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**Decision making under constraints:  
managing fisheries in West Africa, with emphasis on Ghana**

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**Abstract**

This paper presents the current state of West African fisheries, with particular reference to Ghana’s fisheries. It provides reasons for the current condition of fisheries in the region. In particular, it demonstrates that as a results of changes in global fisheries management regimes, fish trade and marketing, Ghana’s potential role as a regional fishing nation in West Africa has been almost completely eliminated, resulting in devastating ecological and socio-economic consequences. The paper concludes with suggestions on how to brighten the future of Ghana’s fisheries. The recently promulgated new fisheries law of Ghana appears to be comprehensive enough to tackle many of the problems, but as always the real test lies in its implementation.

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