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**Long term trends in the exploitation of fisheries resources off Morocco**

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**Abstract**

Off Morocco, the exploitation of the pelagic fisheries developed from 1950s successively from North to South. The pelagic fisheries were created at the beginning of the XX-Th century by and for the industry and particularly for the export of canned products of sardine. It dominated very widely the Moroccan fishery activities in the landings and its implications on the related industries and the employment generated both in sea and in ground.

In opposite, the demersal fisheries, was characterised by the passage of a small scale until the 70s and the exploitation of the coastal zones while offshore zone was the object of direct extraction by the foreign industrial and powerful fleets.

The development phase of the various fisheries became a reality from 1973 through state intervention and the development of co-operation agreements with fishing countries in order to implement a national fleet and the development of infrastructures of reception and valorisation of the landings. Fishing over- capacity and/or the over-investment occurred in some fisheries and led, mainly during the last decade, the state to set up measures for their conservation and management.

In their document, the authors describe and comment on the causes and effects of the change within the major fisheries, give the consequences of fishing capacities development and the impact of the adopted strategies on the resources exploited. They underline the changes noticed at the level of the fisheries and at the ecosystem of the Moroccan EEZ. They conclude with the state of stocks and the management measures taken for the protection and the sustainable exploitation of these resources, which play a vital socio-economic role for Morocco.

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