



West African Fisheries Profiles

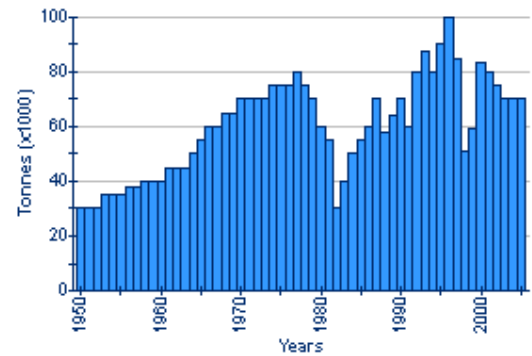
Chad

Total Fish Production: 112,000mt (2005)
Total Seafood Export Value: US\$ 92m (2005)
Percentage of GDP: 4,5%
Total Number of Jobs: 300,000; 177,000 (direct)
Percentage of Jobs: Not available

Source: FAO

Wild Capture Production (FAO)

Source: Fishstat



Top 10 Species Exported

1. Tilapia (Cichlidae)
2. Tetras (Characidae)
3. Jewelfish (Hemichromis)

Source: Fishstat/2005

Aquaculture Production (FAO)

No production

Top Exports to the U.S. (Value)

No exports

Source: NOAA Fisheries

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Industry Profile

Chad's artisanal fishing vessels are sometimes motorized and sometimes rowed with oars. Fishermen use a variety of gear, including drift nets, seines, bottom lines, and pots.

Most fishermen work seasonally and take on other jobs the rest of the year. Professional fishermen tend to be foreign workers.

Source: FAO

State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

Smoking is the primary form of processing in Chad, accounting for 73% of the catch. Another 17% of fish are dried. Only 10% are sold fresh.

Half of Chadian production is exported to neighboring countries, and half is consumed domestically.

The distribution of markets throughout the geographically large country has led to the establishment of a complex fish-distribution network with wholesalers in many larger towns and villages.

Source: FA

Challenges and Prospects

The artisanal fishery is focused on Lake Chad, internal rivers, small lakes, and seasonal flood plains. Thirty percent of fish are harvested from Lake Chad, and 60% from the Logone and Chari river basins.

The government regulates fishing principally through decrees that govern gear types and entry restrictions and limitations.

There is little large-scale private sector investment in the fisheries sector.

Fishermen are able to borrow from local lenders, but at very high interest rates.

Source: FAO



Sustainability

Desertification and seasonal variance in the water levels of Lake Chad and other bodies of water threaten fisheries production. However, there is still room for growth, given regional planning and investment. Chadian fishermen have shown themselves to be adept at implementing new fishing technologies and expanding to new fishing grounds.

Species of commercial interest in Chad include tilapia (*Cichlidae*), tetra (*Characidae*), jewelfish (*Hemichromis*), and elephant fish (*Mormyridae*).

Aquaculture is nonexistent in Chad because of the relative abundance of its wild-capture industry and the difficulty of reaching necessary economies of scale.

Source: FAO