



# Liberia Market Brief: Aquaculture & Fisheries

May 2021



COASTLINE  
**579 km**

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE  
**246,152 km<sup>2</sup>**

PRODUCTION (2018)  
**14,360 MT**

PRODUCTION POTENTIAL  
**40,000 MT/year**

PRIMARY SEASON: **Dry season between October-April**



## Demand: Fish are an important part of many Liberian's diets and consumption is on the rise

- A key source of nutrition in Liberians' diets: A whopping 80% of Liberians consume fish as their primary source of protein. Fish provides 65% of the country's animal protein needs and is a primary source of 20% of protein for children in many coastal areas
- There is strong demand for fish products despite per capita fish consumption being hit by the country's civil wars – consumption increased to almost 5kg per person/year, with room yet to reach the 15kg pre-war average
- Consumers are ubiquitous, including major supermarkets, high end hotels, cook shops, and households along the coast, inland, and Monrovia. There is also strong demand on the European market



## Supply: Rich fishing grounds coupled with small scale artisanal & larger fishing operations ready to supply

- Opportunity in lucrative migratory and non-migratory stocks including tuna and other pelagic fisheries stocks coupled with rising global demand
- 35,054 Liberians are employed in fisheries and aquaculture, with marine fisheries making up 94.7% of that total
- Fish farming, especially integrated with rice production, is nascent but on the rise.



## Infrastructure: Currently limited, with room to multiply returns via investment

- In marine fishing, there are roughly 114 landing sites along the coast, servicing 2,531 Kru canoes (5-7m long dug-outs mostly using sails and paddles) and 757 Fanti boats (10-15m long, powered by 15-40 horsepower outboard engines)
- Investments aimed at improving efficiency by reducing post-harvest spoilage (e.g. simple tech to preserve catches on-board and forward cold chain) will multiply profits without the need to catch more fish.



## Opportunities for Investment: Ample opportunity for investment

- The fisheries sector holds significant potential due to the unmet demand for fish protein – rearing of tilapia and catfish in particular present a promising opportunity to meet local fish demand
- Investments can be multiplied when coupled with development of affordable feeds, capacity building among fishers, and setting up infrastructure such as cold chains and processing facilities.
- The lucrative European market is open to businesses that can demonstrate traceability in supply

**ravenous local appetite for fish and fish products** entailing imports despite Liberia over 500km coastline means exciting investment opportunities – **Invest Today!**

