



INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION  
AND COOPERATION SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN AFRICA

# INFOPÊCHE NEWSLETTER

N° 01 JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025

# INFOPÊCHE RELAUNCHES



**A word from  
the Chairman of  
the Governing  
Council (CGC)**

**The main stages  
of a significant  
evolution**

**Model of resilience  
and commitment to  
the service of States**

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# VIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN OF INFOPÊCHE'S GOVERNING COUNCIL



In this crucial period of transition for the Intergovernmental Organization for Fisheries Marketing Information and Cooperation (INFOPÊCHE), my vision as Chairman of the Board of Directors is to transform this Organization into an essential pillar for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Africa.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, we have the opportunity to strengthen the capacities of the institution, whose importance is still relevant today, particularly in terms of advisory support for quality assurance and trade promotion of fishery products.

My strong wish is that INFOPÊCHE be returned in its entirety to the member states that have formally committed to its establishment. Regular payment of our financial contributions to the Organization's operating budget is essential to the success of this transitional phase.

Together, we can make INFOPÊCHE be a strong and dynamic Intergovernmental Organization for the benefit of all the stakeholders of fishery and aquaculture sector.

## EDITORIAL

### INFOPÊCHE, A STRATEGIC PILLAR FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA'S FISHERY SECTOR

In a world confronted with growing challenges in food security, marine resource management and sustainable economic development, the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE) plays a crucial role. Established under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), INFOPÊCHE has established itself as a key player in supporting and modernizing



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## The news

### INFOPÊCHE engages stakeholders in sustainable practices and compliance with health and regulatory standards



San Pedro, the 2nd largest port city of Côte d'Ivoire, hosted a capacity-building workshop for stakeholders on Good Fishery, Processing and Distribution Practices from February 11 to 12, 2025.

This workshop, organized by INFOPÊCHE, an organization dedicated to the promotion and development of the fishery and aquaculture sectors in Africa, and held under the patronage of the Chairman of the Governing Council (CGC), Minister Sidi Tiémoko TOURÉ, and under the supervision of Director Mr. Atsé Casimir Éric AKAFFOU, aimed to build the capacity of stakeholders on good fishery, processing and distribution practices. After know-how reinforcement, the stakeholders have committed to adopting good sustainable fishery practices and implementing the recommended sanitary standards to be applied in value chains. They will contribute to improving the quality of processed and marketed products.

There were 41 participants. In addition to artisanal fishermen and fishmongers, the others came from the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, notably the Fisheries Directorate, the Veterinary Services Directorate, the Regional Directorates of San Pedro, Sassandra and Soubré, the Departmental Directorates of Tabou and Buyo, the Fisheries Service of Grand-Béréby and the inland towns.



# INFOPÊCHE RELAUNCHES: THE DIRECTOR'S VISION

As the Director, our actions must be implemented by focusing on the following areas:

- **A mission of support and development**

INFOPÊCHE's mission is to provide information, consultancy and capacity-building services to stakeholders of fishery and aquaculture sector. Whether they are artisanal fishermen, industrialists or governments, the organization offers technical supports in improving the competitiveness and sustainability of fishery and aquaculture activities.

By providing real-time data on markets, prices and consumption trends, INFOPÊCHE enables member countries to better meet global demand while protecting their natural resources. Through its training courses and sector studies, INFOPECHE also contributes to professionalization and innovation in a field often left out of the economic priorities.

- **An environmental and economic challenges**

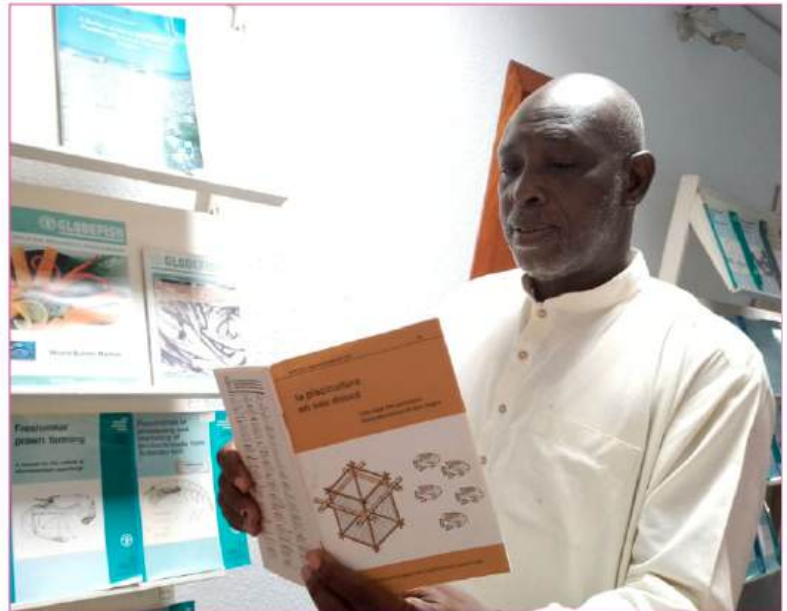
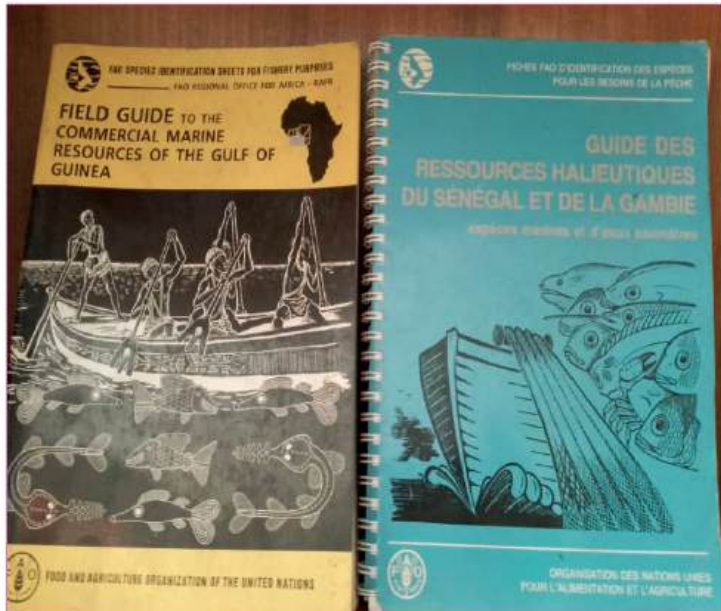
INFOPÊCHE, aware that fishery and aquaculture are the backbone

of the economies of many African countries, providing jobs and guaranteeing health and food security for millions of people, offers strategic guidance to stakeholders facing major challenges such as overfishing, the impacts of climate change and limited access to international markets.

- **The blue economy, an essential policy framework for the fishery and aquaculture sector**

By embracing this new strategic guideline, INFOPÊCHE encourages and sensitizes African decision-makers to implement management policies that promote sustainable exploitation of marine and coastal resources, while stimulating growth and food security.

In this context, INFOPÊCHE aims to become a center of excellence for reliable information, training and the development of sustainable fisheries value chains in Africa.



## PARTNERSHIP AND MOU WITH ORGANIZATIONS

Organisations or Institutions	Nature of the agreement	Date of signature
UNIDO	Cooperation agreement	June 24, 1996
SIPPO	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	November 15, 1999
FAO	Cooperation agreement	November 29, 1999
ATLAFCO	Memorandum of Understanding	July 08, 2000
CSRP	Memorandum of Understanding	November 15, 2001
NORAD	Cooperation agreement	June 16, 2003
CFCs	Cooperation agreement	June 16, 2003
GIHE	Memorandum of Understanding	November 06, 2005
CEBEVIRHA	Memorandum of Understanding	April 12, 2005
CRSP, COREP, CPCO/FCWC, REPAO ATLAFCO	Memorandum of Understanding	2015
AFRIFAAS	Adhesion	September 2022

# INFOPÊCHE: FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY, THE MILESTONES IN ITS DEVELOPMENT

This began in 1984 as a project, initially called Regional Information and Consultancy Service for the Processing and Marketing of Fishery Products for Africa.

This project was transformed in 1991 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, into the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE). It comprises 18 member states: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Côte d'Ivoire, the hosting country, holds the Chairmanship of the Governing Council.

Although INFOPECHE was facing enormous financial and operating difficulties, which were becoming increasingly critical, the various reforms undertaken by successive directors enabled

it to maintain its operations.

Côte d'Ivoire, as the Chairman of the Governing Council, had requested the support of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission for appropriate recovery measures, which have strengthened the institution to date. Indeed, since taking office in September 2024, the current Director, Mr. AKAFFOU Atsé Casimir Éric, has been pursuing efforts leading to a radical transformation of INFOPECHE, and to the reinforcement of the remarkable performances achieved in 33 years of existence.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through its Regional Office for Africa, is supporting the process of revitalizing INFOPECHE to make it a genuine development tool for the benefit of its 18 member states and other countries that express the need.

## INFOPECHE'S DIRECTOR DISPUTES SINCE ITS CREATION



**Atsé Éric Casimir AKAFFOU**  
From August 2024 to date



**Shep HELGUILE**  
2021-2024



**Mohamed EL MALAGUI**  
2008-2021



**Amadou TALL**  
1995-2008



**Richard E. CHAMBERLAIN**  
1988-1995

# TRIBUTE TO ERIK HEMPEL, FOUNDER OF INFOPÊCHE

**E**rik HEMPEL began his career with a passion for fisheries and aquaculture, which led him to become a key member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Through the GLOBEFISH project, he was instrumental in providing comprehensive market information and analysis to seafood producers and exporters at the worldwide, helping stakeholders to make comprehensive decisions.

Mr. HEMPEL'S contributions extended to the FISH INFONetwork, for his part in the establishment and development of regional services such as INFOFISH, INFOPESCA, INFOPÊCHE, INFOSAMAK, EUROFISH and INFOYU. This network, covering 85 countries, has played an essential role in disseminating market information and supporting the development of the fishery industry, particularly in developing countries.

His efforts have fostered sustainable growth in the fisheries trade, providing these countries with access to essential market information and building capacity within the sector.



Érik HEMPEL, first director for INFOPÊCHE (1985-1987)

Source: [www.aquafeed.co.uk](http://www.aquafeed.co.uk)



# PERFORMANCE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

The efforts of INFOPÊCHE, in terms of offering trainings in fish and fishery product quality assurance, and publishing analyses of fish product prices in Africa and around the world, have made a considerable contribution to the governance of the fisheries sector.

- **Improving the quality of fishery products.**

Training in quality assurance enables those involved in the fishery industry to better understand and apply international standards, thereby improving product quality.

- **Compliance with market requirements**

This transmitted performance ensures that fish products meet the requirements of local and international markets.

- **Increased revenues**

By improving product quality, fishermen and processors can access more profitable markets, thereby increasing their income.

- **Market transparency**

The publication of information on price trends for fish products makes for greater market transparency. Buyers can make more informed decisions, negotiate better prices and avoid unfair trading practices.

- **Capacity-building**

Capacity-building training improves the knowledge of those involved in the fishery industry, which contributes to better resource management and greater sustainability of the industry.

- **Economic development**

By improving product quality and facilitating access to accurate market information, INFOPECHE contributes to the economic development of fishery communities and the growth of Africa's fishery industry.

- **Reducing post-capture losses**

Quality assurance training includes techniques for processing, handling and preserving fish products, which reduces post-capture losses and increases product availability on the market.



- **Promotion of sustainability**

By raising awareness of hygiene and manufacturing issues among those involved in the fishery industry, INFOPÊCHE encourages more sustainable fishing practices, which are essential for the preservation of marine resources.

In short, INFOPECHE plays a crucial role in improving quality, market transparency and the sustainable development of Africa's fishing industry.

## SUPPORT AND KEY SERVICES

INFOPÊCHE's mission is to provide information on the markets for fishery products, in particular outlets and supply prospects both inside and outside Africa; to assist in the research for new products and the promotion of less-consumed species; and to provide training in marketing techniques for the staff of administrations and fishery industry institutions. In this way, the institution makes its expertise available to member countries in the following fields:

- **Project executing agency: Notably the "Project on Diversification and marketing value added fishery products in Guinea and Mauritania (CFC)".**

- **Establishment of a sub-regional unit: Case of the INFOSA Unit in Namibia (2003-2010) created to cover the countries of the SADC (South African Development Community).**
- **Specific market studies: Market study on the tuna industry in 6 selected African countries (October 2003) and others.**
- **Documentary research.**
- **Project development in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.**
- **Organization of workshops and conferences.**
- **Support, advice and training.**

## ATLANTIC MACKEREL (SCOMBER SCOMBRUS)

**S**combers combrus, commonly known as mackerel, is an emblematic fish of European coasts. It is abundant in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, from the British Isles to North Africa. It also frequents the eastern Atlantic, from the United States to Canada.

During winter (December to March), it resides in deep waters at around 200 meters, but with the arrival of the warmer months, it forms large shoals of individuals of the same size and rises to the surface not far from the coast.

It is heavily fished by semi-industrial, artisanal and sport-fishermen. It has been protected by the European Union since 1996. All catches of mackerel under 18 cm are prohibited.

Mackerel is highly prized for its flesh and nutritional properties, rich in omega-3 fatty acids. It is mainly eaten canned in warmer climates, either naturally or in vegetable oil. However, the larger pieces are also used in other types of recipes.



### The Scomber genus: Species of the Scomber genus are known as "mackerel"

#### How can you recognize this fish?

The mackerel has a slender, elongated body, with two separate dorsal fins, short pectoral fins and an anal fin followed by several small fins. The body is covered with small scales. The scales on the back of the head and those covering the pectoral fins are larger.

Unlike many fish, it has no swim bladder. The snout is pointed, with a large mouth. The lower jaw is slightly further forward than the upper. It has a single row of small teeth. The eyes are large and covered by an eyelid of adipose tissue. Mackerel generally measure around 30 cm (some individuals of 60 cm have been observed), weighing around 250-300 g (some exceptionally large specimen's approach 3 kg).

The body is bright greenish-blue with characteristic transverse black stripes that extend over half the lateral area. The belly and lower flanks are white. stocks and sustainable fishery

The North-East Atlantic mackerel stock is overfished, although declining, with a spawning biomass of 4,400,000 tonnes in 2019. Spawning abundance increased sharply between 2003 and 2014. Since then, it has begun to decline, but remains above the precautionary threshold of 2,500,000 tonnes

Picture:

Caption / Mackerel stocks are falling, but remain above the precautionary threshold of 2,500,000 tonnes.

Source: [www.fishipedia.fr](http://www.fishipedia.fr)



### A MODEL OF RESILIENCE AND COMMITMENT AT THE SERVICE OF THE MEMBER STATES

**D**espite precarious financial resources and a crying lack of consulting contracts, INFOPÊCHE has never ceased to evolve and adapt to challenges, bearing witness to a history of resilience, innovation and commitment to serving its member states. Mr. AKAFFOU Atsé Casimir Eric, the current Director, and his team are determined to work towards a strategic transformation of the Organization, with a view to making it a genuine instrument of development for the benefit of its 18 member states and other countries that express the need.



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- US\$ 325                      Other Developing Countries
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- US\$ 375                      Industrialised Countries
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# Small Pelagics Stock assessment by Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

Knowing that all fishing vessels of coastal states have free access to waters beyond territorial seas, a concerted approach is required to address and resolve fisheries management issues. Therefore the FAO Working Group of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) has carried out an assessment study of small pelagic fish over the period 1990 to 2023.

The small pelagic fish species assessed by the Working Group were: sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*), round and flat sardinella (*Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella maderensis*), horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus* and *Caranx rhonchus*), Spanish mackerel (*Scombercolias*), bonga (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*). The target area was the region between the southern border of Senegal and the northern Atlantic border of Morocco. Fisheries in the Canary Islands were also considered by the group.

Stock assessment is the scientific process of analyzing data to estimate the past, present and future abundance and productivity of fish stocks. This scientific approach makes it possible to analyze the effects of the overall exploitation rate on the exploited phase and the production of fish born in the same year, and to draw the attention of political decision-makers to the desirability of biological rest for a given species, as well as to set fishing quotas for each fish species.

The recommendations and observations made by the FAO CECAF Working Group revealed that four out of nine stocks were determined to be within biologically sustainable limits (fully or not fully exploited status), while five stocks were considered to be overexploited. The assessments show the urgent need for action to regenerate the stocks of sardine in Area C, round sardinella, flat sardinella, Atlantic horse mackerel and bonga, all of which are overexploited.

**Table 1 : Summary of assessment results**

Species	Area	Not fully exploited	Fully exploited	Overexploited
Sardine ( <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> )	Area A+B		✓	
	Area C			✓
Sardinella ( <i>Sardinella aurita</i> )	All the Sub region			✓
Sardinella ( <i>Sardinella maderensis</i> )	All the Sub region			✓
Atlantic Horse mackerel ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	All the Sub region			✓
Horse mackerel ( <i>Trachurus trachurus</i> )	All the Sub region		✓	
Spanish mackerel ( <i>Scombercolias</i> )	All the Sub region		✓	
Anchovy ( <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> )	Area N & Area A+B		✓	
Bonga ( <i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i> )	Mauritania/Senegal / The Gambia			✓

**No assessment for *Caranx rhonchus*.**

N.B :

**Area A** : spreads from Senegal to The Gambia

**Area B** : spreads from Saint Louis to Cap Blanc (White Cape)

**Area C** : spreads from White Cape to Cape Spartel

The total catch of small pelagics has fluctuated since the start of the time series in 1990 (Table 2). There was a moderate upward trend from 2013 to 2019, followed by a decline to 2 million tonnes in 2023, a catch level similar to that of 2013. This value corresponds to the average over the entire time series (1990-2023). The five-year average for the 1990-2023 period, 2.4 million tonnes, is higher than the 2023 catch level.

Sardine accounts for the majority of small pelagic catches in the sub-region, by 44%, followed by horse mackerel by 20% and Sardinella maderensis by 13% of the total.

**Table 2 : Comparative catches between 2019 and 2023 for the sub-region excluding the Canary**

species	Captures 2019	Captures 2020	Captures 2021	Captures 2022	Captures 2023	% of total captures 2023	average 2019-2023	Average 1990-2023
<i>S. pilchardus</i>	1 416 855	1 235 530	1 125 055	1 320 085	877 323	44 %	1 194 970	860 299
<i>S. aurita</i>	263 205	193 408	49 344	72 845	87 990	4 %	133 358	350 149
<i>S. maderensis</i>	177 962	336 480	286 826	339 223	248 934	13 %	277 885	164 480
<i>T. trachurus</i>	75 509	81 709	79 558	55 800	145 179	7 %	87 551	83 118
<i>T. trecae</i>	245 224	226 459	155 861	197 669	152 979	8 %	195 638	187 103
<i>C. rhonchus</i>	12 526	24 273	12 824	20 638	15 898	1 %	17 232	23 492
<i>S. colias</i>	544 597	380 505	480 815	413 181	395 177	20 %	442 855	230 528
<i>E. encrasicolus</i>	19 797	50 629	49 410	20 746	37 774	2 %	35 671	73 987
<i>E. fimbriata</i>	34 889	58 454	84 601	63 013	52 809	3 %	58 753	47 952
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 790 563</b>	<b>2 587 447</b>	<b>2 324 294</b>	<b>2 503 200</b>	<b>2 014 063</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>2 443 913</b>	<b>2 021 108</b>

Source : CECAF : June, July 2024 - CECAF : Fishery Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic ( Area 34)

# Sections to read in upcoming issues

Notice to all ministries and administrations of member countries, partners, and readers: we will be offering relevant articles in upcoming issues through the sections listed below:

- WHERE DO WE GET FISH ?
- INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
- PRICE TRENDS ON THE MARKET
- REQUIREMENT FOR EXPORTATION
- PARTNERS'NEWS
- STATISTIC DATA OF THE COUNTRIES
- ANNOUNCEMENT
- THE EXPERTS
- FILE

