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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Fisher 2 Fisher (F2F) National
Fisheries Management Plan
Consultation and Review
Engagement Meeting in the Greater
Accra Region: (Botianor, Winneba,
Apam and Mumford)



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Cover photo: A group picture of participants in Apam during the F2F Dialogue. (Credit DAA)

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ACRONYMS

FC	Fisheries Commission
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
GoG	Government of Ghana
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NAFPT	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

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1. INTRODUCTION

The main fisheries resources of Ghana have been determined overfished. The small pelagic resources, particularly sardinella, are on the verge of collapse. In response, the GoG and fisheries stakeholders have embarked on a five-year fisheries management plan to end overfishing and reverse the declining trends of landings and abundance. The plan was prepared and presented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) and the Fisheries Commission (FC) to stakeholders and later approved and gazette in October 2015. The plan calls for a series of management measures to address overfishing and overcapacity, improve fisheries data collection, strengthen fisheries law enforcement and improve value chain and market strategies. The implementation of the fisheries management plan is in motion by first establishing three seasonal closures for the industrial trawlers (November 2016, February – March 2017 and January – February 2018).

Another contributing factor to the depletion of Ghana's small pelagic stock is the lack of effective collaboration between the Fisheries Commission (FC) and the major stakeholder (Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC)). Fishermen see management initiatives from the FC as some alien restraint imposed on them by government and as such do not consent themselves fully to its implementation. This, coupled with lack of sense of ownership of the fisheries resource and irresponsible fishing practices have contributed to the failure of formal fisheries management practices to yield the desired results. Effective implementation of the fisheries management plan therefore requires an effective partnership between MoFAD/FC and the fisheries stakeholders. To this end, the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) has been 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.

This is in recognition that fisheries management and conservation is the only way to a better and more prosperous future of the industry and the fisheries resources. The Council has helped train/orient 407 fisher folks in support the implementation of the fisheries management plan. The Council led the organization and DAA led the facilitation of a day training between Fishermen and NAFPTA, named **F2F** to organize its members and that of NAFPTA, and increase the capacity of the Council to be able to address the expected responsibilities in fisheries resource management.

DAA as an implementing partner of SFMP with help of the council had trained about 407 fisherfolks on the F2F in some part of Central Region including: Nyanyano, Senya, Feteh, Winneba, Apam, Dego and Mumford.

The table below gives a detail of people trained under the F2F in some part of Central Region:

Table 1. List of trainees participants at F2F training at Senya Castle Park, Winneba Landing Beach and Apam landing beach

Fishing Communities trained	Venue	Date	No. of Male	No. of Female
Feteh, Nyanyano and Senya, Dampase	Senya Castle Park	5 th December,2018	72	33
Winneba	Winneba Landing Beach	6 th December,2018	100	50
Apam, Dego and Mumford	Apam Landing Beach	7 th December,2018	72	80

1.1 Objectives

- To regulate the increasing canoe fleet in order to reduce fishing effort to aid in the rebuilding and management of Ghana's small pelagic stocks.
- Improving efficiency in the sale and distribution of premix to fishers while managing the overall data on fishing fleet in the fishing industry. This will aid decision makers to formulate and implement policies that promote the sustainable management of the fish stock.
- To declare Moratorium on new entrants of canoes in the Landing beaches of Ghana.

1.2 Expected Outcomes

- Moratorium will be declared in all landing Beaches of Ghana to prevent new entrants of Canoes.
- There should be a collaborative effort between chief fishermen and fisheries commission to clean up the register.
- Fisher folks will agree and accept premix authorization Card to regulate the sales of premix at the landing Beaches.

2. DAY ONE - SENYA CASTLE PARK

2.1 Welcome Address and Open Remarks

Nana Abrenu Dabum, the Central Regional Chairman of GNCFC chaired the training event in Senya. In his address, he outlined the objective of the Fisherman to Fisherman (FtF) trainings as a platform for the fisher folk to engage the FC on fisheries management issues.



Figure 1. Central Regional Chairman of GNCFC, Nana Dabum, welcoming Participants for one day training on F2F at Senya Castle Park



Figure 2. Nana Kojo Omano, Tufuhene of Senya

Nana Kojo Omano II, Tufuhene of Senya Traditional Area also welcomed all the participants to the event and asked the fishermen to effectively engage the FC officials on all issues concerning them.

2.2 Update on Registration and Embossment by the FC

The zonal fisheries officer, Madam Philothea Osei, addressed the gathering by giving an update on the status of the canoe register and the embossment by the FC.



Figure 3. Madam Philothea Osei giving an update on the canoe register



Figure 4. Mr Kobina Baiden explaining a point



Figure 5. Mr. Krampah of the FC

2.3 General Discussions (Question and Answers)

The fishermen were given the opportunity to ask the Zonal officers questions.

Neenyi Omano Kojo asked that "if he registers his canoe in my name and later sell it, what should the new owner do? Samuel Otoo also asked that "with the acquisition of premix fuel with the identity card, does it mean that only canoes registered at a particular landing beach will be served when there is a shortage of premix fuel?.

The Zonal Fisheries Officer Mr Baiden answered that "the canoe embossment is essential for the FC to serve the interest of fishermen. According to him it is one of the ways the government of Ghana will authorize and also assist fishermen. He asked the canoe owners to carve their identification numbers on their canoes and paint over it, so it becomes visible. The canoe identification will also enable officers identify the origin of a canoe, especially when a crime is being committed.

He added that from January 1, 2019, any unregistered canoe that plies the sea will be arrested by the Marine Navy and so anyone who has procured a second hand canoe should visit the Zonal office of the FC and amend the ownership details.



Figure 6. Fishermen from Senya asking questions on the importance of the Canoe



Figure 7. Canoe Owners asking if the Premix authorization card can help to stabilize premix shortages at landing Beaches of Ghana



Figure 8. Cross section of fisher folks from Senya, Fete, Dampase, and Nyanyano during the F2F training at Senya Castle Park



Figure 9. Group picture of Traditional Leaders, Chief Fishermen, Fisheries Commission personnel and some Key stakeholders at F2F training at Senya Castle Park

2.4 Key Outcomes of the F2F training at Senya Castle Park

- Canoe owners, fishermen and representatives of NAFPTA agree that a moratorium should be declared by January 1st 2019 and no new entrants by the end of January 2019.
- The Chief fishermen and FC agreed to clean up the register. The fishermen pledged to support FC to identify and remove inactive, wrongly entered and unrecognizable canoe numbers from the register. This will take effect from 6th December 2028.
- It was agreed that the zonal officers and the chief fishermen will collaborated in the issuing of the cards.

3. DAY TWO - WINNEBA LANDING BEACH

3.1 Welcome Address and Open Remark

The Chief fisherman of Winneba Nenyi Emrie, gave the welcome address and thanked USAID/SFMP and the FC for organizing the F2F engagements.

Nana Dabum, the Central Regional Chairman of GNCFC in his opening remarks said the F2F training aims to achieve three main objectives:

- Sensitization on the Canoe registration
- Sensitization on the Moratorium on new entrants of canoes
- Sensitization of fisher folk on canoe authorization cards



Figure 10. Nana Dabum addressing fishers at Winneba Landing Beach on the objectives of fisher to Fisher training



Figure 11. Chief fisherman of Winneba



Figure 12. Mr. Baiden of the FC

3.2 Update on Registration and Embossment General Discussions (Question and Answers)

The representative of the Paramount Chief of Winneba, Mr. Nyannie admonished the fisher folk to pay attention to the discussions and contribute their ideas towards a better fisheries industry.

The Zonal fisheries officer Madam Philo informed the fishermen that the canoe owners who participated in the canoe registration exercise will soon be issued with a multipurpose identification cards that will allow them to buy premix fuel. According to her the identification cards are the fisherman's license to fish on Ghana's seas and any unregistered canoe will be arrested by the Navy.

Mr. Krampa added that the canoe register will be cleaned up. All old and nonfunctioning canoes will be removed from the register. He advised canoe owners to assist the FC by providing the necessary information to update the register.

According to him, a canoe owner cannot use the identification number of an old canoe on a new canoe without the approval of the Fisheries Commission. He asked all canoe owners to have the registration number clearly embossed on the canoe at all times, while the registration card is kept in the canoe by the lead fisherman.



Figure 13. Ekow Gyan the leader of Winneba landing beach of fishermen



Figure 14. President of NAFPTA at Effutu Municipal, Madam Judith Aryeetey, proposing 1st January for moratorium

3.3 Key Outcomes of the F2F training at the Winneba Landing Beach

90% of the fisher folks present agreed that a moratorium on new canoes should be declared by the second week of January 2019, and no registration of new canoes by the 14th of February



Figure 15. Cross section of fisher folks at Winneba landing beach during F2F

The Chief fishermen and the FC agreed to clean up the register in December, 2018. The fishermen will support the FC to identify and remove inactive, wrongly entered and unrecognizable canoe numbers from the register. It was agreed that the Fisheries zonal officers will collaborate with the chief fishermen to issue the cards.

4. DAY THREE - APAM LANDING BEACH

4.1 Welcome Address and Open Remarks

The Chief fisherman of Apam Opanyin Kwabena Caiquo in his opening address reminded his fellow fishers that it is the responsibility of the FC to ensure that the sustain the fisheries resources are properly managed, and so all fishermen should cooperate with them at all times.

The local Chairman for the Canoe council, informed the fishermen, that the FtF is a platform initiated by the SFMP with support from the GNCFC for the Fisheries Commission to dialogue with chief fishermen on important issues that affect the industry.



Figure 16. Chief fisherman of Apam Nana Caiquo, giving the open remarks

4.2 Update on Registration and Embossment

The Zonal officer of the FC, Miss Philo Osei explained that the FC embarked on the registration of all canoes in the Western, Central and Greater Accra Region five years ago to enable the FC identify all fishers with their canoes and issue them with identity cards which will authorize them to buy premix fuel and ply the sea.

The identification numbers will indicate the origin of the canoe, e.g. a canoe from Apam in the Central region will be identified as CR-APM.



Figure 17. Madam Philathea Osei, Zonal fisheries commissioner



Figure 18. Charles Osei and officer of the FC, updating participants on the register

4.3 General Discussions (Question and Answers session)

An officer with the Fisheries Commission Mr. Charles Osei, in his delivery told the fishermen that just as registration numbers are used to identify cars, registering all canoes will also enable the FC identify all canoes in Ghana and also enable for government to develop policies to address the challenges in the sector, especially on the sale of premix fuel.

Kwesi Sanko, a fisherman from Dago asked that “he registered his canoe in Axim during the registration but he has now moved to Mumford, does he need to re-register?”

The officer answered that, ‘once the canoe is on the register, he only needs to notify the chief fisherman and the Zonal Officer of the FC in Mumford to amend his details. Sabina from Mumford asked that "if a canoe owner died, and it is inherited by a new owner, will he need to re-register the canoe?”

The officer answered that the new owner needs to amend the ownership details in the register with the Zonal officer.



Figure 19. Kwesi Sanko from Dago asking a question



Figure 20. Sabina from Mumford asking a question?



Figure 21. Chief fisherman from Abreku making a point



Figure 22. A fish processor from Apam a question



Figure 23. Kweisi Gyan, 2015 National best fisherman, proposing a date for the moratorium



Figure 24. A canoe owner from Apam landing beach asking if the canoe registration and embossment exercise is free



Figure 25. Cross of participants during F2F training at Apam landing beach

4.4 Key Outcomes of the F2F training at Apam Landing Beach

- The Fisher folk agreed that a moratorium on new canoes should be declared, after the issuance of the canoe authorization cards.
- The Chief fishermen and the Fisheries Commission agreed to clean up the canoe register, from 8th December, 2018
- The fishermen pledge to support the Chief fishermen and the zonal officers of the Fisheries Commission to issue the cards.

5. CONCLUSION

The meeting ended with the consensus that the chief fishermen will support the FC to clean up the canoe register by deleting inactive and unknown canoes. This exercise is expected to begin on the 8th to the 31st December, 2018. It was also agreed that the moratorium on new canoes should begin on the 1st January, 2019.

A total of 407 fisher folks from Senya, Nyanyano, Dampase, Fete, Abreku, Amankwadzie, Dego, Mumford and Apam participated in all the training.