

Fisheries Sustainability in The Gambia: MSC Process as a Framework for the Journey



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USAID/Project Ba Nafaa



BaNafaa

- 5 year project (2009-2014)
- Goal: Artisanal fisheries in the Gambia and selected stocks shared with Senegal are being managed more sustainably, incorporating significant participation of fisherfolk in decision-making and attaining improved economic benefits for both men and women involved in the market value chain
- Oyster and sole fishery focus

Sole Fishery Situation

- Artisanal based
- Few processors
- Sole not heavily fished
- CFCs and landing site committees in place
- GAMFIDA and NAAFO
- Engaged government
- Legal framework in place
- Data limited
- Lack of funds
- Needed a process to develop unified vision
- Knowledge
- Needed a bridge between groups to build partnership



Why did we pick the Sole Fishery?

- Initial collaboration between MSC and GAMFIDA and the Fisheries Department to create awareness
- Pre-assessment using data limited certification methodology
- Route map to partnership

MSC Pre-Assessment Scoring

MSC Principle	Fishery Performance
Sustainability	74
Ecosystem Maintenance	83
Effective Management System	83

The fishery scored above 60 for all performance indicators except for P1 1.2.1. Harvest Strategy. There is not an adequate mechanism for monitoring and control of the status of the stock, nor does it define the points where the management action will be taken or what that action would be. Should be part of a future management plan


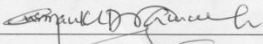
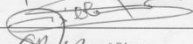



The Action Plan

Memorandum of Understanding

Marine Stewardship Council Action Plan for the Gambia Sole Fishery

1. The action plan (Annex A) is designed to ensure that the Gambia Sole Fishery will, on completion of the indicated activities, meet the requirements for Marine Stewardship Council certification.
2. Gambia sole is a high value exported fish product. Certification of Gambia Sole will:
 - a. Improve the sustainability of the fishery, providing more secure livelihoods and sustainable development to the fishing industry.
 - b. Enhance the profile of Gambia fisheries as environmentally aware,
 - c. Enhance the Gambia sole in foreign markets as a more desirable value-added fish product through eco-labelling.
3. The institutions and companies indicated as responsible for the activities undertake to complete the tasks outlined subject to external resources being available where indicated.

	Signed	Date
Department of Fisheries		12/10/10
Ba Nafaa / WWF		12/10/10
The Atlantic Seafood Company		12/01/10
GAMFIDA		12/01/10

9 Activities

- Incentives for sustainable fisheries
- Written research plan
- Retained bycatch management
- ETP management
- Waste management
- Data collection
- Stock assessment
- Harvest control rules
- Sole management plan

Three Prong Approach



Activities

NASCOM
development
Structure, process.
priority setting

DOFISH-
infrastructure and
data management

Trainings

- Leadership
- Stock Assessment
- Fish Biology

Information Gathering

- Local Knowledge
- Biological Sampling
- Research Priorities



Engaging the Stakeholders

Fishermen



Processing Plants



Dept of Fisheries



Fishery Co-Management Plan For The Gambia Sole Complex

(focus on artisanal fisheries sub-sector)



January 2012

Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA



January 17, 2012

Next Steps

- DOFISH will conduct new stock assessment
- Based on SA will go through decision making process for harvest rules
- Fill in gaps not finished in FMP#1
- Expand committee and develop multispecies FMP to include major bycatch species- catfish
- Continued capacity building (DOFISH and Industry)

Lessons Learned

- Road map was essential. Our goal was not the MSC label but movement towards sustainability.
- Need to engage the stakeholders. What is driving desire to change? How do we build on this? Make it long term change.
- Support the infrastructures and the diffusion of new ideas
 - training, funding, exchanges
 - Must build capacity to avoid dependence on outside project
- Long term commitment Change definition of impact. Any movement towards sustainability should be recognized. Adaptive management allows us to make mistakes and improve.
- Involve everyone including end user (retail)
- Follow up support is essential.