



West Africa Task Force for Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Working together to stop illegal fishing

28th - 29th April 2015, Accra, Ghana

DRAFT REPORT – May 2015



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1 Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

West Africa is endowed with abundant fisheries resources which provide key nutrition to coastal populations, and support employment for more than three million people. It also provides revenue to governments through taxes, royalties and other fees collected through licences and fisheries access agreements. However, this valuable resource is under threat due to various political, economic and environmental factors, including illegal fishing. Numerous cases of illegal fishing activities are reported annually off the coast of West African States, making this region a hot spot for illegal fishing operators.

National efforts by West African countries to strengthen their fisheries management systems have resulted in improved monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of some fisheries. However, many of the regions commercial fish species are migratory and the national and foreign fishing operators that target them follow these stocks, therefore sustainably and effectively tackling illegal fishing requires a regional approach to fisheries enforcement. In many cases, the national capacity to cooperate regionally in order to identify, track, gather evidence and mount enforcement and prosecution actions against illegal fishing operators is limited, and requires support.

In response to these problems, three years funding has been secured from the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) to support the *Fisheries Intelligence and MCS support in West Africa* initiative. The overall objective of the project is to ‘contribute to more effective governance of regional fisheries resources in West Africa through a reduction of illegal fishing’. The first Task Force (TF) Meeting (TF 01) was held in Accra on the 28th and 29th of April 2015, immediately after the Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Director’s Meeting held on the 27th April.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the six FCWC countries: Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo; the FCWC Secretariat; and the Technical Team (TT) including representatives of Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) and Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS).

1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General Mr Seraphin Dedi began proceedings by welcoming participants. He immediately requested a moment of silence in remembrance of the efforts and dedication of friend and SIF Chairperson Mr Geoffrey Nanyaro, who had been expected to attend the meeting and unexpectedly passed away the night before in his homeland of Tanzania. Many participants expressed their sadness at this sudden news. Following self-introductions, Mr Dedi gave a brief opening address, reminding participants of the need for African governments to take action against illegal fishing and the Conventions and protocols developed by the FCWC towards this goal. He encouraged attendees to explore the option of using the intelligence and information sharing initiative to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in their region.

Mr Dedi then welcomed Mr Samuel Quatey the Director of the Fisheries Commission in the host country, and invited him to deliver welcome remarks. Highlighting the challenges faced by Ghana, including the EU yellow card, Mr Quatey briefly described the efforts his country has made in combatting IUU fishing in their waters, particularly the amendment to their Fisheries Act and the



development of a National Plan of Action (NPOA) to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU). Stating that IUU fishing should be targeted using a regional approach, Mr Quatey said he hoped the meeting would result in shared experiences, lesson learning and national and regional cooperation.

Mr Dedi then handed proceedings over to Dr Shep Helguile, the Director of Aquaculture and Fisheries for the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries in Cote d'Ivoire. Cote d'Ivoire is the current Chair of the FCWC and as such the Chairperson of the meeting. Dr Helguile thanked Norad for their support, adopted the agenda, and introduced the presenters.

2 Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 Introduction to fisheries intelligence and MCS in West Africa

Ms Sandy Davies from SIF used the *F/V Thunder* to highlight the extremes that illegal operators are going to both fish illegally and hide their actions. Several comments followed on the *F/V Thunder*, and it was concluded that many aspects of the case are ongoing and cannot be effectively addressed at this meeting, but that the TF was being established to support cases such as these.

Highlighting the ongoing global, continental and regional processes supporting the fight against IUU fishing Ms Davies used extracts from the *Convention for the Establishment of the FCWC* and the *Convention on the pooling and sharing of information and data of the area of the FCWC* to demonstrate the commitments already made by the countries to cooperate and share information. Ms Davies then described FISH-i Africa, a Task Force in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), and explained that with funding from Norway the FCWC countries could lead the way for West Africa in developing a West Africa Task Force. She noted that the intention of the funding support was to assist the countries of the FCWC to implement the commitments they have already made through their intergovernmental negotiation process at the FCWC such as the regional plan to combat illegal fishing and the recent conventions on minimum condition of access to fisheries and *on the pooling and sharing of information and data of the area of the FCWC*.

2.2 The core elements of the Project support

Emphasising the complex nature of national and regional fisheries management, Mr Duncan Copeland from TMT described the core elements of the West Africa MCS project. These include:

- **establishing a regional communications platform** - a secure, shared web-based system called Basecamp, that allows all participating countries and the Technical Team to share information securely;
- **provision of fisheries intelligence and analytical support;**
- **vessel tracking and identification;**
- **access to technical expertise** – this includes MCS, evidence based policy advice and support to cases and legal processes;
- **capacity training** – such as in-country training for national focal groups;

- **on-request expert training** on national vessel monitoring systems (VMS), port inspections and other relevant training;
- **targeted technical papers** on issues such as transshipment and technology analysis;
- **support to MCS operations** – such as on the job training for fisheries officers as well as training on as well as assessment of technological tools;
- **regional information sharing databases** containing vessel information, documents and a combined license list; and
- **communication facilitation**; and **cooperation with other initiatives** such as FISH-i Africa.

The potential benefits of these activities to the TF countries are:

- improved compliance of the fishing fleet;
- improved information and capacity to make MCS and fisheries management decisions;
- cost effective MCS systems;
- potential to see improved and predictable revenue streams;
- improved food security; and
- the establishment of structures and capacity that will directly contribute to long term regional MCS cooperation (e.g. a regional MCS centre).



Figure 1: Mr Duncan Copeland describing the core elements of the West Africa MCS project

Discussion: Several countries were pleased to hear of the support offered by the project and looked forward to further cooperation in the region. There were requests for clarification regarding how the project would be administered, and several participants requested that a project document be shared. Nigeria in particular requested assistance to improve their national capacity, while Cote d'Ivoire who are in the process of setting up their VMS system also requested support to ensure this is done properly.

2.3 National experiences and challenges

This was an open session facilitated by Ms Davies for participants to discuss their current situations, experiences and challenges. The presentations given by TF member countries are summarized below.

2.3.1 Benin

Benin cited catch certification as an issue, specifically procedures relating to this, and the department responsible for, approval of catch certificates. The representatives from Benin noted the need to improve cooperation amongst their national agencies.

The TT suggested that Benin and other TF members develop common catch certification standards in line with international best practice, and noting that the project provides analysis, further suggested a potential study on the national and regional frameworks regarding catch certification.

2.3.2 Cote d'Ivoire

Describing the country's issues, the Cote d'Ivoire representative stated that the Port of Abidjan is subject to heavy traffic, and it is a challenge to track all the fish moving through it, further, due to institutional arrangements, performing inspections can be difficult. Positively, he informed participants that they are in the process of establishing their VMS.

2.3.3 Ghana

The recent 'Yellow Card' issued to Ghana by the European Union (EU) cost the country an estimated EUR 30 million, causing the country to make legislative amendments and develop an inter-agency enforcement unit. Ghanaian representatives enquired about the possible use of drones, and proposed a cost benefit analysis be done to determine their effectiveness.

2.3.4 Liberia

Liberia noted that they have previously had issues with their vessel registry and illegal fishing, but have been cooperating with SIF, TMT and other partners to improve the situation in their fishery. The country has established the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) website¹, a Fisheries Monitoring Center and the Liberia Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Committee (MCSCC). Liberia's new Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is currently before cabinet, with a new Act to follow, and they are determined to continue improving management of their fishery through further cooperation.

¹ <http://www.liberiafisheries.net/>

2.3.5 **Nigeria**

Nigeria being the biggest importer of fish in the region, stressed the need to ensure that fish imported has been lawfully caught. The country representative expressed her need for MCS support and capacity building. There is no formal inter-agency cooperation within Nigeria and this was noted as a weakness. Nigeria has a two year old VMS system that they are yet to put to use. They welcome the establishment of the project and hope it would provide the assistance needed for them to take tangible action against illegal fishers.

2.3.6 **Togo**

Togo is currently negotiating with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for assistance to protect their waters and fisheries resources. They highlighted that IUU fishing is usually perpetrated by distant-water fishing nations (DWFN's) and that the project will help protect the resources of the sub-region.

Discussion: Responding to questions raised during the country presentations, the TT stated the need for MCS measures including the value of VMS in addition to other satellite monitoring systems and that one does not replace the other. They clarified that the project will augment national capacity and provide legal, technical and operational support on request. The TT committed to sharing the project document with the countries.

2.4 What can the Task Force and this Project achieve?

Ms Davies and Mr Copeland gave a presentation on the structure of the TF, describing the different components, their roles, and how these will cooperate. The TF will comprise of:

- the member countries forming the Task Force (TF)
- the six National Focal Groups (NFG),
- the Technical Team (TT); and
- the communications platform.

They went on to break down the planned activities of the project, which are:

- two annual TF meetings,
- one regional training meeting,
- national training in each of the member countries,
- the use of the communications platform; and
- the provision of technical experts and expertise, to provide intelligence, operational support, legal support and communications support amongst others.



Discussions: The TT explained that the members of the TF are currently the six FCWC countries, and used the example of the communications platform 'Basecamp' for FISH-i Africa which allows a maximum of six people per country. It was noted that the FISH-i Africa TF, the TT and other countries may provide lesson learning to the West Africa TF to support its success. National cooperation within the countries is at different levels and therefore country specific programmes will be developed.

The TT clarified that the project and the tools developed are for the states and to support the states to implement the FCWC Conventions and commitments.

Following discussions Mr Copeland described to the participants what the TF may be able to achieve. With the common goal being to reduce illegal fishing and improve compliance, the TF aims to build on existing foundations such as the FCWC conventions, work plans and MCS Working Group, as well as pan-African initiatives, to strengthen MCS activities in the region. The TF will be able to:

- support a case from the point where intelligence is received to enforcement prosecution of perpetrators,
- share information and cooperate effectively,
- track vessels and identify possible illegal fishing activity,
- identify the illegal fishers and eliminate illegal and 'risk' vessels from license lists and registers,
- improve understanding of the fishing operations to inform MCS operations and strengthen MCS capacity,
- cooperate and harmonize with other countries, regions, organisations and initiatives; and
- build the foundations for long term regional and sustainable MCS structures in the region.

2.5 SWOT analysis by Participants

Ms Davies facilitated a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis that was carried out by the TF to determine 'where we are' in respect to implementing the TF. The SWOT aimed to determine the strengths and opportunities to build on, and the weaknesses and threats to work on.



Figure 2: SWOT analysis explanatory slide

The results from the SWOT analysis can be summarised as follows:

2.5.1 **Strengths**

- Presence of the FCWC, its legally binding conventions and the MCS Working Group.
- National capacity including national plans of action, and some resources for MCS.
- National inter-agency cooperation existing in some countries.
- The West Africa MCS Project – which is funded for three years and has technical expert support.

2.5.2 **Weaknesses**

- Weak national and regional cooperation and communication.
- Poor ratification of international agreements and in particular not all countries active in International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- Financial constraints.
- Language (half the FCWC countries are Anglophone while the other half are Francophone).
- Insufficient human, institutional and organisational capacity.
- Differing levels of MCS capacity in the countries.
- Lack of regional cooperation for patrols and observers.

2.5.3 **Opportunities**

- Already support and cooperation from regional and international organisations.
- Existence of regional projects that can be built on and partnered with.
- Capacity building of neighbouring countries required and this can grow regional MCS cooperation.
- Sharing of assets within the region, e.g. regional patrols.
- Lesson learning from and collaboration with active initiatives such as FISH-i Africa.
- Policy and legal harmonization.
- Operationalised standard operating procedures for MCS.

2.5.4 **Threats**

- Lack of political will and/or support.
- Political interference.
- Corruption.
- Weak decision making bodies to support MCS action.
- National budgetary constraints.



Figure 3: Ms Sandy Davies presenting a SWOT analysis of the TF

2.6 Intelligence input and information sharing

Mr Copeland presented on intelligence input and information sharing, explaining what fisheries intelligence is and why it is important to the work of the TF. Using examples he described in detail the ‘intelligence process’ and the different types of intelligence reports that the TT can provide to the TF.

Mr Copeland took this opportunity to provide a budget breakdown of the project in order to give clarity and respond to earlier queries regarding funding.

Discussion: The TF questioned the sustainability of the project, and enquired about the current and/or future existence of other FISH-i Africa-like initiatives outside of Africa. Responses from the TT were that as FISH-i Africa was formed under the auspices of SIF, a pan-African Working Group, as such there are currently no plans to develop FISH-i Africa-like initiatives beyond Africa, however lesson learning and cooperation beyond the continent are always an option.

Participants praised the involvement of SIF, and urged a buy-in from the countries present. It was noted that an official and formal approval of the project by the FCWC Ministers Meeting in December 2015 should be achieved for full formal implementation, however that in the meantime a pilot period of activities should be conducted.



2.7 Options for national groups

Mr Mark Ssemakula from SIF presented options for national inter-agency cooperation, explaining that the nature of fisheries and the governance structures in place to manage the resources mean that different agencies may be involved in combatting IUU fishing. He informed the TF that the project is able to assist in the development and/or strengthening of inter-agency cooperation and provide national capacity building to support this.

2.8 Establishing the communications portal

Mr Copeland then elaborated on the proposed information sharing platform, Basecamp, explaining how to access it and the various functions it possesses. Explaining that this is a low cost information sharing platform, he provided participants with a Basecamp Manual to further familiarize them with the platform, before opening up the floor for discussions.

Discussions: Addressing concerns of the TF regarding the security of the communications platform and the hardware and software requirements, Mr Copeland assured them that the platform is secured through user specific passwords, and that all that was required was an email address and an internet connection. The participants requested formal training on the system before it was implemented.

3 Task Force issues for noting and action points

3.1 Next steps for the Task Force

The TF described the following as the steps they need to take in order to move forward with the project and ensure it is successfully endorsed by the FCWC Ministers at the Ministers Meeting to be held in December 2015.

3.1.1 *Distribution of the Project Document*

It was agreed that the project document be shared with the TF to provide clarity and allow attendees to adequately sensitize their superiors and colleagues as well as follow up the project implementation.

3.1.2 *Develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project*

The TF agreed there was a need for ToR's for the implementation of the Regional TF and National Groups of the project. These will however be a 'living' document and will grow/adapt as the TF develops further. A draft ToRs will be prepared by the Coordination Team to be adopted virtually or at the next meeting.

3.1.3 *Conduct regional training*

The TF agreed to have a regional training session in July 2015.

3.1.4 *Establish National Groups*

The TF agreed to the development of national groups that will adopt the ToR's and support the work of the TF, and be a focus for capacity building activities

3.1.5 *Ensure the approval of the project at the FCWC Ministers Meeting in December 2015*

The TF agreed to sensitize Ministers and relevant authorities leading up to the official endorsement of the project by FCWC Ministers at the Ministers Meeting.

3.2 Issues for noting

In addition to the above, certain issues were discussed by the TF and are provided here for noting.

3.2.1 *Lesson learning*

The TF agreed that it is important to learn from FISH-i Africa how a similar TF was established in the WIO region. The FCWC Secretary General will attend the upcoming FISH-i Africa TF 03 in Kenya as an observer, and the TF will liaise and cooperate with FISH-i Africa where necessary in future, to ensure its success.

3.2.2 *Information sharing platform*

Countries discussed whether to commence sharing information through BASECAMP, but agreed that this will be done once all the relevant documentation requested has been shared with the TF, and they have

had a chance to sensitize relevant authorities, and once training had been provided In the meantime communications would take place via email.

3.2.3 **FCWC Communications Officer**

It was agreed in the meeting that the Project would support the appointment of a Communications Officer for the Project that would be contracted within the FCWC Secretariat with a target date for recruitment by the end June 2015.

3.3 **Action points for the Technical Team**

The Technical Team was requested by the TF to:

1. Provide the TF with the Project Document for the West Africa MCS Project.
2. Develop a draft ToR for the TF.
3. Plan for the regional training workshop to be conducted in July 2015.
4. Plan and develop material for the national group training workshops, particularly in VMS set-up and use.



Figure 4: TF Discussion of Issues and way forward



4 Closing remarks

Dr Helguile thanked all the attendees before handing over to Mr Quatey to close the meeting on behalf of the host country.

Mr Quatey praised participants for a fruitful and productive meeting, which showed what the West Africa MCS project can do for the region, he commended it as a roadmap for the future establishment of the Task Force. Mr Quatey reminded the FCWC country representatives present that regional cooperation of this kind was long overdue, and the time had come to make this a reality for the region.

5 Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym	Full name
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries
EU	European Union
DWFN	Distant Water Fishing Nation
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
ICAAAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Committee
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFDS	Nordenfjeldske Development Services
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NPOA-IUU	National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
SWIOFish	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Program
TF	Task Force
TF 01	Task Force Meeting 01
TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
ToR	Terms of Reference
TT	Technical Team
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WIO	Western Indian Ocean

5.2 Workshop agenda

Tuesday 28th April 2015 – Ghana

First meeting of West Africa Task Force for fisheries intelligence and MCS – Working together to stop illegal fishing

Time	Item
08:30 to 09:00	Registration
09:00 to 10:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by FCWC Secretariat • Introduction of Participants • Opening by Government of Ghana • Response by SIF • Comments by TMT • Agreement of agenda • Housekeeping
10:00 to 10:30	Introduction to Fisheries intelligence and MCS in West Africa – by FCWC Secretariat and Technical Team
10:30 to 11:00 – break	
10:30 to 11:00	The core elements of the Project support – Presentation by Technical Team
11:00 to 12:00	National experiences and challenges – Session for Participants to discuss current situation and experiences
12:00 to 14:00 – lunch	
14:00 to 14:20	What can the Task Force and this Project achieve? – Presentation by Technical Team
14:20 to 15:30	SWOT analysis by Participants – to look at implementing the Project and Task Force
15:30 to 16:00 – break	
16:00 to 16:30	SWOT feed-back to plenary – by Participants
16:30 to 17:00	Plenary discussion on the main issues emerging – led by Technical Team Wrap-up – by Technical Team
Reception	

Wednesday 29th April 2015 – Ghana

First meeting of West Africa Task Force for fisheries intelligence and MCS – Working together to stop illegal fishing

Time	Item
09:00 to 09:15	Recap – by Technical Team of previous day
09:15 to 10:30	Intelligence input and information sharing – presentation by Technical Team with questions from Participants
10:30	Task Force photo
10:30 to 11:00 – break	
11:00 to 12:00	Options for national groups – presentation by Technical Team with discussion
12:00 to 13:00	Establishing the Communications Portal – presentation by Technical Team followed by practical session establishing the Basecamp Portal
13:00 to 14:30 – lunch	
14:30 to 15:30	Recommendations / Decisions of the Task Force – facilitated session to record any decisions that have been agreed
15:30 to 16:00 – break	
16:00 to 16:15	Proposed priorities, calendar and next steps – by Technical Team
16:15 to 16:30	Close – by Government of Ghana
16:30 to 17:00	Press and media presentation – by Task Force (if required) -

5.3 Attendance list

Country	Names	Institution	Position/Title	Email address	Cell phone number
Benin	Benoit T. Adeke	Direction des Pêches	C /SCSPFH/DP	adekebenoit@yahoo.fr	+229 97691060
Benin	Dénagnon Gnitassoun	Direction des Pêches	Directeur Adjoint	denagnonlg@yahoo.fr	+229 90043505
Cote d'Ivoire	Kouame Konan Marcelin	La Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches	Service Inspection des Navires de Pêche	konan_marcellin@yahoo.fr	+225 507111126
Cote d'Ivoire	Shep Helguile	La Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches	Directeur	shelguile@yahoo.fr	+225 07619221
Ghana	Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu	Fisheries Commission	Deputy Director	Godfreytsibu.gbt@gmail.com	+233 244544704
Ghana	Nemorius N. Pengyri	Fisheries Commission	Deputy Director	npengyir@yahoo.com	+233 208149687
Ghana	Samuel Quaatey	Fisheries Commission	Director	samquaatey@yahoo.com	+233 208163412
Liberia	Ahmed Sherif	Bureau of National Fisheries	Acting Focal Point MCS	ecinue2@gmail.com	+231 886525803
Liberia	William Y. Boeh	Bureau of National Fisheries	Coordinator	williamyboeh@gmail.com	+231 770251983



West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing

Nigeria	Bola Kupolati	Head of MCS	Assistant Director	kupolati2402@yahoo.com	+234 8033068589
Togo	Ahoedo Kossi	Direction des Pêches	Responsable du SCS	kahoedo@yahoo.fr	+228 90069510
N/A	Dedi Nadjé Seraphin	FCWC	FCWC Secretary General	sdedi.nadje@yahoo.fr	+233 02077686321
N/A	Felicia Agyei	FCWC	Secretary	felicityagyei@rocketmail.com	+233 0242618198
N/A	Joel Bio Bata	FCWC	Financial and Administrative Assistant	biobatajoris@yahoo.fr	+233 0548970650
N/A	Duncan Copeland	TMT	Chief Analyst	dcopeland@tm.tracking.org	+44 79446940943
N/A	Viviane Koutob	TMT	West Africa Field Coordinator	vkoutob@tm-tracking.org	+233 266824795
N/A	Mark Ssemakula	SIF	Coordination Team	mssemakula@nfd.int	+267 7 2657116
N/A	Sandy Davies	SIF	Coordination Team	sdavies@nfd.int	+267 72657116



West Africa Task Force

Working together to stop illegal fishing

5.4 PowerPoints from the Technical Team

5.4.1 Introduction to Fisheries Intelligence and Information Sharing

Introduction to Fisheries Intelligence and Information Sharing
Introduction aux Renseignements sur les Pêches et sur le partage des informations

Towards a West African Task Force to stop illegal fishing
 Vers un Groupe de Travail de l'Afrique de l'Ouest pour arrêter la pêche illégale

ERPOL
 Inter New Zealand
 on: 05 December 2013

Modus Operandi

The case of the Thunder
La cas du Navire Thunder

- A chase lasting 110 days—the world's longest maritime pursuit
- Antarctica to West Africa
- 4 months of chase by 'Bob Barker'
- The captain sank the vessel in April 2015

Une poursuite de plus de 110 jours—la plus longue poursuite du monde
 De l'Antarctique en Afrique de l'Ouest
 4 mois de poursuite par le "Bob Barker"
 Le capitaine a fait couler le navire en Avril 2015

This demonstrates the extremes that illegal operators are going to, both to fish illegally and to hide their actions.
 Ceci démontre les extrêmes auxquels peuvent arriver les opérateurs pour pêcher illégalement et pour cacher leurs actions

Illegal Fishing is rife
La pêche illégale est répandue

- And the impacts both devastating for the environment, economic losses, undermining fisheries management, reduce legitimate jobs, often endanger legitimate fisheries...
- Les impacts sont dévastateurs pour l'environnement, les économies, met en péril la gestion des pêches, réduit les emplois légitimes, et souvent met en danger les pêcheurs légaux.
- Last week alone – 20 stories – relating to IUU fishing of importance to Africa found on the Stop Illegal Fishing website
- Seulement la semaine passée 20 cas relatifs aux activités de pêche INN pouvant concerner l'Afrique ont été retrouvés sur le site de Stop Illegal Fishing.

What action is being taken...
 Quelles actions ont été entreprises....

Building capacity
Renforcement des capacités

- On-going for several decades
- Capacity development in:
 - Human capacity
 - Institutional capacity
 - Operational and technical capacity
- Examples include: FCWC training, WARFP, observer training, etc.
- Encours pour plusieurs décennies
- Développement des capacités:
 - Les capacités humaines
 - Les capacités institutionnelles
 - Les capacités techniques et opérationnelles

FCWC MCS training 2014
Formation en SCS du CPCO en 2014



West Africa Task Force

Working together to stop illegal fishing

Policy Commitments – an ongoing process
Engagement des politiques-procésus en cours

- 1. UN – COFI and African Voice, PSMA, flag State Guidelines**
ONU-COFI et La Voie de l'Afrique, MREP, les lignes directrices pour les Etats du pavillon
- 2. Continental – Pan-African reform strategy – CAMFA**
Continental- Stratégie de réforme panafricaine CAMFA
- 3. Regional – Banjul Statement IUU fishing, FCWC Convention and the Convention on information and data**
Régionale- Déclaration de Banjul sur la pêche INN, La Convention de création du CPCO et la Convention sur le partage des informations et des données

Extract from the Convention for the Establishment of the FCWC
Extrait de la Convention de Création du CPCO

Objectives

- The Committee shall promote cooperation among the Contracting Parties with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of the living marine resources covered by this Convention and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such resources.
- To achieve these objectives, the Committee shall have the function and responsibility to:
 - strengthen sub-regional cooperation in monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, including the progressive development of common procedures;
 - Renforcer la coopération sous régionale dans le suivi, contrôle et surveillance et la poursuite, incluant le développement progressif de procédures communes
 - promote the development of standards for the collection, exchange and reporting of fisheries data;
 - Promouvoir le développement des standards pour la collecte et le rapportage des données de pêche

The Convention on the pooling and sharing of information and data of the area of the FCWC
La convention sur la collecte et le partage des informations et des données dans la région du CPCO

- This Protocol is intended to facilitate the development of a sub-regional database including an efficient national and sub-regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance system (MCS)
- Ce protocole a pour but de faciliter le développement d'une base de données incluant un système de Suivi, de Contrôle et de Surveillance des pêches national et sous régional efficace

Practical solutions to turn commitments into action?
Solutions pratiques pour transformer les engagements en actions?

- There is no one operational or practical solution to illegal fishing
- Il n'existe pas qu'une seule solution opérationnelle ou pratique à la pêche illégale
- It requires national capacity and action
- Cela prend des capacités nationales et des actions
- And many of the ways forward will only be successful if there is a regional approach
- Toutes les actions entreprises seront fructueuses si seulement il y a une approche régionale

An African model of success
Un modèle de réussite Africaine

stopping illegal fishing
www.fish-i-africa.org

FISH-i Africa

intelligence | information | cooperation

How does FISH-i Africa work?
Comment fonctionne Fish -i Africa

- Sharing of information: registered fishing vessels, licensed vessels
- Partage d'informations: les navires enregistrés, les navires licenciés
- Access to information and intelligence to help provide key evidence
- Accès aux informations et renseignements pour aider à fournir des preuves
- On-line communication platform
- Une plateforme de communication en ligne
- Operational, legal and strategic advice
- Des conseils opérationnels, légaux et stratégiques

High-tech input to provide information
Low-cost model for effective communication

Des inputs de grande technologie pour fournir des informations
Un modèle bas prix pour une communication efficace



West Africa Task Force

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What has it achieved?
Qu'est ce qui a été accompli

- Examples cases that include instances of:
 - Target commercial fishing vessels;
 - multiple vessels using one license;
 - fishing by IUU listed vessels;
 - vessel seizures;
 - severe violations of International Labour standards and
 - vessel vessels that anchored from port.
- A lot completed including like:
 - Des services de police communautaires améliorés
 - Plusieurs navires utilisés de manière illégale
 - Des navires de pêche pirate (INN)
 - Navires volés
 - Violations sévères des standards internationaux, et
 - Des navires sans licence sont détachés du port
- More to come of USD 2 million collected
- Des sommes de l'ordre de 2 millions USD collectés



What about West Africa?
Qu'en est il de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

- Following the success of FISH-Africa there have been various recommendations to extend this model to West Africa
- Compte tenu du succès de Fish l'Afrique, des recommandations ont été faites pour l'extension du projet en Afrique de l'Ouest
- Norway has committed funding for three years to support the piloting of this in West Africa
- La norvège s'est engagé à financer pendant trois ans le projet pilote en Afrique de l'Ouest
- The FCWC countries, based on their strong commitments, the support of the Secretariat and in order to strengthen the FCWC MCS Working Group have been proposed to form the initial Task Force
- Les Etats membres du CPOC en se basant sur leurs engagements, l'appui de son secrétariat et dans le but de renforcer le Groupe de Travail MCS du CPOC, il a été proposé de créer en place d'un Groupe de Travail

- TMT has been selected by Norway to manage a Project, with assistance from SIF and NFDS to support the implementation of the Task Force
- TMT a été choisi pour gérer le projet avec l'assistance du SIF et du NFDS pour l'appui et la mise en oeuvre du Groupe de Travail
- The FCWC countries can lead the way for West Africa in developing a West Africa Task Force
- Les Etats membres du CPOC peuvent être les leaders dans le cadre de la mise en place d'un Groupe de Travail

Thank you



Working together to stop illegal fishing | Ensemble pour la lutte contre la pêche illégale

communication | collaboration | cooperation





West Africa Task Force

Working together to stop illegal fishing

5.4.2 Core elements of the West Africa Task Force project support

Core elements of the West Africa Task Force Project Support

Principaux Eléments du Projet du Groupe de Travail de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

West Africa Task Force

It's a complicated world out there...fishing operations
C'est compliqué...les opérations de pêche à travers le monde

Different fleets - Purse Seiners
Divers navires - senneurs

Fish Trade – Reefers
Commerce de poissons- Reefers

Fisheries Vessels – 3 month Summary
Navires de pêche- Résumé d'activités de 3 mois

Establish a Regional Communications Platform
Mise en place des plateformes de communication régionales

Support a information sharing platform – this is a secure, shared web-based system called **BASICAMS** that allows all participating countries and the Technical Advisory team to share information securely.

- Secure communication functions
- Document sharing and storage
- Calendar and workshop management

Développer un portail d'information – une plateforme Internet de communication et de partage sûr qui permet aux pays membres et à l'équipe de conseillers techniques de partager les informations de manière sécurisée

- Décrire les fonctions de communication
- Partage et stockage de documents
- Calendrier et gestion de plan de travail



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Direct Fisheries Intelligence Support
Appui direct concernant les Renseignements sur les peches

- Fisheries intelligence and analytical support directly provided
 - Intelligence Reports 'INTREPS'
 - 'Live' intelligence as it is identified
 - Response to direct country requests for information and support
 - Monthly summary reports
- Renseignements sur les peches et appui en analyse directement fourni
 - Rapports sur les Renseignements "INTREPS"
 - Renseignements actualisés tels qu'identifiés
 - Réponse directe aux demandes des Etats pour information et Appui
 - Résumé de rapports mensuels

Vessel Tracking and Identification
Identification et Suivre de navire

- Vessels operating in EEZs
 - Analysis of AIS vessel movements
 - Alerts for fishing activity, entering EEZs
 - Identification of vessel, owner, flag etc
- Navires opérant dans les ZEE
 - Analyse des mouvements AIS des navires
 - Alertes sur les activités de peche, les entrées dans les ZEE
 - Identification des propriétaires de navire, pavillon etc..

If requested / Si une demande est faite

- Support and analysis of vessels using national VMS
- Appui et analyse d'informations de navire muni d'un système VMS national
- Exploring opportunities for satellite imagery (SAR and optical) support
- Appui pour l'exploitation d'opportunités pour l'obtention d'images satellitaires [SAR et Optical]

Access to Technical Expertise
Accès à l'expertise technique

- Technical Team of International experts
 - Fisheries Intelligence
 - MCS (processes, tool, technology)
 - Policy
 - Legal
 - Trade
 - IFMCO / IFFB
- West African experts engaged and supported to ensure long term expertise
- Equipe Technique composée d'Experts Internationaux
 - Renseignements sur les peches
 - MCS (Procédure, Outils, Technologies)
 - Politique
 - Légal
 - Commerce
 - ORGP/CRP
- Recrutement et appui aux experts Ouest Africain pour assurer la pérennité de l'expertise

Capacity Training
Formation pour le Renforcement des capacités

- In-country Workshops for National Focal Groups
 - Fisheries Intelligence gathering and analysis
 - Desk based
 - Port
 - On board Visual
 - Technology based (AIS, VMS etc.)
- Ateliers nationaux pour les points focaux des Etats participants
 - Collecte et analyse des renseignements sur les peches
 - Travail de table
 - Ports
 - A bord des navires
 - Utilisation de la technologie (AIS, VMS etc.)

- Using Fisheries Intelligence to inform and plan MCS operations
- Utilisation des Renseignements sur les peches pour informer et planifier des opérations de SCS
- Collection of evidence, development of case reports for prosecution
- Collection de preuves, developpement de rapport de cas pour des poursuites judiciaires
- Focus on training 'trainers' so that national officers can further train their colleagues
- Concentration sur la formation des 'formateurs' pour permettre aux autorités nationales d'entraîner leurs collègues



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- If requested by a Task Force country(ies), expert training can be potentially provided on:
 - National VMS systems
 - Port Inspectors
 - Other
- Si demande formulée par le Groupe de Travail d'un Etat (ou des Etats) une formation d'expert peut être fournie sur:
 - Les données nationales sur les systèmes VMS
 - Les inspecteurs du port
 - Autres

Targeted Technical Papers
Cibler des Articles Techniques

- Targeted Technical papers in response to Task Force requests
 - Transshipment
 - Technology analysis
- Cibler les articles techniques en réponse aux demandes des "Groupe de Travail"
 - Transbordement
 - Analyse de technologie

Support to Legal Processes
Appui dans les procédures légales

- Case support
 - Appui de dossier/cas
- Case monitoring and evaluation
 - Contrôle et évaluation de dossier/cas
- If requested, support to national and regional processes / Si demande formulée, appui lors des procédures sur les plans nationaux et régionaux (PSMA, ICCAT, COFI etc.)
- Identification of areas for legal framework strengthening
 - Identification de points pour le renforcement des cadres légaux

Support to MCS Operations
Appui aux opérations de SCS

- As requested
 - MCS planning
 - Direct support to operations
 - On the job training for fisheries officers
- Si demande formulée
 - Planifications SCS
 - Appui direct aux opérations
 - Pour la formation des autorités des pêches
- Advice, assessment of technological tools
 - Training on technological tools
 - Conseils, évaluations d'outils technologiques
 - Formation sur les outils technologiques

Vessel Databases
Base de données sur les navires

- Regional information sharing databases, such as
 - Vessel information
 - Documents
 - Combined License List
- Partage d'information des bases de données régionales comme:
 - Information sur les navires
 - Documents
 - Liste combinée de navires licenciés



West Africa Task Force

Working together to stop illegal fishing

Potential Benefits to Task Force Countries
Potentiels bénéfiques du Groupe de Travail aux Etats

- Improved compliance of fishing fleet
- Improved information and capacity to make MCS and Fisheries Management Decisions
- Cost effective MCS systems
- Potential to see improved and predictable revenue streams, improve food security
- Establishment of structures and capacity that will directly contribute to long term regional MCS Cooperation (e.g. Regional MCS Centre)

• Améliorer la conformité de la flotte
 • Améliorer l'information et la capacité de prendre des décisions concernant la gestion des pêches
 • Systèmes MCS rentables
 • Le potentiel aux sources de revenus améliorées et prévisibles, améliorer la sécurité alimentaire
 • Mise en place de structures et des capacités qui contribueront à une coopération sur les MCS sur le plan régional et sur le long terme (ex. Centre de MCS régional)



- Project activities should be **Task Force** driven
- Les activités du projet seraient de conduire le Groupe de Travail
- Cooperation, capacity building, and sustainable regional strengthening of fisheries enforcement at the core of all activities
- La coopération, le renforcement des capacités, le renforcement durable d'au coeur de toutes les activités
- The more information that is shared, the stronger the Task Force will be
- Plus il y a des échanges d'information, plus le Groupe de travail sera efficace





West Africa Task Force

Working together to stop illegal fishing

5.4.3 What can the Task Force achieve?

What can the Task Force achieve?
Que peut accomplir un Groupe de Travail?

Build on the Existing Foundations
Construire sur des fondations déjà existantes

- Commemorial to reduce illegal fishing and improve Compliance
 • Un but commun de réduction de la pêche illégale et d'amélioration de la conformité aux normes
- Operationalise IWC/CWC conventions, workplans and the MCS Working Group
 • Opérationnaliser les conventions du CPD/C, les plans de travail et le Groupe de Travail SCS
- Build on pan-African initiatives
 • Construire des initiatives panafricaines
- Build on previous and existing initiatives to strengthen MCS
 • Construire sur de précédentes initiatives pour renforcer les SCS

From intelligence to enforcement
Du renseignement à l'application

Alert from intelligence source (State, company, etc.) → **Track verification** → **Flag and port State verification** → **Enforcement action**

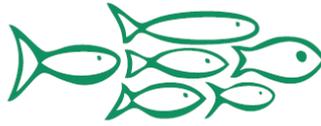
Enforcement action:

- Sanctions
- Denied license
- Import ban
- De-flogged

Tracking company vessels

Share information and cooperate effectively
Partager des informations et coopérer efficacement

Track vessels and identify possible illegal fishing activity
Suivre de navire pour identification de possible activités de pêche illégale



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Strengthen MCS Capacity
Renforcer les capacités SCS

- Human capacity (fisheries officers, port inspectors, etc.)
- Technical capacity (MCS systems)
- Institutional capacity

- Les capacités humaines (les autorités des pêches, les inspecteurs au port etc.)
- Les capacités techniques (les systèmes SCS)
- Les capacités institutionnelles



- Intelligence gathering and analysis
- MCS Planning (Boats, patrol etc.)
- Port Inspections
- Due Diligence (eliminate 'Yid' vessels from the region)

- Collecte et analyse des renseignements
- Planification des opérations SCS
- Inspections au port
- Vérifications préalables (éliminer les navires à risque dans la région)

Regional MCS Cooperation and Resource Sharing
Coopération régionale en SCS et partage de ressource

- Intelligence sharing
- Joint MCS planning and operations
- Mutual assistance (a.g. port inspection)
- Prosecutions

- Partage de renseignements
- Planification commune des opérations de SCS
- Assistance mutuelle
- Poursuites judiciaires



Cooperation and harmonization with other countries, regions, organizations and initiatives
Coopération et harmonisation avec d'autres États, régions, organisations et initiatives

- Demonstration of effective cooperation at international level
- Harmonisation and collaboration with AU, RFMOs, RFB, and REC Initiatives
- Lesson learning and cooperation with FISH-1 AFRICA
- Strengthened political voice
- Model for other regions in Africa and globally

- Démontrer d'une coopération effective au niveau international
- Harmonisation et collaboration avec des AU, des ORGP et des initiatives REC
- Acquisition d'expérience et coopération avec Fish 1 Africa
- Renforcement de la voie politique
- Modèle pour les autres régions en Afrique et partout ailleurs

Build the foundations for long term regional and sustainable MCS structures in the region – a TASK FORCE for MCS cooperation and intelligence sharing

Construire des fondations durable et sur le long terme pour les structures SCS dans la région. Un Groupe de Travail pour une coopération SCS et le partage de renseignements



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5.4.4 Intelligence input and information sharing

INTELLIGENCE INPUT AND INFORMATION SHARING

What is fisheries intelligence

Simple Definition:
- the process of collecting information

Intelligence is the development of forecasts of behavior or recommended courses of action based on a wide range of available information sources.

Assessments are developed in response to requirements declared by the leadership in order to inform decision making.

Why is it important?

- Valuable tool to assist fisheries enforcement agencies in the performance of their daily duties.
- Intelligence provides assistance to decision makers, planners, operators and sometimes other intelligence organizations. It is a process that is designed to support an organization's activities.

- Contributes to the identification of risk in your fishery and where limited resources can be most effectively used e.g who are the fishing operators that need the most attention, or where are hotspots for illegal fishing?
- Intelligence can inform where further investigation is required, inform the planning of operations, and point to where evidence of a crime can be collected.
- In some, but certainly not all, intelligence forms part of the evidence that forms part of a prosecution
- HOWEVER intelligence is useless if it's inaccurate, or if it is presented in an unusable format when needed.

The process of intelligence has five phases: **definition of assignment, collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination.**

Definition of assignment: identification of information needs
- What we must know to strengthen fisheries enforcement and improve fisheries compliance

Collection: gathering of information from a wide variety of sources

- Public sources (online, media, journals, trade data etc);
- Human sources ("boots on the ground", informers, other fishermen, members of the public etc);
- Technology (AIS, Satellite, radar etc)

Processing: converting the information collected into a form usable by analysts

Analysis: integrating, evaluating, and analyzing available data, and preparing intelligence products.

- Raw intelligence is often referred to as "the dots"—individual pieces of information disseminated individually. Finished intelligence reports "connect the dots" by putting information in context and drawing conclusions about its implications.

Dissemination: the distribution of raw or finished intelligence and analysis to the MCS and prosecution operators whose needs initiated the intelligence requirements.

- Provided in the form of an Intelligence Report to relevant receivers

From intelligence to enforcement Du renseignement à la poursuite

Alert from intelligence source (State, company, etc.) → **Track verification** → **Flag and port State verification** → **Enforcement action**

Enforcement action:

- Sanctions
- Denied license
- Invoiced
- De-flagged

Tracking company vessels



West Africa Task Force

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Task Force Intelligence Support

- Identification and sharing of intelligence
 - Large variety of sources (flag/port/market State sources, field, online, national, technological etc.)
- Intelligence Analysis
 - Assessing the intelligence for significance to fisheries enforcement
 - 'Connecting the dots'
 - Identification of points for further investigation, and/or MCS actions
- Provided in three types of Intelligence Reports 'INTREPS'

Fast Response INTREPS

1) Issued at point of identification of 'live' intelligence

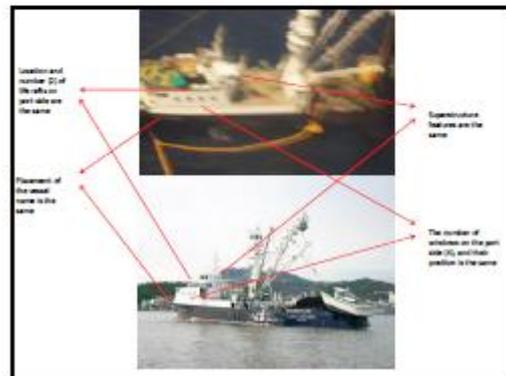
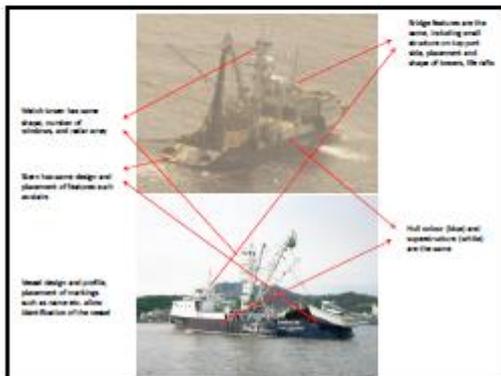
- An unlicensed vessel appearing to fish in a Task Force member EEZ (ORVONG No.8)
- A suspect vessel approaching port
- A possible transshipment event at sea (POSSIDON)
- Identification of forged documents (licenses, logbooks, catch certificates, official communications etc.)
- Identification of vessels with dual registry (BERKAT SAMUDRA No.68)
- Identification of two or more vessels carrying same identification markings
- Others

2) Issued in response to a direct request for support from a Task Force member

- Due diligence on Fishing Vessels (license application, flag registration application) - ERELIS
- Due diligence for reefers (import applications / origin of fish, flag registrations)
- Inspection support (document analysis, vessel image analysis)
- Pre-patrol intelligence briefings

Liberia examples

- Past examples
 - Identification of vessel identified fishing illegally by air patrol (P. DISCOVERER)
 - Import application due diligence
 - Identification of vessel using forged documents (DONIENE)
- 'Live' example
 - Possible illegal fishing activity (IRENE)



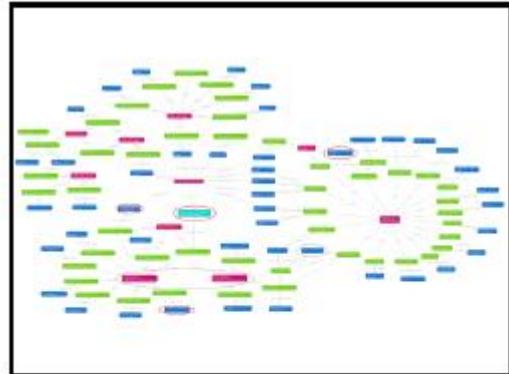


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Investigative INTREPS

- Longer term, bring together a number of intelligence sources that are analysed and mapped.
- Provides 'bigger picture' of illegal incidences, and can also directly identify relevant evidence for prosecutions



3) Monthly INTREPS

- Provide broad overview of fishing activities and characteristics in the region
- Designed to provide broader understanding of fisheries, support fisheries management decisions
- Over time provide a clear timeline for fishing operations and stock movements, allowing informed MCS planning

Crucial Elements for Success

- Information Sharing!
 - Any information, no matter how small, may have significance to a case now, or in the future
- Mutual assistance
 - Often a country may have information, experience or insight with a particular vessel or company that is significant to others
- Legal vessel information sharing
 - Knowing which vessels are legal allows us all to focus on the illegal ones
- Action
 - All the intelligence work in the world will be useless if it is not put into enforcement action

If we share information and cooperate effectively, we can identify the illegal fishers and reduce illegal fishing!

Breakdown of Budget Allocation

3 years support
NoK 1,000,000 / yr
(US\$130,000/yr approx.)

Task Force Meetings x 2	160,000
Regional Workshops	180,000
National Workshops	300,000
Engagement in international meetings / processes	100,000
Communications	60,000



West Africa Task Force

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5.4.5 SWOT Analysis

SWOT Analysis
Analyse FFOM

On implementing the West Africa Task Force
Sur la mise en place d'un Groupe de Travail Ouest Africain

Why a SWOT?
Qu'est ce qu'un FFOM

- A useful tool to look at "where we are" in respect to **implementing the Task Force**
- Un outil utile pour faire de point "Voilà où est qu'on est" dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Groupe de Travail
- What we have that is positive (strengths and opportunities) to build on and with
- Ce que nous avons de positif (forces et opportunités) pour construire dessus ou avec
- What we have that is negative (weaknesses and threats) to reduce or remove
- Ce que nous avons de négatif (faiblesses et menaces) pour qu'ils soient réduits et retirés

SWOT analysis
Analyse FFMO

- Strengths and Weaknesses tend to describe the **PRESENT** situation
- Les forces et les faiblesses permettent de décrire la situation **Présents**
- Strengths and Weaknesses are typically **INTERNAL** to whatever is being analysed
- Les forces et les faiblesses sont purement **internes** à tout ce qui est analysé
- Opportunities and Threats tend to describe the **immediate FUTURE**
- Les opportunités et les menaces permettent de décrire le **futur immédiat**
- Opportunities and Threats are typically **EXTERNAL** to whatever is being analysed
- Les opportunités et les menaces sont typiquement **Externes** à tout ce qui est analysé

	Helpful	Harmful
Internal	Strengths	Weaknesses
External	Opportunities	Threats

SWOT	Questions	Comments
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are your advantages and strong points? What do you do well? How does your structure support your functions? Can you list the skills that you have that support your functions? Who helps you? 	Consider this from your own point of view and from the point of view of the people you deal with. Don't be modest, be realistic.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What could be improved? What is done badly? What should be avoided? What skills do you lack? What equipment do you lack? 	Again this should be considered from an internal and external look - do other people perceive weaknesses that you don't see?
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What good changes do you face? What are the existing resources within the organisation that can help you improve? What are other sections doing and can you get any good ideas from them? What training could be available to help you? 	Useful opportunities can come from such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in technology on both a broad and narrow scale Changes in government policy related to your field Changes in social patterns, employee profiles, etc.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What obstacles do you face? What structures or functions may make your objectives fail? Do you have the required skills to perform your functions? Is changing technology threatening your position? Who makes your job impossible to do? 	Carrying out this analysis will often be illuminating - leads to terms of pointing out what needs to be done, and in putting problems into perspective. Make a risk analysis by defining what could go wrong!

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats



West Africa Task Force

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5.4.6 Options for national inter-agency groups

Options for national inter-agency groups

Options pour les groupes inter-agences nationaux

The need for national cooperation
Un besoin de coopération nationale

- The West Africa Task Force is **primarily focused on fisheries**
• Le Groupe de Travail de l'Afrique de l'Ouest est basé principalement sur les pêches
- However taking action against IUU fishing and MCS cooperation requires more than just fisheries.
• Quoique pour engager des actions de lutte contre la pêche INN et une coopération en matière de SCS, cela va au delà des pêches
- The nature of fisheries and the governance structures in place to manage the resources mean that there are different **authorities** (port authorities, navy, judiciary, licensing authorities etc.) may be **involved in combatting IUU fishing**.
• La nature des pêcheries et la gouvernance des structures de gestion des ressources rappelle qu'il y a différentes **autorités** qui peuvent être impliqués dans la **lutte contre la pêche INN**

Project assistance
Assistance fournie par le projet

- The project is able to assist in the **development and/or strengthening of inter-agency cooperation** in the six FCWC countries.
- National Focal Group members may have access to the **communications platform** for intelligence sharing, discussions and technical support
- National Focal Group members would also be involved in **national training activities**

For discussion...

- What are the relevant agencies dealing with IUU fishing in your country?
- Are there structures in place for inter-agency cooperation (Liberia MCSCC, Ghana Fisheries Enforcement Unit)?
- What support would be useful (guide on cooperation, capacity building, support for meeting attendance)
- Would a TOR be useful for these groups and how they link to the Task Force?