



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

*CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS  
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE*

*MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING  
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN*

**THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE  
BASED ON THE QUALITY AND SANITARY SAFETY OF FISHERY  
PRODUCTS**

**DRAFT AGENDA  
SEMINAR ON "QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SANITARY SAFETY, KEY  
ELEMENTS  
FOR PROMOTING THE MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION OF  
FISHERY PRODUCTS"**

Casablanca, 6-7 December 2017

## CONCEPT NOTE

### I. INTRODUCTION:

Africa has diverse fisheries resources with immense potential and opportunities to make a significant contribution to the continent's socio-economic growth and improve the livelihoods of its citizens. Fish provides essential proteins, minerals and micronutrients to more than 400 million people in Africa (World Fish, 2009). Moreover, in the mainland, more than 2.5 million people are involved in fishing and three times that number in the trading and processing of fish products. Furthermore, the total value of fisheries and aquaculture represent 1.26% of total GDP for African countries and 6.02% of the total agricultural GDP (FAO, 2014).

The sustained development of fish trade in recent years, combined with a favorable globalized environment in terms of needs for fish products and encouraging trade mechanisms, suggests both significant growth in trade and the emergence of real opportunities for the producing countries.

However, world trade in fish remains marked by developed intra-country trade. Indeed, in recent years, 80% of the value of exports of fishery products from developed countries was destined for other developed countries. For Africa, despite a sizeable output (10MT), its contribution to international trade in fish and fishery products, remains very low. It accounts for only 4.9% of world fish trade despite the liberal policies implemented in the continent. Unlike other continents, where intra-regional trade is above 25%, Africa does not reach the expected level, the rate is around 10-12%. This weakness in intra-regional fish trade is mostly hampered by (i) inadequate trade infrastructure, (ii) inadequate policy and institutional frameworks; (iii) the unpredictability of the application of the commercial regimes; (iv) the insufficiency of market information; (v) inconsistency of quality and non-compliance of products with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures; and (vi) the high cost of complex procedures for market access.

Worried by the low level of inter-regional trade, the heads of state and the African Union's government committed, on June 2014 during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Summit at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, to boost the intra-African trade of agricultural products and services (including fishery products) by exploiting markets and business opportunities at local, regional and international level. The paradigm shift took place through the *Boosting intra African Trade (BIAT)* program, which aims to triple intra-African trade by 2025. In addition, to simplify and formalize current business practices, the program will focus on building and strengthening policy and institutional conditions and related support systems.

While fish is an important source of protein for the population, African consumption of fish and aquaculture products remains well below national aspirations (9.7 kg / year) which is far below the world average (18.9 kg/year). To reverse this trend, the means and techniques of conservation, processing and distribution and marketing facilities must be improved.

According to the willingness of African countries aiming at **“accelerating the trade by developing the fish value chains through the promotion of responsible and fair fish business in order to harvest, in an effective manner, the benefits of the fishery and aquaculture resources, which are abundant in the continent”**, ATLAFCO aligned its strategic plan with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy of the fishery and aquaculture industry in Africa (PFRS).

In a global context characterized by increased trade liberalization and concomitant bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations, trade policy coherence is a major challenge for ATLAFCO member countries. To provide technical assistance to its member States, ATLAFCO is launching a project on "**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE BASED ON THE QUALITY AND SANITARY SAFETY OF FISHERY PRODUCTS**". The aim of this project is to improve the contribution of fishery and aquaculture resources to the nutrition and food security as well as to the economic growth in ATLAFCO countries. A key component of the project is the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities of both public and private actors on the sustainable use and marketing of fishery products

In line with the above, ATLAFCO is organizing a seminar on "**QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SANITARY SAFETY, KEY ELEMENTS FOR PROMOTING THE MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS**", whose key component is the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities for the sustainable use and marketing of fishery products for the benefit of public and private sector actors. It is intended to examine WTO agreements, particularly those relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT).

## **II. JUSTIFICATION**

ATLAFCO expresses its deep concern at the priority given to sustainable development, the exploitation, use and marketing of fishery products meeting the standards and requirements of the markets along the value chain and the promotion of consumption within the countries of the Zone.

Through the organization of this seminar, ATLAFCO intends to support its member states in their efforts to:

- The quality control of fishery products;
- The introduction of better distribution at the national level and the increase of the shares reserved for local consumption;
- The development of intraregional trade and the promotion of exports.

## **III. OBJECTIVES**

### **1. Global objective**

The main objective of the seminar is to improve market access chances and opportunities for fisheries and aquaculture products of ATLAFCO countries through:

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and
- The control by the actors concerned of the WTO agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

### **2. Specific Objective**

Improvement of actors from ATLAFCO member countries in the use of fish products (handling, packaging, processing ...) and their marketing (strengths, requirements, constraints ...).

#### **IV. EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Participants' mastery of WTO SPS and TBT agreements;
- Information on the possibilities of innovation or development of valorization techniques of fish products,
- Trends in domestic consumption and intra-regional trade in fish products.

#### **V. METHODOLOGY**

The methodology is as follows:

Select participants in the private and public sectors among the inspectors and the quality controllers; ask them to prepare a note upon the situation regarding the sanitary legislation and the quality insurance system within their respective countries before holding the workshop; and select the experts who will lead the regional training and development sessions and designate a scientific officer from the workshop in charge of the program, presentation and evaluation..

#### **VI. PARTICIPANTS**

The selected participants from the public and the private sectors of fishery and aquaculture for the seminar on quality insurance and TBT and SPS agreement done by the WTO, must be actors operating in the field of valorization of fishery products and quality assurance of ATLAFCO member countries

#### **VII. Date and Place**

The seminar will take place on 6-7 December 2017 in Casablanca (Morocco).