

NIGERIA

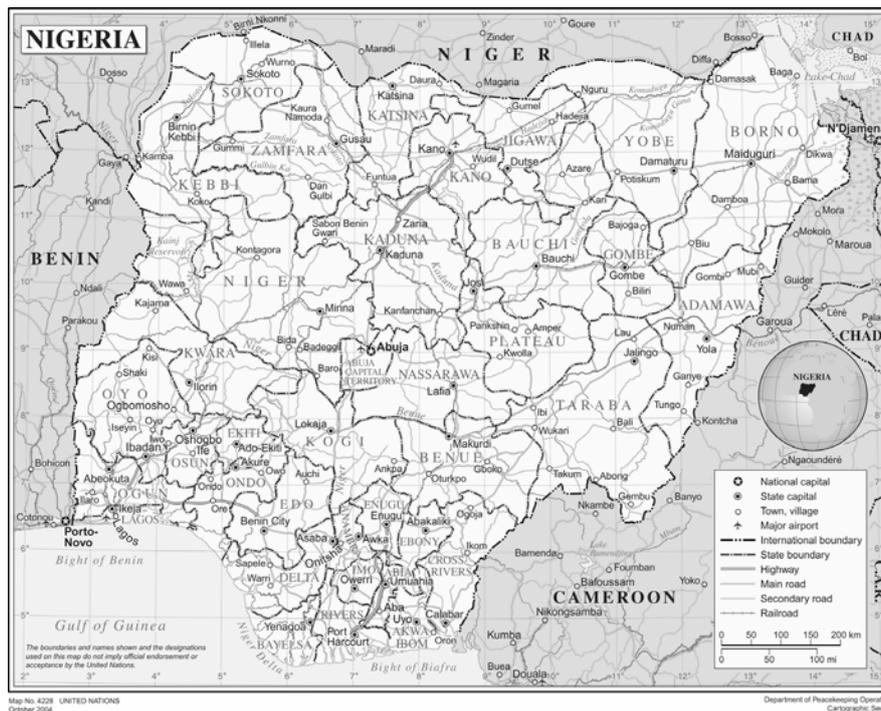
1. INTRODUCTION

This document is aimed at providing reference information on the present status of fishery information and data collection in Nigeria for the discussion during the FAO FishCode-STF/CECAF/FCWC Subregional Workshop on the Improvement of Fishery Information and Data Collection Systems in the West Central Gulf of Guinea Region held in Accra, Ghana, in June 2007. The information contained in this document has been obtained from FAO's corporate repository of information (including the Fishery Country Profile on Nigeria) and other information sources.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON NIGERIA RELATED TO FISHERIES

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is bordered by Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger and has a coastline of 853 km which borders the Atlantic Ocean in the Gulf of Guinea. The limits of Nigeria's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) are 12 nautical miles (nm) and 200 nm respectively. The total area of the continental shelf in the EEZ is approximately 37 900 km² (FAO, 2007) but the flats are interrupted coast-wide by unburied fossil corals at 40–120 m depth. Canyons off Lagos, Mahin and Calabar also interrupt the shelf. Apart from these interruptions and some off shore oil prospecting installations the shelf is considerably trawlable (Ogbonna, 2001).

Average fish production in the years 2001–2003 was 502 932 tonnes, average fish imports and exports in the same period were 664 176 tonnes and 6 989 tonnes respectively. This resulted in an average per caput supply of 8.5 kg/year in those years.



Nigeria is the largest country in Africa, having a population of about 140 million people. Nigeria's population is made up of about 200 ethnic groups and 500 indigenous languages (WorldBank, 2006). On October 1, 1960, Nigeria gained its independence from the United Kingdom and now consists of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The States along the coast are: Akwa Ibom State, Bayelsa State, Cross River State, Delta state, Lagos State, Ogun State, Ondo State and Rivers State (Annex 1).

Output of the fishing industry is very important economically. Although less than 50 percent of total supply is produced locally, it accounted for 1.71 percent of the 38.7 percent contributed by Agriculture to GDP in 1997.

The industry features prominently in international trade, with US\$ 8.4 million of exports and US\$ 159 million of imports in 1997. Official figures for fish and fish products export are highly controversial, as the industry claims exports of the order of US\$ 50 million. With the control and regulation of exports to comply with EU Legislation, the true picture should emerge in the next year or two. For example, data already emerging from this source puts export of shrimps by 14 companies at 8 028 tonnes, valued at US\$ 31 million in 1998. There are also significant exports of ornamental fish—indigenous strains of species such as *tilapia*, *Synodontis*, guppies, etc. and import of some species of carp for aquaculture (FAO Fishery country profile).

3. STRUCTURE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

Currently the Nigerian fishing industry is in a dynamic state. There is overcapitalization in the industrial fleet; over fishing of the coastal resources; declining catch, both in quantity and especially in quality; environmental degradation seriously impeding the productivity of the artisanal sector; and declining efficiency due to lack of technical innovation.

Trends in vessel licence data show that between 200 and 300 vessels have been licenced to fish and shrimp every year in the last decade and that they have together been landing between 23 000 and 34 000 tonnes annually, stretching the resources to their limits. The vessels are inefficient in operation as most of them are at sea for only about 200 days/year. In the same period, the number of vessels licenced to fish has reduced and output has been declining, although catch per vessel could have improved. More than any other, the fish trawlers landings have demonstrated the degrading status of the stocks. The landings are dominated by juveniles of the most common species, while certain prized species have virtually disappeared.

The number of trawlers licenced for shrimp are on the increase, currently about 200 per annum. Total landings of shrimps are also on the increase, with a high of 12 254 tonnes in 1995, when 235 vessels were licenced and 10 807 tonnes in 1997, when 197 vessels were licenced. Correlation is not at all possible because official records of shrimp landings include those of the artisanal sector. It is, however, clear that current output level of the shrimp fishery is way beyond potential yield estimates, mainly because of the entry of *Peneaeus monodon* into the fishery.

From other indicators, the shrimp industry appears to be performing reasonably well. In June 1998, Nigeria accomplished harmonization in the EU market for her fish products exports, which is mainly shrimp (head-on, headless and p.u.d.), together with other products such as sole fillets, cuttlefish and crab claws. The harmonization of Nigeria with EU regulations resulted in the listing of approved vessels. Responsibility for monitoring and maintenance of standards and recommendation for listing/de-listing has been vested in the Federal Department of Fisheries in accordance with the EU legislation, stating the special conditions governing imports of fishery and aquaculture products originating from Nigeria.

Shrimp trawling is, however, contributing significantly to the degradation of the coastal demersal stock. The industry is now being seen in both its positive and negative dimensions and it is desirable to strike a balance, using appropriate technology. This issue is being tackled currently by the FAO/UNEP/GEF Tropical Shrimp Trawl Project.

The artisanal coastal operators, mainly through the selectivity of their gear, could exploit their resources in a sustainable manner if they had absolute jurisdiction. However, the 0 to 5 nautical miles area reserved for them is constantly violated by trawlers, especially shrimpers combing the river mouths for their target species. This sector is also seriously constrained by high cost of inputs, craft and gear, resulting from the general lull in the economy. The sustained output level may be attributed to some development interventions, targeted at groups of coastal fisherfolk, such as the IFAD-and ECOWAS-Fund-assisted Artisanal Fisheries Development Projects.

For the estuarine and brackish-water fisheries, the main issue is pollution: industrial, human and geophysical. Many fishing households in this environment can only just subsist, having lost their income generating capacity. The waters around are simply getting less and less productive (FAO fishery country profile).

For the entire artisanal coastal and inland sectors, fishing is the major source of livelihood. A total of 700 000 fishermen (500 000 coastal and 200 000 inland) are recorded as primary producers. For such a well-integrated industry, total employment could well be five-fold. The industrial sector provides employment for about 100 000 Nigerians in various fields, such as management, engineering, vessel operation, distribution, marketing, etc. Commercial aquaculture is gaining ground and is also generating employment.

Marine Industrial fisheries

Offshore tuna fishery

The offshore resources located between the 30 nautical mile territorial limit and the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone consist mainly of tuna. It forms part of the large Gulf of Guinea stocks. Despite this natural endowment, Nigeria is not actively participating in the exploitation of this resource due to technical constraints. Whereas a virile industry has developed over the last 30 years in the exploitation and transshipment of the Gulf of Guinea tuna under the management of ICCAT, no tuna vessels are based in Nigeria. Nevertheless, in the last two to three years, landings of 1 000–2 000 tonnes annually from vessels operating in the EEZ have contributed to domestic supplies (FAO, 2007).

Coastal demersal fish fishery

The trawling industry is well developed and organized under the Nigerian Trawler Owners' Association (NITOA). The fleet consists of small- and medium-sized vessels in the range of 9–25 m LOA and 20–150 GRT. There are about 40 trawling companies in Nigeria, most of which are members of NITOA. Most individual company fleet sizes are low (less than 4) and are mostly owned by Nigerians. The larger companies, with fleet size of 4 or more, are mainly partnerships with foreign investors. NITOA is working with government to address the numerous problems of the Nigerian industrial fishery sector, which include a limited resource base; inadequate infrastructure; unfavourable fiscal policy; inefficient resource management; and environmental concerns (FAO fishery country profiles).

Coastal Shrimp fishery

Industrial shrimping in Nigeria is operated on the continental shelf from 5 nautical miles. Vessels are licenced in accordance with the provisions of Fisheries law and Regulations. Presently there are over 36 companies and owing about 271 Nigerian flagged vessels licenced to shrimp within the territorial waters of Nigeria.

Marine artisanal fisheries

The artisanal marine fisheries can be categorised into:

- The coastal canoe fishery operates usually within the 5 nautical miles non-trawling zone but due to motorization and targeted stocks some operators may venture farther into the sea. They lose a lot of fishing days to inclement weather and scarcity of production inputs etc.
- Brackish water or estuarine canoe fishery operating in lagoons, creeks and estuaries.
- The artisanal group which mainly targets sharks and operates deep into the sea, deploying drift nets for sharks, sail fishes and saw fishes.

FAO (1969) conducted a comprehensive survey of the coastal and estuarine fisheries of Western Nigeria fisheries covering about 6,400 km. Of the 91,203 fishermen estimated, 54.32 percent were full time. Since then the number of fishers increased substantially. Ssentongo *et al.*, (1983) put the coastal fishermen population at about 149,000 and around 400,000 were estimated for the 90s (Table 1).

Table 1. Coastal artisanal fisheries structure and production between 1990 and 1997 (Ogbonna, 2001)

Year	Number of canoes	Motorized %	Part-time	Full-time	Total	Fish production (t)	Catch per fisher per year (kg)
1990	76 891	20.4	190 900	261 287	452 187	170 459	378
1991	77 093	20.8	190 958	264 144	457 102	681 211	367
1992	77 076	20.8	194 016	265 831	459 847	841 407	400
1993	77 050	20.8	192 624	263 757	456 381	106 276	230
1994	77 073	20.8	193 198	264 577	457 775	124 117	270
1995	77 067	20.8	263 919	192 739	456 658	159 201	349
1996	77 071	20.8	264 446	193 107	457 553	138 274	303
1997	77 036	20.8	264 506	133 134	397 640	152 212	383

The coastal canoe fishery

The small-scale fishermen operate dug-out or improved canoes and they are 2 to 10 men on board according to the type of fishery engaged in. From their set nets they land demersal species such as croakers, catfish and shynose, of good individual size. They also target shrimp (Penaeids) in the estuaries at a convenient stage of their maturation cycle, thus curtailing recruitment at sea for the industrial shrimpers.

Artisanal pelagic fish bong shad and sardinella fishery

This canoe fleet exploits the vast networks of brackish waters of the Niger Delta and other major rivers, estimated to be about 858 000 ha. It is a low-technology, labour-intensive fishery, using canoes 6 to 13 m long, paddled or motorized. The gear is mainly gillnets, cast nets, hooks, beach seines and various forms of traps in the estuaries. They target small pelagics – *Sardinella* spp. and *Ethmalosa* spp. – which they land in huge quantities in season (November to April).

Main marine resources and fisheries***Industrial coastal fisheries***

The Nigerian industrial coastal fishing activities consist of trawling for demersal finfish shellfish and penaeid shrimps. The species composition is dominated by croakers (*Pseudotolithus* spp.), grunts (*Brachydeuterus* spp.), various soles, catfish (*Arius* spp.) and shrimps (*Penaeus* spp.) (FAO, 2007).

These fisheries are concentrated in the east because of the higher productivity of the waters off the delta region and the wider continental shelf. Oceanographic conditions, including poor upwelling, limit the productivity of the waters off the Nigerian coast. This is compounded by the generally narrow continental shelf and the result is limited potential yield of demersal finfish stock. Potential yield estimates for demersal fish are 27 000-38 000 tonnes and 4 500-5 000 tonnes for shrimps. The species composition is dominated by croakers (*Pseudotolithus* spp.), grunts (*Brachydeuterus* spp.), various soles, catfish (*Arius* spp.) and shrimps (*Penaeus* spp.) (FAO, 2007).

The finfish species are heterogeneous and occur down to 50-m depth. They belong to supra-thermocline and sub-thermocline communities. Tobor (1965-68) recorded 71 families comprising 157 species most of which are small in size. But the major target families/species of the supra-thermocline community (i.e. sciaenids) include:

- Sciaenidae, (croakers), *Pseudotolithus typus*, *P. senegensis*, *P. elongatus* and *P. brachynathus* (4 species).
- Cynoglossidae (Tongue Sole), *Cynoglossus senegalensis*, *C. Canariensis*, *C. mondi* and *C. browni*.
- Ariidae (Catfish), *Arius heudeloti*, *A. gigas*, *A. Latiscutatus*, *A. parki*.
- Polynemidae (Shrinynose or Threadfins), *Polydactylus quadrifilis*, *Galeoides decadactylus*.
- Haemulidae (Grunters); *Pomadasy jubelini*, *P. suillus*; *P. incisus*, *P. peroteti*.
- Sphyraenidae (Barracudas), *Sphyraena barracuda*, *S. afra*, *S. guachancho*.
- Carangidae (Jackfish), *Caranx hippos*, *C. crysos*, *C. latus*, *C. lugubris*.

Other sciaenids, which occur in Nigeria waters, include the bigeye grunt (*Brachydeuterus auritus*) and moonfish, (*Vomer setapinnis*). Some of these fish species are also genetically undersized including the members of the prominent pelagic family Clupeidae such as *Sardinella* spp. which are fished intensively by the artisanal sector. The sparid community comprises mainly the following major families/species: Lutjanidae (red snappers) – *Lutjanus goreensis*, *L. fulgens*, *L. agennes* and *L. dentatus* and serranidae (groupers), *Epinephelus aeneus*. Other sparid family/species found in Nigerian waters are the Sparidae, *Dentex canariaensis*, *D. angolensis*, *D. congoensis* (down to 50 m depth and below) and the breams e.g. *Pagrus* spp., *Pagellus coupei* and *Pagus* spp. down to 170-m depth and below.

The commercial penaeid shrimps being exploited in the Nigerian coastal waters predominantly inhabit the soft mud substrate of the Niger Delta and eastwards to Cross River. They occur too in Lagos West Grounds. Their order of importance in the inshore shrimp fishery of Nigeria is:

- *Panaeus notialis* (white prawn) down 27 m to 45 m
- *Parapenaeopsis atlantica* (brown (or Guinea) shrimp) down 9 m–27 m
- *Parapenaeus longirostris* (rose or red deep water shrimp) down 150 m–200 m
- *Panaeus krathurus* (striped or tiger shrimp)
- Palaemonidae, *Nematopalaemon hastatus* (estuarine prawn) also occur in the Nigeria waters but are mostly exploited by the small-scale fishermen.

Artisanal fisheries resources

Most fish caught by the artisanal fleet belongs to the sciaenid community including croakers and bonga, shad, catfish, sardines, soles, shiny-nose, etc. *Polydactylus* spp. (Polynemidae) as well as members of the Sphraenidae, Lutjanidae, Elopidae, Serranidae and Carangidae families. The small-scale fishermen also catch sharks, sail/saw fishes as well as penaeid, palaemonid and carid shrimps.

4. FISHERY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Legal framework for fisheries

Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (No. 5 of 2003)

An Act to restrict the use of Foreign Vessels in Domestic Coastal Trade to promote the development of Indigenous Tonnage and to establish a Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund and for Related Matters. This Act provides, among other things, in sections 3 to 6 that a vessel other than a vessel wholly owned and manned by a Nigerian citizens, built and registered in Nigeria shall not engage in the domestic coastal carriage of cargo and passengers within the coastal territorial inland waters, or any point within the waters of the exclusive economic zone of Nigeria and that a vessel of whatever type or size shall not engage in domestic trading in the inland waters of Nigeria except as a vessel that is wholly owned by Nigerian citizens. In section 22 the Act requires specified types of vessels, including fishing trawlers, to register in the Special Register for Vessels and Ship Owning Companies engaged in Cabotage.

Treaty between Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe

Treaty between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on the Joint Development of Petroleum and other Resources, in respect of Areas of the exclusive economic zone of the Two States. This Agreement provides for the joint development by Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe of petroleum resources in the joint development zone established by this Agreement. For this purpose, a Joint Ministerial Council for the Zone and a Joint Authority is established. The Council shall have overall responsibility for all matters relating to the exploration for and exploitation of the resources in the Zone and shall have other functions specified in Article 8 and as the States Parties may entrust to it. As soon as practicable following the entry into force of this Treaty, the Authority shall prepare an initial Zone Plan in accordance with the principles set out in Article 3, so as to establish ways in which the resources of the Zone may be developed in an efficient, economical and expeditious manner. The Authority shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that development activities in the Zone do not cause or create any appreciable risk of causing pollution or other harm to the marine environment. The petroleum and

other resources of the Zone shall be exploited efficiently in accordance with this Treaty, having due regard to the protection of the marine environment and in a manner consistent with generally accepted good oilfield and fisheries practice.

Sea Fisheries Decree, 1992 (No. 71 of 1992)

This Decree repeals the Seas Fisheries Act and makes Provision for the control, regulation and protection of sea fisheries in the territorial waters of Nigeria.

The first part of the Decree concerns the licensing of motor fishing boats. No person shall operate or navigate any motor fishing boat for the purpose of fishing or a reefer vessel for the purpose of discharging frozen fish within the territorial waters of Nigeria or its exclusive economic zone, unless that boat or reefer vessel has been dully registered and licenced (sect. 1).

Section 4 specifies criteria for issue of a licence. The owner of a motor fishing boat in respect of which a licence has been issued shall:

- a) render to a licensing officer such periodical returns concerning the operation of the motor fishing boat as many be prescribed; and
- b) permit a licensing officer or any person authorized in writing by a licensing officer to inspect the catch of the motor fishing boat either before or after the catch has been landed and shall give the licensing officer or that person all reasonable facilities for the inspection of the catch.

The second part of this Decree concerns enforcement, the prohibition of certain fishing methods and offences and penalties (17 sections).

Sea Fisheries (Fishing) Regulations, 1972 (L.N. No. 99 of 1971)

No vessels (except canoes) shall fish within the first two nautical miles of the waters of the Nigerian Continental Shelf (reg. 1). Regulation 2 prescribes minimum mesh size of codend used by trawlers fishing for fish in inshore waters or shrimps in approved areas for shrimp. No shrimp trawling is permitted in the inshore water of the Lagos-west fishing grounds. Regulation 4 provides for the prohibition of dumping of edible and marketable sea products by shrimp trawlers and the export of such products. 'Inshore waters' is defined as 'that part of the Continental Shelf with depth not more than 50 metres (27 fathoms).

Inland Fisheries Decree 1992 (No. 108 of 1992)

This Decree provides for the licensing of motor fishing crafts and for the regulation of various matters regarding fining in inland waters of Nigeria. 'Motor fishing craft' is defined in section 16. Use of a motor fishing craft in inland waters of Nigeria requires a licence to be applied for under section 2 with the Commissioner charged with the responsibility of matters relating to fishery within a State. The Commissioner may issue the licence on such conditions as he or she may deem fit. A licence shall be valid for one year. Other provisions of this Decree deal with identification marking of fishing crafts (sect. 4), restriction on use of fishing gear (sect. 5), prohibition of certain fishing methods (sect. 6), declaration of catch by licenced operators (sect. 7), prohibition of exportation or importation of live fish (sect. 8), closed areas and seasons to be declared by the Commissioner (sect. 9), construction of dams, etc., protection of fish or fish products against contamination and infection (sect. 11), offences by bodies corporate (sect. 12), enforcement (sect. 13), return of craft, apparatus etc. to lawful owner (sect. 14), regulation making powers of Minister (sect. 15) and interpretations (sect. 16).

Sea Fisheries (Licensing) Regulations, 1971

These Regulations prescribe the form of application for a licence or a renewal of a licence, to operate or navigate a motor fishing boat within the territorial waters of Nigeria and the particulars which must be stated in such application (Form A, Schedule 1). Form B of Schedule 1 prescribes the form of a licence to operate or navigate a motor fishing boat and in Schedule 2 fees for licences are set out. Nothing in these Regulations shall apply to a fishing canoe, whether motorized or not (reg. 5) (6 regulations and 2 Schedules).

Sea Fisheries Act (Act No. 30 of 1971) (Repealed by Sea Fisheries Decree, 1992)

A Decree to make provision for the control of sea fisheries: No person shall operate or navigate any motor fishing boat within the territorial waters of Nigeria unless a licence in respect of that vessel has been issued to the owner thereof (sect. 1 (1)). Owners of a motor fishing boat may apply to a Licensing Officer for a licence in respect of the motor fishing boat. An application shall be in the form and manner as may be prescribed and shall contain the particulars specified in section 2. Conditions for the issue of a licence are set out in section 3. Licences shall be yearly or quarterly. Persons aggrieved by any refusal by a Licensing Officer to issue or renew a licence or by the cancellation or suspension of a licence may appeal to the Federal Commissioner responsible for fisheries (sect. 5). Authorized persons (not defined) may take actions set out in section 7 for the purpose of enforcing any provision of this Decree. Regulation making powers of the Commissioner are specified in section 11 (14 sections and a Schedule).

5. STATUS OF CAPTURE FISHERIES REPORTING

FAO reporting

The total reported annual catch of Nigeria is about 525 000 tonnes per year, Since the 1990s inland fisheries production starts to increase rapidly.

There is a good species breakdown and reporting of “Marine fish nei” decreased substantially since the early 1990s.

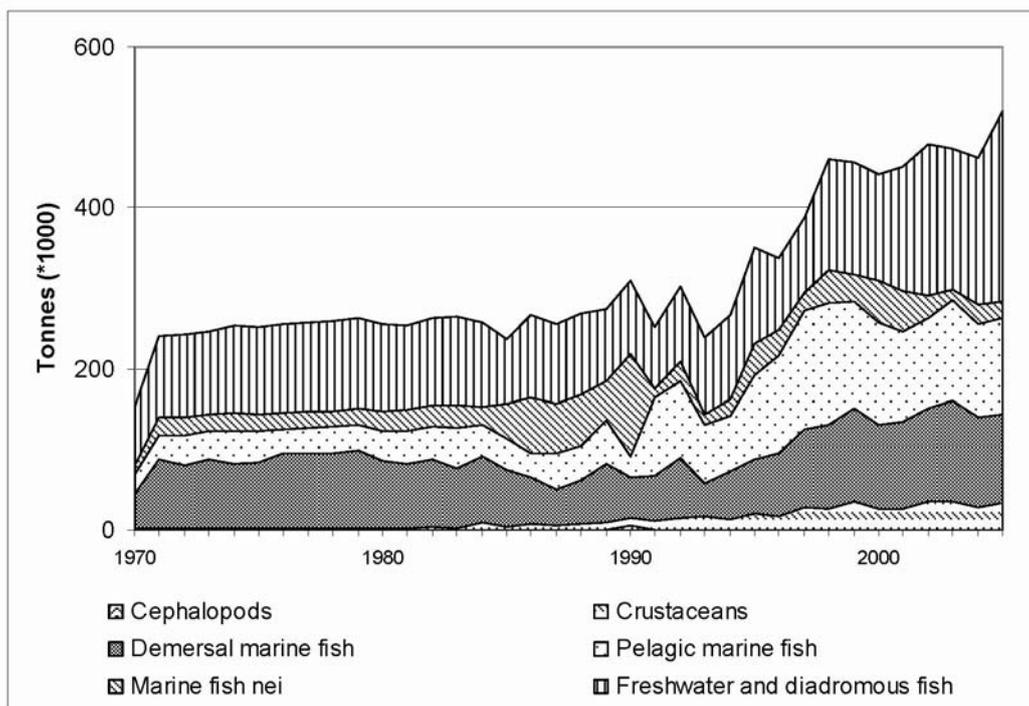


Figure 1: Fisheries statistics as reported by Nigeria to FAO

National reporting

The Federal Department of Fisheries in Abuja publishes annually the Fisheries statistics of Nigeria.

6. DESCRIPTION OF FISHERY INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

Objectives of fishery data collection

Objectives	Required indicators and variables
1) To monitor the Status of marine Resources by type of resources by state	Production by State
2) To asses the size of stocks in different fishing areas	Stock assessment indicators by fishing area
3) To monitor the activities of fisheries centers and government supported fishing projects	Catch and sales of fish by the project, No of fishing trips, duty exempted and cost of fuel used.
4) To monitor (domestic) market trends	Demands of fish, feasibility of new value added products
5) To understand peoples' participation to fishery related activities	Level of participation by type of activities (gender disaggregated)

Main institutions involved in fishery data collection

Federal Department of Fisheries

Federal Department of Fisheries – Policy Formulation and Implementation. Development of Fisheries Infrastructure; Data Collection, Analysis and Publication. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and Quality Assurance. Improve Resource Budget through Bilateral Fisheries Agreement. Fisheries research and training are the responsibilities of Fisheries Research Institutes and their affiliated colleges. Development departments, such as the Federal Department of Fisheries, also contribute to human resources development through short-term training programmes and sponsorship of trainees in the colleges.

The Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research

The Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) is the agency of the Federal Government established to conduct research into the resources and physical characteristics of Nigerian territorial waters and EEZ. Its activities include fisheries and other aquatic resources surveys, marine geology and geophysical surveys, physical and chemical oceanography, fishery technology research, brackish-water aquaculture research and extension research liaison. NIOMR is based in Lagos, with a substation, the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC), at Aluu, Port Harcourt, where its brackish-water aquaculture research and training activities are based.

African Regional Aquaculture Centre

ARAC was established in 1979 as an FAO/UNDP regional project to train senior technical human resources required for planning and implementation of aquaculture development programmes in Africa. At the end of FAO/UNDP funding, the centre was adopted by the Federal Government as a division of NIOMR. ARAC continues to conduct research in fish breeding and genetics, fish health and disease, fish nutrition and shellfish culture; to develop culture systems suitable to indigenous species; and to train at various levels, from management to operational and extension. Its mandate has been broadened to include freshwater aquaculture research and it is now affiliated to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology for the award of post-graduate diplomas and Master of Technology degrees in aquaculture. Its international character has, however, diminished over the years because of the loss of the external funding which formerly provided sponsorship for students from the West Africa region.

The Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology

The Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology also started as a division of NIOMR, but is now autonomous and, like the institute, is directly responsible to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The college has a mandate to train middle-level manpower for the industrial fisheries sector and it awards National and Higher National Diplomas in Marine Engineering, Nautical

Science and Fisheries Technology. It is based in Lagos and its facilities were developed with the support of Japanese International Cooperation Assistance (JICA).

The National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research

The National Institute for Freshwater Fisheries Research (NIFFR) is based in New Bussa, on Kainji Lake. From its initial focus on Kainji Lake Fisheries, its mandate has been extended to cover all inland water resources. It conducts research in biology of fish and other aquatic resources of Nigeria's inland waters; hydrology and limnology of water bodies; ecological and socio-economic effects of development of man-made lakes; rational exploitation and utilization of aquatic resources; extension and liaison services; and training.

7. DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND THEIR COMPONENTS

Federal Department of Fisheries Monitoring system

Data is collected at decentralized level by Federal states and therefore the overall system is not described.

8. DOCUMENTATION

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ANNEX 1.

Coastal states of Nigeria

(Nigeria Direct, 2007)

Akwa Ibom State

Akwa Ibom State (Uyo) occupies the South-East corner of Nigeria and is bounded in the north by Abia State, in the south by the Atlantic Ocean, in the east by the Cross River State and in the west by Rivers State. There are 31 Local Government areas in the State: Ikot Ekpene, Abak, Eket, Ekpe, Atai, Essien Udim, Etinan, Etim Ekpo, Ikono, Ikot Abasi, Ini, Itu, Mbo, Mkpato Enin, Nsit. Ibom, Nsit Ubium, Okobo, Onna, Oron, Oruk Anam, Ukanafun, Uquo Ibene, Uruan, Urue Offong/Oruko, Uyo, Obot Akara, Ibesikpo Asutan, Ibiono Ibom, Eastern Obolo, Udung Uko, Ika, Ibene. Akwa Ibom is inhabited by three major ethnic groups: the Ibibio, Anang and Oron. About 60 percent of the population is agrarian, 25 percent is commercial oriented while the remaining 15 percent constitute the civil and public sector.

Bayelsa State

Bayelsa State (Yenagoa) is bounded in the north by Delta State, in the east by Rivers State, in the south and the west by creeks and rivers spreading through the Atlantic Ocean. There are nine local government areas in the state: Yenagoa, Sagbama, Ekeremor, Southern Ijaw, Ogbia, Brass, Nembe, Kolokuma/Opokuma and Kembe. The main occupation of the people of Bayelsa are fishing and farming.

Cross River State

Cross River State (Calabar) shares boundaries with Benue State in the north, Enugu and Abia States in the west, in the east with the Republic of Cameroon and in the south by Akwa-Ibom and the Atlantic Ocean. There are 18 local government areas in the State: Akpabuyo, Odukpani, Akamkpa, Biase, Abi, Ikom, Yarkur, Odubra, Boki, Ogoja, Yala, Obanliku, Obudu, Calabar South, Etung, Bekwara, Bakassi and Calabar Municipality. The State has three major language groups: Efik, Ejagham and Bekwara.

The State Government places emphasis on fish farming as a measure to diversify its economy. To this end, it took measures to boost fish production in areas including: fish farming, processing, storage, marketing, in-shore fishing and monitoring of fish resources.

Delta State

Delta State (Asaba) is bordered by Edo State in the north, Ondo in the north-west, Anambra in the east and Rivers in the southeast. On its southern flank is the Bight of Benin. The State comprises 25 local government areas: Oshimili, Aniocha, Aniocha South, Ika South, Ika North-East, Ndokwa West, Ndokwa East, Isoko south, Isoko North, Bomadi, Burutu, Ughelli South, Ughelli North, Ethiope West, Ethiope East, Sapele, Okpe, Warri North, Warri South, Uvwie, Udu, Warri Central, Ukwani, Oshimili North and Patani. The major ethnic groups are Urhobo, Igbo, Ezon, Isoko and Itsekiri. The State Government accords various forms of assistance to the rural population in the areas of fisheries, agriculture, forestry, veterinary services, produce planning and research. Most local governments in the state have fisheries extension units which cater for advisory inputs, like nets, engines, ropes, lead, floats and others. Programmes to encourage agricultural activities are: the Delta Agricultural Development Programme (DADP), the Task Force on Communal Farming, Agricultural Loan schemes to small scale farmers; Fishermen Farm Settlement Scheme and the Tree Crop Unit.

Lagos State

Lagos State (Ikeja) is bounded in the north and east by Ogun State, in the west by Republic of Benin and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The State is divided into five divisions: Lagos, Ikeja, Badagry, Ikorodu and Epe. There are 20 Local government areas: Shomolu, Agege, Alimosho, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Mushin, Oshodi-Isolo, Surulere, Ikorodu, Eti-Osa, Ibeju-Lekki, Epe,

Ojo, Badagry, Ikeja, Kosofe, Amuwo Odofin, Ajerotmi/Ifelodun, Ifako/Ijaiye and Apapa. 65 percent of the Nigeria's commercial activities are carried out in the state. Two of the nation's largest seaports -Apapa and Tin-Can Ports are located in Lagos State. Over 90 percent of the Nigerian flag-registered vessels have their home base in Lagos, while over 85 percent of the imported fish and other fishery products are discharged in Lagos.

Ogun State

Ogun State (Abeokuta) is bounded in the west by the Republic of Benin, in the south by Lagos State and the Atlantic Ocean, in the east by Ondo State and in the north by Oyo State. The State has a total of 19 local government areas. These are: Abeokuta North, Abeokuta South, Ogun Water-Side, Ijebu- Ode, Ijebu North, Ijebu East, Odogbolu, Ikenne, Sagamu, Obafemi Owode, Odeda, Iffo, Ado-Odo/Ota, Egbado North, Egbado South, Ilugun Alaro, Imeko-Afon, Idarapo, Ipokia and Ewekoro.

Ondo State

Ondo State (Akure) is bounded by Kogi, Edo, Ogun, Osun and Ekiti States. The local governments that constitute Ondo State are Ondo, Odigbo, Okitipupa, Ilaje, Irele, Akure, Idanre, Ile-Oluji/ Oke-Igbo, Ose, Akoko North-West, Ifedore, Owo, Akure North, Ilaje West, Ondo East and Akoko South East.

Ondo State is a multi-ethnic state with the majority being Yorubas while there are also Arogbos and Akpois who are mostly located in the riverine areas of the state. Agriculture (including fishing) constitutes the main occupation of the people of the state

Rivers State

River State (Port Harcourt) is bounded by Delta State, Imo State, Akwa Ibom State and Bayelsa State. The State is currently made up of 22 local government areas: Ogba/Egbema, Ndoni, Ahoada, Ikwerre, Etche, Andoni/Opobo, Bonny, Okrika, Iyigbo, Ehana, Gokana Tai/Elemé, Obio/Akpor, Emohua, Degema, Aseri Toru, Akuku, Abua/Odial, Omumma, Opobo/Nkoro, Ogu/ Bolo, Ahaoda West and Elemé. Rivers State is a multi-linguistic state. Some of these language groups include Ekpeye, Ibami, Ikwerre, Kalabari, Okrika, Kolokuma, Nembe. Much of the State is covered by mangrove forest with marshy areas. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Rivers State and the agricultural policy of the state government is anchored on food production. These agricultural activities are grouped under the Community Block Farming Scheme, the Community Fishing Scheme, the Livestock Scheme and Rabbitry.

