Metadata Report of Sea Fisheries Statistics

V-2.1

Quality Management

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1. Contact

1.1.	Contact organization	General Authority for Statistics
1.2.	Contact organization unit	Environment, Agriculture and Energy Statistics Department
1.3.	Contact person function	Director of Environment, Agriculture and Energy Statistics Department
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1.5.	Contact email address	info@stats.gov.sa
1.6.	Contact phone number	920020081

2. Metadata Update

2.1.	Metadata last update	30/12/2023

3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. Data description
The sea fisheries publication presents up-to-date data on fisheries of both types (traditional and industrial) such as data on catches on the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea, the numbers of fish workers and fishing vessels' workforce, exports and imports of marine products at the state level, loans granted to marine fisheries, and a number of important data.

Sea fisheries statistics are based on register-based data where data on key characteristics are collected as follows:

- Catch in the Red Sea.
- Catch in the Arabian Gulf.
- Numbers of workforce in marine fisheries.
- Fishing vessels.
- Exports and imports of marine products.
- Development loans granted to marine fisheries.

3.2. Classification system

The following classifications are applied in sea fisheries statistics:

- **National classification of economic activities (ISIC4):**

The statistical classification based on the International Standard of Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC4) is used to describe productive activities of an establishment.

- **Saudi Standard Classification of professions (ISCO_08):**

A statistical classification based on the International Classification (ISCO_08) that provides a system for the classification and compilation of professional information obtained through censuses and statistical surveys, as well as administrative records. This classification is used in the sea fisheries statistics in order to classify employees based on their professions.

- **National Code of Countries and Nationalities (3166 ISO – codes Country):**

A statistical classification based on the international standard (ISO 3166_Country codes), which is a standard issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO of the UN), and this classification gives numeric and literal codes for the world's (248) countries, based on the classification of countries. The classification is used in the sea fisheries statistics to classify Saudi or non-Saudi individuals.

- **Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (H.S.2017):**

It is based on the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is a table that classifies commodities into sub-items, numeric codes, sections and chapters in accordance with the Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System signed in Brussels.

The classifications are available on the GASTAT's website: www.stats.gov.sa

3.3. Sector coverage

The sea fisheries statistics covers all economic sectors of fishing.

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terminologies and concepts of sea fisheries statistics:

- Fisheries:

According to fishing regulations relating to fishing licences, the sea fisheries sector has been divided into two sections, namely, investment and traditional fisheries.

- Industrial Fisheries:

It refers to investment fishing boats that are longer than 9 meters in length and are outfitted with modern equipment such as a fish-seeker, electronic navigation equipment, modern communication facilities, and highly efficient winch and fishing equipment.

- Traditional Fisheries:

It refers to the fishing industry, which employs conventional fishing boats ranging in length from 5 to 20 metres and do not use the aforementioned contemporary navigation and technological equipment, with the exception of the usage of a winch and shrimp bottom trawls in the Arabian Gulf.

- Catch:

The catch is a commodity obtained by fishing and comprises all landings of fish, crabs, prawns, and shellfisheries, as well as any captured animals or plants. The catch that was discarded is not tallied. The catch is calculated using the live weight of the fish in kilos or metric tons. As a result, any catch landing as eviscerated fish, gillless fish, or any other form must be converted into live weight. Catch information is frequently gathered through in-person observation of the number of fish or ship's tackles. The fish weights are calculated by multiplying the observed number of fish, containers, or ship's tackles by the average weight of the fish, container, or ship's tackle as determined by a previous survey of these species.

- Fishing Trips:

The number of fishing trips means the number of fishing operations carried out by the boat. The number of fishing excursions can be calculated by counting the number of fishing boats that depart from the landing center to go fishing and the number of boats that return from fishing to the landing center.

- Fishing Days:

It refers to the length of the fishing trip, expressed in days, and in the case of a boat fishing at night from night to morning the next day, the number of fishing days is calculated as one fishing day.

- Traditional Fisherman:

It refers to a Saudi citizen who works in person on one of the traditional fishing boats (and the traditional fisherman can own four traditional fishing boats).

- Investor Fisherman:

This refers to a Saudi citizen or corporation that invests in fishing using sophisticated fishing boats.

- Fisherman without Boat:

He is a Saudi citizen who enjoys fishing but does not own any fishing boats (he is either a beach fisherman or agrees with the owner of one of the fishing boats to work on his boat).

- Fishing Labor:

It refers to persons engaged in fishing on a fishing boat without taking into account their nationality. Fishing labor are divided into two types: the Saudi fishing labor and the non-Saudi fishing labor. The fishing labor must be registered as labor with the owner of the fishing boat, whether a fisherman or an investor.

- Temporary Fisherman:

It refers to the children of traditional fishermen who are under 18 years of age and who are engaged in fishing.

- Volume of imports and exports:

It expresses the volume in net weight, which is the total weight of the commodity after the weight of the ligature and packaging is deducted.

- Value of imports:

The value of imports is calculated on a C&F basis (Cost & Freight). The value represents the cost of the cargo, insurance, freight, and other costs associated with the goods' arrival at the port of entry, excluding customs duties.

- Development loans for fishing:

Loans to finance marine fisheries, whether for shrimp farming projects or for fishing boats and equipment.

3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical unit in sea fisheries statistics is a marine product, and the statistical unit in this report is an administrative unit as it relies on data from record sources.

3.6. Statistical population

The statistical community of sea fisheries statistics - is all marine products at the coastal level in Saudi Arabia.

3.7. Reference area

The publication of sea fisheries statistics covers the coasts of the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea of Saudi Arabia.

3.8. Time coverage

Data are available from 2018 to Q4 2022.

3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

4. Unit of measure

- Most results were measured by metric tons: catches.
- Some results were measured by tons: exports and imports.
- Some results are measured in numbers such as: number of fishing vessel and labor force.
- Some results are measured in Saudi riyal, such as: developmental loans.

5. Reference period

The sea fisheries statistics publication data are based on the last day of the year in every calendar year.

6. Confidentiality

6.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to the Royal Decree No. 23 dated 07-12-1397, data must always be kept confidential, and must be used by GASTAT only for statistical purposes.

Therefore, the data are protected in the data servers of the Authority.

6.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Data were displayed in appropriate tables to facilitate its summarization, comprehension, and results extraction. Also, to compare data with other data and extract statistical meanings for the study community.

It is also easier to check tables without the need to see any sensitive or confidential data, which violates data confidentiality of statistical data.

7. Release policy

7.1. Release calendar

The sea fisheries statistics results are bound by a release calendar.

7.2. Release calendar access

Available on the: https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/future-releases

7.3. User access

One of GASTAT's objectives is to meet better its clients' needs, so it immediately provides them with the bulletin's results once the sea fisheries statistics publication is published.

It also receives questions and inquiries of the clients about the Bulletin and its results through various communication channels, such as:

- GASTAT's official website: www.stats.gov.sa
- GASTAT's official e-mail address: info@stats.gov.sa
- Client Support's e-mail address: cs@stats.gov.sa
- Official visits to GASTAT's official head office in Riyadh or one of its branches in Saudi Arabia.
- Official letters.
- Statistical telephone (92002008).

8. Frequency of dissemination

Annual.

9. Accessibility and clarity

9.1. News release

The announcements for each publication are available on release calendar as mentioned in 7.2. Release calendar access. The news release can be viewed on the website of GASTAT in the link: https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news

9.2. Publications

GASTAT issues sea fisheries statistics publications and reports on a regular basis within a pre-prepared publishing plan and installed on the GASTAT's website. GASTAT is keen to publish its publications in a manner that serves all users of different types, including publications in different formats that contain (publication tables, data graphs, indicators, metadata, methodology, and used questionnaires) in both English and Arabic.

The sea fisheries statistics publications are available on the link:
https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/1170

9.3. On-line database

Not available.

9.4. Micro-data access

Not applicable.

9.5. Other

Not available.

9.6. Documentation on methodology

The sea fisheries statistics publication is based on the FAO-based concepts, definitions and classifications from the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.

9.7. Quality documentation

Quality documentation covers documentation on methods and standards for assessing, measuring, and monitoring the quality of statistical process and output. It is based on standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence.

10. Quality management

10.1. Quality assurance

GASTAT declares that it considers the following principles: impartiality, user orientated, quality of processes and output, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process in different stages such as the data input and data collection and other final controls.

10.2. Quality assessment

GASTAT performs all statistical activities according to a national model (Generic Statistical Business Process Model – GSBPM). According to the GSBPM, the final phase of statistical activities is overall evaluation using information gathered in each phase or sub-process. This information is used to prepare the evaluation report which outlines all the quality issues related to the specific statistical activity and serves as input for improvement actions.

11. Relevance

11.1. User needs

Internal GASTAT's users, which make use of sea fisheries statistics data, include:

National accounts.

External users who make significant use of sea fisheries statistics data include, but is not limited to:

- Governmental entities.
- Regional and International Organizations.
- Research institutions.
- Media.

- Individuals.

The disseminated key variables that mostly used by key users:

Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture	Catch Data
Agricultural Development Fund	Loan Data
Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority	Export and import data

11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

11.3. Completeness

The sea fisheries statistics data are based on administrative records data from entities related to marine fisheries to provide a comprehensive and integrated picture of Saudi Arabia's fishing sector.

12. Accuracy and reliability

12.1. Overall accuracy

Data quality is enhanced by studying data and comparing it with available historical data to identify differences, if any, and working towards consistency and coherence between different variables and data sets.

13. Timeliness and punctuality

13.1. Timeliness

GASTAT uses the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) issued by the International Monetary Fund. According to this Standard, all statistics agencies are required to publish data on an annual basis, and with a delay of not more than half a year (180 days) after the end of the reference period. If the data are from different source, they may be published in a different frequency.

13.2. Punctuality

Publication takes place in accordance with published release dates for

sea fisheries statistics in the GASTAT webpage. The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled the release calendar, If the publication delayed the reasons would be provided.

14. Coherence and comparability

14.1. Comparability - geographical

Data are fully comparable geographically.

14.2. Comparability - over time

Data are fully comparable over time.

14.3. Coherence- cross domain

Not applicable.

14.3.1. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

14.3.2. Coherence- National Accounts

Not applicable.

14.4. Coherence - internal

The sea fisheries statistics for the reference period have full internal consistency, as they are all based on the same accurate data set.

15. Data revision

15.1. Data revision - policy

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

15.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

16. Statistical processing

16.1. Source data

The main and only source of data for sea fisheries statistics is the register-based data.

Data are collected from the following government agencies:

- Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.
- Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority.
- Agricultural Development Fund.

The main published variables of the pubilation's data are:

- Catch quantity from marine fisheries.
- Catch by species in the Red Sea for traditional and industrial fisheries.
- Catch by species in the Arabian Gulf.
- Catches of traditional fisheries by regions in the Red Sea (Makkah region, Jazan, Asir, Tabuk, Medina).
- Catch of shrimp in sea fisheries.
- Numbers of fishing workforce.
- Fishing vessels in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea.
- Quantity of imports of marine products by product groups.
- Quantity of exports of marine products by product groups.
- Re-exported quantity of marine products by product groups.
- The quantity of imports of marine products at the State level.
- The quantity of imports of exports of marine products at the State level.
- Development loans granted to marine fisheries at the level of the administrative regions of the Kingdom.

16.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual.

16.3. Data collection

The sea fisheries statistics data are collected through register-based data.

16.4. Data validation

The data are reviewed and matched to ensure that they are accurate in a manner appropriate to their nature in order to ensure the quality and accuracy of the statistics provided.

Data for the current year of publication are also compared with the previous year's data to ensure their integrity and consistency in the preparation for data processing, extraction and revision.

In addition to processing and tabulating data for accuracy, all outputs are stored and uploaded to the database after calculation by the General Authority for Statistics to be reviewed and processed by specialists through modern technologies and software designed for this purpose.

16.5. Data compilation

Data Coding:

In the sea fisheries statistics interviewers collect from respondents, a detailed description of each field. This information is then coded in-house by an automated process, which is reviewed by a small-dedicated team of coding experts using a series of consistency checks.

Data Editing:

Specialists of Environment, Agriculture and Energy Statistics Department have processed and analyzed data in this stage, and this step was based on the following measures:

- Sort and arrange data in groups or different categories in a serial order.
- Summarize detailed data into main points or main data.
- Linking between many parts of data and make them connected.
- Process incomplete or missing data.
- Process illogical data.
- Converting data into statistically significant data.
- Organize, display and interpret data.

16.6. Adjustment

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

17. Comment