LOS: IMPACTS ON THE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES: THE GHANA CASE STUDY

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Oceans and Law of the Sea
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

The Nippon Foundation

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

Republic of Ghana
• BACKGROUND
  – Coastal Morphology and Inland Fishery Waters
  – Brief History and Current Status of The Ghanaian Fishing Industry

• THE GHANA FISHERIES POLICY
  – Legislative Framework
  – Objectives
  – Focus of Study

• CONCLUSIONS

• RECOMMENDATIONS
Coastal Morphology & Inland Fishery Waters of Ghana

Marine

- Coastline of 539km
- Narrow Continental Shelf
- Territorial Sea of 12nm
- Contiguous Zone of 24nm
- EEZ of 200nm
Major inland water bodies are:

Volta Lake - 8442 square km
Keta Lagoon - 330 square km
Lake Bosomtwi - 49 square km
Volta River - Black, White and Red
Densu, Oti and Pra Rivers

Plus more than 50 brackish water bodies dotting the coastline, most of which are RAMSAR designated sites.
Fisheries started out as artisanal and was mainly for subsistence purposes.

History Timeline
- 1800s: Ghanaian fishermen in foreign waters
- 1944: Outboard motors introduced into Ghana for canoes
- 1946: Two 30-footer motorized fishing boats imported into the country for experimental fishing
- 1952: Boatyard Corporation set up to build similar boats
- 1962: Tema Boatyard set up to build larger wooden vessels with in-board engines. State Fishing Corporation (SFC) also set up to help entrepreneurs
- 1964: First Ministry of Fisheries set up
- Late 1970s and 1980s: Industry slumped

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Total marine production as of 2007 stood at 325,000 metric tonnes.
Lakes, Rivers and Lagoons

- Comprised of 24,000 planked canoes from 1,232 fishing villages
- Lands about 150,000 tons annually, 80% coming from the Volta Lake

Aquaculture and Culture-based Fisheries

- Still in developmental stages
- Composed largely of non-commercial systems
- Contributed 3,257 tons in 2007

Summary

- Sector accounts for 4.5% of Ghana’s GDP
- Sector employs an estimated 2 million people
- Sector produces a total of 420,000 tons of the 880,000 tons needed annually. Deficit of 460,000 tons is made up through fish imports.
Ghana Fisheries Act 625 of 2002

Part I Section 1

“There is established by this Act a Fisheries Commission”

Section 2

(1) The object of the Commission is to regulate and manage the utilization of the fishery resources of Ghana and co-ordinate the POLICIES in relation to them

(2) Without prejudice to the subsection (1), the Commission shall in relation to fisheries perform the following functions:

a. Prepare and keep under continual review PLANS for the management and development of fisheries in waters under the jurisdiction of Ghana.
POLICY OBJECTIVES

Structured around four major policy areas:

- management of fisheries, conservation of aquatic resources and protection of their natural environment;
- promotion of value addition and improving the livelihood of fisheries communities;
- development of aquaculture; and
- improvement of services provided to the sector by the Ministry and other institutions.
Policy Objective 1 tries to address the following:

- Over-exploitation of fisheries resources and environmental degradation;
- Lack of measures to strengthen regulatory frameworks and effective implementation;
- Decreased production and loss of value in production due to unsustainable fisheries; and
- The negative impacts of unsustainable fisheries on the contribution of the fisheries sector to food security and the livelihood of small-scale communities.
1. There has been no comprehensive fisheries policy governing the sector to date;
2. The contents of the draft policy reflect an in-depth examination of the current state of the resources and a widespread consultation process.
3. The draft policy provides a commendable framework for fisheries management in Ghana; and
4. There is no clear timeframe for achieving the objectives set out in the policy;
RecommenDATIONS

Keyword: Priority

1. Strengthen Monitoring Control and Surveillance to ensure compliance with existing regulations;
2. Tackle the issue of poor governance as a matter of top priority;
3. Modernization of fishing Ghanaian fishing fleet is an opportunity in itself that can be explored to reduce over-capacity in the industry;
4. Consider the issue of developing inter-Ministry relations and collaborations one of top priority; and
5. Develop relationships with relevant RFMOs and in doing so position the country to play a leading role in regional maritime affairs.
Policy Cycle

1. Consultation
2. Decision Making
3. Implementation
4. Improvement
5. Policy Termination
6. Agenda Setting
7. Problem Recognition
8. Outcome
9. Impact
10. Output
FISHERY PATROL
“Unless the issue of inadequate governance is addressed the potential benefits to fisheries management systems, including MCS, science and management functions will be undermined. More importantly if governance remains poor, it is likely that funding for MCS will fail to create the anticipated levels of change within the system and therefore will fail to deliver desired outcomes.”

Source: MRAG 2005: Review of impacts of IUU fishing on developing countries
Thank You