



West African Fisheries Profiles



Mauritania

Total Fish Production: 247,577 MT (2005)
Total Seafood Export Value: \$157,200,000 (2005)
Percentage of GDP: 10–12%
Total Number of Jobs: 37,000; 36,000 direct
Percentage of Jobs: Not available

Source: FAO

Top 10 Species Exported (\$ Value)

1. Octopus, frozen (\$94,000,000)
2. Miscellaneous pelagics, frozen (\$23,500,000)
3. Demersal (groupers), frozen (\$9,400,000)
4. Cuttlefish, frozen (\$7,800,000)
5. Squid, frozen (\$5,500,000)
6. Livers and roe, frozen (\$2,600,000)
7. Shrimp and prawns, frozen (\$2,600,000)
8. Oily fish meal (\$2,200,000)
9. Shark, frozen (\$1,300,000)
10. Sharkfins, frozen (\$1,200,000)

Source: Fishstat/2005

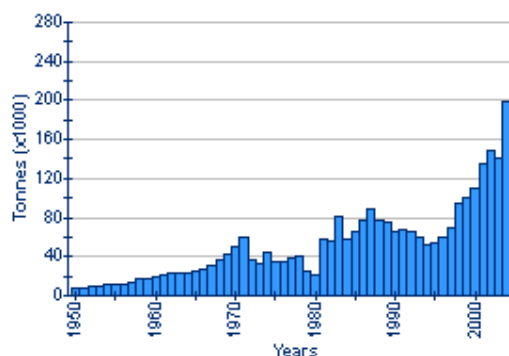
Top Exports to the U.S. (Value)

- 2001: Octopus frozen/dried/salted/brine (\$26,060)
Grand total: \$26,060
- 2002: Octopus frozen/dried/salted/brine (\$130,563)
Grand total: \$130,563
- 2003: Octopus frozen/dried/salted/brine (\$530,883)
 Tuna NSFP fresh (\$3,279)
Grand total: \$534,162
- 2004: No exports
- 2005: Shrimp shell-on frozen (\$2,700)
Grand total: \$2,700
- 2006: Octopus live/fresh 3,290 (\$30,581)
Grand total: \$30,581
- 2007: Molluscs NSFP frozen/dried/salted/brine (\$68,100)
 Molluscs NSPF prepared/preserved (\$246,594)
 Octopus Frozen/dried/salted/brine (\$118,263)
Grand total: \$432,957

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

The industrial fish and seafood sector accounts for approximately 90% of total production and value in Mauritania. The industry is vital for government revenue but does not create many jobs, as most processing is done elsewhere. Nouadibhou is the fishing port for the industrial fleet, and 80% of artisanal boats dock at Nouakchott.

Cephalopod fishing vessels dominate the industrial sector with 185 vessels. Another 65 demersal fishing vessels and 60 shrimpers work in national waters. The 60 pelagic fishing vessels are all foreign-owned.

The artisanal sector includes Mauritanian boats and 250 Senegalese ships authorized to operate out of the city of St Louis. *Source: FAO*

State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

The preponderance of industrial vessels in Mauritanian waters who can process or freeze fish on board means that 95% of the Mauritanian catch is immediately frozen and taken out of national waters.

There is little processing or value-added onshore, except for a small portion of the catch that is filleted or smoked in Nouakchott and minor, traditional value-added processing in Nouakchott and fishing villages along the southern coast.

Source: FAO

Challenges and Prospects

FAO has identified five major management challenges for the Mauritanian government, which periodically overhauls its fishing policy:

1. lack of an integrated and consistent economic system of rents and licenses,
2. absence of maritime infrastructure,
3. absence of processing facilities,
4. lack of product diversity, and
5. absence of secondary support sectors.

Attempts have been made to reduce fishing pressures on stocks through establishment of a biological resting period with no fishing (Aug 1 to Sep 30), a freeze on the levels of bottom-species harvested effective since 1998, enlarged protected areas, three new marine reserves, and increased surveillance and enforcement.

The government and the African Development Fund provide artisanal fishermen with access to credit. *Source: FAO*

Sustainability



The Mauritanian management system focuses on issuing fishing licenses and so has failed to prevent overfishing of many species. However, the Mauritanian Ocean and Fisheries Research Institute (IMROP) is charged with integrating surveys and establishing a *Total Allowable Catch* that is updated every five years. Catch limits are now being applied to artisanal fisheries.

Economic sustainability is low despite multiple attempts to revamp the country's fishing code due to the dominance of industrial and foreign-owned vessels that minimize the integration of the fishing industry into the national economy

Source: FAO