

Powerpoint Presentations given at the symposium on “*Marine fisheries, ecosystems, and societies in West Africa: half a century of change*”,  
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## **The Portuguese Industrial Fisheries in Northwest Africa during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

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### **Abstract**

The Portuguese historical time series on catch and effort is analysed in order to describe the evolution of Portuguese industrial fisheries in Northwest Africa since its inception, considering changes over time and space. The beginning of industrial fishing in Northwest Africa was traced to 1910 with the introduction of steam-powered trawlers and the fisheries have undergone considerable changes during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, having contributed significantly in terms of landings and economic value in the past. A general description is given of the fleet, fishing practices, target species and fishing grounds as well as catch per unit of effort in historic terms based on recently revised data. Historically, Cape Blanc was the main traditional fishing ground, but this has changed considerably over time. In recent years, the Portuguese have concentrated on fishing grounds further offshore or in international waters with target species such as scabbardfish, hake, and tuna. Also, a trawl fishery for shrimp was initiated in Guinea-Bissau in the late 80s.