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Massawa, 31 May 2010 - The director general of services and marine resource control department in the Ministry of Marine Resource, Mr. Andom Gebretinsae, stated that the major development and infrastructure programs implemented over the past 19 years have borne fruitful outcome in the development of the sector.

He indicated that effective tasks have been accomplished in building a viable fisheries sector that strives to properly harness the virgin resource for the benefit of the people and the nation, besides exporting products. Stating that 10 big boats have been purchased this year that are fishing up to 12,000 tones of fish annually, Mr. Andom pointed out that endeavors are being exerted to raise fishing capacity to 80,000 tones.

The director general went on to say that concerted action is being taken to support traditional fishermen through regrouping them in an association. Boats along with fishing materials worth over 20 million Nakfa have been extended to them in the form of loan, Mr. Andom added.

Indicating that fish breeding is underway in various micro-dams and water reservoirs in different administrative regions, he said that a fish breeding center has been set up in Mai-Serwa and that the necessary infrastructure facilities have been put in place.

Mr. Andom also explained that a number of jetties have been constructed at substantial expenditure in Assab, Massawa, Gelalo, Tio, Edi and Dahlak, while plants with the capacity of processing 38 tones of fish and 95 tones of ice have been put in place in the Northern and Southern Red Sea regions.

Besides, boat repair plants have been opened in Massawa, Tio, Edi, Assab and Gelalo, whereas a boat manufacturing plant has been set up in Haleb, he elucidated.