The impact of environmental factors on fish food security in West Africa

Project Scoping Meeting on Securing the Foundations for Fish Food Security in a Changing Ocean in West and Central Africa Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 15-17 July 2014

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Introduction

- 400 million Africans rely on fish as major source of animal protein
- Marine fisheries on the Atlantic coasts generate
 5-6 million tonnes annually
- 5-10 million fishers
- Need for additional 2.6 million tons by 2030
- Threats: variability in ocean processes, habitat degradation, land-based pollution, offshore oil and gas industry, unsustainable fisheries practices



Industrial fisheries

- Largest proportion of fish landing (e.g. 70 % of catch in Canary Current LME)
- National and foreign fleets
- Largely pelagic, > 6 nautical miles
- Pelagic: Clupeids, Mackerel, Anchovy, Tuna,
 Squid
- Demersal: e.g. shrimp
- Overexploitation and IUU major issues



Local, commercial and traditional fisheries

- Mostly national fleets, some regionaly operating fleets (e.g. Senegal, Mauritania)
- With large boats or pirogues
- < 6 nautical miles</p>
- Pelagic and demersal fisheries, mainly local markets



Local subsistence fisheries

- Non-market fisheries for local consumption
- In proximity to coasts
- In coastal habitats (estuaries, mangroves, lagoons, bays)
- Fisheries on pelagics and demersal species

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