

International Symposium on “*Marine fisheries, ecosystems, and societies in West Africa: half a century of change*,” Dakar, Senegal, June 26 – 28 2002

Session on “*Development of the fisheries and their catches*,” Wednesday, June 26 2002.

Mapping fisheries catches and related indices of West Africa: 1950 to present

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Abstract

A new approach will be presented which allows broad regional landing statistics from FAO and other sources to be examined as detailed catch maps using available knowledge of the distribution of commercial species and historical records of fishing access arrangements. Results from this mapping procedure (SimMap) are being used to examine trends in biomass, catch value, interactions with marine mammals, anomalies in statistical reporting etc. Through these procedures, catches can be related to current exclusive economic zone boundaries and to the areas represented by ecological models (such as EcoSpace), facilitating better use of landing statistics in economic, ecological and other analysis.

Results will be presented as time series compositions and as regional maps detailing changes since 1950 to the present.

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