

# West Africa Fisheries Profiles



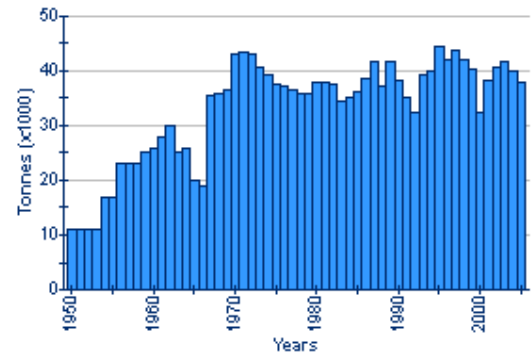
## Benin



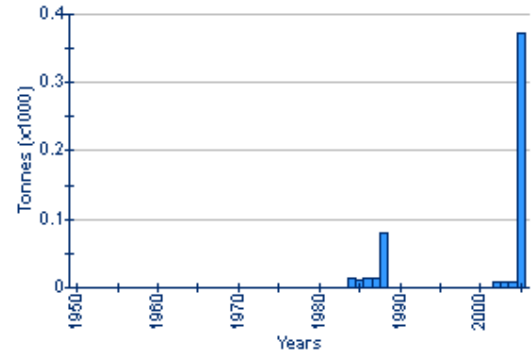
**Total Fish Production:** 38,407 MT (2005)  
**Total Seafood Export Value:** \$997,000 (2005)  
**Percentage of GDP:** Not available  
**Total Number of Jobs:** 61,845; 39,845 (direct)  
**Percentage of Jobs:** Not available

Source: FAO, Fishstat

### Wild Capture Production (FAO)



### Aquaculture Production (FAO)



### Top 10 Species Exported (Value)

1. Shrimps and prawns, frozen (\$945,000)
2. Cuttlefish, frozen (\$52,000)

Source: Fishstat/2005

### Top Exports to the U.S. (Value)

No exports

Source: NOAA Fisheries



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## Industry Profile

Inland fisheries account for 75% of fish production in Benin and employ the vast majority of Beninese fishermen.

The maritime artisanal fleet consists of 825 pirogues, 45% of which are motorized. Most boats use lines and seines as gear.

The industrial marine fleet consists of fewer than 10 foreign-owned trawlers, including shrimp trawlers, which can dock at only one coastal port. Most of the catch consists of demersal species, such as barracuda, croaker, and snapper.

The government is supporting an expansion of river aquaculture production.

*Source: FAO*

## State of Processing and Value-Added Industry

Lack of cold storage in Cotonou limits the consumption of fresh marine fish, which makes up 75% of the total marine harvest. The rest is processed by smoking or drying and is distributed to the interior to the country.

Most shrimp are frozen and exported to Europe by three companies. Some fish are also filleted and frozen for export to Europe. Smoked and dried fish, crab, and shrimp are exported to neighboring countries.

*Source: FAO*

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## Challenges and Prospects

Management challenges hinder the fish sector in Benin, and serious environmental problems on the coast, including erosion and pollution, limit productivity. The lack of institutional capacity for management, monitoring, and enforcement also leads to inefficiencies in the sector.

The industry will benefit from ongoing research and assessment of existing stock.

*Source: FAO*

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## Sustainability



The lack of upwelling along Benin's short coastline limits marine resources. Potential annual harvests are estimated at only 12,000 MT for fish and 4,000 MT for shrimp.

Inland fisheries are vital to the economic and food security of river communities throughout the country's interior. However, erosion and other environmental threats present challenges for these fisheries. The government is working on plans to sustain ecosystems that will support fisheries.

The marine fishing season is most productive from October to February.

*Source: FAO*