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**Changing markets for West African fish and fish products:
some ecological and human consequences**

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Abstract

This paper begins by describing the state of markets for West African fish and fish products from 1950 to the present. It then proceeds to explore the following two broad questions: Where were fish caught in West African waters sold in 1950, and where are they sold now? What are the trends in fish exports out of this region of Africa in the past fifty years? Next, the paper identifies the consequences of recent developments in the markets for West African fish in terms of meeting the social and economic needs of the region, on the one hand, and the need for the conservation of the fishery resources, on the other. In particular, the economic, social and ecological effects of recent fishing agreements between the European Union and West African countries will be analyzed. More specifically, we will explore the nature of these agreements and how they affect economic and social developments in the region.

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