Dry anchovies on a concrete floor

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James Town Beach, Accra, Ghana, 2017. SSF smoking and drying centre. Sample of fresh dry anchovies on a concrete floor.

Ghana is one of the traditional small-scale marine fishing countries along the coast of West Africa. It has EEZ of 238,539 km², continental shelf of 20,900 km2 and 550 km coastline with more than 90 closed and opened lagoons. Small-scale marine fishing plays a very important role as source of employment, livelihood and food security especially for coastal communities. It contributes about 1.5% to the national GDP. There are about 392 marine species belonging to 82 families, among which Engrulidae (anchovies) is no exception. Ghana's favourable upwelling makes anchovies' catches very abundant, especially between July and September. The species migrate towards the coast at the onset of the rainy season. The harvested anchovy can be either sun dried or smoked and sold at the market for food consumption. With the current climate change, any negative impact on small-scale fisheries will have a big effect on livelihood and community setting of the fishing communities of Ghana.