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Workshop on:
“ Food Security through Aquaculture: Sustainability and Regional Synergies”
Tangier, October 16-18, 2025

Concept note

I- Context

The international community celebrates World Food Day on October 16 of each year to recall the major imperatives linked to the fight against hunger and the promotion of healthy and sustainable food.

From this perspective, aquaculture is emerging as an essential lever, combining innovation and sustainability, to meet the growing food needs of a rapidly expanding global population. By developing rigorous practices that respect marine ecosystems, this sector ensures substantial protein production, while contributing to the preservation of natural fisheries resources. Aquaculture thus represents a strategic response to contemporary environmental and nutritional challenges, actively participating in the construction of resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems.

For many countries and hundreds of millions of individuals worldwide, aquaculture remains an indispensable resource, crucial for balanced and healthy nutrition. It also constitutes an essential basis for economic development, thanks to the wealth produced, the income generated, as well as the jobs and livelihoods it provides.

In 2022, global aquaculture production reached 94.4 million tonnes, surpassing capture fisheries for the first time (51% of total aquatic animal production). It provides 15% of the animal protein consumed worldwide and directly employs 22 million people.

In Africa, despite its considerable potential, aquaculture production in ATLAFCO member states represents only 15% of continental production. Although this production has doubled since 2010 to reach 400,000 tonnes to date, its growth remains uneven and poorly diversified.

This situation leads to a heavy dependence on imports, which reached \$3 billion in 2023, 85% of which are frozen products intended to meet local demand increasing by 10% per year.



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This dependence underscores the urgency of developing sustainable and competitive aquaculture, especially since aquatic products play an essential nutritional role. They provide at least 25% of the region's animal protein intake, making them a key issue for food security and economic resilience.

In this context, aquaculture is positioned as an essential strategic lever to meet the major challenges of the African continent. It must fully assume its role by guaranteeing a regular supply of animal protein, meeting the growing nutritional needs of the populations of the ATLAFCO region, and securing food for future generations.

The development of commercial aquaculture sectors—fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and seaweed—represents much more than just an economic activity. These productions offer a unique opportunity to reconcile commercial development and environmental conservation. By revitalizing coastal ecosystems, they contribute to building a more sustainable and equitable global food system, while generating tangible social benefits for local communities.

Faced with these challenges, the development of aquaculture appears to be a necessity for the African continent and especially for the member countries of ATLAFCO and its role is proving decisive in multiple ways: **ensuring food security, creating sustainable and qualified jobs, training young generations in the jobs of the future, adapting territories to climate challenges, and ultimately, stimulating inclusive economic growth.**

More than an alternative, sustainable aquaculture presents itself as a global solution. It allows for a gradual reduction in dependence on imports while preserving natural fisheries resources, currently threatened by overfishing and environmental change. By focusing on innovation and responsible practices, Africa can transform its aquaculture potential into a true driver of food sovereignty and shared prosperity.

Furthermore, this vision of aquaculture development fits perfectly into the dynamic of a positive contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations.

Among the SDGs set at the level of this program, SDG 14 is exclusively dedicated to “ *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development* ”. Beyond SDG 14 and the key role that aquaculture can play in achieving its targets, the aquaculture sector also provides answers to the achievement of several other SDGs, including in particular:



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- ✓ **SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition;**
- ✓ **SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;**
- ✓ **SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;**
- ✓ **SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;**
- ✓ **SDG 12: Establish sustainable consumption and production patterns;**
- ✓ **SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;**
- ✓ **SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development;**

Furthermore, the development of aquaculture is fully in line with the objectives of Agenda 2063, led by the African Union, aimed at transforming Africa through the wise use of its natural resources, in the service of sustainable development and shared prosperity. Indeed, the African Union places aquaculture at the heart of its blue economy strategy, envisioning a sustainable, inclusive and transformative aquaculture sector as an essential pillar of food sovereignty and economic development on the continent. This vision is part of an integrated approach that harmonizes production imperatives with the preservation of aquatic ecosystems, while maximizing social benefits for coastal and continental communities.

In this perspective, the member states of COMHAFAT have formed an African network RAFAQUA which brings together state organizations and public institutions for the development of aquaculture. to meet this urgent need for aquaculture development on an African scale.

This network constitutes a platform for collaboration and sharing, to promote the exchange of expertise and good practices between its members, thus encouraging a collective and united approach to the development of aquaculture.

In this context, and on the occasion of World Food Day, ATLAFCO is organizing, as part of RAFAQUA activities which are part of the new 2025-2027 strategic action plan adopted on April 24, 2025, in Abidjan, at the 11th ordinary session of the Conference of its Ministers, a workshop under the theme "**Food Security through Aquaculture: Sustainability and Regional Synergies**".



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This workshop will provide an opportunity to conduct a well-founded reflection on the implementation of an aquaculture development strategy aligned with sustainable development objectives, taking into account the environment and the economic and social context of the ATLAFCO region. This workshop will also provide an opportunity to formalize a collective commitment to the sustainable development of aquaculture while strengthening synergies between stakeholders and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships capable of generating inclusive growth consistent with national priorities.

II- Objectives of the Workshop

II.1- General objective:

The overall objective of this workshop is to establish a common and shared vision to identify ways and means to promote the development of sustainable aquaculture for a better contribution to the SDGs in the ATLAFCO region. Competitive, sustainable, productive, profitable and equitable aquaculture will be the key words of this workshop to define a global strategy based on the synergy and complementarity of national actors capable of ensuring food security, fighting poverty, preserving the environment and charting a path forward for our future generations.

II.2- Specific objectives:

Specifically, these are:

- Exchange on national strategies and good practices;
- Identify common challenges and avenues for common development;
- Propose priority areas for a regional strategy (training, innovation, financing).

III- Expected results:

- ✓ Priority areas of action and cooperation are identified;
- ✓ An updated strategic roadmap is proposed;
- ✓ Renewal of RAFAQUA bodies: General meeting & election of the new office.

IV- Logistics

The airfare (economy class) and accommodation (hotel) costs of each representative of a Member State as well as invited experts/panelists are covered by ATLAFCO. Also, each participant will receive a per diem from the Executive Secretariat for their living expenses (meals, etc.) according to the scale applied by ATLAFCO.



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For information: logistics, practical and institutional (Visas, etc.), please contact the ATLAFCO Secretariat at the following address:

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Agenda and provisional program of the workshop

Date and time	Program	Speaker
Thursday, October 16, 2025		
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome	
	Welcoming participants and registration	RAFAQUA / ATLAFCO
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome speech & opening of the workshop	
	Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO	ATLAFCO
	Director of the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture (Morocco)	President RAFAQUA
	Representative of the Presidency in office	Guinea
	Presentation of objectives, expectations and progress	ATLAFCO
	Introduction of speakers and participants	Moderator
10:00 - 11:00	Aquaculture Governance and Development - A Cross-View of Member Countries	
	Aquaculture planning: Aquaculture site selection methodology, aquaculture planning process and legal framework.	Morocco
	Côte d'Ivoire's strategy for the development of the aquaculture sector.	Côte d'Ivoire
	For Guinean aquaculture in the service of food security.	Guinea
	Challenges and prospects for aquaculture in ensuring food security.	Ghana
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break	
	Feedback from Member States	
11:30- 12:30	Tilapia farming in Nigeria: strategy and feedback.	Nigeria
	Senegal's initiatives for the development of aquaculture.	Senegal
	Monitoring and management of fish pathologies: issues and good health practices.	Morocco
	Strategic and operational management of a fish farm.	AQUA M'DIQ
	Fish nutrition engineering: feed manufacturing process.	FISH TECH
12:30- 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00- 16:00	Interactive exchange session: African aquaculture as a lever for sustainable food security	
	Group 1: Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone	Moderator 1
	Group 2: Senegal, Cabo verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau	Moderator 2
	Group 3: Mauritania, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Angola	Moderator 3
	Group 4: Nigeria, Liberia, Cameroon, Gabon	Moderator 4
	Group 5: Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo, Namibia	Moderator 5
16:00- 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30- 17:00	Summary of focus groups	

Friday, October 17, 2025



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Visit to aquaculture sites	
9:30	Departure from Tangier to the Tahaddart site
10:00- 12:00	Site visit to the marine hatchery in Tahaddart (under construction). Visit to a land-based marine aquaculture farm project (under installation).
12:30- 14:00	Visit to the Specialized Center for Aquatic Animal Pathology – Tangier Regional Fisheries Research Center
14:45	Lunch Free afternoon
Saturday, October 18, 2025	
9:30- 11:00	Developing a roadmap for the future of marine aquaculture in Africa • Summary of discussions • Proposal of short-, medium- and long-term initiatives. • Development of a joint action plan for the development of marine aquaculture in Africa. Closing and closing remarks: ATLAFCO.
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30- 13:00	RAFAQUA General Assembly
13:15	Lunch