

## TOGO

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This document is aimed at providing reference information on the present status of fishery information and data collection in Togo 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 Togo) and other information sources.

### 2. GENERAL INFORMATION ON TOGO RELATED TO FISHERIES

Togo, officially the Republic of Togo, is a country in West Africa. It borders Ghana to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Benin to the east and the Gulf of Guinea to the south. It has a total land area of 56 785 km<sup>2</sup>. The country has a coastline of nearly 48 km long and the area of the continental shelf is about 1 500 km<sup>2</sup>.

The marine, lagoon and inland fisheries only produce 40 percent of the national fish requirements; approximately 60 percent is imported. The role of the fishing industry is very important to the national economy; its value is of the order of 5 billion FCFA per year with an added value of 10 billion per year, or 4 percent of the GDP of the primary sector. The fishery employs 9 000 fishermen, 12 000 women fish traders and about 150 000 people depend on the sector directly.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR

#### Artisanal fishery

##### *Marine artisanal fisheries*

The marine artisanal fishery is the most important activity at sea as regards both the number of fishermen and catches. This fishery represents actually 70 to 80 percent of the total national fisheries production.

##### *Artisanal lagoon fishery*

The artisanal lagoon fishery in Togo is considered a form of inland fisheries. This fishery is not monitored due to lack of financial and manpower resources.

##### *Artisanal inland fishery*

The artisanal inland fishery produces a certain quantity of fish annually, although the order of magnitude is hardly known. The production has been estimated at 5 000 tonnes per year for a long time. There are no financial nor manpower means to estimate this quantity more precisely.

#### Industrial fisheries

The industrial fishery is of less importance than the artisanal one, both in terms of fleet size and catches. The industrial fishery is carried out by trawlers that exploit demersal stocks, which are of low productivity. The potential yield of the trawl fleet is estimated between 600 and 800 tonnes per year.

##### *Tuna fishery*

There is no tuna fishery in Togo, although it may be possible that foreign fishing vessels catch tuna at open sea. In that case one deals with undeclared catches.



### **Main resources of the marine subsector**

The available information indicates that the waters under Togolese jurisdiction are relatively poor in fisheries resources. The potential fish yield would be of the order of 600 tonnes per year.

#### ***Pelagic resources***

The majority of the artisanal fishermen target small pelagic fish specie, i.e. sardinellas, barracudas, amberjacks and “fritures” (*Brachydeuterus auritus*), etc. The pelagic resources that are also targeted are the marlins, sailfish and Spanish mackerels, etc.

#### ***Demersal resources***

The demersal resources consist of fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. The first group is the most important one; the representatives of the second group are also exploited and subsequently exported. The cephalopods are considered by-catch and are not really targeted.

#### ***Fish resources***

The exploited fish species are subdivided into two groups, those found on trawlable fishing grounds (*Pseudolithus* spp., *Galeoides*, flatfish, etc.) and those living on rocky bottoms (*Lutjanus*, *Sparus*, groupers, etc.).

#### ***Crustacean resources***

Near the mouths of the rivers shrimp can be found, which are exploited by mostly foreign fishing vessels.

#### ***Cephalopod resources***

Octopuses are rarely caught and other species are not targeted. In case cephalopods are landed then by-catch is dealt with.

## **4. FISHERY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **Legal framework for fisheries**

The fisheries law dates back to 1998. In 2006 a decision was made relating to the regulation of inland fisheries. A similar regulation for the marine artisanal has been prepared and will be signed shortly.

### **National policy and management objectives**

The State, while determining the fisheries development policy, placed the emphasis on fisheries management and supports a strategy to assure the jobs of about 10 000 fishermen, 12 000 trades women and fish processors, 3 000 fish breeders as well as numerous persons in related employment.

## **5. STATUS OF CAPTURE FISHERIES REPORTING**

### **Fishery statistics reported to FAO**

The national statistics as reported to FAO are presented in Figure 1.

Estimation of the production from the inland fisheries has been more or less constant over the years.

### **National reporting**

Togo does not produce a statistical yearbook with respect to fisheries.

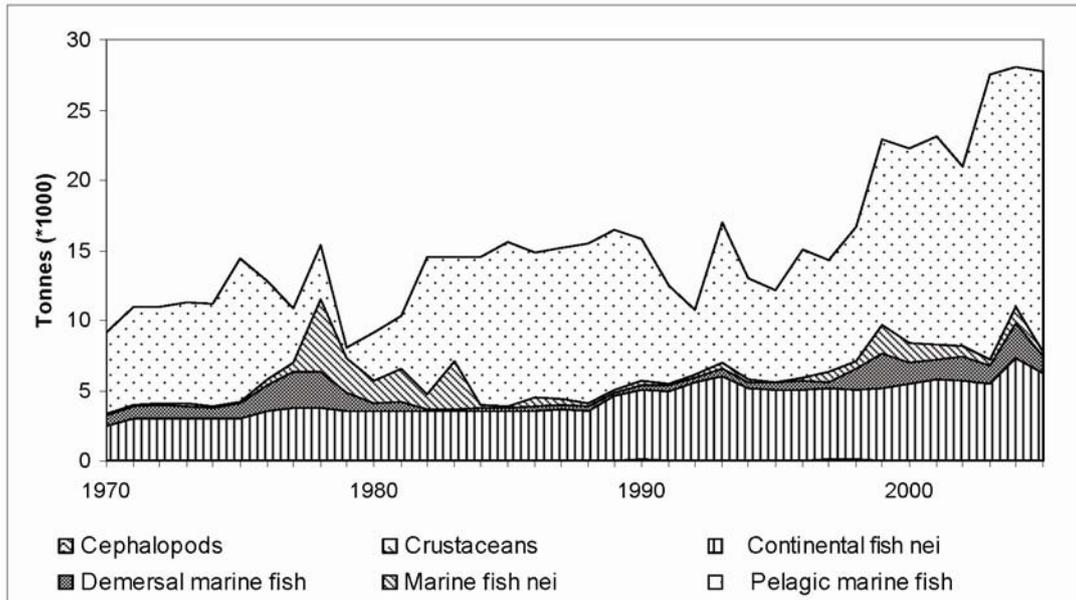


Figure 1: Fisheries statistics as reported by Togo to FAO

## 6. DESCRIPTION OF FISHERY INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

### Objectives of fishery data collection

The objective of fisheries data collection is mainly to know the quantity of fisheries products captured in Togolese waters. The system is not sufficiently effective to advise the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries on matters related to resource management. The system aims at obtaining information on landings, but for instance length frequencies of fish are not taken, nor are the mesh sizes in fishing gears. The information obtained by the data collection program assists in determining which quantities of fish should be imported to satisfy the need for fish at national level.

The Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries defines the objectives of fishery data collection as follows:

Objectives	Required indicators and variables
Quantity of fisheries products captured in Togolese waters	Total catch
Determining which quantities of fish should be imported to satisfy the need for fish at national level	Total catch, imports and exports

### Main institutes involved in marine fisheries data collection:

#### *Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries*

The Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries is engaged in the data collection in the artisanal fisheries harbour. There is no fisheries research institute in Togo.

#### *Customs*

The Customs record the quantities of imported fish for human consumption, which currently amounts to a quantity of 36 000 tonnes per year. A quantity of 3 800 tonnes of fisheries products is exported for the West African communities in Europe.

## 7. DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND THEIR COMPONENTS

### **The Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries**

The Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries is engaged in the artisanal and industrial fisheries administration, including data collection, issuing of licences, registration of fishing boats, socio-economic surveys and resource evaluation, etc.

#### ***Artisanal fisheries monitoring***

The monitoring system of the marine artisanal fishery is based on sample based surveys (ARTFISH), which was introduced during an FAO/TCP project. As a result of the limited shoreline the stratification of the area for catch and effort sampling is relatively simple. Since the introduction of ARTFISH the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries monitored and sampled the fishing effort at the fisheries harbour in Lomé. The number of fishing trips by canoes (by fishing gear) is counted on a daily basis. The seiners make day-trips while the line fishing canoes and the bottom-set gillnetters make multi-day trips. The system has been well developed, i.e. the canoes that do not go fishing remain anchored away from the jetties in order to facilitate landings by the other canoes.

#### Registration

All artisanal fishing canoes are registered.

#### Frame surveys

With a shoreline that is relatively short the number of canoes is surveyed regularly. In fact the estimation of the fishing effort is probably quite precise. This means that the data form the basis for the calculations of sample based surveys.

#### Socio-economic surveys

A socio-economic survey of the beach seine fishery was carried out in 2002/2003. The IDAP project of FAO carried out a socio-economic survey of the marine fishery.

#### ***Industrial fisheries monitoring***

A small number of licenced foreign fishing vessels operate in Togolese waters. Licences are issued for duration of one year and the vessels hardly operate in Togo. Catches are not necessarily landed in Togo, but elsewhere in the region, perhaps also due to inadequate facilities on land. In case catches are landed in Togo, they are not sampled.

Foreign vessels can operate under Togolese flag in Togolese waters but land their catches outside Togo. It has happened that foreign nations declared catches in Togolese waters in their annual statistics, although no declaration was made to the authorities in Togo and also no licences were issued to that country. Such catches are considered IUU catches. At present it is unclear how this should be combated.

#### Licences

The national fleet that operates in the Togolese waters is licenced to fish in the territorial waters but beyond a certain depth in order not to interfere with the artisanal fleet. The marine industrial fishery is limited in size. The numbers of licences that are issued every year are presented below:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number	5	9	3	3	8	1	4

#### Observer programmes

There is no observer programme on board foreign fishing vessels (mainly freezer trawlers). There is no control of the mesh sizes in the codends of the trawls nor of the fishing grounds.

#### Monitoring, control and surveillance

The artisanal fishermen complain about the foreign fishing vessels that fish in the inshore waters and damage or destroy their fishing gears. There are no intervention facilities (i.e. surveillance vessels). The national navy could implement that task, but does not have the necessary knowledge of fishing matters to conduct the correct control.

Data from auctions and fishing companies

The auction does not concentrate on statistics; this is the task of fisheries officers. They treat their statistics by hand and after compilation the data are sent to the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries.

Stock assessment surveys

Representatives of the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries take part in the resource evaluation programme on the continental shelf deeper than 30 metres by means of trawling and hydro-acoustics.

**Customs**

The Customs engages in the registration of import and export of fisheries products.

**8. DOCUMENTATION**

**FAO.** 2007. Togo Fishery country profile.

