

CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM: 5th Republic proclaimed in 1958. Presidential system, powerful executive who appoints Prime Minister.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DOMESTIC FISHERY

RESOURCES: Domestic production of seafood has remained relatively stable over the past decade with landings fluctuating between 650,000 and 750,000 tonnes a year. The national fishing industry operates primarily along the country's Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts, in European Community waters off Ireland and Scotland, in the eastern Atlantic off Newfoundland and in tropical areas where tuna is caught by French fishing vessels. France's domestic catch is less than one per cent of the global fisheries catch. The bulk of the catch is landed fresh and consists of demersal species such as coley or saithe, whiting, hake and haddock as well as tuna. France also maintains an advanced aquaculture sector accounting for almost one third of total fish production.

FLEET: The French fishing fleet is quite disparate consisting of some 19,000 vessels of which 87 per cent are less than 12 metres in length; Only 81 vessels are in excess of 50 metre in length. Since the extension of coastal jurisdiction in 1977 the French fleet has declined by about 30 per cent.

MANAGEMENT: The EC Fisheries Council takes decisions on behalf of EC Member States on fisheries management measures for Community, third country and in