

Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF)

The Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCF) was founded in 1984 as an association to represent artisanal fishers in Ghana. Currently, it is the lead stakeholder in the artisanal industry, representing the vast majority of artisanal fishers. The council's operation permeates the four coastal regions in Ghana, with a membership of 100,000 fishers.

Fishermen in the artisanal fishing industry of Ghana have recognized the emerging challenges posed by multiple users of Ghana's marine space due to the increasing impoverishment in coastal fishing communities, and food and livelihood insecurity. Their role in safeguarding a sustainable artisanal fishing industry, the need for transparency and accountability

in Ghana's fisheries sector and the overall socio-economic empowerment of artisanal fishers necessitated the formation of GNCF to contribute to an improved governance of responsible and sustainable



fisheries in the western African nation.

Over the years, the council has collaborated with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission. With the support of development projects and local NGOs/CSOs, it has successfully implemented various key fisheries management activities,

specifically in the areas of effort reduction, strengthening enforcement, empowering economic livelihood and building capacity.

Specifically, the GNCF has contributed immensely to the successful implementation of closed seasons for artisanal fishers, registration of artisanal canoes, development and issuance of canoe identification cards for canoe owners, and formation of beach landing enforcement committees to assist in enforcement and compliance. The GNCF has also contributed immensely to transforming fishing societies, especially in coastal communities, through community empowerment and integrated development initiatives.

The GNCF has established networks with both international and local fisheries

organizations and associations. Some of these organizations include: CAOPA, Coastal Resource Centre, University of Rhode Island, Centre for Coastal Management, University of Cape Coast, USAID/Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity Project, Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation and Environmental Justice Foundation, among others.

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