taken and results based on different indicators.

This assessment has identified only a few key transparency elements for which information has not yet been produced (e.g., collected or compiled) by national authorities. The findings are detailed below:¹⁵

/	Who benefits from fishing in Chilean waters?	There is no evidence that national fisheries authorities provide or are in the process of incorporating rules and procedures on beneficial ownership in fisheries sector records. Currently, a Beneficial Ownership Law is under discussion.
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¹⁵ Countries that implement the FITI follow its core principle of 'progressive improvement', which states that countries are not expected to have complete data for every transparency requirement from the beginning. Instead, public authorities must disclose the information they have, and where important gaps exist, demonstrate improvements over time.



However, Chile's national authorities do not currently publish specific information on several key areas essential for sustainable fisheries management, such as:¹⁶

✘	<p>How much revenue does Chile generate from fisheries resources?</p>	<p>While information is available on the fees vessels are required to pay, there is no disaggregated data confirming actual payments or the total revenue collected.</p>
✘	<p>How many transshipments are occurring on Chilean vessels?</p>	<p>There is evidence of transshipment activities, but no official data is publicly available on fisheries authorities' platforms.</p>
✘	<p>How much fish is discarded by Chilean vessels?</p>	<p>Chile has a Discard Monitoring System, but no public information has been found on its implementation or results.</p>



¹⁶ It is possible this information is published by national authorities online, but this assessment was unable to locate it, mainly due to the challenges of searching through government websites.

A DEEP DIVE INTO PUBLIC ACCESS TO FISHERIES INFORMATION



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Additional important insights can be gained by understanding whether the published information ('Public access') meets basic information requirements, is up to date and easy to find.



AVAILABLE
ONLINE?



UP TO DATE?



EASY TO FIND?



AVAILABLE ONLINE?

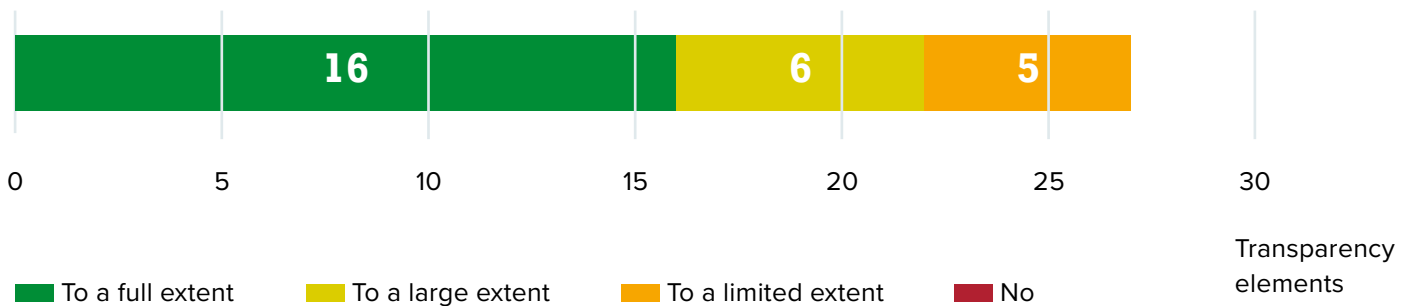
AVAILABLE ONLINE?



Chile's national authorities publish information online for 27 transparency elements (i.e 'Public access').¹⁷ Of those elements, more than half (59%) fully meet the information requirements of the FiTI Standard.¹⁸



Is information in accordance with the FiTI Standard available online?



Chile has been recognized for its efforts in publishing relevant information about the fisheries sector, contributing to transparency and public access to key data that strengthen governance in this field. The authorities, primarily the Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SUBPESCA), have made a wide range of information publicly available through their official platforms, facilitating a better understanding of fisheries policies and regulations for stakeholders.

For example, **laws, regulations, and official policy documents** are prominently available. Fisheries management plans, public policies related to fisheries, and relevant laws can be accessed on the SUBPESCA portal and other official websites, allowing sector stakeholders to stay informed about the regulatory framework and the government's planned actions. This information is essential for ensuring informed participation in fisheries management.

Regarding the **status of fishery resources**, Chile publishes an annual report on the condition of key marine fish populations. This report includes detailed scientific assessments of fish stocks, providing critical data for evidence-based sustainable management. The level of detail and accessibility of this information reinforces Chile's commitment to environmental sustainability.

¹⁷ From a total of 39 transparency elements, this assessment considers three as being 'Not applicable' to Chile's marine fisheries sector, whereas three elements are considered as 'Not produced' (meaning the government has not collected or compiled the information requested under this element).

¹⁸ Or it has been found that the published information is incomplete.

Commercial information on **fisheries exports and imports** is also widely available. Platforms such as the National Institute of Statistics (INE) publish data that allow for an analysis of the sector's trade dynamics, including trends in volumes and values of traded products. This information is highly useful for both decision-makers and private sector actors.

However, some areas remain only partially transparent. While data on **official development assistance** for fisheries is available, it lacks detailed insights into specific objectives, impacts, or evaluations of funded projects, limiting its usefulness for deeper analysis. Similarly, **catch data** from fishing fleets is presented in an aggregated format, without disaggregation by fleet type, making it difficult to assess the contribution of industrial and artisanal fleets to total landings.

Regarding **fisheries law enforcement**, while basic information on regulatory compliance is available, there is no public data on the financial and human resources allocated to enforcement efforts or a comprehensive record of sanctions across all regulatory areas. Additionally, **labor standards** data also present limitations, as they are often aggregated with other economic activities, preventing a detailed analysis of the specific working conditions within the fisheries sector.



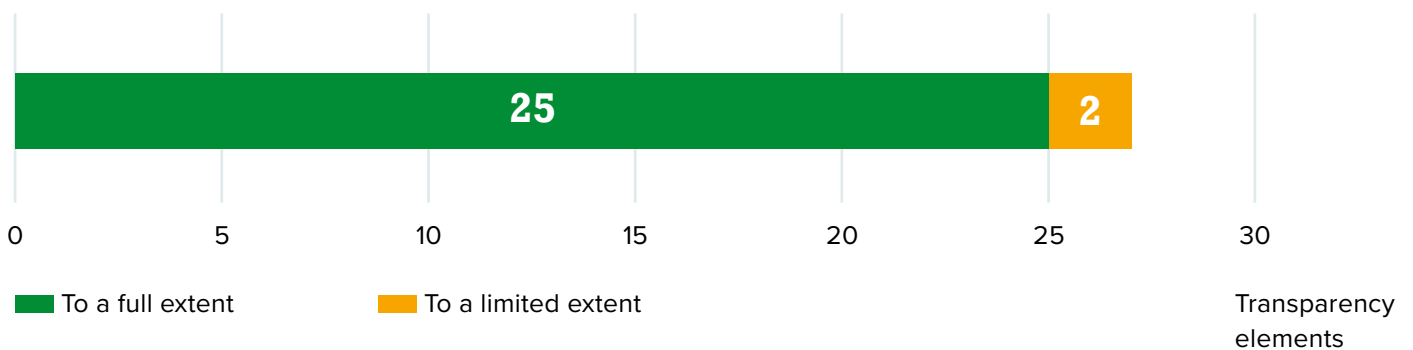
UP TO DATE?

UP TO DATE?

Information published online is considered to be fully up to date for **25 of the 27 transparency elements (or 89%)**.

Fish is a renewable resource that can, if sustainably managed, remain accessible and beneficial for generations. Those making decisions affecting fisheries must be able to have quick and easy access to the latest available data. The importance of up-to-date information takes on an even greater dimension when it comes to time-sensitive issues such as the production of catch data or scientific stock assessments.

Is the published information provided in a timely, up-to-date manner?



In the case of Chile, it is noteworthy that almost all available fisheries sector information is up to date, which is a highly positive aspect and reflects the authorities' commitment to transparency and data relevance. For example, various types of information are regularly updated, including **annual reports on the status of fishery resources, enforcement actions**, statistical yearbooks with **catch data**, as well as **import and export** figures, among others. However, an exception was identified in the area of **official development assistance**, both national and international. In this case, the available data is not up to date, making it difficult to assess the impact and effectiveness of the implemented initiatives. This represents an opportunity to strengthen the periodicity of information in this specific area and align it with the update frequency of other evaluated elements.

EASY TO FIND?

EASY TO FIND?

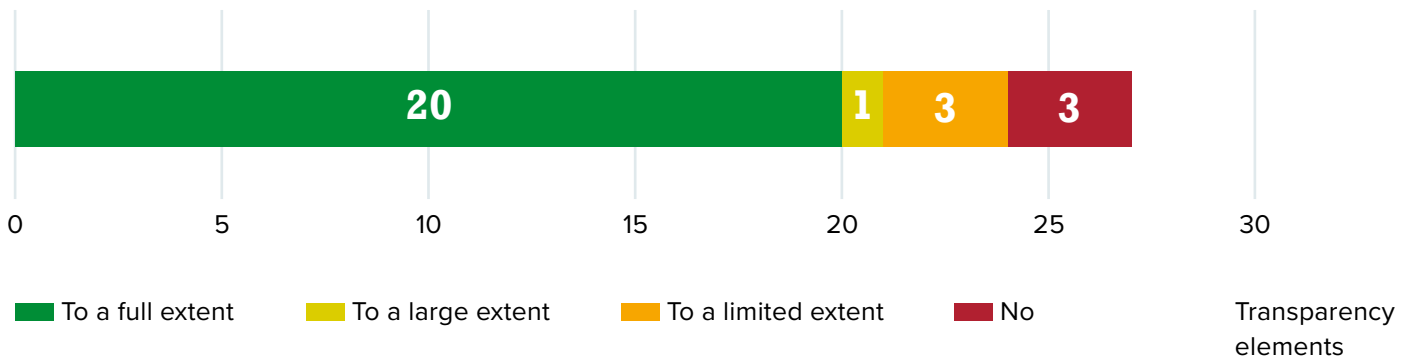


Information published online by Chile’s government is generally easy to located, as information for 20 out of 27 transparency elements (or 74%) can be easily found by a layperson.¹⁹



Governments have the responsibility to manage fisheries on behalf of their citizens – and inform them about the current status, opportunities and challenges facing the sector. In the digital age, websites remain one of the most popular mediums to convey such information. However, websites are passive communications channels, and stakeholders have to purposely visit the site, search for the desired content and navigate to find information. If this is difficult or time consuming, stakeholders may lose interest, leaving potentially important information unread and underutilised.

Is the published information easy to find on a government website from a non-expert point of view?



¹⁹ Our assessment analysed how easy or difficult it is for a layperson to find information about Chile's marine fisheries sector, instead of stakeholders with a background in fisheries and therefore holding a unique advantage in their capacity to locate the information.

The assessment has found that most of the fisheries information published by Chilean authorities is easy to find, facilitating access to key data for stakeholders. The Undersecretariat for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SUBPESCA), along with other key institutions such as the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (SERNAPESCA), the Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP), and the National Institute for the Sustainable Development of Artisanal Fisheries (INDESPA), play a fundamental role in organizing and publishing this information.

These institutions provide well-structured web portals with sections dedicated to regulations, reports, and statistics, making most of the information accessible to stakeholders.

Only a few areas for improvement were identified. For instance, fisheries management plans and policy documents often require specialized searches, as their information is not intuitively consolidated. Additionally, fishing effort data is contained within technical reports, which require users to submit an email address before downloading. Similarly, while subsidy information is available in PDF documents, some files are not easily readable, making access more difficult.

It is also worth highlighting that authorities actively disseminate information through social media and outreach activities, further helping stakeholders access relevant data.



‘GOOD TRANSPARENCY PRACTICES’



It should be noted that Chile’s national authorities publish certain information on the country’s fisheries sector in ways that can be considered by FiTI as ‘good transparency practices’.



Comprehensibility:

- The annual report on the stock status of key fisheries represents a notable effort in systematizing key data on Chile’s main fishery resources. This document allows for an evaluation of each fishery over time and helps stakeholders interpret the information regarding the sustainability of fisheries.
- The report “Women and Men in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector” is a valuable example of accessible data presentation. It summarizes essential information about individuals involved in the fishing industry, with a particular focus on artisanal fisheries and gender equity, making it easier to understand the role of different actors within the supply chain.
- Regulatory information is well-organized and easily searchable in the National Congress Library. This resource enhances the understanding of the regulatory framework by providing consolidated laws, related regulations, and amendments in a format that is accessible to stakeholders.



Granularity:

- Data on fishery product imports and exports is available in multiple formats, including interactive dashboards that allow for a quick visualization of trade trends. Additionally, users have the option to access disaggregated data in detailed formats, enabling in-depth analysis.
- The Public Register of Sanctions from the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) provides information in various formats, including an intuitive dashboard that facilitates the visualization of general trends. For those interested in a more technical level of analysis, detailed records are also available, ensuring flexible access based on users’ needs.



(Re)usability:

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Enforcement Activities Report summarizes the authorities’ efforts in regulatory compliance. This document allows stakeholders to verify key performance indicators and facilitates the interpretation of results for those interested in monitoring and control actions within the sector.





Finally, this assessment highlights that Chile's national authorities provide various features to ensure that published information can be freely used (e.g., through search and filtering functions), reused, and redistributed by anyone.

For example, SERNAPESCA makes its statistical yearbooks publicly available, providing key information on various aspects of the fisheries sector. These documents can not only be viewed online but also downloaded as spreadsheets, allowing for more detailed and customized analyses. This functionality enhances access to technical information and promotes its use by different stakeholders.

Similarly, SERNAPESCA and IFOP have developed portals in collaboration with the Data Observatory platform²⁰, where users can visualize and download data related to fisheries and aquaculture activities. These tools stand out for their intuitive design and advanced search options, reinforcing Chile's commitment to transparency and accessibility.

Additionally, Chilean fisheries institutions use the open data portal²¹, where they publish datasets in reusable formats. This platform operates under a Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license, allowing free and unrestricted use of the published data. While this tool represents an important step forward in terms of transparency, it could be used more frequently by uploading more complete and updated datasets, thereby expanding its impact and usefulness.



20 <https://www.dataobservatory.net/>

21 www.datos.gob.cl





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILE'S NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

While Chile's national authorities publish some information online about the country's marine fisheries, there are still several opportunities to further strengthen transparency in the sector's management:

1. Publish existing fisheries information which is not currently public

Although Chile has made significant progress in publishing fisheries-related information, important data remains unavailable to the public. Making this information publicly accessible would contribute to a more transparent and participatory fisheries management process.

Key data that should be made public includes:

- **Vessels:** Port of registration and physical characteristics (e.g., length, tonnage, engine power), disaggregated by type of fishery.
- **Payments and contributions:** Annual total payment amounts, paying entity, receiving authority, date, and purpose of payment, with aggregated summaries.
- **Catches and discards:** Disaggregated statistics by fishing gear type or authorization, fishing zones (national waters, international waters, third-country waters), and catch areas.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Financial and human resources allocated by the government to enforce fisheries and labor laws.
- **Official Development Assistance (ODA):** Evaluations and outcomes of national and international fisheries projects.

2. Develop regulations and a beneficial ownership register for the fisheries sector

Currently, Chile does not have regulations or a public registry identifying the beneficial owners of fishing rights, permits, and other authorizations granted in the sector. This presents a key opportunity to advance transparency and responsible fisheries management.

It is recommended that national authorities:

- Develop specific regulations establishing the mandatory identification and registration of beneficial owners of fishing rights and permits, aligning with international best practices.
- Create a public registry to clearly and regularly identify individuals or legal entities controlling these rights, including ownership structures and any changes in ownership.

3. Improve accessibility of fisheries information

While most published information is considered easy to find, some minor improvements could enhance accessibility:

- Consolidate and summarize key data from extensive technical reports, such as fishing effort, into executive summaries or interactive dashboards.
- Digitize scanned documents, including regulations and subsidy information, to ensure they are readable and reusable in accessible formats.



4. Publish more open data to promote reuse

Chile can maximize the potential of the www.datos.gob.cl platform by publishing more fisheries data in reusable formats under a Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license. This would allow third parties, such as researchers and developers, to reuse the information for analyses and the development of visualization platforms, enhancing access and understanding of fisheries management. Expanding open data publication would strengthen transparency and position Chile as a regional leader in public access to fisheries information.

5. Strengthen Chile's leadership in fisheries transparency at the national and international levels

As one of the world's most important fishing nations and an early adopter of the FiTI Standard in the region, Chile is uniquely positioned to lead national and international discussions on fisheries transparency and management. This leadership enables the country to drive policies and actions that reinforce transparency as a foundation for sustainability and participatory management.

At the international level, Chile can leverage its presence in forums such as the FAO, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other global platforms to promote the adoption of transparency standards. This includes advocating for open data publication, sharing best practices, supporting concrete measures to combat illegal fishing. Additionally, Chile can contribute to global debates by demonstrating how transparency enhances fisheries governance and builds trust in fisheries management.

At the national level, Chile's leadership in fisheries transparency can drive discussions on the importance of access to information in public decision-making. This includes encouraging multi-stakeholder dialogues involving the private sector, civil society, and fishing communities, highlighting transparency as a pillar of sustainable and equitable fisheries.

Chile has a unique opportunity to solidify its position as a regional and global leader in transparency, integrating it not only as a national value but also as a core element of its international fisheries policy.

Strengthening transparency in Chile's marine fisheries sector, among other things, through the review and prioritization of these recommendations, should be based on ongoing discussions with the sector's stakeholders, such as fishers, industry, and civil society. This can help identify other important information gaps regarding national priorities that have not been covered in this assessment (such as the impacts of climate change or the interactions between fisheries and other sectors of the blue economy).

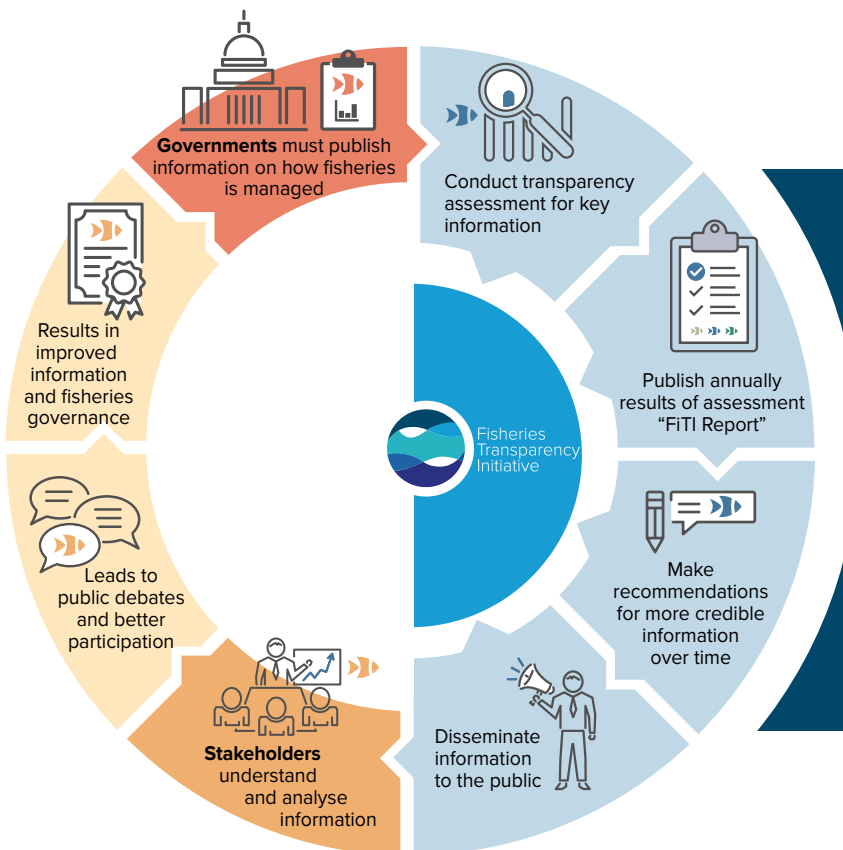
TRANSPARENCY NEEDS TRUST

Public access to information on how Chile’s marine fisheries sector is being exploited is fundamental for good governance. This TAKING STOCK assessment provides a sound starting point for national authorities in Chile to enhance and maintain high levels of transparency in marine fisheries management. But it does not tell the whole story: challenges still exist that are unlikely to be overcome by a single actor working alone. Such challenges involve determining whether information that is not published online simply does not exist, or whether information that is disclosed is perceived as credible by stakeholders. Addressing such challenges requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

Therefore, a collective effort is needed from all relevant stakeholders to incorporate a variety of perspectives and enhance transparency and trust over time.

The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) provides such a unique combination of transparency and participation. The FiTI is implemented in countries through National Multi-Stakeholder Groups, consisting of representatives from government, business and organised civil society. These groups work collectively to:

- ▶▶ assess the information in the public domain against the FiTI Standard;
- ▶▶ make recommendations on how to prioritise the closure of information gaps; and
- ▶▶ provide suggestions on how information published by national authorities can be strengthened to further raise levels of openness and public access to information.



Engaging in the FiTI appeals to all stakeholders who appreciate the enormous value of marine fisheries, whether in terms of food and nutrition security, biodiversity, employment, the value to national economies, or the cultural importance of fishing.

#JoinFiTI

ANNEX: ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

This TAKING STOCK assessment evaluates the disclosure practices of Chile's national authorities across 12 thematic areas of **marine fisheries management**,²² as defined by the FiTI Standard.

In order to avoid ambiguities during the assessment, these 12 thematic areas have been further broken down into **39 transparency elements**. For example, thematic area #1 'Fisheries Laws, Regulations and Official Policy Documents' is broken down into three transparency elements.

The assessment is focused entirely on the availability of information²³ provided by Chile's national authorities through their own websites and online publications.

Within the scope of this assessment, several different entry points have been utilised to evaluate whether information on Chile's marine fisheries sector is published online by national authorities, such as:²⁴

- Through the Undersecretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Chile;
- By directly accessing the websites of the national authorities;²⁵
- By utilising external search engines, such as Google.

The assessment was conducted as a **desktop study** without relying on initial input or contributions from national authorities.

The assessment was officially announced to the Undersecretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Chile in June 2023, at which time its scope, key parameters, and benefits for the country were presented. The assessment was concluded in November 2024.

The Undersecretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture was invited to comment on the initial findings of the research before the publication of this report. Their comments were received in December 2024, reviewed, and incorporated into the final version.

The overall assessment process was conducted under the supervision and responsibility of the FiTI International Secretariat, with significant input from researchers and reviewers.

This report, the first for Chile, does not only seek to provide an overview of what the government publishes regarding a number of key areas of its marine fisheries sector. It also intends to provide a sound basis of information to spark interest among various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

The assessment does not try to capture and display the actual underlying information behind each transparency element (e.g. number of vessels), nor does it undertake an independent verification of whether information disclosed online by national authorities is complete or correct. Nevertheless, if compelling evidence of unreliable or contradicting information has been found, it is noted in the Detailed Assessment Report.

22 Information on inland fisheries and aquaculture does not form part of this assessment.

23 Kindly note that in the context of this research, the terms '*data*' and '*information*' are used interchangeably. It is acknowledged that while closely intertwined, they differ in meaning and usage (e.g. data is the raw fact, which should be processed to gain information). However, this difference is not of major relevance for this assessment.

24 Information is only considered available online if it is proactively published on a government website and is available without access restrictions (e.g. the need to register online, request the data from a civil servant via email or pay a fee).

25 Integrated within the central government portal, or as a standalone website.

As part of this TAKING STOCK assessment, several transparency requirements are considered not applicable to Chile's marine fisheries, including:

—	Foreign-flagged vessels fishing in Chilean waters	Chile's Fisheries Law prohibits extractive activities by foreign vessels in national waters (Article 115). Currently, their operation is only permitted for scientific research activities (Article 102).
—	Chilean-flagged vessels fishing in third-country waters	While Chile's Fisheries Law allows Chilean vessels to operate in third-country waters (Article 64-B), there is no evidence that this occurs. If such operations were to take place, they would likely be private agreements, rather than bilateral agreements.
—	Licenses for small-scale commercial fishing vessels	In Chile, artisanal fishing vessels do not require specific licenses but must be registered in the Artisanal Fisheries Registry (RPA), which authorizes their operation and states which target species are allowed.





Fisheries
Transparency
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TAKING STOCK

Online Transparency of Fisheries
Management Information



2024

Summary Assessment Report
REPUBLIC OF CHILE

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