

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE  
WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT TRAINING SEMINAR**

**Wednesday 23 June 2010, Atlantic Hotel, Banjul.**

**Sponsored by  
The Ba-Nafaa Project (Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project)**

**A partnership of:  
United States Agency for International Development/West Africa  
Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island  
World Wide Fund, West Africa Regional Office  
Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, The Gambia**



**Photo of Workshop Participants**

The Water Quality Training Seminar was held on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at the Atlantic Hotel in Banjul. Dr. Michael Rice, Professor of Fisheries at the University of Rhode Island was the resource person.

The Seminar was attended by 23 participants and 1 journalist. The participants were representatives of the national laboratories namely: the Fisheries Department, Department of

Water Resources, Department of Public Health, and the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services. The Seminar was also attended by representatives from the Food Standards Bureau, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Conservation, the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, and the Ministry of Forestry and Environment. The Ba-Nafaa staffs, two Peace Corps volunteers attached to the Ba-Nafaa project, and an undergraduate research student from Brown University were among the participants. Also in attendance was Dr. John Ryder, an expert in SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) matters who was on a mission to The Gambia to assist the fishing industry to be compliant to E.U. requirements and standards. The National Nutrition Agency (NaNa) and the National Association of Artisanal Fisheries Operators (NAAFO) were invited but did not attend.

- 1) The Director of Fisheries Department Mr. Nfamara Dampha opened the Seminar. He said that the Seminar was important as well as useful and that lessons learnt and implemented will help in our drive to make the Gambian oyster an export product. He also said that he was happy that of all the national laboratories and key Ministries and Departments were participating and this accords the Seminar the importance it truly deserves. He expressed his satisfaction with the level of cooperation/collaboration between the Ba-Nafaa project and the Fisheries Department and reiterated the readiness/willingness of his Department and Ministry to continue working with the Ba-Nafaa project.
- 2) The Ba-Nafaa Project Manager gave a summary of the work program of the Ba-Nafaa project under the Oyster Fishery and the relationship between the project and the TRY Association of Women Oyster Harvesters. He informed the participants that the initial area of focus of the project was the Tanbi Wetlands Complex (a Ramsar site and National Park) but because of rapid increase in the membership of TRY Association and the geographical spread of the Association, the project was obliged to also extend its interventions beyond the Tanbi Wetlands Complex to the Western Region of the country. As a prelude to the Seminar, the Project Manager showed slides on the oyster harvesting areas, traditional oyster harvesting methods, recent interventions in oyster aquaculture, oyster research, and the incidence/presence of foulers (ascidians) on the strung oyster shells for spat collection as part of the oyster research program.
- 3) The outline of topics covered by Dr. Michael Rice during the Seminar were as follows:
  - Biology and Life Cycle of Oysters.
  - Methods of Oyster harvesting in different parts of the World.
  - Methods and Techniques of Spat collection and Control of pests.
  - Importance of Water Quality in terms of processing and marketing of Oysters.
  - Shellfish Sanitation and Monitoring Plans.
  - The importance of HACCP in Oyster Processing and Marketing.
- 4) Dr. Rice made a powerpoint presentation on the biology of the oyster, reproduction and life cycle, and feeding method (filter feeding). There were slide shows and explanations of methods of oyster culture in different parts of the world. Dr. Rice lectured on the methods and techniques and how to control pests (ascidians and other foulers); the

importance of water quality study and data collection and analyses; Shellfish sanitation and monitoring plans; and the importance of HACCP in oyster processing and marketing. 2 (two) supporting documents were given to the participants as reference documents. One document gives an overview of the protocols for shellfish sanitation in the state of Rhode Island and how water quality testing is conducted, and also provides guidance on how to classify water by coliform criteria. The other document is a review paper written by Dr. Rice outlining the shortcomings of coliform bacterial tests when used in tropical regions as an indicator for shellfish sanitation.



**Photos of Workshop Venue at the Atlantic Beach Hotel**

5). The Seminar generated lots of interesting discussions among participants. Some of the issues that emerged from the discussions were: the need for cooperation among the national laboratories; the laboratory of the Department of Water Resources to lead the water quality studies (fecal quality, temperature and salinity), and the laboratory of the Department of Livestock Services to lead the microbiological tests for the meat of oyster and cockles.

6). Dr. Rice was requested to work with the Project Manager and identify possible areas of study and action for Year 2 of the Ba-Nafaa Project. The Seminar participants expressed the wish that Dr. Rice should return to assess work being done and offer advice and guidance where needed. Finally, the participants thanked Dr. Rice for conducting the Seminar which was educative and very interesting.