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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## Initial Meeting with Stakeholders on Oyster Group Formation Report



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Action Association

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**Cover photo:** Participants in oyster group formation meeting. (Credit: DAA)

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## **ACRONYMS**

DAA	Development Action Association
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## **REPORT ON INITIAL MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON OYSTER GROUP FORMATION**

The meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the DAA Interim Fisheries Training center.

The meeting began at 10:30 am with prayer by Patricia Atsigbui.

The meeting involved persons in the Bortianor- Tsokome community.

A total number of 78 participants attended the meeting made up of 77 females and 1 male.

The meeting was targeted at making participants aware of the formation of an oyster management group who will be trained on how best to manage and cultivate oysters while using it as an alternative livelihood.

The center manager explained the concept of the oyster management to participants and stated that the government has a plan to duly manage the Ghanaian water bodies to improve the entire ecosystem and help improve all the activities of fishers for sustainable income and continuity of business for these fishers. It is under this management plan that the oyster management is seen as another important aspect of fishing which DAA by the sponsorship of USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project is spearheading to form an oyster management group in the Bortianor/Tsokomey community.

The center manager also mentioned that apart from scientific and technological means of management, it is the duty of all fishers to manage the entire ecosystem.



**Figure 1 The center manager addressing participants**

Giving a detailed insight of the importance of oyster management, a video on TRY women oyster farmers group from Gambia/Senegal who were visited by some selected members of USAID/SFMP partners was shown to the participants.

The video brought the following lessons:

The women oyster group in an interview had rules and abided by these rules in managing the oyster farming, rules like: observing close seasons and only harvesting oysters of a required mature size.



The women were united hence their voices were heard and given exclusive rights to access the oysters. The women helped in keeping the landing beaches clean.

They believed in growing mangroves which largely help in the production of oysters.

The participants listed in the video how the oyster farming has been helpful to the Senegalese women and were made to know that this is highly possible in Ghana once they are ready to take up the challenge of practicing the above lessons from the video and are ready to change their attitude.

The participants asked how these can easily be accessible, how the group will be assisted to implement the close seasons and if there will be any support during these close seasons?



**Figure 2 Pictures of participants in the initial meeting on oyster group formation**

The participants in this initial meeting agreed to be part of the oyster management group which the following agreed to be interim leaders to coordinate and organize among others to effectively have the oyster group well grounded:

Diana Comley – Bortianor

Mercy Kugbey – Tsokome.

The participants were further advised to get committed to the formation of the oyster management group for best results.

The meeting came to an end at 11:50 am with a prayer by Patricia Atsigbui.



**Figure 3 A group picture of participants**