



*Association For The promotion
And the accountability of the
Artisanal Fishery's Actors
In Mbour*



Some more fish for tomorrow

APRAPAM FITH FORUM SYNTHESIS REPORT

January 07th 2015



Wednesday January 07th 2015, was held, at the Abbé David Boilat Center, the fifth forum organized by the Association for the promotion and the accountability of the artisanal fishery's actors (APRAPAM) on the topic : « ***Stakes on the exploitation and the valuing of the pelagic resources and the place of this latter in the food security : the floor to the professionals*** ». It gathered more than 80 participants representing the APPRAFAM members, the representatives of the Artisanal fisheries professional organizations and industrial, the representative of the Fisheries Administration, and Research Structures, GO and Civil society representative.

The opening ceremony, chaired by M.Diène Faye, Director of the fishery's products processing industries, was marked by the speeches of the deputy mayor of Mbour in charge of fisheries and maritime affairs Mr. Bayati BABOU, the Secretary General of UPAMES, the Director of the Maritime fisheries and APRAPAM chairperson. In his speech, M. Diène Faye mainly focused on the efforts of his Ministry in the outlook of the new products with highly added values and regarding the setting up of consultation structures for a better participation of the fisheries professionals in the decision making process.

Following the official opening ceremony, the works were focused on two panels relating to the : ***(1) The usage forms and the Resource Valorization;***

(2) the Importance of the Resources and the exploitation form of the small pelagic.

The facilitation was chaired by Dr Alassane Samba and Khalil Ndiaye was appointed to do the report.

Panel 1 : the Usage forms and the Resources Valorization : this panel was marked by the communications on the following topics relating to : (i) the fish trade and the exportation of small pelagic presented by Matar THIAM, the UPAMES Secretary General ; (ii) the Artisanal processing activities and exportation by Mme Tenning NDIAYE, processing woman from Joal ; (iii) the challenges related to the processing by Mme Diaba DIOP de Thiaroye, both are members of FENATRAMS.



Mr. Thiam in his communication gave a brief overview of exports characterized by an increase for the period of 2012-2013. He insisted on the importance of the volume of small pelagic and the magnitude of the belts that became the main exported species. He explained the difficulties encountered by nationals in marketing the fishery products, namely through the settlement of factories on the fishing sites by foreigners targeting the small pelagic and exporting on the same markets as the Senegalese industrial. He then pointed out the threats linked to the possible presence of Russian, Ukrainian and Asian boats which in the past have demonstrated little transparency in their activities and competed against the locals on African markets by lowering especially the prices of the offered products

He wrapped up by making recommendations on the need to reserve the exploitation and commercialization of small pelagic to national, and invited the actors to work on the chain of value to improve the quality of the products offered for a better utilization in situ of the small pelagic.

Madame N'diaye presented in her communication the situation of the artisanal processing, namely the fact that this activity tends to shift away from the processing women who are now employees instead of employers. She recalled the reasons behind this situation as well as the responsibilities of actors in the field; namely the fishermen, the fish-traders and the processing women. The difficulties of the processing women are revealed , to be mainly the scarcity of the raw material in place (nowadays the raw materials come from Mauritania), the issue of the products marketing , the competition put forward by the foreigners involved in the same activity and factories targeting the small pelagic. As for her this stems from the lack of organization among the fisher folks

making use of bad practices (fishing juvenile to supply the sub-region), and as a result of the over-capacity of the small scale fishery. She ended up calling on the government and the organizers of the forum discuss with the true actors of the fishery and to grant to the fishery an important place in the framework of the Senegalese Emerging Plan (PSE).

Madame Diaba Diop focused her communication on the role of the small scale processing in the reduction of post-catching losses, the difficulties in supplying the processing women following the scarcity of the produces, and the competition exercised by the factories settled on the artisanal fishing site and foreigners carrying out the fishing activity without any control. She pinpointed the input of the artisanal processing activities in the food security for the Senegalese, as well on the rural economy and in providing job opportunities. She also the mentioned the masculinization of the sector as a result of the women lacking means. She insisted on the lack of professionalization of the processing women favoring the integration of the foreigners in this sector, and the lack of organization of the sector. She wrapped up with recommendation relating to the professionalization in the artisanal processing activity with the generalization of the professional cards, the necessity to book a part of the landed products for the artisanal processing, but as well for the development of the artisanal processing site.

Following the communications on the main topics of this panel, the discussions raised the following issues:

- The need to do away with the installation of fish meal plants used for animals and fish food.
- The need to put in place an efficient catches controlling system along the beach.
- The lack of a system of regulation of the market of fishery products, making it impossible to track the price of fish.
- The difficulties of access to credit for small-scale fisheries actors.
- The lack of organization of post catching activities (fish trade and artisanal processing) : well-organized professionals can be a pressure group.
- The risk of disappearance of trades from the artisanal processing given the scale of the development of plants targeting small pelagic.
- Factories in landing sites and small-scale processing and threaten supply.
- Processing sites do not comply with standards for a quality improvement and a better utilization of their products.
- The problem of quality of the products along the chain of value of the catch.

By the way of recommendations, it emerged mainly:

- Professionalization (business cards) and the structuring of artisanal fisheries (fishing, artisanal processing and marketing).
- The regulation of the profession of artisanal processing.
- The definition of a clear objective in the exploitation of small pelagic with regard to its importance in the provision of food security and employment.
- Support of the women fish transformer for the upgrading of the areas of the fishery products processing and obtaining authorization.
- With the increasing of installation of the plants on the landing sites, it should be preceded with a better assessment of the consequences of installing them on the exploited resource, on the activities of local professionals and food security.



Panel 2 : the importance and forms of small pelagic exploitation This panel was marked by the communications focused on the following themes: (i) Evolution of the biomass and abundance of small pelagic; (ii) equipment and fishing techniques ; (iii) Exploitation of juveniles: role of the AMP; (iv) the major risks for the sustainability of the resource against fisheries agreements and IUU fishery. The panel was composed of fishers like Yarak Sarr and Laba Ndoeye from Mbour, Mor Gonzalez de Rufisque and Sheikh Sidath Ndiaye from Saint Louis. Communications of the panelists were supplemented by a presentation on the exploitation of juveniles and their distribution by Mr. Ibrahima Lo, Regional Inspector of fisheries in Thiès and Dr. Darryl Sow Ngom, researcher at the CRODT, responsible for pelagic resources.

Mr. Yarak Sarr focused its communication on fishing techniques. The evolution of fishing techniques become more and more sophisticated contributed to overfishing resources. Mr. Sarr came back on the fact that the breaching of Saint-Louis and the closure of the estuaries (installation of Diama dam) also contributed to the decline of coastal resources in the northern region. The unprofessional practices of fishermen, who

neither respect the rainy seasons nor the good practices from traditional fishing, increase accidents and contributes largely to the degradation of resources.

The second communication made by Mr. Laba Ndoeye focused on the lack of professionalism of current fishermen who don't have sufficient experience, or expertise. He shared his experiences regarding the distribution of pelagic species between the inlets and the 'open sea', by making a distinction between migrant species and sedentary ones (living around the inlets). He stressed the responsibility of the fishermen through their bad practices. He invited researchers and the government to get in touch with professionals before taking management measures. He recalled the good practices that used to be shown and lamented the fact that fishermen of the new generation are not experienced, which explains their bad behaviour.

The third communication made by Sheikh Sidat Ndiaye returned to the problem of the fisheries agreement with Mauritania. He confirmed the situation of overcapacity at the level of small-scale fisheries with very large canoes (22 metres), and 600 metres nets. He insisted on the weakness of the fisheries' monitoring, thereby justifying the magnitude the juveniles' fishery and the use of destructive nets referred to as "fele fele"

MOR Gonzalez made a presentation on juveniles fishing activities. He insisted on the need to revise upward minimum catch sizes allowed by the code while drawing attention to the existence of species of small sizes like anchovies. He invited his cronies to work for the development of small-scale fisheries. He also pointed out the need to better promote the fishermen's catches so as to enable them to live on their fishing activity. He shared the benefits of artificial reefs and wished their duplication along the coast. He ended up proposing the involvement of the former fishermen in the settlement of the situation of fisheries.

Following the panellists, Mr. Lô made a communication on the issue related to the exploitation of juveniles. He recalled the importance of fishing activity in the region of Thiès by presenting the potential with which the region abounds, justifying its position as leader in the national landing sites. The evolution of fishing and exports of products processed in the region has been presented as an alert to actors: there is a decline in production and small-scale processing but an increase of exports; therefore, a decline in local consumption. He has expressed the strong and increasing fishing capacity at the level of the region. He also shared the strong pressure on the small pelagic, and noted the efforts undertaken by the local and regional administration in relation to the CLPA with the protection of juveniles. He also shared the code limits on fisheries which can be complemented by regulatory measures taken at the local level.

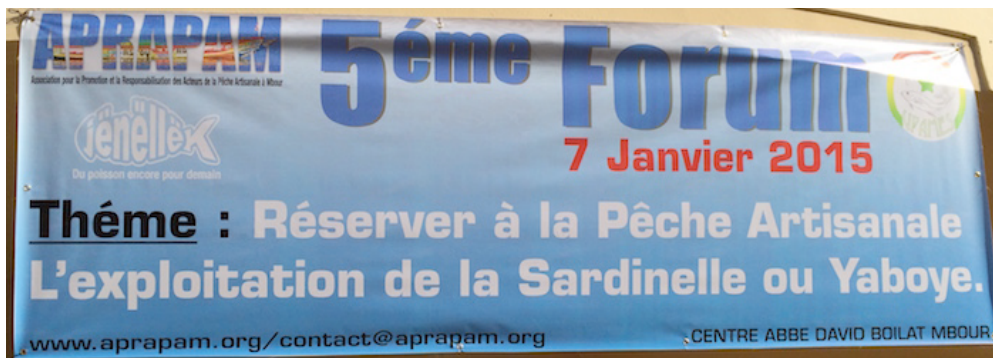


The representative of CRODT, Madame Fambaye Sow Ngom, a research biologist shared scientific information on pelagic resources. She recalled the importance of the pelagic on nutritional and economic benefits, the different pelagic species, and insisted on their migratory nature, the geographical distribution of pelagic species, particularly that of the sardine. The spatio-temporal dynamics of landings of sardine in Senegal was presented, as well as the impact of the environment on the dynamics of sardine population: presentation also stressed the fact that the sizes of round sardine caught in Senegal become increasingly small. The status of pelagic stocks was presented: it shows a situation of over-exploitation of the stock of sardine with recommendation a reduction in fishing efforts.

Following these presentations the issues raised are related to:

- The risk of disappearance of the activity if measures are not taken to reverse the trend.
- The extent of the damage on small pelagic, undertaken by professional actors, is great with boats factories, prohibited gear, dynamite etc.
- The need to make an assessment of the biological rest periods.
- The need to make the fishery statistics more reliable.
- The need to review the accountability of actors in the situation of over-exploitation of small pelagic.
- The exercise conditions of artisanal fisheries.
- The need for the State to take its responsibilities to punish the IUU fisheries.
- Filling of the tanned and the closure of the hex for tenancies, which destroy the juveniles' habitat.

- The need for fishermen to become aware of their responsibility in the current situation of the sector.
- The need to value catches and prevent discharges on the beaches.
- The need for fishermen to contribute to the development of the sector by paying taxes so as to relieve the State which would avoid signing fisheries agreements.
- Lack of financial and human resources for the administration of fisheries.
- The lack of control of fishing with live bait that is familiar with huge excesses.
- The need for the State to encourage the efforts of management in the Department of Mbour and spread them in the rest of the country.
- The need for the State to take measures downstream to prohibit the entry of prohibited fishing material.



As a recommendation, it came out mainly that:

- The authority shall make the assessment of biological rest and share the results with stakeholder
- Actors must take up their responsibilities to move towards accountable fisheries and take corrective actions to revive the artisanal fisheries sector.
- The Ministry must strengthen support for field officers (administration, surveillance), to enforce the law and ban the juvenile fishing activities.
- The State must make regular assessments of stocks and take steps along the lines of the prohibition of illegal fishing material.
- **The state must carry on its effort in terms of integrating (immersion) the artificial reefs.**
- **Glimpse the possibility of reserving the small pelagic to the artisanal fishery on condition that we proceed with its capacity building and setting up preconditions.**
- **Taking into account the leeway's noticed in the fishery through baits by the artisanal fishery, the stated must cancel the authorization of the this fishery**

and enable the line vessels to do so, on condition that we train them and make them abide by the rules and regulations.

As a general recommendation, it came out, given the importance of the discussed topics in the different forums, that the next sessions must be organized within two days and with the requested support of the local partners and the Mbour department.

The closing ceremony was chaired by Mr. Ibrahima Lo, Regional inspector of fisheries in Thiès. It was marked by the communications of M. Mouhamadou Taha Samba, Secretary General of CONIPAS, Gaoussou GUEYE, President of APRAPAM. The different communications congratulated the relevance of the debates and the richness of the proposals' content. They invited the actors to get hold of this forum's recommendations and serve as interpreters by the other professional fishery actors and administration: all together we must join effort to overcome the challenge relating to the sustainability of the resources.

