

# West African Fisheries Profiles



## Niger

**Total Fish Production:** 50,058 MT (2005)  
**Total Seafood Export Value:** \$2,230,000 (2005)  
**Percentage of GDP:** 3.5%  
**Total Number of Jobs:** 50,000; 10,000 (direct)  
**Percentage of Jobs:**

### Top 10 Species Exported (Value)

1. Catfish, salted or in brine (\$n.s.)
2. Tilapia (\$n.s.)

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

2000–2001: No exports

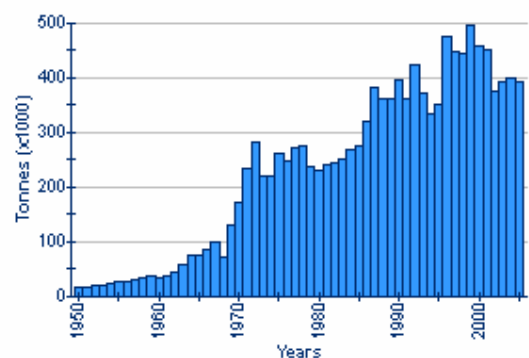
2002: Mackerel smoked (\$2,914)  
 Sauces derived or prepared from fish (\$5,120)  
**Grand total: \$8,034**

2003–2007: No exports

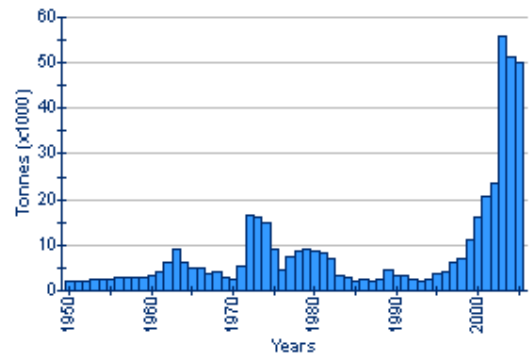
Source: NOAA Fisheries

### Wild Capture Production (FAO)

Source: Fishstat



### Aquaculture Production (FAO)



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## Industry Profile

Artisanal fishing in Niger is typically a family venture.

The most common gear are drift nets, bottom lines, landing nets, seines, butterfly nets, cone nets, and harpoons.

Fishing pirogues are typically not motorized.

*Source: FAO*

## State of Processing and Value Added Industry

Freshwater fish in Niger is usually purchased fresh.

The only large market for fish is found in Niamey.

*Source: FAO*

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## Challenges and Prospects

The fishing season normally runs from February to July, with the lowest productivity occurring from December to early February. An overall decrease in the productivity of rivers has led to increased usage of illegal gear and off-season fishing.

The fishing industry in Niger would be more productive with stronger statutes and better government oversight, to include more comprehensive management plans for water and fisheries. Also, the industry could benefit from government assistance to organize itself.

*Source: FAO*

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## Sustainability



The fishing industry in Niger is threatened by desertification and irrigation diversions which have reduced the flow of water in rivers and streams. Lake Chad is also shrinking, thereby reducing fishing capacity.

Nile perch makes up 10% of captures and 30% of total fishery value in Niger, although there are 98 other species that are fished.

Aquaculture has been supported by the government and could benefit from additional assistance.

*Source: FAO*