



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

(Fisher 2 Fisher) Zonal Fisher Folks
Consultation and Review Engagement
Meetings on the National Fisheries
Management Plan (NFMP)



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Cover photo: Cross section of participants at F2F dialogue in Axim (**Credit:** Socrates Apetorgbor, SFMP)

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|--|
| CAC | Canoe Authorization Card |
| FC | Fisheries Commission |
| FoN | Friends of the Nation |
| MOFAD | Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development |
| SFMP | Sustainable Fisheries Management Project |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

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1. INTRODUCTION

The overall objective of the F2F is to assist MoFAD/FC to achieve in a timely manner the objectives of the national fisheries management plan and build appropriate fisheries development models of the artisanal fishing sector through voluntary compliance and self-governance. In this context, SFMP through the F2F is supporting the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) and NAFPTA to be actively involved in the consultation process for rolling out an effective implementation process of the fisheries management plan in order to improve the conditions of the fisheries they depend on and increase business opportunities for their communities.

Against this background, FoN under SFMP supported the GNCFC and NAFPTA in the month of November 2018 to organize F2F meetings at Axim, Shama and Sekondi in the western region with a total participation of 958 participants made up of 758 males and 200 female fishers. Officials from the Western Regional Directorate of the Fisheries Commission were directly involved in the F2F meetings and they used the platforms to engage the fishers and explain the implementations processes to the satisfaction of the fishers.

The F2F meetings were also used to provided equal platform for men and women fishers to contribute to decision-making on modalities to;

- Complete the canoe registration nationwide.
- Implement the additional one day per week fishing holiday to two (2) days per week
- Establish a moratorium on new entrants to the fisheries.

The F2F meetings therefore, created the platform for the fishers to reach an agreement to finalize the canoe registry and take the necessary steps to announce a moratorium on new entrants of canoes by January 2019.

At the F2F meetings the fishers built consensus and agreed to the issuance of ID cards for canoes as a subtle way of licensing as it aims to enforce the Fisheries Act.

1.1 Objectives of the Meeting

The F2F meetings aimed at sensitizing marine sector artisanal fisher-folk on sustainable fisheries practices with an aim to enrich their information base on the issues to achieve promotion of education and voluntary compliance at the local level; and also shore up support and participation of fishers in CAC, moratorium on entry of new canoes, and additional fishing holiday.

1.2 Participation

The meetings were participated by a total of 958 participants made up of 758 males and 200 females. Some personnel from the USAID-SFMP, and the Western Regional Directorate of the Fisheries Commission also participated. Table 1 below shows a breakdown of participation by community and gender.

Table 1. Table of participants by community and gender

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Axim | 251 | 50 | 301 |
| Shama | 277 | 65 | 342 |
| Sekondi | 230 | 85 | 315 |
| Grand Total | 758 | 200 | 958 |

1.3 Key Outputs

Overall, there was high percentage of acceptance of the issues under discussion, i.e. moratorium on new entrants, canoe authorization cards, and additional fishing holiday. Summary of score is tabulated in table 2 below. The fishers with one voice also agreed that allowing politicians to divide their front is not serving their interest. In addition to that, the fishers said that government should make the sale of fishing inputs (especially premix) be a sole preserve of fishers. They also stressed the need for a more frequent interaction between the leadership of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council and the grassroots. Although there was good acceptance of proposed moratorium on new entrants, the fishers were not forthcoming as to when the minister should announce it publicly.

Table 2. Table of scores and decisions per community

| COMMUN- ITY | ISSUE | SCORE | | DECISION |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | | ACCEPTED | NOT ACCEPTED | |
| AXIM | | | | YES / NO |
| | a. Moratorium on new entrants | 9 | 1 | YES (90%) |
| | b. CAC | 7 | 3 | YES (70%) |
| | c. Additional holiday | 10 | 0 | YES (100%) |
| SHAMA | a. Moratorium on new entrants | 7 | 1 | YES (87.5%) |
| | b. CAC | 8 | 0 | YES (100%) |
| | c. Additional holiday | 7 | 1 | YES (87.5%) |
| SEKONDI | a. Moratorium on new entrants | 8 | 1 | YES (88.89%) |
| | b. CAC | 9 | 0 | YES (100%) |
| | c. Additional holiday | 6 | 3 | YES (66.67%) |

2. DETAILED SESSION

As part of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), Friends of the Nation (FoN) facilitated three (3) separate fisheries stakeholder engagement forums in Axim, Shama and Sekondi where fisher leaders from the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) at the National and Regional levels engaged the generality of fisher-folks in the three respective events on Wednesday the 28th (Axim), Thursday the 29th (Shama), and Friday the 30th November (Sekondi) respectively. Though the fishers at the events expressed their reservations about other issues in the industry especially access to pre-mix fuel, political interference and the recent closed season discourse, participants in the end resolved to work towards a sustainable fishery industry through co-management and elimination of unsustainable methods and political interference.

This report presents outcomes of discussions per community.

In all communities, the opening sessions were facilitated by either the regional or national representatives of the GNCFC, and the entire session facilitated by selected fisher-folk leaders.

2.1 AXIM

In Axim, the sessions were mainly facilitated by Mr. Mike Abeka-Edu and Mr. John Dickson Eshun, both of the GNCFC. Nana Joojo Solomon (GNCFC, National Vice Chairman, Accra), Nana Kojo Kondua (GNCFC, Regional Chairman, Western Region), and 4 Chief Fishermen from the Axim area were present to grace the occasion. Mr. Geoffrey Baidoo-Tsibu (Director, Fisheries Commission, Takoradi), Arafat Salifu (Zonal Officer, Fisheries Commission), and Socrates Apetorgbor (USAID-SFMP) were also present to provide technical support to the process.

Opening

Nana Kojo Konduah expressed gratitude to the organizers, mobilizers and the USAID-SFMP for helping fishermen to organize the program. He mentioned that same program is going on concurrently at Elmina and other selected coastal communities. Nana Kondua stressed that there is a need for fishermen to communicate issues “to our fellow fishers”. He added that this type of meeting has been held many times, but it is still important to continue having it because it is part of modern living that issues must be discussed rather than taking to arms.

Nana Konduah gave the analogy of society/population increase through marriage and responsible family behavior - (so what do we do to increase fish)? That is we should go fishing but do it in a responsible manner. So these meetings are intended to facilitate the sustainability of fisheries livelihood and this can only be achieved if we behave responsibly in our fisheries management. Attitudes need to change “since it is our own behavior which is hindering our progress” he intoned. As individuals and groups, we all have been talking against bad fishing practices yet we are the same who indulge in it. In summary, he said we should change for the better in our attitudes and practices. If we adopt co-management practices, it will be good in the end.

Nana Jojo Solomon addressed the gathering with an initial information to prick the minds of the participants. ‘Law enforcement officers are educating and arresting us; CSOs etc. are educating us yet we are still acting irresponsibly. It is therefore very important that we exert peer influence on ourselves’. Fishermen listen to fishermen more than other people. We should not allow few selfish persons in the industry to highjack the industry, he said. We should not continue to let party politics infiltrate our ranks – we made a laudable move in the recent past when we banned light fishing. However, we allowed party politics to set in and

our efforts at proscribing light fishing came to naught. In F2F, we as fishers are talking to fishers. We must be firm with both duty bearers and recalcitrant fishers. He who pays the piper calls the tune so if it's because of us that state officials and politicians are there, why should we allow politicians infiltrate our ranks? We should be firm to let our mates who break the law be arrested. Those fishers put in "high positions" abusing their office should be on the watch out because we all will not continue to be fools forever" he added.

We learnt that natural resources can be self-sustaining. But if we do not utilize it well, sustainability will elude us. Canoe registration is important to control/regulate the industry (e.g. access to premix fuel). All the management tools are well-intentioned and therefore, we need to abide by it. Anybody who is not a fisher but here, is not here to impose anything on us but to support us to achieve our collective aim of sustainable and profitable fisheries industry. Mike Abeka-Edu as MC intoned Nana Joojo Solomon's position that we should expunge politics out of fisheries.

Statement from Fisheries Commission

The Western Regional Director of Fisheries Commission, Mr. Baidoo-Tsibu started by intoning that it is very good that when we came, the hall was already full which was a demonstration that we are serious about doing something to restore our fisheries. He added that Axim is his first point in community engagement since taking up the reins of directorship in the Western Region. F2F is a "dream come through". In the co-management policy, it is a desire of the Fisheries Commission that fishers be in the driving seat of communicating issues. In fisheries, the fish are ready to breed normally but it is we humans who are destroying the process. F2F has come to our doorstep and we all should embrace it.

Presentation on Canoe Registration

Mr. Arafat Salifu of the Fisheries Commission talked about canoe registration. He hinted that some feared that it was for taxing purposes, which is not the case. The exercise has been going on since 2014 and no one has been taxed as an effect of that since. The exercise is rather to benefit fishers. There was the information that there were 3000 canoes in the Western Region (with 400 in Axim alone). When it comes to embossment, many did not participate. Some also unintentionally did double registration (changing name and sometimes phone numbers).

Mr. Salifu said a register of canoes (with owners' details) for each and every landing beach has been availed to all respective Chief Fishermen. Mr. Salifu randomly mentioned names of canoes and owners from the register to which the audience attested that they were indeed existent. He implored the gathering to be consistent in adhering to fisheries laws and regulations since it is for their own good.

Questions and Comments

Table 3. Questions/Comments/ Clarifications and Answers

| Question | Answer/Response |
|---|--|
| If a fisherman repairs his canoe and forgets his number, what happens? | Fisheries Commission official explained that, If a fisherman loses his canoe's number, he should contact his Chief Fisherman to retrieve the number from the register. |
| Why should we be forced to go for "cards"? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Commission official explained that the CAC will be used to buy premix fuel. This met an uproar of both approval and disapproval from respective sections of the gathering. This forced Nana Kwesi Bin (Chief Fisherman of Axim) to get up and said fishers should appreciate the fact that it is an F2F program. "If we do not agree to something, we should say it structurally but not make noise about it" he advised that gathering. • Nana Solomon added that the CAC is designed to make the system of distribution fair and go around to reach everyone who needs premix-fuel to go fishing. • Mike Abeka-Edu also commented that this is one measure to help sanitize the sector and therefore is laudable, adding that CAC also will serve as an identity card for fishermen and it will be useful as a "regular ID card". • Mr. Tsibu-Baidoe said the use of card will help in regulating the industry. When the card is lost or expired, upon report, a new one can be acquired. One thing about the card is to help to always know how many canoes are there. |
| What can be done about the numbers of our canoes since we are not sure if the numbers being quoted by government is correct? Also, why is the issue of big vessels destroying our nets are not being addressed? | <p>Nana Solomon answered that the large numbers of canoes should be firmly and methodically dealt with by conducting a census of canoes.</p> <p>Old canoes that are unusable must be taken off the register and new ones added.</p> <p>We should be law-abiding (e.g. if your net is destroyed by big vessels and it is monofilament, it is difficult for GNCFC leaders to intervene because you have in the first place broken the law.</p> |
| <p>Why are we always being unfairly targeted in this area for "enforcement" activities?</p> <p>We fishermen in Axim banned illegal fishing but</p> | <p>Socrates Apetorgbor (of SFMP) explained that the exercise has been done at Volta, Greater-Accra (Sege, Prampram, Jamestown and Tema) and Central Regions as well.</p> <p>Axim is the first place in the Western Region with other places being Dixcove, Shama, Esiam, Half-Assini and Sekondi on the drawing board.</p> |

| Question | Answer/Response |
|--|--|
| as other communities continued the practice, we also unfortunately had to go back to it. | He added that the F2F is not an “enforcement” activity but an educational outreach one with fishers, peer engaging their colleagues. |

Group Work

The gathering was divided into ten groups to deliberate on the issues of CAC, Moratorium on new canoes entering the industry; and Additional fishing holidays. One person was selected by each group to present to the plenary the final outcomes of their discussions. Outcomes of the discussions are presented in table 2.



Figure 1. A fisherman at Axim presenting on behalf of his group

Table of output of group work in Axim

Table 4. Output of group work in Axim

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Group One | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | b. CAC | | Not accepted |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted. Should be Sunday | |
| Group Two | a. Moratorium on new entrants | | Not accepted. |
| | b. CAC | | Not accepted |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted and should be Sunday | |
| Group Three | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted, and all canoes should be registered by 3 months' time | |
| | b. CAC | | Not accepted |
| | c. Additional holiday | Should be Sunday | |
| Group Four | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted but studies should be done over a year period to fine tune it. | |
| | b. CAC | Not accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted | |
| Group Five | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | b. CAC | Accepted. But there should be two types of cards. One for buying fuel and another for going to sea (for law enforcement purposes). | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted | |
| Group Six | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Registration should be done over a period of 5 years. | |
| | b. CAC | ID card is good but should not be for the purpose of buying fuel. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Sunday | |
| | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Registration should be done over a | |

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Group Seven | | considerable level of time. It is acceptable and is international practice. | |
| | b. CAC | It is a laudable idea, and will reduce black market in premix distribution. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Sunday | |
| Group Eight | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Canoe registration should be constant (no end). | |
| | b. CAC | CAC is good, and name on card should be the name that people are well-known by. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Good but it should be one uniform day for the whole country. | |
| Group Nine | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Canoe registration exercise should be a permanent feature in fisheries. | |
| | b. CAC | CAC is good and we accept it. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted. | |
| Group Ten | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted, and registration should start in February 2019 and done over 5 months. | |
| | b. CAC | CAC is good but will not work for buying premix | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted. | |

Final Consensus: Out of ten groups, five said outright that the card is good. Others also however cautioned that, it should not be used to sell premix fuel.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, Nana Bentil stated that all fishers must be part of the “members” of the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC) and it should not be for only Chief Fishermen. He also admonished that executive members of National and Regional chapters should make it a point to visit the local level (grassroots) more often. This will reduce chances of politicians “knocking our heads together” he chimed.



Figure 2. Nana Bentil of Axim delivering a closing remark

2.2 SHAMA

In Shama, the sessions were facilitated by Mr. Richardson A. Blankson and supported by Mike Abaka Edu, John Dickson Eshun and Mr. Nii Tackie. The facilitators hinted that the meeting was being organized by the Ghana National Canoe Council (GNCFC). Invited dignitaries included Nana Akosua Gyamfiaba (Queenmother of Nyankrom), Nana Kojo Konduah (Chairman, Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council, W/R), Chief of Enyan-Abasa and Mr. Arafat Salifu (Fisheries Commission).

Opening

Nana Akosua Gyamfiaba II, Queenmother of Nyankrom chaired the occasion. She said it is very important that we are going to talk about fisheries and how it can become lucrative and sustainable again. She advised that party politics should be taken out totally out of the conversation. She accepted to chair the function if it is agreed that we shall take out politics, to which the gathering murmured its approval. Nana Kojo Konduah, adding his voice to the opening stated that the USAID-SFMP is supporting fishermen to engage and peer educate their own rank and file as the reason for meeting. He admonished the gathering to deliberate on what must be done to make their work sustainable. “We all agree that there is serious depletion of fish. Therefore there is the need for fishers to talk to fishers” he said. He talked about how illegal fisheries is spoiling the industry (one herring can lay 70,000 eggs he

informed the gathering insinuating that if juvenile fish is killed before it spawns, that is a massive blow to the sustainability of the industry.



Figure 3. Chairperson of the occasion, Nana Akosua Gyamfiaba II, delivering a closing remark

Statement and presentation from Fisheries Commission

Mr. Arafat Salifu of the Fisheries Commission who talked about the Canoe Registration exercise said on the last count of artisanal canoes in the country's marine sector, there was a total of nearly 15,000 (in 2016). In Shama District,

- there was 1,002 in 2014;
- In 2016, it was 1,239. But not all were embossed.
- In 2018, the Fisheries Commission did a mop up which showed 1,294.

Some folks unintentionally registered twice. Some also didn't register at all due to the nomadic nature of the local artisanal fisheries. He also made a presentation on the depleting fish in Ghana's marine sector. Not just one sector (fleet) is responsible for the depleting. He talked about "capping" (this will not forever but will be assessed periodically and needed/appropriate remedy or relaxation of the measures prescribed).

Questions/Comments/Clarifications

- How many canoes are there in all individual communities? The questioner (from Aboadze) said he based his probe on the feeling that premix must be supplied to each community based on the number of canoes therein.
- If there will be Closed Season next year, what arrangement has been put in place for fishers? This was posed by one participant from Amenano.
 - Mr. Blankson explained that it is up to the government to come to talk about that but not fishers at this material time. He continued to enumerate the number of canoes in each community. He advised that whenever anyone wants any clarification, they need to contact their chief fishermen.
- "I don't understand why we are not going to talk about Closed Season. Our leaders should tell us the objective of this meeting" was forcefully interjected.
- Government should consider fishermen when supplying inputs.

- What are the responsibility of a Chief Fishermen? Why should Chief Fishermen sit down and let people be harvesting mangrove indiscriminately? Premix fuel distribution is a very corrupt system.
- Nana Enyan Abasa calmed tempers down. He entreated the house to stick to the agenda. He talked about light fishing and said it is done in overseas.
- Socrates came in to respond to the chief's comments. He also said that due to the amount of fish in other jurisdictions, they can afford to do some regulated light fishing. However, we should think of the fact that in Ghana, we also add a lot of obnoxious chemicals.

Group Work

The gathering was divided into ten groups to deliberate on the issues of CAC, Moratorium on new canoes entering the industry, and Additional fishing holidays. One person was selected by each group to present to the plenary, the final outcomes of their discussions. Outcomes of the discussions are presented in table 3.



Figure 4. One of the groups in Shama casting votes for consensus building

Closing Remarks

Mr. Arafat Salifu appealed to the gathering (fisher folks especially) to avidly collaborate with the Fisheries Commission in making the fishery laws work. Canoe owners as well as individual crew members should be covered in registration drives. There should be different types of ID's for different categories of fishers. Nana Akosua Gyamfiaba II expressed her appreciation for the gathering for resolving to work towards resuscitating their livelihood.

Table of Outcome of group work in Shama

Table 5. Outcome of group work in Shama

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Group One | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. No one should owe more than 5 canoes. | |
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted. Should be Sunday | |
| Group Two | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted | |
| Group Three | a. Moratorium on new entrants | | Not accepted |
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Should be Sunday | |
| Group Four | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted | |
| Group Five | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Accepted | |
| Group Six | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Registration is good. | |
| | b. CAC | ID card is good but should not be for the purpose of buying fuel alone. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | | Not accepted |
| Group Seven | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Registration should be done over a considerable level of time. It is acceptable and is international practice. | |

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| | b. CAC | Accepted | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Sunday | |
| Group Eight | a. Moratorium on new entrants | Canoe registration is good. | |
| | b. CAC | CAC is good, and name on card should be the name that people are well-known by. | |
| | c. Additional holiday | Should be a uniform day for the whole country. | |

2.3 SEKONDI

The meeting in Sekondi was facilitated by Nii Tackie, Mike Abeka-Edu, John Dickson Eshun, and R. Addo Blankson. Nana Joojo Solomon (GNCFC, National Vice Chairman, Accra), and Nana Kojo Kondua (GNCFC, Regional Chairman, Western Region) were also present.

Opening

Nana Jojo Solomon opened the meeting by saying that ‘there is the need for us all to meet as fisherfolk and deliberate on our issues’. Those who are in the industry will say emphatically that the fishery resources is going down drastically. It is time that we ourselves come in to speak for ourselves. CSOs etc are doing a lot but there is the need for us ourselves to act. Party politics and politicians has divided us. The one who pays the piper calls the tune so if we are paying the taxes, then we must be listened to. All fishers have the right to speak about issues in the industry. We should brighten the corner where we are so we must show good examples in our industry and our landing beaches. Without fishers, there will be no Ministry or Fisheries Commission. We are all here as fisher-ambassadors so we must take the message back to our peers. “He who calls for equity must have clean hands” so we must all be law-abiding and stop the blame game. The finger pointing whilst we are also involved in some illegality or another should cease.

The sea is full of canoes. Even with road transport, the station masters refuse entry to new buses. Currently, there are nearly 15,000 canoes in the Ghanaian marine artisanal sector. We must all endeavor to register our canoes. If we are recalcitrant, we will one day be forcibly subjected to the law.

A card for all fishermen is going to be introduced soon. It will help regulate the distribution of premix. We fought against a party to go out of power because of irregularities only for a new set of corrupt people to come and lord it over us. We are fishermen first and should be united. It is only then that government will listen to us. The industry “is crooked but not broken” as is said in Akan (meaning though there is a lot of damage, it is still redeemable. Once we start talking to each other and agreeing, others will take us seriously and listen to us.

Statement from Fisheries Commission

The Western regional director of Fisheries Commission indicated that the commission is happy about the F2F program. ‘We have the mandate to manage the fisheries resources. But we cannot do it alone’. So as the policy says, the “Co management is one of the best policies”. Therefore we are here to support you to do your F2F. Fisheries Commission will talk about:

- Canoe Registration.
- Card.
- Embossment.

Presentation of Canoe Registration

Canoe registration is not meant for taxing, Mr. Arafat Salifu hinted. We all bear witness that when we travel outside, we register our crafts before we can work (which the audience attested to). If we register our canoes, it will help to even regulate premix distribution, and also helps to identify canoes (from other activities apart from fisheries). John Dickson Eshun of the GNCFC (PRO for Western Region) said the CAC will help to separate genuine fishers from “criminals”. Moratorium on fisheries (addition of new canoes) does not mean new canoes will never be made. When it is appropriate, it would be allowed. Some fishermen advised that women also play a big role so they must also live up to their National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA) slogan of “say no to bad fish”. We should listen to government and collaborate with it to regulate the industry for our own benefit.



Figure 5. A cross-section of participants at the F2F meeting in Sekondi

Questions/Comments/ Clarifications and Answers

- Our women who are buying fish from bad fishermen are part of the problem. Also government should be quick about the CAC.
- ID card will help a lot (e.g. for buying premix). Why is it that there was plenty fuel but now we don't get it in the adequate quantities?
- Is the card for the canoe owner or for all individual crew members?
 - features on the CAC reflects the peculiarity of the specific work.

- Nana Solomon – F2F is to help us communicate issues within the industry but not only to deliberate on premix. However, the way the issue is being hammered on everywhere indicates that it is a really serious thing that must be critically looked at.
- Women were accused of wrongly for willingly buying bad fish. This is not fair. We have to recoup our expenses.
- The holidays should be enforced. Why do we go to sea on Tuesdays?
- We sometimes spend days at sea and our coming home coincides with Tuesdays.
 - Nana Solomon – Law is law. We have a law in Ghana that we do not go to sea on Tuesday.
- Arafat – from 1990 – 2016, the number of canoes are increasing but the amount of catch is reducing with alarming speed (demonstrated by the graph).
- All the laws in Ghana arrest only poor people! Illegal fisheries goes on in Sekondi and Abuesi but because there are “big men” there, the bad practices continue to prevail.
- In the past we obeyed laws. But these days, we all do what we like. But if we continue to do that, it will not be well. In 2013, we were taken to Senegal to learn from them how they have helped to resuscitate their fisheries from the poor stage to the path to recovery now.

Group Work

In Sekondi, the fishers were grouped into nine to discuss the issues. They presented to the plenary after lengthy discussions in the group.

Closing Remarks

Nana Jojo Solomon implored all to be law abiding else it will get to a time, no one can beg for you. He reiterated the general decisions by the groups indicating that the conclusion is that the card is good and acceptable, additional holiday should be Sunday, and that on moratorium, the canoes are known to be too many. Mr. Geoffrey Baidoo-Tsibu advised that the fishers to maintain a united front and advocate in unity.

Outcome of group work in Sekondi

Table 6. Outcome of group work in Sekondi

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Group One | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. Should commence in December 2019. Should last for five years | |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted. Should be Sunday in addition to the Tuesday | |
| Group Two | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. No one should be allowed to register more than five canoes | |
| | CAC | Accepted. | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted. Sunday should be added to Tuesday | |
| Group Three | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. No more registration after five years | |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted. Should be Sunday | |
| Group Four | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | | Not Accepted |
| Group Five | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. | |

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| | | For a period of five years, no one with four canoes should register additional ones | |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted. Sunday added to Tuesday | |
| Group Six | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted | |
| | CAC | Accepted. ID card is good but should not be for the purpose of buying fuel alone. | |
| | Additional holiday | | Not accepted |
| Group Seven | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted with conditions. Registration should be done over a considerable level of time, to allow for relatively new entrants who only managed to own just one canoe. There should be preferential treatment in case of accidents and the urgent need to replace | |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted. Sunday added to Tuesday | |
| Group Eight | Moratorium on new entrants | Accepted. No one should have more than five canoes registered in their name | |
| | CAC | Accepted. CAC is good, and name on card should be the name that people are well-known by. Card should be used for premix fuel purchase | |

| Group | Issue | Accepted | Not Accepted |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| | Additional holiday | | Not Accepted. |
| Group Nine | Moratorium on new entrants | | Not accepted |
| | CAC | Accepted | |
| | Additional holiday | Accepted Sunday should be added to Tuesday | |

CONCLUSION

A total of 958 fishers including 758 men and 200 women were engaged in Axim, Shama and Sekondi on three fisher-to-fisher dialogue platforms. The discussions which centered on moratorium on new entrants, canoe authorization cards and additional fishing holidays went very well with fishers as the springboard to peer-educate their colleague fishers. They on a higher percentage accepted the introduction of an additional fishing holiday, the moratorium on new entrants and, and Canoe Authorization Cards (CAC).