



SADC FISHERIES PROGRAMME

TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION OF THE AQUATIC
FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE SADC REGION



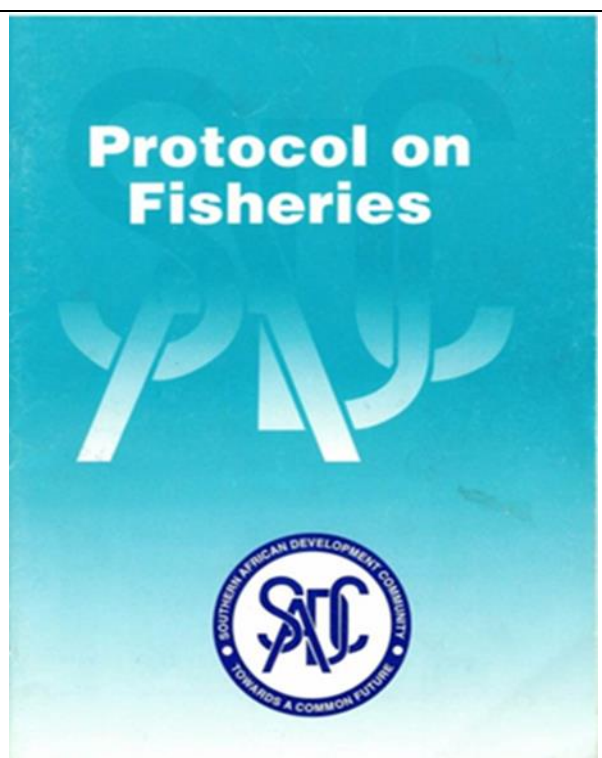
SADC FISHERIES QUARTERLY UPDATE, VOLUME 1, NO. 1, JUNE 2023

SADC PROTOCOL ON FISHERIES

FOCUS ON THE SADC FISHERIES MONITORING
CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE COORDINATION
CENTRE (MCSCC)

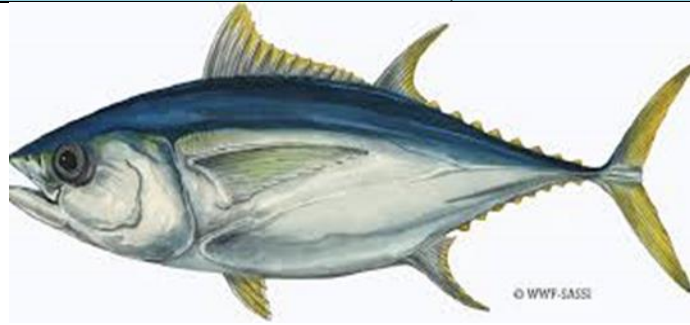
The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is currently composed of 16 Member States, namely: Angola, Botswana, Union of Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SADC Vision is **‘one of a common future, a future in a Regional Community that will ensure economic wellbeing, improvement of the standards of living and quality of life, freedom and social justice and peace and security for the peoples of Southern Africa’**.

The fisheries sector in SADC countries, comprising marine and inland capture fisheries and aquaculture, generates a variety of benefits, including nutrition and food security, livelihoods, employment, exports and foreign currency and conservation and biodiversity values that are of global significance.



In order to optimize benefits from fisheries and aquaculture SADC Heads of State in 2001 endorsed the **SADC Protocol on Fisheries**. The Protocol aims to promote responsible and sustainable use of the living aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems of interest to State Parties, in order to (i) promote and enhance food security and human health, (ii) safeguard the livelihood of fishing communities, (iii) generate economic opportunities for nationals in the region, (iv) ensure that future generations benefit from these renewable resources; and (v) alleviate poverty with the ultimate objective of its eradication.

Fish in Focus: Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)



Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) are relatively long-lived, migratory fish found in open waters that often form mixed schools with other species of tuna. It is highly valued for sashimi and therefore often served in restaurants. Atlantic Ocean yellowfin tuna (managed by the International Convention for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), are considered overfished as

biomass is below sustainable levels. Angola, Namibia and South Africa are Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention. Fishing pressure is currently at sustainable levels but there are concerns that it is increasing to levels that are not sustainable. Whereas the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna is considered to be overexploited and undergoing overfishing as fishing pressure is above sustainable levels. Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania are Contracting Parties to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), which manages Indian Ocean tunas and tuna-like species.

In 2015, The IOTC declared yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) overfished, sparking years of hectic negotiations centered on setting catch quotas and regulating destructive fishing gear like fish aggregating devices (FADs). The IOTC had flagged FAD fishing as a threat to tuna populations, including bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) that are caught alongside yellowfin tuna.






Tuna are integral parts of the entire marine ecosystem and our goal is for populations to be healthy and well-managed. We work with our partners and the Regional Fisheries Advisory Bodies (RFABs) to support our Member State governments and regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to advocate for stricter plans to recover depleted tuna stocks, combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and reduce bycatch.

The Protocol on Fisheries (2001) recognizes RFABs and RFMOs as Appendix 2 organizations, and this requires closer collaboration between these organisations and SADC. Through the Memorandum of Agreement with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), SADC collaborates with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), which is an RFBA in the Indian Ocean. Majority of State Parties to the SWIOFC Agreement are Members of SADC, and these includes Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. The role that SWIOFC is playing towards implementation of the Protocol is very important, hence a need to strengthen relations between the two organizations.

One of the key areas recently identified for cooperation between SWIOFC and SADC is the regional mechanism to strengthen fisheries monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) in the fight against IUU fishing. Hence, the SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) in Maputo, Mozambique has been earmarked in the implementation of this cooperation, which mainly focuses on Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTCs) for access to fishing with focus on MCS.

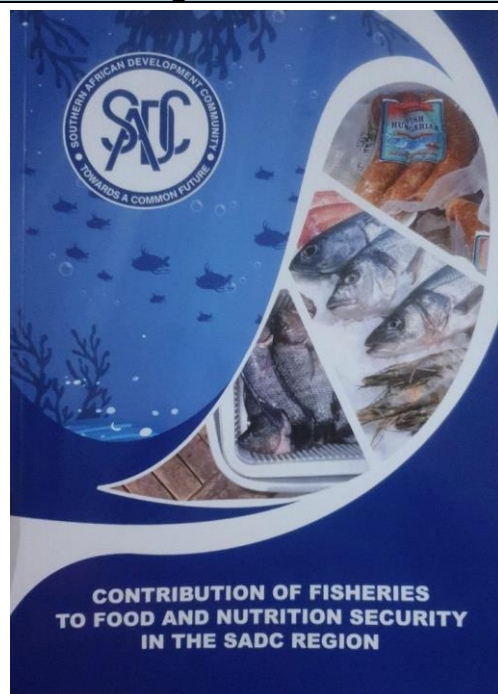
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FISH FACT 1: SADC Fisheries in Numbers

	<p>3.7 million Total tonnage of capture fish production in SADC (2022)</p>
	<p>101,000 tons (fish) & 120,000 tons (aquatic plants) Total tonnage of fish produced from aquaculture in SADC (2022)</p>
	<p>3,5% Percentage contribution of fisheries to regional GDP</p>
	<p>~ 3.5 million Total number people employed in the SADC fisheries sector</p>
	<p>~12 kg/annum Per capita fish consumption in the SADC region</p>

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FISH FACT 2: Contribution of fish to food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic growth in SADC



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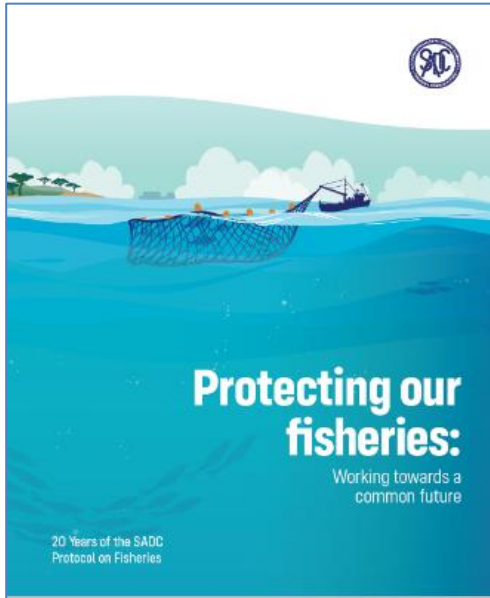
FISH = FOOD + LIVELIHOODS + TRADE

Fisheries sector contributes to national food and nutritional security, employment and livelihoods, and economic needs of all SADC countries. However, each fish species has different potential value and benefits.

For example, fish cheap in monetary value but high in volume, such as dagaa or sardines are essential for food and nutrition for many of SADC's poorest people. Fish is more nutritious than a lot of staple foods, providing in particular essential fatty acids and micronutrients, and play an extremely important role in improving the nutritional status of individuals, in particular those at risk such as children and women.

While high value species, such as lobster or yellowfin tuna, may hardly be eaten locally contributing little to national food security but contributing significantly to employment in processing and packaging and to export earnings.

What threatens our fisheries?



As our understanding and appreciation of the diverse benefits that fisheries provide grows, so does our concern to protect the future of our fisheries from growing pressures and threats. Over the last two decades SADC governments have worked to develop, implement, and improve their fisheries management systems, guided by the 2001 SADC Protocol on Fisheries. Key issues that the region has been addressing, include: controlling overfishing, illegal fishing and by-catch to rebuild fish stocks; the joint management of shared marine and lake resources; harmonising legislation, reducing overcapacity; protection of the aquatic environment by applying appropriate conservation and management measures; and fighting IUU fishing through improved capacity and coordination in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS).

However, the challenges that fisheries are facing are rapidly evolving, the threats are not the same as those faced in the 1990's when the Protocol on Fisheries was negotiated. Today, however strong national fisheries management is — external threats that fisheries managers and fisheries decision makers are not in control of — are having enormous and negative impacts on the region's fisheries. These impacts have the potential to undermine the sustainability of fisheries ecosystems, the social-economic benefits they provide, and possibly of greatest concern, stop us from fully realising the benefits from fisheries resources for the benefit of SADC citizens.

While we must continue with traditional management approaches and strengthen regional cooperation in areas such as managing fishing effort and monitoring catches, we must also work to improve our understanding of the complex external threats that are impacting on the sustainability of fisheries. Here are five of these threats with regional reach and impact:

- 1. Growing demand:** A major challenge to the region is the increasing human population. This is resulting in an increase in demand on stretched food and nutrition resources, an increase in demand for jobs and income, and an increase in demand for governments to provide more services, such as schooling and health care.
- 2. Climate change:** Human activity that results in climate change and an increase in natural disasters is having a slow but potentially highly threatening impact on fisheries in the region. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the frequency and intensity of these natural disasters will keep increasing with global warming. The economic impact of climate change is predicted to cost African governments up to three percent of their GDP each year by 2030.
- 3. Harmful subsidies:** In all SADC countries foreign fisheries investors and operators work, some in a win-win manner that helps to develop and grow the fisheries with mutual and fairly distributed benefits between locals and foreigners, while others are working with unfair advantages that serve to undermine the potential benefits from SADC fisheries.

4. **Blue expectations:** The contribution of oceans and inland waters to peoples' lives has been globally and formally acknowledged since the formation of the global sustainable development dialogue, but it was at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, that the concept of blue economy emerged as a central theme.
5. **Illegal fishing:** IUU fishing relates to fishing that is in contravention of national or international fisheries laws. It is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries and concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilisation of fish.

Fisheries management decision makers will not be able to manage these threats alone: a regionally integrated approach is required, with cooperation and collaboration and mainstreaming of fisheries into the blue economy/growth framework of the region, and addressing key sectoral cross-cutting blue economy issues (R&D, capacity building, environmental management), and as a regional sectoral specific priority, strengthen cooperation and collaboration in fisheries MCS.

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Update on the Status of establishment of the SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC)



The **Charter Establishing the SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Centre (MCSCC)** entered into force on **8th April 2023**, following signature by Botswana on **9th March 2023**. The MCSCC offices based at the **Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP) in Maputo, Mozambique** were officially opened by the **Minister of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries of Mozambique, Honourable Dr Lidia Cardoso** on **20th April 2023**. In attendance was representatives from Member States (Mozambique, Namibia and Seychelles), the SADC Secretariat delegation led by **Mr. Domingos Gove, Director FANR**, and development partners, mainly the **World Wide Fund for nature (WWF)**.



WWF is implementing an MCS component of the PROFISHBLUE project of SADC, of which one of the activities is to provide equipment for fishing vessel tracking, and these were already purchased and installed in the MCSCC offices. These equipment include furniture, IT equipment and TV monitors for vessel tracking and information exchange between Member States in real time (SeaVision and Basecamp).

The operationalisation of the MCSCC is a turning point for which the SADC countries and relevant actors have been getting ready for the last decade. It gives green light to the Government of the Republic of Mozambique to lay the foundation stone of the physical MCSCC Centre in Katembe, Maputo where the land has already been secured. Official documentation for the land was handed over to the Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries on Friday **21st April 2023** by the **District Municipality of Katembe**. The second phase which involves construction of the new dedicated MCSCC building in Katembe is funded by the World Bank, and launching of the tender for construction will be done in **June 2023**.

During the **Joint Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Food Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture** held virtually on the **19th May 2023**, the **MCSCC Branding Strategy** as well as the **MCSCC Web Portal** were approved. On the **5th of June** annually, we commemorate the **International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing**, and this year, we used this occasion to share with about 82 participants of a Webinar titled **“SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC)- The Journey 2008-2023”**, the journey we travelled, highlighted the next steps and the journey ahead. We also used this occasion to launch the newly approved MCSCC Web Portal, available on this link: <https://sadcmcsc.org/>.



Welcome to the SADC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (MCSCC)



Our Mission

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a threat to us all. It leads to unfair competition and global losses of between USD 10 and 23.5 billion annually.

The SADC MCSCC is a joint effort of member states to curb IUU fishing in the southwest Indian Ocean. Through the systematic sharing of information on licensed and flagged vessels in the region, including information for lakes bordered by several countries, the MCSCC will create a comprehensive database of vessels, their operators and agents, accessible to all member states, that can support decision-making and enforcement. Together, we will combat IUU fishing, protect small-scale fisheries and secure livelihoods for millions of people living in the region.

Declining fish stocks put the coastal and



For our sector, this is a huge milestone, as this is a decision coming as far as **2008** when Ministers responsible for Fisheries signed the **Statement of Commitment to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing** in the SADC region. The Statement culminated

into the Charter, which was approved in **August 2017**, and since then we have been working very hard to get Member States to sign the Charter. On the **11th July 2023**, the 12th Member State, Seychelles will become a State Party to the Charter, and this also affords us an opportunity to continue celebrating this milestone, as Seychelles is one of the main fishing nations in the region, where the sector actually drives the economy of the country, second only to tourism.

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The SADC Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC)



The MCSCC coordinates regional fisheries MCS data and information sharing services, including a regional fishing vessel register and monitoring system; provision of regional fisheries surveillance, observer coordination and port State measures support services; provision of fisheries law enforcement and legal support services; and help to support improvements in the capacity of national MCS systems. This logo type was approved by Ministers responsible for Fisheries on 09 May 2023



The MCSCC will help us to:

- Use our fisheries resources sustainably
- Stop IUU fishing
- Implement our policies
- Generate wealth from our fisheries

The MCSCC will benefit the SADC region:

- Enhance food security.
- Generate economic opportunities.
- Alleviate poverty.
- Protect biodiversity and the environment.
- Cooperate and share information.
- Coordinate and share MCS assets.
- Reduce costs and increase effectiveness.
- Agree MCS procedures.
- Develop common operational standards for fisheries MCS.
- Operate efficiently.
- Harmonise conditions of access, licensing and operations of foreign fishing vessels.
- Unite to ensure regional equity.

The MCSCC will help achieve sustainable development goals

SDG 1	SDG 2	SDG 8	SDG 12	SDG 14	SDG 16	SDG 17
No poverty	Zero hunger	Decent work and economic growth	Responsible consumption and production	Life below water	Peace, justice and strong institutions	Partnership for the goals

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Key documents guiding the work of the MCSCC



SADC REGIONAL FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) STRATEGY

2021 – 2030

Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) is a fundamental pillar of sustainable resource utilization. The countries of SADC face significant challenges in launching effective MCS to support fisheries management. The reasons for this are well documented, but two significant reasons are a lack of funding and suitably skilled persons. SADC Secretariat was mandated by Member States to pursue a regional strategy to MCS. The strategy was approved by Ministers responsible for Fisheries in May 2021. This has the potential to realize the many benefits which logically follow from a united approach based on collaborative action, including, for example, information and resource sharing.

The overall goal of the MCS strategy is the strengthening of compliance and enforcement throughout the regional MCS framework so that fisheries of the region are sustainably managed, and the reduction of IUU fishing is achieved in all SADC countries through enhanced MCS programs.



Transparency of Selected Inland and Marine Fisheries Management Systems in the SADC and East African Region



The SADC Protocol on Fisheries (2001) encourages the exchange of information and provides for the enhanced participation of internal and external stakeholders in the management of fisheries resources in the region

The MCSCC seeks to establish a mechanism for effective exchange of fisheries related information within the SADC region. It is through a study on “Transparency of Selected Inland and Marine Fisheries Management Systems in the SADC and East African region” (SADC, 2022). The MCSCC established a baseline on fisheries data sharing to the public domain, a baseline on fisheries data sharing between parties (such as country to country, country to RFMO, country to RFBs or international fisheries bodies), and identified stakeholders with a legitimate role in implementing fisheries transparency. This is very important as transparency has been identified as a powerful tool to combat IUU fishing.



**CODE FOR HARMONIZED FISHERIES
MONITORING, CONTROL AND
SURVEILLANCE (MCS) DATA AND
INFORMATION SHARING THROUGH THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES MCS
COORDINATION CENTRE (MCSCC)**

Approved by the Joint Meeting of SADC Ministers of Agriculture and Food
Security, Fisheries and Aquaculture in Lilongwe, Malawi, 13 May 2022

The objective of this Code is to promote the collection, pooling, exchanging and sharing of fisheries data and information between SADC Members States which are party to this Code, through Regional MCSCC and between the Regional MCSCC Secretariat and relevant RFMO/RFB, or any Non-SADC participating States in accordance with the confidentiality provisions.

A data sharing Code will be one of the key operational and administrative aspects of the MCSCC to facilitate the sharing of data such as: fishing license lists, surveillance reports and data, vessel monitoring system (VMS) data, observer data, fishing vessel logbook, information on fishing vessel violation history, fishing vessel access agreements and license conditions. The Code, will support achievement of the following outcomes: (i) By the end of 2025, SADC region have stronger capacity and are more effectively acting to end illegal fishing and fisheries crime in the region

through exchange of fisheries data and information provided by Member States (MSs); and (ii) By the end of 2023, the “Fisheries MCS Data and Information Sharing” is established as a priority service of the SADC MCSCC.



**SADC MCSCC
Basecamp Manual**



Basecamp is an interactive project management package that the SADC MCSCC Task Force is using as a forum for communication, to share information and improve cooperation.

Basecamp allows Member States MCS Focal Points to each have a user profile that may contain information about them such as contact details. It allows them to send messages, make up task lists and exchange files. It protects the information and messages they place there in a secure structure that only participants with invited and password protected entry can access. In effect it creates a virtual office where Member States Focal Points are all in the same building.

Basecamp is set up to provide a platform for information sharing, discussion, operational planning, and requests for support. It also provides a means to communicate and plan all Task Force activities, such as workshops and meetings, and to act as a searchable archive for manuals, photos, technical studies and other

components of the ‘toolbox’.

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE

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