

## The Management of Natural Resources and the Environment in Canada: Historical and Transnational Perspectives



### Small-scale fisheries in Ghana: Historical and Transnational Perspectives

#### Abstract

The fisheries in Ghana consist of marine and freshwater fisheries. The marine fishery is practice at the subsistence and commercial levels. The commercial level of fishery consists of artisanal/traditional, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries. The significant fish landings come from these three components of marine fisheries whilst the freshwater fishery contribute small amount of fish which are mainly for local consumption. The small-scale fisheries therefore are practiced both in the marine and freshwater.

The small-scale fishery employs about 2.5 million out of 30 million of the Ghanaian population either directly or indirectly in the fisheries industry. These are the fishers, fish processors, fish traders and other auxiliary workers. The small-scale fishery industry is characterized by the use of several fishing gears which targets various fish resources.

The use of dug-out canoes and other traditional fishing gears in the industry dates back centuries ago. Fishing materials had been developed and improved from cotton and hemp to synthetic fibres, mechanization of canoes had improved from hand driven to gasoline eventhough the use of oars is still practice. However, some historical practices had been maintained such as salting, smoking, drying of fish for storage; and no fishing day and other taboos for conservation purposes.

Historically, some small-scale fishers in Ghana either migrate to other West African coastal states to settle for fishing activities or as migrant fishers that fish in other waters and return to Ghana. There are records of Ghanaian small-scale fishers that are spread from Angola to Senegal.

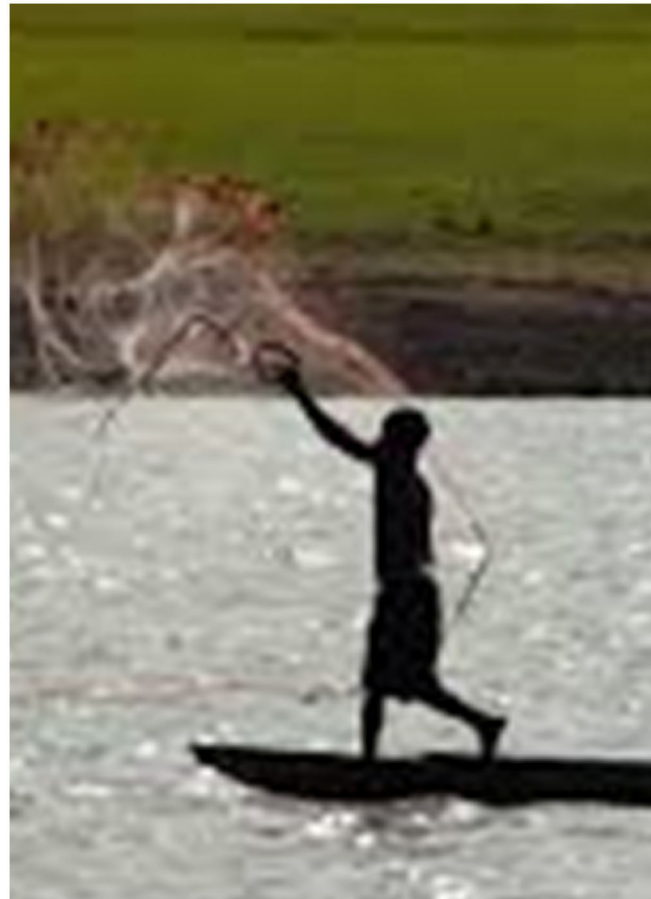
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**DR. JOSEPH AGGREY-FYNN**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND  
AQUATIC SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, GHANA

B.SC. (UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON), M.SC.,  
PH.D (UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN)

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An illustration of a fishing activity on a lake in a rural community in Ghana



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- Prof Jason Colby

**10th June, 2022 @ 12:00-13:00pm Ottawa**

Small-scale fisheries in Ghana: Historical and Transnational Perspectives  
- Professor Joseph Aggrey-Fynn

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Department of History, Carleton University