



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

World Fish Day 2016



NOVEMBER, 2016

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Citation: Mensah, P. (2016). World Fish Day 2016 Report. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. GH2014_COM087_CRC. 8 pp.

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Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001), awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island, and entitled the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Cover photo: Signed F2F compact (Credit: Patricia Mensah)

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ACRONYMS

DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
F2F	Fisherman to Fisherman
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GITA	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFD	World Fisheries Day

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INTRODUCTION

World Fisheries Day -- established in 1998 and celebrated each year on November 21- highlights the importance of conserving the ocean and marine life. The Day was established to draw attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the sustainability of the marine and freshwater resources

EVENT CELEBRATION IN CAPE COAST

This year's *World Fisheries Day* was celebrated by fisherfolks represented by the major fisheries associations of Ghana on Tuesday November 22nd, 2016 in Cape Coast. The Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF) led the organization of the event in partnerships with the following associations:

- Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association (GIFA)
- Ghana Industrial Fisheries Association (GITA)
- National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA)

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project sponsored the event with the University of Cape Coast (UCC) and the Fisheries Commission (FC).

The theme chosen for the event was: "Empowering fisherfolks for sustainable Fisheries".

The major association of fisherfolks in Ghana have developed a program under the sponsorship of the USAID/Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), to initiate a *fishermen to fishermen* dialogue to walk the line toward the implementation of the national fisheries management plan (2015-2019). This initiative named "*F2F*" is a way for fisherfolks to meet their responsibilities in managing the fisheries resources in a manner consistent with the government policies. This is a commitment by fisherfolks to work together and achieve high degree of voluntary compliance and begin to charter a way to be a true partner in fisheries management and decision making process. This will assist the government in the substantial regulatory responsibilities to achieve the goals chartered in the national fisheries management plan (2015-2019). The heads of the major fisheries associations have already began a process for developing a strategy toward changing the attitude and the behavior of their fellow fisherfolks in order to rebuild fisheries resources in Ghana.

The professional fisheries association of Ghana wish to highlight the problems facing the fishery sector and show their commitment to take the necessary responsibility to comply with existing fisheries laws and regulations in collaboration with the Fisheries Commission and other fisheries stakeholders. The goal of this engagement is to create conditions for a long-term fisheries co-management program to enhance artisanal fisheries for food security and to improve the socio-economic situation of fisherfolks within the context of sustainable fisheries management goals set by the national fisheries management plan (2015-2019). Fisherfolks will demonstrate their wiliness to bear the burden for additional measures and restrictions on fishing to allow the fisheries resources to recover for the benefit of all Ghanaians. However they will call on the authorities and other fisheries stakeholders to assist with the alleviation of this burden to prevent poor and disadvantaged fisherfolks to make ends meet.

The action will focus on a traditional and local methods based on the long standing and recognized social order within fishing communities lead by the Chief Fishermen. In this context, fisherfolks will lead the organization and the facilitation of dialogues between fishermen *F2F* and organize its members to be able to address the expected responsibilities in fisheries resource management. The WFD event was chosen to start up the *F2F* initiative. A series of radio programs were organized in various coastal communities to sensitize them on

workshops to develop a final resolution committing fisherfolks to fulfill fisheries management responsibilities vis-à-vis the national fisheries management plan. The end result will be a signed National Resolution signed by fishermen and Chief Fisherman to comply with the measures and create an implementation and monitoring plans.

Skit

A drama group from the council performed a skit demonstrating the link among the various stakeholders; particularly the artisanal, semi-industrial and the industrial fisheries in the country and how they have contributed to the depletion of the stocks. In the drama, the canoe fleet used small mesh size nets and chemical for fishing, semi-industrial used light fishing technique while the industrial used illegal nets for fishing. The lack of fish in the homes of the various families led to conflicts, poverty and unemployment. All the stakeholders conceded that their actions have contributed to the collapsed stocks and therefore the need to collaborate in implementing management measures aimed at rebuilding the stocks

The event ended with a Tug of peace to signify the unity and collaboration amongst the stakeholders to support the FC in implementing management measures aimed at rebuilding the fish stocks.



Figure 2. Skit showing how irresponsible fishing activity has contributed to the depleted stocks