Somaliland Maritime Zone

Somaliland commands extensive maritime rights under international law, covering four key zones: a 12-nautical-mile territorial sea, a 24-nautical-mile contiguous zone, and both a continental shelf and an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) extending 200 nautical miles from its coastline. These zones provide vast opportunities for fisheries, marine resources, offshore energy, and maritime trade development along the Gulf of Aden.

Somaliland Coastline

The Somaliland coast lies north of the equator, between latitude 10.0N and latitude 11.0N and between longitudes 43. 15/E and longitude 49.0E in the Gulf of Aden. It stretches 856km with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) area of approximately 70, 000 sq.km.

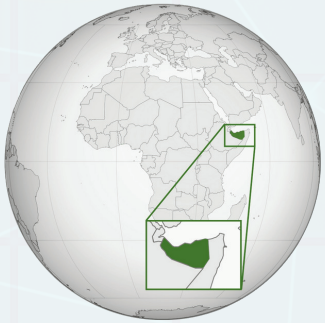
Wasaaradda Horumarinta Maalgashiga iyo Warshadaha
Ministry of Investment & Industrial Development
وزارة تنمية الاستثمار والصناعة

MINISTRY OF FISHERY & MARINE RESOURCES

Invest Somaliland

A Blue Economy with Untapped Potential

"Somaliland's vast coastline along the Gulf of Aden presents one of the most promising frontiers for fisheries investment in the Horn of Africa. The country's rich marine ecosystem is home to valuable species such as tuna, sardines, groupers, snappers, and lobsters, yet only a fraction of its potential catch is currently utilized. This underexploited resource offers investors significant opportunities in areas such as modern fishing fleets, fish processing and packaging plants, cold storage facilities, and export logistics."



Website:
www.mofcd.govsomaliland.org
www.moiid.govsomaliland.org
www.somalilandinvest.com

THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

INVEST IN FISHERIES

YOUR GATEWAY TO INVESTMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

FISHERIES OPPORTUNITIES

1. Modern Fishing Fleet Expansion

Invest in equipping artisanal and semi-industrial fishers with modern fiberglass boats, gear, and navigation systems to increase catch capacity, safety, and efficiency along Zeila, Berbera, and Las Qorey coasts.

2. Coastal Cold Storage & Ice Plants

Establish cold storage hubs and ice-making facilities in Zeila, Berbera, Laas-Qorey and Maydh to preserve fish freshness from sea to market.

3. Fish Processing & Packaging Plant

Develop a central fish processing facility near Berbera Port for filleting, freezing, and vacuum packaging of high-value species for regional and Gulf export markets.

4. Fishmeal & Animal Feed Production

Utilize small schooling species (anchovies, sardines, herrings) for fishmeal and feed production used in livestock and aquaculture industries.

5. Aquaculture & Mariculture Farms

Develop coastal aquaculture farms for shrimp, crab, and sea cucumber production in sheltered bays like Zeila and Karin.

6. Fishing Gear & Boat Maintenance Workshop

Set up marine workshops for boat repair, engine maintenance, and gear supply to support artisanal and industrial fleets.

7. Fish Market & Distribution Centers

Build modern fish markets in Hargeisa, Berbera, Burco and Borama with hygiene facilities, display units, and cold-chain delivery systems connecting coastal landings to urban consumers.

8. Clean Salt Production

Establish eco-friendly salt farms along the coastal plains using solar evaporation. The salt will serve both local fish preservation and export industries.

9. Cheap Energy Solutions (Solar & Wind Systems)

Install renewable energy systems in fishing communities and processing plants to lower operational costs and ensure reliable power supply.

Types of Fisheries in Somaliland

ANCHOVIES

Size 8-10 cm

GRUNTS

Size 16-100 cm

EMPERORS

Size 20-10 cm

LIZARDFISHES

Size 8-10 cm

RAYS

Size 147-330 cm

GROUPERS

Size 14-270 cm

SARDINES AND HERRINGS

Size 7-24 cm

GOATFISHES

Size 20-50 cm

SNAPPERS

Size 147 cm

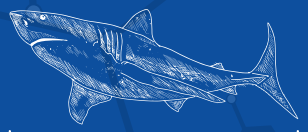
DOLPHINFISH

Size 75-210 cm

BILLFISHES

Size 230-500 cm

SHARKS



Size 400-760cm

TUNA

Size 50-250 cm

MACKERELS

Size 38-240 cm

Types of Fishing Activities in Somaliland

Somaliland's fisheries sector operates through two main systems: artisanal coastal fishing and offshore fishing. Artisanal fishing is carried out by small-scale fishers using traditional boats along the Gulf of Aden, mainly targeting coastal and reef species such as groupers, snappers, emperors, sardines, and anchovies. It supports local livelihoods and supplies domestic markets but remains under-equipped, presenting opportunities for investment in modern boats, storage, and processing.

Offshore fishing, on the other hand, takes place in deeper waters and focuses on high-value species such as tuna, swordfish, and shark. This area holds strong export potential and is currently dominated by foreign fleets, creating room for local and joint-venture investments in sustainable offshore operations. Together, these systems represent the foundation of Somaliland's Blue Economy, offering significant potential for modernization and growth.

ARTISANAL FISHERIES

Growing exports from Zeila, Berbera, and Las Qorey to Djibouti show strong market demand. Investment in modern boats, cold storage, and processing can rapidly expand this trade.

INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES

Offshore fishing remains underdeveloped, offering high potential for new fleets, processing plants, and joint ventures to supply regional and export markets.