



COUNTRY PROFILE

Somaliland is endowed with a rich coastline along the Gulf of Aden. These waters are home to an extensive list of fish species, including various species of tuna, albacore, lobster, swordfish, shark, and many others. Even though no comprehensive data is available, estimates from fragmented assessments point to the existence of large untapped resources in a pristine environment (IUCN 1997/99 and Cesvi 2011). The average annual value of the potential fish catch is estimated at US\$32 million, assuming a freight on Board (FOB) price of US\$2 per kilogram based on current practices and sales in Gulf markets as reported in a variety of United Nations and World Bank reports (JNA, Productive Sectors Report, Sept, 2007).

As estimated by report conducted by FOA, the yearly sustainable catch available in Somaliland sea water can be around 90000-120000 metric tons and the current marine product is less than 5% of the aforementioned amount (FOA).

Location:

The Somaliland coast is about 850kms along the Gulf of Aden, extending from Lowya-Ado in the west to Elayo in the east and it is characterized by sandy beaches broken at intervals by rocky cliffs that often penetrate into the shallow fisheries and marines¹. The

continental shelf is relatively narrow, rarely exceeding 15kms, except in the west near the Djibouti border where it averages 100kms. About 600 species are present in Somaliland coast; 400 species among them are commercial fishes.

The coastline is constituted by three regions of Somaliland that include Awdal, Sahil and Sanag.

- The Awdal region has a coastal line about 230 km stretching from lawya- ado to Eel- sheikh village. The main villages are lowyo-ado Tokoshi, Seila district, Lughaya district and Eel-sheikh.
- The Sahil region has a coastal area about 210 km stretching from Eel-sheikh to Onkor. The main villages along the coast are Bula-har, Geeri, Berbera district, Eil-garde, Eel-darad and Karin. Sahil is where most fishing activities take place as it is the center of fish markets in Somaliland.
- The Sanag region has the longest coastline in Somaliland stretching 410 km from Onkor in the West to Elayo in the East. The main villages along the coast of Sanag is Onkor, lasa-dhagax godud, Las-urwein, ruguda, Shalaw, Hiis, Maid, Harshow, Laso-surad Las-qoray and Eelaayo.



Major Cities are Hargeisa, Burao, Borama, Erigavo, Las'anod and Berbera.

Fisheries Sector Background.

Somaliland fisheries industry is at subsistence level due to lack of supporting infrastructure, aging fleet, labor intensive fishing methods and declining man power. Thus, it is difficult for the fisheries to go to sea to harvest commercial quantities to improve food security and their livelihood.

The fisheries sector has historically not been a priority area for the Somaliland people, and hence the Agro-pastoral system and livestock sector has remained the economic backbone of the region. However, as part of an overall Government policy many drought-affected people were resettled along the coast and encouraged to take up fishing. This initiative was followed by the construction of landing site facilities in seven coastal districts and villages.

Fishing sector has the potentiality of becoming a major source of employment and a substantial force for income generation based on a strong role by the private sector including foreign investment. Growth of the fishing industry would help reduce poverty and would improve food security for the relatively poor Somalilanders along the coast.

Somaliland Government realizing the economic and social importance of its marine resources took a decision to develop and promotion of sustainable exploitation and utilization of its resources to create sustainable social-economic development to its people and an effective protection of the aquatic environment.

¹The National Development Plan II

Human population

The population of Somaliland was estimated to be up to 4.5 million with an estimated density of 25 persons per km². About 55% of the population lives in the rural areas, while 45% of the population lives in urban centers. Somaliland coastal community population is estimated around 150,000.

Natural Resources

Untapped marine resources

The average sustainable annual yield of Somaliland Marine resources estimated 100,000 metric tons; these include tuna, mackerel, sardine, grouper, snapper, mullet, sail fish emperor, shrimps, lobster crabs and etc (see the charts).

The currently production is less than six percent.

Species	Current Annual catch 5400T	Cost (US\$)
Large and small pelagic species	3800	5700000
Demersal species	1100	1760000
sharks and rays	270	405000
Others lobster, Shrimps	100	1000000

Ornamental fishes	30	450000
Turtle	Not known	
Total cost\$	5400To	9315000

Economy

The country adopted a free market economy and a vibrant trade with the Middle East, China, Africa and Europe. Fishing is recognized as the future economic backbone of the country if prudently and responsibly managed taking into account the environment.

Challenges

- Foreign illegal, un regulated and un reported (IUU)
- Lack of reliable information and data collection system.
- Lack of adequate skilled man power and fishing equipment.
- Disorganized fishing communities and cooperatives.
- Low national allocated budget.
- Lack of infrastructures including jetties, roads, cold storages, boat workshops and efficient boats and fishing gears.

Vision

A sustainable managed fisheries sector contributing to adequate income for actors involved.

Mission

To secure and promote Somaliland fisheries in a manner that benefits the current and future generations of Somalilanders

Strategies, policy documents and marketing infrastructure.

- Policy and Strategy document are established
- Fishery law and regulatory framework are established
- National Development Plan (NDP II) for 2017 – 2021 are established and available.
- Seven landing sites and with Ice makers and cold storage facilities are established in Las'khorey, Maid, Hiis, Lasúrwayn, Berbera, Bulohar and Zeila.
- Fish market center was established in Burao city.
- Berbera Boat maintenance was refurbished and equipped.
- Established two fishing gear shops in Berbera and Zeila.

Planning Activities

- Provision of cold chain facilities throughout the remaining districts of coastal areas.
- Procurement of Off-road reefer trucks.
- To refurbish Berbera processing and cold storage facilities to export marine products
- To modernize and increase capacity of fish collecting station
- To establish quality control facilities
- To provide maintenance workshop to each landing site
- To establish a center fishing gear store to supply out station fishing gear shops
- To enhance capacity fishery personnel through on-the-job training



On –the-job training for operators in Las'urwayn



Extension of the Berbera fisheries jetty by the MoLFD.



Ice making machine producing ice at Maydh.



Cooperative training for Sanaag fishery cooperatives in Erigabo.



New constructed fishing boats funded by the Ministry.

Fisheries Investment Opportunity:

1. Building fishing boat yards.
2. Installation processing and cold storage units.
3. Building fisheries jetties.
4. Building fisheries vocational institute.
5. Building fisheries canning industry.
6. Building fish meal and fish oil industry.
7. Marti-culture (Mari-culture)
8. Modern fish market centers in big cities
9. Transportation and distribution of marine products (Refrigerated trucks).

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