

THE FISHY FISH

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TEMA EPISODE – 2002/03

- ▶ TESCOOD decided to nose around frozen fish business in Ghana.
- ▶ A cold room hired in Tema, using a covered business name for the operation.
- ▶ The cold room was initially stocked with 2,200 ctns./20kg frozen fish purchased from middlemen.
- ▶ We lost 20% of our initial capital as we had to reduce prices to stay in competition.

TEMA EPISODE cntd.

- ▶ Imported frozen fish into Ghana mainly came from Namibia(pelagics), Mauritania and Senegal (pelagics/demersals), Canary Islands (bleached demersals).
- ▶ Some fish traders had tax waivers through “ways and means” from the authorities so they could afford to sell their stuff at lower prices.
- ▶ Travelled to Senegal and Mauritania to find out on prices.

TEMA EPISODE cntd.

- ▶ Prices of the commodity in these countries were high – difficult to make profits in Ghana.
- ▶ Went back to buying from middlemen making very slim profits and sometimes losses.
- ▶ With time it was clear that besides imports some licensed pair trawlers of Chinese origin landed catches from Sierra-Leonean and Ghanaian waters.
- ▶ Catches from these vessels were graded on board with Grade “A” fish transferred to reefer vessels destined for the Canary Islands.

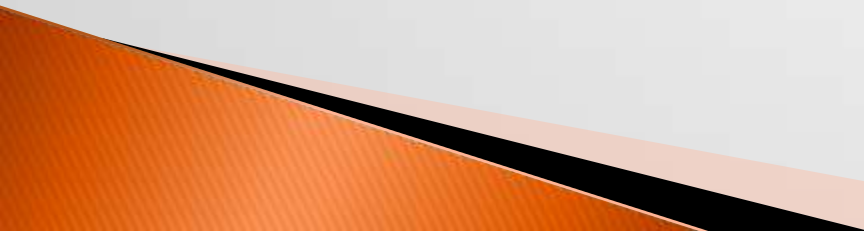
TEMA EPISODE cntd.

- ▶ Lower grades were sold to fish traders in Tema.
- ▶ As a trader - access to the harbour was guaranteed.
- ▶ Had a first contact with pair trawlers and it was a good opportunity for us to do some documentation on camera.
- ▶ Risky – taking pictures at the port prohibited.

TEMA EPISODE

- ▶ Capturing the discharge (IUU fish) process on video was interesting but we run out off luck on the second attempt.
- ▶ We got our camera seized and we had to use “ways and means” to avoid prosecution.
- ▶ We also closed up the business to prevent exposure and other related problems.

SOME QUESTIONS - TEMA EPISODE

- ▶ On what grounds were some fish traders given tax waivers by the Minister of Fisheries?
 - ▶ How come catches from Sierra-Leone were labelled as Ghanaian products?
 - ▶ Why do pair trawlers/other industrial vessels of foreign origin operated from Ghanaian bases/waters when there was/is a ban placed on their operations?
 - ▶ What are the authorities doing/saying?
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Practice of pair trawling by foreign vessels



• Gladys Asmah — Minister of Fisheries.

NAVY CAN'T COPE



• Rear Admiral A. R. S. Nuno — Chief of Naval Staff

• Says Chief of Naval Staff

Story: Michael Donkor

THE Ghana Navy has confirmed the involvement of large foreign vessels in the illegal practice of pair trawling in the country's territorial waters, but says it can do little to arrest the situation.

Reacting to allegations that pair trawling by foreign vessels had thrown Ghanaian fishermen out of their jobs, the Chief of

Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Arthur Riby Sampu Nuno, said two things accounted for the inability of the Navy to check the situation — the blessing from the Ministry of Fisheries for the practice and the lack of the appropriate vessels by the Navy to ward off the perpetrators of the practice.

The naval chief said a letter dated October 17, 2007, which the Navy received from the Ministry of Fisheries, stated that the ban on pair trawling had been lifted for some licensed fishing companies to engage in it.

He said the Ghana Navy worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and

that since the former had written to them on the lifting of the ban, all they could do was to allow those foreign vessels to continue with their pair trawling.

The Chief Director at the Ministry of Fisheries, Mr. Emmanuel Mensah Quaye, confirmed the letter but explained that it was to allow only three companies that had been licensed to experiment with pair trawling for a limited period after which their licences would be withdrawn. He promised that the licences would be withdrawn by the

end of this year.

On the second reason, Rear Admiral Nuno said those involved in the practice were using more superior vessels than those being used by the Navy.

He said the Naval personnel usually encountered the fishing vessels on the high seas but the superior vessels used for the pair trawling sped off leaving the naval ships behind.

He said the ships of the Ghana Navy were very old, with some having been in use for

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Navy can't cope

• Continued from Page 1

more than 60 years.

He mentioned some of the old naval ships as GNS Anzone and GNS Bonsu.

Rear Admiral Nuno explained that some of the ships were not functioning well because there were no parts to replace the old ones.

He said Ghana had one of the best and highly professional naval personnel, who were ready to work and defend the country even at their peril but lacked the resources to effectively carry out their mandate.

He said the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) of the Ghana Navy was also not functioning because the license to operate it had expired.

Rear Admiral Nuno said the much publicised money to be released by the government to acquire logistics for the Navy to enable it to function to its fullest had not been received yet.

Rear Admiral Nuno said despite these challenges faced by the Navy,

there was hope for the future, since discussions were underway for the Navy to acquire new ships.

He said a delegation from North Korea was in the country holding talks with the Ghana Navy to build new ships for the service.

He expressed the hope that with the oil find, the Ghana Navy would be adequately resourced to perform effectively.

Earlier in an interview with the Chief of the Defence Staff, Lt. Gen. J.B. Danquah, he said the government had secured a deal with the United States of America for them to assist the Ghana Navy.

He said consequently, the USA had promised to give the Ghana Navy five speed boats.

He said out of the five, the USA had shown strong commitment to bringing three of the boats any time soon.

He said this would be followed by a joint military training between the Ghana Navy and the US Marines on how to use them.

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

- ▶ 2 things accounted for the inability of the Navy to check the situation (pair trawling)..... **the blessing from the Ministry of Fisheries for the practise andthe lack of the appropriate vessels by the Navy to ward off the perpetrators of the practice.** *Daily Graphic. Monday, Aug. 25th, 2008.*

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

- ▶ Written a letter dated Oct. 17th, 2007 to the Naval Command lifting the ban on pair-trawling for some companies.
- ▶ Reasons: To experiment with pair-trawling for a limited time. *Daily Graphic. Aug. 25th, 2008.*

CAMPAIGNS AGAINST PAIR TRAWLERS

- ▶ CSOs started campaigns against pair trawling through sensitization programmes of the fishers
- ▶ This caught on well as it became a big issue during our 2008 General Elections for a President and legislators
- ▶ The presidential candidate for the then ruling government (NPP) claimed the issue of pair trawling cost them the elections

THANK YOU

