

## EDITORIAL

### Cross – border fish trade in West Africa.

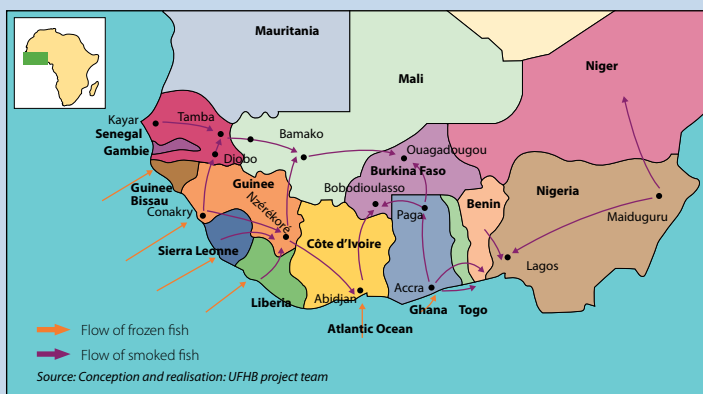
By Dr. Amadou Tall

There are two distinct sources of fish – marine and inland fisheries – and two distinct assembly centers – port cities for the marine frozen products and inland assembly cities for marine and inland dried/smoked fish. The assembly cities or wholesale fish markets are the starting points or nodes of fish distribution. These markets are concentrated in large urban centers, for example, Abidjan and Bouaké, as is the case for Côte d'Ivoire.

Port cities such as Abidjan are important distribution centers for marine species because of the presence of the harbor/port, where hundreds of tons of imported frozen fish are landed. Frozen and processed (often smoked) fish are distributed throughout the country using middlemen and retailers. Mauritania is the main African supplier of marine frozen fish products to Côte d'Ivoire. Imports by this country originate also come from Senegal and Mali by land and these are mainly smoked and re-exported by road and on-board canoes to Burkina Faso and Ghana respectively.

For processed fish from Senegal and Mali, the main entry point is Korogho city, located in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, mostly passing through Bamako in Mali. Ivorian traders purchase the products from Senegalese wholesalers, who buy the fish from the processing centers, mainly in Joal and Mbour in Senegal.

For products destined for Ghana, Bouna city is in most cases the starting point. Processed fish products are assembled in the village of Vonkoro and then transported by canoe on the Black Volta River towards the border with Ghana. From the border, the fish products are transported, via Kumasi city, all the way to Accra. While the frozen fish products enter the country formally, with clear customs and import permits, the cured fish moves internally and crosses the borders informally.



Picture 1: Map of the fish trade channels in West Africa.

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## TA PESCAO/ECOWAS COMPONENT 1

### Comprehensive Strategic Framework for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (CSFS FAD):

The CSFS FAD was validated by the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Western Africa. The document is published under the DARD/ECOWAS template. A three-page leaflet of the CSFS FAD is also available. For details contact: [amadou.tall@gopa.de](mailto:amadou.tall@gopa.de) or [julie.adeyh@gopa.de](mailto:julie.adeyh@gopa.de).

### Fisheries and aquaculture sector statistical factsheets:

The TA team and Dr Babou Sogué, an intern to DARD/ECOWAS, prepared individual fishery and aquaculture sector statistical factsheets for each member country. The document gives information on national fish production, per capita consumption and perspectives of the sector for the year 2025. For details contact: [amadou.tall@gopa.de](mailto:amadou.tall@gopa.de) or [julie.adeyh@gopa.de](mailto:julie.adeyh@gopa.de)

## TA PESCAO/FCWC COMPONENT 2

### FCWC Produces PESCAO-related Communications Materials:

As part of the FCWC Communications and Visibility Strategy a number of communications materials – factsheets and leaflets – were developed on the FCWC's activities in the context of the overall PESCAO programme, and on key result areas including maritime security, the regional centre for MCS, and the pooling and sharing of information and data. The publications can be accessed on the FCWC website: <http://www.fcwc-fish.org/resources/>



Picture 2: Example of Communication and Visibility at FCWC

### 12th FCWC Conference of Ministers: Regional Fisheries Vessel Monitoring Centre Protocol Adopted:

As part of the implementation of the PESCAO project, the Ministers of the FCWC Member States adopted a Protocol for the Establishment of the Regional Fisheries Vessel Monitoring Centre which defines the administrative and operational functions of the future regional fishing vessel monitoring centre. The adoption of the protocol took place at the 12th Conference of Ministers held in Cotonou, Benin from 11 to 13 December 2019.





Picture 3: The Secretary General and the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture from the FCWC member States

### FCWC capacity-building courses for Member States:

A joint protocol for capacity building was signed in 2019 between the Institute of Interregional Maritime Security (ISMI), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the FCWC. Under the PESCAO project, and in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), a training of trainers was organized at ISMI in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 9 - 13 September 2019.



Picture 4: A conference during a training for trainers' session

## PESCAO/SRFC AND EFCA COMPONENT 2

### SRFC- Operation TESSITO:



Picture 5: Briefing session for the TESSITO operation.

SRFC, in partnership with EFCA, organized the joint sub-regional fisheries surveillance operation from 22 to 27 September 2019 called "Operation TESSITO". The operation took place in the southern and central zones of Senegal's EEZ and in the EEZs of The Gambia and Guinea Bissau whose national patrol boats were supported by the

high-sea patrol boat "FOULADOU" of Senegal chartered by the SRFC. An expert from the French Navy coordinated the activities of a maritime surveillance aircraft graciously made available to the CSRP by France. In addition, under the synergy between the projects financed by the EU in the ECOWAS zone; the UNODC also sent a representative to the SRFC. EFCA supported operation "TESSITO" with Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) and Copernicus imagery. The maritime patrol aircraft had to identify 93 vessels. The naval means engaged in the operation inspected 69 fishing vessels including 8 canoes and arrested 03 trawlers and 5 canoes for various reasons.

### SRFC- EFCA -Workshop for the Fisheries Inspectors of the Gambia:

From 16 to 18 September 2019, SRFC and EFCA organized a capacity building workshop for 20 Gambian fishery inspectors on the techniques of sea and dockside inspection of fishing vessels with fishery inspectors from several administrations (Marine, Fisheries Department, health inspection and maritime authority). The workshop was inaugurated by Dr (PhD) Bamba Banja the PS of the Gambian Ministry of Fisheries.



Picture 6: Capacity building for fish inspectors

### SRFC- Meeting of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group:

SRFC organized, from 9 to 11 December 2019 in Saly, Senegal, a meeting of the MCS Working Group to share and evaluate Year I results of PESCAO and planning for the Year II. It was attended by 23 representatives from MCS units of the 7 SRFC Member States, the Financial Management Expert of DUE-Dakar, the PM from EC, an Expert of the EFCA, the WARP Regional Coordinator and the staff of SRFC Permanent Secretariat. Participants in majority supported the establishment of the sub-regional VMS, the sub-regional register of fishing vessels and the sub-regional observer program and therefore invite the SRFC to initiate technical measures in order to anticipate the approval of the draft MCS convention by the Conference of Ministers.



Picture 7: Members of the SRFC MCS group during the meeting on presentation of the SRFC/PESCAO first year activities



## Organisation of two (2) sub-regional trainings for operators of Fisheries Monitoring Centers (FMCs):

In close cooperation with the FCWC and SRFC, EFCA has initiated in the last quarter of 2019 a cycle of regional training sessions for FMC operators split between English, French and Portuguese speaking countries covered by the PESCAO Project.

The first session took place on 2-4 October 2019 in Praia (Cabo Verde) for operators from Cabo Verde and Guinea Bissau. This was followed by a second session, which took place in the premises of the Institut de Sécurité Maritime Interrégional (ISMI) in Abidjan on 19-21 November 2019 for 18 operators from Benin, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo.

The purpose of these training sessions was to promote the exchange of experiences at regional level and to improve the knowledge of participants on the operation of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and the Automatic Identification System (AIS) as fisheries control tools.

The participants in the training were in majority FMC operators designated through the two sub-regional bodies (FCWC and SRFC). Representatives from the FCWC and SRFC also participated at the trainings. This permitted to strengthen the capacities of the beneficiary organizations as well.

The training was based on various presentations detailing the different steps of the VMS/AIS data analysis. Also, the Integrated Maritime Service (IMS) developed by EFCA with the support of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) was used to illustrate the methodology and the benefits of integrating VMS and AIS information in one single system. The presentations and other reference material (national and international rules of relevance) were made available to the participants.



Picture 8: Conference room during a sub-regional training for operators of Fisheries Monitoring Centers (FMCs)

## Contribute to the harmonization and updating of national legal frameworks:

In 2019 a report on the review of the SRFC and the FCWC member countries' national legal frameworks related to fisheries control and enforcement was completed. The scope of the report comprised a mapping of the legislations in the member countries of the SRFC and FCWC as well as a gap analysis identifying the needs in terms of legal updating and/or implementation for each country.

After the presentation of the report to the FCWC and SRFC countries, the authorities of Cabo Verde and Togo expressed interest for benefiting from EFCA legal expert's support through PESCAO Programme.

As a result, EFCA signed a specific contract with an expert to assist the competent authorities of Cabo Verde in reviewing and amending their

draft legislation on the basis of (but not limited to) the recommendations formulated by the legal study. Likewise, a contract was also signed with the purpose of providing legal support for the review and amendment of Togo NPOA – IUU”.

In the framework of the legal support, two on-the-spot missions were conducted, one in Cabo Verde from 7 to 9 of October and another one in Togo from 11 to 14 November 2019.



Picture 9: Team of experts from Cabo Verde in charge of reviewing the updated national legislation prepared under the PESCAO programme

## PESCAO/DEMERSTEM COMPONENT 3

### DEMRSTEM: Stock identification:

For the stock identification activity (WPI) a working group was organized to share, train and promote a biological data collection (From 27th to 30th of August 2019 – Nouakchott – Mauritania). This workshop was led by our IEO partners (Thanks to Eva Garcia Isarch and José F. Gonzalez Jiménez) and co-organized by IMROP (Thanks to Beyah). This meeting was the starting point for the biological data collection that will be carried out during one year. The main objective is to collect data for a better spatial definition of stocks selected within the DEMERSTEM project.

### Long stay Training session:

We initially planned to deploy 4 scientists for the long training period in Europe within the DEMERSTEM framework. Finally, 5 Phd candidates were selected and invited to France. They arrived in September for a 3.5-month period. One main objective of the period is to create synergies between DEMERSTEM partners and interaction with their Agrocampus Co-supervisor (Didier Gascuel for stock assessment case studies and Olivier Le Pape for sensitive habitat subjects). Ato Ekuban from Ghana (Fisheries division) has also been with us for two months, mainly to learn French but also to interact with Ivory Coast scientist on the sensitive habitat's assessment of Ghana/Cote d'Ivoire.



Picture 10: Demerstem long term training session

## FAO-CECAF-PESCAO PROJECT

### CECAF's work to improve knowledge on and management advice for small-scale fisheries sector:

Often referred to as artisanal fisheries, small scale fisheries are a key contributor to nutrition, food security and to sustainable livelihoods in countries across the CECAF region.

The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) has provided advice on the management of marine resources since 1967 and emphasizes the importance of small-scale fisheries across the region. This culminated in the formation of the CECAF Artisanal Fisheries Working Group (AFWG) in 2000 as a platform for identifying and improving knowledge on artisanal fisheries and its governance in CECAF member countries. The CECAF AFWG's provides recommendations towards a sustainable artisanal fisheries sector in West and Central African countries.



**Pointe Noire - Fish carriers offloading daily fish catches. ©FAO**

*Picture 11: Fish handlers offloading the fish catches from canoes in Congo*

### The CECAF AFWG and the CECAF-PESCAO project:

Building on the 7th session of the CECAF Scientific Sub-committee held in Tenerife in 2015, the AFWG has revised and updated its terms of reference (TORs) to broaden the scope of its activities. These TORs set out the role of the CECAF AFWG and directs its focus on:

- » Collecting and analysis of biological, environmental and socio-economic data;
- » Conducting of specific studies of importance to artisanal fisheries;
- » Promoting and implementing regional and international initiatives/instruments for artisanal fisheries; such as the Voluntary Guidelines for the Security of Sustainable Artisanal Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and several others.

Based on the new TORs, the 5th AFWG session held in Dakar, Senegal, in 2018 agreed on a work plan based on identified regional artisanal fisheries priorities. Since then, various activities have been conducted by CECAF and the CECAF-PESCAO project leading into the 6th AFWG session held in Accra, Ghana in 2019.

The 6th AFWG was attended by twenty-two participants from fifteen CECAF members and resulted in the:

- » Review of existing methods for collecting artisanal fisheries specific data;
- » Identification of priority artisanal fisheries indicators/variables;
- » Discussion on the characterization of artisanal fisheries in the CECAF region;
- » Consensus on the need to carry out socioeconomic studies on artisanal fisheries specific issues.



**Elmina - Women fish processors arrange sardines on the smoking grill. ©FAO**

*Picture 12: Women fish processors arrange sardines on the smoking racks/grill*

### Artisanal fisheries looking forward with CECAF- PESCAO and CECAF:

With the focus set on data collection and analysis through collaborative approaches, the 7th AFWG session is planned to be held in 2020.

This 7th AFWG session looks to build on the momentum developed from the previous working group sessions for sustainable artisanal fisheries and fisheries systems across the region and with the active participation of stakeholders. For more information please contact: Merete Tandstad ([merete.tandstad@fao.org](mailto:merete.tandstad@fao.org)), Ndiaga Gueye ([Ndiaga.gueye@fao.org](mailto:Ndiaga.gueye@fao.org)) and Mrs. Lena Westlund ([Lena.westlund@fao.org](mailto:Lena.westlund@fao.org)).

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