



FCWC

Fisheries Committee for
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHARED INFORMATION UNDER THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE

December 2017



Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information under the West Africa Task Force

Background:

The West Africa Task Force (WATF) brings together the six Member States of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other fisheries crime. The Task Force is facilitated by the FCWC Secretariat and supported by a Technical Team that includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), and Stop Illegal Fishing. The WATF is working together to stop illegal fishing through active cooperation, information sharing, and the facilitation of interagency coordination on the domestic level. The Task Force operationalises existing FCWC conventions, in particular the Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data in the area of the FCWC.

It is important to recognise that the Task Force shares and utilises many different forms of information. Such information may be sensitive in nature, either by origin or due to its relevance to an ongoing enforcement action. It must also be considered that the Task Force is supported by non-government partners, and deals with a wide range of national and international legal frameworks. All partners must account for and respect the varying sensitivity levels of shared information.

The WATF has identified the need to establish a framework to protect information shared among FCWC Member States and partners. The FCWC and partners began implementing the Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Support in West Africa project in 2014, establishing the WATF in 2015. The Task Force has made significant progress since then, including in its activities combatting IUU fishing. Moving forward, an Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information, is crucial to the sustainability of the WATF. This Additional Protocol, based on the WATF Terms of Reference, serves to implement the 2014 FCWC Convention of the Pooling and Sharing of Information of the Area of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea, and provides guidelines for information sharing, enabling the WATF to fulfil its objectives.

Objective:

Information sharing is vital to WATF's work, and the Task Force benefits greatly from the inter-agency cooperation among FCWC Member States, the FCWC Secretariat, and the WATF Technical Team. The objective of the FCWC Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information is to ensure that the Members operate on a basis of trust, grounded



in the parties' joint efforts to end illegal fishing. The framework will help maintain secure information sharing between all partners and continue to strengthen the capacity of the Member States.

Additional Protocol:

The Member States of the FCWC, in cooperation with the WATF Technical Team, referring to the 'Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data in the area of the FCWC' as well as the Terms of Reference of the West Africa Task Force (WATF), and recognising the need for a framework guiding the sharing and utilisation of data, reports and messages generated in support of regional fisheries enforcement activities, agree that:

1. Data and information shared by FCWC Member States, the FCWC Secretariat, and the WATF Technical Team shall be utilised and shared for the achievement of the stated objectives of the WATF.
2. Information, depending on source and context, will be categorised as either sensitive in nature, or open. Sensitive information is recognised as data, intelligence and/or communications not in the public domain that have been shared by a Member State and/or the Technical Team, and has been identified by that party to be sensitive in nature.

Sensitive information can consist of intelligence, data, reports and communications, either paper-based or electronic, transmitted and received pursuant to WATF activities.

Information sensitive in nature is owned by its source, and shall not be shared beyond the WATF and its supporting Technical Team without seeking prior written permission from the source. In the event that a FCWC Member State needs to divulge confidential or sensitive information to a third party for the purposes of conducting national fisheries MCS activities, the Member is required to obtain prior consent from the country to which the information pertains.

Information that is obtained from public or subscription sources are considered open in nature and can be utilised by all parties at any time.

3. Information included under this Additional Protocol may originate from the WATF regional communications platform, Basecamp, through email, telephone, or any other recognised communication platform.
4. The integrity of the password protection on the regional communications platform Basecamp shall be maintained by all individuals who are represented on it. Passwords and general access to the system shall not be provided to any individuals who are not identified as a representative by a Member State or as agreed by the Task Force.
5. The confidentiality agreements signed by Technical Team staff as part of employment contracts and/or project agreements are recognised by the FCWC Secretariat and the WATF, and are considered legally binding for technical support activities conducted on behalf of the WATF.

FCWC Member States, the Secretariat, and the WATF Technical Team (the Parties) agree to take all necessary measures to implement this Additional Protocol, for the purpose of facilitating information sharing in the FCWC WATF.

Approved by the FCWC Ministerial Conference, 15th December 2017, Abuja, Nigeria



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The West Africa Task Force brings together the six member countries of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal fishing and stop the trade in illegally caught fish.

The Task Force is facilitated by the FCWC Secretariat and supported by a Technical Team that includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing with funding from Norad. By actively cooperating, by sharing information and by facilitating national inter-agency working groups the West Africa Task Force is working together to end illegal fishing.

For more information go to:

www.fcwc-fish.org

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