



**MANAGEMENT OF SMALL PALEGIC FISHERY IN
THE GAMBIA**

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

AND

**NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR
THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL PELAGIC
RESOURCES**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as “the **Memorandum**”) is made on the 27th day of June, 2011 between:

The Fisheries Department, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (MoFWRNAM) represented by the Director,

AND

The National Consultative Committee for the management of small pelagic fish resources, in The Gambia (NCC) represented by the Chairman.

The MoFWRNAM through the Department of Fisheries (DoFish) is responsible for the sustainable management of the fisheries sector of The Gambia.

AND

NCC, a consultative committee on the conservation and management of small pelagic fish resources in the Gambia.

INTRODUCTION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1) INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding Signed (MOU) sets out the terms on which the National Consultative Committee for the management of small pelagic fish resource participate in the conservation and management of this resource; providing the necessary platform for consultation for their sustainable and rational utilization contributing to food security, poverty alleviation and employment creation; provide data and information to the Fisheries Department to enable it prepare comprehensive management plans for small pelagic fishery.

This MOU is signed and dated at the Department of Fisheries on 27th June, 2011.

Between

The Fisheries Department representing the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (hereinafter referred to as “**the Administration**”) represented for the purpose of signing this Memorandum by the Director, Department of Fisheries

And

The NCC (hereinafter referred to as ‘**the Partner**’) represented for the purpose of signing this Memorandum by the chairman for the NCC.

2) PREMEABLE

The project "Towards regional policies for sustainable fisheries for small pelagic in Northwest Africa", being implemented by the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), aims to support processes leading to coordinated policies and management of the small pelagic fisheries between countries bordering the Canary Current upwelling system; Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia. The species concerned are: sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*), sardinella (*Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella maderensis*), horse mackerel (*Trachurus trecae*, *Trachurus trachurus* and *Caranx rhonchus*), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), bonga (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*).

The project focuses basically on strengthening the institutions and instruments of cooperation for the joint management of these shared stocks between the three countries of the SRFC; Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia and Kingdom of Morocco. The first step in the process is to support the establishment of a consultation framework at national level ultimately for improved management of small pelagic and established and strengthened co-management practices. This led to the identification of seven fishing villages (Banjul, Bakau, Old Jeshwang, Tanji, Sanyang, Gunjur and Kartong) as small pelagic fish landing sites and the establishment of local co-management committees in each of them to assist the fisheries authorities with conservation and management of the small pelagic fish resources. A National Advisory Committee was later constituted comprising of all stakeholders.

The purpose of the establishment of a consultative framework is to support the formulation, preparation and implementation management plans for the small pelagic fisheries both at national and at regional level with the support of the SRFC.

For the accomplishment of the objectives of the National Consultative Committee for the management of small pelagic resources in The Gambia and participate on the same subject at regional level, both parties to the Agreement shall:

Article 1: Objective

Strive to conserve and protect small pelagic fish resources contributing to food security needs of the Gambia and poverty alleviation through employment generation and improved earnings.

Article 2: Obligation of both parties

2.1 The MoFWR&NAM Shall, through the Fisheries Department

- Make regulations to empower the National Consultative Committee and its Local Consultative Committees (LCC) to participate in the conservation and management of the small pelagic resources.
- Provide training to the National Consultative Committee and its Local Committees in the sustainable and rational utilization of pelagic fish
- Act as a catalyst in the process of lifting any constraints the NCC and LCC have in the collection, generation and processing of data required for the development of fisheries database
- Facilitate information flow regarding conservation and management of small pelagic fish
- Supervise the Project's impact assessment and facilitate its dissemination to the stakeholders
- Coordinate activities under this agreement, for acceptance and approval of reports and other deliverables

2.2 National Committee shall, by itself or through it Local Committees:

- Diligently promote principles of co-management while respecting its mandate
- Participate in the conservation and management of small pelagic fish resources
- Coordinate the implementation of any conservation and management decisions in partnership with state and non-state stakeholders in/around identified small pelagic fish landing sites
- Bring up for discussions issues impeding sustainable and rational utilization of the small pelagic fish stocks
- In consultation with Fisheries Department prepare work plans
- Participate in the training workshops on sustainable exploitation, conservation, management and development of small pelagic fisheries
- Provide information on infringement, IUU, catch and effort data on the small pelagic fishery.

Article 3: COMMITMENT

This MOU voluntarily commits the National Consultative Committee and its Local Committees on the conservation and Management of small pelagic fish resources to participate in the sustainable and rational utilization of small pelagic fish in the Gambia; provide information on issues affecting sustainable fishery and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems, example Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing activities.

Article 4: DURATION AND VALIDITY OF THE MOU

This MOU will come into effect on the day of its signing. It is intended to establish continuous collaboration between the National Committee and the Fisheries Department and shall be indefinite duration, unless and until one or both partners wish to terminate the understanding. In such an eventuality, the matter has to be discussed at a meeting of the Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Article 5: AMENDMENT

- (i) The Parties may amend this MOU at any time in writing and by mutual consent. Any amendment becomes part of this MOU.
- (ii) The Memorandum may be amended by written agreement between the National Advisory Committee and Fisheries Department

Article 6: NOTICE

- (i) Any notice under this MOU shall be in writing to the Director, Fisheries Department.

Article 7: LEGAL LIABILITY

- (ii) While this MOU does not constitute or establish a legally binding agreement, the Parties confirm that this MOU reflects their mutual desire to work cooperatively to address the challenges posed by unsustainable exploitation of small pelagic fisheries.
- (iii) For greater clarity, the Fisheries Department has the right to regulate any and all subjects within the government's purview, and will do so if it deems necessary

In witness thereof, the parties hereto, acting through their authorized representative, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date first stated above, in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia

The MOU is in two (2) specimens signed by

For:
Fisheries Department

For:
National Consultative Committee

Director
Banjul

Chairman