

West African Fisheries Profiles

Guinea Bissau

Total Fish Production: 6,200 MT (2005)
Total Seafood Export Value: \$4,570,000 (2005)
Percentage of GDP: Not available
Total Number of Jobs: 15,000+; 1,200+ (direct)
Percentage of Jobs: Not available

Source: Fishstat, FAO

Top 10 Species Exported (Value)

1. Mackerel, frozen (\$1,260,000)
2. Flatfish, frozen (\$942,000)
3. Marine fish, frozen (\$889,000)
4. Tuna, frozen (\$693,000)
5. Cuttlefish, frozen (\$521,000)
6. Octopus, frozen (\$189,000)
7. Shrimp and prawns, frozen (\$152,000)
8. Sole, frozen (\$13,000)
9. Sharkfin, dried and salted (\$3,000)
10. Miscellaneous dried fish (\$3,000)

Source: Fishstat/2005

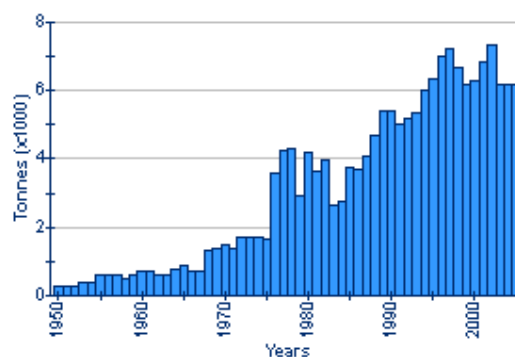
Top Exports to the U.S. (Value)

- 1996: Marine fish NSPF, frozen (\$41,404)
Grand total: \$41,404
- 1997: No exports
- 1998: Toothfish Patagonian, frozen (\$37,813)
Grand total: \$37,813
- 1999-2007: No exports

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Wild Capture Production (FAO)

Source: Fishstat



Aquaculture Production (FAO)

No production

Contact:
WASSDA
c/o West Africa Trade Hub/Dakar
Residence Seguele – Route de Ngor/Casino
B.P. 45095 Dakar-Fann
Dakar, Senegal
Phone: +221 33 869 14 11
Fax: +221 33 820 26 56

Industry Profile

According to Guinea Bissau's government, 107 artisanal vessels operate, of which only 28 are motorized. About half of artisanal fishermen are foreigners (most from Guinea-Conakry), and about 80% are part-time fishermen who also farm.

The industrial fleet had 170 vessels in 2003. Two vessels with cold-storage exist as part of a cooperative venture with China.

Information on the total fleet is less certain, as many unlicensed vessels are not recorded in government statistics.

Source: FAO, Enda

State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

Ninety percent of landings are frozen in the artisanal boats and then processed, mainly by women, in state-owned and international facilities. Processing includes drying, smoking, and salting (the latter two forms are especially sought after in the northern part of the country).

Guinea Bissau has two privately owned ice-production facilities, and a third is being rehabilitated. Ice costs the equivalent of \$2.20 (1,000 CFA) for 25 kg. Women vendors from the resource-rich Bijagos Islands must travel to Bissau to buy ice.

Source: WATH/Dakar, FAO

Challenges and Prospects

The largest barrier to exports is the absence of a laboratory that can certify seafood quality for export to the European Union or to the United States. However, products from Guinea-Bissau are now sent to these markets via Senegal, which leads to a 90% loss of potential revenue for Bissau. Efforts are currently underway to establish EU certification authority at the government-run *Centro de Investigacao Pesqueira Aplicada*, and it is projected to be operational in 2008.

Generally speaking, Bissau has significant infrastructure problems. The fishing port consists of a single dock and a nearby cold-storage facility with four refrigerated containers. The government has limited insitutional capacity to regulate the fishing sector and has had difficulty forming and implementing comprehensive plans for the sector. To a limited extent, the government has been able to regulate foreign fishing in the EEZ by selling and issuing licenses.

Source: WATH Dakar, FAO

Sustainability

Guinea-Bissau's seafood sector has enormous potential. There is significant biomass in both marine and estuarine areas, much of which is not being exploited. The government establishes an annual Total Available Catch limit, which is generally 40% of estimated global biomass for most species and 10% for threatened species like sharks and rays. However, the migratory nature of these species and the small size of the Bissau's EEZ make the quantity of sustainable harvest highly sensitive to the fishing activities of neighboring states. The EU agreed to give \$3.2 million in fishery management assistance as part of a 2007 fishing-partnership agreement.

Estimates of potential commercialization of fisheries are as high as 77,000 MT for fish; 3,025 MT for crustaceans; 5,300 MT for cephalopods; 5,400 MT for rays; and 5,000 MT for sharks.

Source: WATH/Dakar, FAO, Enda, US Embassy/Dakar

