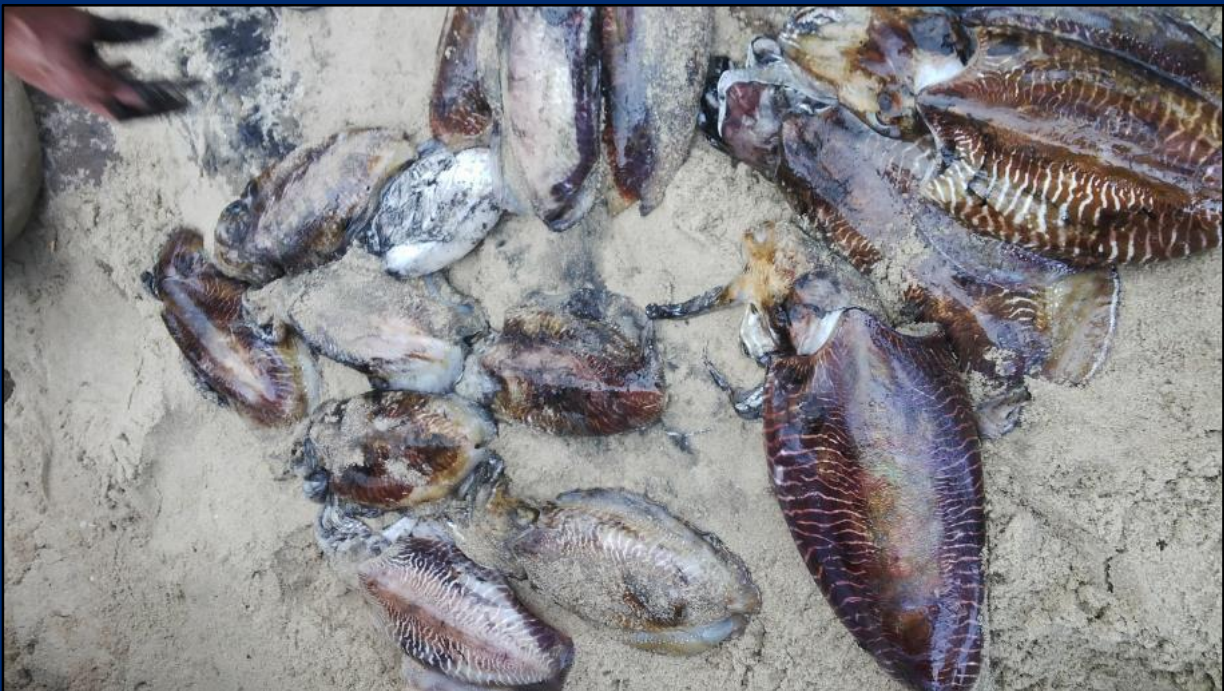




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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Cuttlefish key informant LEK report



DECEMBER, 2016

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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Cover photo: Cuttlefish being sorted at Mumford landing beach (Credit: Cephas Asare)

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ACRONYMS

GITA	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The cuttlefish key informant interview formed the initial ground work carried out as part of the collaborative research between University of Cape Coast, Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association Fisheries Commission and Sustainable Fisheries Management project. The collaboration is an outcome of a study tour to the US by the Ghana Industrial trawlers. The cuttlefish research will demonstrate collaborative engagement between industry (fishermen) and science/research to drive sustainable exploitation of stocks. GITA is working in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science of the University of Cape Coast, Fisheries Commission, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) implementing partners and Hen Mpoano with funding from USAID.

The objective of the key informant interview was to find out:

- When the cuttlefish lay their eggs
- Where fishermen harvest the cuttlefish
- Where the harvesting is done
- Variation in catch
- Different species harvested

The interviews were carried out in Elmina and Mumford between 30 November and 1 December 2016. Findings from the interviews are presented in a tabular for easy reference.

SECTION 2: OUTCOME OF INTERVIEW

Table 1: Summary of responses from informants

Community	Key informant	Questions and responses					Notes
		How many species	When do they lay eggs	When do you start harvesting	Where do you catch them	Variations	
Mumford 30 Nov 2016	1 (Canoe)	One	August	October to April	Gomoa Dergo, Otuem, Amuna, Aikra, Ekumpono	There are changes in population yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They lay their eggs at one location and they stay to protect the eggs until they hatch and care for the juveniles. • Getting to Easter (April) they carry/guide juveniles into deep waters • We set out to fish them at dawn and return by 2pm • Harvest them

Community	Key informant	Questions and responses					Notes
		How many species	When do they lay eggs	When do you start harvesting	Where do you catch them	Variations	
							around 10 to 14 fathoms
	2 (Canoe)	Two (large and small types)	August	September to February	10 to 14 fathoms around Gomoa Dergo, Otuem, Aikra, Elmina, Cape Coast	There are changes in population yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many individuals lay eggs at one location • They gather around the eggs to protect them • They move into deeper waters after February; around 30 Fathoms beyond the reach of my canoe • We use sails on our canoe • We leave at dawn to fish and return

Community	Key informant	Questions and responses					Notes
		How many species	When do they lay eggs	When do you start harvesting	Where do you catch them	Variations	
							<p>in the afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We don't go towards the western Region to fish.
	3 (Canoe)	One	August	November to December	Gomoa Dergo, Siafa, Aikra, Amuna, Nakwa	There are changes in population yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After laying eggs at a particular place they stay to protect the eggs Adults and juvenile move into deeper waters around April We set off around 3am and return around 2 pm Harvest them around

Community	Key informant	Questions and responses					Notes
		How many species	When do they lay eggs	When do you start harvesting	Where do you catch them	Variations	
							10 to 14 fathoms
Elmina 1 Dec 2016	1 & 2 (Inshore)	Five		November to February	Salt pond waters	There is variation yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They stay with eggs • Harvest the from 9 fathoms to 35 fathoms • They prefer hard substrate like rocks • They are found around the Cape 3 Point area mostly in the Western Region
	3 & 4 (canoe)	One	September	September to February	Salt pond, Cape Coast	Some years we get more others we get less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They stay to protect their eggs • They are found within

Community	Key informant	Questions and responses					Notes
		How many species	When do they lay eggs	When do you start harvesting	Where do you catch them	Variations	
							<p>10 to 13 fathoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inshore vessels sometime harvest them within 18 to 20 fathoms but sometimes come as close as 8 to 9.5 fathom • Eggs hatch after 3 months

SECTION 3: OBSERVATIONS

- Most of the fisher we spoke to seem not to know the different types of species available
- In Mumford, the cuttlefish landings we noticed were by canoe fishermen fishing with hooks
- Some of the cuttlefish landed were with eggs
- Harvesting seems to be Central Region waters
- Most of the fishermen use sail and not outboard engines on their canoes; hence rely heavily on wind direction.
 - At dawn when they set sail, the wind blows eastwards and the direction changes to westwards before mid-day
 - They ride the west wind back to their home port

SECTION 4: CONCLUSION

The cuttlefish fishery is a high target one and involves both artisanal canoe and semi-industrial vessels. Harvesting starts around September till end of April when the cuttlefish move into deeper waters beyond the reach of the artisanal canoes.

Fishing ground for cuttlefish vary from community to community and from vessel to vessel but the general range is from 9 to 35 fathoms.

Only one species harvested although some interviewees claim there are about 5 species in Ghanaian waters.

ANNEX 1

1.1 Pictures from the field



Figure 1: cuttlefish



Figure 2: Cuttlefish landed in Mumford, Central Region



Figure 3: eggs and entrails of cuttlefish



Figure 4: Hook used by fishermen in harvesting cuttlefish



Figure 5: Fish processor haggling over price of cuttlefish with a fisherman in Mumford



Figure 6: Interviewing key informants at Mumford and Elmina



Figure 7: Interviewing key informants at Mumford and Elmina