

# Country Update

## WTO Fisheries Negotiations: Main Issues and Interests of the East African Community (EAC)

Provided by

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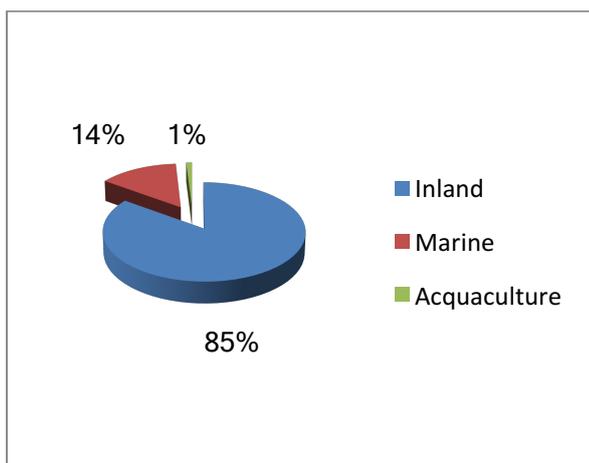
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## Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (2012) report shows that Tanzania has the greatest fisheries potential in Africa ranking amongst the top 10 countries in the world in terms of total capture of fisheries production with annual fish production of ranging from 325,000 to 380,000 tonnes per annum (URT, 2016). According to the National Economic Survey (2009), the fisheries sector is among the most important economic sub sectors of the Tanzanian economy, which is yet to be fully exploited, with potential of creating employment opportunities, food security, incomes, foreign exchange and revenue to the government.

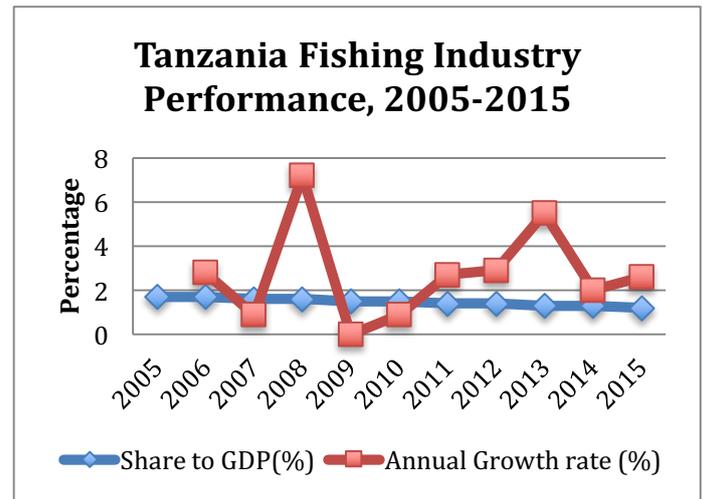
Fisheries in Tanzania can be divided into; Inland, marine and aquaculture. The fisheries production in Tanzania ranges from 325,000 to 380,000 tonnes per annum of which 85% is from inland fisheries, 14% from marine fisheries and just 1% from aquaculture (URT, 2016).



Source: URT, 2016

The Economic Survey Report (2014) reveals that the sector employs around 183,800 full time fishermen and about 4.0 million people earn their livelihoods

from the fisheries sector related activities. According to the Economic Survey Report (2015), the overall growth of the fishing industry in Tanzania has rather been fluctuating, however with the contribution of the sector to GDP showing a linear decrease over time from 1.7 per cent in 2005 to 1.3 per cent.



Source: Economic Survey Report, 2015

## Fishing Policy in Tanzania

The Fisheries sector is guided by the National Fisheries Policy 2015, which sets out the following vision:

*“By 2025 to have a progressive fisheries sector contributing significantly to socio- economic development through sustainable utilization of fisheries resources while conserving the environment.”*

The overall objective of the Policy is to develop a robust, competitive and efficient fisheries sector that contributes to food security and nutrition, growth of the national economy, and improvement of the wellbeing of fisheries stakeholders while conserving

the environment. Other key documents, which guide the implementation of this policy, are the Fisheries Sector Development Programme, the National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Fisheries Management Plans for the prawn, octopus, tuna and small-scale artisanal pelagic fisheries.

The existing legal and regulatory framework governing the fisheries sector is expressed in several legal measures enacted in the Fisheries Act CAP 279 of 2003, the Marine Parks and Reserves Act CAP 146, the Deep Sea Fishing Authority Act CAP 388; and the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) Act CAP 280, and other related laws and regulations.

## Challenges

The challenges of fisheries in Tanzania include open access nature of fisheries resources for inland water fisheries and marine small-scale fisheries; over dependence on fishery resources leading to increased number of fishers, fishing boats and fishing gears, and over-exploitation; use of illegal fishing gears and illegal methods; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and inappropriate and uncoordinated policies on fish trade; harvesting of endangered and rare aquatic species; harvesting of immature fishes; environmental degradation including deforestation, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, mining; problem of invasive species; and poverty of the fishing communities.

Despite the challenges facing the sector, the government has put efforts in addressing them. The government launched the Fisheries Sector Development Programme to implement

interventions geared to the sustainable management, development, and conservation of fisheries. The National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction also recognizes fisheries as having the potential to contribute to improving livelihoods and nutrition. The importance of fisheries is recognized across multiple sectors: the 2006-2015 National Water Sector Development Strategy highlights the important links between water quality and fisheries, the importance of fish to sustainable livelihoods, and the negative impact of pollution on fisheries.

*“We can earn more from fishing if we transform the sector through employment of modern technology, during the past five years, the fishing sector has been contributing between 1.6 and 3.1 per cent to the economy, which is too low given that the country has high fishing potential.”* Said Fishing Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

## Illegal, Unregulated and Unregistered (IUU) Fishing

IUU often occurs in mainland Tanzania and in the Isles of Zanzibar. Lack of data and control measures are the main issues related to IUU fishing practices in Tanzania. Unreported fishing takes place without any data being collected about it, and often there is no control on such fishing practices in terms of gear restriction, seasonal closure or catch-limit. In Tanzania, a major illegal fishing problem is the use of dynamite, a ‘fishing-gear’ that causes high levels of collateral damage to coral-reef habitats. Dynamite fishing was once prevalent along the entire coast of Tanzania, and was successfully controlled by the late 1990s. In recent years, however, there has been

a resurgence of this fishing technique particularly from Dar es Salaam and surrounding north to Tanga Region. Further awareness-raising support is required within affected communities and amongst the judiciary and the police of the severe and clearly unsustainable impact of the use of dynamite.

In order to address the IUU problem, the government has introduced Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) initiative, especially in Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, so as to detect, deter and prevent IUU. The desired “end state” of the Implementation of the Regional Fisheries Strategy (IRFS) Programme has a bold expectation that required fully integrated and harmonized regional MCS system. This envisioned MCS systems addresses IUU fishing in a comprehensive manner by firstly: implementing harmonized system of fisheries data collection and dissemination on a national and regional level for trans-boundary stocks and especially where it concerns the collection of fisheries data to be submitted to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

The Exclusive Economic Zone for Tanzania is a member of Regional Fishery Boards (RFBs). For marine fisheries, there are two RFBs or arrangements: the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), whose objective is to promote cooperation among its members with by ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks (Tuna and Tuna like species); and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), whose objective is to promote the sustainable utilization of the living marine resources of the South West Indian Ocean region (Mwima, 2012).

## Laws and Regulations Governing Development and Utilization of Fisheries

Push for enhancement of foreign The Tanzania Exclusive Economic Zone has two key fisheries laws which apply to mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. These laws are the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act, 1989 (TSEEZ,1989) and the Deep Sea Fishing Authority Act, 2007 (DSFAA, 2007) (Gloria, 2011). Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act (1989) Provides for the implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention, and establishes the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Tanzania. The Deep Sea Fishing Authority Act (2007) provides for the establishment of the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA), which is responsible for regulating licensing, fishing, monitoring and surveillance in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (Gloria, 2011).

*“The country still treats fishing not for economic advantage. We need to re-define our mindset towards fishing , treat it as natural resources that needs scientific advice for sustainable development.”* said Dr Ngatunga.

The sector also has a Marine Parks and Reserves Act, 1994 (Act No. 29 of 1994) that promotes sustainable management of critical marine resources and habitats through community participation. Among many aims, the Act also aims to promote protection and conservation of fisheries resources and aquatic environment for the sustainability of the resources (Gloria, 2011). Mbilinyi (2014) identified Tanzania Fisheries

Research Institute (TAFIRI) being the other instrument, which was established to promote, conduct, and co-ordinate fisheries research in Tanzania. The Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) is responsible for conducting fisheries research activities in the country to provide advice to the government and the private sector accordingly..

## **Policy Action Needed to cope with Negative Effects of IUU**

The management of fisheries resources in Tanzania has been conducted both at the Central Government and Local Government levels with more functional power found at the district level under the decentralized system. Various participating institutions and stakeholders have been involved in implementation and monitoring of the sector policy. However, the legal frameworks in Tanzania are very weak in fighting against negative effect of Fishing. With this being the case, more efforts are required towards the strong measures taken to combat the problem. The following are some of the crucial policy actions that need to be taken to cope and reverse negative effects of IUU:

- i. There is a need to promote the establishment of centralized auction centres to avoid a fragmented distribution chain which creates space for corruption in the fishing and marketing of immature fish at the local level
- ii. Undertake political and administrative reforms of the fisheries' organizations to

improve their effectiveness in fisheries management, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

- iii. A need to strengthen MCS activities through improved financing and the need to set up a Regional Fisheries Taskforce (RTF).
- iv. Establishment of Beach Management Units (BMUs)
- v. Beach management Units must be involved in MCS activities on voluntary basis.
- vi. Continuous awareness raising should be done to inform different stakeholders about the negative impacts of illegal fishing practices including the use of dynamite in fishing should be provided and introduced in all kindergarten and primary schools along the coast through formal and informal education.

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