

# West African Fisheries Profiles



## Ghana

**Total Fish Production:** 393,428 MT (2005)  
**Total Seafood Export Value:** \$82,473,000 (2005)  
**Percentage of GDP:** 3%  
**Total Number of Jobs:** 1.5–2 million; 210,000 direct  
**Percentage of Jobs:** 10%

Source: FAO

### Top 10 Species Exported (Value)

1. Canned tuna (\$72,000,000)
2. Fresh tuna (\$7,200,000)
3. Tilapia (no figure available)
4. Miscellaneous dried fish (\$1,000,000)
5. Salmonids, frozen (\$900,000)
6. Marine fish, frozen (\$600,000)
7. Cuttlefish and squid (\$600,000)
8. Shrimps and prawns (\$90,000)
9. Sardines (\$80,000)
10. Crustaceans, frozen (\$50,000)

Source: Fishstat/2005

### Top Exports to the U.S. (Value)

#### 2006

Crustaceans NSPF live/fresh/dried/salted/brine (\$2,380)  
 Fish NSPF smoked (\$2,055)  
 Groundfish: cod, cusk, haddock, hake, pollock smoked (\$12,200)  
 Herring smoked fillet (\$24,908)  
 Sardine canned not in oil not > 225 g (\$20,900)  
 Shrimp peeled fresh/dried/salted/brine (\$2,040)  
**Grand total: \$64,483**

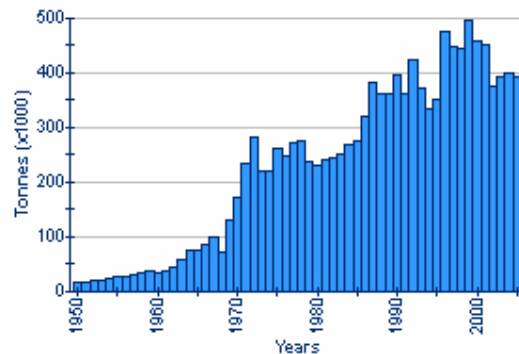
#### 2007

Fish NSFP Smoked (\$3,000)  
 Herring Smoked Fillet (\$7,242)  
 Herring smoked whole or beheaded not otherwise processed (\$2,128)  
 Sardine canned in oil smoked not skin/bone value >\$1/kg (\$6,293)  
 Soups, broths based on fish or other seafood (\$2,500)  
 Sturgeon roe cured (\$9,243)  
 Tuna Yellowfin fresh (\$2,861,750)  
 Coral, shells, cuttlebone crude/simplely prepared (\$23,858)  
**Grand total: (\$2,916,014)**

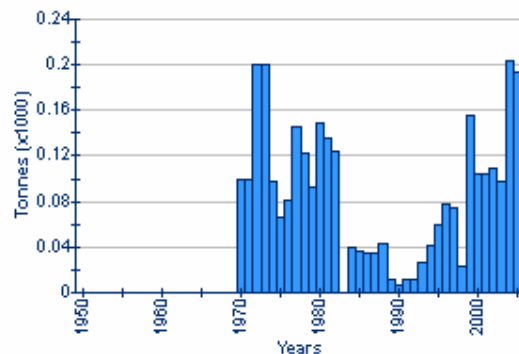
Source: NOAA Fisheries

### Wild Capture Production (FAO)

Source: Fishstat



### Aquaculture Production (FAO)



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## Industry Profile

Ghana's artisanal fishing sector includes 10,000 small, mechanized wooden boats that harvest 60–70% of the marine catch. About 170 larger semi-industrial ships with inboard motors are used for trawling in shallow waters during the off-season and purse seining during upwelling seasons. Approximately 90 industrial vessels are used for shrimping, tuna lines and poles, purse seining and demersal pair trawling. The Ghanaian government has sought to expand the industrial sector in an effort to diversify exports since 1984.

Inland fisheries exist on major rivers and lakes, and there is also some freshwater aquaculture of tilapia and other endemic species.

*Source: FAO*

## State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

Domestically, most of the catch is processed: 60% is smoked, 20% is salted, and the remaining 20% is sold fresh. Predictably, people along the coastal areas consume the majority of fresh catch, and inland areas are more frequently supplied with processed fish.

Industrial fish processing includes tuna canning and tuna fish-meal production. Canned tuna is the most important export, but other fish are also exported in frozen or smoked form.

*Source: FAO*

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## Challenges and Prospects

Artisanal fisheries lack access to infrastructure (docks, boat repair, cold-storage facilities) available to the semi-industrial and industrial fleets.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Fisheries manages fisheries. The department's goals are to increase food supply; create employment, economic growth, and foreign exchange; and alleviate poverty. Separate management regimes exist for marine and inland waters.

Fisheries research is conducted by the Marine Fisheries Research Division. UNIDO has sponsored the Ghana Fish Industry Investment Program, which is working on improved construction methods for wooden canoes, however with little success. The World Bank is financing the Fisheries Subsector Capacity Building Project.

*Source: FAO, INFOPECHE*



## Sustainability

The fishing sector is vital to food security and job creation to alleviate rural poverty in Ghana. However, artisanal fisheries along the coast are close to their estimated maximum sustained yield, offering little potential for expansion.

In the industrial sector, tuna capture has increased significantly in recent years but still has room to grow. Sustainable catch of tuna is estimated to be 90,000–100,000 MT per year, but only 36,000 MT is currently captured. A foreign-financed landing bay is under construction and this may help to boost tuna harvests.

The abundance of lakes and rivers in Ghana also offers potential for increased aquaculture production.

*Source: INFOPECHE*