

Kenyan Fishermen Celebrate Somali Pirates

TRAILER

Malindi is a small fishing town on the coast of Kenya. Most of the surrounding villages are mired in poverty. But for the fishermen, life is looking up for they are netting huge catches of fish - earning over 50 times the average daily wage - thanks to the pirates from neighbouring Somalia who have turned out to be their biggest friend.

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SCRIPT

COMMENTARY

They're celebrating their catch, hauling in hundreds of kilos of fish - everything from Barracuda to a Giant Stingray.

This is Malindi, a small fishing town on the coast of Kenya, most of the surrounding villages are mired in poverty, but for the fisherman life is looking up - for they are netting huge catches here, earning in Kenyan shillings over than 50 times the average daily wage.

VOXPOP, MALE, Fisherman (English)

"You can make in one day 20,000 or 50,000."

VOXPOP2, MALE, Fisherman (English)

"Yesterday I made 20,000, I got a big shark."

COMMENTARY

It's these pirates from neighbouring Somalia who have turned out to be the fisherman's friend. For the highwaymen of the high seas have scared away the foreign fishing fleets - with over 40 attacks on shipping in the last 5 months alone. And while a naval task force from more than ten countries plays cat and mouse with the pirates these Kenyan fishermen are in the money because the factory ships have fled from the most dangerous waters in the world.

VOXPOP, MALE, Fisherman (English)

"If those big ships they are very far, not here at the seashore."

VOXPOP, MALE, Fisherman (English)

"We are happy that the ships are not coming this side - if the ships come this side all the fish disappear."

COMMENTARY

For decades foreign ships have deprived these fishing dhows of a livelihood - Somali piracy began partly by way of revenge but that piracy today allows big game fishermen in Kenyan to enjoy their best season in over 40 years

The hooks were baited and within moments a strapping Sailfish is hauled in.

This year's catch exceeding anything this boats captains has ever see before.

ITV, MASOOD, Kenyan Fisherman (English)

"This year the season was very good - I have never seen a season like it - there were plenty of Sailfish, Marlin, Whahoo, King fish, Gentraveli - it really it was fantastic this season."

COMMENTARY

And Marine biologists agree that with the factory ships now in retreat the fish have begun to return.

ITV, STEVE TROTT, Marine Biologist (English)

“All the indicators are there that the fishery is recovering. I think that is the strongest indicator yet that these commercial scale fisheries have been having a destructive impact on our kenyan fisheries.”

COMMENTARY

So there is a silver lining to the havoc caused by Somali pirates and it is found here off the Kenyan Coast - where the pirates have done more to preserve fish stocks than anybody else and where Kenyan fisherman are reaping the rewards.

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