Title: Fishing and climate change in Saloum: Between drought and advancing sea

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Abstract: The long years of drought resulted in a loss of much of the mangrove areas which constituted nurseries and spawning grounds for fish stocks. With the high salinity of the water, salt harvesting has become in recent years the main activity of some villagers. This salt harvesting activity tends to aggravate the situation. Salt fields production residues are continuously discharged into bolong thereby increasing the salinity of the water. The high salt content, in the dry season especially, prevented reassembling species in inland waters and finally eliminated fishing in some villages of Saloum. However, due to the advance of the sea, the large increase in the opening of the mouth has in recent years risen more water from the ocean into the river. This water inlet tends to reduce the salt content of the river allowing a resumption of fishing in some localities. Nevertheless, the strong current induced reassembled waters, while facilitating the use of drifting gear, a constraint for other gear used in fixed mode. This communication shows how advanced the sea has allowed the maintenance of fishing in some medium Saloum.

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