



# West African Fisheries Profiles



## Guinea

**Total Fish Production:** 96,571 MT (2005)  
**Total Seafood Export Value:** \$10,418,000 (2005)  
**Percentage of GDP:** 3.6%  
**Total Number of Jobs:** 84,200; 81,700 (direct)  
**Percentage of Jobs:** Not available

Source: FAO, Fishstat

### Top 10 Species Exported (Value)

1. Sharkfins, dried, salted (\$2,160,000)
2. Shrimp and prawns, frozen (\$1,950,000)
3. Marine fish, fresh or chilled (\$1,460,000)
4. Swordfish, frozen (\$1,000,000)
5. Marine fish, frozen (\$990,000)
6. Shark, frozen (\$900,000)
7. Seabream, frozen (\$630,000)
8. Flatfish, frozen (\$400,000)
9. Fishmeat, frozen (\$230,000)

Source: Fishstat/2005

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

#### 2004

Fish NSPF fillet dried/salted/brine (\$12,000)  
 Fish NSPF smoked (\$137,080)  
 Groundfish smoked: cod, haddock, hake, pollock (\$2,800)  
 Herring smoked fillet (\$5,160)  
 Tuna NSPF in ATC not in oil over quota (\$293,796)  
 Tuna yellowfin fresh (\$12,093)  
**Grand total: \$462,929**

#### 2005

Fish NSPF dried (\$13,837)  
 Fish NSPF smoked (\$21,955)  
 Herring smoked fillet (\$27,490)  
**Grand total: \$63,282**

#### 2006

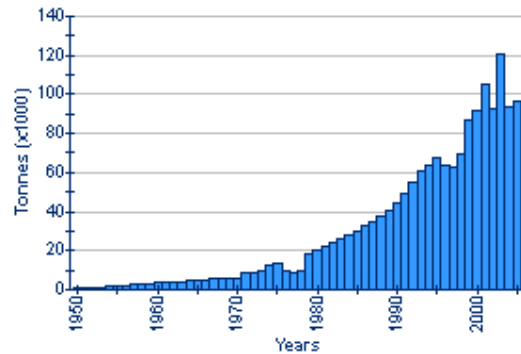
Fish NSPF smoked (\$42,700)  
 Herring smoked fillet (\$75,505)  
 Snails other than sea live/fresh/frozen/salted (\$3,000)  
**Grand total: \$81,205**

#### 2007

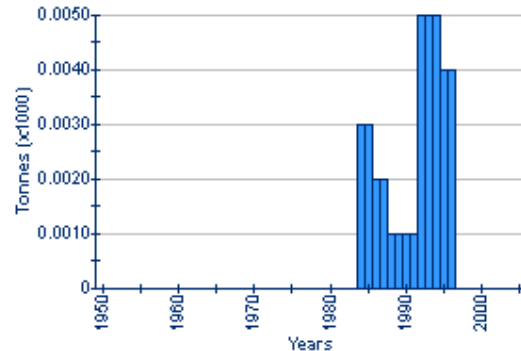
Fish NSPF smoked (\$22,500)  
 Herring smoked fillet (\$8,700)  
 Tuna NSPF in ATC (other) not in oil over quota (\$57,076)  
 Waxes NSPF, may include spremateci (\$204,184)  
**Grand total: \$292,460**

Source: NOAA Fisheries

### Wild Capture Production (FAO) Source: Fishstat



### Aquaculture Production (FAO) Source: Fishstat



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## Industry Profile

The coastal zone is dominated by artisanal fishermen, who represent 60% of the Guinean industry. There are more than 3,600 artisanal boats; more than half are motorized.

Foreigners dominate the export-oriented demersal fishery, using primarily drift nets. Foreigners also dominate the high-value shark industry. Guinean nationals dominate the pelagic fishery, especially for bonga shad.

The industrial fleet is mostly comprised of foreign vessels that ply offshore waters for pelagics, demersal fish, cephalopods, tuna, and shrimp.

*Source: FAO*

## State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

Smoking has long been the dominant form of processing for domestically consumed fish. Recently, drying and salting have increased in popularity, although most dried and salted fish is exported to neighboring countries.

The expansion of value-added processing is limited by insufficient infrastructure, limited awareness of available resources, lack of training, illiteracy, and the dominance of export-only foreign-operated industrial fleets.

*Source: FAO*

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## Challenges and Prospects

Guinea has extensive government regulations pertaining to stock assessment, management, and entry limitations. Surveys are used to set annual limits for the industrial sector, and there are some environmental programs that aim to shield marine ecology from harmful fishing practices.

Numerous barriers to increased fish and seafood production exist, including poor transportation infrastructure, little cold-storage infrastructure, lack of industrial organization, no access to credit, lack of training of industry specialists, lack of knowledge about achieving export standards, high transaction costs, and lack of product diversity.

Regardless, fishing represents an increasingly important source of government revenue.

*Source: FAO*

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## Sustainability



Guinean waters have high harvest potential, estimated at 50,000–200,000 MT for pelagic species, 35,000–40,000 MT for bottom fishers, 2,000–4,000 MT for shrimp, and 5,000–12,000 MT for cephalopods. Despite the large number of high-value fish, such as sole, dorades, snapper, cuttlefish, catfish, squid, and lobster, fewer than 15 species are commercially exported. Meanwhile, growth in international trade has put pressure on some species and led to overexploitation of others.

Aquaculture, particularly for shrimp, is currently in an experimental phase, but it has great potential, even in forested inland regions.

*Source: FAO*