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**Committee on Subsidies and
Countervailing Measures**

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SUBSIDIES

NEW AND FULL NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVI:1 OF THE GATT 1994 AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

COLOMBIA

The following communication, dated 26 June 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

COLOMBIA

NOTIFICATIONS ON FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SUBSIDIES 2016, 2017, 2018¹

Background

In order to facilitate understanding of the programmes mentioned by Colombia in notifications on fisheries subsidies, it is important to note that the National Fishing and Aquaculture Authority (AUNAP), an entity attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is responsible for exercising authority over fisheries and aquaculture in Colombia. As part of its policy of promotion and sustainable development of these resources, it develops processes for the planning, research, management, promotion, regulation, registration, reporting, inspection, surveillance and control of nationwide fisheries and aquaculture activities.

AUNAP receives funds from the national general budget to carry out these activities, which enables it to develop programmes that will be of general benefit to the Colombian fisheries and aquaculture sector through the following investment projects.

1. Updating and implementation of domestic measures for fisheries and aquaculture management and development

The aim of this programme is the efficient management of the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector, taking account of sectoral and domestic needs and legal frameworks, and the promotion of activities geared towards the productive, competitive and sustainable development of aquaculture and artisanal fisheries.

¹ This notification contains information solely concerning fisheries subsidies, in accordance with the commitment made in paragraph 2 of the Ministerial Decision of 13 December 2017, adopted at the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference, held from 10 to 13 December 2017 (WT/MIN(17)/64).

2. Development of domestic inspection and surveillance activities for fisheries and aquaculture resources

The aim is to provide training to persons who rely on fishing as an economic activity, on the current regulations and management measures established for the country's fisheries and aquaculture resources. In rolling out the programme, AUNAP:

- Establishes and implements efficient monitoring and control mechanisms within Colombia to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Sets and applies sanctions for infringements of regulations in order to ensure better domestic compliance;
- Updates databases of landed fishery production to inform the development of relevant management measures.

3. Knowledge development to ensure the efficient and sustainable domestic use of fisheries and aquaculture resources

The aim is to generate information for decision-making as part of the framework for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the country, through:

- Research aimed at identifying and quantifying fisheries resources, and research seeking to improve technological processes at the stages of extraction, cultivation, processing and placement on the market.

I. UPDATING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DOMESTIC MEASURES FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Programme description:

The aim is the efficient management of the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector, taking account of sectoral and domestic needs and legal frameworks, and the promotion of activities geared towards the productive, competitive and sustainable development of aquaculture and artisanal fisheries. This involves:

- In each of the AUNAP regions, providing training for persons engaged in fishing and aquaculture on the rules and procedures for such activities;
- Processing registrations, the granting of fishing permits, authorizations or patents, and changes to or cancellations of permits;
- Producing fingerlings in AUNAP stations and centres to support fish-breeding and restocking programmes;
- Improving fisheries management processes;
- Promoting inter-institutional agreements with public or private entities or other organizations in order to create collaborative spaces that will lead to technical and logistical efforts being combined in the management of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The programme specifically aims to transform artisanal fisheries into a sustainable sector. Steps taken as part of this programme to promote artisanal fisheries were aimed at strengthening the coastal marine and inland fisheries sector, with the provision of equipment, inputs or elements, such as outboard motors, boats, best-practice kits for fish-handling, freezers, scales and fishing gear.

2. Periods covered by the notification:

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the support

To establish, update and implement management and promotion measures that lead to the sustainable domestic use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, taking account of sectoral and domestic needs and legal frameworks, and the promotion of activities geared towards the productive, competitive and sustainable development of aquaculture and artisanal fisheries.

4. Background and authority for the support

- National Development Plan governing each four-year government period and establishing policy guidelines for developing the country's fishery and aquaculture activities.
- Law No. 13 of 1990 - General Law on the Fisheries Sector and its Regulatory Decree No. 2256 of 1991.
- Decree No. 4181 of 2011 establishing AUNAP.

5. Form of support

The programme is funded through the national general budget resources allocated to AUNAP for the development of general benefit programmes, with a view to:

- Promoting measures aimed at the productive, competitive and sustainable development of aquaculture;
- Promoting measures aimed at the productive, competitive and sustainable development of artisanal fisheries.

6. Support per unit

The attached file contains the annual budget allocated to the programme.

7. Duration of support

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

8. Statistical data on the impact of the programme

This information is not available for any of the notified periods.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC INSPECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES**1. Programme description:**

This programme seeks to increase sector stakeholders' knowledge of fishery activity regulations that foster a well-managed, sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources. This involves:

- Establishing efficient mechanisms for the control of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in compliance with the FAO International Plan of Action and in cooperation with the General Maritime Directorate of Colombia (in charge of the Port State), the aim being to prevent, deter and eliminate such practices;
- The programme includes the imposition of sanctions for failure to comply with domestic and international standards promoting the sustainable use of resources.

The programme focuses on implementing the following components:

Raising public awareness of regulations and measures for managing the country's fisheries and aquaculture resources. Efforts have been made to raise awareness and disseminate current management, administrative and control measures, with a view to strengthening the control and surveillance system at governance level.

Establishing efficient monitoring and control mechanisms within Colombia to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Provision has been made for inspection and surveillance operations, the publication of a general fisheries register on the AUNAP website, and the dissemination, in the regions, of mechanisms for formally lodging complaints regarding illegal fishing, such as, for example, the early warning system in the exclusive fishing zone for artisanal fisheries in northern Chocó.

Setting and applying sanctions for infringements of regulations in order to ensure better domestic compliance. Following inspection and surveillance operations, administrative investigations are opened where necessary.

Updating databases of landed fishery production to facilitate the development of domestic management measures. The aim is to complement the information generation process and comply with core objectives relating to the strengthening of the country's fisheries and aquaculture statistics (collection, analysis and systemization of data on catch and landing, maturity stages, fishing gear and aquaculture production) and their inclusion in the Colombian Statistical Fisheries Service (SEPEC) platform.

2. Periods covered by the notification:

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the support

The aim of the programme is to ensure that sector stakeholders effectively implement domestic measures for the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources.

To achieve this, training on current regulations and measures established for the management of the country's fisheries and aquaculture resources is provided to persons who rely on fishing as an economic activity.

4. Background and legislation for the support

Domestic regulatory framework:

- National Development Plan governing each four-year government period and establishing policy guidelines for developing the country's fishery and aquaculture activities.
- Law No. 13 of 1990 - General Law on the Fisheries Sector and its Regulatory Decree No. 2256 of 1991.

- Decree No. 4181 of 2011 establishing AUNAP.

International guidelines:

- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Convention on Biological Diversity, and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The latter is used for reference purposes by Colombia, as it is not binding and its application is voluntary.

5. Form of support

The programme is funded through the national general budget resources allocated to AUNAP for the development of general benefit programmes, with a view to:

- Raising public awareness of regulations and measures for managing the country's fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- Establishing efficient monitoring and control mechanisms within Colombia to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Setting and applying sanctions for infringements of regulations in order to ensure better domestic compliance;
- Updating databases of landed fishery production in order to provide information to facilitate the development of domestic management measures.

6. Support per unit

The attached file contains the annual budget allocated to the programme.

7. Duration of support

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

8. Statistical data on the impact of the programme

No information is available for any of the notified periods.

III. KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE DOMESTIC USE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES

1. Programme description:

The programme aims to contribute to the sustained development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, ensuring the rational use of exploited resources, which requires conducting research to identify and quantify such resources.

The programme is designed as a strategic tool to fill the existing information gaps on the population and ecosystem dynamics of the fisheries resources that are currently being exploited in marine and inland areas.

This calls for appropriate intervention by AUNAP, from the planning through to the execution stage. A foundation of scientific evidence must be built to ensure that any decisions made benefit the user communities, institutions and authorities involved, without neglecting the pursuit of economic, environmental, social, cultural and biological sustainability of resources. This involves:

- Developing production management programmes, strengthening monitoring measures, assessing the impact of fishing gear and methods used, and analysing the shark production chain and the impact of the ZEPA exclusive fishing zone for artisanal fisheries on the conservation of fisheries resources;
- Fisheries and socioeconomic profiling for the purposes of fisheries management;
- Assessing the impact of fishing gear and methods used in the Magdalena Medio region, Magdalena River Basin and Orinoco Basin, with a view to updating regulations, given current fishery dynamics;
- Research into demersal marine resources, generating information on the biological characteristics of these fishery resources for use as a tool in managing them in marine waters under Colombian jurisdiction;
- Biological monitoring, in ports and fishing zones and on board vessels, of fishery resources in the main industrial and artisanal marine fisheries of the Pacific coast and the Caribbean, and in the inland areas of the Magdalena-Cauca, Sinú, Atrato, Catatumbo, Orinoco and Amazonian river basins in Colombia;
- Research into native and exotic species in marine and inland aquaculture and development of new production technologies;
- Conducting a risk and vulnerability assessment of elasmobranchs and analysing the shark production chain and the impact of the ZEPA exclusive fishing zone for artisanal fisheries on the conservation of fisheries resources.

2. Periods covered by the notification:

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the support

The efficient and sustainable use of fisheries resources and the development of aquaculture in Colombia.

4. Background and legislation for the support

- National Development Plan governing each four-year government period and establishing policy guidelines for developing the country's fishery and aquaculture activities.
- Law No. 13 of 1990 - General Law on the Fisheries Sector and its Regulatory Decree No. 2256 of 1991.
- Decree No. 4181 of 2011 establishing AUNAP.

5. Form of support

Development of general benefit programmes aimed at:

- Developing technologies to optimize aquaculture and fishery yields in a sustainable manner nationwide;
- Assessing and updating the state, fishing effort and dynamics of domestic fishery resources and/or fisheries to ensure sustainable management and administration;

- Developing and implementing information and communication technology tools for knowledge and monitoring of fisheries and aquaculture resources;
- Establishing the potential use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, irrespective of the type of activity, in order to seek alternative uses and ensure the development of the subsector.

6. Support per unit

The attached file contains the annual budget allocated to the programme.

7. Duration of support

January–December 2016

January–December 2017

January–December 2018

8. Statistical data on the impact of the programme

This information is not available for any of the notified periods.

ANNEXES

I. UPDATING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DOMESTIC MEASURES FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**Support per unit**

Programme: Production and marketing infrastructure			
ACTIVITIES	Budgeted amount (COP²) – 2016	Budgeted amount (COP³) – 2017	Budgeted amount (COP⁴) – 2018
<i>Efficiently managing the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector, taking account of current sectoral and domestic needs and legal frameworks</i>			
Issuing administrative decisions, certificates and registrations for fisheries and aquaculture activities.	932,500,000	1,745,000,000	3,274,169,053
Establishing priority-area fisheries management.	269,500,000	0	0
Taking priority-area fisheries management measures.	198,000,000	200,000,000	200,000,000
Registering and monitoring fisheries and aquaculture activities.	280,500,000	200,000,000	200,000,000
Providing training on and disseminating rules and procedures for fisheries and aquaculture activities.	417,500,000	350,000,000	200,000,000
Strengthening inter-institutional coordination in implementing fisheries and aquaculture policies.	144,500,000	50,000,000	200,000,000
Defining aquaculture and fisheries zones.	269,500,000	0	0
Producing fingerlings in AUNAP stations and centres to support domestic fish-breeding and restocking programmes.	1,789,000,000	1,575,000,000	4,000,000,000
Conducting national promotional activities on aquaculture topics.	0	4,800,000,000	7,000,000,000
Advising, training and building the capacities of limited-resource aquaculture producers and micro and small aquaculture enterprises in several regions in Colombia (only the Colombian Caribbean is included in the SPI).	450,000,000	0	0
<i>Promoting activities geared towards the productive, competitive and sustainable development of artisanal fisheries</i>			
Taking steps to improve product quality and strengthen partnerships in inland fishery activities on the Magdalena river.	608,569,400	0	0
Engaging in alternative activities to artisanal fishing in closed fishing seasons to ensure food security for fishing communities.	341,086,400	0	0
Strengthening domestic coastal marine fishery activities.	0	4,650,000,000	15,500,000,000
Strengthening domestic inland artisanal fishery activities.	0	1,650,000,000	8,000,000,000
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	5,700,655,800	15,220,000,000	38,574,169,053

² Colombian pesos.³ Colombian pesos.⁴ Colombian pesos.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC INSPECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES

Support per unit

Programme: Agricultural health and agri-food safety			
ACTIVITIES	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2016	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2017	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2018
<i>Raising public awareness of regulations and measures for managing fisheries and aquaculture resources</i>			
Training programme on regulations and management measures: Delivered to persons engaged in fishing and aquaculture activities – Nationwide training.	480,000,000	250,000,000	960,000,000
Outreach and promotion campaign: Dissemination through mass media.	270,900,000	172,500,000	262,307,189
<i>Establishing efficient monitoring and control mechanisms within Colombia to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing</i>			
Control measures taken in the fisheries and aquaculture sector nationwide: Verification of compliance with fisheries regulations – Making provision for seized material.	2,576,490,000	1,500,000,000	1,122,185,000
Database analyses and updating.	100,650,000	90,000,000	300,000,000
Drawing up proposals and issuing administrative decisions.	60,000,000	25,000,000	57,500,000
Analysing, monitoring and supporting the AUNAP integrated management system.	187,000,000	203,500,000	176,525,000
<i>Setting and applying sanctions for infringements of regulations in order to ensure better domestic compliance</i>			
Generating orders opening proceedings or prohibition orders, gathering and examining evidence and issuing administrative decisions.	300,000,000	200,000,000	431,135,000
<i>Updating databases of landed fishery production to facilitate the development of domestic management measures</i>			
Socioeconomic data on fisheries activities collected in landing ports.	941,536,364	776,833,340	560,000,000
Biological fishery data.	635,990,909	177,166,660	550,000,000
Catch and effort data.	1,163,936,203	75,000,000	550,000,000
Fishery production data.	1,283,496,524	30,000,000	550,000,000
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	8,000,000,000	3,500,000,000	5,519,652,189

III. KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE DOMESTIC USE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES

Support per unit

Programme: Agricultural science, technology and innovation			
ACTIVITIES	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2016	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2017	Budgeted amount (COP) – 2018
<i>Developing technologies to optimize aquaculture and fishery yields in a sustainable manner nationwide</i>			
Preparing papers, publications, databases and/or technical documents.	40,000,000	20,000,000	50,000,000
Conducting scientific trials, experiments or tests in order to improve quality and efficiency in the breeding, larval fish culture, cultivation, health and processing of commercial species; and/or assessing the aquaculture potential of new native species by furthering the development of technological packages, through strategic alliances.	1,506,200,000	977,750,000	1,509,250,000
<i>Assessing and updating the state, fishing effort and dynamics of domestic fishery resources and/or fisheries to ensure sustainable management and administration</i>			
Obtaining technical and scientific information on the target catch and bycatch of the country's various fisheries, with on-board and in-port monitoring depending on the scale of the fishing activity, through strategic alliances.	1,925,000,000	1,240,209,270	1,511,150,000
Analysing historical information on the state of fisheries resources.	1,508,000,000	960,500,000	1,125,750,000
Preparing papers, publications, databases and/or technical documents.	40,000,000	60,000,000	40,000,000
<i>Enhancing understanding of the social and economic dynamics of fishers and fish farmers, to enable the provision of national guidelines on resource administration and management</i>			
Creating basic guidelines by working with the community and with primary and secondary sources of information that contribute to the determination of sociocultural and socioeconomic indicators.	484,000,000	496,250,000	181,351,666
Preparing papers, publications, databases and/or technical documents.	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
<i>Developing and implementing information and communication technology tools for knowledge and monitoring of fisheries and aquaculture resources</i>			
Determining technological requirements for information and communication systems/implementing information and communication technology tools.	768,500,000	337,750,000	388,574,438
<i>Establishing the potential use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, irrespective of the type of activity, in order to seek alternative uses and ensure the development of the subsector at the national level</i>			
Preparing papers, publications, databases and/or technical documents.	20,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000
Independent scientific research into the fisheries sector in the Caribbean mainland and islands and in the Pacific.	687,500,000	553,000,000	433,500,000
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET	6,999,200,000	4,685,459,270	5,289,576,104