

Reforms in Small Scale Fishing in Senegal by crisis or new forms of dialogue?

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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 (3rd 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)



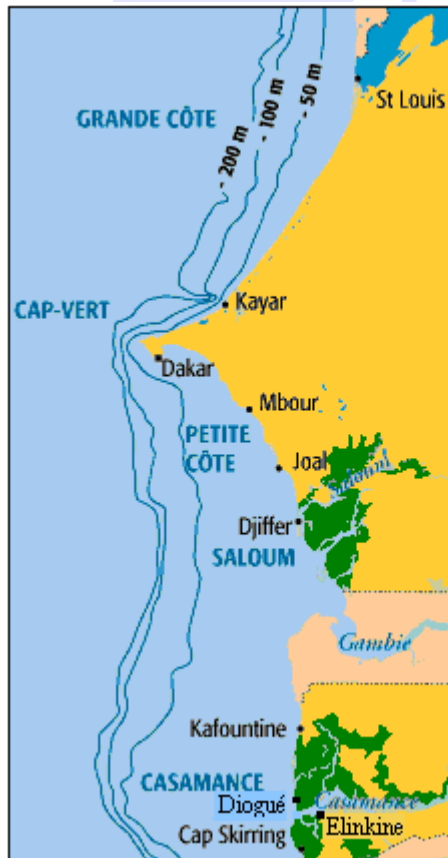
LE LITTORAL SENEGALAIS

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

SOURCE : MATHIEU, 1991



Locations and actors (2)



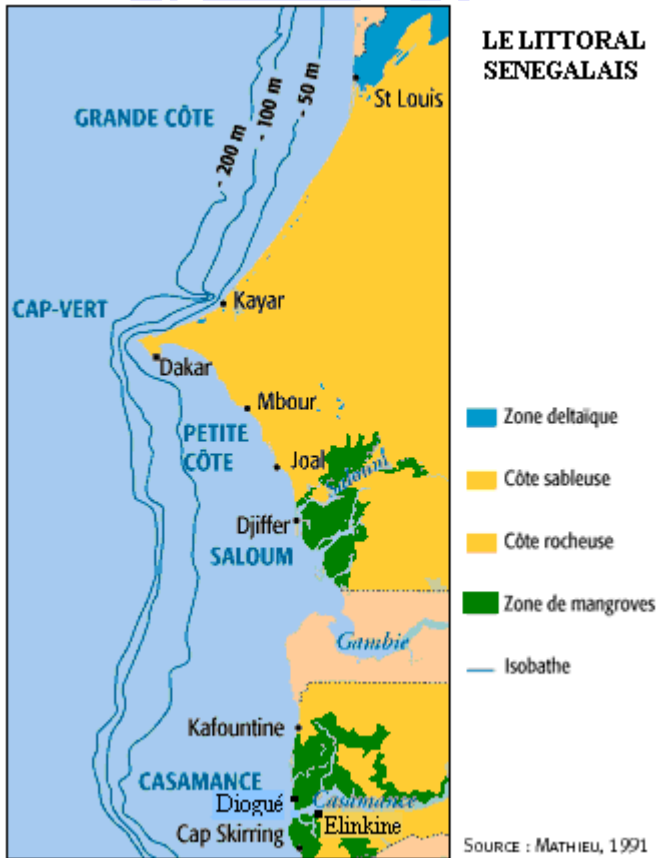
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Locations and actors (3)



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 mostly 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: -->> bigger boats, engines, in the past, but recent reduction of fixed capital outlay (encircling nets for small pelagics), increase in operational costs (more 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 bottom-dwelling 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

What we found (4)

Typical comment from a local leader:

We have our places, where we discuss everything. The police used to ask for our help with solving local conflicts in the municipality. Only if we could not solve it, was it dealt with by the judicial service. ... We are not against conservation measures. Our future depends on healthy resources.

Alioune Ndoeye in Mbour

What we found (5)

Fish mongers are unconvinced:

Our contribution could be considerable for regulating the fisheries, because we intervene in the most critical stages: finance and marketing. The fishermen can not continue fishing without us, but unfortunately, we are not involved in these initiatives – important though they are.

Or:

No regulation will work without us...

Opportunities for moving forward

We observe that (some parallels with Gordon Munro's introductory keynote)

- (a)** stakeholders lack trust in the administration, but show willingness to engage
- (b)** they want research to work for and with them
- (c)** local consensus works for MPAs with long-term support, but difficult to handle migrants
- (d)** the transborder, international resource and trade issues make cooperative approaches an enduring requirement (though difficult).

**I'm still a baby,
let me live and grow**



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