

CHARACTERIZATION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHING ACTIVITY IN LUANDA BAY (ANGOLA)

Silvana Faria^{1*}, Marisa Macuéria¹, Benjamin A. Mosley², M. Alexandra Teodósio³, Vânia Baptista³

*Contact email: silfaria_@hotmail.com

¹Instituto Nacional de Investigação Pesqueira e Marinha (INIPM), Luanda, Angola

²Centre for Marine and Environmental Research (CIMA), Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal; ³Centre of Marine Sciences (CCMAR), Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal

Abstract

Luanda Bay, the second largest bay and one of the most important ecosystems of the Angolan coast, supports many human activities. This bay supports a range of marine biodiversity that serves as a means of livelihood and source of income for more than fifty small-scale artisanal fisheries and collectors of worms and bivalve molluscs. The present study is the first record of this fishing activity in Luanda Bay and the objective was to characterize the resource exploitation in this bay based on field data obtained by distributing self-reported and structured questionnaires to the two fishing communities (fishermen and shellfish harvesters) in Luanda Bay: Luanda Island and Luanda Commercial Harbour. The results revealed that the two fishing communities used different vessel types during fishing activity. In the Luanda Island fishing community, the fishermen used rowboats ("Chata") and motorboats, and in the Commercial Port of Luanda fishing community, they used an adapted vessel made of Styrofoam boards. The main gears were line/hooks (34.1%), shovel (25.0%), seine (9.1%), gillnet (6.8%), trawl (4.5%) and traps (2.3%). According to the local fishing communities, *Pomadasy jubelini*, *Mugil cephalus*, *Dentex* spp., *Senilia senilis*, *Mactra glauca*, *Donax* spp., *Perna perna*, and *Lucinella divaricata* were the predominant species. In relation to the earnings by fishing day, the Luanda Island community had a higher income (average: 14.4 ± 8.3 euros; maximum: 39.0 euros) than Luanda Commercial Harbour community (average: 8.4 ± 5.1 euros; maximum: 24.2 euros). Thus, the quality of life of the fishing communities seems to be highly depending on this activity.

Keywords: Artisanal fisheries, Fishing Community, Molluscs, Crustaceans, Fish, Coast of Angola.

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