

**For immediate release:**

**Cine N°426**

**"Hellish fishing" Overexploitation of fishing stocks in West Africa**

**Background:**

This film directed by Vincent Bruno and produced jointly with the Senegalese Fishing Federations starts with an alarming statement « European seas have become fish-impoverished» due to over-fishing. Most of the fish sold in Europe comes from the West African market. This documentary, which is filmed in survey format, highlights the consequences of free trade between the North and the South in the area of fisheries.

The situation in Senegal is given as an illustration of the effects created by market economy laws:

- Overexploitation of fisheries resources in West Africa,
- Unfair competition between foreign industrial fisheries and West African artisanal fisheries,
- Local production adversely affected by subsidies paid to European producers (i.e. chicken),
- Rising local fish prices caused by the increasing scarcity of the resource,
- Export of the most sought-after fish to Europe (i.e. grouper),
- Pressure stemming from North-South fishing agreements,

This organised « looting » of fisheries resources seriously exacerbates the poverty of African populations which depend directly on the fishing sector and derive no benefit whatsoever from political agreements.

Directed by V. Bruno, Fédérations pêche Sénégal 2006, French, 23 min

**When and Where:**

08 th October 2008 - 17:15 - 17:40

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Commission Sous régionale des Pêches, Afrique de l'Ouest | Language FRA

**Materials for the Media:**

See in attached

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