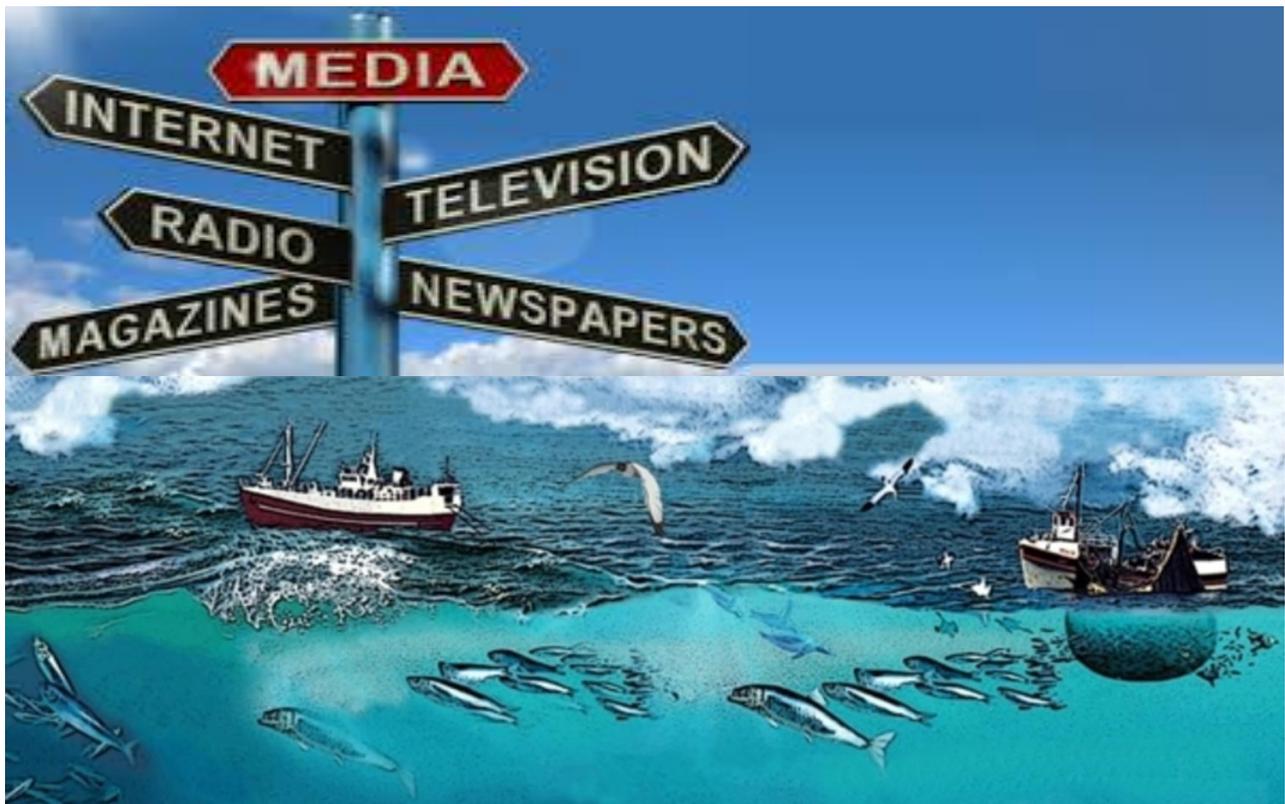


Video conference report

*"Capacity building for communicators on the sustainable
management of fishery resources and the fight against
IUU fishing"*



I. CONTEXT

Fisheries and aquaculture are a source of health, wealth, nutritional security and jobs for African countries. Fish is one of the most traded food products in the world. It is especially important for African countries, as it creates jobs and contributes significantly to reducing extreme poverty, building climate resilient communities, food security and strong economies for millions of Africans. An FAO study shows that the fishing sector as a whole employs 12.3 million people as full-time fishermen or full-time or part-process processors, which represents 2.1% of Africa's population aged 16 and over. 15 to 64 years old. Fishermen represent half of all people engaged in the sector (42.4% are processors and 7.5% work in aquaculture). About 27.3% of those engaged in fishing and aquaculture are women, with marked differences in their proportion among fishermen (3.6%), processors (58%) and aquaculture workers (4%).

The World Bank estimates that an additional \$ 300 million in annual value-added income could be created through better governance, enforcement of rules and regulations and better management of the fisheries sector. For example, according to the FAO, in just two years Sierra Leone has increased its catch of fish by imposing a trawler-free zone of six nautical miles.

Due to illegal fishing, overfishing, climate change causing sea temperature rise, lower catches, poor management and lack of governance, the yields generated are much lower than expected.

Fishing is one of the key sectors of the economy of the African continent. Sea fishing alone annually unloads millions of tons of fishery products. Catches are often over 400,000 tons between Morocco, South Africa, Nigeria, Mauritania, Senegal, Ghana and Namibia. Inland fishing, for its part, is practiced mainly at the level of rivers and Great Lakes.

*However, **illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing** disproportionately affects communities, their economies, food security and contributes significantly to extreme poverty. As foreign countries illegally step up efforts to continue declining Africa's fish supply, their impact on marine life and habitats is also worsening. The abundance of fishing vessels and trawls in African coastal waters is particularly damaging to marine life. In many cases, affected areas are repeatedly trawled before the ocean floor has sufficient time to recover.*

*Faced with this situation of overexploitation and the reduction of resources, important decisions have been taken by various States, alone or in cooperation, in order to combat this scourge. **This desire of States to fight against IUU fishing must be accompanied by effective and efficient communication.** To this end, meeting and discussion spaces are required for the various stakeholders in the sector (the Administration, associations, the private sector, partners, the media, etc.).*

*It is within this framework that the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation between African States **bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)**, in partnership with the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (**MOSFA**), is organizing a **regional workshop by videoconference** to build the capacities of journalists and communicators who are members of MOSFA from countries in the ATLAFCO zone, on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing.*

This activity is in line with the three-year Partnership Agreement signed between the two parties in October 2018 in Rabat (Morocco).

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. General objective

The general objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacities of journalists and communicators members of MOSFA who are nationals of the ATLAFCO area on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing.

Ultimately, it will be about giving them the means to be part of the solution to help change mentalities and practices in the fisheries sector on the continent.

2. Specific objectives of the workshop

The specific objectives are:

- a) Provide journalists and communicators with information on the sustainable management of resources and IUU fishing and its consequences;*
- b) Provide guidance on existing legal frameworks at the international and regional levels;*
- c) Present a comprehensive, concerted, coherent and coordinated approach that improves fishing conditions, environmental and socio-economic development, as well as the capacity to generate wealth from sustainable governance of the fisheries sector in Africa;*
- d) Share comparative experiences on media coverage of fisheries issues;*
- e) Strengthen the skills of participants in terms of survey, writing, and use of ICT for fisheries issues;*
- f) Strengthen the capacities of participants in terms of collecting, managing and using data to enhance their media and communication productions;*
- g) Promote collaboration and interface between journalists and communicators on the one hand, and experts / specialists on the other;*
- h) Create a consultation framework for regular media coverage of fishing themes in the respective countries of the participants, and even beyond.*

II. INTRODUCTION

1. ATLAFCO organized on November 4, 2020 between 10 :00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (GMT), an online conference, on the theme "*Capacity building of communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing*".

2. More than 63 participants took part in this meeting representing:

Member States:

Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The International organizations and regional:

- The International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- The Fisheries Committee for the Central-East Atlantic (CECAF)
- The Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP);
- The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC);
- ECOFISH;
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

- The Japanese Fisheries Agency;

Civil Society:

- The West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (WADAF)
- The African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organizations (CAOPA);
- The Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA);
- The network of African women in fisheries (RAFEP);
- Women Fisheries Forum (WFF)

3. The list of participants is attached to the **Annex I**.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

4. In his opening address read by **Mrs. Pascale Kouame**, Technical Advisor on Communications, **Mr. Moussa Dosso**, Minister of Animal Resources and Fishery of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of ATLAFCO, has stressed the importance of this meeting and congratulated the ATLAFCO Secretariat for this initiative in favor of this theme and the quality of the organization.

5. She mentioned that ATLAFCO through this videoconference understood that communication is one of the powerful means at its disposal to promote its major orientations, publicize its actions and gain the support of Member States and beneficiary communities.

6. She then underlined that the concepts and activities related to the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) are insufficiently known and the communicators are little informed of the actions undertaken and that the theme of this workshop is very important for the communicators MOSFA members in the ATLAFCO zone given the specific objectives.

7. She has finally wished strongly that each communicator learns greatly from this training, which will make more efficient the dans his mission and he has declared open the proceedings of the workshop.

8. Taking the floor **Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU**, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO welcomed the holding of this videoconference, which almost never took place, since scheduled for March 24, 2020 in Agadir, it was canceled at 2 days of its holding due to the decision of the

Moroccan authorities to close the borders, due to the state of health emergency imposed by **the Covid-19** pandemic.

9. He has stressed that it is regrettable that the questions on the fisheries sector in the countries of the region are rarely or superficially addressed by the press and other national media.
10. He recalled that in the major international negotiations on the international management of fishery resources, media coverage is mainly provided by the press agencies of developed countries with a legitimate consideration of their own interests.
11. He then noted that the African press shines with its virtual absence in forums such as meetings of ICCAT (ICCAT), COFI, CITES, CBI etc ... where the rules for the management of species are decided. exploitation is highly strategic for African countries and where sometimes only the voice of protectionist NGOs is audible, without taking into account any consideration of development or food security of the populations of the region.
12. **Mr. Benabbou** has added that the African media are therefore called to focus and talk more fishing and journalists and African communicators must be trained on these subjects to have the knowledge and tools to enable them to be part of the solution aiming to contribute to the change of mentalities and practices in the fisheries sector on the continent.
13. He ended his speech by expressing his gratitude to the Presidency of ATLAFCO for its leadership and constant support, thus allowing the secretariat to maintain its activities in this difficult context and renewing his thanks to all the partners, in particular to the OFCF for the appreciable support they have never ceased to provide to ATLAFCO.

IV. CONDUCT OF WORK

14. Mr. BENABBOU reviewed the videoconference agenda (**Annex II**), specifying that he will ensure the moderation and conduct of the videoconference work.
15. Interpretation was provided in French and English.

Presentation 1: The sustainable development of the fishing sector in the ATLAFCO area: assets and threats. (Mr. Mohamed Sadiki - ATLAFCO).

Biographical note

*Engineer at the Department in charge of Maritime Fisheries in Morocco since 1990, Holder of a French University Diploma in Regional Development and Spatial Planning, 1997, diploma of the higher cycle of business management, 1999 and diploma of the Higher Institute of ISA public administration in 2012.
Mr. Med SADIKI is currently the head of the Department of Programs and Projects at ATLAFCO.*

Summary of the presentation:

16. The presentation reviews the benefits of the fisheries sector in the region ATLAFCO, the opportunities for the development sector as well as the threats that jeopardize the expected benefits:
 - a. Strengths of the fisheries sector in ATLAFCO region
 - Vast region with great geographic diversity
 - Large hydro-climatic variety particularly favorable to the development of abundant and diversified aquatic resources and to trophic enrichment,
 - Existence of an institutional and legal framework favorable to cooperation: Regional fisheries cooperation organizations: CSRP, CPCO, CECAF, COREP, ICCAT Economic integration organizations: ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS
 - b. **Threats to the fishing sector in the region:**
 - The worrying preponderance of piracy and IUU fishing, exacerbated by the lack of means for coastal surveillance

- Institutional weaknesses and inadequate governance of national and shared fisheries resources
 - Low adherence to relevant international legal instruments and their integration into national legislation,
 - The consultative mandate of RFOs does not allow their decisions to be binding. (A study commissioned by ATLAFCO concluded the need to create an RFMO in the region, whose resolutions would be opposable to the parties)
 - Low resilience to the effects of climate change ∪ □ Low socioeconomic resilience to epidemics and pandemics, which are rampant in the region (AIDS, Ebola, COVID19 ...)
 - Precarious working conditions, safety and security of seafarers ∪ □ Population growth, and strong coastal development and urbanization put pressure on capture fishing and accentuate overexploitation and pollution of the marine environment
- c. Opportunities for the development of the fisheries sector**
- The Political will displayed by the Ministers during the Conferences of Ministers and also within the African AU bodies to reform sectoral policies
 - Adherence to the UN SDGs by 2030, in particular SDG14
 - Important support from Technical and Financial Partners: Commission of the European Union, World Bank, FAO, UNDP, African Development Bank, USAID, ...,
 - Existence of RFOs for fisheries management with better anchoring at regional and international level;
 - Presence of a dynamic civil society, women's NGOs, artisanal fishing, the media, even to strengthen co-management ...

Presentation 2: Fight against IUU fishing: international legal instruments and current status (Mr. Naji Laamrich - COMHAFAT)

Biographical note

Holding Graduate Diploma in International Law from Paris Sorbonne University in 1985, M. LAAMRICH joined the Ministry of Fisheries and Merchant Marine as a maritime inspector. In 1988, he was admitted to the World Maritime University in Sweden where he obtained a Master in General Maritime Administration. In 2003, he obtained an MBA from Anglia Polytechnic University in Cambridge.

Currently, he serves as head of the Department of Cooperation and Information Systems at ATLAFCO.

Summary of the presentation:

- 17.** IUU fishing remains one of the main threats to sustainable fishing in Africa, it negatively affects the livelihoods of people who depend on fishing in African coastal countries.
- 18.** The lack of knowledge and capacity to effectively monitor territorial waters and fishing vessels contributes to the expansion of this illegal activity.
- 19.** The issue is now on the international political agenda, especially following the adoption of targets 14.4 and 14.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which propose to end IUU fishing.
- 20.** Legal measures, such as the introduction of monitoring and surveillance systems or the denial of services to vessels engaged in IUU fishing, are often implemented at national and international levels to combat these practices.
- 21.** Several United Nations agencies have together created a strong framework to end IUU fishing and related human rights violations.

22. The FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) which strengthens port controls to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the global market.
23. The ILO Work in Fishing Convention C188 which sets basic standards for decent working conditions in the commercial fishing sector
24. The IMO Cape Town Agreement (CTA) which defines safety standards for commercial fishing vessels and details the regulations that the countries Parties to the agreement must adopt to protect fishing crews and their observers.
25. The three United Nations agencies have recognized the benefits of the aforementioned instruments in IUU fishing and the associated social problems.
26. When they are applied effectively together, these three treaties provide a strong legal framework to protect countries and their citizens against threats to food security and environmental sustainability, human trafficking and forced labor.
27. Dissemination of objective and factual information on IUU practices to local fishing communities, the general public and local, national and international officials increases awareness of IUU activities that undermine the sustainable exploitation of living marine resources and have so much value. negative consequences for the environment, economy and society.
28. By giving journalists and their networks with the tools to overcome the lack of publicly available information, we can help the media to sensitize the populations on drivers of IUU fishing and socio-economic impact on coastal communities through regular broadcasts, international surveys and articles in the written press.

Presentation 3: Sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing: what communication strategy for the countries of the ATLAFCO zone?

(Mr. Ashok Taluck Beeharry - Mauritius / MOSFA)

Biographical note: Mr. Taluck (Ashok) Beeharry who pursues a 30-year career as a seasoned journalist / practitioner in print, electronic and online media, studied pedagogy at the Mauritius Institute of Education and holds a degree in communication from the University of Mauritius. He also completed professional journalism training at the University Institute of Technology (IUT) in Bordeaux, France and participated in numerous international workshops / seminars on various media issues / topics.

He has assumed high level responsibilities in a number of positions related to journalism and information / communication. He was Acting News Director at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC).

He is currently Desk Coordinator at MBC and as part of his role he shares responsibility for managing the editorial content of television newsletters. He also oversees and coordinates the formatting and delivery of news content on his organization's online / multimedia platforms (website and FB page). He oversees the administrative and HR functions of MBC's News department. His professional areas of interest include economics and finance, blue economy, technological convergence, environmental issues and international relations and business / diplomacy.

He has also acted as a facilitator for the World Bank and the African Union for a number of media related activities including training workshops, conferences and meetings in Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands. .

He is currently Secretary General of MOSFA (Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa

Summary of the presentation:

29. The concept of sustainability is very important in the management of fishery resources. Equally decisive is the issue of combating IUU fishing.
30. A communication strategy around these two issues in the ATLAFCO Zone is therefore necessarily dependent on multiple factors and variables, not to say complexities.
31. It is not possible to be able to sketch the outlines of this strategy without taking into account a set of fundamental principles but also certain exogenous elements, all linked both to the disciplines, activities and problems of fishing on the one hand and to the other to the communicational dynamics as much macrocosmic and global as from a microcosmic and specific point of view.
32. From the characteristics and particularities to the needs, perspectives and challenges, it is therefore essential to be interested in the expectations, objectives and orientations before being able to look into the necessary means and mechanisms, the programmatic deployment, the content and the message and the implementation. implementation, or a real strategic approach to ensure measurable results

Presentation 4. What communication for a good harmonization of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance policies: the case of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), partner of ATLAFCO.

(Mr. Aïdara Talibouya –Senegal / MOSFA).

Biographical note: Mr. Talibouye AIDARA is a graduate of the Higher Institute of Information and Communication Sciences.

He brings to his credit a solid experience of over nine (9) years shared between newspaper editors at the national and international level from 2001 to 2009.

From July 2009, he then lent his skills to the Senegalese Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy as Technical Advisor in Communication. His professionalism and his creative spirit have earned him the confidence of four (4) Ministers of Fisheries and the Economy from 2009 to 2018).

From 2018 to 2019, he was assigned to the Directorate for the Protection and Surveillance of Fisheries (DPSP) as Communication Advisor.

Since May 2019, he has been appointed Head of Division in charge of Partnership and Funding for the Department of Port Infrastructures (DIP) at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy.

Summary of the presentation:

33. It deals with communication for a good harmonization of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance policies taking as the case of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC).
34. The SRFC has as objective harmonizing policies in the long term of the Member States in the preservation, conservation and exploitation of their fisheries resources and to strengthen their cooperation for the welfare of their populations.
35. The waters of the SRFC are very rich in fishery products. This wealth is at the origin of all the greed with its share of damage for the respective States.
 - Phenomenon of IUU fishing in the West African region;
 - Weak national capacity to exploit the significant resource potential;
 - Granting of the first bilateral fishing permits / agreements (1970s);
 - Weak national means of surveillance favor IUU fishing.
36. In terms of communication, the SRFC has a communication service within it. Its mission is among others to:
 - Implement the communication policy and strategy of the Permanent Secretariat through an annual communication plan;
 - Manage the teams (program managers and assistants);

- Ensure the follow-up of the periodic update of the communication strategy of the Permanent Secretariat;
- Establish an effective information management system at the level of the Permanent Secretariat and between it and its partners;
- Ensure the continuous development of the SRFC
- website and its regular update;
- Coordinate the implementation of the “communications” components of the various projects and programs of the SRFC, and ensure their follow-up;
- Assist in the drafting, formatting and distribution of communication media, including publications, exhibitions, visual documents, etc.
- Facilitate contacts with national, sub-regional and international media for a better visibility of the activities of the SRFC

Presentation 5: Promoting voluntary guidelines for sustainable artisanal fisheries in Africa.

(Mr. Naoufel Haddad –Tunisia / MOSFA)

Biographical note: *Mr. Naoufel Haddad has been a civil society activist since a young age as a volunteer member and guide in associations for children, youth and environmental protection. He is a founding member of several associations in the fields of digital agriculture and artisanal fishing. He received a university training in halieutic sciences (1988-1990; 1998-2000), and Geomatics (2007-2009) which allowed him to brilliantly carry out various projects for the protection of fishery resources within the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture since 1993, in particular in the co-management of resources, the establishment of the VMS and the development of marine areas into artificial reefs.*

Apart from the public sector, he is convinced that civil society and small farmers and organized artisanal fishermen have a key role in transforming our production systems to make them more sustainable and fairer. So, he invested in organizing professionals by first founding the first Tunisian association which deals with the organization of artisanal fishermen, who have long been marginalized and voiceless (ATDEPA / TAFDA), of which he is founding president (2011-2012). Since then, several associations have emerged, which has made it possible to unite them in the Tunisian network of sustainable artisanal fishing (2014) and held the position of vice-president.

Since 2016, he has been a member of MOSFA and focal point for North Africa.

Summary of the presentation :

37. The Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa has chosen to develop its website using the WordPress CMS. A CMS, for Content Management System.
38. Wordpress is commonly associated with the idea of a blogging service, but it's actually much more than that. This platform makes it possible to build robust and fully functional websites, and to achieve almost any level of complexity.
39. The choice of Wordpress is based on 10 reasons including ease of use.
40. Finally, the administration dashboard of the website <http://www.mosfa-MOSFA.org/fr/> which is constantly improving with the participation of members of the observatory was briefly presented.

6. Development of communication strategies and plans for fishing: the experience of MOSFA (Mr. André Naoussi - Cameroon / MOSFA)

Biographical note:

André Naoussi has been a journalist since 1989. Coming from the École supérieure des Sciences et Techniques de l'information et de la Communication (ESSTIC, Yaoundé), he also followed training courses in Cairo and Paris on participatory journalism and electronic administration.

Having voluntarily left the public service, in 2016 he was appointed by colleagues from around 40 African countries as Coordinator of the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA).

Since 2001, Mr. Naoussi has been Cameroon correspondent for the pan-African magazine based in Paris Africa International. In 2003 he was at the launch of the people magazine Ici les Gens du Cameroun. He also contributes to the monthly La Voix du Paysan, and to the bi-weekly Défis Actuels.

Summary of the presentation :

- 41.** Since its creation in March 2016 in Elmina (Ghana), the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa (MOSFA) has included in its vision and missions the creation of networks to develop efficient communication strategies for sustainable management of fishery resources in Africa.
- 42.** Not only was the MOSFA requested to develop Communication Strategies and Plans, but it developed proposals to various structures concerned with the sustainable management of fishery resources on the continent.
- 43.** On order, the MOSFA produced:
 - The Communication Strategy for the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC/CSRP) in West Africa (October 2017);
 - The Communication and Awareness Action Plan for the C SRP (bilingual French / English document in December 2018), together with the Terms of Reference for a validation workshop (January 2019).
- 44.** On a group initiative, and very often with the informal agreement of the organizations, the MOSFA has produced communication offers, among others : for the promotion of the Blue Economy in Africa (AU-IBAR), the popularization of the Agreement on the Measures of the Access Port Country (FAO Africa), the promotion of sustainable fishing and aquaculture in Africa (NEPAD), the fight against IUU fishing through illustrations and graphics (IUCN).
- 45.** All these offers, which until now have remained voluntary (we insist on the adjective), awaiting realization, could well be inspired by the mutually fruitful collaboration between MOSFA and ATLAFCO, materialized by a three-year Agreement signed in October 2018.

Presentation 7: Media support for a national project: the case of the “Plan Halieutis” in Morocco. (Mr. Halim Hamid - Morocco / MOSFA).

Biographical note:

Mr. Hamid Halim is the founding President Maroc Bleu , former publication director & Editor-in-chief of the electronic journal www.marocbleu.com 2012-2019. He has been Communication Advisor to the North Atlantic Maritime Fisheries Chamber in Casablanca since 2013, to the Central Atlantic Maritime Fisheries Chamber Agadir from 2013 to 2018 of the National Coastal Fisheries Confederation in Morocco since 2013.

He is Vice President of the National Federation of the fishing union Marocain of T Regular workers (UMT)

Summary of the presentation:

46. The presentation p asse review the potential that has the sector of maritime fishing in Morocco and how the strategy *Halieutis* could successfully change some of the characteristics of the sector of sea fishing and to establish an advanced and profitable model through establishment of a scientific and technical fisheries protection system in partnership with Maritime fisheries economic actors.
47. *Halieutis*, whose objective is to make the maritime fishing sector a growth engine for the Moroccan economy, is based on 16 strategic projects. Each one of these projects has been thought to meet the principles of sustainable development, socially acceptable, environmentally responsible and economically viable.
48. The speaker reported on the experience of the newspaper marocbleu.com for 8 years of accompaniment of the strategy *Halieutis* and the role of <https://marocbleu.com> as the first website specialized in the maritime domain in Morocco, which has played a very important role in reducing the communication gap between the administration and the professionals .

Presentation 8: Communication for the sustainable development of fisheries: what complementarity between ATLAFCO and MOSFA? (Mr. Mohamed Sadiki / ATLAFCO).

Summary of the presentation:

49. Mr. Sadiki recalled that ATLAFCO and OMPDA signed in 2018 an Agreement of Cooperation for the development of sustainable fisheries in the region.
He then said that in terms of development cooperation, there are mainly two lines of
 - 1-**institutional communication** that presents the activities, objectives and results of cooperation development.
 - 2-**communication for development (C4D)**, which is a tool of social and political influence. It promotes participation and social change through methods and instruments of interpersonal communication, community media and modern information technologies. C4D is not a complement to project management but a transversal activity the aim of which is to strengthen dialogue with beneficiaries, partners and authorities in order to promote ownership of programs at the local level and produce an impact. sustainable. Communication for development is a social process based on dialogue and using a wide range of tools and methods. The aim is to work at different levels, such as listening, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, applying policies, debating and learning in order to achieve significant and lasting changes.
 - Strengthen dialogue with stakeholders in development projects
 - Promote ownership of programs at the local level
 - Produce a lasting impact
 - Communication for development a mission shared between development specialists and communicators.
 - C4D is at the heart of sustainable development. It is a transversal task for everyone, more than a simple activity of communication professionals
 - From journalists to development communicators, it is no longer just a question of informing but of acting as an agent of development and behavior change
 - Communication programs are called upon to advance development programs
50. The **presentation recommends:**
 - ✓ Strengthen the communication capacity for the sustainable development of fisheries in MS and organizations at all levels.
 - ✓ Encourage States to draw up or develop national communication policies for the sustainable development of fisheries

- ✓ Provide at the level of development institutions a budget line for communication for development.
- ✓ Adopt and implement policies and laws creating an environment conducive to communication for development (including free and pluralistic means of communication as well as the right to information and communication).
- ✓ Prepare a guide on the sustainable development of fisheries intended for the media

Presentation 09: Strengthening the voice of Africa within international fisheries bodies (Mr. Naji Laamrich –ATLAFCO)

Biographical note

Summary of the presentation:

51. Despite the great economic and social benefits that fisheries can offer to meet Africa's development needs, investments in African fisheries and aquaculture are remarkably low.
52. Communities living off sea fishing show the same attachment to the sea and face the same challenges. However, if fisheries and aquaculture are to meet the challenges of technological change, institutional reforms and resource mobilization are needed to support the development of the sector to achieve sustainable development.
53. Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals requires that everyone be engaged and that the Voice of Africa should be championed at all levels.
54. To this end and in accordance with the orientations of the Policy and Strategy Framework for the Reform of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, the strengthening and consolidation of the African Voice in the governance and management of fisheries have been selected as the fourth objective. strategic action of ATLAFCO.
55. With regard to the coordination of positions at the level of international fisheries bodies, it is essential that Member States have an active presence and speak with one voice within bodies such as ICCAT, CITES, the IWC, the FAO....
56. In this regard, ATLAFCO has succeeded in ensuring the regular participation of at least one national representative per Member State, followed each time by a preparatory meeting.
57. Each time, the participants were unanimous on the need to strengthen good governance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, which remains a sine qua non for its growth and its effective contribution to the socio-economic development of the Member States.
58. However, the low participation of the African media in the meetings of international fisheries bodies does not contribute to this process.
59. To this end, ATLAFCO launches call for the involvement of African communicators and journalists to understand and honestly describe the realities where fishing communities must live and work and challenges, they are facing.
60. They must be a better defense of national interests by bringing to the public place the issues of debates relating to the international management of fishery resources by explaining and defending the principle of the sustainable exploitation of marine species.

Presentation 10: Role and new challenges of the media (Covid-19 among others) in the governance of the fishing sector (Mr. Ashok Taluck Beeharry - Mauritius / MOSFA)

Summary of the presentation :

61. The media already undergoing major changes before Covid-19 are experiencing a metamorphosis, both organic and extrinsic in the wake of the pandemic, suffering a wave of backlash and socioeconomic pressures.
62. Governance is called into question, and seems to be redefining itself or positioning itself for more or less similar reasons.

63. So these are the premises that underlie the question of the role and new challenges of the media now operating in a changed landscape with a rethought configuration and a new typology, within a transformed system of governance.
64. With its weight and importance in the life and existence of the populations who depend on it, the fishing sector thus lets itself sail at the mercy of a governance that the media can certainly influence but within the precise framework of responsibilities and functions. dictated by a real revolution in the industry.
65. This leads to a number of difficulties and conditionalities in a context that would undermine traditional or conventional methodologies.
66. It is therefore a matter of redefining the parameters of this governance by taking into account new imperatives and new requirements in an attempt to reconcile apparent contradictions.

Presentation 11: Uses con decrees WordPress and digital tools by MOSFA

(Mr. Naoufel Haddad –Tunisia / MOSFA)

Summary of the presentation :

67. Artisanal fisheries contribute to food security and poverty reduction. Over 90% (or 108 million people) of fishermen and workers in the sector are artisans, the vast majority of whom live in developing countries and nearly half are women.
68. It was therefore decided to provide this sector with an instrument aimed at highlighting its importance and its socio-economic role. Actions should be taken to involve artisanal fishermen more and to promote their access to resources and to the process of developing public policies and decision-making.
69. A bottom-up global consultative process resulted in the development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Ensuring the Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines). First international instrument entirely devoted to artisanal fishing, a sector of fundamental importance.
70. The Committee on Fisheries approved the SSF Guidelines at its thirty-first session in June 2014. This is a historic date, since we have since had an essential tool to ensure the sustainability of artisanal fisheries. and enable the sector to contribute to the eradication of hunger and poverty.
71. In order to be able to implement the recommendations made in the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines, they must be known, understood and applied. This is why awareness is an essential element in their implementation.
72. Thus the MOSFA must contribute to :
 - Inform stakeholders and fishing communities on the principles and content of the PAD Guidelines versions in local languages, use of various means of information, implementation and support the development of action plans.
 - Make know the Directives, in particular distributing simplified and translated versions for people who work in the artisanal fishing sector.
 - Broadcast effectively information on this issue and on the role of women in artisanal fishing and highlight the actions to be taken to improve the situation and conditions of women's work.
73. The presentations and lively discussions allowed the meeting faire stock of the situation of the fisheries sector in the ATLAFCO region, with emphasis on IUU fishing and its consequences and capacity building means participants in the collection, management and use of data to enhance their media and communication productions for a better contribution to the sustainable management of marine resources.
74. Similarly, on the basis of these discussions and of the various presentations, participants about é a series of recommendations to the media more involved in African issues in the fisheries sector to help strengthen the role of non-state actors, in particular associations and organizations of private actors and fishing communities from countries of the ATLAFCO zone

- 75.** These recommendations, which were taken up by the ATLAFCO Secretariat, are included in this report (**Annex IV**).
- 76.** All presentations are available in the original language on the ATLAFCO website at the following address : <https://comhafat.org/en>
- 77.** The work of the workshop is declared closed at 15:30 a.m.

APPENDIX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

N°	COUNTRY / ORGANIZATION	NOM & PRENOM	TITLE	E-MAIL
1	WADAF	M. Moussa MBENGUE	Director	mbenguepeche@yahoo.fr
2	Fishing agency - Japan	M. Shimizu NOBUSHIGE	Representative	n.shimizu17@gmail.com
3	Angola	M. Inacio Junior SEBASTIAO	Journalist / RADIO NACIONAL	sebastiaojunior55@hotmail.com
4	Benin	M. Léonce Landry Setondji AISSOUN	Journalist / The Emerging Country	aissoun68@gmail.com
5	Cameroon	M. Guy Iréné MIMBANG	Director of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Halieutic Industries	mimbang@gmail.com
6		M. André NAOUSSI	Journalist / MOSFA Coordinator	andrenaoussi@gmail.com
7	IWC	Mme Rebecca LENT	Executive Secretary	rebecca.lent@iwc.int
8		M. Abdelouahed BENABBOU	Executive Secretary	benabboucomhafat@gmail.com
9		M. Atsushi ISHIKAWA	Expert / OFCF	a615@ruby.ocn.ne.jp
10		M. Mohammed HADDAD	Financial officer	haddad.comhafat@gmail.com
11		M. Abdennaji LAAMRICH	Head of the Cooperation and Information System Department	laamrichmpm@gmail.com

12	ATLAFCO	M. Mohamed SADIKI	Head of Programs and Projects Department	sadiki.comhafat@gmail.com
13		Mme Hayat ASSARA	Executive assistant	hayat.comhafat@gmail.com
14		Mme Amal MOUTTAKI	Project Manager	moutaki.comhafaf@gmail.com
15		M. Rachid REGRAGUI	Frame	regragui.comhafat@gmail.com
16		Mlle Wafaa AAMOUN	Assistant	aamoum.comhafat@gmail.com
17		Mme Karima Choukrani	Secretary	mkarima241@gmail.com
18		M. Abdelkrim MRABTI	Webmaster	akarim.mrabti@gmail.com
19		M. Ali BOUALI	Consultant	bouali1952@gmail.com
20		Congo	M. Christian Wilfrid DIANKABAKANA	Journalist / Africa environment Plus
21	Mme Roseline AKENZE NEE OGNIMBA		Director of Fisheries Resources and Fisheries Development.	ogroseline@gmail.com
22	Consultant	Dr Moustapha KEBE	Consultant	kebe_tapha@yahoo.fr
23		M. Driss MESKI	Consultant	driss.meski@outlook.com
24		M. Benoit CAILLARD	Consultant	b.caillart@fs-marine.fr
25		M. Mohamed MERZAGUI	Expert in maritime affairs	marmar271156@gmail.com
26	CECAF	M. Sakchai McDonough	CECAF-PESCAO Fisheries Project Manager / FAO Regional Office for Africa. Accra, Ghana	sakchai.mcdonough@fao.org

27	COREP	M. Emmanuel SABUNI KASEREKA	Administrator for Fisheries Development and Programming.	issaske@yahoo.fr
28	Côte d'Ivoire	M. Konan ANGAMAN	Technical Advisor / MIRAH	angaman.konan1@yahoo.fr
29		M. Djoro Hyacinthe GNEPA	Head of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC)	s16020@alumni.wmu.se
30		Mme Akissi Marcelle AKA KOUAMENAN	Journalist / L'Inter d'Abidjan	akamarcelle98@gmail.com
31		Madame Kouamé Pascale	Technical Advisor in charge of Communication	pascalekouame@hotmail.fr sercom1.mirah@gmail.com
32		Mlle N'Guessan Prisca	Communication Officer of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources	sercom1.mirah@gmail.com
33	SRFC	M. Babacar BA	Head of the "Monitoring-Control-Surveillance & Fisheries Management" Department	babacar.ba@spscrp.org
34		M. Diénaba BEYE	Head of the "Harmonization of fisheries policy and legislation" service	dienaba.beye@spscrp.org
35	ECOFISH	Mme Aina RANDRIANAN TOANDRO	Representative / ECOFISH	Aina.Randrianantoandro@fao.org
36	FAO	Mme Aurora MATEOS	Representative	Aurora.Mateos@fao.org
37	Gabon	M. Jean Augustin NZENGUI	Journalist / Gabon Première TV	augustinjean57@gmail.com
38	Gambia	M. Juma JALLOW	Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Affairs	jumajallow86@gmail.com

39	Ghana	M. Gyesi ZADOK KWAME	Journalist	zadokgyesi@gmail.com
40		M. Richard YEBOAH	Fisheries Commission - Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development	richyeboah@gmail.com
41	Guinea	M. Sekou TOURE	responsible communication of the Ministry of Fisheries	sktoure@gmail.com
42		Mme Fatoumata Yarie BANGOURA	Communication Officer at the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy	fatoubangs83@gmail.com
43		Mme Hadja Fatou ARIBOT	Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Economy National Director of Maritime Economy	aribotfatoumata@ymail.com
44	Equatorial Guinea	Mme Christo Balina ABUA NTUGU OKOMO	Journalist / National TV Equatorial Guinea	cristelle.lafille2012@gmail.com ok pass
45	Mauritius	M. Beeharry TALUCK	Journalist / Secretary General OMPDA (Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation)	ashokb@intnet.mu ; sa.beeharry@mbc.intnet.mu
46	ISPM AGADIR	M. Mhamed HMAMOU	General manager	Hmamou@mpm.gov.ma
47	Japon	M. Yoshihiro TAKAGI	Advisor / Japan	ytakagi8@yahoo.co.jp
48	Liberia	M. Lewis E.B Konoe	Director of Communications and Media Services.	lkonoe@nafaa.gov.lr
49		M. Willam Y. BOEH	Coordinator Office of National Fisheries	williamboeh92@gmail.com

50	Maroc Bleu	M. Halim HAMID	Journalist / Director	marocbleunews@gmail.com
51	MFD/MAROC	Mr Aomar BOURHIM	Head of Multilateral Cooperation Department	bourhim@mpm.gov.ma
52		Mme Lamyae QAIDI	Frame	l.qaidi@mpm.gov.ma
53		Mme Fatima Zohra HASSOUNI	Head of the Division of Sustainability and Fisheries Resource Management	hassouni@mpm.gov.ma
54		Mme Najat El Monfaloti	Head of Resource Management and Planning	elmonfaloti@mpm.gov.ma
55		M. Abdellatif HMIDANE	Head of coordination service against IUU fishing	hmidane@mpm.gov.ma
56	RAFEP	Mme Amy Dago CHRISTIANE	President	dagoamy@yahoo.fr
57	Senegal	M. Talibouya AÏDARA	Journalist / Communication - Ministry of Fisheries	aidara.or.t@gmail.com
58		Dr Mame Diarra FAYE	Senegal seafarer doctor. alumni of World Maritime University	mamediarrafaye@gmail.com
59		M. Sidiya DIOUF	Deputy Director of Maritime Fisheries / Head of the Artisanal Fisheries Division	dioufsidiya@yahoo.fr
60	Sierra Leone	M. Amadu LAMRANA BAH	Journalist / Africa Young Voices Media Empire	amadulamrana_bah@yahoo.com
61		M. Sahr Patrick SANDI	Fisheries Officer	sahrpsandi@gmail.com
62	Togo	M. Ali DOMTANI	Director of Fisheries	domtania@yahoo.fr
63		M. Kokouvi Dziedzom ASSOGBA	Maritime training manager	asserghino@gmail.com

64	Tunisia	M. Naoufel HADDAD	Journalist / Agricultural Extension and Training Agency	Naoufel4haddad@gmail.com
----	---------	--------------------------	---	--

APPENDIX II: AGENDA

Time: 10: 00 (GMT) - 13: 00 (GMT)

Moderator: Mr. Abelouahed Benabbou / Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO).

WELCOME WORDS: Mr. Abdelouhed Benabbou (ATLAFCO) + Mr. André Naoussi (MOSFA) Coordinator).

PRESENTATIONS (10- 15 mn- / presentation)

1. The sustainable development of the fishing sector in the ATLAFCO area : assets and threats.

(Mr. Mohamed Sadiki - ATLAFCO).

2. Fight against IUU fishing: international legal instruments and current status

(Mr. Naji Laamrich - ATLAFCO)

3. Sustainable management of fishery resources and fight against IUU fishing: what communication strategy for the countries of the ATLAFCO area?

(Mr. Ashok Taluck Beeharry - Mauritius / MOSFA)

4. What communication for a good harmonization of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance policies: the case of the sub-regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP), partner of ATLAFCO.

(Mr. Aïdara Talibouya –Senegal / MOSFA).

5. Promote voluntary guidelines for sustainable artisanal fisheries in Africa.

(Mr. Naoufel Haddad –Tunisia / MOSFA)

6. Development of communication strategies and plans for fishing: the experience of MOSFA (Mr. André Naoussi - Cameroon / MOSFA)

7. Media support for a national project: the case of the “Plan Halieutis” in Morocco. (Mr. Halim Hamid - Morocco / MOSFA).

8. Communication for the sustainable development of fisheries: what complementarity between ATLAFCO and MOSFA? (Mr. Mohamed Sadiki / ATLAFCO).

9. Strengthening the voice of Africa within international fisheries bodies (Mr. Naji Laamrich - ATLAFCO)

10. Role and new challenges of the media (Covid-19 among others) in the governance of the fishing sector (Mr. shok Taluck Beeharry - Mauritius / MOSFA)

11. Concrete uses of WordPress and digital tools by the MOSFA.

(Mr. Naoufel Haddad –Tunisia / MOSFA)

12. Closing

APPENDIX IV: RECOMMENDATIONS

Recalling the strategic importance of the fisheries sector in the Member States of ATLAFCO through its strong contribution to food and nutritional security, job creation and national wealth;

Considering the sector's vulnerability to the various threats that compromise its sustainability and its expected beneficial effects on the socio-economic development of the countries of the Region;

Noting the multisectoral initiatives and the various measures to be taken to improve the protection and performance of the sector;

Reaffirming the imperative need to combat overfishing and IUU fishing at national, cross-border and regional levels;

Recognizing the central role of effective and efficient communication as a stakeholder in the process for the development of sustainable fishing;

Noting however, the low interest shown in the fishing sector by the African media and communicators;

Noting the virtual absence of an African press specializing in questions relating to fishing issues at the international level;

Aware of the need to involve more stakeholders working in the media, in the rational and responsible management of the fishery resources of their countries;

Noting the increasingly asserted desire to defend and make known the "voice of Africa" in all areas where the planet's fishery resources are at stake;

Considering the need to train and strengthen the capacities of communicators on the African continent on the issues of the sustainable management of fishery resources;

The participants in the online conference organized by ATLAFCO, in partnership with MOSFA, on the theme: "Capacity building of communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing "

RECOMMEND :

1. Sensitize African decision-makers on the need for greater involvement of communicators in the sustainable management of the continent's fishery resources;
2. Integrate the "Communication for sustainable development of fisheries" dimension into all national and regional fisheries governance strategies;

3. Ensure wider coverage of issues relating to the fishing sector, in particular those relating to threats to sustainable fishing, including over-exploitation and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
4. Create as part of a sustainable exploitation approach of marine resources, a space for consultation for a regular exchange of media treatment of fishing themes in the countries of the ATLAFCO area;
5. Promote collaboration between communicators and experts on fisheries issues in Africa;
6. Promote a concerted and coherent approach to Africa's positions in international fisheries negotiations;
7. Train and strengthen the capacities of communicators who are members of MOSFA who are nationals of the ATLAFCO zone on the challenges of sustainable management of fishery resources and the contours of the fight against IUU fishing;
8. Ensure a regular presence of the continent's communicators in all negotiation frameworks where Africa's fishery resources are at stake;
9. Adopt and implement policies and laws creating an environment conducive to communication for development (including the right to information and communication, and facilitate access to information and communication means and technologies).

APPENDIX V: SPEECHES

Opening address by the Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, President of ATLAFCO

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Ladies and Gentlemen, communicators from the member states of ATLAFCO,

It is a pleasure for me to be associated with the opening of the videoconference of the workshop on "*Capacity building for communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing*".

I am happy to speak on behalf of the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources. I would like to take this opportunity to greet the secretariat and strongly encourage our common organization, ATLAFCO, for this initiative and its dynamism which makes it possible to take action despite the paralyzing environment of Covid-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The main objective of ATLAFCO is to promote an effective and active cooperation between the Member States with a view to the preservation of fishery resources and a sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

Today, Fisheries is one of the key sectors of the economy of the African continent. It creates jobs and helps reduce extreme poverty in Africa.

ATLAFCO is to be congratulated and thanked for its invaluable contribution to the achievement of these objectives.

ATLAFCO through this videoconference understood that communication is one of the powerful means at its disposal to promote its major orientations, publicize its actions and elicit the support of Member States and beneficiary communities.

Indeed, the communicators want to participate in this dynamic because they play a cardinal role of relay between all the actors. To do this, they have training and information needs on the highly technical subjects dealt with by ATLAFCO.

However, the concepts and activities related to **the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU)** are insufficiently known and communicators are poorly informed of the actions undertaken.

This is how the theme of this workshop is very important for us communicators' members of the MOSFA of the ATLAFCO zone given the specific objectives.

Indeed, the training initiated today for the attention of communicators will enable us to equip ourselves to meet our objectives, namely:

- Make up for the inadequate training of communicators relating to these themes;
- Contribute to strengthening the appropriation of these themes by member states and beneficiaries;
- Contribute to strengthening the role of non-state actors, in particular associations and organizations of private actors and fishing communities.

I sincerely hope that each communicator will learn greatly from this training, which will make them more effective in their mission.

Wishing you every success in your work, I declare open the workshop on " Capacity building for communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing "

Thank you for your kind attention.

Introductory speech by the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO

Mr. Representative of the President of ATLAFCO,
Mr. Representative of the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR)
Dear representatives of regional fishing organizations,
Dear representatives of the Japanese Fisheries Agency and OFCF,
Mr. Coordinator of the Media Observatory for Sustainable Fisheries in Africa,
Distinguished Representatives of the Member States,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a real pleasure for me to be with you this morning, on the occasion of this videoconference whose theme is *Building the capacities of communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing.*

I am all the more delighted that this conference almost never took place, since scheduled for March 24, 2020 in Agadir, it was canceled 2 days before it was held due to the decision of the Moroccan authorities to close the borders, due to the state of health emergency imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the common will of the MOSFA in the person of its coordinator, Mr. André Naoussi and the Executive Secretariat of ATLAFCO, we can now rejoice in the holding of this conference in a version which is certainly virtual, but which can answer to all our expectations, by proposing some avenues of action and reflection to actors in the African media sphere, regarding the roles and responsibilities incumbent upon them in the establishment of sustainable fishing.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Fishing is a major economic resource in Africa. It is one of the key sectors of the economy of our continent. Whether in terms of health, wealth, nutritional security and jobs, its importance is well established. The sector creates jobs and contributes significantly to reducing extreme poverty, building communities that are resilient to climate change, building strong economies for millions of Africans and ensuring greater food security for them.

This sector is however, confronted with several threats which seriously compromise its expected beneficial effects on the socio-economic development of the countries of the region.

For several years now, the fishery resources of the seas and oceans of our continent have been drastically diminishing. In question, the excesses of industrial fishing, the non-respect of natural cycles, the degradation of the marine environment, the looting

of waters practiced by foreigners but also locals, and the lack of organization at national and international organizations to manage this wealth.

It is also true that more and more initiatives are being taken to deal with this situation, but these remain insufficient and the finding is all in all worrying.

What should be done to quickly reverse this trend and help improve the management of fishery resources in a sustainable manner in the region?

There are certainly many avenues, but we believe that better **information** on the prevailing situation, for the attention of all stakeholders and stakeholders, is likely to participate effectively in strengthening the sustainable management of the fishery resources of our communities. waters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is regrettable to note that questions relating to the fisheries sector in our countries are only very rarely or very superficially addressed by the press and other national media.

In addition, in the major international negotiations on the international management of fishery resources, media coverage is mainly provided by the press agencies of developed countries with a legitimate consideration of their own interests.

The African press shines by its virtual absence in forums such as meetings of ICCAT , COFI, CITES, IWC etc ... where the rules of management of species whose exploitation is highly strategic are decided. for our countries and where sometimes, only the voice of protectionist NGOs is audible, without taking into account any consideration of development or food security of our populations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The scope of activities of African media, journalists and communicators of all kinds goes beyond the simple transmission of information in the raw state. For this reason, it is up to them to fully play their role in:

- Greater **awareness** of the threats and risks weighing on the exploitation of fishery resources, sometimes by denouncing the unspeakable practices of certain fleets in our waters;
- A more effective **mobilization** of stakeholders (administration, professional associations, consumers, private sector, partners, etc.);
- Participate in **the education** of fishermen through the popularization of good fishing practices;
- Better **defense** of national interests by bringing to the public place the challenges of debates relating to the international management of fishery resources,

- **Explain and defend** the principle of the sustainable exploitation of marine species.

The African media are therefore called upon to take an interest in and talk more about fishing.

To do this, our journalists and communicators must be trained on these subjects in order to have the knowledge and tools enabling them to be part of the solution aimed at contributing to a change in mentalities and practices in the fisheries sector on the continent.

And it is with this objective that ATLAFCO joined forces with MOSFA within the framework of the MoU signed between the 2 Parties.

This meeting is a 1st action, our ambition is to achieve a series.

Ladies and gentlemen

I would not like to end my remarks without expressing my gratitude to the ATLAFCO Presidency for its leadership and constant support, thus allowing the secretariat to maintain its activities in this difficult context.

I would also like to reiterate my thanks to all of our partners, in particular to OFCF for the appreciable support it has continued to provide us.

And it is convinced of the commitment and the collective expertise of all those participating in this videoconference, in favor of better communication on fishing issues in our countries, that I wish us a fruitful meeting.

thank you for your kind attention

**Closing speech by the Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Côte d'Ivoire,
President of ATLAFCO**

Ladies and Gentlemen Ministers,

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Ladies and Gentlemen, communicators from the member states of ATLAFCO,

Here we are at the end of the training workshop whose theme was "Capacity building of communicators on the sustainable management of fishery resources and the fight against IUU fishing".

The holding of this workshop is indeed the strengthening of close, dynamic and fruitful cooperation between our States for the preservation of fishery resources and their sustainable development.

On behalf of Mr. Moussa DOSSO, Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Côte d'Ivoire, President of ATLAFCO, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, his collaborators and the technicians who have spared no effort to guarantee an organization successful completion of this workshop.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the participants in this workshop for their active and mutually enriching contributions, in particular:

- Mr. Mohamed SADIKI who was able to propose a certain number of stages, five more precisely considered as decisive for the development of the fishing sector in the region.
- Mr. Hamid HALIM who shared with us a list of actions carried out by the Kingdom of Morocco in order to fight against IUU fishing
- Mr. Talibouye AIDARA for whom efficient communication requires human, logistical, material and financial resources.

I am delighted with the eloquent results we have achieved at the end of our work, which I could not doubt in view of the quality of the participants.

Also, I am convinced that we are now better equipped and better informed, on the actions to be taken with a view to the sustainable management of Fishery Resources and for an effective fight against IUU fishing in our various countries.

I strongly urge us to put this knowledge into practice, to cultivate information sharing in order to achieve our common goal of preserving fishery resources and the sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

Together, we have every reason to believe in the outcome of our struggle.

Thank you !