



Mauritania SFPA



Funded under EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.
A consortium of 21 partners from 12 countries and 16 reference group members representing other countries and international organisations.

54 months duration: June 2017 - November 2021

Work programme topic addressed:
H2020-SFS-21-2016: Advancing basic biological knowledge and improving management tools for commercially important fish and other seafood species

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Mauritania SFPA

The current four-year Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) entered into force on 16 November 2015. It was signed for a duration of 4 years but it has been extended twice, each time for a duration of one additional year, until 15 November 2021.

Under the protocol, the EU fleet is allowed to fish in Mauritanian waters for shrimp, demersal fish, tuna and small pelagic fish, up to a total of 287,050 tonnes a year, under improved operational conditions. In addition to the fees paid by the European fleet (tonnage fees and para-fiscal taxes), the EU pays a financial contribution of €61.625 million per year for this partnership, comprising €57.5 million for the access to waters and €4.125 million for supporting local fishing communities in Mauritania and improving fisheries governance.

Main features of Mauritania SFPA

Duration of the Agreement	6 years renewable (20.11.2006–29.11.2012; 30.11.2012-29.11.2018)
Duration of the Protocol	4 years (from 16.11.2015 to 15.11.2019), extended twice for one year (from 16.11.2019 to 15.11.2020) and from 16.11.2020 to 15.11.2021
Nature of the FPA	Multi-species agreement
Financial contribution	€61.625 million/year, of which €4.125 million/year to support the fisheries sector.
Fees and advances for ship owners	<p>Category 1 — €400/t, annual advance fee of €1,000</p> <p>Category 2 — €90/t, annual advance fee of €1,000</p> <p>Category 2 bis — Black hake: €70/t, squid: €575/t, cuttlefish: €250/t and €90/t for by-catches; annual advance fee of €1,000</p> <p>Category 3 — €105/t, annual advance fee of €1,000</p> <p>Category 4 — Tuna seiners €60/t in the 1st and 2nd years; €65/t in the 3rd year; €70/t in the 4th year/. Annual flat-rate advance fee of €1,750/vessel.</p> <p>Category 5 — €60/t in the 1st and 2nd years; €65/t in the 3rd year; €70/t in the 4th year. Annual flat-rate advance fee of €2,500/pole-and-line vessel and of €3,500/surface long-liner.</p> <p>Category 6 — €123/t, annual advance fee of €5,000/vessel deducted from total fee due.</p>

Source: European Commission

Fishing opportunities

For Categories 1 to 5, the main EU fleet is the Spanish fleet, having the highest allowed quota for each of those categories. In some cases, as for Categories 2, 2bis and 3, the Spanish fleet is the only EU flagged fleet that is allowed to fish in the Mauritanian EEZ, with 6 vessels at a time and a TAC of 6,000t for Categories 2 and 3, and 3,000t for Category 2bis. Category 1 is shared between Spain, Italy and Portugal, being able to have between the three of them 25 vessels operating at the same time, and a TAC of 5,000t.

When it comes to the freezer trawlers, the situation changes as Spain, Italy and Portugal have no quota allocated. The 231,500t of TAC for Cat. 6 is shared between France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and the UK, with the Netherlands, Latvia and Lithuania having the highest allowed catch. In the case of Cat. 7, the 15,000t of TAC belongs to the Irish fleet.



Photos: Shutterstock.com

- Category 1: crustaceans (other than spiny lobster and crab)
- Category 2: black hake
- Category 2bis: black hake (freezer) trawlers
- Category 3: demersal species (other than black hake with gear other than trawls)
- Category 4: tuna seiners
- Category 5: pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners
- Category 6: pelagic freezer trawlers
- Category 7: non-pelagic freezer trawlers

Main target species

The Protocol provides for fishing opportunities for eight different categories out of the nine existent in the SFPAs. Category 8 (cephalopods) is the only one without fishing opportunities granted under the current protocol.

The main species targeted by the EU fleet in the Mauritanian EEZ are small pelagics, with a reference tonnage of 225,000t under Cat. 6, and 15,000t under Cat. 7; and tuna, with a reference tonnage of 12,500 under Cat. 4 and 7,500 under Cat. 5.

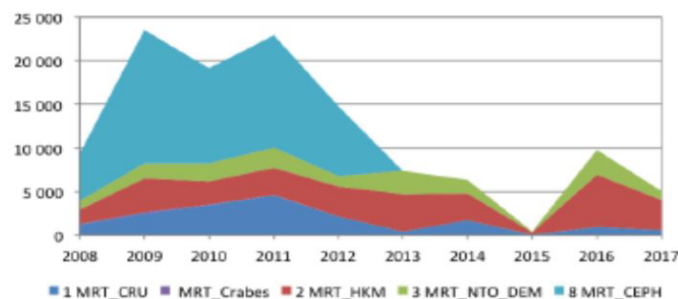
Landings by foreign operators

All catches by EU vessels are landed or transhipped in Mauritania. The small pelagics are transhipped to Gulf of Guinea countries (Nigeria and Ivory Coast in particular) as well as to Russia and neighbouring countries. Demersal species enter into the distribution cycle of the Spanish market.

From 2007 to 2013, industrial fishing represented between 85% and 90% of total reported catch by artisanal and industrial activities (1 million tonnes in 2012). About 90% of industrial catches were small pelagics of which 30% caught by EU vessels. In 2016, industrial catches reached 740,000 tonnes, according to national sources.

Catches

Demersal categories



Source: Fisheries in Mauritania and the Eu, Megapesca, 2018

Pelagic categories

According to the FITI report published in 2021, in 2018 there is an estimation of 1,145,000t of pelagic species caught by industrial vessels with foreign flags. This amount doesn't include the catches by the ICCAT vessels. The estimations per EU Flag is as follows:

- Spain: 16,895t
- Latvia: 48,858t
- Germany: 16,401t
- Netherlands: 15,375t
- Greece: 45t

Other fisheries agreements

Country	Signature of the fisheries agreements	Signing of the Implementing Protocol currently in force
Japan Tuna	2016	2018
Senegal	2001	Not renewed in 2018

Source: FITI report on Mauritania (2021)

Mauritania has as well private agreements for the fishing of tuna and other pelagic species with private vessels (other than those from the EU and Japan Tuna), that need to renew their licenses on a yearly basis.



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