Republic of Liberia

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025

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Introduction

This Annual Performance Report provides the operational status, progress, and strategic actions undertaken by NaFAA in 2025. It includes the sector's progress, institutional performance, strategic programs, and financial status. It is submitted in line with NaFAA's statutory obligation under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law (2019), ensuring transparency and accountability in public sector reporting.

Mandate:

To sustainably manage and develop Liberia's fisheries and marine resources for economic development, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

Strategic Objectives:

Ensure sustainable marine ecosystems, promote aquaculture, enforce compliance, and support fisherfolk livelihoods.

Sector Overview

Liberia possesses a 579 km coastline and a 246,152 km² Exclusive Economic Zone. Approximately 200,000 km² of fishing grounds, the largest in the region, support marine and inland fisheries. Despite abundant resources, Liberia remains a net importer of fish, with imports estimated at 22,456.51 tons (valued at USD ***9,662,747.79*** million) during the reporting period.

Executive Summary

The 2025 Annual Report of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) present a consolidated account of the Authority's operational performance, financial position, and strategic reforms undertaken during the year. Despite inherited debt and persistent revenue constraints, NaFAA made notable progress in strengthening governance, enhancing transparency, promoting investment, and building institutional capacity to support sustainable fisheries management and Liberia's blue economy agenda.

During the reporting period, NaFAA demonstrated growing institutional maturity and measurable advancement toward sector modernization. The Board of Directors approved key policy and regulatory reforms, including the Semi-Industrial Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), which establishes a scientific framework for the sustainable exploitation of pelagic and demersal stocks. The introduction of shrimp fisheries marked a significant expansion of productive capacity, while adjustments to licensing and fee structures—reduced canoe licensing fees for artisanal fishers and revised export and operational fees—were implemented to improve compliance and sector competitiveness.

A major focus of the year was Liberia's response to the long-standing European Union (EU) Yellow Card. NaFAA intensified efforts to address outstanding concerns through enhanced transparency, regulatory reforms, and strengthened monitoring systems. Liberia formally joined the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and endorsed the Global Fisheries Transparency Initiative, reaffirming the country's commitment to openness, accountability, and responsible fisheries governance. With support from the European Union, the Government contracted an IUU (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated) fishing specialist to work directly with NaFAA in resolving technical and compliance gaps identified under the EU Yellow Card process.

Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) capacity was strengthened through the installation of the Quartermaster System at the Fisheries Monitoring Center, enabling real-time offshore vessel monitoring within Liberia's Exclusive Economic Zone. The semi-industrial fishery was successfully operationalized, with Sea King serving as a flagship example, alongside the production of 23 modern Kru and Fanti canoes. However, NaFAA continues to face challenges in providing adequate logistical and financial support to the Liberia Coast Guard to sustain regular and nationwide patrols, which remains a key constraint to fully effective enforcement.

Institutional reforms included the establishment of a Department of Environment and Climate Change to address climate-related risks and the expansion of regional offices to advance decentralization. A comprehensive Decentralization Strategy was completed to correct staff distribution imbalances, with the majority of personnel currently concentrated in Montserrado County.

Progress continued on major infrastructure investments. The final design of the Fisheries Complex was completed and approved, tendering commenced, and construction is scheduled to begin in January 2026. Reconstruction of the Klay Hatchery advanced to foundational works, positioning it to become a national Aquaculture Center of Excellence. In parallel, NaFAA strengthened

engagement with development partners, including the European Union and the Chinese, Swedish, and United States embassies, reinforcing institutional credibility and resource mobilization prospects.

Community empowerment and social inclusion remained central to NaFAA's interventions. Through a partnership with Conservation International, supported by the World Bank, 1,422 women across four counties received grants to expand fisheries-related and ancillary businesses. During the period under review, NaFAA also prioritized staff welfare by providing health insurance coverage for its entire 203-member workforce and maintaining life insurance coverage for 16 sea-going fisheries observers, underscoring the Authority's commitment to human capital development and staff safety.

Financially, revenue projections were revised from USD 4.29 million to USD 3.68 million to reflect realistic seasonal trends. Operational expenditures totaled approximately USD 3.7 million, with a debt-to-revenue ratio of 74 percent and a projected funding gap of USD 2.6 million. In response, NaFAA intensified efforts to strengthen internal financial controls, enhance revenue collection through the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS), and operationalize new fisheries to expand the revenue base.

Overall, the reforms implemented in 2025 position NaFAA for sustainable growth and improved sector performance. The integration of science-based management frameworks, enhanced transparency through global initiatives, modern monitoring systems, strategic infrastructure development, strengthened partnerships, and inclusive community interventions provides a solid foundation for achieving Liberia's blue economy objectives while safeguarding the long-term sustainability of the nation's fisheries resources.

Looking ahead to 2026, NaFAA will prioritize implementation of the Ssemi-Industrial Fisheries Management Plan, strengthen decentralization, and complete construction of the Fisheries Complex as pillars of institutional modernization.

1.0 Sector profile

1.1 About NaFAA

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) is the statutory body responsible for the long-term management, conservation, development, and sustainable use of Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture resources and their associated ecosystems, for the benefit of the people of the Republic of Liberia.

NaFAA was established by an Act of the Legislature on October 17, 2017, and operates as an autonomous public institution under the national laws of the Republic of Liberia. The Authority evolved from the former Bureau of National Fisheries, which functioned as a division within the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Technical Services from 1956 until its transformation into an independent authority in 2017. This transition marked a significant institutional reform, providing NaFAA with the legal mandate, administrative autonomy, and governance framework required to effectively regulate, promote, and sustainably develop Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture sector in line with national development priorities and international best practices.

Mission

The mission of the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) order to facilitate the attainment of the overarching vision of the sector, Government, as essential operational actions, will promote: an improved institutional and legislative framework for fisheries management; adaptive research; community and stakeholder participation in capture and culture-based fisheries management and development; effective international, regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation for fisheries management; enhanced monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities; and improve fish quality and value addition technologies for enhanced economic returns in fisheries Through this mission, we aim to address public needs with professionalism and dedication.

Vision

The vision of the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority is to harmonize the varied and numerous long-term expectations of the primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders, and recognizing the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats of the fisheries sector, a clear and unambiguous vision statement is crystallized as follows: This vision reflects our commitment to long-term improvements in public service and to promoting an inclusive, responsive government.

1. Providing increased profitable fisheries employment opportunities while offering an enabling environment for upgrading technical skills for enhanced value-added fisheries vocations.
2. Engaging participatory fisheries management institutions based on community and stakeholder structures for the creation of opportunities for socio-economic development.
3. Contributing to Gross Domestic Product, national food and nutritional security, and improving living conditions, by upgrading and adopting appropriate, modern, and efficient

fisheries capabilities for increased fish production while reducing losses through illegal fishing.

4. Deriving net benefits from a vibrant fish trade supported by value addition systems and fisheries infrastructure for fish landing and export, as well as efficient fishing input supply and distribution systems.

Principles

Our core principles are:

- **Equity and Gender**: In carrying out the mission, cognizance will be given to the active participation of women, youth, and the elderly in decision-making and sharing of responsibilities and benefits. The government's actions will be guided by the principle of equity in all aspects of the sector. Inter and intra-generational equity, through resource management and environmental protection, gender equity in participatory management processes, and the user pays principle, where users of common property natural resources pay for access to contribute to cost of management, are best practices for guidance of policy actions.
- **Sustainability**: The long-term sustainable use of fishery resources is a prerequisite for gaining maximum benefits for Liberia for both present and future generations. Sustainability implies maintaining essential ecosystem functions and preserving a healthy habitat. This is consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, both of which provide for a holistic approach to the responsible use of fishery resources. In the case of uncertainty, the precautionary principle is applied and actions taken to reduce the risk of serious harm to fish stocks, habitat and the environment in general.
- **Transparency:** Transparency is an essential principle for underpinning good governance of the fisheries sector. It helps to guarantee fairness in the distribution of benefits and helps prevent corrupt practices, a requirement of the Constitution. Transparency implies accountability and openness in access to information, in the elaboration of plans, and in decision-making.
- **Optimality**: The best long-term use of available fisheries resources for the benefit of Liberians should be made in balance with the broader set of ecosystem services. Gaining the most out of this valuable renewable resource for Liberia implies a level of conservation that ensures that the biomass be conserved at a level approximating optimum productivity, that the species composition is maintained, and that, in the long-term, value addition takes place in Liberia rather than abroad. Benefits shall accrue to Liberians in the form of an appropriate balance between better nutrition, improved livelihoods, and revenue and foreign exchange.
- **Inclusiveness:** Participation across the range of management functions shall include, as far as is practically possible, the involvement of key stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. This includes sharing of management responsibilities, with fishers and other stakeholders who can enrich the management process with more direct knowledge of, and involvement with, the fisheries and the resources they utilize.

- **Decentralization:** The government's policy of decentralization is relevant to policy implementation as responsibility for management of fisheries resources is devolved to the country authorities, concomitant with national resources allocation mechanisms to ensure benefits reach the counties for maximization of fisheries management participation at the local level.
- **Securing Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) access:** The FAO SSF Guidelines provide the basis for consultation for securing access to resources by small-scale fisheries communities and giving them resource stewardship responsibilities, reflecting this need for combining livelihood security and environmental sustainability. Optimization of the contribution of fisheries resources to the welfare of Liberians, particularly the vulnerable, will be achieved through preferential access to small-scale fishers in their traditional fishing grounds and ensuring that the industrial sector does not threaten fish stocks targeted by the small-scale sector. Preferential access will ensure continuous contribution of small-scale fisheries to poverty alleviation, social coherence, employment opportunities, in particular for women, income generation, and food security.

Legal, Policy, and Governance Frameworks

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) operate within a comprehensive framework of legal, policy, and governance structures designed to ensure the sustainable management and development of Liberia's aquatic resources. This framework is crucial for regulating fishing activities, promoting aquaculture, conserving marine ecosystems, and ensuring compliance with national and international obligations.

I. Legal Frameworks

The primary legal instrument is the October 19, 2017 Act that established the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority. Moreover, there are other legal instruments that govern the fisheries and aquaculture sectors such as the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law of 2019, and the revised National Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations of 2020. These instruments provide comprehensive legal guardians and guidelines for the sustainable management of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Key aspects of the legal framework include:

1. **Licensing and Permits**: The Act mandates a system of licenses and permits for all fishing vessels and aquaculture operations, ensuring controlled access to resources and traceability.
2. **Conservation and Management Measures**: it establishes provisions for the conservation of fish stocks, protection of endangered species, and management of marine protected areas. This includes regulations on catch limits, fishing seasons, and gear restrictions.
3. **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**: the Act contains strong provisions to combat IUU fishing, including penalties for non-compliance, vessel monitoring systems (VMS) requirements, and port state measures.

4. **Aquaculture Development**: It provides a legal framework for the establishment and operation of aquaculture farms, addressing issues such as site selection, environmental impact assessments, and disease control.
5. **Enforcement and Sanctions:** The Act grants NaFAA enforcement powers, including the authority to inspect vessels, seize illegal catches, and impose fines or other penalties for violations.

II. Administrative Policy

The legal framework is complemented by a robust policy framework that guides the strategic direction and priorities of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

This policy outlines:

1. **Sustainable Resource Management**: Emphasizes the long-term sustainability of fish stocks and marine ecosystems, promoting responsible fishing practices and ecosystem-based management approaches.
2. **Food Security and Livelihoods**: Prioritizes the role of fisheries and aquaculture in contributing to national food security, poverty reduction, and the improvement of livelihoods for fishing communities.
3. **Economic Development and Value Addition**: Focuses on maximizing the economic benefits from the sector through value addition, improved post-harvest practices, and market access for fish products.
4. **Research and Development**: Promotes scientific research to inform management decisions, develop innovative aquaculture technologies, and adapt to climate change impacts on aquatic resources.
5. **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**: Aims to ensure equitable participation and benefits for all stakeholders, including women and marginalized groups, within the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.
6. **Climate Change Adaptation**: Addresses the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and promotes adaptive strategies to build resilience in the sector.

1.2 Liberia's Marine and Fisheries Capacity: A Strategic Asset in West Africa

Liberia possesses a relatively long coastline of 579 kilometers and an expansive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 246,000 km², making it one of the largest maritime jurisdictions among its West African neighbors (Table1). This EEZ exceeds those of Ghana (218,100 km²), Sierra Leone (155,700 km²), Benin (27,750 km²), and Togo (15,375 km²), highlighting Liberia's comparative geographic and maritime advantage.

Despite its size, Liberia's marine and fisheries sector remains underdeveloped, with significant untapped potential for sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and marine biodiversity management. The large EEZ, combined with a relatively small population, translates into higher per capita marine

resource availability, positioning Liberia to benefit substantially from well-managed ocean-based economic activities.

Liberia's strategic coastal location, situated along major migratory routes and rich fishing grounds, further enhances its value for regional fisheries cooperation, marine governance, and blue economy investments. However, realizing this potential requires substantial investment throughout the fisheries value chains, strengthening institutional capacity, monitoring and enforcement systems, and sustainable resource management practices.

Table 1: Liberia EEZ comparative analysis

NO	Coastal States	(EEZ km2)
1	Liberia	246,093
2	Côte 'd'Ivoire	173,764
3	Sierra Leone	159,300
4	Guinea	109,439
5	Senegal	157,705

2.0 Key Institutional and Operational Highlights

2.1 Restoration of Development Partners' Confidence

During the second quarter of 2025, NaFAA intensified efforts to rebuild and strengthen trust with its development partners through the creation of the Fisheries Development Partners Coordination Group (Table 2) and the hosting of its inaugural meeting. Through enhanced transparency, policy reforms, and continuous stakeholder engagement, the Authority has laid a solid foundation for renewed collaboration and increased investment in Liberia's fisheries sector. These engagements reposition NaFAA for technical assistance, co-financing arrangements, and direct programing under emerging partner portfolios for the coming years.

Table 2: Development partners' engagement

No.	Name of Development Partner	Meeting Date	Summary Outcome
1	Swedish Embassy	April 9, 2025	The Swedish Embassy expressed strong interest in deepening collaboration with NaFAA, particularly as it develops a new country program for Liberia. Opportunities for alignment with fisheries development priorities were discussed, with follow-up engagement anticipated.

2	Egyptian Embassy	March 25, 2025	Initial exploratory meeting held. Areas of mutual interest were identified, with further dialogue expected to formalize Egypt's support to Liberia's fisheries sector.
3	U.S. Embassy	May 6, 2025	The U.S. Embassy sought detailed insights into NaFAA's operations and current challenges. Discussions were exploratory and aimed at identifying potential areas of collaboration, particularly in institutional strengthening and capacity building.
4	Chinese Embassy	April 29, 2025	NaFAA secured three short-term training scholarships and two long-term master's degree placements for staff under a bilateral cooperation agreement. The partnership was strengthened, with commitments to continue educational and technical exchanges.
5	European Union (EU)	March 31, 2025	NaFAA committed to developing and sharing a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the IUU Yellow Card Consultant and to reviewing or creating a ToR for donor engagement meetings. NaFAA will also share the signed Inter-Agency MoU with the EU. In return, the EU will provide a donor activity list and recommend that NaFAA appoint a Private Sector Point of Contact (POC).
6	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	May 27, 2025	UNDP indicated that its Department of Environment and Climate Change could serve as a point of entry for collaboration with NaFAA, particularly in areas linked to climate adaptation, environmental resilience, and marine conservation.
7	Peace Corps	May 29, 2025	The Peace Corps discussed the potential secondment of volunteers to support NaFAA's aquaculture initiatives, including technical assistance to the University of Liberia's Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Further discussions are planned to structure the collaboration.
8	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	May 30, 2025	IFAD is currently developing a New Country Program for Liberia. Preliminary opportunities for engagement were discussed, particularly through existing MOA-led aquaculture projects, where NaFAA could play a supporting role

2.2 Enhancing Fisheries Governance and Service Delivery through Digital Innovation

The establishment of NaFAA's Call Center is progressing steadily. The Call Center is being developed to enhance the effective implementation and user support of the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS)—a transformative digital platform introduced in 2023 to modernize fisheries governance and service delivery in Liberia. The FIMS provides real-time access to critical fisheries-related information for a wide range of stakeholders, including fisherfolk, cold storage operators, investors, and development partners. It also facilitates online applications and reduces processing time for fishing licenses and permits from 2-3 weeks to 48-72 hours demonstrating early efficiency gains through the portal https://fims.nafaa.gov.lr, thereby streamlining administrative processes, improving transparency, and reducing transaction time. In addition, the system functions as a centralized repository of fisheries data, enabling evidence based decision-making and improved sector monitoring. Following its official launch, NaFAA commenced the operational use of the FIMS on August 1, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the digital transformation of Liberia's fisheries management framework. Since its development of the FIMS, NaFAA has issued over 58 permits and 4 industrial fishing licenses through the system. https://liberianinvestigator.com/news/nafaa-digital-fisheries-management-system-liberia/.

2.3 Establishment of the Department of Environment and Climate Change

To address emerging environmental and climate-related challenges affecting Liberia's fisheries sector, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), with Board approval, established the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). The Department is mandated to ensure that fisheries management systematically integrates climate resilience, ecosystem sustainability, and marine biodiversity protection. This institutional decision reflects NaFAA's proactive commitment to adapting to climate impacts, strengthening environmental governance, and aligning national fisheries actions with regional and global environmental and climate commitments. The establishment of DECC aligns NaFAA with global environmental instruments, including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FiTI transparency standards, and obligations under Liberia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Achievements of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) *(Since Establishment – June 2025)*

1. **Operationalization of the Department:** Established core operational systems, internal coordination processes, and working arrangements that enabled DECC to begin delivering on its national environment and climate change mandate.
2. **Strengthened Inter-Agency Coordination and Governance:** Enhanced cross-sector collaboration on environmental governance and climate change through structured engagement with key ministries, departments, and agencies, including EPA, NaFAA, FDA, and national planning institutions.
3. **Advancement of Environmental, Climate, and Fisheries Governance Frameworks:** Initiating and championing the development of integrated national environmental, climate change, and fisheries environmental policy frameworks aligned with Liberia's National

Development Plan, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and international environmental commitments, promoting sustainable fisheries development, strengthened environmental safeguards, and enhanced climate resilience in coastal and fishing communities.

4. **Mainstreaming Environment and Climate Change Across Sectors:** Supported the integration of environmental protection and climate change considerations into national and sectoral planning, particularly in fisheries, coastal management, forestry, and infrastructure sectors.
5. **International Visibility and Institutional Recognition:** Enhanced the Department's international visibility and institutional recognition through targeted technical engagements, high-level meetings, trainings, and workshops with regional and international fisheries and environmental governance initiatives and organizations, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), Global Monitoring for Environment and Security–Africa (GMES & Africa), and Marine and Coastal Operations for West Africa (MarCNoWA).

6. **Promotion of Climate-Smart Community Interventions and Public Awareness** Raised awareness and promoted practical climate-smart and environmental interventions in fishing communities—highlighted during the Fisheries Day Celebration Week—through activities such as beach clean-ups, promotion of eco-pits, and advocacy for eco-latrines to address coastal sanitation and ecosystem protection.
7. **Enhanced Partnerships and Foundation for Climate Finance:** Strengthened stakeholder engagement and partner visibility while laying the groundwork for mobilizing climate finance and technical assistance through improved coordination, clarified priorities, and strategic partnerships.

2.4. Strengthening Aquaculture Production

NaFAA made notable progress during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 in advancing aquaculture development in Liberia. Key achievements were recorded in policy and operational standardization, capacity building, hatchery management, infrastructure development, and integrated production systems. Collectively, these interventions strengthened institutional performance and supported the sustainable growth of the aquaculture sector in line with national priorities and regional blue economy frameworks.

A major milestone during the reporting period was the development of 11 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for aquaculture operations. These SOPs provide standardized guidance on hatchery management, production systems, feed and nutrition, biosecurity, environmental management, and record keeping. Once implemented, they are expected to improve productivity, enhance fish seed quality, ensure environmental compliance, and professionalize aquaculture practices across the value chain, consistent with the ECOWAS Regional Blue Economy Strategy and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.

Capacity enhancement remained a central focus of NaFAA's work during the fiscal year 2025. An inter-departmental training under the Buna digital platform was conducted for 18 staff from the Departments of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries and Research and Statistics, strengthening technical capacity and cross-departmental collaboration. In addition, under the Seed4Liberia Program, 30 women from the Awfishnet Cooperative in Careysburg, Montserrado County, received targeted training in fish production management, marketing, and record keeping, enhancing women's technical capacity and economic empowerment in aquaculture. With support from the World Bank, 500 fish farmers across four counties Margibi, Bong, Nimba, and Lofa also received theoretical and practical hands-on training in basic aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMP), aimed at increasing productivity and improving farm-level performance nationwide**.** Furthermore, a 10-day Integrated Rice–Fish Farming (IRFF) training was conducted in Bong County for 139 farmers from ten communities under the Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture Project, promoting inclusive, climate-resilient livelihoods.

Significant investments were also made in infrastructure development and farmer support. Major rehabilitation works at Tassah Hatchery improved breeding systems, water and power supply, and overall hatchery productivity, while the reconstruction of Klay Hatchery under the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project advanced toward establishing a national hub for fish seed production, training, and research. Additionally, the Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture Project supplied critical inputs, including fingerlings, fish feed, tools, and equipment to ten beneficiary communities, reinforcing farmer resilience and contributing to sustainable aquaculture development and improved livelihoods.

2.4.1. Strengthening Aquaculture Data Collection

The Departments of Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries and Research and Statistics embarked on establishing a structured, digital aquaculture farmers' database and building farmers' capacity to collect and manage on-farm data. A total of 406 farmers were trained across the three counties, resulting in the documentation of 533 aquaculture farms, 1,156 ponds, and total production of 245,489 kg, with data disaggregated by county, gender, and species.

The initiative revealed significant regional and gender disparities, with Nimba County leading in farm numbers and production, and men dominating farm ownership, pond management, and overall production. Tilapia emerged as the most widely farmed species across all counties. Overall, the exercise demonstrated the critical importance of a centralized aquaculture database for evidence-based planning, improved productivity, gender-responsive interventions, and the transition toward a data driven and sustainable aquaculture sector in Liberia.

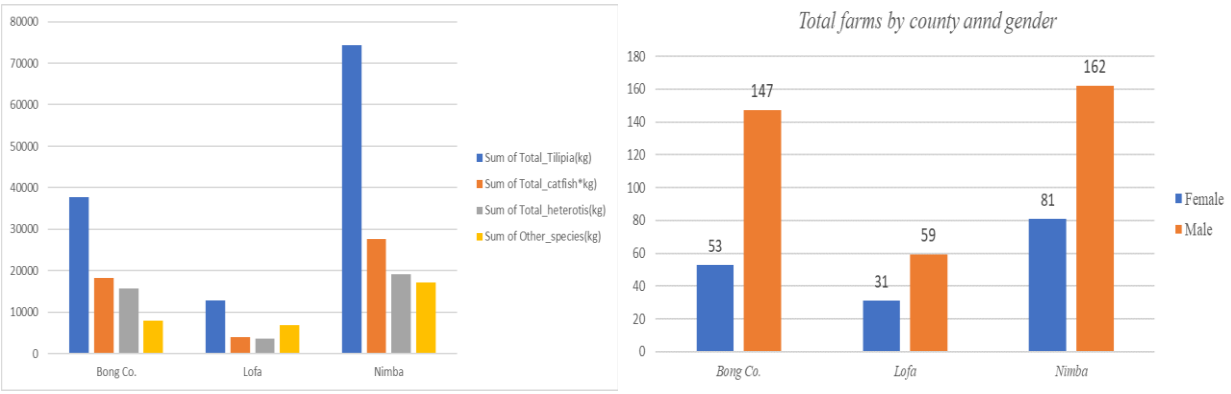


Figure 1: Total Production by species and county, and total farms by county and gender

2.5 FISHERIES STATISTICS

2.5.1 Fleet and Fishing Efforts

The illustrated plot depicts vessel trends in Liberia's fishing sector with important implications for sustainable fisheries management (Figure 2). Most notably, it highlights the rapid expansion of the non-motorized Kru fleet alongside the relatively stable yet constrained Fanti fleet. This divergence underscores the need for a deeper understanding of the socioeconomic factors shaping artisanal fisheries, including differential access to resources, capital constraints, and market demand. Meanwhile, the stagnation of motorized vessels and the decline in industrial tuna fleets likely reflect broader policy, economic, and infrastructural limitations. In particular, persistent difficulties in sourcing raw materials for Fanti boat construction since 2011 have curtailed fleet expansion, revealing a critical structural bottleneck within the sector.

These challenges are further exacerbated by the absence of a national frame survey since 2020, resulting in significant data gaps, outdated fleet estimates, and weakened evidence-based decision-making. This shortfall undermines Liberia's ability to accurately estimate artisanal fish production, track changes in fleet size and composition, and design effective policies to support sustainable fisheries development.

Collectively, these constraints may be increasing pressure on the non-motorized fleet to meet domestic fish demand, thereby intensifying fishing effort in nearshore waters. These dynamic highlights the complex interactions between artisanal and industrial fisheries, whereby limited industrial capacity may inadvertently drive greater exploitation by the least capitalized artisanal fishers. Additionally, the observed fluctuations in industrial tuna vessel numbers peaking at 52 vessels in 2019 before declining sharply by 31 vessels by 2023—may reflect shifts in international fishing agreements, market conditions, or stock availability, with indirect consequences for coastal fishing pressure.

Within this context, the resilience and sustainability of small-scale fisheries are particularly critical, given their central role in livelihoods and national food security, as well as their vulnerability to

climate change, economic shocks, and market volatility. The high participation of young men with limited formal education, combined with perceived weaknesses in integrating local knowledge and coordinating institutional responses to climate adaptation, points to underlying social and governance vulnerabilities within fishing communities.

Addressing these challenges requires inclusive governance approaches, particularly the institutionalization of fisheries data collection and management within NaFAA, alongside strengthened community-based management and co-management systems. Together, these measures are essential for regulating artisanal fishing effort, promoting equitable benefit sharing, and securing the long-term sustainability of Liberia's diverse fisheries resources.

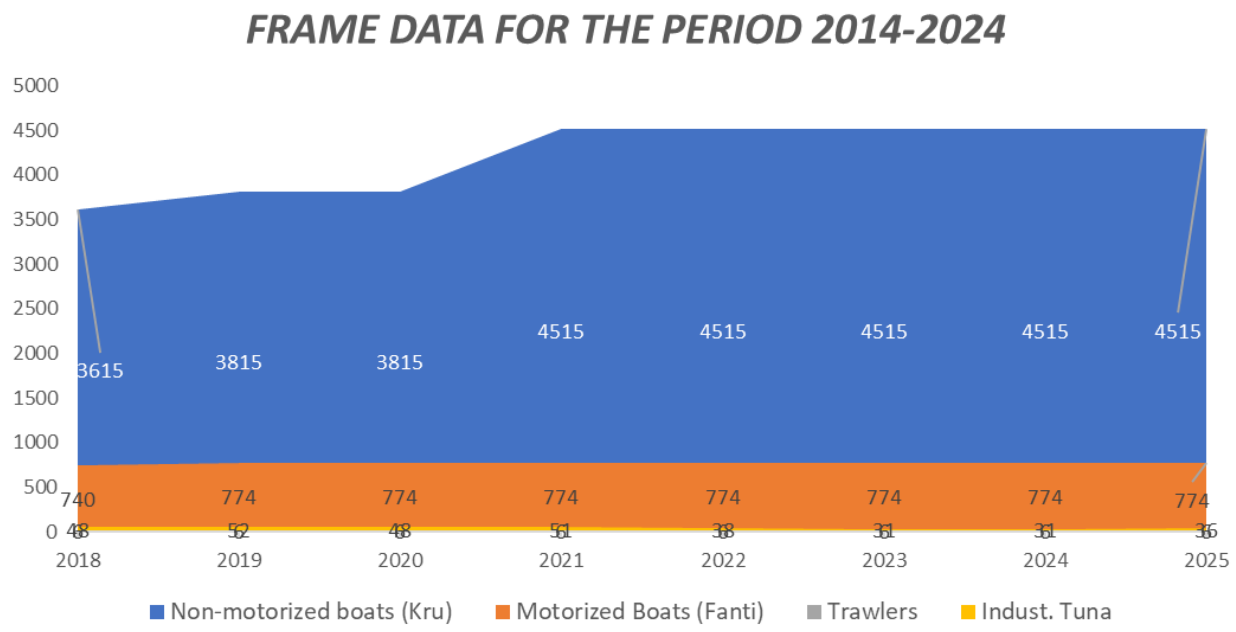


Figure 2. Fleets data for the period 2014 to 2025

2.5.2 Production by subsectors

Liberia's fish production is dominated by marine artisanal canoe fisheries, which account for about 69% of total output and play a central role in food security, livelihoods, and local economies. Tuna vessels contribute a moderate share (18%), mainly supporting commercial and export-oriented activities, while industrial trawlers account for the smallest portion (13%) and raise sustainability and resource-use concerns (Table 3 & Figure 3).

These patterns highlight the importance of prioritizing artisanal fisheries for domestic nutrition and employment, while ensuring effective governance of industrial and tuna fleets to prevent overfishing and promote equitable resource use. Strategic actions include strengthening artisanal fisheries through training and post-harvest infrastructure, improving monitoring and regulation of industrial fleets, promoting aquaculture to ease pressure on marine stocks, and enhancing value addition to increase economic returns from both artisanal and tuna fisheries.

Table 3. Production by sectors

Vessel Type	Production (MT)	Share (%)
Marine Artisanal Canoes	28,309.79	69%
Tuna Vessels	7,166.70	18%
Industrial Trawlers	5,295.81	13%
Total	**40,772.30**	**100%**

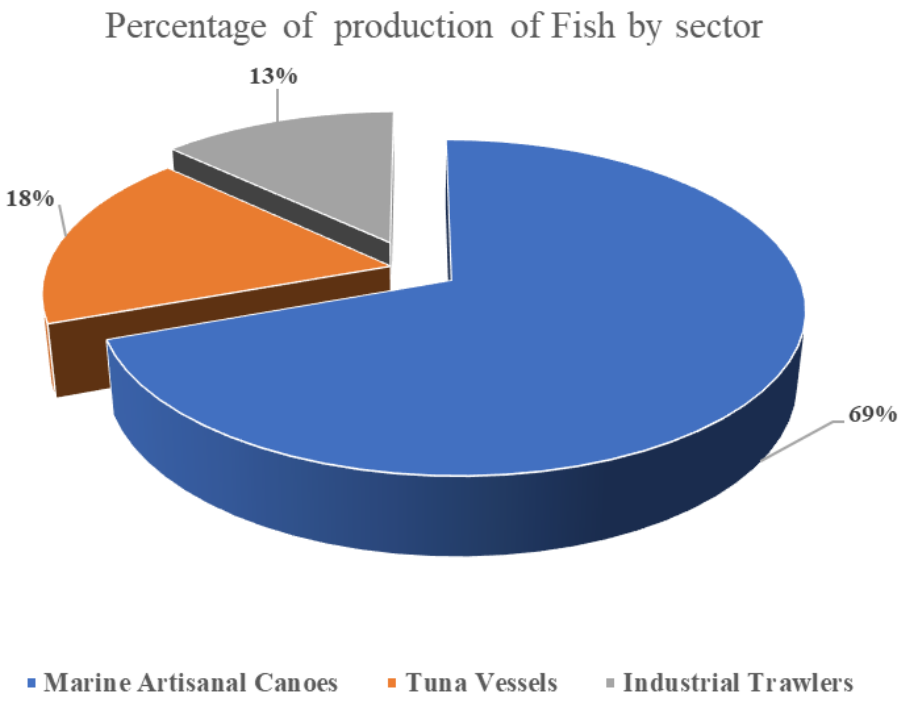


Figure 3. Percentage of fish production by sector

2.5.3 Consumption, imports and exports

Liberia's fish production is largely driven by marine artisanal canoe fisheries, which account for 70.2% of total output, followed by tuna vessels (17.8%) and industrial trawlers (12%). Despite this substantial production, per capita fish consumption declined sharply after 2020, falling from about 10.6 kg/year to 7.55 kg in 2021, likely due to COVID-19 disruptions and supply-chain constraints. Although consumption has gradually increased to 10.4 kg by 2025, the average intake of 9.24 kg/year remains well below the global average, pointing to potential nutritional gaps (Figure 4).

The disconnect between high artisanal production and low consumption highlights constraints in cold-chain infrastructure, distribution, and post-harvest handling, as well as the concentration of fish supply in urban or export markets. Industrial and tuna fisheries appear to contribute less directly to rural diets. These trends emphasize the need to strengthen local access to fish for food security, invest in storage and market infrastructure, promote aquaculture to supplement marine supply, and better integrate fisheries data into national food security and nutrition policies.

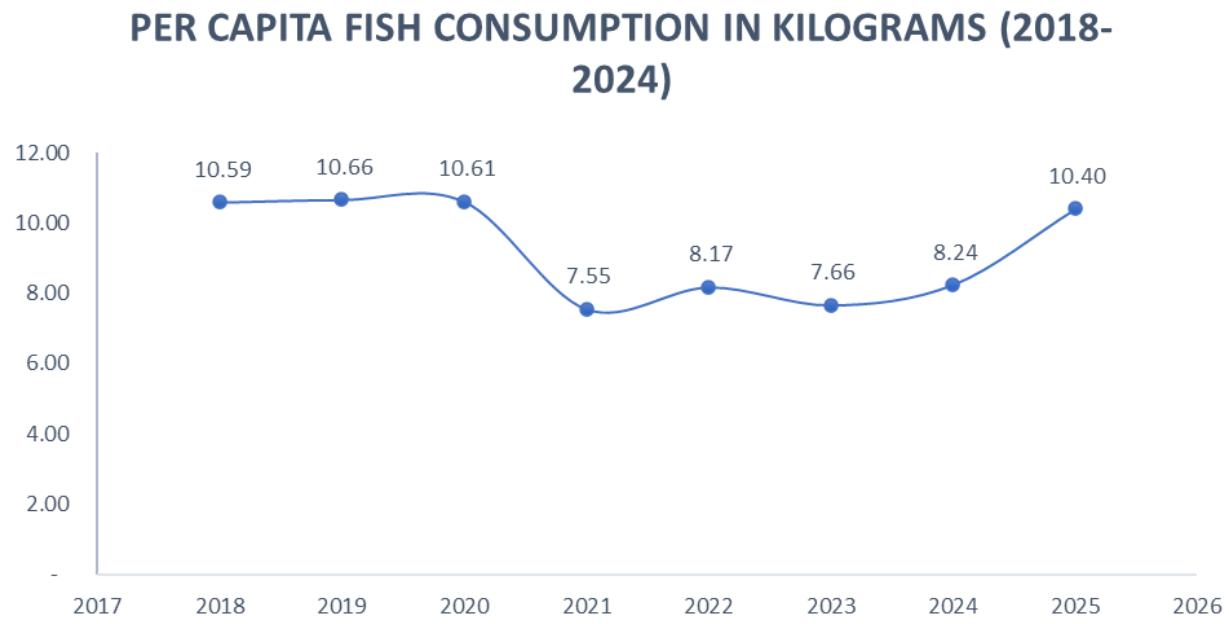


Figure 4 Per Capita Consumption of Fish

2.5.4 Time Series Production Analysis of Artisanal and Industrial Marine Trawlers in (2018-2025)

The plot illustrates time-series production data for Liberia's marine artisanal and industrial trawl fisheries from 2018 to 2025, highlighting clear differences in catch volumes and sectoral trends. Throughout the period, artisanal fisheries consistently recorded substantially higher production than industrial trawlers. For example, in 2018 artisanal landings reached 10,769,000 kg, far exceeding the 1,880,552.54 kg recorded by industrial trawlers, a pattern that persists across most years in the dataset (Figure 5). Cumulatively, artisanal production totaled 164,562,805.80 kg over the period, compared with 37,360,588.54 kg from the industrial sector, underscoring the dominant contribution of artisanal fisheries to Liberia's marine fish supply.

This dominance is particularly significant given Liberia's extensive coastline of approximately 590 km and an Exclusive Economic Zone of about 246,000 km², which support rich demersal and pelagic resources critical for national food security and employment. The marked disparity between sectors reflects differences in operational scale, regulatory arrangements, and target species. Artisanal fisheries are typically characterized by small vessels, diverse fishing gears, and a focus on nearshore resources, whereas industrial trawlers operate larger vessels targeting offshore stocks.

Year-to-year trends further show that artisanal production increased notably between 2018 and 2022, indicating a period of growth and intensified activity within the small-scale fisheries sector.

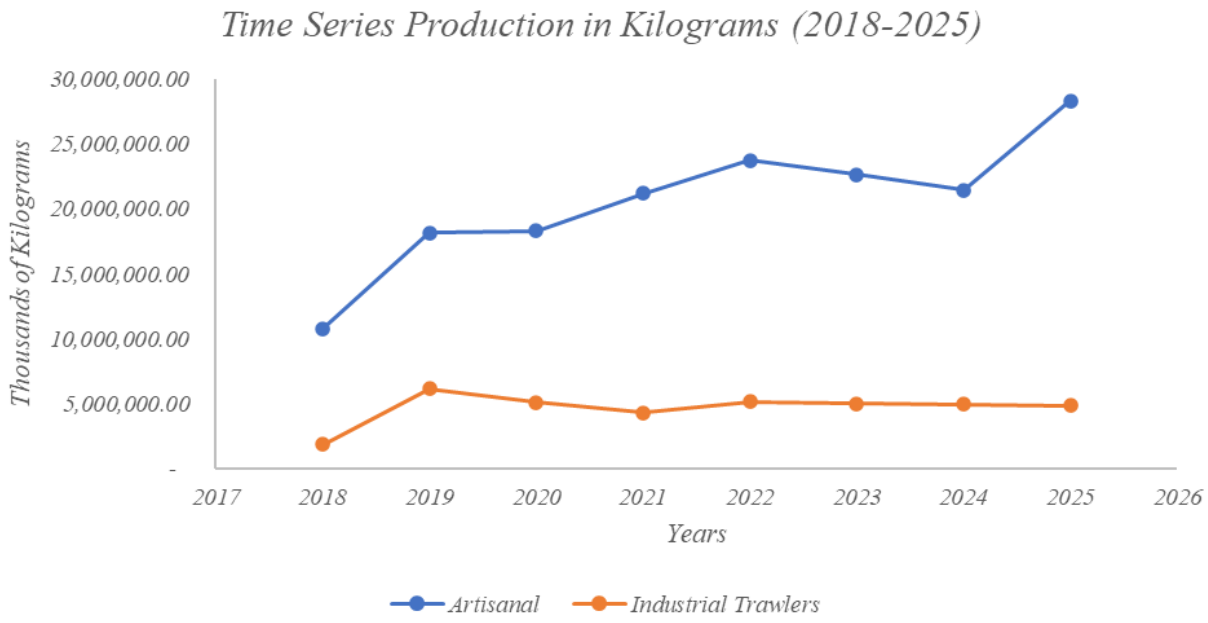


Figure 5. time series production

2.5.5 IMPORTS

The total imported tonnage for the year reached 22,456.51, valued at approximately $9.66 million, indicating a substantial reliance on foreign sources for fish consumption, which aligns with previous observations regarding the performance of the Liberian fishing industry.

The analysis also reveals significant fluctuations in both tonnage and monetary value, with distinct peaks and troughs throughout the year. Specifically, the data indicates a pronounced surge in imports during May, June, and September, which collectively account for over 50% of the total annual tonnage and value, pointing to potential seasonal dependencies or strategic import scheduling. For instance, the peak in September, with 5,103.03 tons valued at $1,782,192.88, significantly contrasts with the low in August, which recorded only 29.7 tons at $12,150, highlighting extreme variability in monthly import patterns (Table 4). This sharp contrast may either suggest substantial shifts in market demand, disruptions in global supply chains, or strategic adjustments in procurement to optimize cost or meet specific consumption needs. These oscillations underscore the necessity for robust fisheries management and policy frameworks to mitigate potential economic shocks and ensure food security. Furthermore, these fluctuations may indicate a reliance on imports to buffer periods of low domestic yield, potentially impacting the livelihoods of local small-scale fishing communities that support millions of people Liberia

Table 4. 2025 Annual Fish importation

Months	Qty Imported in Tons	Value of imports (USD)
Jan	322.5	245623.62
Feb	417.796	226922.21
Mar	355.068	266096.25
Apr	1584.42	975650.13
May	3004.353	1278159.08
Jun	3173.125	1805148.72
Jul	1003.221	743585.262
Aug	29.7	12150
Sept	5103.03	1782192.88
Oct	4558.14	1261838.44
Nov	2115.81	638072.59
Dec	789.35	427308.61
Grand Total	**22,456.51**	**9,662,747.79**

The table shows that during the peak import period of September–October, fish imports reached 5,103 MT in September and 4,558 MT in October. Together, these two months accounted for 43% of total imports and generated more than USD 41,000 in permit fees. This concentration suggests strong seasonal demand, stockpiling ahead of lean periods, or well-established trade cycles.

In contrast, imports declined sharply in August to just 29.7 MT, with permit fees of only USD 118.80. This anomaly may indicate supply-chain disruptions, reduced market demand, or increased reliance on locally produced fish from capture fisheries and aquaculture. During the mid-year period, imports rose markedly in May and June, exceeding 3,000 MT per month. This increase likely reflects efforts to compensate for post-harvest shortfalls or to prepare for anticipated supply constraints during the rainy season. Overall, permit fees remained consistent at an average of approximately USD 4.00 per metric ton, indicating a stable and predictable fee structure.

2.5.6 Exports

Total exports for the year reached 206.94 metric tons (MT), representing a 100 percent increase compared to 2024. This substantial growth is directly attributable to the introduction of deepwater shrimp vessel, which marked a significant expansion in both harvesting capacity and operational reach. Unlike previous years, when export volumes were constrained by limited offshore fishing capability, the deployment of the vessel enabled access to previously underexploited deepwater shrimp resources, thereby unlocking new export potential.

2.6 Advancing Decentralization and Regional Presence

To address the historical centralization of fisheries governance, where 93% of personnel are based in Monrovia, the NaFAA Board of Directors has approved a transformative Decentralization Plan for launch in 2026. The target staffing ratio is to reduce Montserrado concentration from 83% to 50% by 2027, ensuring regional workforce equity. This "hub-and-spoke" model will extend governance to all 15 counties (9 coastal and 6 inland); to better serve the 300,000 Liberians whose

livelihoods depend on the sector. By establishing 4 regional hubs, in Harper, Buchanan, Robertsport and Gbarnga, the plan aims to reduce IUU fishing, expand inland and aquaculture, and empower local communities through Collaborative Management Associations (CMAs). This initiative aligns with the National ARREST Agenda (2025–2029) and international sustainability standards, ensuring that 65% of the nation's animal protein source is managed sustainably and inclusively.

This initiative addresses a longstanding staffing and resource imbalance, whereby 169 of NaFAA's 203 national staff are concentrated in Montserrado County, leaving most other counties with fewer 15 than 10 staff, and several with none. Such centralization has historically limited NaFAA's ability to provide effective licensing, monitoring, and aquaculture support, particularly to rural and coastal communities that depend heavily on fisheries for food security and livelihoods. Through decentralization, NaFAA aims to redistribute staff, resources, and decision-making authority closer to the field via regional and county offices. Each hub will be equipped with dedicated personnel and digital systems, enabling enhanced real-time data collection, improved enforcement and compliance, and more responsive service delivery. By bringing technical support and administrative services closer to fishing communities, NaFAA's decentralization strategy is expected to: Promote participatory fisheries governance, allowing communities to actively engage in decision-making; Strengthen compliance and monitoring, reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) activities; Enhance efficiency in licensing and aquaculture support, ensuring equitable access to services; and Foster sustainable fisheries development, supporting long-term economic growth and food security across all regions of Liberia.

Each regional hub will serve as a decentralized operational center equipped with dedicated staff, digital systems, and infrastructure to manage key fisheries functions at the local level. The hubs will handle vessel registration and licensing, data collection and reporting, inspection and enforcement, aquaculture development, and community engagement. Through collaboration with county authorities, fisher groups, and local communities, the hubs will strengthen participatory governance and service delivery. By decentralizing operations, NaFAA seeks to improve field presence, reduce administrative bottlenecks, enhance real-time data communication, and promote inclusive fisheries management that increases stakeholder confidence and compliance.

A major milestone under this strategy is the planned opening of a Harper Regional office in Maryland County by 2026. This office will enhance accessibility of services, facilitate local fisheries management, and support community-level initiatives. However, in keeping with the Plan, NaFAA will commence the retraining and reassignment of personnel to the regional offices within the first quarter of 2026.

2.7 Update on the Liberia Sustainable management of fisheries project

During the year of 2025, the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP) continued to record notable progress across its key thematic areas. The project focused on advancing livelihood support programs, institutional capacity building, and infrastructure development, all aimed at strengthening Liberia's fisheries governance and promoting sustainable economic growth. Activities during this period reflected NaFAA's commitment to empowering

fishing communities, enhancing policy frameworks, and laying the groundwork for long-term private sector participation in the blue economy.

2.7.1 Livelihood Support and Community Empowerment

Under the Women's Grant Program, the LSMFP achieved broad community impact. A total of 1,422 beneficiaries received their second tranche of grants, while an additional 250 grantees received the first tranche. The remaining second-tranche disbursements are scheduled for January 2026. The grants continue to enhance income generation, post-harvest practices, small business growth, and overall resilience among women and small-scale actors in coastal communities

2.7.2 Fisheries complex

The final design and Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for the Fisheries Complex (NaFAA Headquarters) were completed, reviewed, and formally approved by NaFAA and the World Bank during the fourth quarter. With the design phase concluded, the tendering process for bids is currently underway, paving the way for the commencement of construction in January 2026. Once completed, the Fisheries Complex (Figure 6) will serve as a modern administrative and operational headquarters, integrating offices, laboratories, training facilities, and digital systems to improve coordination, efficiency, and service delivery across all NaFAA departments. This infrastructure will significantly strengthen NaFAA's institutional capacity and support the long-term modernization and governance of Liberia's fisheries sector.



Figure 6: Proposed Fisheries Complex

2.7.3 Klay hatchery

Reconstruction of the Klay Hatchery also advanced, marking a critical step in aquaculture development. Excavation works commenced during the quarter, and foundational construction

commenced on December 10, 2025. Once completed, the hatchery will play an essential role in seed production, farmer training, and aquaculture expansion. *Operationalization is targeted for Q4 2026, with seed distribution planned to begin by early 2027.*

Functioning as a core facility for hatchery seed production, farmer training, demonstration ponds, research, and technical support services. Once operational, it will provide high-quality fingerlings, promote adoption of improved aquaculture technologies, strengthen farmer capacity, and support the transition of aquaculture from small-scale to commercially viable production across the country. The hatchery will also contribute to food security, youth employment, and sector-wide growth by improving access to reliable inputs and enhancing overall productivity in Liberia's aquaculture value chain. These interventions collectively contribute to sustainable aquaculture development, improved livelihoods, and alignment with national and regional blue economy objectives.

2.8 NaFAA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) convened on June 25 and Aug. 27, 2025, and passed resolutions concerning fisheries management, environmental governance, and leadership structure (Table 5).

Table 5: Board Decision and Approval

Action	Board Approval
Adoption	Semi-Industrial Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)
Establishment	The Department of Environment and Climate Change
Election	Of a Co-Chairman of the Board Resolutions: Emergency Meeting (Aug 27, 2025)
NaFAA Logo	Update and modification of the official logo to better reflect aquaculture, artisanal, and industrial fisheries.
Reduction Registration and license fees reduced to boost compliance and support small-scale fishers:	Paddle – USD 30 (from 50) ○ 1–15 HP – USD 175 (from 250) ○ 16–40 HP – USD 350 (from 475)
Disposal	Unserviceable Vehicles and disposal of obsolete fleet assets in line with GSA policy to cut maintenance costs and improve efficiency
Raw Tuna Export Fee Reduction	Export fee revised from 10 % of catch value to USD 10.00 per MT to align with regional rates and enhance competitiveness of Liberia's tuna flag.
Non-Statutory Board Member Fees	A quarterly allowance of USD 2,500 approved (subject to Presidential endorsement) per Section 3.14 of the 2017 Act.
2025 Recast Budget Approval Total projected revenue:	USD 3.68 M (NaFAA share USD 3.47 M). Expenditure: Compensation 2.23 M | Goods & Services 0.91 M | Liabilities 0.19 M | Capital 0.14 M.
Approval NaFAA 2026/2027 Resource Mobilization Strategy	The NaFAA Resource Mobilization Strategy 2026/2025 was approved by the Board of Directors during its last sitting on the 5th of December 2025

Approval of NaFAA Decentralization Plan	The Board of Directors approved the NaFAA Decentralization Plan of 2026 to 2028 to allow for deconjusting the head office and establishing strong presence in the counties.
Approval of NaFAA Teleworking Policy	At its sitting on the 5th of December 2025, the Board of Directors approved NaFAA Teleworking Policy.
Approval of the 2026 Budget	The total budget for the 2026 fiscal year was approved on December 5, 2025 at 3,328,050.00m.

2.9 Strengthening MCS

2.9.1 Introduction of the Quartermaster System

A New Era in Fisheries Surveillance, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) achieved a major technological milestone with the deployment of the Quartermaster System (Figure 1), a next generation monitoring platform designed to strengthen the enforcement of Liberia's fisheries laws and enhance operational transparency. Overview of the Quartermaster System provides the Government of Liberia, through NaFAA, with the unprecedented capability to receive live high-definition video feeds from vessels operating within the Liberian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This innovation enables real-time observation of fishing and fishing related activities, offering enhanced situational awareness of all fishing vessels movements in capture zones and maritime operations within national waters. By integrating live imagery with the existing Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data network. The system establishes a robust surveillance framework that tracks both registered and non-registered vessels, thereby detecting potential breaches or unauthorized operations near Liberia's maritime boundaries, a strategic significance The introduction of the Quartermaster marks a transformational advance in NaFAA's capacity to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, a persistent threat to national fisheries sustainability. The system's fusion of video intelligence and satellite tracking allows: Real-time detection of suspicious or non-compliant behavior. Evidence-based decision-making in enforcement response. Faster coordination with regional monitoring agencies and fisheries commissions within West Africa.

2.9.2 Impact and Institutional Benefits

This innovation situates Liberia among the leading nations in the region using AI-enhanced maritime monitoring tools. It strengthens collaboration with the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), expands NaFAA's deterrent capacity, and reinforces compliance under international fisheries management agreements. The system also contributes to improved transparency and operational efficiency, aligning Liberia's fisheries governance with the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency commitments reaffirmed in 2025.

Table 6: Quarter Master Detection in 2025

CATEGORY	QUARTERMASTER DETECTION	AIS VERIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

Reefer	409	387 were in innocent passage while 22 entered the port of Monrovia
Fishing Vessels	123	All the fishing vessels detected by the quartermaster were Gouji vessels, the local trawlers in the fishery registry.
Canoes	75	Artisanal Canoes with AIS Transponder B are verified and monitored fishing.
Tankers	500	150 were in passage while 350 entered the port of Monrovia

2.10 NaFAA Capacity Development

In 2025, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) significantly advanced its institutional and technical capacity through strategic domestic reforms and international knowledge exchanges, benefiting about 20 staff. A cornerstone of this year's progress was the high-level **study tour to Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia**, sponsored by the **World Bank** LSMFP and the **OPEC Fund for International Development** LIFSSP. The tour included two members of NAFAA Board of Directors and 2 members of the National Legislature. This regional assessment tour focused on adopting best practices in aquaculture industrialization, marine fisheries governance, and value-chain development from Africa's leading fisheries nations. Additionally, with support from NaFAA's regional and bilateral partners, the institution continued to strengthen the capacity of its staff by providing several international training opportunities. See below the list of training and staff who benefited. NaFAA also concluded the negotiations and resumption of the GRO Fisheries Program in Iceland. Also, a five-year training proposal was developed and shared with NaFAA Icelandic partners. The first staff member, Oscar Daryoue, was selected and is currently in Iceland for six months of training. Finally, with the support from the World Bank, four NaFAA staff are still pursuing master degrees in Fisheries Science, with three persons in Ghana at the University of Ghana and one staff in Tanzania.

Table 7: List of staff who benefited from Capacity Development in 2025

NO	NAME	PROGRAM	COUNTRY	DATE
1	Emmanuel Cooper	Freshwater small-skills farming	Egypt	August 3rd – 18th, 2025

2	Matthew Dolo	Freshwater small-skills farming	Egypt	August 3rd to 18th2025
3	Tracy P. Cummings	Value-added Fishery Product development	China	July 11th – 31st, 2025
4	Magdalene K Flomo	Value-added Fishery Product development	China	July 11th – 31st, 2025
5	Prince Garkpa	Value-added Fishery Product development	China	July 11th – 31st, 2025
6	Austin Saye Wehye	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Zambia	July 14 -26, 2025
7	Ezekiel Allen	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Zambia	July 14 -26, 2025
8	Sonkarlay Karnue	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Zambia	July 14 -26, 2025
9	Siekula T. Vannie	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Nigeria	July 14 -26, 2025
10	Zizi Alpha Kpadeh	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Nigeria	July 14 -26, 2025
11	Solomon N. Daryoue	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Nigeria	July 14 -26, 2025
12	S. Ahmed Sherif	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Study Tour	Ghana & Nigeria	July 14 -26, 2025
13	Garmai J Nelson	Training of Maritime Fisheries	Morocco	September 29th – October 8th, 2025

14	Fatima D Saryon	Training of Maritime Fisheries	Morocco	September 29th – October 8th, 2025
15	Yarkpawolo Johnson	Workshop on Sustainable Aquaculture and Regional Synergies	Morocco	October 16-18
16	Mustahpa Foboi	MarCNoWA WEB PORTAL	Togo	October 30-31, 2025
17	Bleah George	MarCNoWA WEB PORTAL	Togo	October 30-31
18	Ahmed Sheriff	Blue Carbon	Ghana	
19	Oscar Daryoue	Grow-Fisheries Training Program, Diploma in Fisheries Management	Iceland	November 2025 – June , 2026
20	Joshua Wilison	Genetics Analysis Training	South Africa	November 15-20, 2025

2.11 Development of the Semi-Industrial Fishery

A central milestone during the reporting period was the introduction of the Sea King, Liberia's first semi-industrial fiberglass fishing vessel. Developed as a model for future fleet expansion, the Sea King is designed for allocation under a transparent Public–Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement to ensure efficiency, accountability, and long-term commercial viability. The Sea King serves as a proof-of-concept fleet model before scaling under a PPP framework to prevent state-operated commercial risk exposure. Its deployment marks the beginning of domestic operations in the semi-industrial zone, with expected benefits including increased national fish production, employment, enhanced traceability, and improved maritime security through VMS-quartermaster enabled operations.

2.11.1 Commissioning of the Sea King

NaFAA formally commissioned the *Sea King* (Figure 2) during a national ceremony attended by His Excellency the Vice President and senior government leaders. The event also showcased 23 newly constructed fiberglass Kru and Fanti canoes, produced locally.

Constructed using advanced Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) technology, the *Sea King* features a 20 m³ fish hold, 10 m³ ice hold, and 25 m³ fuel capacity. These specifications significantly enhance Liberia's ability to undertake sustainable semi-industrial fishing operations, strengthen food security, and diversify livelihoods in associated value chains. The vessel is expected to support

targeted fisheries, including shrimp and cephalopods, under a regulated and environmentally responsible framework.

The commissioning ceremony further reinforced the broader sectoral reforms achieved in Q4, including the revitalization of the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS), the strengthening of MCS capabilities through the Quartermaster system, and ongoing progress in aquaculture, landing site development, and fish processing infrastructure. Collectively, these achievements position Liberia on a clear trajectory toward a modern, efficient, and investment-ready fisheries sector.



Figure 7. Semi Industrial Vessel "Sea King"

2.12 Financial Highlights

Financially, NaFAA revised its revenue projection downward from USD 4.29 million to USD 3.68 million to reflect more realistic seasonal patterns. Operational expenses stood at USD 3.7 million, with a debt-to-revenue ratio of 74% and a projected funding gap of USD 2.6 million. The Authority is prioritizing measures to strengthen internal financial controls, improve revenue collection through the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS), and operationalize new fisheries to boost income.

Institutional reforms advanced with the creation of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the adoption of performance-based contracts, and the establishment of regional offices to

support decentralization. Gender mainstreaming efforts continued, although significant disparities persist, with women comprising only 12% of staff.

Overall, NaFAA's progress in 2025 reflects a strong commitment to transforming Liberia's fisheries sector into a sustainable and economically vibrant industry while reinforcing accountability and inclusivity.

3.0 Key Highlights and Achievements

3.1 Highlights and transformational milestones achieved

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority focus is future-driven. The Authority has commenced the development of a 10-Year Strategic Plan (2026–2036) to guide the modernization, governance, and competitiveness of the sector. NaFAA is developing a National Fisheries & Aquaculture Investment Plan to attract sustainable capital. And advancing the National Aquaculture Strategy, which will transition fish farming from subsistence to commercial-scale production. Over 500 fish farmers have been trained across the country. NaFAA launched the National Aquaculture Database System (NADS) and the National Fishmongers Directory, ensuring data-driven policy decisions. Work has resumed at the Aquaculture Center of Excellence in Klay, Bomi County, which will soon serve as a national hub for hatcheries, demonstration ponds, training programs, and feed research to support both smallholder and commercial producers. We fully operationalized the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS)—dormant since 2022—cutting import permit processing time from weeks to just 48 hours. The once-abandoned Fisheries Complex has been revived. Designs are complete, procurement is ongoing, and by November 2026, we hope to welcome you to commission a new four-story headquarters.

3.2 Fisheries Management and Status

Liberia's Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law (2019), formally recognizes semi-industrial fisheries as a key, regulated sub-sector: vessels with specific size and power, operating within 4 nautical miles under strict zoning and licensing regulation. The newly approved Semi-Industrial Fisheries Management Plan gives operational details, defines boundaries, sets fishing plans, and enforces monitoring. As a result, semi-industrial fishing now has a legal and management framework to develop sustainably, supporting coastal economies while safeguarding both artisanal livelihoods and marine resources.

Semi-industrial fisheries serve as a strategic bridge; they have more capacity than traditional canoes but operate closer to shore than industrial trawlers. Managed effectively, they can: Expand domestic production, create employment both at sea and in local processing, ensure sustainable exploitation of near-shore resources, and encourage investments under a regulated, transparent system. Key strategic actions include introducing a cap of 10 semi-industrial fishing vessels. Strengthening Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) to enforce Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Spatial management to minimize conflict between semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries. Licensing conditions require Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), selective gear, and in compliance with the law and or the fisheries regulations. Regular stakeholder consultations and adaptive management

reviewed every two years. *Scientific findings will guide licensing decisions to avoid overcapacity in pressure zones and to ensure conservation of nursery and spawning habitats.*

3.2.1 Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) Analysis of Stock Status

The report utilized CMSY and Bayesian Schaefer models to evaluate eight key species. Findings include: Fully Exploited: Sardinella spp., with biomass near sustainable limits; effort should not increase. Overexploited Stocks*: Galeoides decadactylus, Pseudotolithus spp., Alectis alexandrinus, and Caranx spp.* require immediate effort reduction and strict management controls. Underexploited Stock: *Ilisha africana* remains underexploited, allowing cautious growth in effort.

3.2.2 FMP Recommended Management Strategies

To achieve sustainability and sector growth, the following measures are critical: - Strictly limit fleet expansion, enforce gear selectivity, and adopt seasonal closures to enhance species recruitment into fishing grounds. - Strengthen data collection systems, biological monitoring, and CPUE analyses. Implement clear Total Allowable Catches (TACs) aligned with scientific recommendations. Establish effective co-management structures for increased compliance and community involvement. - Regularly update and review management actions based on scientific, ecological, and socio-economic indicators.

3.3 Staff Insurance

NaFAA currently has a workforce of 203 staff, and for the first time in the institution's history, comprehensive medical insurance coverage was extended to all employees effective December 1, 2025. Hence, in recognition of the high-risk nature of Fisheries Observers assignments, deployed on fishing vessels received full life-insurance coverage. This aimed at improving staff welfare, strengthening workforce morale, and aligning NaFAA's human resource practices with international occupational safety standards.

4.0 Conclusion

The second quarter of 2025 marked a period of strategic consolidation and foundational growth for NaFAA. Through focused institutional reforms, enhanced partnerships, and operational innovations, NaFAA has positioned itself to address legacy challenges and unlock the vast potential of Liberia's living aquatic resources. *NaFAA will prepare a Q1 2026 Implementation Matrix to monitor execution and maintain performance discipline across departments.*

Despite financial constraints and capacity gaps, the Authority's efforts to operationalize new fisheries, improve revenue systems, and foster transparent governance demonstrate resilience and forward-thinking leadership. Moving ahead, continued focus on diversifying revenue streams, strengthening human resources, and advancing decentralization will be crucial to achieving long-term sustainability.

NaFAA's unwavering commitment to inclusive development, environmental stewardship, and global engagement sets a promising trajectory for Liberia's fisheries sector to become a key driver of economic growth and national prosperity.

5.0 Appendix



Fisheries College and Regional Center of Excellence Facilities Hand Over



Official groundbreaking of the Klay Hatchery in Bomi County



Three-Day Retreat to Strengthen Leadership, Innovation and Team Cohesion



Liberia's first Semi-Industrial Fiberglass Fishing Vessel Commissions



Fisheries & Aquaculture Sciences Students on-board the SeaKing Vessel



World Fisheries Day Celebration Grand Bassa County