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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) Resources for Revising Ghana's Fisheries Act



JUNE, 2021



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For more information on the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, contact:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

Coastal Resources Center

Graduate School of Oceanography

University of Rhode Island

220 South Ferry Rd.

Narragansett, RI 02882 USA

Tel: 401-874-6224 Fax: 401-874-6920

Email: info@crc.uri.edu

Citation: Coastal Resources Center. (2021). Resources for Revising Ghana's Fisheries Act. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island GH2014_POL114_CRC. 195 pp.

Authority/Disclaimer:

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: Image from the web site originally used to provide information to aid in revising Ghana's fisheries legislation.

Detailed Partner Contact Information:
USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)
10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Raymond Babanawo	Chief of Party	Email: raybabs.sfmp@crcuri.org
Enoch Appiah	Deputy Chief of Party	Email: eappiah.sfmp@crcuri.org
Kofi Agbogah	Senior Fisheries Advisor	Email: kagbogah@henmpoano.org
Perfectual Labik	Communications Officer	Email: perfectual.sfmp@crcuri.org
Mary Asare	M&E Officer	Email: mary.sfmp@crcuri.org
Brian Crawford	Project Manager, CRC	Email: bcrawford@uri.edu
Mark Newton	USAID AOR	Email: mnewton@usaid.gov

Hen Mpoano
 38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge
 Takoradi, Ghana
 +233 312 020 701
 Kofi Agbogah
kagbogah@henmpoano.org

Resonance Global
 (Formerly SSG Advisors)
 182 Main Street
 Burlington, VT 05401
 +1 (802) 735-1162
 Nick McClure
nmccclure@resonanceglobal.com

Friends of the Nation
 Parks and Gardens
 Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana
 +233 312 046 180
 Donkris Mevuta
 Kyei Yamoah
info@fonghana.org

CEWEFIA
 B342 Bronyibima Estate
 Elmina, Ghana
 +233 024 427 8377
 Victoria C. Koomson
cewefia@gmail.com

Centre for Coastal Management (CCM)
 University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast
 +233 242910056
 Denis Aheto
daheto@ucc.edu.gh

Development Action Association (DAA)
 Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor
 Highway
 Accra, Ghana
 +233 302 315894
 Lydia Sasu
daawomen@daawomen.org

For additional information on partner activities:

CCM/UCC	https://ccm.ucc.edu.gh/
CRC/URI	http://www.crc.uri.edu
CEWEFIA	http://cewefia.weebly.com/
DAA	http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa
Friends of the Nation	http://www.fonghana.org
Hen Mpoano	http://www.henmpoano.org
Resonance Global	https://resonanceglobal.com

ACRONYMS

CIC	Canoe Identification Card
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CRC	Coastal Resources Center
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAA	Development Action Association
DFTC	DAA Fisheries Training Center
FC	Fisheries Commission
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit
FoN	Friends of Nation
FtF	Feed the Future
FY	Fiscal Year
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
GOG	Government of Ghana
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Score
HM	Hen Mpoano
IEC	Information Education and Communications
IR	Intermediate Results
MASLOC	Microfinance and Small Loans Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MOGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MDD-W	Minimum Dietary Diversity – Women
MMDAs	Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies
NAFAG	National Fisheries Association of Ghana
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NMFMP	National Marine Fisheries Management Plan
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PA	Public Address
PPI	Poverty Probability Index
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
STC	Science and Technical Committee
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government



Revising Ghana's Fisheries Act

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Introduction

During the time period of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, (2014-2021) The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and its Fisheries Commission was in the process of considering revisions of the Fisheries Act of 2002 and its Amendments. This activity description replicates a public web site that had provided a repository of documents on Ghana’s existing fisheries laws and regulations, as well as related documents that can aide individuals involved in drafting new fisheries legislation. Documents can be viewed and downloaded by clicking on the links in the various pages (Existing Legislation, International Treaties and Agreements & Related Documents).

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Legislation and Regulations

This page provides links to the existing Fisheries Act, its amendment, related Legislative Instruments and Ministerial Directives and other past fisheries laws. It also contains other related legislation such as the Local Governance Act which contains provisions related to fisheries. A copy of Ghana's Constitution which contains provisions establishing the Fisheries Commission is also provided below.

Fisheries Legislation

- [Ghana Fisheries Act of 2002 \(No. 625\)](#)
- [Ghana Fisheries \(Amendment\) Act of 2014 \(No. 880\)](#)
- [Ghana Fisheries Law of 1991 \(PNDCL 256\)](#) This law has now been replaced by the 2002 Fisheries Act and 2014 Amendment but may be useful from a historical perspective.
- [Ghana Wholesale Fish Marketing Act of 1963 \(No. 156\)](#)

Regulations

- [Ghana Fisheries Regulations 2010 \(L.I. 1968\)](#)
- [Ghana Fisheries \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015 \(L.I. 2217\)](#)
- [Fisheries Regulations of 1979](#)
- [Fishing Boats \(Certificate of Competency First Class and Second-Class Engineers\) Regulations of 1974](#)
- [Fishing Boats \(Certificate of Competency as Skippers and Second Hands\) Regulations of](#)

1972

Ministerial Directives

- Ministerial Directive Trawler Closed Season (2016-17) 15-06-2016
- Ministerial Directive on Minimum Sanitary Requirements 31-5-2016

Related Legislation

- Ghana Local Governance Act of 2016 (No. 936) Ghana Local Government Act of 1993 (No. 462) which replaced Act 462.
- Ghana Local Government Act of 1993 (No. 462) replaced by Act 936.
- Ghana Shipping Act 2003 (Act 645) look to Section 13 in particular.
- Ghana Maritime Authority Act 2002 (Act 630) look to Sections 4 and 13 in particular.
- Maritime Zones Delimitation Law 1986 (P.N.D.C.L. 159)
- Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority Act of 1986 look to Section 24 in particular.
- Oil in Navigable Waters Act of 1964 (Act 235)

Ghana's Constitution

- [Ghana's Constitution of 1992](#) Part V: Protecting Natural Resources, Section 269.1 provides for the establishment of a Fisheries Commission. Section 268 pertains to agreements granting rights or concessions to natural resources. Section 269.2. allows Parliament on the recommendation of the Commission to authorise another agency of government to grant rights with respect to exploitation of natural resources.

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Related Documents

This page provides links to documents that may have bearing on the contents of the bill for a new Fisheries Act that is being drafted by MOFAD/FC. It includes fisheries and aquaculture, as well as other relevant policies, plans and strategies that have been formally adopted by the Government of Ghana.

MOFAD Policies and Plans

- [MOFAD Sector Medium Term Development Plan \(2014-2017\)](#)
- [Ghana Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Development Plan 2011-2016](#)
- [Coastal and Marine Sector Action Plans MOFAD 2015](#)
- [Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana – Marine Sector \(2015-2019\)](#)
- [Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan MOFAD-FC 2013](#)
- [Ghana National Plan of Action on IUU Fishing 2014](#)
- [National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for the Fisheries Sector MOFAD 2016](#)
- [Strategy on Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking in Fisheries](#)

Other Related Government of Ghana Policies and Strategies

- [Ghana Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy 2007](#), Section 4.8.4 Fisheries Policy, starts on page 38.
- [Ghana Medium Term Agricultural Sector Investment Plan \(METASIP\) 2011-2015](#) See outputs 1.1.3, 2.1.3 , 2.4.2, 2.5.3 in particular.

- [Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda \(GSGDA\), 2010-2013](#) See Sections 2.2.1, 4.1.7, and 4.2.3 in particular.
- [National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan of Ghana \(2016-2020\)](#) See Sections 3.4, 3.6, 3.9 in particular.
- [National Nutrition Policy for Ghana 2013-2017](#) See Sections 2.2.1 and 5.3.

MOFAD Reports and Related Documents

- [Guidelines for Acquiring a Fishing Licence in Ghana 2013](#)
- [Ghana Marine Canoe Frame Survey 2016](#)
- [Ghana Marine Canoe Frame Survey 2013](#)

Other Background Documents on Ghana's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

- [The Fishing Sub-Sector and Ghana's Economy-Bank of Ghana report 2008](#)
- [Guidelines for the Re-organization of Premix Fuel](#) (http://mofa.gov.gh/site/?page_id=8910)

Other Resource Documents of Interest

- [US Fishery Conservation and Management Act as amended through 2007](#)
- [EJF and Hen Mpoano Report on Transparency in Ghana's Fisheries Sector 2019](#)
- [EJF Report on Vessel Ownership in Ghana's Industrial Trawl Sector 2018](#)
- [Legal Opinion on Transshipment in Ghana, TaylorCrabbe, 2018](#)
- [Report of Roundtable on Implementation of the VGGT and SSF Guidelines 2018](#)
- [Assessment of Ghana's Fisheries Laws for Alignment with the VGGT and SSF Guidelines, TaylorCrabbe and EJF, 2019](#)
- [Issue Brief on the Principles of the VGG](#)

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Treaties, Intl. Agreements & Guidelines

This page contains copies of international treaties and agreements that have been signed or ratified by The Government of Ghana.

Compulsory

- [Agreement on Port State Measures to Deter IUU Fishing and Communication on Ghana Ratification of Agreement on Port State Measures on IUU](#) Ghana Ratification on 29 November 2016
- [UN Agreement for the implementation of UNCLOS relating to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks](#) (1994); Ghana ratification on 27 January 2017
- [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\) 1982](#); Ghana ratification on 7 June 1983
- [Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982](#); (regarding the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction) Ghana ratification on 23 September 2016
- [Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas](#) 1993
- [International Convention-Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas of 1966 and updated through 2017](#); Ghana ratification on 17 April 1968, Paris Protocol ratified 12

December 1988, Madrid Protocol ratified 23 November 2001

Voluntary

- [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 2011](#)
- [Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication 2015, FAO](#)
- [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, 2012, FAO](#)
- [Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance \(VGFSP\), FAO, 2015](#)

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Draft Fisheries Act

This is the working draft of the new Ghana Fisheries Act. Comments are welcome below.

(document to be uploaded shortly)

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Contact

Dr Brian Crawford
Project Manager
USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

Email: bcrawford@uri.edu

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