



Transforming Liberia's Fisheries Infrastructure: A Pathway to Blue Ports



National Presentation on the State of Fish Landing Infrastructure and Future Strategies

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Presentation outline

1. **Liberia's Coastal Context:** An overview of our fisheries sector.
2. **Current State of Landing Infrastructure:** A national inventory.
3. **Challenges & Constraints:** Hurdles on the path to sustainability.
4. **National Vision & Port Strategies:** Aligning with Liberia's 2030 goals.
5. **Opportunities & The Path Forward:** Towards a Liberian Blue Port model.
6. **Conclusion & Expectations from the Workshop**



Liberia's Coastal & Fisheries Context


- **Key Message:** Fisheries are vital for food security, livelihoods, and the economy of Liberia.
- **Coastline:** Approximately 570 km, rich in marine biodiversity.
- **Fleet Composition:**
 - Dominated by **artisanal and small-scale fisheries** (over 80% of catch).
 - Growing industrial and semi-industrial sector (primarily foreign trawlers).
- **Socio-economic Importance:**
 - Provides livelihood for over **33,000 fishers** and supports over 200,000 people in associated value chains (processors, traders).
 - Primary source of animal protein for a significant portion of the population.
- **Key Fishing Communities:** Montserrado (West Point, ELWA,) Grand Cape Mount (Robertsport), Grand Bassa (Buchanan), Maryland (Harper)

Current State of Landing Infrastructure (Inventory)




- **Key Message:** Our infrastructure is basic (traditional) and faces significant challenges, presenting a clear opportunity for transformation.
- **Major Ports (Industrial):**
 - **Freeport of Monrovia:** Main hub for industrial vessels. Has basic landing and cold storage, but facilities are aging and shared with commercial shipping.
- **Artisanal Landing Sites:**
 - Numerous designated beaches and villages serve as primary landing points.
 - **Characteristics:**
 - Basic or non-existent infrastructure.
 - Limited to no cold chain or ice-making facilities.
 - Makeshift shelters for fish processing (often smoking).
 - Challenging access during rough seas.
 - Lack of basic sanitation (fresh water, toilets).





Challenges & Constraints

 **Key Message:** We face multiple, interconnected challenges that hinder sustainability.

 **Infrastructure Deficit:**

-  Lack of modern jetties for safe all-weather landing.
-  Insufficient cold storage and ice plants leading to high post-harvest losses (estimated at 20-30%).
-  Poor road access to major markets.

 **Environmental & Climate Risks:**

-  Coastal erosion threatening landing sites and communities.
-  Unpredictable fishing seasons impacting livelihoods.



Challenges & Constraints (Cont'd)



Governance & Management:

- Difficulty in collecting accurate catch data at numerous, dispersed sites.
- Challenges in enforcing regulations and combating IUU fishing.
- Weak coordination between various government agencies.



Social & Sanitary Conditions:

- Poor hygiene and sanitation at landing sites, posing food safety risks.
- Lack of basic amenities for women fish processors and traders.



National Vision & Port Strategies

- **Key Message:** Liberia is committed to reform and modernization, with a vision aligned with the Blue Ports concept.

- **National Policy Framework:**


- Aligned with the Liberia National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy.
- Contribution to the broader national development agenda (ARREST)



Key Strategic Objectives: Integrated Artisanal Fish Landing Sites (IAFS) in Grand Kru and


 Goal: To transform Liberia's artisanal fisheries sector by establishing sustainable, hygienic, and economically viable landing sites.

Strategic Objectives:

 Enhance Food Safety & Quality

 Minimize post-harvest losses and improve fish quality through hygienic handling, cold storage, and proper sanitation facilities.

 Boost Economic Viability & Livelihoods

 Increase market competitiveness and income for fishers, processors (especially women), and traders by providing essential infrastructure (e.g., FTT smoking shelters, market stalls, ice production).

Opportunities & The Path Forward (Towards a Liberian Blue Port)

Technology & Innovation:

- Introduce digital catch documentation and traceability systems.
- Promote energy-efficient technologies (solar, improved fish smokers).
- Explore partnerships for port waste management

Financing:

- Mobilize resources through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and international cooperation (like ATLAFCO and FAO).

Governance & Community:

- Strengthen co-management structures involving local communities (fishing cooperatives, women's groups).
- Integrate the landing site as a service center for the community.
- Strengthen data collection, MCS (Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance), and sanitation at landing points

Specific Needs & Expectations from this Workshop



Capacity Building:

Technical support and training for port managers on Blue Port principles, planning, and operations.



Knowledge Exchange:

Learning from best practices and successful case studies from other ATLAFCO member states.



Partnerships:

Connecting with potential technical and financial partners to support our pilot project.



Roadmap Development:

Seeking guidance on developing a concrete national roadmap for transforming our landing sites, particularly for the artisanal sector.

Conclusion¹¹

📍 Liberia's fisheries are at a crossroads.

🔧 The Blue Ports initiative offers a practical and integrated framework to address our challenges.

🤝 We are eager to collaborate with ATLAFCO, FAO, and regional partners to transform our basic landing sites into sustainable, productive, and inclusive hubs that benefit our coastal communities and contribute to the blue economy.

THANKS FOR LISTENING

