



# Using FishBase for responding to training demands of fisherfolk in Senegal

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**Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl**

## Context (2011 data) (1)

- Fisheries sector estimated to account for 4.8% of GDP
- 12.5% of balance of payments (3<sup>rd</sup> most important economic sector)
- Important role in food security at national and regional levels
- Huge, but poorly quantified role in employment, about 58,000 fishers, more postharvest

## Context – institutional aspects (2)

- The Basic Sector Bill N° 98-32 of 14 April 1998 established the Fisheries Code of Senegal
- Since 2005 artisanal fishers are required to purchase a fishing licence to manage resources in Senegal, since 2006 vessels should register
- End 2008, Local Marine Artisanal Fishing Committees (CLPA) are established with far-reaching mandates
- Since 2012 new boat constructions are banned, but 2013 Ministerial Council noted weak enforcement

# Locations and actors (1)



## LE LITTORAL SENEGALAIS

- Zone deltaïque
- Côte sableuse
- Côte rocheuse
- Zone de mangroves
- Isobathe

SOURCE : MATHIEU, 1991



# Locations and actors (2)



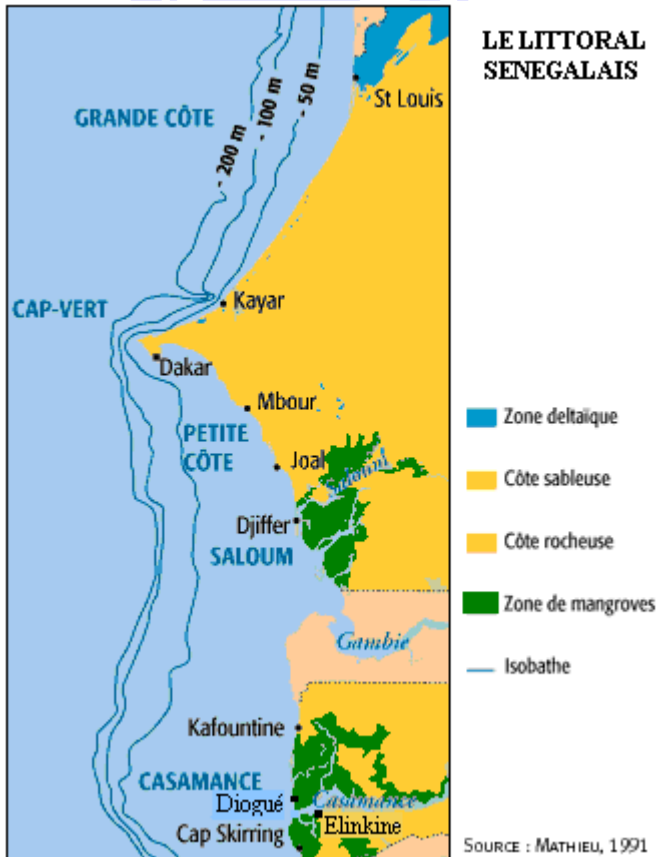
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# Locations and actors (3)



# Field Work to understand blockage

231 stakeholders interviewed in 2014/15 in major landing places (N to S): St. Louis, Kayar, Yoff, Ouakam, Hann, Mbour, Ngaparou, Joal.

- 107 fishermen: 50% operating outside Senegal
- 48 fish mongers: 20 local, 28 international
- 33 retail fish sellers (women)
- 20 local traditional leaders (settling conflicts)
- 9 boat builders of 3 major carpenter families
- 12 representatives of local fishing committees

# Additional focus groups in 2015

Focus groups (usually 7-8 persons, up to 20) at traditional meeting places in these landing sites in 2015 produced more policy relevant insights by qualitatively collecting criticisms and proposals

The informers were mostly fishermen (boat owners and senior crew), fish mongers, women fish processors and retailers



## What we found (1)

- Only 12 Committee members and 8 traditional leaders were familiar with the legal Code, 4 fish mongers had heard about it.
- Traditional leaders apparently orchestrated the challenge to the reform perceived as top-down
- 80% were in favour of registration of boats, provided there is more consultation
- There was and still is a lot of open defiance of administrative measures, but strong recognition that continued decline of the resource needs to be stopped

## What we found (2)

- Capital influx: -->> recent reduction of fixed capital outlay (encircling nets for small pelagics), increase in operational costs (more trips), but now even bigger new pirogues with ice boxes for valuable species (longer trips).
- Increasing reliance on resources outside
- Wide-spread transshipment, use of monofilament nets ... (all prohibited)
- Changing contract arrangements (fishing under contract for investors/factories in Mauritania...)

## What we found (3)

- Demand for ecosystem education for fisheries as “clandestine” (new) species replace declining high value demersal fish species
- Demand for more targeted research and better access to existing research
- Demand for recognition as legitimate operators and possible contributors to a more responsive research effort that keeps track of often rapidly changing strategies, currently not captured by “conventional” research

# Their idea: Small-scale fisheries academy



# Our response: use FishBase for training (1)

- Start with teaching aid and workbook about the ecosystem approach to fisheries developed with and for FAO
- Develop in particular the module on species interactions and ecosystem effects of fishing
- Use visual aids, posters, if possible develop one or two short videos (but, many places lack mains)



# Our response: use FishBase for training (2)

- Develop fishruler further with FB covering additional species



- Extract biological information on “new” species demanded by national and international markets, such as Largehead hairtail (*Trichiurus lepturus*)



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