



LAW No. 2024/019 OF 23 DEC 2024
TO LAY DOWN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN
CAMEROON

*The Parliament deliberated and adopted,
the President of the Republic hereby
enacts the law set out below:*

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

I- PURPOSE AND SCOPE

SECTION 1: (1) This law governs fisheries and aquaculture.

In this regard, it seeks to:

- lay down the rules and regulations governing fisheries, aquaculture and related activities, with a view to achieving the general objectives of the fisheries and aquaculture policy;
- promote integrated, responsible, participative and transparent management of the fisheries and aquaculture sub sector;
- ensure the sustained and sustainable preservation, protection and use of fishery resources and their ecosystems;

(2) It includes all the rules governing the exploitation, preservation, protection and development of fishery resources in all maritime and inland waters under Cameroon jurisdiction.

(3) It takes into account the usage rights of the local populations.

SECTION 2: This law shall apply to:

- fishing in all waters under Cameroon jurisdiction;
- aquaculture activities;
- fishing and fishing support vessels operating in waters under Cameroon jurisdiction, both Cameroonian-flagged and foreign-flagged;
- Cameroonian-flagged fishing and fishing support vessels operating in deep-sea and in waters under the jurisdiction of third countries, without prejudice to the specific provisions of international agreements;
- fishing gear and equipment ;
- treatment, processing, storage and distribution establishments of fishery and aquaculture products;



- stakeholders responsible for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing, aquaculture and related activities.

II- DEFINITIONS

II.1- FISHERIES

SECTION 3: For the purposes of this law and its implementing instruments, the following definitions shall apply:

state aircraft: aircraft belonging to the armed forces or a paramilitary corps;

fisheries officer: any person duly vested with police fisheries powers at sea and inland waters, including the fisheries authority, the Navy or any other competent authority;

fishing licence: document authorizing a natural person or legal entity to fit out industrial fishing vessels thereby becoming a ship owner;

marine protected area: coastal and marine area within national jurisdiction specially dedicated to the protection of marine ecosystems, processes, habitats and species likely to contribute to the restoration and reconstitution of resources necessary for economic, social and cultural enrichment, and including fishing, research, nursery, protection, recreational zones, etc.;

fisheries management: integrated process of data and information collection analysis, planning, consultation and decision-making on resource allocation, formulation and implementation, with enforcement where necessary, of regulations or rules governing fishing activities, to ensure the continued productivity of resources;

ship owner: natural person or legal entity that fits out or equips a vessel or fishing boat to carry out activities at sea;



boarding and inspection: process whereby fisheries officers carry out checks to verify the destination, cargo, fishing or fishing support vessel, as well as the nationality and state of health of its crew;

long-distance fishing authorization: administrative document issued by the Ministry in charge of fisheries to a natural person or legal entity, allowing them to request access to the fishery resources of third countries;

technical approval: administrative document issued by the Ministry in charge of fisheries, at the request of the Ministry in charge of transport, for the registration of any fishing or fishing support vessel;

catch: all fishing products;

landing site: place where fishing and fishing support vessels load and unload;

unloading: transfer, other than transshipment, of any quantity of fish contained in a vessel, including transfers of fish to a port facility, transfers of fish from one vessel to another via a port facility or other means of transport, as well as transfers of fish from a vessel to a container, truck, train, aircraft or other means of transport;

turtle excluder device: system installed on trawls to prevent the catching of turtles;

fish aggregating device: natural or man-made system enabling the concentration of aquatic fauna at some points in water bodies;

bycatch reduction device: system installed on trawls to reduce the catching of juvenile fish;

inland waters: surface water spread over the land surface consisting mainly of freshwater;

fishing boat: small-sized fishing boat used to catch fish or other aquatic products;



fishing gear: tool or device used to catch, collect or harvest aquatic animals or plants;

breathing equipment: device or equipment used by divers or underwater fishermen to breathe underwater during diving operations;

coastal State: A State opening to the sea from one of its borders;

flag State: A State which has registered fishing or support vessels under its national flag;

port State: A State which has developed and exercises sovereignty over its ports. This State has the power to refuse access to foreign fishing or fishing support vessels, prohibit them from unloading or transshipping fish and inspect them when sailing in its ports;

fishgig: multi-pronged spear designed for catching large fish or flatfish along the bank;

spawning ground: an aquatic, freshwater or marine environment where a species of fish reproduces, with fertilization and spawning;

professional fishing guide: an individual trained in fisheries to guide ship owners in fishing activities;

deep-sea: part of the sea outside the sovereignty zones and Exclusive Economic Zones of coastal States, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

logbook: document in which any fishing activity carried out on fishing or fishing support vessels is systematically recorded by the fisherman, including the catch and its species composition, the corresponding effort and the fishing zones;

fishing licence: administrative document issued by the Ministry in charge of fisheries to a vessel thereby giving it the right of access to fishery resources;



netting: average measurement of stretched mesh parallel to the longitudinal axis of a normal pressure gauge on a wet net;

trip of a fishing vessel: period of activity of the vessel, from departure to landing, including the sailing period and the fishing activities carried out during such period;

fish trade: activity of the fish trader aiming at collecting and marketing fresh fishery products, including, where necessary, cold storage of the catch after various gutting and washing operations;

territorial sea: strip of maritime space placed under the full legal sovereignty of the coastal State and defining the territorial waters, within the limits set by international conventions and laws in force;

fishing support vessel: vessel of any size used to assist one or more vessels at sea in carrying out fishing activities such as preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transport or processing of fishery products;

state vessel: vessel belonging to the armed forces, a paramilitary corps or chartered by the State;

fishing vessel: vessel of any size used to catch fish or other aquatic animals;

foreign fishing vessel: fishing or fishing support vessel not flying the Cameroonian flag;

fishery observer: independent specialist deployed on commercial fishing or fishing support vessels to obtain reliable data and information on the technical, scientific, regulatory and economic aspects of fishing activity;

careening operations: repair and maintenance tasks performed on the hull of a fishing vessel;



Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO): intergovernmental organization vested with powers to take preservation and management measures on fisheries in a given geographical area;

fishing: searching, attracting, locating, catching, collecting or harvesting fish or any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in attracting, locating, catching, collecting or harvesting fish;

artisanal fishing: all activities aiming at catching or collecting fishery resources, carried out on a vessel less than 10 (ten) metres long, which may be equipped with an outboard engine with a power rating of less than 30 (thirty) fiscal horsepower (HP), where applicable;

for-profit artisanal fishing: all activities aiming at catching or collecting fishery resources, using motorized or non-motorized boats and passive or active gear, the products of which shall be intended for sale;

continental artisanal fishing: all activities aiming at catching or collecting fishery resources using motorized or non-motorized boats and passive or active gear, the products of which shall be intended for sale;

artisanal subsistence fishing: all activities aiming at catching or collecting fishery resources for home consumption;

artisanal maritime fishing: all activities aiming at catching or collecting fishery resources using motorized or non-motorized boats and passive or active gear;

offshore fishing: any activity carried out between 12 (twelve) and 200 (two hundred) nautical miles with the goal of catching or collecting fishery resources;

inland fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fishery resources in continental waters;

inshore fishing: any activity carried out within 12 (twelve) nautical miles of the baseline with the purpose catching or collecting fishery resources;



deep-sea fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fishery resources, carried out beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone;

illegal fishing: fishing activity carried out, in the area of competence of a Regional Fisheries Management organization, by fishing or fishing support vessels without nationality, or by vessels flying the flag of a State not party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner which is inconsistent with or contrary to the conservation and management measures of that organization, or which is conducted in areas or directed at stocks for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures, and in a manner which is inconsistent with the State's responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law;

illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fisheries resources, carried out by fishing or fishing support vessels flying the flag of a State, which contravene conservation and management measures adopted by a State or a fisheries organization and which are binding on States, or which contravene the relevant provisions of applicable international law;

industrial fishing: fishing carried out in maritime waters resulting in catches preserved in refrigerated or frozen form in the hold, in fishing and fishing support vessels propelled by inboard engines of more than 50 (fifty) fiscal horsepower;

undeclared fishing: fishing activity which has not been declared or has been falsely declared to the competent national authority, thereby contravening national laws and regulations, or activity undertaken in the area of competence of a competent Regional Fisheries Management Organization, which has not been declared or has been falsely declared to the said organization, thereby contravening the latter's declaration procedures;

unregulated fishing: Fishing activity carried out, in the area of competence of a Regional Fisheries Management organization, by vessels without nationality or by fishing and fishing support vessels flying the flag of a State which is not a party to that organization, or by a fishing entity, in a manner inconsistent with or contrary to the conservation and management measures of that organization, or which is conducted in areas or targets stocks for which there are no applicable conservation

or management measures, and in a manner inconsistent with the State's responsibilities for the conservation of living marine resources under international law;

educational fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fishery resources, carried out for learning purposes as part of a training course;

responsible fishing: any activity aimed at catching or harvesting fishery resources, carried out in such a way as to guarantee the sustainable use of fishery resources over the long term while ensuring the food security and livelihoods of the communities that depend on them;

scientific and technical fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fishery resources, for studies and knowledge acquisition on fishery resources, as well as fishing methods or gear, as part of scientific and technical research;

semi-industrial fishing: any activity aimed at catching or gathering fishery resources, carried out using boats of less than 10 (ten) gross registered tonnes with outboard motors with a combined power of between 30 (thirty) and 80 (eighty) fiscal horsepower or inboard motors not exceeding 50 (fifty) fiscal horsepower;

sport or recreational fishing: any activity aimed at catching or collecting fishery resources for leisure purposes and not involving the marketing of fishing products;

underwater fishing: a set of activities designed to capture or collect fish resources from the seabed;

fisheries: stocks of fishery resources, including operations based on such stocks which, identified on the basis of geographical, economic, social, scientific, technical or recreational characteristics, can be considered as a unit for the purposes of conservation, management and development;

fishing permit: administrative document issued by the Ministry in charge of fisheries to a natural or legal person giving entitlement to access fishery resources, using artisanal methods and techniques;



fisheries management plan: an arrangement between the Ministry in charge fisheries and interested parties, which defines the partners involved in the fishery, stipulates the management rules and regulations that apply to the fishery and provides other details about the fishery relevant to the role of the management authority;

precautionary principle: principle advocating the implementation of provisional measures to avoid serious and irreversible damage to the environment, but whose fulfilment is uncertain, and which will only be maintained if additional scientific data concludes that there is a proven risk;

bycatch: species caught during fishing directed at another target species or group of species;

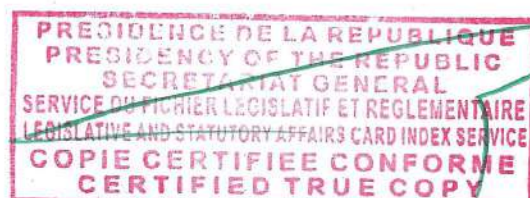
artificial reef: physical development of the coastal seabed using hard substrates of various origins, in particular boulders, various used industrial materials and other specially manufactured assemblies;

discard: part of a stock of fish products that is thrown back into the sea after being caught;

straddling stock: stock present in two or more Exclusive Economic Zones of contiguous coastal countries, or at the boundary between Exclusive Economic Zones and the high seas;

cross-border stocks: stocks located in two or more contiguous coastal countries;

monitoring, control and surveillance: activities aimed at monitoring and managing natural resources and ecosystems, ensuring the control of fishing activities in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction, and of the activities of Cameroonian-flagged vessels and of Cameroonian nationals, wherever they operate, as well as ensuring that fishing activities are carried out in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations;



participatory surveillance: observations involving all the players and stakeholders involved in the management of fishing activities;

arrest shot: shot fired by a State ship or State aircraft in charge of a police mission at sea, aimed at immobilising a ship that refuses to obey its injunctions;

warning shot: shot fired by a State ship or State aircraft in charge of a police operation at sea at the bow of an uncooperative ship to intimidate it;

fishery exploitation permit: administrative document issued by the Ministry responsible for fisheries to a natural or legal person, giving entitlement to access to fishery resources;

transshipment: the action of transferring at sea or in a port, onto a fishing or fishing support vessel, some or all of the fishery products on board another vessel, or the direct transfer from one vessel or craft to another of catches which have not been previously landed;

Exclusive Economic Zone: maritime zone beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, the outer boundary of which is defined by a line, the points of which are separated from the baselines by a distance of 200 (two hundred) nautical miles.

II.2 - AQUACULTURE

SECTION 4: For the purposes of this law and the instruments adopted for its implementation, the following definitions shall apply:

aquaculture: the cultivation of aquatic organisms, including fish, molluscs, crustaceans and aquatic plants;

commercial aquaculture: the production of aquatic organisms whose products are intended for sale;

subsistence aquaculture: the production of aquatic organisms for own consumption;



scientific aquaculture: research or testing of aquatic organism production systems or methods for the development of new species or new aquaculture techniques;

aquaculture farm: fixed or mobile and permanent installation at sea, in lagoons, rivers and marshes whether or not communicating with the sea, or any construction on land installed on public land or on private property, for the rearing of aquatic species or for the conservation in a living state of aquatic organisms or species capable of being reared;

aquaculture licence: administrative document issued by the Ministry in charge of aquaculture to an aquaculture operation, giving it the right to exist legally;

aquaculture vessel: craft designed for aquaculture activities and the transport of aquaculture products;

aquaculture exploitation permit: administrative document issued by the administration in charge of aquaculture to a natural or legal person, conferring the right to exploit aquatic species for farming purposes in a well-defined area.

II. 3 - FISHING INDUSTRIES

SECTION 5: For the purposes of this law and the instruments adopted for its implementation, the following definitions shall apply:

fishing and aquaculture-related activities: operations in support of or in preparation for fishing or aquaculture, including the unloading, packaging, processing, transshipment or transport of fishery products, as well as the provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other provisions at sea, the occupation of professional fishing guide, the production of ice for the conservation of fishery products;

establishment for the storage and sale of fishery products: structure for the conservation and sale of fishery products;



fishery and aquaculture product processing plant: onshore or offshore facility where fishery and aquaculture products are processed in any way for marketing purposes, including fish processing plants, freezing plants, smoking plants, drying plants, salting plants and canneries;

fishing industry: all activities related to catching, breeding, processing, preserving, storing, transporting and marketing fish products, as well as the manufacture of fishing equipment and inputs;

fishery product: all catches from fisheries and aquaculture.

III - PRINCIPLES

SECTION 6: Managing fishery and aquaculture resources shall be guided by the following principles:

- State sovereignty over fishery resources in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction;
- precautionary principle;
- ecosystem approach;
- sustainable management of resources.

SECTION 7: (1) Maritime fishery resources under national jurisdiction and continental waters shall constitute a national heritage for present and future generations. To this end, the State has the obligation to protect, conserve and manage them on a long-term basis in the interests of the national community.

(2) Maritime fishery resources and continental waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction belong to the State. However, their exploitation may be licensed to natural or legal persons under conditions laid down by this law and its implementing instrument.

SECTION 8: Precautionary principle means a principle by whereby competent authorities shall be obliged, when faced with a situation or activity involving significant stakes and likely to constitute a potential danger for the environment,



fishery resources or human safety, to take appropriate protective measures, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the danger established by scientific evidence.

SECTION 9: The purpose of the ecosystem approach is to plan, develop and manage fisheries and aquaculture, taking into account the multiplicity of current social needs and aspirations, without jeopardizing the benefits that future generations shall derive from these resources.

SECTION 10: Sustainable resource management means ensuring the long-term exploitation of fishery and aquaculture resources, while minimizing environmental impacts.

SECTION 11: The precautionary principle, the ecosystem approach and the sustainable management of resources, referred to in Sections 8 and 10 above, shall apply systematically for the exploitation and management of fishery resources in fishing and aquaculture.

CHAPTER II **FISHING**

I - ZONES AND TYPES OF FISHING

I.1 - FISHING ZONES

SECTION 12: (1) Fishing shall take place in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction, on the high seas, or in waters under the jurisdiction of a third State.

(2) Fishing in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction shall take place in the following zones, within the limits set by the laws in force:

- continental waters in rivers, lakes and reservoirs;
- territorial sea;
- contiguous zone;
- continental shelf ;
- Exclusive Economic Zone.



(3) Fishing shall be carried out by Cameroonian-flagged vessels on the high seas and in waters under the jurisdiction of third countries, subject to compliance with specific international standards or those of the said countries.

SECTION 13: Separate joint instruments between the Ministry in charge of fisheries and other relevant sectoral Ministries shall define the terms of fishing in the following zones:

- near off-shore oil production zones;
- in the vicinity of military and coastal installations and in any other shall be determined by the State;
- marine protected areas ;
- ports, basins and anchorage areas for ships.

SECTION 14: (1) Any Cameroonian-flagged fishing vessel wishing to fish on the high seas or in waters under the jurisdiction of third countries shall obtain, as appropriate, an exploitation permit or a long-distance fishing licence, defined by a separate instrument of the Minister in charge of fisheries.

(2) The conditions for obtaining the fishing permits and long-distance fishing licences referred to in (1) above shall be defined by law.

I.2 - TYPES OF FISHING

SECTION 15: (1) The various types of fishing are as follows:

- Industrial fishing ;
- semi-industrial fishing;
- artisanal fishing;
- sport and recreational fishing;
- technical and scientific fishing;
- educational fishing;
- underwater fishing;
- aquaculture or ornamental fishing;
- fishing for small estuary shrimp.



(2) The boundaries of the zones where the various types of fishing are practiced shall be defined by Regulation.

(3) The conditions for carrying out the types of fishing referred to in (1) above shall be set in accordance with the Regulation.

I.3 - FISHING - RELATED ACTIVITIES

SECTION 16: Fishing-related activities shall include the following:

- unloading;
- packaging ;
- processing;
- transshipment or transport of fish that was not previously unloaded in a port, processing or transport of fishery products prior to their first anchoring (that were not previously unloaded in a port);
- professional fishing guides for certain types of fishing;
- production of ice for preserving fish products;
- supply of personnel, fuel, machines and other provisions at sea.

SECTION 17: Subject to duly ratified international conventions and agreements and specific laws, performing the fishing-related activities referred to in Section 16 above in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction shall be subject an authorization, issued under the terms provided for by law.

II - PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO FISHING VESSELS

II.1 – CAMEROONIAN- AND FOREIGN- FLAGGED FISHING VESSELS

SECTION 18: (1) All Cameroonian-flagged vessels intended for industrial fishing shall be subject to prior inspection by the Ministry in charge of fisheries.

(2) The conditions for the inspection referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by law.



SECTION 19: Any Cameroonian-flagged fishing or fishing support vessel wishing to land its catches in foreign ports shall be bound to obtain prior authorization from the Ministry in charge of fisheries, under the terms and conditions laid down by regulation.

SECTION 20: The chartering of foreign vessels fishing in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction must comply with the provisions of the CEMAC Merchant Shipping Code.

II.2 - RECORDS OF FISHING VESSELS AND CRAFT

SECTION 21: (1) The Ministry in charge of fisheries shall keep:

- a national record for each type of fishing;
- a national record of vessels for sport, scientific, educational, artisanal maritime and continental fishing.

2) An updated copy of the records referred to in paragraph (1) above shall be sent annually to the relevant administrations.

3) The procedures for keeping the files referred to in paragraph (1) above shall be defined by law.

II.3 - PORT STATE MEASURES

SECTION 22: (1) The Ministry in charge of fisheries, in collaboration with the relevant Ministries, shall take control measures to prevent, combat and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

2) The Ministry in charge of fisheries shall also cooperate and share information with States, International Organizations operating in the fisheries sector, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Regional Fisheries Organizations.

SECTION 23: (1) Any fishing vessel wishing to access a port located in Cameroon or its services, for the purpose of carrying out landing and/or transshipment operations for fishery products, shall give prior notice of its arrival to the competent



structures, within a time limit and in accordance with the procedures laid down by Regulation.

(2) Any unloading of catch by a foreign-flagged vessel in a Cameroonian port must be authorized in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down by Regulation.

(3) Foreign-flagged vessels wishing to land their catches in a Cameroonian port shall be subject to inspection by the competent authorities. Should any infringement be found, the outcome of such inspections shall be communicated without delay to the flag State of the said vessel.

(4) Where there is evidence that a foreign-flagged vessel operating outside waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction has either committed, promoted or aided in committing fishing offences, the said vessel shall not be authorized to land its catches, transship fishery products and/or use Cameroon's port services, except in cases of force majeure or distress.

SECTION 24: The list of Cameroonian ports likely to receive fishing vessels of foreign nationality shall be laid down by Regulation.

III – PROMOTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS PRESERVATION MEASURES

SECTION 25: The Ministry in charge of fisheries, in collaboration with all stakeholders, shall draw up fisheries and aquaculture policies and coordinate the implementation thereof.

III.1 – PROMOTION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY ACTIVITIES

SECTION 26: (1) In conformity with the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, catching of fully protected aquatic species shall be forbidden.

(2) Where they may survive, protected and fully protected aquatic species caught inadvertently shall be thrown back into water forthwith.



(3) Where such fully protected aquatic species are caught dead, Ministries in charge of wildlife and fisheries shall be informed thereof at the time of unloading.

(4) Fully protected aquatic species unloaded shall be systematically seized by relevant authorities.

(5) The list of fully protected aquatic species shall be drawn up by the Ministry in charge of wildlife. However, the Ministry in charge of fisheries, when planning fisheries, may propose to the competent Ministry some aquatic species to be classified as critically endangered.

SECTION 27: When fishing, it shall be forbidden to:

- a) use trawl nets over a distance of 5 (five) nautical miles from the baseline;
- b) Use vessels with more than 350 (three hundred and fifty) Gross Register Tonnage (GRT) on territorial waters;
- c) use boats with more than 10 (ten) Gross Register Tonnage on inland waterways;
- d) use of means or devices that may obstruct fishing net meshes or may hamper their selective action, including adding of any other accessory to fishing nets apart from those fixed at the top for protection, provided that the meshes are at least twice as big as the minimum authorized size and are not fixed at end of the net;
- e) use monofilament fishing net devices;
- f) use dynamites or any other form of explosive, chemical substances, poison, electricity, fire arms, self-triggered traps or any other device which may destroy the aquatic fauna or ecosystem;
- g) fish with tools without grid nets prescribed by the regulation in force to ensure the protection of species;
- h) use special tools such as detonators of chemical substances' mixture or the release of compressed gas, unless the latter is as results from the user's manipulation;
- i) have on board an industrial fishing boat ready for trawl fishing, a seine or any other towed net used for bottom or near bottom trawling;



- j) have on board a boat ready for fishing, destructive tools or substances which could intoxicate or destroy fishes;
- k) practise pair trawling;
- l) have on board a boat ready for fishing, devices that may be used to obstruct meshes in one way or another or part of the net grid;
- m) have a dangerous fishing weapon on a vessel or boat;
- n) practise fire fishing ;
- o) fish in estuaries and nurseries;
- p) develop fishing works and techniques such as retention, dams, barriers;
- q) pour toxic and harmful substances such as agricultural industrial waste or domestic waste (pesticides, fertilizers, sediments or detergents) in aquatic ecosystems;
- r) destroy the environment over a distance of 50 (fifty) meters along a water course or within 100 (one hundred) meters radius around its source;
- s) catch, keep and sell protected fishery products;
- t) carry out fishing in any area or place restricted by the Ministry in charge of fisheries;
- u) bring live foreign fishery resources into Cameroon without any prior authorization issued under conditions laid down by regulation.

III. 2 – AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS PRESERVATION MEASURES

SECTION 28: (1) Measures for preserving fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems relate to:

- protecting some aquatic species;
- including additional special conditions in fishing licenses and permits;
- constructing canals for fishing and/or aquaculture purposes;
- protecting marine plants and animals in the vertical zone and mangroves;
- using breathing gear and foils in fishing;
- increasing the size of the industrial or semi-industrial fishing fleet;
- determining the type and characteristics of authorized fishing gear;
- protecting spawning grounds, nurseries, refuge areas for biological species and aquatic ecosystems;
- introducing of species or eggs not represented in a basin;



- preventing and combating the fishing of immature fish or juveniles before the age of first reproduction;

(2) The conditions for implementing the preservation measures referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by Regulation.

SECTION 29: (1) Management and preservation measures of aquatic ecosystems shall be reflected in development plans.

(2) However, in the event of an emergency and where necessary, measures to preserve aquatic ecosystems may be adopted without a development plan.

IV- CATCH DECLARATION, TRANSSHIPMENT AND LANDING

IV.1 - DECLARATION AND TRANSSHIPMENT OF CATCH

SECTION 30: Fishing vessels operating in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction must declare their catch under conditions laid down by the regulation in force.

IV.2 – CATCH LANDING

SECTION 31: (1) Fishing and support fishing vessels, as well as fishing boats operating in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction shall be bound to land all of their catch in ports and landing sites provided for by regulation.

(2) Transshipment at sea on waters within Cameroonian jurisdiction or of Cameroonian-flagged vessels, wherever they may be, shall be forbidden, subject to a special transshipment authorization of fishery products in harbour.

(3) The conditions for catch landing shall be laid down by the regulations in force.



SECTION 32: (1) Every Cameroonian-flagged fishing or fishing support vessel willing to unload their catch in foreign ports must first obtain an authorization from the Ministry in charge of fisheries.

(2) The conditions and procedures for obtaining the authorisation referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by Regulation.

**V. MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF FISHING
ACTIVITIES, PARTICIPATORY FISHING, BOARDING AND INSPECTION OF
VESSELS**

**V.1 - MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF FISHING
ACTIVITIES**

SECTION 33: (1) The Ministry in charge of fisheries shall coordinate the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in all waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction.

(2) The conditions for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishery activities shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 34: (1) The Ministry in charge of fisheries, in conjunction with other Ministries and bodies, shall monitor and control tides and careening operations on fishing and fishing support vessels.

(2) The conditions for the monitoring and control referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by Regulation.

SECTION 35: In marine protected areas, the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities shall be carried out by the control and surveillance officers of the Ministry in charge of fisheries, in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of wildlife and local communities.



SECTION 36: (1) Control and surveillance officers shall be responsible for policing fishery activities. In this respect, they shall have the status of special jurisdiction criminal investigation officers.

(2) Prior to assuming duty, the officers referred to in (1) above shall take the following oath before the territorially competent Court of First Instance: *"I swear that I will discharge my duties with rigour and probity, in accordance with the laws and regulations"*.

(3) The oath shall be recorded free of charge at the registry of the competent court.

(4) The oath shall not be renewed in the event of change of residence.

(5) The conditions for taking the oath referred to in (2) above for officers with local and national jurisdiction shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 37: The crew of a vessel or a boat, or any other person directly concerned with monitoring and surveillance operations shall be bound to give civil servants or fisheries officers all the assistance, and provide them with the information they may reasonably require in the discharge of their duties.

V.2 - PARTICIPATORY SURVEILLANCE OF FISHERY ACTIVITIES

SECTION 38: (1) Participatory surveillance shall be complementary to and alongside the action of fisheries control and surveillance officers.

(2) It shall be conducted in collaboration with the relevant Ministries, regional and local authorities or any other interested person.

(3) The conditions for participatory surveillance shall be laid down by regulation.



SECTION 39: The Minister in charge of fisheries shall keep, update and annually publish the database of relevant information on fisheries effort and subsequent sanctions applied.

V.3 - BOARDING AND INSPECTING FISHING VESSELS

SECTION 40: (1) In the discharge of their duties, control and surveillance officers may, at any time, board and inspect fishing and fishing support vessels during patrols.

(2) Where it is impossible to board and inspect a ship due to bad weather, fisheries monitoring and surveillance officers may record the external features of the vessel and the place of commission of the offence.

(3) The Ministry in charge of fisheries may request assistance from defence and security forces during surveillance missions.

SECTION 41: (1) The Captain of a State-owned vessel or aircraft may, by means of sound, light, visual or two-way radio signals, order any fishing vessel found on waters within Cameroon's jurisdiction to stop engine.

(2) In case of refusal to comply at the third order, a warning shot to force it to stop shall be fired close to it.

(3) Where he still fails to comply after 3 (three) warning shots, the Captain of the State-owned vessel or aircraft shall be authorized, subject to the regulation in force, to fire a shot to stop the ship.

SECTION 42: (1) As part of cooperation agreements between States or any other organization or body, monitoring, control and surveillance officers may use information provided by persons acting as fisheries inspectors from another country in investigating offences.

(2) The place where a fishing vessel commits an offence and escapes shall be the place where it was first detected.



SECTION 43: (1) The procedures laid down in Sections 40 to 42 above shall be without prejudice to legal proceedings for any fishing offence detected by a fisheries control and surveillance officer. The said offences shall be established after examination and cross-checking of various data, such as the marine observer's report, the fishing logbook, catch declarations, landing or transshipment declarations, satellite tracking data and aerial surveillance data.

(2) A *posteriori* prosecution may also be initiated where fishery offences are observed by a fisheries control and surveillance officer using information provided in particular as part of participatory surveillance and cooperation in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

(3) A *posteriori* prosecution may also be initiated by a competent authority where it receives a surveillance or observation report prepared up by a Regional Fisheries Management Organization or another State, suspecting a fishing vessel of engaging in illegal activities in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction, or a Cameroonian-flagged fishing vessel operating on the high seas or in waters under the jurisdiction of a third State.

SECTION 44: (1) Any officer who collects samples of fishery products on board a vessel or any other boat, premises or vehicle subject to inspection shall be bound to file a report.

(2) The report referred to in (1) above shall specify, among other things, the species, quantities and qualities of the sampled products.

(3) The report shall be co-signed by the officer who took the sample and the person in charge of the vessel or craft concerned and in possession of the catch, who shall be handed a copy.



CHAPTER III
AQUACULTURE

SECTION 45: The location, delimitation, intake capacity, minimum distance between 2 (two) aquaculture farms and technical standards for aquaculture establishments shall be laid down by regulation.

I – PRACTICE OF AQUACULTURE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

SECTION 46: There shall be four (4) categories of aquaculture practice as follows:

- subsistence aquaculture;
- commercial aquaculture;
- scientific aquaculture
- pedagogic aquaculture.

SECTION 47: (1) The main aquaculture-related activity shall be the production of aquaculture feed.

(2) The production of aquaculture feed referred to in (1) above shall be subject to obtaining an authorization issued under the conditions and in accordance with the procedures laid down by regulation.

II - DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF
AQUACULTURE

II.1 - DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF
AQUACULTURE

SECTION 48: (1) The State, regional and local authorities and aquaculture promoters must take appropriate management and development measures to mitigate the harmful effects of their aquaculture activities on the environment and the health of the local population.



(2) The measures referred to in (1) above shall consider the integrated management of coastal and/or continental areas, the interest of other resource users and stakeholders, zoning, the fish farm and environmental protection.

SECTION 49: (1) The State shall be responsible for aquaculture development and its sustainable and responsible management.

(2) Aquaculture development must :

- ensure the integrity of ecosystems;
- factor in the rules and techniques relating to the production of the species or group of species concerned, the production system and the type of aquaculture;
- be based on the socio-economic importance of the activity and its impact on the environment.

(3) Sustainable and responsible aquaculture management shall involve:

- maintaining the purity, genetic quality and conservation of aquaculture species;
- taking management measures to ease the integration of actors, in compliance with environmental protection rules;
- controlling production activities and the movement of aquaculture species, in compliance with biodiversity, biosafety and animal, plant and food health standards.

II.2 - AQUACULTURE PROMOTION

SECTION 50: (1) The Minister in charge of aquaculture, in collaboration with the other Ministries concerned and socio-professional organizations of aquaculturists, shall take measures to promote good aquaculture practices.



(2) The good aquaculture practices referred to in (1) above shall concern:

- the production and distribution of quality broodstock and fry;
- the production and distribution of quality aquatic animal feed;
- the adoption of quality assurance measures in the aquaculture production process;
- the use of veterinary medicine and vaccines;
- the use of chemical substances in the aquaculture production process
- the quality of water in which farmed organisms live.

(3) The procedures for adopting and implementing the good aquacultural practices referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

III - PRESERVATION, MONITORING AND CONTROL OF AQUACULTURAL FARMS, SITES AND SPECIES

III.1 - PRESERVATION

SECTION 51: In the event of definitive closure of an aquacultural farm in the public, private or national property of the State, for whatever reason, the promoter of the aquacultural farm shall be bound to restore the site to its original state.

SECTION 52: (1) Any release of live aquacultural organisms into the natural environment shall be subject to authorization from the Minister in charge of aquaculture, in accordance with the conditions and procedures laid down by regulation.

(2) The terms and conditions for issuing the authorisation referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 53: The Ministry in charge of aquaculture shall take all requisite measures, in collaboration with Ministries in charge of scientific research and wildlife, to ensure the preservation of endangered aquatic species of aquacultural interest.



III.2 - MONITORING, CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

SECTION 54: The State shall ensure the control and supervision of aquacultural activities under the conditions laid down by regulation.

IV - FISHERY INDUSTRIES AND FISHING AND AQUACULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

V.1 - FISHERY PRODUCTS PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

SECTION 55: (1) As appropriate, fishery products processing establishments shall be responsible for:

- treating and processing of fishery products;
- storing and selling fishery and aquacultural products.

(2) The establishments referred to in (1) above shall be classified in accordance with procedures laid down by regulation.

SECTION 56: Setting up and opening fishery product processing establishments to the public shall be subject to the prior obtaining of authorizations under the conditions and following procedures laid down by regulation.

IV.2 - PACKAGING, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

SECTION 57: (1) Fishery products must be packaged and transported under conditions that guarantee healthy food quality and protect the environment.

(2) The packaging of fishery products shall be subject to prior authorization issued under the conditions and following the procedures laid down by regulation.



(3) The transportation of fishery products shall be subject to prior authorization issued under the conditions and following the procedures laid down by regulation.

(4) Technical standards and conditions for treating, preserving, packaging, processing, transporting and marketing fresh, frozen and live fishery products shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 58: (1) The importation and exportation of live aquatic species, in particular broodstock, milt, eggs, larvae, fry, juveniles, and cultured strains shall be subject to authorization by the Minister in charge of trade.

(2) The importation and exportation of fresh, frozen, treated or processed fishery products shall be subject to prior authorization by the Minister in charge of trade.

(3) The conditions and procedures for issuing, renewing, suspending, and withdrawing the authorizations referred to in (1) and (2) above shall be laid down by regulation.

CHAPTER IV **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO FISHING, AQUACULTURE AND** **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

SECTION 59: (1) In addition to ordinary law taxes and duties provided for by the Finance Law, specific taxes, duties and other revenues relating to the exploitation of fishery and aquacultural resources, as well as the operation of fishing industries are:

- industrial fishing approval fees;
- fishing licence fees;
- fishing permit fees;
- long-distance fishing licence fees
- tax on the import and export of fishery products;
- fishing and aquaculture fines and penalties.



(2) The bases and amounts of taxes and duties referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by the Finance Law.

SECTION 60: (1) Proceeds from the taxes, duties, fines, and other revenues referred to in Section 59 above shall be shared among the treasury, beneficiary fishery and aquaculture development organizations, the ministry in charge of fisheries and/or aquaculture and the tax administration.

(2) The procedures for sharing the proceeds from the duties, taxes, and other revenues referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

CHAPTER V PUNISHMENT OF FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE OFFENCES

I - ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFENCES AND CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

I.1 - OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING OFFENCES

SECTION 61: (1) Without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Public Prosecutor and general jurisdiction criminal investigation officers, sworn fishery control and supervisory officers shall be responsible for investigating and establishing offences, tracking down their perpetrators and seizing products unduly fished or harvested, as well as objects used to commit such offences.

(2) They shall prepare a report in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure. Such report shall be exempt from stamp and registration formalities.

(3) The report drafted and signed by the sworn officer shall provide evidence of the material findings reported, until proven otherwise.

(4) Special jurisdiction Criminal Investigation Officers shall submit their reports to the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, the competent Public Prosecutor and any other sector Ministry to which they belong as the case



may be, within 72 (seventy-two) hours of conclusion of the investigation. A copy of the report shall be sent to the offender.

(5) In the case of foreign fishing vessels, the Ministry in charge of external relations shall forwards one (01) copy of the report to the diplomatic mission of the flag State, at the request of the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, within the time limits prescribed by regulation.

(6) Without prejudice to the rules of territorial jurisdiction applicable to senior criminal investigation officers and criminal investigation officers, the officers referred to in (1) above shall exercise their powers throughout:

- the national territory, where they are assigned to a service with national jurisdiction;
- the region, when they are assigned to a service with regional jurisdiction;
- the administrative unit concerned by their mission, depending on whether they are assigned to a divisional or subdivisional service.

(7) They shall be required to show their professional card in the discharge their duties.

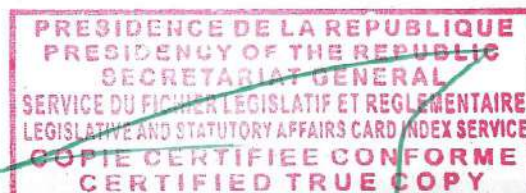
SECTION 62: (1) The ministry using fisheries control and surveillance officers shall be civilly liable for acts committed by the latter, in the discharge or in connection with the discharge of their duties.

(2) They may, where necessary, take recourse action against the said officers.

I.2 - CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

i - SURETY BOND AND SETTLEMENT

SECTION 63: (1) A surety bond shall be a precautionary measure whereby the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture decides to release an offender and his means of fishing, upon payment of a deposit.



(2) The civil servant or officer who drew up the report or, as appropriate, the official to whom the report is submitted, may require the offender to pay, against a receipt, a security deposit, whose amount shall be fixed by the Minister in charge of fisheries or aquaculture, as the case may be.

(3) The amount of the deposit collected shall be paid within 48 (forty-eight) hours to the Deposits and Consignment Fund. Such amount shall be automatically set off against fines and legal costs. In the event of an acquittal, the court shall order the return of the deposit.

SECTION 64: (1) Compromise in matters of fishery and aquaculture shall be the mechanism whereby the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture puts an end to investigations or criminal proceedings against the perpetrator of an offence, upon payment of a fine and damages to the State.

(2) The alleged perpetrator of violations of the provisions of this law, established by a report, may request a compromise from the minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture.

(3) The minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture shall have a period of 3 (three) months, from the date of transmission of the offence establishment report, to initiate any compromise procedure, provided that the compromise offer has been made by the alleged offender within this period.

(4) In the event of a favourable response to the compromise offer, the interested party shall be notified within 15 (fifteen) days of the transmission of the offer, by any means leaving written trace.

(5) Once the offender is notified of the favourable decision of the Minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, he shall pay the agreed amount to the competent revenue officer, against a receipt.

(6) The amount of the compromise may not be less than the value of the damages and fines incurred.

(7) In the event of a compromise:

(a) the amount of the deposit paid by the offender shall be automatically set off against the amount of the fine;



(b) fishery and aquaculture products seized shall be confiscated and sold, where necessary, in a public auction;

(c) in case the seized equipment is used for the first time in an offence and where the alleged perpetrator is a first offender, the said equipment shall be handed over to the party concerned upon final conclusion of the compromise, except for prohibited fishing gears which shall be destroyed systematically;

(d) seized equipment shall be confiscated and sold in a public auction or by mutual agreement in the absence of the bidder, where such equipment is involved more than once in an offence or where the offender is a recidivist, except for firearms and ammunitions which shall be handed over to the relevant authorities;

(e) in case of foreign fishing and support fishing vessels, decisions on the fate of captures and equipment seized as a precautionary measure shall be submitted forthwith to the Minister in charge of external relations for notification of the diplomatic representation concerned.

(8) Registered at the offender's own expense, the report establishing the compromise shall be signed by the competent official of the ministry in charge of fisheries and the offender. It shall lay down, among other things, the conditions and deadline for its execution. Such duration shall, under no circumstances, exceed 3 (three) months from the date of signature of the said report.

(9) The complete execution of the compromise within the prescribed deadline, duly established by the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture or the legal authority shall terminate criminal proceedings.

SECTION 65: (1) Any compromise concluded in violation of the provisions of this law, even where it is executed, shall be considered as null and void. The invalidity of such compromise shall be established by the Minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture who shall notify the offender.

(2) Where compromise involves fine and damages, the offender, the person civilly liable and the insurer may be associated in the procedure.



(3) Instruments intended to conclude and execute compromise shall be interruptive of limitation periods.

(4) Compromise procedure must predate any legal proceeding, under pain of nullity.

ii - LAWSUIT

SECTION 66: (1) Criminal proceedings shall be instituted by the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture in the following cases:

- non-execution of the compromise, and after issuing a formal notice to the party concerned, within 72 (seventy-two) hours;
- without preconditions, absence of a request for dispute resolution by compromise;
- upon receipt of the refusal notification of the Minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture

(2) Without prejudice to the institution of criminal proceedings, the ministry of fisheries and aquaculture may, where applicable:

- (a) summon before the competent court any person alleged to have committed a fishery or aquaculture offence;
- (b) file a complaint as a civil party with a criminal investigating judge;
- (c) file briefs or submissions and make any observation considered useful in safeguarding its interests;
- (d) make appeals as provided for by Regulation.

SECTION 67: (1) Except for harmful or damaged products, perishable products seized shall be sold immediately by public auction. In case of absence of a bidder,



the competent commission shall proceed with their sale by mutual agreement, in accordance with the law in force.

(2) Proceeds from sale by public auction or mutual agreement of various products and objects seized, as well as from compromise, fines, damages shall be shared between:

- the Public Treasury;
- officers of the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture, and any other Ministry involved in repression and recovery activities;
- beneficiary fisheries and aquaculture development bodies.

(3) The conditions for sharing referred to in (2) above shall be laid down by regulation.

(4) In the event of the irregular sale of seized fishery and aquaculture products, the Ministry concerned may declare the act of sale null and void, without prejudice to penalties faced by the civil servants or officers involved.

SECTION 68: (1) Custody of non-perishable products, equipment, machinery and any other material seized shall be entrusted to the relevant technical Ministry or, failing that, to the nearest municipal pound, at the offender's expense, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) In case of involuntary deterioration of the condition of equipment and gears seized, no legal proceedings shall be instituted against the civil servant or officer of the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture.

(3) The diversion and disappearance of seized products shall fall under the provisions laid down to that effect by the Penal Code.



II - PENALTIES

II.1 - ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

SECTION 69: (1) Without prejudice to legal proceedings, any violation of the provisions of this law may give rise to the application of one of the following administrative penalties:

- suspension of the activity or operation;
- suspension of the operation permits;
- refusal to renew the operation permit;
- withdrawal of the approval or operation permit;
- dock lockouts (for vessels) ;
- entry refusal for fishing vessels and support fishing vessels;
- removal from the fishing and fishing support vessels registry;
- closure of the farm;
- cancellation of the long lease;
- automatic cancellation of accreditations, permits, licences and authorizations.

(2) The administrative penalties referred to in (1) above shall be applied under the conditions and following the procedures laid down by regulation.

SECTION 70: (1) In the case where the activities of an aquaculture establishment pose a threat to or constitute a risk for the environment, the population, other activities or other resources, the Minister in charge of aquaculture may formally notify the operator to take corrective measures within a prescribed deadline.



(2) After expiry of the notification deadline, the Minister in charge of aquaculture may apply one of the sanctions provided for in Section 69 above, without prejudice to the penalties provided for by the laws and regulations in force in environmental matters.

II.2 - CRIMINAL PENALTIES

i - COMMON PROVISIONS

SECTION 71: (1) Any natural or legal person who wilfully commits acts constituting one of the offences referred to in this law shall be criminally liable and punishable by the penalties provided for under this law and its implementing instruments.

(2) Except for the State and its agencies, legal persons shall be criminally liable for offences committed on their behalf by their organs or representatives.

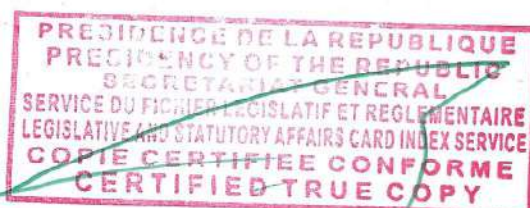
(3) The criminal liability of natural persons who commit offences shall not preclude the liability of legal persons.

(4) Accomplices and co-offenders shall receive the same punishment as the perpetrator of an offence.

(5) The holder of an operation permit shall be liable for offences committed by his/her staff, representatives and sub-contractors.

SECTION 72: (1) Criminal penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to disciplinary penalties in the following cases:

- where offences are committed by civil servants or sworn officers of the ministry in charge of fisheries and aquaculture;
- in case of crime of flight or refusal to comply with the injunctions of civil servants or competent officers.



(2) The penalties referred to in this law shall be applicable without prejudice to confiscation, restitution, damages or closing the establishment.

(3) Notwithstanding Section 51 of the Penal Code, where several offences are committed by the same person, financial penalties provided for each offence shall be cumulative.

SECTION 73: (1) In case of repeat offence, the penalties provided for in this law shall be doubled.

(2) There shall be repeat offence where, the perpetrator was given a final sentence or benefited from a compromise within a period of 12 (twelve) months preceding the offence.

(3) To determine repeat offence, payment of fine shall have the same effect as the first judgement.

SECTION 74: Where an accused makes a plea of ownership right or any other real right, the court shall rule on the preliminary motions pursuant to the regulations of ordinary law.

ii - FISHERIES-RELATED CRIMINAL PENALTIES

SECTION 75: Whoever:

- operates a fishing or fishing support vessel without a nationality or with a foreign nationality in waters under Cameroonian jurisdiction without prior authorization;
- engages in industrial fishing without,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 10 (ten) to 15 (fifteen) years or a fine of from CFAF 500 000 000 (five hundred million) to CFAF 1 000 000 000 (one billion francs), or with both such imprisonment and fine.



SECTION 76: In addition to the provisions of Section 75 above, any fishing offence referred to in Section 77 below committed by a foreign fishing vessel shall be punished with a fine of from CFAF 100 000 000 (one hundred million) to CFAF 150 000 000 (one hundred and fifty million).

SECTION 77: Whoever:

- (a) engages in industrial fishing without permit;
- (b) engages in shark fishing for finning;
- (c) engages in industrial fishing using chemical substances or poisons;
- (d) engages in transshipping or the sale of sea products without authorization,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 2 (two) to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 20 000 000 (twenty million) to CFAF 25 000 000 (twenty-five million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 78: Whoever engages in industrial fishing by spilling industrial, agricultural or domestic pollutants in aquatic areas shall be punished with imprisonment for from 2 (two) to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 5 000 000 (five million) to CFAF 10 000 000 (ten million) , or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 79: Whoever:

- illegally imports or exports fishery products, ornamental species and other live species for aquaculture purposes;
- keeps on board an industrial fishing vessel a weapon that is dangerous to fishing,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 2 (two) years or a fine of from CFAF 2 000 000 (two million) to 5 000 000 (five million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.



SECTION 80: Whoever fishes using electricity, lamps, dynamite, firearms, self-activating traps or any other device that destroys wildlife or the aquatic environment shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) year to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 15 000 000 (fifteen million) to CFAF 30 000 000 (thirty million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 81: Whoever:

- (a) fishes in a stock where fishing is prohibited;
- (b) engages in industrial fishing with towed gear within the 5 (five) nautical mile limit;
- (c) discards catches at sea;
- (d) uses fishing gear with non-standard mesh sizes;
- (e) uses fishing equipment or devices likely to obstruct net meshes or reduce their selective action;
- (f) keeps on board a fishing vessel, any substance that may intoxicate or destroy the resource;
- (g) fails to unload products and catches at landing sites and ports in Cameroon,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) years and a fine of from CFAF 10 000 000 (ten million) to CFAF 15 000 000 (fifteen million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 82: Whoever:

- (a) falsifies or conceals the marking, identity or registration of the vessel;
- (b) extinguishes or obstructs beacons ;
- (c) fails to transmit statistical data and catch information to the relevant authority,



shall be punished with imprisonment for from 2 (two) to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 2 000 000 (two million) to CFAF 5 000 000 (five million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 83: Whoever:

- (a) engages in for-profit artisanal fishing without a license;
- (b) diverts, retains without right or proceeds with the sale of fishing trophies of ornamental species and other cultural, commercial or scientific species;
- (c) breaches the obligation to carry and present a fishing license or permit on board a vessel or boat;
- (d) violates the prohibition on selling or leasing exploitation permits;
- (e) transports fishery products without the approval of the Minister in charge of fisheries and aquaculture;
- (f) processes, preserves and transports fishery products in violation of the regulations in force;
- (g) injures, kills, fishes or captures mammals and other protected species without authorization from the competent authority;
- (h) introduces foreign live fishery resources into national territory without authorization,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 200 000 (two hundred thousand) to CFAF 500 000 (five hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 84: Whoever does pair trawling shall be punished with imprisonment for from 3 (three) to 5 (five) years or a fine of from CFAF 5 000 000 (five million) to CFAF 15 000 000 (fifteen million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 85: Any artisanal fisherman who fishes during biological rest periods or in areas prohibited by the Minister in charge of fisheries shall be punished with imprisonment for from 3 (three) to 6 (six) months or a fine of from CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to CFAF 1 000 000 (one million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.



SECTION 86: Whoever carries out industrial or semi-industrial fishing during biological rest periods or in areas prohibited by the Minister in charge of fisheries shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) year to 2 (two) years or a fine of from CFAF 100 000 000 (one hundred million) to CFAF 200 000 000 (two hundred million), with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 87: Whoever carries out illegal fishing activities for scientific or educational purposes shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 1 (one) year or a fine of from CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to CFAF 500 000 (five hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 88: Whoever carries out underwater, river or lake fishing using a self-contained breathing apparatus, foil or any other similar equipment without authorization from the Minister in charge of fisheries shall be punished with imprisonment for from 2 (two) months to 1 (one) year or a fine of from CFAF 500 000 (five hundred thousand) to CFAF 1 000 000 (one million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 89: Whoever refuses to present an exploitation permit officials and staff of the Ministry in charge of fisheries shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 1 (one) year or a fine of from CFAF 50 000 (fifty thousand) to CFAF 200 000 (two hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 90: Whoever operates an establishment for the processing, storage and sale of fishery and aquaculture products without prior authorization shall be punished with imprisonment for from 20 (twenty) days to 3 (three) months or a fine of from CFAF 200 000 (two hundred thousand) to CFAF 1 000 000 (one million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 91: Whoever, in carrying out industrial or semi-industrial fishing, catches, keeps or sells undersized fish species shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) year to 2 (two) years or a fine of from CFAF 2 000 000 (two million) to CFAF 5 000 000 (five million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.



SECTION 92: Whoever, in carrying out artisanal fishing, catches, keeps or sells undersized fish species, shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) year to 2 (two) years or a fine of from CFAF 50 000 (fifty thousand) to CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 93: Whoever counterfeits or destroys marks or buoys used by fisheries authorities, or uses counterfeit marks or buoys shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 1 (one) year or a fine of from CFAF 500 000 (five hundred thousand) to CFAF 1 000 000 (one million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 94: Whoever sells or allows to be sold, or collects for personal consumption, fishery or aquaculture products that have not undergone veterinary health inspection shall be punished with imprisonment for from 3 (three) months to 3 (three) years or a fine of from CFAF 50 000 (fifty thousand) to CFAF 5 000 000 (five million), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 95: Whoever obstructs fisheries and/or aquaculture control and surveillance officers in the discharge of their control and inspection duties shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) months to 1 (one) year or a fine of from CFAF 2 000 000 (two million) to CFAF 5 000 000 (five million) CFAF francs, or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 96: (1) Any foreign vessel duly authorized to carry out fishing in waters under Cameroon's jurisdiction shall be imposed the same penalties as Cameroonian-flagged vessels.

(2) The Penalties imposed on foreign vessels shall be without prejudice to prosecution by the flag State.

(3) The penalties imposed on Cameroonian-flagged vessels shall be without prejudice to any proceedings initiated by other States having jurisdiction.



iii - AQUACULTURE-RELATED CRIMINAL PENALTIES

SECTION 97: Whoever:

- (a) engages in commercial aquaculture activities without an exploitation permit;
- (b) removes broodstock, fry or juveniles from the natural environment without authorization;
- (c) carries out fishing in a State or council aquaculture facility,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 3 (three) to 6 (six) months or a fine of from CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to CFAF 500 000 (five hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 98: Whoever:

- (a) illegally imports or exports aquaculture species of live broodstock, eggs, larvae, juveniles and strains;
- (b) uses or sells hormones for profit, without authorization,

shall be punished with imprisonment for from 3 (three) to 6 (six) months or a fine of from CFA 1 000 000 (one million) to CFAF 2 500 000 (two million five hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 99: Whoever fails to transmit information on aquaculture activity to the authorities shall be punished with imprisonment for from 6 (six) to 12 (twelve) months or a fine of from CFAF 50 000 (fifty thousand) to CFAF 100 000 (one hundred thousand), or with both such imprisonment and.

SECTION 100: Whoever releases aquaculture organisms into the natural environment without authorization shall be punished with imprisonment for from 1 (one) to 2 (two) years or a fine of from CFAF 1 000 000 (one million) to CFAF 2 000 000 (two million) CFA francs, or with both such imprisonment and fine.



CHAPTER VI
TRANSITIONAL, MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 101: Holders of valid approvals, permits, licenses, authorizations or any other exploitation documents at the time of enactment of this law shall have a period of 12 (twelve) months to comply with its provisions.

SECTION 102: Subject to the provisions of specific laws, the State may take the necessary incentive measures to promote aquaculture activities. Such measures shall relate in particular to investment in aquaculture, production of quality seed, production of feed, introduction and movement of aquatic organisms, and aquaculture research and extension.

SECTION 103: Separate instruments shall be laid down, as and when necessary, for implementing the provisions of this law.

SECTION 104: All previous provisions repugnant hereto, in particular those of Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulations, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 105: This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French./-



YAOUNDE, 23 DEC 2024



PAUL BIYA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC