

# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT UNDER FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

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# INTRODUCTION

- West African states have important pelagic and demersal fisheries stocks.
- food and income for the local populations
- foreign exchange, revenue for the national governments
- employment opportunities

# Introduction

- **Efforts of states to develop and utilize these fisheries stocks in a sustainable manner are limited by:**
- **lack of adequate skilled manpower and financial and material resources.**
- **Furthermore, the poor and precarious state of their national economies compel them to grant fishing access rights to more vessels, the majority of them foreign owned, than is proportionate to the exploitable level that guarantees sustainable harvesting.**

# Introduction

- **International trade in fish and fisheries products is also a major contributory factor to this excessive fishing pressure and over-exploitation.**
- **Result - over-exploitation of several stocks such as shrimps, cephalopods, demersal and pelagic species, threatening the sustainability of fisheries stocks and the marine environment.**

# Introduction continued

- This sector, vital for social stability and the survival of the local populations, is threatened by:
- destructive, unsustainable fishing methods and practices,
- ever-increasing fishing effort by both local industrial and foreign vessels without due consideration for the exploitable potential of the resources, resulting in over-exploitation,
- excessive by-catches of non-target organisms (including endangered and protected species) and wasteful discards.

# Definitions of sustainable

- Fisheries Biologists - the term sustainable is used with reference to the yield which could be removed from the fish stock in perpetuity.
- FAO is *“the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technical and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations”*

# FISHERIES RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Limitation on amounts of fish landed (quotas)
- Limitation on gear usage (either type of gear, or nature of the gear itself)
- Limitation on total effort deployed (effort = number of vessels x fishing days)
- **These tools are deployed in order to attempt to keep fisheries stocks above a "safe biological level".**

# STATE OF THE RESOURCES

- The various available results on the coastal demersal resources indicate a serious global over-exploitation:
- declining production of industrial fishing units
- conflicts between artisanal and industrial fishing operators and even within the artisanal fishery,

# STATE OF THE RESOURCES

- adoption of new fishing strategies,
- significant reduction in mean individual sizes of landed species,
- stagnation or reduction in landings per type of fishing in spite of the increasing level of fishing effort...).

# STATE OF RESOURCES

CRODT Senegal's oceanographic research centre

2002 Resources evaluations results:

## **Indices of abundance of species**

- **a significant reduction between the 70s/80s and 90s a significant reduction between the 70s/80s and 90s**
- **total catches, all species included, declined from about 1000 Kg/hr in 1986 to only 500 kg/hr in 1991 for the entire Senegalese continental shelf, corresponding to a 50% reduction**

# STATE OF RESOURCES

- **In Mauritania**
- **evaluation results on the pelagic and cephalopod species & crustaceans:**
- Demersal resources are fully exploited to overexploited. The octopus and the white grouper are overexploited. The hakes and shrimps are fully exploited; this is true for the majority of the big demersal species.







# FISHERIES ACCESS AGREEMENTS

- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982
- In the 1970s and early 1980s, coastal states declared Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)
- UNCLOS recognised the right of coastal states to determine how the resources in their waters were to be exploited and thus provided the legal basis and economic motivation for negotiation of fishing agreements between coastal states and distant water fishing nations.

# FISHERIES ACCESS AGREEMENTS

- European Community negotiated and signed fishing agreements with individual West African states for their vessels
- Fishing vessels from other distant water fishing nations such as the former Soviet Union and other Asian nations such Japan, Korea and Taiwan
- The Soviet fishing vessels constituted a large proportion of the non - EU fleet before the break up of the USSR.

# Fisheries agreements

- The **first generation** fisheries “non reciprocal and compensatory” agreements - characterised by third parties conceding part of their resources with no reciprocal rights in EC waters, for financial compensation by the EC budget, licence fees paid by ship owners for access rights. These agreements also included access to the EC markets of fish products from third countries.

# Fisheries Agreements

- The first generation ones evolved into the **second generation** “joint enterprise fisheries agreements” in the late 1990s.
- Under these agreements private operators could set up joint ventures and EC vessels could be permanently or temporarily transferred to third country fleets.



# Fisheries Partnership Agreements

- In December 2002, the European Commission published a Communication on “An Integrated Framework for Fisheries Partnership Agreements with Third Countries (COM(2002)637)”, which advocated a new approach to fisheries agreements based on moving beyond the “cash for access” agreements negotiated to date.
- The aim is twofold:
- to ensure that the interests of the EU distant water fleets are protected and ;
- that the conditions to achieve sustainable fisheries in the waters of the partner concerned are strengthened.

# Fisheries stocks targeted under the FPAs

- generally and invariably include pelagic and demersal species:
  - Tuna and crustaceans (mainly shrimps) in all four agreements,
  - Crabs in the Sao Tome y Principe one,
  - Cephalopods (mostly octopus) in the Senegal and Mauritania agreements,
  - Black hake and crawfish in Mauritania.

# Review of 4 FPAs

- Angola, Mauritania, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal
- The European Community's very first agreement was signed with Senegal in 1979.
- Currently, EU has financial compensation agreements with at least 15 countries in Africa.
- The EU and Mauritania have had a fisheries agreement since 1987, the most important one for the EU in terms of fishing possibilities for EU vessels and with regard to the financial contribution.

# Review of 4 FPAs

- The latest FPAs signed between the EU and some third countries notable Mauritania and Senegal include elements for improving governance for sustainability
- EU/Senegal agreement:
- 18% of EU payments are dedicated to support conservation
- areas where EU vessels operated have been restricted
- fishing opportunities for certain stocks have been reduced
- Tuna landed locally has been increased
- Pelagic trawling has been banned
- A 2 months closed season has been instituted
- A ban on the catching and landing of sharks



# Conclusions

- 1. EC vessels fishing within the framework of third party agreements with developing countries often result to transfer of the environmental impacts associated with fishing within EC waters to the waters of these countries.
- 2. These Fisheries agreements are not always flexible enough to respond quickly to specific emergency circumstances and the precautionary principle is rarely mentioned or applied.
- 3. Fishing possibilities offered to EC vessels are not always based on the productive capacity of the resource. The evaluation of fisheries resources in third countries needs to be accurate and based on sound science data, and EC fishing quotas need to be based on this evaluation.

# Conclusions

- 4. Some fisheries agreements do not offer enough guarantees for the protection of small-scale coastal fisheries, and do not always take into account their impact on small-scale local fisheries.
- 5. The over-exploitation of fish stocks in third country waters impacts on the livelihoods of people in the local coastal communities of these States.

# Recommendations

- 1. Overcapacity needs to be addressed. The European fishing fleet has an estimated 40 - 50% overcapacity. Until this issue is resolved the pressure for the fleet to exploit and over fishing of third country waters will be severe.
- 2. There needs to be a clear link between the volume of fish taken by EC vessels and the scientifically assessed capacity of the stocks to sustain this volume of removal.
- 3. The negotiation of fisheries partnership agreements needs to be more transparent than in the past, with all stakeholders having the opportunity to put their case before such agreements are concluded
- 4. In the negotiation of fisheries agreements the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach should be taken into account.

# 2002 W S S D Commitments

- The overarching commitment at the 2002 WSSD was to develop sustainable fisheries. Within this, key objectives are:
- To maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield: for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;
- To monitor and regulate fishing capacity in line with fishing opportunities;
- To ratify and implement UN and other international agreements;
- To prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing;
- To progressively eliminate subsidies contributing to IUU fishing and overcapacity; and;
- To ensure that fisheries policies take into account the needs of transitional and developing countries.