



# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## The Daily Graphic: Revamp the Fisheries Sector



NOVEMBER 30, 2015



Friends of the Nation



Daasgift



Development Action Association



This publication is available electronically on the Coastal Resources Center's website at [http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects\\_page/ghanasfmp/](http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects_page/ghanasfmp/)

**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](mailto:info@crc.uri.edu)

**Citation:** Asiedu-Addo, Shirley. (2015). The Daily Graphic: Revamp the Fisheries Sector. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Accra, Ghana: The Daily Graphic. Monday November 30, 2015. Pg. 48. GH2014\_COM058\_CRC. 1 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:** The Daily Graphic, November 30, 2015

## Detailed Partner Contact Information:

**USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)**  
**10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana**

**Telephone: +233 0302 542497 Fax: +233 0302 542498**

Maurice Knight	Chief of Party <a href="mailto:maurice@crc.uri.edu">maurice@crc.uri.edu</a>
Kofi Agbogah	Senior Fisheries Advisor <a href="mailto:kagbogah@henmpoano.org">kagbogah@henmpoano.org</a>
Nii Odenkey Abbey	Communications Officer <a href="mailto:nii.sfmp@crcuri.org">nii.sfmp@crcuri.org</a>
Bakari Nyari	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist <a href="mailto:hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org">hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org</a>
Brian Crawford	Project Manager, CRC <a href="mailto:brian@crc.uri.edu">brian@crc.uri.edu</a>
Justice Odoi	USAID Administrative Officer Representative <a href="mailto:Jodoi@usaid.gov">Jodoi@usaid.gov</a>

Kofi.Agbogah  
[kagbogah@henmpoano.org](mailto:kagbogah@henmpoano.org)  
Stephen Kankam  
[skankam@henmpoano.org](mailto:skankam@henmpoano.org)  
Hen Mpoano  
38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge  
Takoradi, Ghana  
233 312 020 701

Andre de Jager  
[adejager@snvworld.org](mailto:adejager@snvworld.org)  
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation  
#161, 10 Maseru Road,  
E. Legon, Accra, Ghana  
233 30 701 2440

Donkris Mevuta  
Kyei Yamoah  
[info@fonghana.org](mailto:info@fonghana.org)  
Friends of the Nation  
Parks and Gardens  
Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana  
233 312 046 180

Peter Owusu Donkor  
Spatial Solutions  
[powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net](mailto:powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net)  
#3 Third Nautical Close,  
Nungua, Accra, Ghana  
233 020 463 4488

Thomas Buck  
[tom@ssg-advisors.com](mailto:tom@ssg-advisors.com)  
SSG Advisors  
182 Main Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 735-1162

Victoria C. Koomson  
[cewefia@gmail.com](mailto:cewefia@gmail.com)  
CEWEFIA  
B342 Bronyibima Estate  
Elmina, Ghana  
233 024 427 8377

Lydia Sasu  
[daawomen@daawomen.org](mailto:daawomen@daawomen.org)  
DAA  
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor  
Highway  
Accra, Ghana  
233 302 315894

Gifty Asmah  
[giftyasmah@Daasgift.org](mailto:giftyasmah@Daasgift.org)  
Daasgift Quality Foundation  
Headmaster residence, Sekondi College  
Sekondi, Western Region, Ghana  
233 243 326 178

### For additional information on partner activities:

CRC/URI:	<a href="http://www.crc.uri.edu">http://www.crc.uri.edu</a>
CEWEFIA:	<a href="http://cewefia.weebly.com/">http://cewefia.weebly.com/</a>
DAA:	<a href="http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa">http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa</a>
Daasgift:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-ENGO/135372649846101">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-ENGO/135372649846101</a>
Friends of the Nation:	<a href="http://www.fonghana.org">http://www.fonghana.org</a>
Hen Mpoano:	<a href="http://www.henmpoano.org">http://www.henmpoano.org</a>
SNV:	<a href="http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana">http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana</a>
SSG Advisors:	<a href="http://ssg-advisors.com/">http://ssg-advisors.com/</a>
Spatial Solutions:	<a href="http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.htm">http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.htm</a>

# Special feature



• Returning from sea with almost empty nets

# Revamp the fisheries sector

By Shirley Asiedu-Addo

**T**HEY taste nice, especially when fried and while still hot. In appreciation of their great taste, they find themselves in soups and stews.

The average Ghanaian loves fish and is said to consume 23 kilogrammes of fish per year above the global average of 16 kilogrammes per person per year.

But as we crunch into their little bones, we crunch our way to scarcity; the scarcity of pelagic fish that have been the mainstay of our nation's fish industry.

It is serious, our fisheries are in crisis. The small pelagic fish, including the sardinella or the herrings, the anchovies and the mackerels, constitute the backbone of the nations' fish form, but are being wiped out by our actions and inactions.

The fishermen and the fishmongers bear witness to this. They go to fish and

come back almost empty handed.

**Reality**

The reality is that bad. Ghana's small pelagic fishery stocks are on the verge of collapse.

Statistics from the Fisheries Commission indicate that annual sardinella or herring catch has plunged continuously, while the number of artisanal fishing canoes rose to more than 13,000 in 2014.

Hundreds of fishermen and fishmongers depend on the sea for their livelihoods.

In many fishing communities in the four coastal regions of Ghana, the people do virtually no other business. Their lives and those of their dependents are intertwined with the fortunes of the sea and what it gives them.

And with the current open access and entry into the fishing business, there is overfishing.

More people are entering the fishing industry, exploiting the sea and yet taking home virtually nothing.

The situation is gloomy and stakeholders in the fishing industry have to act fast.

**Statistics**

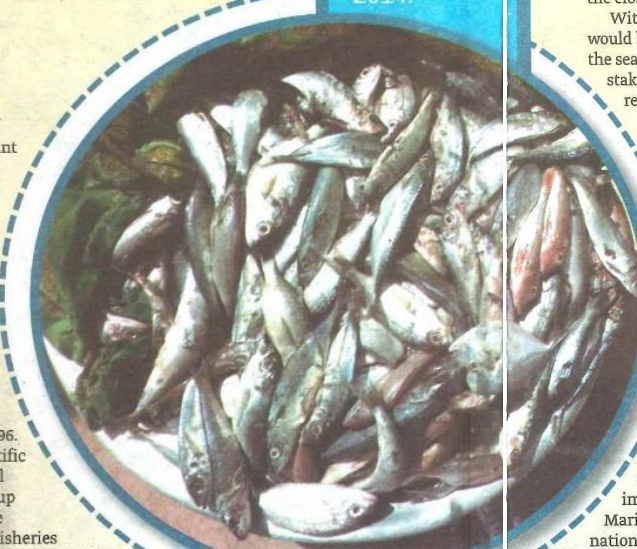
Catches of most important species of the small pelagic resources have been decreasing sharply since 2007 and have reached about 15 per cent of the maximum landings realised in 1996.

The Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) estimates that the current weight of fish in the ocean of small pelagics is the lowest in more than 30 years.

Prof. Kobina Yankson of the STWG and SFMP indicated that the stocks had been overfished and faced depletion.

**Causes**

He explained that one major cause of



• The future of small pelagic such as these are in trouble.

**NUMBER CRUNCH**

**13,000**

Statistics from the Fisheries Commission indicate that annual sardinella or herring catch has plunged continuously, while the number of artisanal fishing canoes rose to more than 13,000 in 2014.



• Fishermen in parts of Cape Coast come back with crabs.

the state of the fisheries in the country is overfishing.

With the non-regulated entry into the fishing industries many along the coast automatically turn to fishing.

Another major cause of the state of the fisheries is the increasing fleet of fishing vessels.

The number of canoes in artisanal fishery was more than 12,728 in 2014, well over the 9,095 required to sustain the fishery resources.

One main resolution played up by experts and agreed to by all stakeholders is the closed season.

With the closed season, fishermen would be required to halt their activities in the sea for a period to be agreed by all stakeholders to give the sea "rest" and to restore its stocks.

Some fishmongers at Axim agree to this perfectly.

"We give fishermen money for their fishing expeditions and they are not able to pay us back. We know something is definitely wrong. "We agree that the situation is gloomy," they noted.

**SMFP**

The implementation of the SFMP of the USAID and allied agencies has committed to ensuring that the nation rebuilds its stocks.

A forum organised discussed the effective implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan, a national policy for the management of the marine fisheries sector.

**National Marine Fisheries Management Plan**

A five-year management plan to provide a strategic framework for

reversing the declining trend of fish resources is to be implemented from 2015 to 2019 to help reduce the excessive pressure on fish stocks and ensure the effective implementation of a fisheries legislation.

It would help ensure that the fisheries waters were exploited within biologically acceptable levels, while protecting marine habitats and bio-diversity.

**The National Dialogue**

Participants in a national fisheries dialogue in Cape Coast recently organised as part of SFMP's efforts to rebuild the fisheries, recommended a closed season on fishing activities to help rebuild the critical fisheries stock levels.

Mrs Emelia Abakah Edu, representing the National Fish Processors and Traders Association, said they fully supported the idea of a closed season.

Nana Duncan of the Inshore Canoe Fishers Association also supported the idea of a closed season.

The forum also called for protected marine zones to help restore stocks.

Mr Brian Crawford, the Chief of Party of the SFMP, said

it was time to move from the walk to the talk to restore the fisheries sector.

November 21 every year is World Fisheries Day and this year, a durbar on the state of the fisheries was held in Komenda in the Central Region on the theme: "Sustainable fishing is key. Ghana's food security depends on us."

**Political interference**

Other stakeholders called on politicians to stop playing politics with the fisheries sector.

"We want politicians to tell us the truth. They should tell us the truth about the fisheries sector and stop dividing us along party lines," one other fisherman stated.

Nearly a fourth of children below five are

undernourished, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Ghana is currently a net importer of fish. Further declines could be worrisome as a result of the negative impact on the health of the people, particularly, children below five.

The fight to restore the fisheries sector must be won. We cannot, as a country, afford to lose this war.



• Many coastal women depend on the fisheries sector to support their families.