

# **INFOPÊCHE** Newsletter



N°1 January / February/ March 2026

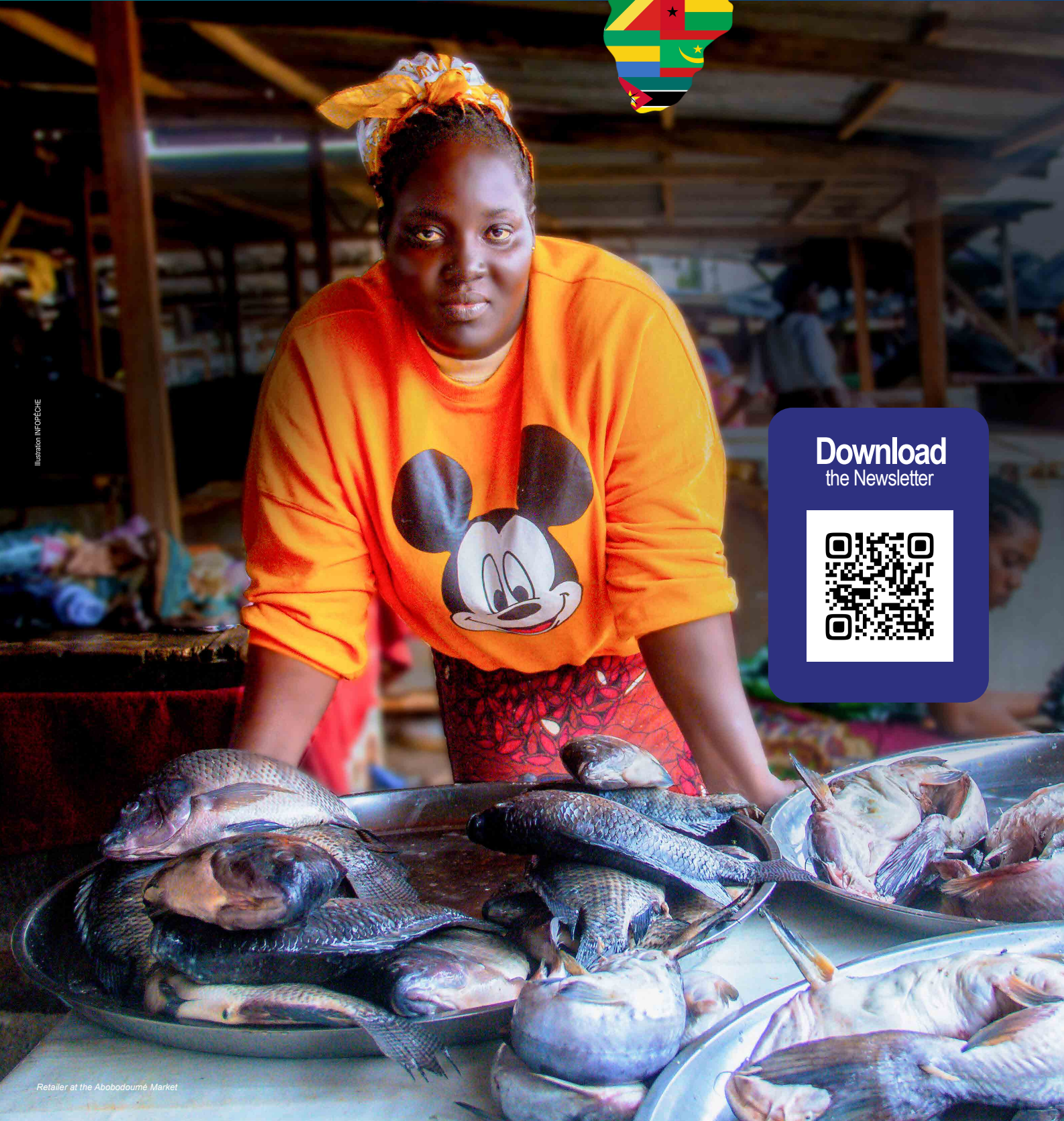


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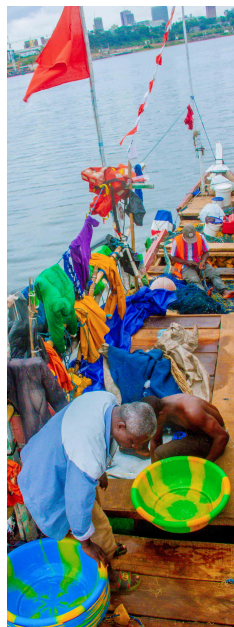
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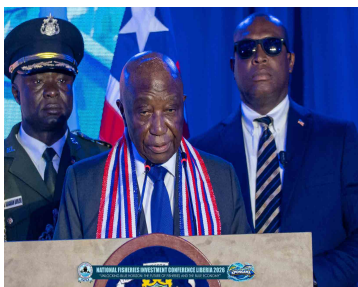
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**Blue economy :**  
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As a key player in the blue economy, INFOPÊCHE stands out for its active and notable involvement in major structural programmes within the fisheries sector, thereby contributing to its modernisation and revitalisation. As part of this initiative, the organisation provides professionals in the fisheries sector with a digital platform, MACPPA, dedicated to the marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, facilitating access to markets, enhancing the visibility of stakeholders and supporting the emergence of a blue economy that is more competitive, inclusive and sustainable.



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INFOPÊCHE Institutional 3D Logo

## Editorial

# INFOPÊCHE 2026: Towards a New Strategic Plan to Strengthen the Fisheries Sector in Africa

Pursuant to the roadmap adopted at the third extraordinary session of the INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council, held on February 4, 2021, via videoconference, the 2026 program of activities focuses on policy and governance reforms and the mobilization of financial resources to strengthen the organization with regard to changes operated in Africa's fisheries sector, in order to seize opportunities for action.

Key actions for 2026 include the development and adoption of a five-year strategic plan, featuring validation workshops and a Governing Council meeting. Governance will be strengthened through a communication plan, the publication of four quarterly issues, social media management,

capacity-building workshops, and participation in regional and international events to reposition INFOPÊCHE. The financial resource mobilization strategy will include the launch of a digital platform (MACPPA), training for focal points, the organization of a word conference on small pelagics, and field missions to raise awareness and collect contributions owed by member states.

The total budget allocated for the implementation of this 2026 program of activities amounts to approximately three hundred thirty-one million (331,000,000) CFA francs, or six hundred thousand U.S. dollars (600,000 USD), with a specific funding request for the World Conference on Small Pelagics (CMPP-2026) to be held in Côte d'Ivoire.

**(INFOPÊCHE)**

## Latest News

# PONADEPA II (2026-2030) : INFOPÊCHE participates in validation workshop in Abidjan

The Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Programmes (DPSP) of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH) organised on Wednesday 28 January 2026, a workshop dedicated to the validation of the New National Policy for the Development of Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture for the period 2026–2030, known as PONADEPA 2.

Chaired by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mr Sidi Tiémoko TOURÉ, Chairman of INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council, this meeting formed part of the process of drafting a new sectoral policy aligned with the strategic priorities of the

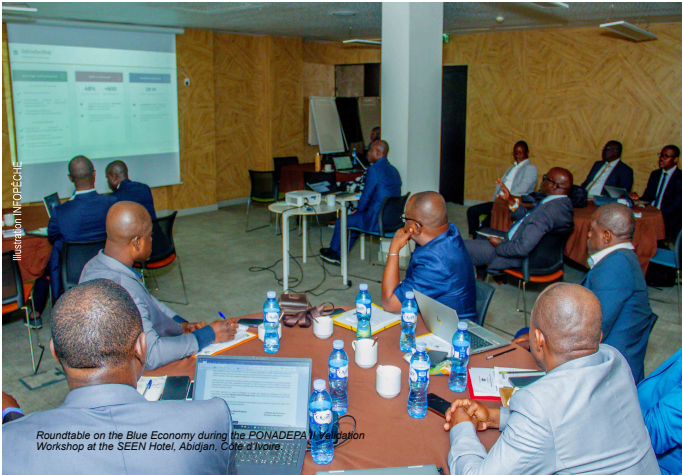
National Development Plan (PND) 2026–2030.

The aim was to put the policy document through a participatory validation process, involving the various institutional, technical and professional stakeholders in the sector

In his address, the Minister presented an overview of the four years of implementation of the PONADEPA 2022–2026, highlighting the progress made, particularly in the areas of sectoral governance, livestock development, sustainable fisheries management, the promotion of aquaculture and the strengthening of animal health.

# Latest News

PONADEPA II (2026-2030) : INFOPÊCHE participates in validation workshop in Abidjan



The results achieved remain tangible, measurable and offer hope for the future. Furthermore, the Minister urged all stakeholders to strengthen their collaboration in order to make PONADEPA 2 a genuine lever for structural transformation, serving food sovereignty, the development of the livestock and blue economies, and environmental sustainability. In addition, INFOPÊCHE was also delighted to have

participated in and contributed to the validation of the New National Policy for the Development of Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture for the period 2026–2030.

It intends to become more involved in the implementation of the various strategic measures aimed at developing and modernising the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

Source : [elevagedafrique.info](http://elevagedafrique.info)  
INFOPÊCHE



**MIRAH**  
Ministère des Ressources  
Animales et Halieutiques

*The Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Sidi Tiémoko Touré, during his speech at the opening of the Conference of External Services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources.*

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## Latest News

# INFOPÊCHE at the 5th Conference of the external Services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (Yamoussoukro, 11–14 February 2026)

(Former Parliamentary Hotel in Yamoussoukro) hosted the 5th edition of the Conference of External Services (CSE) of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH).

Chaired by Minister Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, this annual meeting was part of dynamic action to implement major national policies, notably the 2021–2025 National Development Plan (PND), the 'A United Côte d'Ivoire' Programme, the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as the 2014 Malabo Declaration and the National Agricultural Investment Programme Phase 2 (PNIA II).

Broadly speaking, the conference aimed to present the achievements and outcomes observed in the implementation of PONADEPA 1, and to set out the strategic priorities for 2026.

This fifth edition was attended by members of the Minister's Office, the General Inspectorate, the Central Directorates, subordinate bodies, decentralised services, technical representations abroad, professional organisations, certain sectoral associations and the Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for fishery products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE).

It is worth noting that INFOPÊCHE provides technical assistance to its member states, including Côte d'Ivoire, in the form of training and the provision of information on fisheries markets, particularly regarding market opportunities and the outlook for supply and demand at both the continental and international levels, through its global network for information and cooperation on the marketing of fisheries products.

(INFOPÊCHE)

## INFOPÊCHE showcases the MACPPA platform at the 5th MIRAH's External Services Conference.

As part of the 5th Conference of External Services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH), held from 11 to 14 February 2026 in Yamoussoukro, the day of 12 February featured panels and presentations led by senior officials of the Ministry, project coordinators, and experts, in the presence of Minister Sidi Tiémoko TOURE.

On this occasion, INFOPÊCHE, represented by its Director, Mr. AKAFFOU Atsé Casimir Éric, actively participated in the proceedings. The highlight of this participation was the presentation of the MACPPA virtual market, a digital platform dedicated to the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products.

The real-time demonstration of this innovative tool aroused keen interest among participants, who praised its relevance and potential. Designed to address the sector's marketing challenges, the MACPPA platform emerged as a genuine strategic support tool, facilitating connections between



The Director of INFOPÊCHE during the presentation of MACPPA at the 5th Conference of External Services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources (MIRAH).

stakeholders and helping to improve the fluidity and transparency of trade.

The largely positive reactions were accompanied by calls for its widespread implementation, given its importance for the modernisation and revitalisation of the fisheries sector.

Through this initiative, INFOPÊCHE reaffirms its commitment to innovation and the development of the fisheries sector in Côte d'Ivoire.

(INFOPÊCHE)



Group photo of the Conference of External Services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources.

## INFOPÊCHE's New Year's greetings for 2026 to its Chairman of the Governing Council



Group photo from the New Year greetings ceremony for the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources.

The official ceremony at which staff members extended their New Year's greetings to the Minister for Animal and Fisheries Resources, Mr. Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, took place on 12th February 2026 during the fifth edition of the conference of the external services of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources.

Participants at the MIRAH Conference of External Services came from the Minister's Office, the General Inspectorate, the Central Directorates, subordinate bodies, decentralised services, technical representations abroad, professional organisations and certain associations in the fisheries sector.

The Director of INFOPÊCHE and the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources, who is also Chairman of INFOPÊCHE's Governing Council, discussed on the MACPPA digital platform.



Minister Sidi Tiémoko TOURE and the Director of INFOPÊCHE, Mr. AKAFËOU Aïssé Casimir Eric, during the New Year greetings ceremony.

Following their discussion, the Chairman fully recognised the importance of designing the digital platform dedicated to the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products and addressed his warm congratulations and encouragement to the Director of INFOPÊCHE for the work accomplished.

**(INFOPÊCHE)**



## Latest News

# Tanger (Morocco): INFOPÊCHE participates in the workshop on the transformation of fishing ports into “Blue Ports”

In Tangier, in the Kingdom of Morocco, political leaders, experts and stakeholders from the African fisheries sector gathered from 4 to 6 March 2026 at the initiative of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO). The aim of this strategic meeting was to consider the future of African fishing ports and to promote their transition towards the ‘Blue Port’ model, balancing economic performance, the protection of marine ecosystems and the inclusion of small-scale fishing communities.

This workshop gathered representatives from ATLAFCO’s member countries to lay the foundations for the sustainable modernisation of port infrastructure in the region.

In this context, INFOPÊCHE, as a key player in the fisheries sector, took part in this important regional event. The organisation was represented by its

Director, Mr Atsé Casimir Éric AKAFFOU. His participation reflects not only the strategic position held by INFOPÊCHE within the fisheries ecosystem, but also the numerous initiatives undertaken by the organisation to streamline the marketing of fishery products and contribute to the modernisation of the sector.

During the opening ceremony, the Executive Secretary of COMHAFAT, Mr Taoufik El Ktiri, highlighted COMHAFAT’s essential role in the sustainable management of fishery resources.

The representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Yassine Elaroussi, emphasised the importance of fishing ports, which are regarded as vital links in the fisheries chain and prime mover of sustainable development. The meeting also provided an opportunity to present several initiatives aimed at improving port management and reducing their environmental impact.

Among these initiatives is the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO), OceanLitter programme, dedicated to combating marine plastic waste. Another highlight of the workshop was the presentation of the pilot project for the Port Bleu de Zarzis in Tunisia, supported by the FAO. This model is based on three pillars: environmental, economic and social, and places particular emphasis on the involvement of small-scale fishermen in port governance.

Participants also discussed the African Blue Economy Strategy, presented by a representative of the African Union (AU-BIRA), which aims to promote the sustainable use of marine resources, strengthen fisheries value chains and modernise the continent's port infrastructure. The aim of the workshop was to draw up a joint roadmap for the sustainable transformation of fishing ports in the region, with a view to eventually establishing an 'African Blue Port' label.

(INFOPÊCHE)

## The MACPPA expresses its attractiveness in Tangier and establishes itself as a lever of the Blue Economy

As part of the workshop on transforming fishing ports into 'blue ports', held from 4 to 6 March 2026 in Tangier, Morocco, INFOPÊCHE – represented by its Director, Mr. AKAFFOU Atsé Casimir Éric – made a notable contribution with the presentation of the MACPPA Virtual Marketplace.

The presentation of this digital platform, dedicated to the marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, proved to be one of the highlights of the event.

Through a clear and structured demonstration, MACPPA drew attention of participants, who were impressed by its innovative approach and its ability to effectively address the sector's marketing challenges. The tool received high praise from numerous experts and decision-makers, who welcomed a practical, modern solution tailored to African realities. Fully in line with the principles of the blue economy, MACPPA has been recognised as a strategic instrument able to strengthening the



competitiveness of stakeholders, improving the transparency of trade and promoting the sustainable management of fishery resources. Its potential to structure markets and facilitate producers' access to distribution channels makes it a major driver for the transformation of the sector.

In Tangier, INFOPÊCHE thus demonstrated, through the MACPPA, its capacity to innovate and propose high-impact solutions, positioning this platform as an essential tool for sustainable development and the blue economy in Africa.

(INFOPÊCHE)

## Latest News

# Côte d'Ivoire : In San-Pédro, the Ivorian government launches the ProDeCAP/Blue Economy initiative to adopt a sustainable transformation of fishery and aquaculture sectors.

On 26 March 2026 in San Pedro, the Ivorian government, through the Ministry of Fisheries and the Maritime Economy of Guinea and members of its Animal and Fisheries Resources Department, officially launched the Project for the Development of Competitive Value Chains in Aquaculture and Sustainable Fisheries (ProDeCAP), a transformative initiative forming part of the blue economy to be developed in Côte d'Ivoire. Implemented in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the FAO, the project has a budget of 19 billion CFA francs over a five-year period. It aims to operate a deeper transformation of the Ivorian fisheries sector, which faces significant structural challenges.

The launching ceremony gathered several leading technical and financial partners, including Damian Ihedioha, Head of the Agribusiness Division at the AfDB; Joseph Nyemah, FAO Resident Representative; Ki Jean Bosco representing UNESCO; Essam Muhammad, Director General of WorldFish; and Hilaire Lamizana, Managing Director of the Port of San Pedro. The speeches highlighted the strategic importance of the blue economy in promoting sustainable development, with a particular focus on the responsible management of fishery and aquaculture resources.

ProDeCAP aims, in particular, to reduce the country's heavy reliance on fish imports. Indeed, despite an estimated average consumption of 24.9 kg per capita per year, domestic production meets only around 20% of the population intake ; a worrying situation highlighted by Mr. Sidi Tiémoko TOURE, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources.

To address these challenges, the project addresses several key issues, including the degradation of

marine ecosystems, illegal fishing, post-harvest losses and limited access to finance. Its implementation is based on a territorial approach structured around four development hubs, known as 'haliopoles'.

The first, based in San-Pedro, covers the south-western coastline, including the regions of Gboklê and San-Pedro. The second, the Central Haliopôle, centres on Lake Kossou and covers the regions of Gbêkê, Marahoué and Béliér, as well as the district of Yamoussoukro. The first, based in San-Pedro, covers the south-western coastline, including the regions of Gboklê and San-Pedro. The second, the Central Haliopôle, centres on Lake Kossou and covers the regions of Gbêkê, Marahoué and Béliér, as well as the district of Yamoussoukro.

Ultimately, the ProDeCAP project is expected to benefit nearly 700,000 people, half of whom are women. Of these, 50,000 will be involved in aquaculture, whilst 650,000 will be involved in the fisheries sector. According to Joseph Nyemah, the project forms part of the implementation of project preparation funds dedicated to promoting the blue economy.

FAO's support will focus in particular on strengthening the scientific basis necessary for sustainable fisheries management, through the assessment of fishery resources and freshwater ecosystems, as well as the training of sector managers.

Through this initiative, the Ivorian authorities aim to strengthen food security, offer jobs opportunity, reduce poverty and sustainably support the country's economic growth.

(INFOPÊCHE)

## Latest News

# National Conference on Investment in Liberia's Fisheries Sector 2026

Under the theme 'Unlocking the Blue Horizon: The Future of Fisheries and the Blue Economy', the national conference on investment in the fisheries sector in Liberia took place on 30 and 31st March 2026 at the Farmington Hotel, Harbel Margibi County, Monrovia.

The conference aimed to position fisheries and the blue economy as prime mover of Inclusive growth, job opportunity and sustainable development in Liberia.

It permitted to highlight the investment opportunities in fishery and aquaculture sector, to strengthen policy dialogue and sustainable governance, to promote public-private partnerships, to improve coordination between public, private and community stakeholders, and to identify concrete actions and priority projects to be implemented. The conference was attended by senior officials and

policy-makers from the Government of Liberia, representatives of national and international private-sector investors, development partners, international financial institutions and donor agencies, and regional and continental organisations, including INFOPÊCHE, ECOWAS and the African Union, research institutions, academia and technical experts, civil society organisations (CAOPA, ZASAFA, AWFISHNET), representatives of national small-scale fishery communities, including aquaculture and inland fisheries, fish importers, and businesses led by women and young people.

The Director of INFOPÊCHE, Mr Atsé Casimir Éric AKAFFOU, an engineer, has been selected as a high-level panellist to deliver a presentation on: **"Access to regional and international markets, quality standards and certification"**.

(INFOPÊCHE)



# Headline

## Blue economy : INFOPÊCHE at the core of major changes in the fisheries sector.

As a key player in the blue economy, INFOPÊCHE stands out for its active and notable involvement in major structural programmes within the fisheries sector, thereby contributing to its modernisation and revitalisation. As part of this initiative, the organisation provides professionals in the fisheries sector with a digital platform, MACPPA, dedicated to the marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, facilitating access to markets, enhancing the visibility of stakeholders and supporting the emergence of a blue economy that is more competitive, inclusive and sustainable.



Illustration: INFOPÊCHE

## Headline

Blue economy : INFOPÊCHE at the core of major changes in the fisheries sector

# The blue economy in Africa: a resource that remains under-exploited

Faced with the challenges of economic development, food security and climate change, Africa is increasingly turning to a long-neglected resource: its seas, oceans, rivers and lakes. Collectively known as the 'blue economy', these aquatic resources now represent a strategic asset for the continent's future.

## A definition at the core of sustainable development

The blue economy refers to all economic activities related to aquatic environments, carried out in a manner that respects the environment and the principles of sustainable development. It forms part of the objectives set by the United Nations (UN), notably through Sustainable Development Goal 14, dedicated to the conservation of the oceans and marine resources.

In Africa, this approach is also promoted by the African Union, which has made it a pillar of its Agenda 2063.

## Promising economic pillars

The blue economy is underpinned by several key sectors. First and foremost, fisheries and aquaculture play a central role. According to the United Nations for Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), these activities are essential for meeting the growing demand for animal protein intake while offering jobs opportunity.

In addition to this aspect, maritime transport, coastal tourism, and the exploitation of offshore energy and mineral resources are very important to stress upon. These sectors contribute to the diversification of African economies, which remain heavily dependent on land-based resources. Finally, governance is a cross-cutting pillar. It involves the implementation of effective public policies, the fight against illegal fishing, and cooperation between states. The potential of the blue economy in Africa is considerable: with over 30,000 kilometres of coastline and significant fisheries resources, the continent possesses major

assets to stimulate economic growth, jobs opportunity particularly for young people and women and strengthen food security in a context of heavy reliance on seafood imports. Furthermore, it promotes regional integration through the management of transboundary water basins and the development of maritime trade.

However, its growth relies on a legal and institutional framework that is still under development, supported by international instruments such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the United Nations for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) promoted to encourage the sustainable and equitable management of marine resources; despite this, many African countries still need to strengthen their legal frameworks and governance.

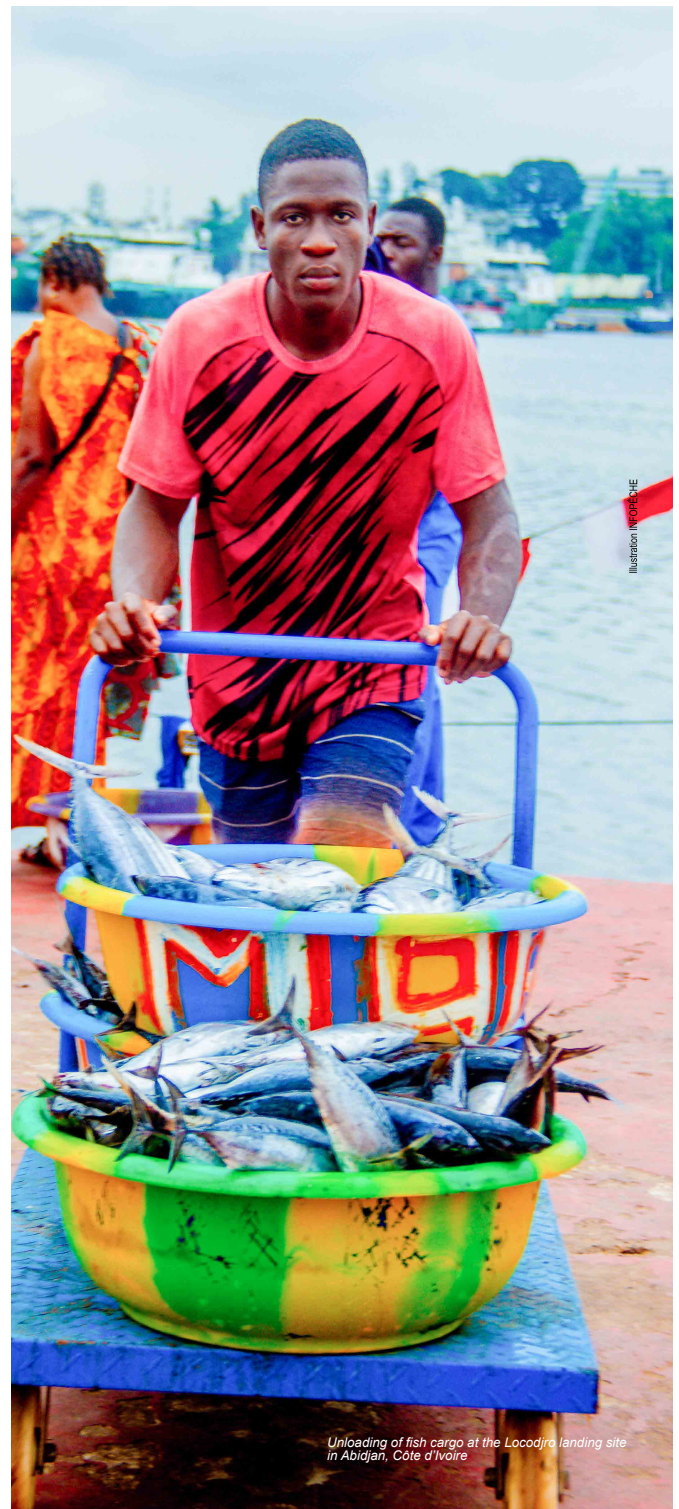
Furthermore, the blue economy continues to face persistent challenges, notably illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing), a lack of infrastructure, marine pollution and the effects of climate change, compounded by weak institutional and technical capacities, thereby limiting the full realisation of this strategic potential.

## A strategic asset for the future

Despite these challenges, the blue economy appears to be an unmissable opportunity for the continent's development. By promoting sustainable, inclusive and environmentally friendly growth, it can help transform African economies.

To this end, experts stress the need to strengthen international cooperation, encourage investment and implement appropriate public policies. At a time when Africa is seeking new drivers of growth, its aquatic resources could well become one of the keys to its economic future.

(INFOPÊCHE)



Unloading of fish cargo at the Locodjro landing site in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

## Headline

Blue economy : INFOPÊCHE at the core of major changes in the fisheries sector

# Accelerating the blue economy: the crucial role of INFOPÊCHE

The Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE), with its headquarter in Abidjan, occupies a strategic position in the implementation of the blue economy within its member states, and particularly in Côte d'Ivoire. In line with its statutory missions, its contribution is structured around three main areas which are incorporated into its digital platform for the marketing fishery and aquaculture products in Africa (MACPPA) through:

## 1- Market digitization and commercial transparency

One of the fundamental pillars of the blue economy is the creation of sustainable wealth, a goal to which INFOPÊCHE actively contributes by providing strategic information. Indeed, by disseminating real-time data on prices, supply, and demand, this organization permits the stakeholders of the Ivorian fisheries and aquaculture sector to make more informed decisions, optimize the marketing of their products, and enhance their competitiveness. This system thus promotes more controlled economic growth while facilitating access to local, regional, and even international markets.

## 2- Standardisation and access to international markets

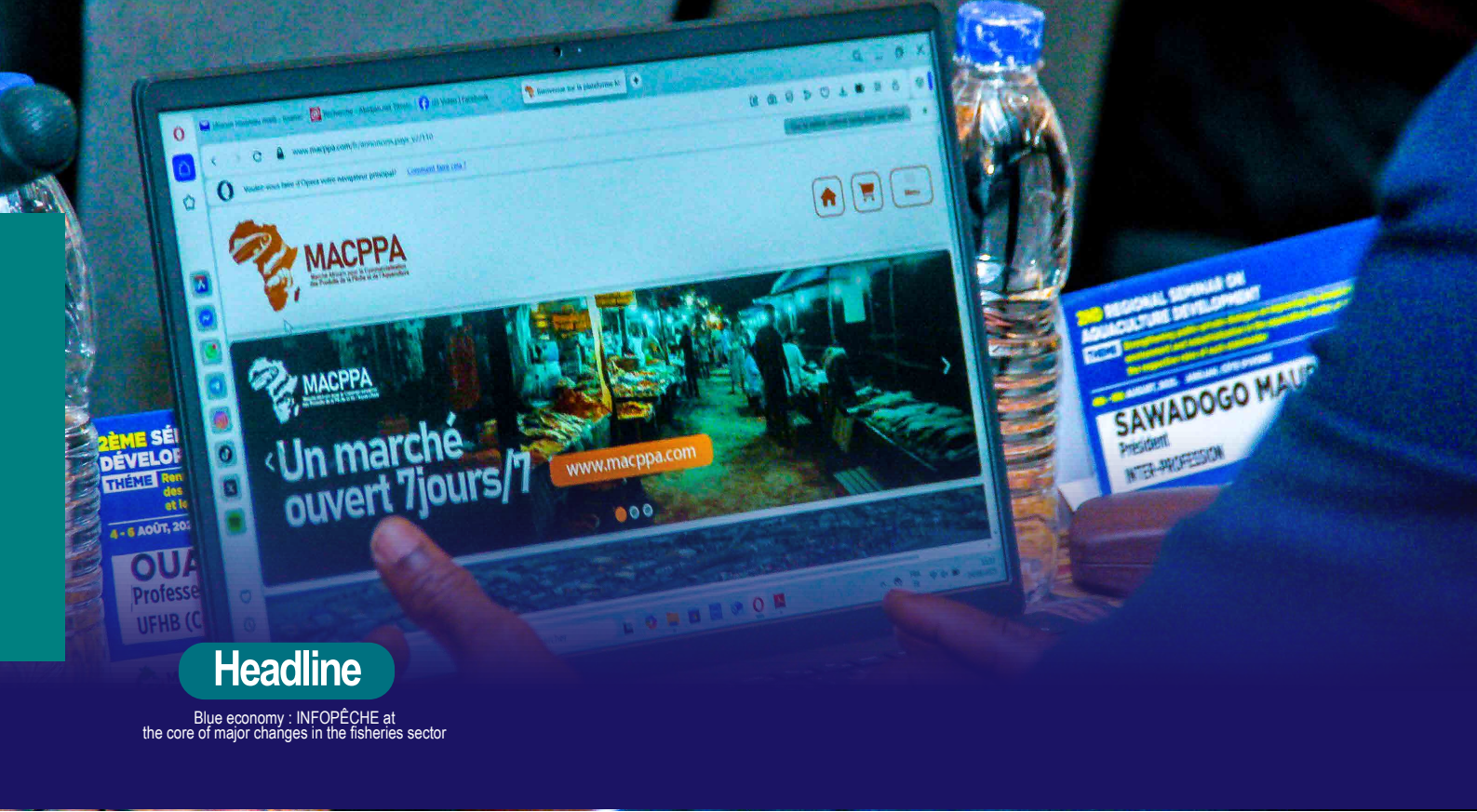
The blue economy requires the exploitation of resources in accordance with international standards of quality and sustainability. In this context, INFOPÊCHE plays a vital role in supporting processing facilities with quality control, in particular by helping them to comply with international standards (HACCP), which are essential for accessing international markets such as that of the European Union.

## 3- Capacity building and technical assistance

The transition to a blue economy requires capacity-building for those who are involved in fisheries and aquaculture, an area in which INFOPÊCHE plays a key role:

- Advisory support for fish product processors ;
- Identifying market opportunities for the trade in fishery and aquaculture products;
- By providing a platform for cooperation between countries, INFOPÊCHE helps to harmonise policies and strengthen the sustainable management of fishery resources.

(INFOPÊCHE)



## Headline

Blue economy : INFOPÊCHE at the core of major changes in the fisheries sector

# The MACPPA platform, an integrated part of the Blue Economy

The digitization of the fisheries sector permits to shift from traditional marketing management to smart e-commerce operations, thereby aligning with the pillars of the blue economy.

The launch of the MACPPA digital platform is welcome, as it offers various stakeholders of the sector the opportunity to trade securely and efficiently through digital solutions. It optimizes traceability, reduces post-harvest losses, and ensures greater transparency in transactions.

This digitalization promotes access to trade data for the benefit of member states by strengthening national control over marine resources, while supporting sustainable and innovative aquaculture capable of meeting local and regional demand while preserving aquatic ecosystems.

The MACPPA is fully aligned with the principles of the blue economy, which aims for the sustainable

and responsible use of aquatic resources while promoting inclusive growth.

In digitizing transactions, the platform creates a reliable commercial history for all stakeholders in the sector. This traceability enhances transparency, secures trade, and permits each stakeholder to better plan and optimize its activities.

In this way, the platform contributes, not only to economic efficiency but also, to the meaningful inclusion of local stakeholders in the value chain, in line with the objectives of a sustainable blue economy. The MACPPA falls under the "Services and Innovation" component of the blue economy. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, where fish consumption is very high but local production struggles to meet demand, such a platform is welcome as it improves the availability of fishery products while modernizing the fisheries sector.

(INFOPÊCHE)

## Training session

# SENEGAL: Handover of access codes and launch of the MACPPA

As part of the roll-out of the MACPPA digital platform, a delegation from the Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for fishery in Africa (INFOPÊCHE) went to Dakar, Senegal, from 22 to 25 March 2026 for a working mission.

This delegation, led by the Director of INFOPÊCHE, Mr AKAFFOU Atsé Éric, accompanied by his colleague Mr N'DA N'da Brice, the webmaster, was received by Mr. Assane SOW, Head of the Fisheries Products Development Division, and his colleagues.

The aim of this mission was to launch the back office of the MACPPA digital platform for the Senegal section, to hand over the various administrator access codes, to register stakeholders in the fisheries sector, and to familiarise themselves with the sector's ecosystem in Senegal. During the working meeting, the Director of INFOPÊCHE presented the achievements and new features of the MACPPA platform (African Market for the Marketing of Fishery and Aquaculture Products).

During the meeting, the Director of INFOPÊCHE emphasised that the MACPPA platform is a shared tool for all member countries, designed to facilitate access to market information, connect stakeholders and promote fisheries and aquaculture products.

This platform takes into account the specific national characteristics of each country to ensure its effectiveness, robustness and adaptation to local realities. Thus, Mr Cheikh Fall was formally presented by Mr Akaffou Atsé Casimir Éric with the access codes for administering the MACPPA platform in Senegal, which is one of the project's pilot countries. Director Cheikh Fall was trained in the use of the back-office functions for Senegal by the Director of INFOPÊCHE.

## Fiel visit for the implementation of MACPPA

The recording tour of Senegal's fish traders began at the central fish market in Pikine. The INFOPÊCHE delegation, accompanied by Mr Assane Sow and his colleagues, visited the landing sites at Hann and Yoff to register fish traders and small-scale fish traders.

(INFOPÊCHE)



# MACPPA

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## Expert's points of view

### **New fish species:** Discovering the Southern Podarge

The Southern Podarge is a remarkable member of the sea toad family (Chaunacidae), described in 2016 in the Mozambique Channel in the western Indian Ocean.

With its striking red-orange colouration adorned with distinctive green spots outlined in yellow, this beautifully patterned sea toad is a remarkable addition to the ichthyofauna of the western Indian Ocean. Its discovery highlights the extent of knowledge that remains to be gained regarding the biodiversity of the deep waters of this region.

*Chaunax atimovatae* is characterised by a globular body, a broad, flattened head, and a wide upward-curving mouth typical of toadfish. Its skin is densely covered with small spines, giving it a velvety texture. Unlike related species living in shallow waters, its colouration is a bright orange-red, dotted with characteristic round green spots surrounded by yellow, which remain visible as pale dots even after preservation. This colouration,

as well as the number branchiospines and neuromastes, make it possible to distinguish *C. atimovatae* from other known species of *Chaunax*. Like other *Chaunax* species, it has a small illicium (a modified dorsal spine) on its snout, tipped with a lure, which it uses to attract its prey in the dark depths. Its broad, limb-like pectoral fins allow it to move clumsily across the seabed, as well as enabling it to swim short distances.



**Class:** Osteichthyans.

**Family:** Chaunacidae.

**Brief description:** Bright orange-red coloration with numerous pale spots and tiny spines covering the skin.

**Size:** Up to 21 cm in length.

## The Discovery

During an expedition conducted in 2007 aboard the research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, specimens of an unusual chaunacid were collected during a deep-sea trawl at a station in the Mozambique Channel, at a depth of approximately 500 m. Careful examination revealed that these specimens differed from all previously described Chaunax species by a unique combination of coloration, spinule distribution, and the number of gill spines and neuromast cells. The species was formally described in 2016 by the eminent ichthyologists Hsuan-Ching Ho and Wen-Chun Ma, who named it *Chaunax atimovatae* in honor of the

trawler *Atimo Vatae* (meaning “far south” in Malagasy), on board of which numerous Malagasy specimens were collected, including those of the type series.

## Geographical distribution

Til today, *Chaunax atimovatae* has been recorded only in the western Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Africa), at depths ranging from 146 to 637 meters. Its limited known range makes it a species of particular biogeographic and conservation interest.

Source : <https://www.fao.org/in-action/eaf-nansen/resources/species-discoveries/chaunax-atimovatae/en>.

# FIN (Fish InfoNetwork)



## INFOPÊCHE

Angola - Cameroon - Congo - Ivory Coast  
Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau - Liberia - Morocco - Mauritania  
Mozambique - Namibia - Nigeria - Senegal  
Sierra Leone - Togo

## INFOSAMAK

Algeria - Bahrain - Djibouti - Iraq - Libya  
- Morocco - Mauritania - Palestine -  
Sudan - Syria - Tunisia - Yemen

## INFOPESCA

Argentina - Barbados - Belize - Brazil  
Chile - Colombia - Costa Rica - Cuba - Dominica -  
Ecuador - Grenada - Guyana - Mexico - Panama -  
Paraguay - Peru - Dominican Republic  
Uruguay - Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia - Suriname

## INFOFISH

Bangladesh - Cambodia - Fiji - Iran  
Malaysia - the Maldives - Pakistan - Papua New  
Guinea - The Philippines - The Solomon Islands  
Sri Lanka - Thailand

## EUROFISH

Albania - Croatia - Denmark - Estonia  
Hungary - Italy - Latvia - Lithuania  
Norway - Poland - Romania - Spain  
Turkey

## INFOYU

China

[www.infopeche.co](http://www.infopeche.co)



**INFOFISH**

**INFOFISH**

## INFOFISH MARKS 45 YEARS AND STRENGTHENS ITS FUTURE DIRECTION UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

INFOFISH proudly marks its 45th anniversary in 2026, celebrating more than four decades of services in advancing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development, strengthening regional cooperation and supporting market intelligence, trade facilitation, technical advisory services and capacity development across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. This milestone reflects, not only INFOFISH's legacy and achievements, but also a strategic moment of renewal and transformation, as the organization positions itself to respond to evolving industry priorities, sustainability imperatives, digital transformation and shifting regional market dynamics.

In conjunction with this anniversary, INFOFISH is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs GEMMA Meermans Matainaho as DIRECTOR of INFOFISH, marking a new chapter of leadership and strategic growth for the Organization.

Mrs Matainaho, from INFOFISH's member State of Papua New Guinea, brings more than 18 years of experience in the fisheries sector, with strong expertise in corporate governance, administration, trade marketing, and international business. She has served as Acting Director of INFOFISH for the past two years, and her appointment through the 40

th INFOFISH's Governing Council reaffirms the confidence placed by the member states in her for the next three years.

Under her direction, INFOFISH will continue to strengthen its role as a leading regional and international centre of excellence in fisheries market intelligence, trade facilitation, technical advisory services and capacity development in support of Member States and the industry as a whole.

Key priorities will include strengthening governance implementation, enhancing value delivering to Member States, advancing digital modernization and publication excellence, ensuring financial sustainability and fostering a high-performing and professional organisational culture.

Mrs. Matainaho holds a Master's in international Business from Monash University, Victoria, Australia, a Bachelor of Economics (Business Studies) from the University of Papua New Guinea.

As INFOFISH commemorates 45 years of services and impact, the Organization looks ahead with renewed purpose and commitment, honouring its legacy while actively shaping sustainable Blue Future for generation to come.

Source: [www.infofish.org](http://www.infofish.org)



# TUNA2026

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## EUROFISH

### Twenty-fifth session of the Eurofish Administrative Council

From January 28 to 30, 2026, FAO GLOBEFISH will participate in the EUROFISH Administrative Council meeting to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark. FAO will participate as an observer in the context of technical cooperation between FAO and EUROFISH and will give a preliminary presentation on developments related to its work on global issues and the latest news from the Fish Trade Subcommittee.

The international organization EUROFISH was created to support the fisheries sector, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition.

This network provides services to private companies and governments. It is also recognized for its numerous publications and journals, as well as for organizing international conferences, workshops, and training seminars.

Source: FAO-GLOBEFISH



## GLOBEFISH

# Summary of trends of European fish prices and trade

(From the European Fish Price Report published in January 2025)

## A- General trends observed in European markets for fishery and aquaculture products in 2025

### In the shellfish markets

- Demand for shellfish, particularly lobster and crab, is low, leading to significant price declines.
- Prices for live lobster in Europe have fallen by up to EUR 10 per kg.
- Shellfish such as shrimp, crab, langoustine, and lobster are listed along with their sizes, processing methods, origins, and prices.

### In the markets for mollusks, cephalopods, and bivalves

- Squid fishing in South Africa has improved, but interest remains cautious due to price fluctuations. Pressure on wild octopus production is keeping prices high, especially in Southern Europe, due to restrictive quotas
- Mussels, oysters, cockles, clams, and other mollusks are listed with their shapes, sizes, origins, and prices.

Quality varies depending on the processing method (fresh, frozen, in shell, half-shell, on ice) and origin. Quality and freshness strongly influence price, with products such as langoustine or lobster commanding high prices, particularly for high-quality live or frozen products.

### In the fish markets

#### Market for fresh and frozen wild-caught fish

- Demand for sole, sea bass, turbot, and other flatfish is seasonal, with prices remaining stable or rising slightly.

- The reduction in the North Atlantic mackerel quota is raising concerns about future supply and price stability.

Fish quality and size strongly influence prices, which vary depending on origin and production method.

#### **In the farmed fish markets**

- Demand for pangasius in Europe remains stable, with improved market perception thanks to certifications.
- The farmed salmon sector continues to grow, particularly in Poland, with strong demand in Asia.

#### **In the canned fish markets**

Canned tuna: Demand for canned tuna in Europe is seasonally low, with prices falling in anticipation of an increase in supply.

#### **In the markets for high-value products and rare species**

- Species such as bluefin tuna, blue marlin, and sturgeon caviar are very expensive, with prices for caviar sometimes exceeding 1,500 euros per kilogram.

Shellfish such as langoustine, lobster, and giant shrimp are also highly prized, with prices varying according to size, freshness, and origin.

#### **In terms of popular fish varieties**

- Fish such as tuna, salmon, sardines, mackerel, cod, sea bass, sea bream, and mahi-mahi are widely listed along with their forms (fresh, frozen, fillets, whole) and prices.
- Quality and size strongly influence price, with premium products such as Label Rouge salmon or large tuna commanding higher prices.

## **B- Geographic regions and origins**

- Sources primarily cover the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean, with origins including Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America.

Prices vary by region of origin, with markets such as Europe, Asia, and the Americas offering competitive or premium prices.

## **C- Processing and Presentation Methods**

- Products are often classified by form (fresh, frozen, filleted, sliced, in blocks, in shells) and by processing method (gutted, headless, canned, smoked, marinated).
- Quality is often indicated by classification (e.g., H&G, tail removed, skin-on) and processing method (double cleaned, iced, vacuum-packed).

## **D- Marketing methods**

- Most products are sold wholesale, retail, FOB, CIF, or ex-vessel.
- Classification by size, weight, processing, and packaging is essential for determining price and the target market.

Source : European Fish Price Report- January 2026.



## File

# An overview of trade trends in fishery products among INFOPÊCHE member states in 2024

## Background

The Intergovernmental Organization for Information and Cooperation on the Marketing of Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE) comprises 18 African states: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Of these 18 member states, 12 have established trade ties with Côte d'Ivoire, the host country of INFOPÊCHE, by exporting fishery products to it.

In fact, Côte d'Ivoire has a clear demand for fish consumption of over 800,000 tons. However, domestic production, estimated at 92,042 tons according to 2023 data from the Fisheries Directorate, cannot meet the national demand for fishery products.

To address this situation, the government of Côte d'Ivoire imports fishery products from around the world to supply its domestic market. According to 2024 statistical data produced by the Directorate of Statistics and Program Planning (DPSP) of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources, total imports reached 734,330,262 tons, valued at 517,801,022,995 CFA francs.



## Importation of fishery products within the member countries in 2024

The data in the table below are from the 2024 statistics of the Directorate of Statistical and Program Planning (DPSP) of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for the year 2024.

**Table of fishery products export from the 12 member countries to Côte d'Ivoire 2024:**

N° Order	INFOPÊCHE's Member Countries	Net Weight in KG	Value in XOF (FCFA)
1	Sengal	110.776.417	88.006.299.793
2	Mauritania	82.150.895	52.800.600.406
3	Morocco	49. 147.870	34 950.802.163
4	Namibia	15. 254.157	10.730.720.003
5	Ghana	7.056.388	3.548.628.388
6	Angola	4.389.873	3.243.107.191
7	Gambia	187.020	121.652.767
8	Gabon	165.480	102.653.664
9	Sierra Leone	123.500	75.165.729
10	Cameroon	20.030	40.846.195
11	Guinea	4.470	10. 915.648
12	Togo	2000	2.000.000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>269.287.100</b>	<b>193.633.388.957</b>

Source : Directorate of Statistical and Program Planning (DPSP)-MIRAH,2024.

In 2024, total exports from 12 INFOPÊCHE's member countries to Côte d'Ivoire reached 269,287,100 kg or 269,287.100 tons, representing 37 percent of the total export volume of 734,330,262 kg or 734,330.262 tons.

Among these countries exporting to Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal was the top with a volume of 110,776,417 kg, followed respectively by Mauritania with a volume of 82,150,895 kg or 82,150.895 tons, Morocco with 49,147,870 kg or 49,147.870 tons, and Namibia with 15,254,157 kg or 15,254.157 tons.

(INFOPÊCHE)



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