Phenomenon Of Insecurity In Fishing Zones In The City Of Douala

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ABSTRACT
Fishing is a human activity which mainly consists of catching any living being in waters (rivers, seas, oceans, etc.) for consumption, scientific research, etc. It has existed for several centuries and was intended to provide a source of marine food/nutrition to humans. Artisanal/semi-industrial fishing are the most practiced types of fishing in Cameroon and despite this, the activity is still practiced in a precarious manner and is subject to many problems including, the quality of the equipment, the safety of their boats. etc. Thus, our work focused on the phenomena of insecurity linked to fishing activities in Cameroon and was carried out in the city of Douala, particularly in the fishing zones of Youpwe and Dibamba. It was a question of carrying out a field survey among fishermen, of determining the problems of insecurity during fishing, of determining the problems of insecurity in the fisherman's environment. At the end of this work, a total of 11 fishermen of Cameroonian nationality were interviewed, all aged between 20 and 40 for the most part. Most of these fishermen get most of their gear from MIDEPECAM. Very few fishermen admit to having frequent cases of capsizing because most of them benefit from good training and experience allowing them to control their vessels at all times. To conclude this work, local fishing despite its development still falls short of what could be expected of it and will therefore need a big boost to respond effectively to the demands of the populations and this requires respecting security measures.

Key words: Fishing, insecurity, stability of the boat, Douala.

INTRODUCTION

Cameroon is a Central African coastal country located in the Gulf of Guinea and covering a an area of 475,000 km2. It is limited to the east by Chad and the Central African Republic, north by Lake Chad, west by Nigeria and south by Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo (Angoni, 2012). The name Cameroon comes from the Portuguese Rios dos Camarões, meaning ‘‘shrimp river’, due to the abundance of these crustaceans (genus Callianassa sp.) in the Wouri estuary, one of the main rivers that flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Cameroon is a country rich in natural resources, with fertile soils and good (Njamen, 2005).

Fish is one of the main sources of protein for the population, and especially for the most disadvantaged. Fish consumption is estimated at 14.3 kg per person/year, (Chiambeng, 2009), whereas total consumption of animal protein of non fish origin in 2000 (cattle, pigs, sheep/goats & poultry) is estimated at 13.8 kg/person/year (Chiambeng 2010). This makes that the contribution of fish in terms of animal proteins this amounts to more than 50 percent (Kiszha, 2010).

Fishing is part of the rural sector and in principle, the same priorities should apply as for other sub-sectors. However, it is clear that fishing remains the poor relation of the rural sector and is not yet a real priority for the public authorities (François, 2009).

Today, the activity has grown and become a very important economic tool. However, like any activity on earth, it does not lack advantages, let alone disadvantages. Among the advantages, we can say that it is an income generator (important for the economy of a country), reduces the unemployment rate, etc. Excessive fishing and insecurity are among the disadvantages of this activity (Hosch, 2007).

Insecurity in the fishing environment can be linked to several factors such as safety at sea, the safety of the boat and its occupants (Njifonjou, 2008). This is how we undertook to analyze the phenomena of insecurity in the fishing zones of Cameroon and particularly those of the city of Douala. Thus the general objective of our work will be to determine the problems of insecurity linked to the semi-industrial fishing activity. Specifically, this will involve : conducting a field survey among fishermen and determining problems of insecurity during fishing.

MATERIALS ET METHODS

To carry out this study, the research methodology was structured into several points: the development of the research protocol which made it possible to define the plan and the different methods of collecting information and data processing tools; followed by field visits (Youpwé and Dibamba). Their aim was to get acquainted with the fishing

activity by getting as close as possible to its stakeholders (fishermen), familiarize themselves and discuss with them (carry out a little brainstorming) and obtain data.
Data collection from fisheries and fishing units was done through household surveys in the different fisheries in our study area using questionnaires. The selection of households interviewed was done randomly; thus we survey a panel of approximately 10% of the total population of each community.
For each workforce, one third is covered by long questionnaires and two thirds by short questionnaires. The following information is collected and compiled: the date of the survey; the age of the fisherman, his nationality and his sex; the fishing camp and geographic coordinates; the types of gear used.

Interviews with fishermen
The long questionnaire was designed to interact with each fisherman for approximately 30 minutes. The main information collected concerns the fishermen themselves, fishing practices, gear used and unwanted catches of sea turtles and marine mammals. The long questionnaire contained a lot of information on fishing gear, desired species, characterization of fishing canoes, seasonality and fishing effort.
The short questionnaire, as for him, was designed for an interview with the fisherman in just five to 10 minutes. This is the summary of the long questionnaire and the information collected is focused only on accidental captures and mainly concerns questions on the type of gear, the number of marine turtles and marine mammals caught.

Data analysis
The various data collected are processed electronically and analysis are carried out using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software. The processing of this information and the synthesis of the data made it possible to produce contingency tables in a suitable format, which were exported for further analysis and appropriate processing.

RESULTS ET DISCUSSION
OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE OF FISHERY IN YOUPWE AND DIMBAMBA
We interviewed 11 fishermen in total and all nationals of Cameroon, 91% fishermen were aged between 21 and 40 years old and the remaining 9% were over 40 years old (Fig.1.). Almost all of its fishermen practice local fishing, when they spend at least 3 days at sea they obtain an average quantity of 100kg of fish. We had 36% of fishermen agree that this is a buoyant activity and 46% that they completely agree, which represents a number of 82% against 18% who believe that the activity is not buoyant. So the activity is considered buoyant because the majority is satisfied.

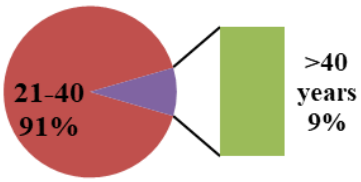

Figure 1 : Ages of fishermen in the locality of Youpwé and Dbamba.

It appears from this table that 100% of fishermen are of Cameroonian nationality, i.e. 91% aged 21 to 40 years and 9% are over 40 years old. We note that almost all fishermen practice local fishing, this could be explained by the fact that they do not have enough equipment to practice semi-industrial fishing and local fishing is therefore profitable for them (Fig.2).

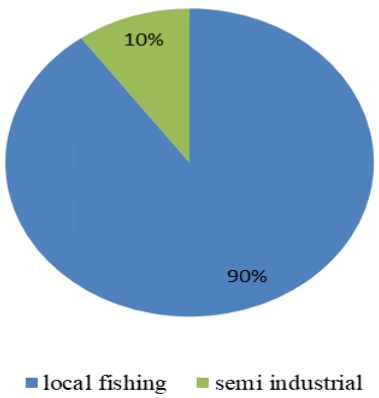

Figure.2 : Types of fishing in the study area.

We note that almost all fishermen practice local fishing, this could be explained by the fact that they do not have enough equipment to practice semi-industrial fishing and local fishing is therefore profitable for them. We can see that 18% of fishermen have experience of between 0 and 5 years; 46% of fishermen have experience of between 6 and 10 years; 36% of fishermen have more than 10 years of experience. This could be explained by the fact that the fishing profession is a profession which requires a lot of experience, reason why we find more those with high experience and this profession also requires endurance which is why we would not find enough people who have been over 10 years.
Quantities of over 100 kg are obtained by spending at least three days at sea. We note that 46% of fishermen bring back a quantity of fish between 51 and 100%; 36% bring back a quantity of less than 50 kg; bring back a quantity greater than 100 kg (Fig.3.).

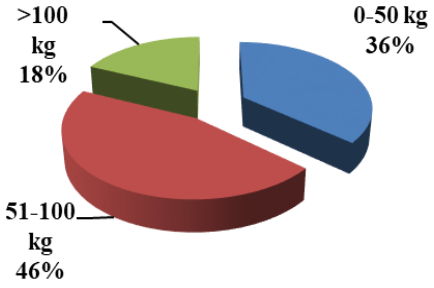

Figure 3 : Quantity caught at sea.

This could be explained by the fact that fishing is a profession that requires time and patience and therefore those making a prolonged stay at sea bring back a greater quantity of fish and also it is the most experienced and enduring who spend several days at sea because they are already accustomed to it and know better how to manage the different risks.
Field surveys noted that 63% agreed with the profitability of this activity and 18% very much agreed, which represents a profitability of this activity of 81% despite its artisanal nature (Fig.4.).

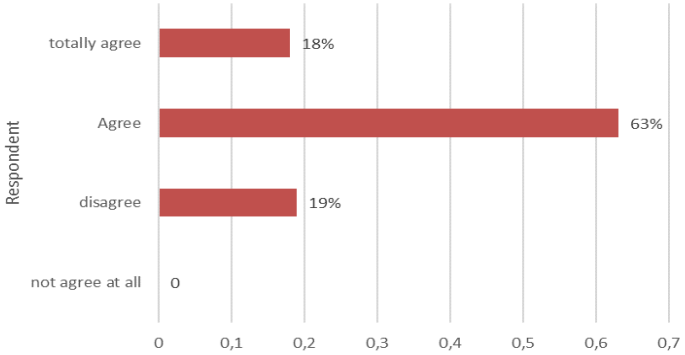

Figure.4. : Profitability of the activity

We have 36% of people who agreed that this is a buoyant activity and 46% who completely agreed, which represents a workforce of 82% compared to 18% who believe that the activity is not carrier. So the activity is considered buoyant because the majority is satisfied.

SAFETY DURING FISHING

We note that for cases of capsizing that waves and winds often represent 55% of causes and very often 9% of causes and 36% of cases which rarely occur (Figure 5). This increases the risk of capsizing.

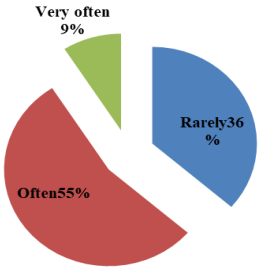

Figure.5. : Case of capsizing of canoes.

We note a percentage of 18% of people who think that this position keeps the canoe perfectly balanced, 18% of other people who judge this very well, 46% of people who judge this well; against 18% who judge this posture average, so we have a total of 82% who rate this posture at least well and against 18% who judge it average. So there would also be other parameters that come into play in the stability of the ship (Figure 6).

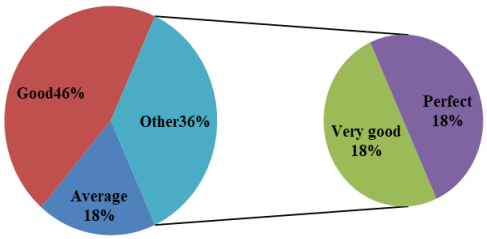

Figure.6. : Stability of the canoe.

55% of cases of instability are due to the weight of the ship, compared to 27% caused by the shape of the ship and 18% of cases are due to the nature of the hull. So the weight of the ship represents a big factor for the stability problem at sea because the higher the weight, the more difficult it is to steer the ship (Fig.7.).

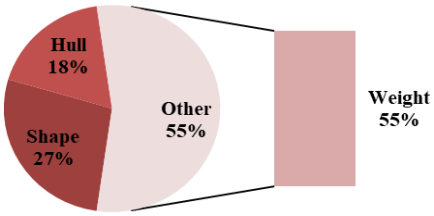

Figure .7: Stability problem.

We have 55% of people who opt to balance the loads when they cast the nets by positioning themselves equally to starboard and port, and the other 45% opt to position themselves equally to the bow and stern. We have 0% uneven distribution because this would cause the vessel to become unbalanced and consequently capsize (Fig.8).

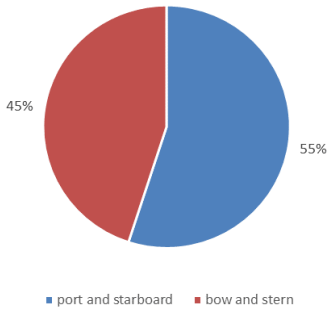

Figure .8. : Arrangement to manage stability

We have 55% of people who opt to balance the loads when pulling the nets by positioning themselves equally to starboard and port, and the other 45% opt to position themselves equally to the bow and stern. We have 0% unequal distribution or to position ourselves at the same point because to stabilize the canoe the loads would have to be distributed equitably to keep it in balance. So the 50% starboard and 50% port posture would be the most ideal for stabilizing the canoe.

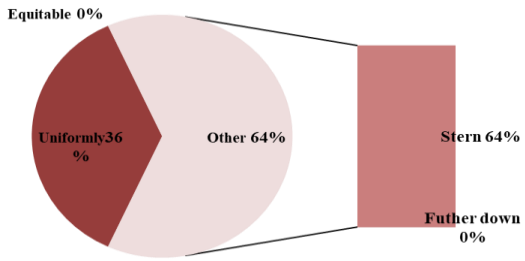

Figure 9 : Disposition de la charge.

We note that 36% of fishermen arrange their loads evenly on the canoe, compared to 64% who opt to arrange the load at the stern. Because by arranging the loads at the stern, this allows the canoe to be slightly lifted at the bow and thus moves more quickly while consuming less fuel (Fig.9.).
Here, 42% of fishermen estimate that the maximum load would be between 301 and 700kg, while 33% believe that it is possible to transport more than 700 kg, 8% who have no idea of the maximum load to transport and 0% who estimate that the maximum load to be transported is less than 100 kg (Figure 10).

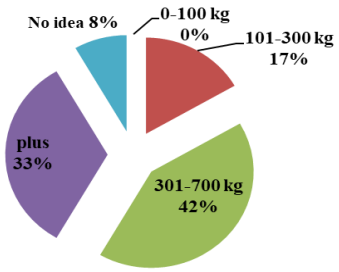

Figure 10 : Maximum charge.

It would therefore be ideal to transport a maximum load of 700 kg which would allow the canoe to move quickly, and still save on fuel at the same time because the heavier the load, the more the engine will consume which could lead to the problem of running out of fuel in the open sea; moreover, when the load is greater, it becomes more difficult to manage the stability problem which would lead to cases of capsizing.

CONCLUSION

Having reached the end of our work which dealt with the phenomenon of insecurity in the fishing zones of the city of Douala; we say that fishing activity is still mostly practiced in an archaic way due to its artisanal method. This method is linked to a lot of insecurity during its implementation such as: difficulties with the stability of the canoes, provisions and limitations of loads, etc. All this highlights a strong assessment of environmental risks. Although this activity is still practiced by most in an archaic manner, it is part of the economic activities registered in Cameroon and in the city of Douala in particular caracterised k o by the number of actors involved and by the income generated at the level of these communities. It is then necessary to modernize, industrialize, retrain and train workers for a "win-win" partnership between investors and public authorities on the one hand the increase in production and revenue and on the other hand the increase in the tax base. To complete this work, it would be better to design much more stable and resistant canoes as well as educating fishermen about safety measures.

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Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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