

Preparation of negotiations for the EU-Senegal and EU-Mauritania Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement Protocols *Priorities of Senegalese and Mauritanian artisanal fisheries*

On 23 and 24 January 2019, the African Confederation of Small-scale Fisheries Organizations (CAOPA) organized a workshop in M'Bour (Senegal) for a concerted approach to the negotiations of the fisheries agreements in 2019 between the EU, Senegal and Mauritania. The workshop brought together about twenty participants: representatives of the national artisanal fisheries organizations of Mauritania, Senegal, as well as professionals, men and women of Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Ivory Coast, who shared their experiences of fisheries agreements. The IMROP Research Institute was also represented, as well as CAOPA's partners: PRCM and CAPE. After two days of debate, a series of priorities were retained for the negotiations.

Priorities for Negotiations

The participants pleaded for the EU, Mauritania and Senegal to consider negotiations for the renewal of the SFPA protocols in a concerted manner on the following aspects:

1) Access to resources

Access to small pelagics

With regard to the existing protocols, it is very positive that EU pelagic trawler fleets do not have access to small pelagics in Senegal, and that their fishing area has been removed from the coast as part of the protocol with Mauritania to prevent their access to sardinella. If the protocols were to be renewed in 2019, it is important to retain these gains, which should apply to all fleets of foreign origin.

However, our biggest concern for small pelagics remains the fact that access to sardinellas and horse mackerel is allocated to foreign fleets, including those from the EU, Russia, Turkey, China (Poly Hondone). the lack of a regional management framework, while stocks of sardinella and horse mackerel are considered overexploited.

How can a surplus be identified - basis for the signature of a Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the EU - in the absence of this regional management? If decisive steps are not put in place for regional management, we believe that these resources should not be the subject of a discussion on the access of European fleets in the framework of a future protocol with Mauritania.

The first of these steps, which the EU must support in the framework of partnerships, is the improvement of research on small pelagic resources, and the development, with adequate financial and human means, of a collaboration ambitious between the research

institutes: this collaboration should include the dialogue between researchers and professionals of the fishing, especially artisanal, to take into account the empirical knowledge of the professionals, but also to improve the data on the local fishing effort. Moreover, given the social, economic, and food security importance of exploiting these resources, these other aspects should also be studied.

Secondly, the negotiations with Senegal and Mauritania are also an opportunity to support a dialogue between these countries to set catch limits and share these catches. Indeed, even if management proposals have been made by the SRFC, even though both Senegal and Mauritania have ratified the Convention on the Minimum Conditions for Access of the SRFC, which calls for this concerted management of shared stocks. , nothing exists concretely today in this matter.

The explosion in the number of fishmeal factories in Mauritania but also in Senegal continues to favor a high demand for small pelagics, especially sardinella.

The question of the legality of operating licenses given to these factories arises both in Mauritania and in Senegal.

According to a local fishermen's organization (FLPA), in Mauritania, a factory can only be licensed to process fish waste into flour, which is far from being the case at present. In Senegal, it seems that factories in activity have not carried out the studies of impacts essential to obtain their approval.

Since EU partnership agreements want to be based on the promotion of good governance, it is important for the EU to obtain clarification on this point.

Access to hake

The stock of black hake is now considered by CECAF as a shared resource between Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia. Recent FAO figures indicate overexploitation: 17,000 tonnes of catches throughout the subregion for a potential of 10,900 tonnes.

In Mauritania, a particular problem is pelagic and accessories of hake catches by other demersal fishing vessels to reach, or even exceed targeted catches of hake. This species is part of the resources covered by the protocols with Senegal and Mauritania (and the Gambia and the Morocco), the EU must implement, as part of the negotiations, a strategy to promote a sustainable development of this resource.

At the level of Senegal, local fishermen are surprised the qualification of this fishery under agreement (2 Spanish trawlers) as being 'experimental', while several trawlers of Spanish origin (repavillonnees Senegalese) have been active in this the fishery for several years. On the other hand, they worry about the possible competition with the seasonal Cayar hake fishery.

Development of a small-scale tuna fishing

Although the Senegalese and Mauritanian artisanal fleets do not target offshore tuna, artisanal capture a limited amount of tuna, and the organizations in the sector believe that it would be important to see the possibilities of develop a small-scale tuna fisheries in the coming years.

In Mauritania, small-scale fishing has captured up to 1600 tons of minor tuna per year in recent years, and in Senegal, there are also occasional catch of tuna (and several pirogues in Dakar trying to specialize for tuna).

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Development of a small-scale tuna fishery

Although Mauritanian and Senegalese artisanal fleets do not target offshore tunas, artisanal fisheries catch a limited amount of tuna, and industry organizations believe it would be important to see opportunities to develop artisanal tuna fisheries in the years to come.

In Mauritania, artisanal fisheries have caught up to 1,600 tonnes of juvenile tunas per year in recent years, and in Senegal there are also occasional catches of tuna (and several canoes in Dakar are trying to specialize in tuna).

The EU should encourage reflection at regional level for the development of an artisanal tuna fishery, and encourage the deposit by Mauritania and Senegal, at ICCAT level, of sustainable development plans for such a fishery.

2) Sector support

The main problem is the lack of transparency in the choices for the allocation and use of sectoral support funds. Country annual reports for the European Union are not made public, and actions undertaken with sectoral support money are not identified as such. These issues need to be addressed if the partnership agreement protocols are renewed in 2019.

There is also no consultation with coastal communities, even when artisanal fisheries are listed as beneficiaries of sectoral support.

Even if the amounts of sectoral support are modest (especially in the case of a mainly tuna agreement like Senegal), they can nonetheless support key actions for the development of the sector, as in the case of what will in Côte d'Ivoire (reinforcement of a credit system for women) or in Mauritania (support for the construction of a craft port).

3) Formation of mixed companies

Both the protocol with Senegal and with Mauritania encourage, where appropriate, the formation of joint enterprises. In addition, European private investment, including through the formation of joint ventures, will play an important role in the future EU-Africa partnership.

However, the fisheries partnership negotiations with Senegal and Mauritania are an opportunity for the EU and its partners to start a public dialogue, including their respective fishing sectors, including small-scale fishing, to define a booklet. charges / regulatory framework ensuring that joint ventures contribute to the development of sustainable fisheries. This framework should be based on a set of principles to ensure that joint ventures operate in a transparent manner; do not compete with the local artisanal fishery; are in line with the sustainable development objectives of fisheries.

This regulatory framework should ensure that joint ventures in the fisheries sector in Senegal and Mauritania: contribute to economic and social progress and ecosystem conservation; respect the fundamental rights of those affected by these investments; encourage training and job creation, especially for women and youth in the sector; do not benefit from exemptions or exemptions regarding the respect of the laws as regards fishing, environment, health, work, taxation, etc.

In addition, any future investment through a joint venture should be based on a comprehensive assessment of local environmental, economic and social conditions; a review of existing joint ventures should be done on these aspects, as many of them operate opaque and do not contribute to a sustainable fisheries sector.

4) Transparency / Information / Participation

The situation remains unsatisfactory in both countries with regard to the knowledge of the overall fishing effort. The inclusion of the article on transparency in the last protocol with Mauritania is a positive step, which should be generalized in protocols with other countries. However, we must recognize that even today, for example, the content of various agreements signed by Mauritania with foreign entities is not yet published, which we deplore.

At EU level, there have been many efforts in the area of transparency, with the texts of the protocols, joint scientific committees now available. An improvement would be to publish the minutes of joint commissions, as well as the annual reports of partner countries on the implementation of sectoral support.

In terms of participation, significant progress has been made, with, for example, the participation of Mauritanian artisanal fishermen in the negotiations (this was also the case in Côte d'Ivoire). Unfortunately, in Senegal, professionals are still excluded from the negotiations, which we deplore.

Other comments for the agreement with Mauritania

One of the most important positive points in the last protocol was the modification of the zoning aimed mainly at protecting the bottom of the bottom trawl bottom waters and reducing the potential interactions between EU fleets and Mauritanian fishing fleets. artisanal and coastal.

If the protocol were to be renewed in 2019, it is important to maintain this acquis, and to ensure that the means of surveillance are sufficient for the effective implementation of this zoning.

Regarding octopus, Mauritania's 2015-2019 Development Strategy Paper for the fisheries sector emphasized that 'despite a recent recovery, the state of octopus stocks is still overexploitation levels estimated at 17%. In this context, it is positive that there is no direct access of the European fleets to this resource, which is so important for the local artisanal fishery.

The fact that there is no access to octopus has really boosted local fishing, especially artisanal (although the difficulties of the SMCP to sell the product weigh on the income of fishermen).

The boarding of the sailors is in itself positive, but should be linked with a training obligation of these sailors (training in fishing techniques, but also safety on board, etc.)