

Fish forever?

“Ba Kagne” overexploitation of young fish in West Africa

Conservation Cinema No. 417

Background:

This film sets out the urgent measures that are needed to protect fish stocks and livelihoods in West Africa. It was produced by the Senegalese NGO Océanium which has been protecting marine resources for more than 20 years, in partnership with the WWF West African Eco-region.

It is aimed at the small-scale fishermen operating in the region, describing the adverse effects of over-fishing of juvenile fish. The producers want to bring about a change in attitudes, reverse the unsustainable practices and secure a future for the local fisheries. Explanations are given about species with long breeding cycles (using sharks as an example) for which it is important to allow longer periods for stocks to recover. A short history of fishing in Senegal tracks the ever-faster decline in natural resources and the harmful practices behind it which include fishing during breeding seasons, the use of destructive fishing gear, non-selective fishing, and lack of enforcement of regulations.

A set of urgent recommendations is set out with a view to encouraging fishermen to adopt responsible fishing such as observing closed seasons during breeding, limiting catches to adult fish, banning beach nets, creating marine protected areas to be managed by the local populations and limiting access to resources.

Produced by OCEANIUM / WWF WAMER, 2003, French, 10 min.

Where:

9 October 11:15-11:50

Materials for the media:

www.oceanium.org

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