

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of Agriculture
and Maritime Fisheries

*"Think sustainable
for a sustainable
resource."*



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MOROCCAN SEAFOOD
Naturally



Sustaining exceptional resources !

Morocco is endowed with fisheries resources which are a national pride. No wonder then that the sustainability of these resources has become a strategic axis of the development policy of the sea fishing sector in Morocco, in order to ensure the protection and sustainability of the species for future generations.

The management of this sector in Morocco is based on several axes: an efficient scientific research coupled with an evolving regulatory framework, but also effective management plans, a follow-up and control of continuous fishing activities, as well as an institutional willingness to develop aquaculture as a growth driver.

The Moroccan policy aims at the establishment of the foundations for the long-term viability of the fisheries sector, through the conservation, management and rational exploitation of fishery resources, and through limiting the impact of the fishing activities on the environment and the adaptation of fishing capacity.



Search ... A permanent mobilization

The Moroccan political management of the marine fisheries sector has always supported the creation of conditions for sustainable development through a responsible management of fisheries resources and the preservation of ecosystems. An efficient scientific research for the sector has been seen as a tool for that is indispensable for the achievement of this goal.

This fisheries research policy is based on a vision, clear and consistent. It aims at reconciling the ecological, economic and social stakes, in order to ensure the development and rationalization of the management of fisheries resources and their valuation.

In addition, Morocco is undertaking all kinds of research, studies, experimental activities and work at sea or on land. They relate to the conservation of marine biodiversity, the fight against overfishing, ensuring stock recovery of overfished species, also the protection of endangered species and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

The overall objective of this dynamic fisheries research is to produce all the knowledge and scientific advice required to manage the sector, to better understand its issues and make quality expertise while providing the means to respond efficiently to the expectations of the profession.

The embodiment of research

Created in 1996, the National Fisheries Research Institute (INHR), a leading fisheries research in Morocco, is in charge of undertaking all research activities, studies, experimental activities and work at sea or on land whose objectives are the planning and rationalization of the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources and their development.

To achieve this, its task consists of:

- The assessment of fish stocks and the follow-up of their exploitation,
- The monitoring the quality and safety of the marine environment,
- The study of the functioning of marine and coastal ecosystems,
- The testing of fishing techniques and exploitation of the sea products,
- The research and contribution to the development of the Moroccan aquaculture.



Regulation... The key to good governance

The major texts on which fisheries regulation in Morocco is based are:

- Maritime Commercial Code of 31 March 1919, which was the beginning of a fisheries regulation. It especially encouraged the registration of fishing vessels under the Moroccan flag.
- The Dahir Law No. 1-73-255 of 23 November 1973 forming the regulation of marine fisheries as amended.

The national legislation covers the management of access to fishing, the protection measures of the resource (fishing gears, fishing areas, commercial size of species, fishing periods stop, restricted areas, etc. ...) and the established management plans. It also covers the handling and preparation of fish, the safety of food, animal health and veterinary measures, etc. This regulation is based on various legislation texts (Dahirs, Laws, Decrees, Orders) which aim continuously at establishing a legal framework that takes into consideration the evolution of the sector. Moreover, decisions, circulars, notes, etc ..., are also used as database management.

Morocco meets all the international guidelines and recommendations for safeguarding fisheries resources, especially the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), the tuna management measures formulated by ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) management measures GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and protections of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).



Control... A tracking both upstream and downstream

The definition of sea products origin at all stages of the value chain has always been a major concern for Morocco. That is why the Kingdom has adopted an integrated approach of follow up and control, based on the one hand on monitoring of fishing activities, and on the other hand on an effective tracking system. All of which must also help fight against the unregulated illegal fishing. Thus, the Moroccan authorities ensure:

- Sea control of fishing vessels by the Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Navy, and by satellite via the VMS (Vessel Monitoring System), implemented by the Fishing Vessel Monitoring National Centre,
- Inspection at landing and auction which involves the inspection of such ships, fishing gear, catches and regulatory documents relating thereto,
- Control, in the value chain, of the operational documentation and the deployment of a system of internal tracking in valuation institutions.



 ... For respectful catch

Morocco has introduced a catch certification procedure to, on the one hand, strengthen the monitoring and control of compliance management and fisheries management measures, and on the other hand, to meet international market requirements. This certification ensures that products landed by national vessels result from catches that are in accordance with the laws and regulations of marine fisheries. The Moroccan Department of Maritime Fishing has invested in a fully automated process for this catch certification process, ensuring the traceability and checks required by this procedure (Automation statements, traceability of catches).

Adaptation and modernization... for a responsible and competitive fishing

Morocco incorporates the ecosystem approach in its fisheries management strategy so as to protect and restore marine biodiversity and promote sustainable fishing practice.

Modernization of the fleet

To contribute to the development of fishing, Morocco also ensures the modernization of its fleet, and the renewal of vessels and fishing gear.

Objective: to improve the working conditions and crew safety, and the development of products and adapting the production to demand for carry on a sustainable exploitation of the resource.

Responsible Fishing techniques

Morocco is aware and concerned about maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems. Preserving marine biodiversity and the alleviation of fishing pressure are among the priorities of the sector's management policy. Thus, in line with these objectives, Morocco has regulated the use of gear to limit the bycatch, while ensuring a better recovery of fish stocks.

End of driftnet

In 2010 Morocco has opted for the elimination of driftnets by publishing the law No. 19-07 prohibiting them. They are non-selective gear used primarily to catch swordfish in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, to reduce accidental catches of accidental fishing that could have a potential impact on the populations of some species.

Marine Protected Areas

Within the framework of the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, Morocco has also established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This ecosystem approach to the creation of MPAs in Morocco aims at the promotion and integration of biodiversity (species and critical habitats) in the fisheries management strategy.

MPA pilot sites

- MPA AL BORAN: located in the Mediterranean area west of Jebha and delimited between Oued Amtter and Tamrabet,
- MPA MOGADOR: located in the Atlantic area bounded between Rouissa (northern Souiria Kdim) and My Bouzerktoune (north of Essaouira)
- MPA MASSA: located in the Atlantic area north of Sidi Ifni and delimited between Ferkelik and Legzira.

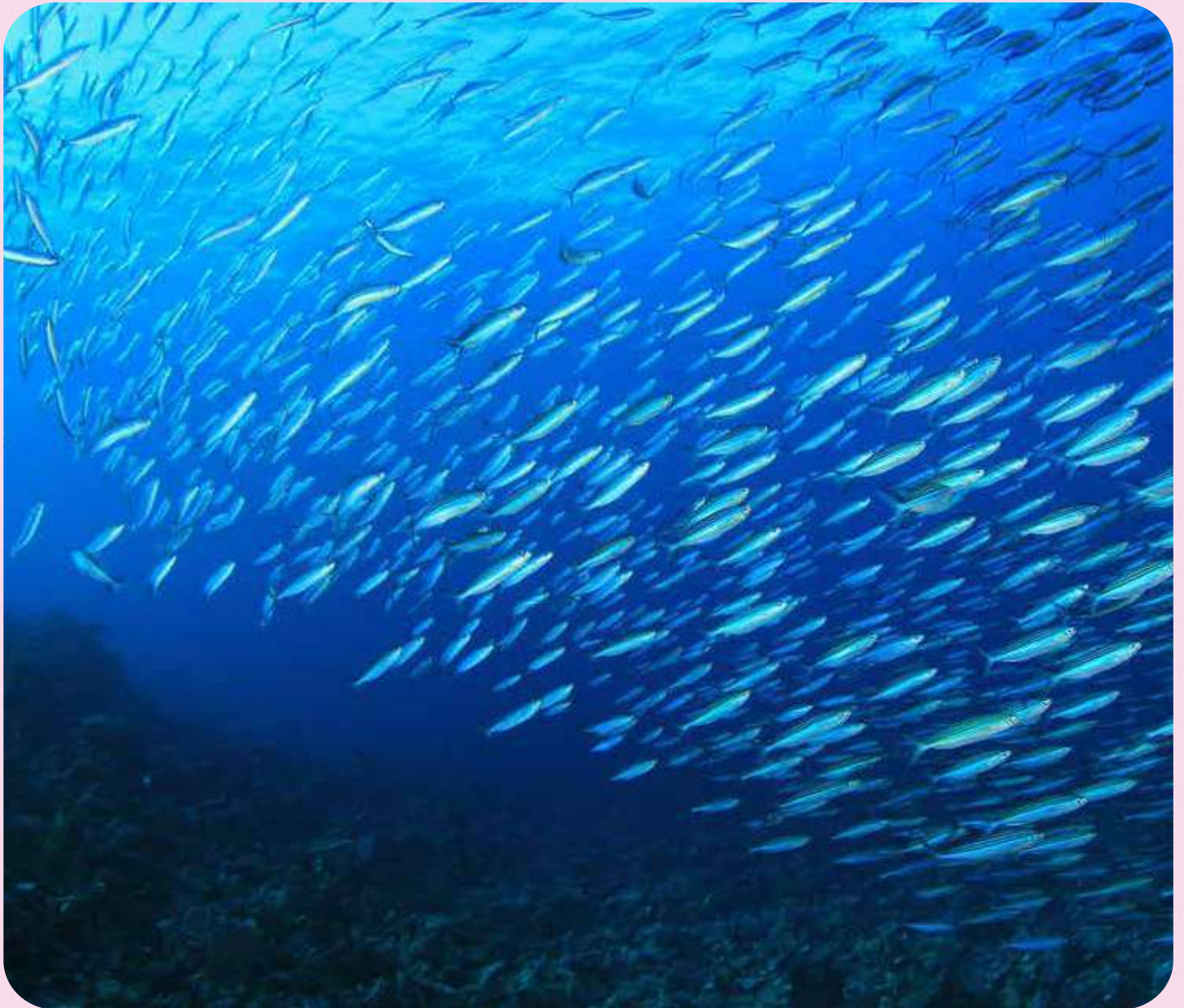
Artificial reefs

Morocco has also opted for the option of artificial reefs as an integrated tool to protect and restore marine ecosystems and thus promote sustainable fishing practice. Artisanal-type reefs are implemented in the Atlantic, Souiria kdim, and in the Mediterranean, Sidi Hssain and Cala Iris. Industrial-type reefs were achieved, one in the Mediterranean (in the Bay of Martil) and the other in the Atlantic (in the Bay of Agadir).

At the service of sustainable management

Within the framework of the policy of the fishery resources conservation, and in order to ensure their sustainable use, several development plans were elaborated.

These plans are based on biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic knowledge. The establishment of these plans has several objectives namely the conservation of resources, the increasing added value and sustainability of the activity. Other purposes are: social promotion, improving knowledge and the adaptation of fishing effort to the stock status and making the investments generate return.





Small pelagic

The small pelagic resources existing in the Moroccan coasts consist mainly of sardine, anchovy, horse mackerel, mackerel and round sardinella. Sardine, *Sardina pilchardus*, is the main pelagic species caught in Morocco while the availability of other species varies from one area to another and from one year to another. The composition and abundance are conditioned mainly by hydro-climatic factors prevailing on the Moroccan coast.

To ensure the small pelagic sustainable use, development plans of this species were developed on the basis of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic. The objectives of these plans are the preservation of this resource through rational exploitation of this fishery and increase its valuation.

These development plans focus on the implementation of management measures at three fisheries: the fishery of the North-Mediterranean fishery Atlantic Centre and the fishery in the South Atlantic.



Tuna

The fishery management plan for the tuna aims at sustainable, fair and responsible exploitation of this kind, and comes within the framework of the commitments of Morocco vis-à-vis the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This plan reinforces the follow up system of national and international management measures (ICCAT).



Swordfish

The Plan for the Mediterranean swordfish and Atlantic Management defines management measures to comply with the commitments of Morocco vis-à-vis the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The plan also aims at guaranteeing the maximization of social and economic benefits resulting from the exploitation of this resource.



Shark

The shark fishery's conservation plan aims at preserving these species and their management, the monitoring of fishing activities, of vessels targeting them and the establishment of commercial traceability of shark liver oils and their fins.



 *Octopus*

The management plan for the octopus fishery aims at the preservation and recovery of the stock of octopus, the consolidation of investments made in the fishery to a level ensuring the profitability and sustainability of stakeholders and maximizing socio-economic benefits generated by this fishery.

Development plan for the octopus fishery in the south of Sidi Lghazi

The first management plan for the octopus fishery was set up in 2001, followed by a new plan in May 2004 which incorporates new management measures. A Continuous monitoring of the management plan for the octopus fishery in the south of Sidi Lghazi is provided.

Octopus fishery development in the north of Sidi Lghazi

The Department of Maritime Fishing has developed, since 2010, a set of management measures, especially fixing octopus catch limits in each maritime district, as well as the establishment of fishing stops along the national coastline. These two measures were accompanied by other provisions to thwart illegal fishing. The objectives of the establishment of this regulatory arsenal is the efficient organization of the octopus fishing activity, in order to ensure sustainable and rational exploitation of the octopus fishery in the north of Sidi Lghazi and fight against illicit channels.



 *Hake*

Established since 1st January 2015, the hake species fishery management plan proposes measures that concern the protection of spawning and recruitment areas for hake, for the establishment of cantonment areas, management units, ...



 *Seaweed*

The exploitation and marketing of marine seaweed are strictly regulated. The regulations define operating quotas, fishing effort and biological rest period as well as quantitative export restrictions.



Shrimp

The Department of Maritime Fishing has implemented, since 1 January 2011, a development plan of the shrimp fishery. This plan was revised for the 2013 campaign to ensure recovery of the stock of shrimp, while ensuring rational and sustainable exploitation. This aim can be achieved through the revision of the current scheme and its adaptation to the specificities of the fishery and the particularities of each fishery segments (offshore and inshore fleet). This plan offers short-term and long-term measures emergency measures.

The main short-term measures concern the protection of spawning areas and shrimp recruitment areas, in a judgment of fishing activity and the establishment of cantonment areas. The long-term measures, in turn, will reinforce the aforementioned emergency measures, through the introduction of a quota system applicable to all vessels operating in the shrimp fishery.



Big crustaceans

The development plan of big crustaceans includes measures concerning the managed species (crayfish, crabs and lobster), fishing gear, fishing areas as well as biological rest periods depending on spawning areas and species of big crustaceans.

Aquaculture strategic focus

Morocco has unique and particular natural assets, especially quality waters and suitable sites for several breeding techniques, providing a variety of aquaculture products, whose main species are: bass, bream, amberjack, sole, turbot, clam, abalone, mussels, shell, scallop, shrimp, and seaweed.

Aquaculture products, which have outstanding quality and nutritive assets, are bred in a constantly monitored environment. They are harvested by specific methods preserving the best product freshness without breaking the cold chain.

Telling of a story

Aquaculture started in Morocco since the 50s, when oyster farming was launched in Oualidia Lagoon on the Atlantic coast in the centre of Morocco.

During the 80s, the business experienced a new phase of growth with the beginning of breeding diverse species in the Nador lagoon such as the wolf, bream, shrimp and clams.

During the decade of the 90s, new production farms have emerged with new breeding techniques such as inland ponds.

Since 2009, a new era began with the launch of the Halieutis Plan, which identified the development of aquaculture as a source of growth of the Moroccan fishing sector on the one hand, and as an alternative model for the preservation of marine resources on the other.

A considerable institutional player

Founded in 2011, the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture (ANDA) is a key player in the Moroccan aquaculture sector. The agency's mission is to promote the development of national aquaculture through:

- Participation in the implementation of the government policy in the aquaculture sector,
- The proposal of specific action plans under the guidance of the national strategy of the fisheries sector and the regulatory framework thereon,
- The promotion of aquaculture activities and the development of trade related to export as well as the domestic market.



