



The Development Trend and Advantages of Fishery in Angola

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ABSTRACT

Angola is an important maritime country in southern Africa with abundant fishery resources. For a long time, the Angolan government has regarded fishery as a pillar to promote national economic development, increase employment and ensure food security. Since its independence, the Angolan fishery has experienced a long period of low tide due to the domestic political situation. With the end of the civil war and the improvement of national policies, the Angolan fishery has shown new development trends in recent years. Influenced by factors such as rich fishery resources, a vast consumer market and national policies, the Angolan fishery has significant development advantages and broad prospects.

Keywords: Angola; Fishery; Development Potential; Aquaculture Fishery

INTRODUCTION

1.The Development Trend of Fisheries in Angola

In 2023, the Angolan government adopted the long-term development strategy "Angola 2050", setting development goals for promoting the fishery industry in 2030 and 2050 (see Table 1). In addition, the "National Development Plan 2023-2027" released in 2023, as a concrete practice of the long-term development

strategy, has made plans for the phased development of the fishery industry. These comprehensive and medium - to long-term plans and strategies not only reflect Angola's emphasis on fishery production, but also the development goals set for the fishery and the promotion of aquaculture fishery development demonstrate the development trend of Angola's fishery.

Table 1 The fishery development goals of Angola

Year	2022	2030	2050
Total output of catch and aquaculture fishery (thousand tons)	596	815	1234

Extractive fishing (thousand tons)	593	695	375
Aquaculture (percentage of total output)	0%	15%	70%
Marine aquaculture (thousand tons)	0	40	304
Continental aquaculture (thousand tons)	3	80	555
The contribution of the fishery sector to GDP (1 billion US dollars)	5	7.8	15.9
The contribution of the fishery sector to GDP (as a percentage of GDP)	4.1%	4.6%	5.5%

Source of Data : 《Angola 2050》, <https://mep.gov.ao/bo/api/getDoc/b74775bd00a93260a46450c0b1afb38a-2.pdf>.

(1) The trend of sustainable development in the fishery industry is becoming increasingly prominent

Fish is the main source of animal protein for the Angolan people. To meet the basic needs of the people, the Angolan government's management of fishery resources has been chaotic, and the country has been in a state of overfishing for a long time, ¹ this has led to the destruction of its own Marine fishery resources and frequent ecological problems. Based on the sustainable development predicament faced by the fishery industry, the Angolan government intends to build a sustainable fishery. In 2023, Angola held its first Blue Economy Expo, attracting nearly 60 exhibitors, ² it involves multiple fishery companies and aims to enhance the sustainability of Marine fishery. In April 2024, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources Carmen DOS Santos attended the United Nations Decade of the Ocean Conference held in Barcelona, Spain, aiming to lay a new foundation for strengthening sustainable ocean management and promoting science-based innovation. Furthermore, Angola actively strengthens international cooperation to promote the development of the blue economy. On July 23, 2024, Angola and Portugal signed a Protocol on cooperation in the blue economy. The sustainable development of the fishery industry is an

important area of cooperation between the two sides. On October 29, 2024, Zhang Bin paid a visit to Angola's Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, DOS Santos. DOS Santos expressed his hope that more Chinese enterprises would invest in Angola's aquaculture and fishery infrastructure to promote the sustainable development of Angola's fishery.³ In February 2025, Angola issued Presidential Decree No. 56/25, authorizing the use of technologies such as Automatic Identification systems (AIS), vessel monitoring systems (VMS), and unmanned aerial vehicles to supervise and manage fishing vessels, in order to enhance the protection of Marine fishery resources.⁴ The series of measures taken by the Angolan government departments demonstrate its intention to guide the sustainable development of the fishery industry and facilitate the transformation and upgrading of the industry.

(2) The status of aquaculture has gradually increased

Although the aquaculture industry in Angola is generally in its infancy, it has received increasing attention from the Angolan government in recent years. In 2022, the proportion of aquaculture production in Angola's total fishery output was almost zero. However, in its long-term plan, the Angolan government plans to increase the proportion of aquaculture production to 70% of the total

¹ Vepa, V., & Urbandale, I. A. Angola: The Benefits of Improved Aquaculture and Stopping Overfishing.

² “Primeira edição da Expo Economia azul”, Ministério da economia e Planeamento, 2023-11-27, <https://minpermar.gov.ao/web/noticias/primeira-edicao-da-expo-economia-azul>, Accessed 2025-3-29.

³ “Ambassador Zhang Bin to Angola paid a visit to the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Angola”, Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of

China, 2024-10-

31, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/gjhdq_676201/gj_676203/fz_677316/1206_677390/1206x2_677410/202412/t20241218_11499229.shtml, Accessed 2025-3-30.

⁴ “The new legislation ensures strengthened supervision and sustainable management of Marine resources”, The Government of Angola, 2025-3-

13, <https://governo.gov.ao/noticias/2306/governo/frota-pesqueira/nova-legislacao-garante-maior-fiscalizacao-e-gestao-sustentavel-dos-recursos-marinhos>, Accessed 2025-3-29.

fishery output by 2050, setting the general tone for the future development of Angola's aquaculture industry. In addition, promoting the development of freshwater and Marine aquaculture is one of Angola's ten major goals for 2023-2027.⁵ In 2014, Angola launched the "Spatial Planning of Aquaculture Zones in the Republic of Angola", the aim is to enable stakeholders to collaborate and participate in ultimately determining the most promising aquaculture development areas.⁶ By the end of 2023, there were approximately 400 enterprises engaged in aquaculture in Angola. The aquaculture fishery production activities were concentrated in Cabinda, Uige and Lunda Sul. Among them, about 90% of the aquaculture enterprises used land (by digging ponds) as the main aquaculture site, while less than 10% of the aquaculture enterprises carried out aquaculture in natural and artificial ponds and reservoirs,⁷ the utilization of domestic freshwater aquaculture space is insufficient. In addition, freshwater aquaculture is an important direction for Angola's aquaculture industry. It is estimated that by 2050, the output of Angola's aquaculture industry will account for 70% of the total fishery output. At that time, the output of freshwater aquaculture industry will reach 555,000 tons, becoming an important pillar of the country's fishery. In the latest national development plan, Angola plans to implement 829 continental aquaculture projects to enhance the production capacity of aquaculture fishery, including 751 small-scale aquaculture projects, 67 medium-sized aquaculture projects and 11 large-scale aquaculture projects.⁸ Driven by a series of policies, the output of aquaculture in Angola has continued to grow in recent years, rising from 1,339 tons in 2017 to 2,808 tons in 2021. In 2023, the output of aquaculture exceeded 10,000 tons, showing a strong growth trend.

2.The advantages of fishery development in Angola

⁵ "National Fisheries Promotion Program", Ministry of Economy and Planning, January 2022, p.7, <https://mep.gov.ao/bo/api/getDoc/d76ed13a91d35b754c6e07d37e114622.pdf>.

⁶ Aguilar-Manjarrez, J., Scott, P., & Dombaxe, M. (2016). Angola committed to growing sustainable aquaculture. *FAO Aquaculture Newsletter*, (54), 40.

⁷ "Result reports of agricultural and aquaculture enterprises", National Institute of Statistics of Angola, P.57.https://www.ine.gov.ao/Arquivos/arquivosCarregados/Carregados/Publicacao_638097190203119643.pdf.

Fishery is a pillar industry in Angola and has played a significant role in enhancing national food security, eliminating hunger and promoting employment. Since the end of the Angolan civil war in 2002, the Angolan government departments have long been committed to the recovery of the fishery industry, stabilizing social employment and ensuring national food security. Nowadays, with the in-depth advancement of Angola's economic diversification strategy and the effective implementation of various development plans, coupled with the fishery and spatial resources within Angola, as well as the potential fish product consumption market and other factors, these factors interweave with each other, forming a significant advantage for the development of Angola's fishery.

(1) Abundant fishery resources lay the foundation for development

Angola is located in the southern part of the Gulf of Guinea. Along its coast, cold and warm currents converge, and it is influenced by the southeast trade wind, with prevailing upwelling. The conditions for the growth of Marine fish are excellent. Research shows that the Benguerra Current region is rich in middle, upper and lower fish resources. Most of the important fishery resources are shared among neighboring countries or migrated across national jurisdictions, including sardines, anchovies, cod, bamboo mackerel, sardine, big-eyed toothfish, deep-sea red crabs and west coast rock lobsters. The multi-species bottom trawling fishery from southern to northern Angola mainly catches bottom-dwelling fish populations, involving more than 30 species of fish, including snapper, yellow croaker, grouper and cod, etc.⁹ The fishery department of Angola once estimated that its fishery catch potential exceeded 700,000 tons,¹⁰ it laid the resource foundation for the development of fishing fishery. Meanwhile, Angola is

⁸ "National Development Plan (PDN) 2023-2027", The Government of Angola, 2025-3-14, <https://governo.gov.ao/noticias/2316/governo/dinamizacao-da-aquicultura/fabricas-de-racao-e-centros-de-producao-de-alevinos-vao-ser-potencializados>, Accessed 2025-4-1.

⁹ Kirkman, S.P. and Nsengi, K.K., "Marine biodiversity of Angola: biogeography and conservation", *Biodiversity of Angola: Science & Conservation: A Modern Synthesis*, 2019, p.45.

¹⁰ Konda, F.D.M., "Present status of fisheries wealth in Angola", *Journal of Marine Bioscience and Biotechnology*, 2008, 3(1), p.1.

crisscrossed by a dense network of waterways, with approximately 30 major rivers, including the Congo River, the Cunene River, the Kwanza River, the Cubongo River, etc. The degree of development is relatively low,¹¹ the abundant freshwater resources provide spatial support for the development of freshwater aquaculture fishery.

(2) Domestic demand is strong and the market conditions are favorable

Fish is one of the traditional diets of Angolan residents, so the demand for fish products among the people of this country is relatively high. In 2021, the per capita consumption of aquatic animal food in African countries was 9.4 kilograms,¹² but from 2017 to 2021, the per capita consumption of fish products in Angola was roughly between 11 kilograms and 20 kilograms, exceeding the average consumption of fish products in African countries. During this period, the export of fish products decreased from 33,718 tons to 20,060 tons, and the import of fish products dropped from 60,573 tons to 3,530 tons. Fishery products were mainly sold domestically, with a self-sufficiency rate exceeding 90%, and the demand for fish products was also expanding day by day.¹³ On the other hand, fish products play an important role in alleviating issues such as food security in Angola. The issue of food security in Angola remains rather prominent. At present, Angola's domestic grain output can meet 40% of its domestic demand, while the rest needs to be imported. The Angolan government still has to pay 2 to 3 billion US dollars for grain imports every year.¹⁴ The fishery sector is the third largest sector in Angola's national economy, providing approximately 25% of the country's population with animal protein intake. Moreover, the fishery plays a crucial role in helping Angola eliminate hunger and poverty and

safeguard national food security.¹⁵

(3) The aquaculture industry has great growth potential

Aquaculture has become a key direction for the future development of Angola's fishery and holds huge growth potential. First of all, the strong support of national policies provides a solid guarantee for this field. The "Angola 2050" vision development strategy clearly places aquaculture at the strategic priority and provides systematic policy guidance for it, demonstrating the high level of attention paid to aquaculture at the national level. Secondly, the transformation of the national fishery development concept has had a profound impact on this field. Angola is striving to reduce the output of traditional fishing fishery and gradually lower its reliance on extractive fishery, thereby promoting the sustainable development of the fishery industry. This has created an era opportunity for the development of aquaculture fishery in Angola. Meanwhile, the domestic demand for fish products has been continuously increasing, while the domestic supply of fish is relatively insufficient. This contradiction between supply and demand further highlights the urgency of the development of aquaculture. In addition, the natural conditions of Angola's Marine and inland waters are superior, providing a favorable growth environment for aquaculture,¹⁶ it has further enhanced the future potential of aquaculture. Finally, as Angola's international cooperation in the fishery sector deepens increasingly, the introduction of technological innovation and financial support will effectively break through the current bottlenecks and promote the development of aquaculture to a higher level. Overall, aquaculture not only meets the needs of Angola's fishery transformation, but also has great development potential and advantages under the influence of factors

¹¹ Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, 《Guide to Foreign Investment and Cooperation Countries (Regions) : Angola (2024)》, p.2.

¹² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 《The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2024: Blue Transformation in Action》, p.73.<https://openknowledge.fao.org/bitstreams/bb50d985-f951-4548-8ed8-c687ef54f4d9/download>.

¹³ "National Fisheries Promotion Program", Ministry of Economy and Planning, January 2022, p.9, <https://mep.gov.ao/bo/api/getDoc/d76ed13a91d35b754c6e07d37e114622.pdf>.

¹⁴ Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, 《Guide to Foreign Investment and Cooperation Countries (Regions) : Angola (2024)》, p.14.

¹⁵ Faria, S., Macuéria, M., Mosley, B. A., Teodósio, M. A., & Baptista, V., "Characterization of small-scale fishing activity in Luanda Bay (Angola)", *Journal of Spatial and Organizational Dynamics*, 2021, 9(3), pp.225-238.

¹⁶ Silva, E. J., Oddsson, G., & Gunnarsson, V. I., "Planning and management for sustainable development of inland aquaculture in Angola", *The United Nations University. Fisheries training program. Final project PO Box, 1390*.

such as national policies and domestic market demands.

3.CONCLUSION

Fishery is a pillar industry of Angola's economy. In response to the needs of the country's economic structure adjustment and transformation, Angola's fishery has gradually shown a trend of sustainability and strengthening aquaculture. With the effective implementation of a series of policies and measures formulated by the government for the fishery industry, the new trends in fishery development have become more prominent. At present, Angola still has a considerable gap from the set development goals in terms of the output of fish products, production structure and the contribution of fishery to the economy. However, with the steady advancement of fishery development policies, coupled with the advantages of abundant fishery resources, strong demand for fish products and superior conditions of aquaculture fishery, it is conducive to the adjustment of the fishery structure and the enhancement of sustainability in Angola. It has a broader development prospect.

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