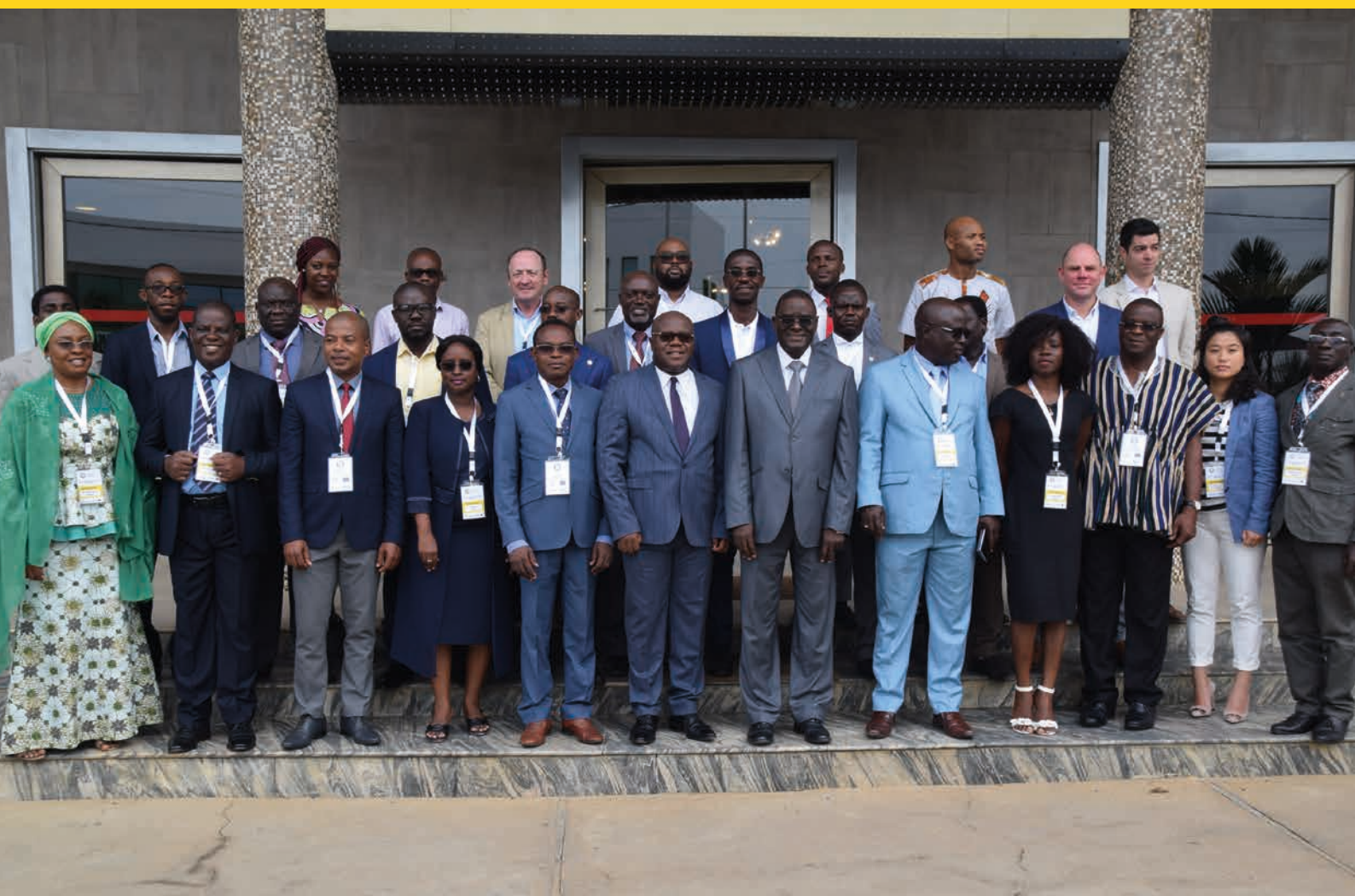




West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing



RECORD OF THE 8TH WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
8-10 May 2019





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1. Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Secretariat and member countries, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, in collaboration with a Technical Team (TT) which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) developed a Norwegian Development Agency (Norad) funded project entitled, 'Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Support in West Africa'.

Through this project the West Africa Task Force (WATF) has been established with the key task to operationalise important MCS agreements of the FCWC, including the 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone of the FCWC and the 2009 FCWC Regional Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing (RPOA-IUU) revised in 2018.

The WATF was formally established in 2015, when the FCWC Conference of Ministers endorsed it and adopted its Terms of Reference (ToR), since its formation, the WATF has helped to:

- Improve regional information sharing through a regional communications platform;

- Increase cooperation between countries;
- Strengthen national interagency cooperation through National Working Groups (NWG); and
- Support the sharing of intelligence to spur enforcement actions.

The first phase of the project supporting the WATF was implemented between 2015 and 2018, and a second four-year phase between 2018 and 2022, is now being implemented. One of the key implementing structures of the Task Force (TF) are the bi-annual TF meetings.

The eighth WATF meeting was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on the 8 to 10 May 2019. The meeting was attended by

representatives of the six FCWC countries, the FCWC Secretariat, and the TT, together with observers representing the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)'s Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (PRSP), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa (CRESMAO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

THE MEETING THEME IS MARITIME SECURITY AND THERE IS A NEED TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT JOINT FISHERIES PATROL IN THE REGION.



1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General, Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadjé welcomed participants, and thanked the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the meeting. The Secretary General noted that the FCWC promotes cooperation and the optimal use of maritime resources amongst its' Member States. The WATF supports this by improving fisheries governance through the implementation of key FCWC conventions or agreements for combatting IUU fishing and international agreements such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2009 Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) that three out of six Member States have now ratified. The main objectives of the meeting are to consider how the TF can support the needs of the different programmes being implemented in the region, to review technical reports from partner projects and institutions, to highlight and discuss the various relevant strategies developed and under development in the region and beyond, and to review progress made since the last TF meeting. The meeting theme is maritime security and there is a need to assess the feasibility to implement joint fisheries patrol in the region.

Concluding, Mr Dedi recognised the presence of the Director of the Department of Fisheries in Nigeria, Mr Ime Umoh Sampson, who was participating in a TF meeting for the first time and thanked the Minister of Animal and Fish Resources in Côte d'Ivoire, Kobenan Kaoussi Adjoumani, for his support to the FCWC Secretariat and other national and regional efforts to improve fisheries management.

Mr Duncan Copeland, Executive Director of TMT, noted the achievements of the WATF to date, including increased collaboration, strengthened national interagency cooperation and improved structures to combat IUU fishing. Phase 2 enables the TF to develop, both in how Member States work with other regions and how they collaborate internally. Fisheries issues are not isolated and must be integrated with broader maritime issues for improved control and although knowledge and understanding of IUU fishing in the region has increased since 2015, illegal operators have adapted, and the TF must also adapt, by strengthening intelligence gathering and building the tools that can help combat IUU fishing. TMT's newly appointed analyst based in Hong Kong, Jodie Lee,

was introduced and she has experience dealing with the Asian distant water fishing fleets (DWFs).

Speaking on behalf of Minister Adjoumani, the Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources Mr Meite Zoumana welcomed participants. He thanked the TT and the FCWC Secretariat for their continued coordination of this initiative. In Côte d'Ivoire and the region, fishing is key to the economy and is a strategic sector for sustainable development. Coastal countries in West Africa are facing challenges such as IUU fishing in managing their resources: IUU fishing is increasing as operators take advantage of a weak governance system. The solution to IUU fishing is regional cooperation and Côte d'Ivoire pledged their full support to the FCWC, noting that through the TF's efforts to create solutions and develop strategies, including a transshipment strategy and planned joint regional patrols, these challenges would be overcome. The meeting was declared open.



2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 Recap of the West Africa Task Force initiative

Mr Copeland gave a recap of the WATF initiative to date. Established through the FCWC in 2015, the main objectives of the TF are to operationalise key regional and international agreements and processes, and to strengthen national interagency cooperation.

The focus of the TF is on operational cooperation, including through sharing of information, exchange and communication. The project supporting the TF has been providing tools, capacity building, and analysis and has worked towards establishing and nurturing a network to support enforcement actions.

The WATF is primarily funded through support from Norad, and Phase 2 of the funding began in 2018 and will run until 2022, with three main outcome areas:

1. WATF members actively cooperating and effectively acting to reduce illegal fishing and fisheries crime;
2. National agencies actively cooperating and enforcing fisheries related laws; and
3. TF outcomes inform and shape international processes to end illegal fishing and fisheries crimes.

Collaboration with other regions will be paramount, in particular with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) to the north and south and with other States and regional organisations. There is interest internationally in following the TF model, and several international meetings will provide an opportunity for WATF members to explain their challenges and how the region has addressed them.

2.1.1 Improved regional fisheries governance – PESCAO

Ms Viviane Koutob, TMT West Africa Coordinator, presented an update on activities under the EU-funded PESCAO Project that has three components; component two on building MCS capacity is being implemented in collaboration with the TF. Activities and progress include: national legal frameworks have been reviewed and will be validated in May 2019; national technical visits and interagency meetings are being organised jointly with WATF; a regional VMS is being brought for FCWC; national capacity needs assessments are underway; training of fisheries inspectors at the European MCS Agency, EFCA in Spain is planned and also in Côte d'Ivoire; and PESCAO's implementing partners EFCA and ECOWAS have attended the WATF TF7 and TF8 meetings.



DISCUSSION:

National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and the FCWC Regional equivalent, the RPOA-IUU are developed based on the FAO International template of the IPOA-IUU. The international, regional and national plans complement each other and strengthening national plans will enhance the delivery of regional and international plans. Togo requested for support to draft other TF countries should submit requests for assistance to the FCWC Secretariat in writing.

With regards to the ongoing PESCAO legal review, the draft should be shared with countries to allow for comments ahead of the validation meeting and legal guidance and feedback should be provided to support the countries. Nigeria requested legal support to ensure that all international legislation and best practices had been considered.

PESCAO Training sessions for fisheries inspectors and operators at monitoring centres are planned for Nigeria in June and Côte d'Ivoire in November, and a future risk assessment workshop. Further training requests should include the number of participants required, and the appropriate expertise and experience of the personnel to be trained. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between EFCA and the Interregional Institute for Maritime Security (ISMI) for the joint organization of future trainings at their facilities.

The regional VMS equipment will arrive in August and Ghana is preparing to house this equipment and is planning for the space required, Nigeria offered to host the equipment if Ghana is unable. The FCWC Regional Vessel Monitoring Centre (RVMC) is planned to interact with other regional monitoring platforms. Current limited access to military-led systems is a challenge for system interaction that CRESMAO is addressing. A representative from the Indian Ocean Commission's regional plan for fisheries surveillance in the South West Indian Ocean (IOC-PRSP) clarified that the purpose of the regional VMS is not to replace national efforts, but it is a supplementary tool with the process to agree on a protocol for VMS data exchange being an important step that should not be overlooked.

2.1.2 Technical Team report to the TF on TF7 outcomes

Ms Koutob presented the outcomes and requests from TF7 and an update on progress, this included: the development of an action plan for the implementation of the Transshipment Strategy; communication channels with flag, coastal, port and market States have been incorporated into the Phase 2 workplan; an action plan for the FCWC Communications Strategy has been developed; national and regional cooperation between navies and fisheries authorities has been facilitated; MoUs for regional operational cooperation including joint patrols are under development; technical visits to develop work and capacity support plans for Phase 2 have been conducted in four TF countries; work is ongoing to improve transparency in the fisheries sector in the FCWC region; a regional workshop planned and a TF publication on this topic is being prepared.

DISCUSSION:

A joint FCWC and Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) workshop was planned for early 2019, however this is pending the appointment of a new FiTI regional coordinator. Collaboration with this initiative will be supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The sharing of templates of the national fishing licences and other relevant documents including vessel registration has been approved at previous TF meetings, but systematic sharing is still required and this will be important for the WATF Toolbox development. Best practice templates can also be included in the toolbox, and Côte d'Ivoire was interested in a template for distant water fishing licences. It was agreed that guidelines for licence documents would be based on the adopted Convention on Minimum Conditions for Access.

PESCAO TRAINING SESSIONS FOR FISHERIES INSPECTORS AND OPERATORS AT MONITORING CENTRES ARE PLANNED FOR NIGERIA IN JUNE AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE IN NOVEMBER, AND A FUTURE RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP.



2.1.3 Update on cases

Mr Yann Yvergniaux, TMT Fisheries Analyst, gave an overview of cases and related information exchanges between countries since the previous Task Force meeting. Exchanges of information taking place through the WATF communication platform but also bilaterally are usually triggered by: detected incidents at sea representing a particular risk; due diligence processes initiated by countries over vessels applying for a licence or to register or vessels entering or exiting the large exclusive economic zone (EEZ) or port of a country.

DISCUSSION:

The value of reviewing compendiums of cases in Task Force meetings was commended by CRESMAO, who highlighted the value of such information for Maritime Security Centres who were largely unaware of the incidents presented. Côte d'Ivoire expressed that they were unaware of some of the information shared, and it was noted that in future they should ensure the correct personnel are on the communication platform, or that a focal point is appointed, to ensure a rapid reaction to information.

In respect to the cases, vessels flagged to the region and detained by another country of the region without informing the flag State was of concern. One example was the case of the Côte d'Ivoire-flagged vessel BONHEUR that was detained by Liberia without communication between the fisheries authorities of the two states. The diversion of the BONHEUR had triggered a reaction through the Abidjan Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), due to concerns that it had been hijacked and the case was settled directly between the private operator and the Liberian administration without informing Côte d'Ivoire fisheries authorities – a situation which prompted discussion between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia at the FCWC Ministerial Conference. The case of the FV BONHEUR was highlighted as an example where national and regional interagency cooperation is key, and a Liberian NWG could support this.

Benefits from compiling WATF cases is to enable analysis and information sharing and overall analysis on trends which can be used to inform operational and policy changes required and to feed into information tools and a potential database of vessels and their risk level. It is also required to enable risk assessment of vessels for licensing or flagging. Sharing information on national infringements and fines in a systematic manner with the FCWC Secretariat and WATF would assist this process.



COOPERATION WITH SEA SHEPHERD TO CONDUCT AT-SEA PATROLS WAS INITIATED THROUGH A LOCAL NGO CALLED ECO-BENIN.

2.2 National activities

The FCWC Secretary General chaired the session. WATF Member States presented progress on national MCS activities and any recent experiences and challenges in combatting illegal fishing since TF7.

2.2.1 Benin

A meeting of the NWG was held in February 2019 to review progress related to interagency cooperation. Work sessions were organized between fisheries and naval forces to discuss the feasibility of jointly planned and executed patrols. An agreement was reached for fisheries inspectors to be on board Navy patrol vessels when the target of their surveillance mission is related to fisheries.

Cooperation with Sea Shepherd to conduct at-sea patrols was initiated through a local NGO called ECO-Benin. The first mission of Operation Guegou started on the 29 April 2019 for 20 days, the vessel was crewed by Fisheries inspectors, Navy personnel and Sea Shepherd crewmembers. An MoU between the different Ministries concerned has been prepared and will be adopted by the Ministers Council.

Air patrols exercises were planned in cooperation with the French Navy and the Maritime Prefecture, however the aircraft to be used (a FALCON 50) was defective and the patrol was aborted, however, the opportunity was used for the training of inspectors.

Support was requested to understand discrepancies in AIS information. The case of the LONG TAI 1, a Ghanaian purse seiner detected in Benin waters transmitting two identities over AIS was discussed. AIS transmissions that showed a Ghanaian pole and line vessel that had AIS tracks indicating fishing operations in Benin waters while also reporting as being in port in Tema was reviewed.

The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is being considered by the National Assembly for accession.

DISCUSSION:

In respect to the review of the decree establishing the NWG, the Minister in charge of fisheries signed the initial decree, however as NWG activities cover many agencies an inter-ministerial order is required to allow for easier coordination, this decree has now been drafted, but not yet adopted.

Benin had planned to host an international fisheries day focussed on IUU fishing on the 5 June, but due to limited funds this will now be an address by the Minister in charge of fisheries. Ghana suggested the TF establish a regional 'IUU day', and it was requested that this initiative be supported by the WATF.

Noting the need for increased patrols in the region, and the opportunities offered by different players such as Sea Shepherd, one of keys to successful campaigns is intelligence-based patrol planning, particularly in countries with a large EEZ. This can be supported through the Task Force, for patrol planning exercises and related training. The legitimacy of patrol operations conducted using a civilian vessel were discussed and the applicable rules of engagement and the use of weapons. Benin had not perceived any risk associated with this but it was noted that private-public agreements in the field of law enforcement require careful legal assessment.

Benin noted that currently no action had been taken against the LONG TAI 1 despite sharks being found aboard which are on Appendix II of the CITES list, however, the Benin Navy is taking steps to prosecute the vessel owners or operators.

2.2.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire's Directorate of Aquaculture and Fisheries hosted the NWG meeting in March 2019 where they finalized an interagency agreement to combat IUU fishing, agreed on process to be put in place for reefer inspections and brainstormed on the establishment of a national communication platform. A decree formalizing the NWG has been drafted, defining the composition, mission and budgetary expectations. A technical note for the Minister has been developed explaining the intended goal to strengthen joint efforts to effectively implement international obligations, conventions and protocols related to IUU fishing and associated crimes.

The Fisheries Department cooperated with the Navy, conducting four operations of seven days each, two in December 2018 and two in early 2019. Target areas were determined based on information passed on from the fisheries department to the Navy, for example on vessels switching off their VMS unit. Foreign vessels or vessels fishing outside their usual fishing grounds were also targeted.

In January and April 2019 Côte d'Ivoire carried out their first aerial fisheries patrols with a French FALCON 50 aircraft, which were very insightful. Authorities took part in the OBAGAME EXPRESS Exercise in March 2019.

Challenges include ensuring that the NWG is operational and effective, integrating regional frameworks and best practices into national laws, building the capacity within the NWG, bolstering interagency cooperation specifically around inspections of high-risk vessels, and pursuing the ratification of relevant international agreements such as the PSMA.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire elaborated that fisheries patrols are funded by the sectoral support provided through a seven-year Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with the European Union (EU), which supports four patrols a year. The Navy conducts further patrols, not necessarily focused on fisheries, where necessary and when funds are available.

Training was given to fisheries inspectors to enable them to determine health and sanitation risks, on the advice of the National Health Department, who also encouraged fisheries authorities to establish minimum health and sanitation requirements for vessels.

Acknowledging the increased number of flagged longliners in their domestic tuna fleet, Côte d'Ivoire stated that these operate in fishing grounds beyond the areas where patrols are conducted. Most of them have not been inspected yet since the start of their operations in late 2018.

Responding to a question about the patrol planning process, Côte d'Ivoire further explained that licence terms include fishing zone specifications depending on gear type. Vessels that are detected and considered active within an area from which they are supposed to be excluded are considered for inspection during a patrol. Côte d'Ivoire explained that due to disbursement issues the 2018 patrols planned with financial support from the EU were executed late in the year. When an infraction is detected, the vessel is diverted to the Navy base and the case is handed over to a "ad-hoc committee" comprising fisheries authorities, maritime affairs and the Navy which is responsible for assessing the offences and determining the appropriate fine. For 2019, the first and second patrols led to fines totalling XOF 16 million (USD 27,000) and XOF 10 million (USD 17,000) respectively.

For aerial patrols, no fisheries inspector was on-board the aircraft, but the crew had been provided with the current list of licensed vessels.

Côte d'Ivoire requested formalised cooperation with Ghana with regards to establishing a VMS data exchange protocol, so that Ghana-flagged vessels fishing in their waters can be monitored by the Côte d'Ivoire FMC. This type of data exchange will be supported by the regional VMS and the FCWC 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone should be used as a basis for this type of cooperation.

Côte d'Ivoire agreed to share information through Basecamp more regularly on infractions detected and cases settled in the future due to the regional importance for awareness and determination of risk vessels.



2.2.3 Ghana

Ghana's NWG is structured around the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU), and agencies share information related to fish importation, vessel importation and registration, vessel inspection and safety. The Fisheries Commission also collaborates with Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA) and the Narcotics Control Board. In February 2019 they held an ad-hoc NWG meeting aimed at strengthening interagency collaboration. Attendees included GPHA, the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General, Ghana Maritime Authority, Ghana Immigration, the Ghana Revenue Authority, the Navy and the Marine Police. Cooperation is now extended to an NGO: the Africa Centre for Energy Policy. The NWG is yet to be formalised.

Interagency cooperation in maritime surveillance is taking place, led by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC). The FMC has access to the Vessel Traffic Management and Information System (VTMIS) hosted by the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) however it is limited to AIS information. Radar services are available upon request to the GMA.

Ongoing challenges include establishing interagency protocols for information collection and dissemination between relevant agencies, insufficient laws and regulations to implement the PSMA and lack of support for interagency cooperation in the national legislation.

An overview of the recent illegal importation of 12 inboard engine wooden boats (which have been confiscated) and the illegal importation of Tilapia were provided. Both companies were charged, and both cases are ongoing in the High Court. Ten artisanal fishermen were arrested for using light to aggregate fish, and their case is with the Ghanaian Police.

Ghana is reviewing its legal framework and has begun stakeholder consultation. The NPOA-IUU, and the fishing licence fees, the lowest in the sub-region, will be revised in 2019. The closed season has been agreed, for the industrial fishery it will be implemented from the 1 August to the 30 September 2019. Ghana has achieved 100% observer coverage, although there are still issues to be addressed regarding corruption. The Ghana Youth Employment Agency plans to partner with the Fisheries Commission to operationalise a Fisheries Volunteer Task Force by June 2019.

Through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) funded project 'Supporting implementation of the PSMA in Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique', known as PSM-SIF, carried out an assessment of Ghana's PSMA implementation, and this will inform project activities going forward that will be assisting to implement the Ghana Strategy and Action Plan on PSM and related instruments.

A recent Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation between Namibia and Ghana saw the two countries sign two agreements set to boost and strengthen their bilateral and trade relations; one of these agreements was an MoU on ports and harbours.

The need to audit the trawl fishery led to the development of a four-month study, beginning in May, to assess selectivity issues within the trawl fishery. This was prompted by an assessment that most trawls are not rigged properly to function as bottom trawls and consequently catch a lot of pelagic fish.



DISCUSSION:

The registration of artisanal fishermen is ongoing, with coverage at 80%, there are up to 14,000 canoes, with only 11,000 registered. Registration was initiated through the West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP), taking the regional data, the district, the fishing community, and the landing site into consideration. This information has been recorded and is available online. The vessels have not yet been licensed, and it is yet to be determined how this will be administered, but plans are in place to issue the fishermen with identity cards.

Elaborating on the observer programme, it was explained that the observers have been issued with tablets and the 100% observer coverage includes the tuna fishery. Cameras have been installed on purse seine vessels with support from the FAO ABNJ Tuna project, and as the project supporting this has ended, the government is looking into how to continue this, for the sake of transparency.

Asked whether there will be any response to the videos released in the media showing extensive discards on a Ghanaian trawler, Ghana stated that they were told the video is not recent, and as such authorities could not act. Dumping in Ghanaian waters is however an ongoing problem, which the Environment Justice Foundation (EJF) is helping to address.

2.2.4 Liberia

With regards to national activities, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) has conducted regular fisheries sea patrols with the Liberian Coast Guard, and in February 2019 received a fishing patrol boat from the Welsh government called THE PRIDE OF WALES, to enhance Liberia's capacity to tackle IUU fishing. NaFAA has been involved in the implementation of the Maritime Security Strategy project in West Africa through the collaboration with the Liberian Coast Guard (LCG) and the Liberian Maritime Authority (LiMA) and participated in the OBANGAME EXPRESS 2019 maritime exercise. Interagency MoUs have been signed with relevant actors in the sector covering operations and information sharing, and a legal standing policy document has been developed between LiMA and NaFAA.

National Crisis Response Training was conducted in February 2019, involving the LCG, the LiMA, NaFAA, the Ministry of Justice and the National Port Authority. The training covered information sharing on enforcement and MCS. NaFAA operates a Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) jointly with LiMA and the Icelandic Government and the WATF provided training of the staff with regards to vessel data analysis.

NaFAA established Collaborative Management Associations (CMAs) in coastal counties. The fisheries Co-Management By-Laws, Constitution and Article of Incorporation have been concluded, and the new Fisheries Law has been approved and is at the Liberian Legislature for final ratification.

NaFAA launched a NPOA on Sharks and Rays in collaboration with EJP, and authorities met with stakeholders in the fisheries sector to eliminate duplication of functions. The NaFAA hosts a radio talk show to sensitise the public on various MCS issues.

The challenges faced by Liberia include the need for improved capacity, delayed response from various agencies during cooperation, an inadequate legislative framework, and lack of awareness regarding the functions of various state actors.

Recent cases include the FV LABIKO 2 that was fined and had its licence revoked for using incorrect gear. The vessel has been asked to retrieve its abandoned net, and still has an outstanding case with Liberian authorities. Two Chinese trawlers, the GUOJI 808 and GUOJI 809 are currently under investigation for exiting Liberia's EEZ without the required notification.

DISCUSSION:

Enforcement is guided by the 2010 Liberian fisheries regulations which define fines for the different infractions, however these are still open to negotiation at the discretion of authorities.

Asked what challenges were faced in communicating between agencies, Liberia stated that information sharing between NaFAA and the LCG is good, and cooperation with Sea Shepherd helped to enhance capacity. Liberia was requested to respond to requests and communications in a timely manner to ensure effective cooperation in the TF.

Liberia as a flag State has reefers operating overseas and responsibilities are being transferred from LiMA to NaFAA to strengthen controls, officials have travelled to the EU and the United States to discuss this matter, and the vessels are being monitored by the FMC who receive notifications should the vessels engage in transshipment activities. So far two reefers, TAIHO MARU and TENHO MARU are complying, and it is hoped to extend this to others. Capacity has been improved, and VHF and HF radios have been installed, but inspectors will also be trained to inspect reefers.



NATIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE
TRAINING WAS CONDUCTED IN
FEBRUARY 2019, INVOLVING THE
LCG, THE LIMA, NAFAA, THE
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE
NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY.

2.2.5 Nigeria

At national level, Nigeria fisheries authorities held meetings with the Nigerian Navy on improving and strengthening collaboration. Regional and national trainings and workshops on the development of MCS actions, were carried out. Discussions are ongoing between fisheries authorities, the trawler owner's association and the Marine Research Institute regarding a closed season in Nigeria, in response to a decline in catch. Nigeria's NWG is discussing a MoU between the agencies, and related legal needs have been noted during the review of the fisheries legal framework. The Government of Nigeria has made it mandatory for all eligible fishing vessels to be fitted with VMS transponders. This directive has been complied with, however, the FMC is awaiting equipment needed for monitoring the vessels at sea. Nigeria is preparing for the visit in July 2019 of a team of experts from the United States to assess Turtle Excluding Devices (TED) in view of re-certifying the shrimp fishery for export.

Communication, information sharing, and intelligence gathering are ongoing particularly between the Navy and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), regarding fishing vessel compliance. A list of licensed fishing vessels is also shared with relevant agencies. The Navy organized the 2019 OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise in March, which was attended by two fisheries inspectors and other marine agencies.

In terms of identified challenges, Nigeria requires a dedicated fishery protection surveillance vessel, an operational VMS, funds for regular training, improved observer coverage, strengthened legal frameworks in line with international instruments to deter violations, operational funds for national MCS programs, and funds to organize regular meetings with the NWG.

The Navy, has observed that fishing vessels tend to switch off their AIS unit when at sea and is monitoring compliance with the obligation for all fishing vessels to transmit on AIS. Giving an update on cases, Nigeria noted that the three shrimping vessels belonging to Banarly and Olokun fishing companies that were arrested for fishing in Cameroon waters without authorization have been released and returned to Nigeria. Their mesh size was 20mm, below the allowed 44mm. The vessels have paid fines for their various violations and resumed fishing activities. The four Chinese trawlers that left Nigeria in 2017 for Liberian waters returned to Nigeria in March 2019. The vessels are being repaired and thereafter their sea worthiness will be ascertained prior to the issuance of fishing licences.

DISCUSSION:

Nigeria noted that the fines being applied are far below regional standards, and these have been reviewed.

The research institute provides information to the NWG as they are in charge of providing information on fisheries to the Federal Government. The NWG was provided with five years of landing catch data for analysis to be able to advise on the status of resources, this resulted in the conclusion that a closed season is needed based on the proportion of juvenile fish caught and the decline in catch, causing vessels to stay longer at sea – sometimes up to three months.

Nigeria acknowledged that juveniles do get caught in the nets with smaller mesh sizes and informed that there are plans to increase the mesh size to 60mm for all the fisheries, due to the multiple species present in their waters. Vessels operating with undersize mesh are also believed to often operate at night in prohibited coastal areas.



2.2.6 Togo

Togo's NWG has a communications platform that is based on the framework of the Haut Conseil pour la Mer and the Préfecture Maritime as a basis for interagency cooperation. Through it, fisheries authorities are promoting joint activities to combat IUU fishing and are encouraging members to implement fisheries regulations. The NWG is working to formalise cooperation through a decree.

Communication between fisheries and the Port of Lomé authorities has improved with the Harbour Master and veterinary service at the Port of Lomé now sharing vessel arrival dates and times with the Directorate of Fisheries. In February 2019 the Maritime Préfecture conducted the quarterly joint patrol; no infractions were found. Togo took part in the 2019 OBANGAME EXPRESS Exercise in March 2019, which included IUU fishing among its focus issues. Preparation of the operations took place at the Préfecture Maritime and practical exercises were carried out using a Moroccan frigate.

Togo inspected three trawlers following their licence or licence renewal application. Monitoring and inspection of reefers at the Port of Lomé is ongoing, with eight reefers inspected in the first quarter of 2019.

In February 2019, Togo hosted a mission from both PESCAO and the FCWC Secretariat, aimed at supporting MCS actions. Recommendations from this technical visit include continued development of an implementing legislation for the new Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, training of inspectors, and a national VMS. A maritime conference was organized by the High Council for the Sea in March 2019 with the theme: What are the security challenges in making Togo an international transport hub. An Information Session of the Global Project on Environment and Security in Africa (GMES-Africa), formerly MESA, took place in February 2019 on security related issues in the maritime sector.

Togo requires logistical support and training for fisheries MCS operations, support for the development of an NPOA-IUU, and support for the development of an inspection manual. They plan to develop and adopt the regulatory texts of the new Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, accede to the UN Agreement on Straddling Stocks, join the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and continue monitoring and inspection of reefers. A delegation of experts from the UNODC Container Control Programme will be hosted in May 2019, where container control training will take place and information exchanged with stakeholders.

DISCUSSION:

Enforcement is guided by the 2010 Liberian fisheries regulations which define fines for the different infractions, however these are still open to negotiation at the discretion of authorities.

Asked what challenges were faced in communicating between agencies, Liberia stated that information sharing between NaFAA and the LCG is good, and cooperation with Sea Shepherd helped to enhance capacity. Liberia was requested to respond to requests and communications in a timely manner to ensure effective cooperation in the TF.

Liberia as a flag State has reefers operating overseas and responsibilities are being transferred from LiMA to NaFAA to strengthen controls, officials have travelled to the EU and the United States to discuss this matter, and the vessels are being monitored by the FMC who receive notifications should the vessels engage in transshipment activities. So far two reefers, TAIHO MARU and TENHO MARU are complying, and it is hoped to extend this to others. Capacity has been improved, and VHF and HF radios have been installed, but inspectors will also be trained to inspect reefers.



2.3 Increasing access to intelligence analysis, resources and capacity in MCS activities

The overarching idea behind increasing access to intelligence is to provide better information and more effective support. WATF Phase 1 focused on building basic capacities, and Phase 2 will work with personnel throughout the fisheries intelligence process. Mr Copeland presented on why there is a need to increase access to intelligence, how the TF can use the TT support for MCS activities and illustrated this using a recent request from the TF.

2.3.1 Why there is a need to increase access to and analysis of intelligence?

Fisheries intelligence is processed information that enables MCS officials to understand their fishery, and to predict, detect and address non-compliance. The transnational nature of fisheries operations, complex company structures, and vast geographical range of the markets may lead to exposure to risks and illegal activity. Fisheries intelligence is produced by defining an assignment, and by gathering, processing, analysing and disseminating information relevant to this assignment. Sources of information can be technological or not, structured or not, and include vessel positional information, vessel documents, databases, human intelligence, media reports, compliance records and patrol operations.

Activities planned under this initiative include:

- Targeted capacity training, focussed on intelligence gathering and analysis;
- Provision of equipment required to carry out day to day operations;
- Provision of tablets to support intelligence gathering, inspection and other MCS operations;
- Production of a manual to provide personnel with an overview of available intelligence sources;
- Establishing a web-based toolbox, housed within the FCWC website; and
- Facilitation of personnel exchange, between member states, with other regions on the continent and beyond.

DISCUSSION:

A budget of USD 5,000 has been allocated to each country for equipment this budget is doubled for those countries with two ports.

The increased focus of capacity building activities on intelligence was welcomed and to ensure that institutional memory is retained careful selection of people for capacity building and training trainers to pass on the knowledge is required. Countries were urged to ensure that the right people are selected for training at national level. The aim of the training is to improve capacity across all States, but where necessary it will be bespoke, addressing national gaps in capacity in English and French.

It was proposed that a dedicated personnel exchange programme be developed between countries, and from the Secretariat to the countries, depending on needs and expertise.

The FCWC Secretariat welcomed the enthusiasm of TF members, reminding them that their role as beneficiary countries will be to seize these opportunities by proactively making requests and proposals. Clear recommendations on exchange of personnel and training are needed and it was proposed that the training initiative becomes an activity of the NWGs.

2.3.2 Utilising TT to support MCS activities

The objective is to improve the TF's ability to call on the TT to support MCS operations. The TT aims to provide the best available intelligence and analytical support, towards the identification, investigation and prosecution of cases to strengthen risk assessment which is at the core of every due diligence process.

A team of experts provides support from across a range of expertise, this includes: VMS or AIS tracking support and interpretation, maritime domain awareness (MDA) platform assessment, flagging and licensing due diligence, company structure analysis, targeted fisheries operational risk assessment, operational planning, live patrol support, mentoring, legal support, communication and engagement facilitation, and language support to MCS operations (e.g. in support to inspection, document analysis, etc.).

DISCUSSION:

This type of support, while available in the previous Phase of WATF has been increased in this Phase and requests for support should come through the communications platform or the FCWC Secretariat.

Ghana informed the TF that it has an out-of-court settlement committee that will require capacity building and further support.

The TF noted the need to engage civil society at national level, while ensuring that the TF maintains confidentiality where necessary.

Language cards to facilitate communication with the Asian fleet were requested by the TF.

Nigeria requires training of navy personnel to equip them to better handle fisheries cases and analyse vessel movement data.

Liberia requested assistance implementing International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) numbers on vessels, and further training on the analysis of AIS data.

Côte d'Ivoire requested training for magistrates and judicial police on how to consider violations.



2.3.3 Building the FCWC's collective understanding and awareness of reefer operations

Mr Yvergnaux presented the findings of a recent analysis of reefer operations carried out following a request by Côte d'Ivoire. The analysis focused on a sample of 35 reefers that had called to port in Abidjan in 2018 and included an assessment of the IUU risk associated with their operations.

The reefers were assessed against several criteria, using a combination of vessel tracks – in particular to detect operations falling outside the normal 'port hopping' pattern – and compliance history. A description of reefer operations in West Africa, their usual routes and trading patterns showed that 54% of the reefers analysed made port calls in more than three other FCWC countries during the same year, demonstrating the potential for information sharing through the WATF.

Building the collective understanding, analysis and awareness of reefer operations will contribute to the implementation of the FCWC Transshipment Strategy and conducting similar risk assessments was proposed as a key element for preventing illegally caught or transhipped fish from entering the ports of the FCWC region.

A methodology for conducting an IUU risk assessment of ports was briefly presented as a possible follow-up activity. Such assessment would aim at strengthening MCS of fishing related vessels, including reefers, by applying a risk-based approach. It would be achieved through the identification of IUU risk factors for all fleets using the port and overlaying risk profile with existing regulations and MCS practices.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire stated that the reefer analysis conducted by TMT in 2019, has enabled authorities to realize their exposure to risks, assess their surveillance system and better understand reefer operations in their waters and ports. Following the discussion at the NWG meeting and the analysis, some of the gaps have already been addressed. A warning system for reefer vessels has now been put in place, and a better line of communication with port authorities has been established to enable the determination of the risks and decide on next steps prior to the arrival of the vessel. Information from the analysis has been shared with the NWG and port authorities, which are now aware of the importance of sharing information.

In response to countries stating that transshipment at-sea was still considered illegal, UNODC informed that an expert from the North-West Atlantic Intelligence Group mentioned suspicious vessel movements in Togo and Benin – relevant details would be shared with the FCWC Secretariat. It was suggested that a broader analysis of the reefer vessels in all the FCWC countries be conducted.

The FCWC Secretariat proposed that pending approval at national level, the outcomes of the analysis should be shared with the TF on Basecamp for lesson learning.



2.4 Regional strategy to combat illegal transshipment at sea

Ms Sally Frankcom, SIF Communications Officer, provided an update on plans to implement the FCWC Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment At Sea. The Strategy was developed in Phase 1 in response to the major challenge of transshipment faced by the region. In December 2017, FCWC Ministers adopted a Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment at Sea, and in November 2018 the TF agreed to implement this Strategy from 2019 to 2022.

2.4.1 Presentation of action plan and identification of priorities

Four priority areas with different actions were identified to take forward:

- 1. Establish and implement legal and operational standards for fisheries transshipments within the FCWC area of competence.**
 - a. Compile and review best practice examples in respect to legislating for, implementing and monitoring transshipment.
 - b. Assess the legal and procedural provisions for dealing with transshipment in the FCWC States.
 - c. Support participation in the PSMA.
 - d. Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and best practice guidelines.
- 2. Validate and share information on fishing vessels and reefers that engage in transshipment within the FCWC area of competence.**
 - a. Identify key countries, bodies and organisations for information sharing.
 - b. Maintain and provide updated information about designated ports for fisheries transshipment.
 - c. Develop and apply risk criteria.
 - d. Develop a watch list of reefers active in the region.
- 3. Monitor and inspect transshipments taking place within the FCWC area of competence.**
 - a. Conduct routine monitoring of potential transshipment activity between industrial vessels to reefers or fishing vessels.

- b. Conduct training in inspections for transshipments under different at sea and in port scenarios.

- c. Monitor AIS and VMS usage and publicise statistics highlighting gaps and successes.

- d. Provide support to actions and investigations into illegal transshipment.

4. Conduct evidence based research and reporting to increase knowledge and awareness of transshipment.

- a. Identify which ports are currently used for transshipment of fish originating from the FCWC region, and the main drivers for why these ports are used.
- b. Research into the drivers and impacts of at sea and in port transshipment in the region.
- c. Analyse information on authorised transshipment vessels.
- d. Identify key areas for engagement of small -scale fishers.
- e. Prepare a reporting matrix for annual reporting to FCWC Ministers.

Other areas of interest may include: develop awareness material for port authorities on transshipment; develop investigations/case material linked to reefer activity; conduct interviews with observers to establish areas of interest in at sea transshipment; and prepare an evidence-based report highlighting the operations and impacts of transshipment in the region.

It is anticipated that by TF10 in May 2020 there will be a discussion on minimum standards for legislation, implementing and monitoring transshipment. In July 2020 the FCWC region will be able to contribute to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) discussion on Global Guidelines for Transshipment and launch a publication on the regional study. It is hoped that in December 2020 the FCWC Conference of Ministers will adopt minimum standards for transshipment.



TOGO NOTED THAT TRANSHIPMENT IS TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY AND IS CONSIDERED IN THEIR 2016 BILL.

DISCUSSION:

The TF endorsed the decision to carry out a regional study on reefer operations, agreeing that transshipment is something the TF should systematically address.

Togo noted that transshipment is taken very seriously and is considered in their 2016 Bill. They further noted that it is mentioned in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) guidelines, an organisation to which three TF countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo) belong, and have adopted its' standards and frameworks. It was suggested that these may be extended to the other three countries, should the frameworks not clash with national legislation.

Benin has drafted a national protocol to outline how to deal with transshipment, and the need for further regulations will be determined by a baseline review currently carried out on regulations in the region.

Transshipment operations involve several categories of reefers such as those transshipping tuna and those transshipping small pelagics. The latter can be outside the responsibility of fisheries and these operations require analysis to improve understanding as it was also noted that some reefers are specialized in one type of product/fishery while others can trade different products during their voyages – carrying small pelagics on one leg and tuna on the other leg.

2.4.2 Concept note – analysis of reefer operations and associated IUU risks for the FCWC region

Fisheries authorities in several FCWC Member States have taken steps to inspect reefer vessels more systematically but lack the knowledge and tools to conduct efficient and targeted controls. Greater understanding of reefer operations, the sources of fish imported to the region by reefers, the drivers for legal and illegal transshipment, and their potential impact on the FCWC countries will help clarify what policy, legal and operational actions are required to combat unauthorised transshipment.

Mr Yvergniaux presented a concept note for the analysis of reefer operations and associated IUU risks for the FCWC region. The study will consider the entire region to establish baseline information to support the implementation of the FCWC Transshipment Study. The research will establish a typology of reefer operations, looking at their main operational features. The main trends of reefer operations in the region will be mapped, with a description of the main operators involved and the potential impact on FCWC Member States.

WATF are asked to contribute to the analysis by providing information related to specific vessels or operations when required. The TF will also contribute by contacting third countries to understand the authorization status of specific vessels or operations. The results will be presented as an overview of the operations and risk factors associated with individual reefers and operating patterns, providing recommendations to countries for targeted and efficient port controls of reefers.

DISCUSSION:

It was agreed that the Concept Note be presented nationally to ensure the relevant authorities have all the necessary information. Discussions can proceed internally in preparation for the study.

2.5 Looking ahead

Mr Dedi facilitated a session discussing how the TF would approach selected issues going forward.



2.5.1 Observer status for neighbouring countries and RFBs

It was proposed that neighbouring countries, and relevant regional fisheries bodies, be made aware of TF activities, and integrated where necessary into information exchanges. Offering WATF observer status or by developing focal points or contacts either at technical or administrative level were options.

DISCUSSION:

The TF all agreed that this was a good idea, highlighting existing cooperation e.g. between Nigeria and Cameroon and the relevance of Sierra Leone and Cameroon for lesson learning and cooperation as their ports are frequented by FCWC-flagged or licensed vessels.

2.5.2 Review of management measures including in the small-scale fisheries sector

Procedures on how best to combat IUU fishing in the artisanal fishery in the region were discussed. Transshipment from industrial fishing vessels to artisanal vessels is an issue in the region. The 'Saiko' fishery in Ghana has been the subject of much debate at national and regional level, and similar operations in Côte d'Ivoire's small-scale fisheries sector was brought to the attention of the FCWC Secretariat.

DISCUSSION:

Nigeria is also facing similar problems, but with a legal framework that puts no limitations on the movements of canoes, it is a difficult issue to address. Transshipment activities between trawlers and canoes close to shore also attracts pirates who are aware that the vessels carry large amounts of cash. VMS data may provide a useful source of information as the VMS unit onboard a vessel stores more information than is transmitted, which fisheries authorities can request to determine e.g. the time a vessel remains in a certain position, to prompt a query or action.

A project in Ghana is collecting statistics on this fishery as it is perceived as a problem with high value. While it is not a common problem in Liberia as industrial vessels don't come closer to shore than 6nm and artisanal vessels do not go beyond 6nm, so they rarely meet. In general improved observer coverage could also assist in combatting this.

PESCAO component 3 includes a small vessel tracking pilot project for the artisanal fishery and they could be invited to share results and lessons with the TF. Data from similar pilot projects already implemented in the region can also be accessed and used to increase understanding of the issue. WATF Phase 2 does not have funding to run a similar pilot project, but possible cooperation with initiatives through exactEarth and the Swedish Government are avenues that can be pursued.

2.5.3 Closed season opportunities

Ghana plans to implement a closed season for the trawler fishery in July, and a closed season for their artisanal fishing is scheduled for the 15 May to 15 June 2019. They asked the TF to be vigilant as monitoring progresses. The closure did not take place last year as stakeholders were not sufficiently sensitised.

DISCUSSION:

Debating whether it was possible to extend the closed season to the wider FCWC region, the TF decided that a better understanding of each fishery and the different national issues is needed before this can be implemented effectively. However, cooperation around the existing national closures is key, so that MCS can be prioritized in neighbouring countries, taking into consideration potential displacement of fishing effort during closures.

2.5.4 WATF toolbox

The WATF members have agreed to periodically share lists of the vessels licensed to fish in their waters. This level of information sharing is ground-breaking in the region, and all information shared is confidential. The combined licence list is a tool used to aid MCS efforts, unfortunately, not all countries are sharing their list regularly.

DISCUSSION:

Information should be shared as soon as there is a change to be noted, and this is especially important for licensing information as well as systematic sharing of licence lists. A live vessel registry could be developed that would better inform about which vessels are licensed in the region at a given time. This could be modelled on FAO best practice and called a Combined Licence Record. A first step to re-examine the recommendations from the study undertaken on the feasibility to establish a regional record of fishing vessels in the FCWC area was recommended.

Ghana has developed a web-based database for their licensed vessels, funded by the World Bank, and was encouraged to share lessons learned and to use their system to submit up-to-date licence information to the WATF.

2.5.5 International meetings

Mr Copeland presented on the upcoming meetings and international fora of interest.

a. Our Ocean 2019

This year's Our Ocean conference will be held on the 24 and 25 October in Oslo, Norway. The meeting has identified six key areas of action: marine protected areas and other area-based management; climate change; sustainable fisheries; marine pollution; sustainable blue economy; and maritime security. Support will be given for at least one representative of each TF country to this meeting.

b. IMO conference on fishing vessel safety and IUU fishing

The IMO Ministerial Conference will be held in Torremolinos, Spain from the 21 to 23 October 2019, with the aim to promote the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement (CTA) as a tool to address fishing vessel safety, improve working conditions and ensure legality of fisheries. Any IMO Member State can apply for financial support for two delegates to attend. This meeting is an opportunity for Ministers to share the progress in their country.

DISCUSSION:

Formal invitations to ensure fisheries authorities attend the meetings may be required.

Benin stated that they have adopted the CTA, and the TF asked that they share the ratification documents.

2.5.6 FCWC general update

a. FCWC communications channels

Mr Kofi Taylor-Hayford, FCWC Communications Officer, presented the ongoing and proposed channels of communication for TF activities and outputs. In line with the FCWC Communication Strategy, adopted at the 2018 Conference of Ministers, communication is targeted towards decision makers, beneficiaries, stakeholders, sector partners as well as management and implementation partners. Branded promotional and display items have been developed as communication tools, and the development of brand guidelines is planned.

b. New FCWC communications materials and publications

Ms Frankcom, SIF Communication Officer, recalled the publications and flyers produced through the work of the WATF initiative, and described the forthcoming communications material. This included:

- FCWC Factsheets on the Regional Vessel Monitoring Centre, the PSMA, shared licence lists and maritime security cooperation. Further factsheets on transparency, regional minimum terms and conditions for access, the CTA and the Transshipment Strategy were put forward for development, should they be of interest to the TF;

- a manual on document verification, to be completed in mid-2019, and proposed manuals on intelligence sources, positional data and reefer inspection; and
- a report on the transshipment study to be completed in 2020.

TF members were encouraged to utilise the information produced for their own national communication, and it was suggested that it may be useful to have national focal points for communications.

The FCWC website is currently being redeveloped and will include new features such as a restricted area to facilitate information sharing and requests for assistance.

DISCUSSION:

The Secretariat urged the NWGs to share their successes and activities, to increase the visibility of the TF.

The FCWC Communications Department disseminated a questionnaire to ascertain the most effective avenues for communicating with TF members and a wider audience and encouraged all TF members to complete the questionnaire.

Togo requested that all documents and information be shared on the communications platform to ensure that members do not miss anything that is produced.

THE FCWC WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY BEING REDEVELOPED AND WILL INCLUDE NEW FEATURES SUCH AS A RESTRICTED AREA TO FACILITATE INFORMATION SHARING AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.



2.6 Collaboration between fisheries authorities and other agencies and structures

2.6.1 Japanese cooperation

The FCWC has been discussing cooperation with JICA for two years. They previously only cooperated bi-laterally but following negotiations with Minister Adjoumani they have agreed to cooperate with the FCWC region through the Secretariat.

Mr Ken Homma from JICA stated that an expert on fisheries has been seconded to the sub-region who will support the FCWC Secretariat. JICA are new to the region with regards to regional cooperation but have experience nationally including in some FCWC member States, and they would like to hear from the countries, technical partners and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) regarding the needs in the region and to submit requests for assistance.

2.6.2 UNODC container control programme

Ms Ndeye Amy Ba from UNODC presented the UNODC-World Customs Organisation (WCO) Container Control Programme (CCP). The Programme, launched in 2004 to assist Governments to establish and maintain effective container controls at seaports, dry ports, land borders, railways and airports that serve not only to prevent trafficking in drugs and other illicit goods, but also to facilitate legitimate trade and protect border revenue. The programme supports the establishment of specialized targeting units to identify illicit land, sea, rail and air shipments, by training law enforcement officials to select, inspect and detect shipments with illegal goods, based on the elements of the WCO – SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework). The Programme targets customs, law enforcement agencies, trade and business communities and other relevant authorities, and is being implemented in Benin, Ghana and Togo, as well as other countries in West Africa, on the continent, and beyond.

Among the infractions the CCP detected, three instances were relating to fisheries crime, and in 2017 the programme to combat IUU fishing in West Africa focusses on fisheries crime, legal and policy frameworks, corruption, interagency cooperation, and human rights challenges. With a workshop planned for June 2019 in West Africa, UNODC enquired about the TF's willingness to cooperate with the Programme. Areas of cooperation suggested included information sharing with the port control units (PCUs), awareness raising activities and the development of joint activities.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat was encouraged by the involvement of three TF countries in the Programme but stated that the Secretariat is awaiting the formalisation of their membership to the cooperation.

UNODC clarified that the Programme focuses on imports and exports, as well as transshipment. There is a separate programme fighting maritime crime, and this is different from the CCP, however they are cooperating. They stated that to be a full member governments have to take the initiative to join. However, their assessments show that traded volumes are too little to justify having dedicated personnel, and it may be more effective to have cooperation between key officers in different agencies instead.



2.7 Joint operations at sea

A lack of security and safety for maritime navigation in the waters of ECOWAS countries has made transportation risky and expensive. These challenges impede the full potential of the maritime domain and undermine socio-economic development and integration. Given the maritime domain's critical contribution to achieving the goals of the ECOWAS, there is need for urgent measures to eliminate threats. Towards this end the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) and its implementation led to the establishment of the CRESMAO and Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres (MMCC).

2.7.1 CRESMAO

In response to the growing insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, the Heads of State and Governments of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) have adopted strategic documents related to maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea (the June 2013 Yaoundé Code of Conduct).

Mr Gbeuly Joel Landry presented the legal framework on which CRESMAO was developed to implement the Yaoundé process, and its activities. CRESMAO is working to strengthen regional maritime cooperation through strategic coordination of maritime activities, through the exchange of information and resources with relevant Centres and agencies, capacity building, and communication. A draft MoU for increased cooperation between the FCWC Secretariat, CRESMAO and relevant Centres is being developed under the auspice of the ECOWAS Commission, because CRESMAO's success and sustainability is dependent on the participation of all the players in the maritime sector in their initiatives.



2.7.2 The MMCC MoU for joint operations and its relevance for FCWC countries

Commander Benning presented the MMCC MoU for joint maritime operations and its relevance for combatting IUU fishing in the FCWC region. The implementation of the EIMS calls for the establishment of three MMCCs. The MMCCs are based on interagency collaboration at national and regional level, and bring together policy and regulatory bodies, maritime law enforcement agencies, legal affairs and maritime information, as well as intelligence institutions. This is to ensure harmonization of approaches when addressing maritime insecurity challenges.

Operationally, the Centres receive, analyse and disseminate information to relevant national, multinational, regional and international stakeholders. The MMCCs have interagency staff that coordinate and execute maritime operations, as well as MDA platforms which can be integrated with other systems such as VMS to gather, analyse and provide actionable maritime information for effective maritime law enforcement. Tactically, their mandate allows for action at sea under the operational control of the Centre. This can be achieved through the pooling of human and physical assets from member states and partners. One of the most effective and sustainable ways of mobilizing resources to conduct joint patrols is through the signing of MoUs. The MMCC Zone E, F and G are at various stages of drafting and signing various MoU's for joint maritime law enforcement.

Collaboration with the MMCCs has the potential to optimise resources, reduce interagency rivalry, increase harmonisation of fines and prosecution, and improve capacity.



THE MMCCS HAVE INTERAGENCY STAFF THAT COORDINATE AND EXECUTE MARITIME OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS MDA PLATFORMS WHICH CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH OTHER SYSTEMS SUCH AS VMS TO GATHER, ANALYSE AND PROVIDE ACTIONABLE MARITIME INFORMATION FOR EFFECTIVE MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT.

2.7.3 Joint patrols in the South West Indian Ocean

Mr Mohamed Ali Mohamed presented the Indian Ocean Commission's (IOC) regional plan for fisheries surveillance in the South West Indian Ocean (PRSP), a regional mechanism to fight IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean region. The objectives of the PRSP are to reduce illegal fishing, improve operational coordination of surveillance means, contribute to conservation and management of resources, and facilitate capacity building. Activities include maritime and aerial patrols, data exchange, regional VMS, use of a regional database, a nascent regional observer program, and cooperation with other projects and organizations. The PRSP is governed by a regional coordination unit composed of representatives from each participating country, that identify needs, validate a multi-year action plan and annual plan, and plan missions and activities.

The joint regional patrols harmonize methods and procedures, and a standard operating directive provides information on how missions are conducted. The standard inspection format includes: daily instructions, pre-departure briefings, inspection reports at sea (on board or by radio), observation report (overflight), and a joint end-of-mission report of the inspectors. Inspection reports contain information on the vessel sighted/inspected, checked documentation, date and time of inspection, catch on board, fishing zones, fishing gear, and the results of the inspection. National templates are used in the case of an infringement. The inspection team leader and tactical operational controller are designated based on zone (country) patrolled, and therefore may rotate several times during a regional patrol operation. All fishing fleets in the region are inspected, whether they are longliners or tuna seiners, Asian or European, as well as the local fleets. A debriefing is held after each mission and a joint report drafted and signed by all the inspectors.

Joint air patrols are conducted in coordination with the maritime patrols, using similar procedures, and allowing for a rapid reaction to infringements. Between 2007 and 2018 there have been 54 joint regional missions, (total of 1,297 days), with 512 vessels inspected, 94 serious offenses identified, and 18 diversions. Through the air patrols, 508 vessels and 6 transshipments have been observed, and three cases of marine pollution detected.

The challenges faced include:

- Asian ships allege not to understand English and refuse to stop;
- Lawyers are not equipped to prosecute IUU fishing cases;
- Fine amounts and structures differ from one country to another; and
- There is lack of permanent funding for regional activities.

The lessons learned are that regional cooperation helps countries to improve national activities, information exchange is essential for the fight against IUU fishing, collaboration between the various ministries concerned in IUU fishing is important, and teamwork despite differences is essential.



DISCUSSION:

Following the various presentations, the TF discussed the possibility to conduct regional fisheries patrols in the FCWC area. Whilst there are clear areas for cooperation, the current level of preparedness means that it would be more appropriate to focus first on strengthening national-level patrols. The next step would be to have coordinated patrolling between adjacent countries, which would allow countries to draw lessons from the practice and develop SOPs. EFCA suggested that as the will is there, pilot projects should be carried out to test rules of engagement while partners are brought together to develop SOPs.

The FCWC Secretariat enquired whether the MMCC follows up on the success of the prosecution once it has provided the countries with information. It was explained that when a vessel has been seized, within 24 hours it is expected that the vessel will be handed over to the department of fisheries, and all relevant agencies are expected to provide feedback.

It was noted that the Zone E MoU was signed in August 2018. However, due to lack of funds the MMCC was unable to initiate patrols. Thus far only Benin and Ghana have responded to a request for assistance. The next steps are to prepare SOPs and establish rules of engagement, and assistance and guidance was requested to achieve this. CRESMAO stated that it has not received funding from ECOWAS to support the centres but are reliant on partners to do this. It was clarified that CRESMAO and the MMCCs are multi-agency and not military centres. They belong to ECOWAS and work to serve the regional purposes.

Responding to a query from Nigeria regarding the financial commitments from States, it was explained that when a State signs up to host a Centre it commits itself to funding the Centre, however external partners are welcome to contribute.

Asked about the establishment of the IOC regional VMS, Mr Ali explained that although there were initial problems with the regional VMS installation regarding sovereignty, these have been solved and it is working efficiently, leading to successful fines on illegal operators. He reminded participants that engaging relevant authorities on the issue of data exchange will be key to secure the regional VMS in the FCWC region. EFCA agreed and added that the data exchange protocol is key to ensure the integrity of data. The other requirements are that correct procedures are established around the regional VMS, and a well-trained system administrator is appointed to make sure the system delivers.

Responding to a question on the use of weapons onboard patrol vessels, Mr Ali stated that during patrols the fisheries inspector is in charge and the military are standing by in case of emergency.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRSP ARE TO REDUCE ILLEGAL FISHING, IMPROVE OPERATIONAL COORDINATION OF SURVEILLANCE MEANS, CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES, AND FACILITATE CAPACITY BUILDING. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE MARITIME AND AERIAL PATROLS, DATA EXCHANGE, REGIONAL VMS, USE OF A REGIONAL DATABASE, A NASCENT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM, AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER PROJECTS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

3. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

3.1 Outcomes of the Task Force

The WATF meeting had the following outcomes, to:

3.1.1 Support of the Task Force

Reiterate and reinforce the will and intention of all Member States to uphold the cooperation; communication and coordination objectives of the WATF, and continue the fight against IUU fishing.

3.1.2 Cooperation with other initiatives

- Keep the FCWC Secretariat up to date with any national level MCS initiatives that are complementary to or need coordination with the WATF and other regional relevant initiatives
- Expand cooperation with the UNODC Container Control Programme, including information exchange and coordinated training, and ensure that fisheries administrations can interact with the existing Container Control Units to contribute to targeted inspections
- Collaborate with relevant NGOs at national level to ensure maximisation of resources.

3.1.3 Information sharing

- Encourage the sharing of information on vessels applying for fishing licences and implement robust due diligence.
- Improve the exchange of information on cases, both on new detentions and investigations – including grounds for detention – and cases that have been settled to improve the understanding of offences in the region, to inform risk assessment and to prevent re-offense.
- Increase the use of fisheries operators as information sources for detecting infringements at sea and to contribute to risk level assessment.
- Encourage the sharing of relevant documents and templates (e.g. licences and registration documents).

3.1.4 FCWC strategy to combat illegal transshipment at sea

- Agree on the priority activities identified to be implemented under each of the 4 Main Action Areas.
- Encourage the implementation of the transshipment strategy in each member State by making it a priority issue requiring interagency cooperation, and a recurrent topic of National Working Group meetings.
- Encourage the sharing of documents gathered during reefer inspections to contribute to building the collective understanding of reefer operations and facilitate risk assessment.

3.1.5 Establishment of the Regional Vessel Monitoring Centre

- Recognise the update provided by the FCWC Secretariat on the tender process, to be finalised in June 2019.
- Acknowledge the challenge identified by the FCWC Secretariat regarding the limitations on the current location of the FCWC office to host the VMS equipment.
- Urge Ghana, the host country, to accommodate the request of the FCWC Secretariat regarding the necessary office space for the equipment of the RVMC. Propose that Togo as current Chair country follows up with Ghana.
- Assess whether the current legal texts, the Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Area of the FCWC, provide a sufficient basis for allowing the automatic regional exchange of VMS data and preserve the integrity of the data exchanged.
- Develop VMS operational guidelines for the FCWC region.



3.1.6 Capacity building and exchanges

- Recognise the areas of technical support the Technical Team can provide to the Task Force and remind relevant national departments that it is the responsibility of the Member States to seize the technical support opportunities offered by the different supporting projects.
- Ensure that training needs and related requests are formulated in writing to FCWC for dispatch to the relevant technical partners. Requests will be matched with pre-identified needs under the different supporting projects.
- Identify personnel who will be the focus of Training for Trainers capacity building efforts under the different projects, to ensure knowledge can be passed on within national agencies.
- Ensure that personnel designation for training activities carried out under the different projects is done in an inclusive manner and targets the appropriate personnel to ensure that capacity building is given to individuals who can maintain the institutional memory of their agencies.
- Encourage training to other NWG agencies, particularly Navies and judicial institutions (prosecutors)
- Encourage exchanges of personnel within the region to take advantage of the higher standards and higher capacity of some countries.

3.1.7 Licensing

- Re-affirm the commitment to provide updated licence lists at a minimum quarterly. Information on new licences that are authorised between quarterly updates can be sent directly to the FCWC Secretariat as they are issued for compilation by the Technical Team, in the interest of maintaining the most up to date Combined Regional Licence List possible.

3.1.8 Maritime security cooperation and joint patrols

- Continue dialogue to improve national and regional cooperation between navies and fisheries authorities, at national level and through the relevant MMCC under the aegis of CRESMAO, including the conduct of joint patrol operations.
- Support the MMCCs in the preparation of Standard Operating Procedures and Rules of Engagement using existing examples from other regions.

3.1.9 Communication with other States

Encourage the invitation of neighbouring countries Sierra Leone and Cameroun, as well as the SRFC and the Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea (COREP), as observers at the next TF meeting, in the interest of building broader regional cooperation.

3.1.10 Communications strategy

Recognise the progress made by the FCWC to implement the FCWC Communications Strategy, including the recent materials produced, and encourage Member States to continue to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy – including content to the new FCWC website.

3.1.11 Management of small-scale fisheries

- Consider the collateral effects of seasonal closures – in terms of displacement of fishing effort – into MCS planning, both nationally and in neighbouring countries.
- Request that countries with recent or ongoing trials on small vessel tracking provide information on results to other Task Force members.
- Share information on the registration of artisanal vessels for lesson learning.

3.1.12 Equipment

Acknowledge the budget provision for equipment to be allocated to each member.

3.2 Requests from the Task Force

The WATF meeting agreed to the following requests to the TT, to:

3.2.1 International meetings

Request support for representatives of member States to attend relevant international meetings, including OUR OCEAN 2019, IMO-CTA meeting and COFI 2020.

3.2.2 Maritime security cooperation and joint patrols

Assist in providing support to the development of the MMCC ToR's and SOPs.

3.2.3 Training and equipment

- Engage individual countries for the planning of the proposed training activities.
- Initiate the procurement of basic equipment for inspectors using the facility provided under the Norad-funded project.
- Prepare language cards to overcome language issues and facilitate communication between inspectors and foreign crew onboard fishing vessels.
- Develop new material for training, including a manual presenting the level of risk associated with different fishing fleets or operations, and another on intelligence sources.

3.2.4 Licensing

- Develop a guideline document to improve and harmonise licence documents in the region, establishing minimum standards in terms of the information to be displayed on the licence document and the possible anti-tampering features. This should consider both domestic and distant water licences and be based on FCWC convention.

- Review the 2012 feasibility study for a regional registry of fishing vessels and identify steps between the current Combined Licence List and a potential future live regional record of licensed fishing vessels.

3.2.5 Transshipment strategy

- Support the action plan implementation with the dedicated project activities identified and technical assistance.
- Undertake an analysis of the operations of reefers visiting the ports of the region, based on the methodology of the pilot research undertaken for Côte d'Ivoire, to assess the associated IUU risk and allow for better targeted controls.
- Conduct in-depth research on the import-export of small pelagic fish by cargo vessels trading to and from the region, the associated IUU risk, and the potential impact on FCWC countries in terms of their port controls and customs responsibility.
- Utilize analysis outputs, case material and investigations concerning transshipment operations to communicate on the issues and bring them to the attention of decision makers.

3.2.6 Communication with other States

Assist in building further cooperation and communication with other flag, coastal, port and market States to improve information exchange and cooperation when conducting routine MCS operations and on cases of suspected illegal fishing.

3.2.7 Small-scale fisheries

Work with those States where small-scale fisheries tracking pilots have taken place to provide an overview of results.

3.3 Further requests outside the scope of the TT

Analyse the impacts of the closed season in Ghana, towards the development of a broader regional agreement on closed seasons

4. Closing remarks

Mr Dedi thanked all attendees. He commended the continued commitment of the countries to combatting IUU fishing in the region, particularly Ms Bola Kupolati, Nigeria's Head of MCS; a founding member and integral part of the TF who will be retiring in late 2019. Mr Copeland thanked TF Members for a successful and productive meeting. Closing the meeting on behalf of the Minister and the host country, Mr Bina Fofana thanked the WATF for its efforts, and wished the TF success in the implementation of commitments made at TF8.



5. Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

ABNJ	Areas beyond national jurisdiction	ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
AFDB	African Development Bank	IGO	Intergovernmental organisation
AIS	Automatic identification system	IMO	International Maritime Organization
CCP	Container Control Programme	IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
CMA	Collaborative Management Associations	IPOA-INN	International plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea	IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
CRESMAO	Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa	ISMI	Interregional Institute for Maritime Security
CTA	The Cape Town Agreement	IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
DWFN	Distant water fishing nations	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	LCG	Liberian Coast Guard
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	LMA	Liberia Maritime Authority
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency	MDA	Maritime domain awareness
EIMS	ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy	MMCC	Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation	MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity
EU	European Union	MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit	NAFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Liberia
FITI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre	NIMASA	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
FPA	Fisheries Partnership Agreement	NM	Nautical mile
FV	Fishing vessel	NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
GHS	Ghanaian Cedi	NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	NWG	National Working Group
GMA	Ghana Maritime Authority	PCU	Port control units
GMES-AFRICA	Global Project on Environment and Security in Africa	PESCAO	The European Union's 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' Project
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority		
ICAO	the International Civil Aviation Organization		

PRSP	Indian Ocean Commission's Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan
PSM	Port State measures
PSMA	UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RPOA-IUU	Regional plan of action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
RVMC	Regional Vessel Monitoring Centre
SDG	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SG	Secretary General
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
SOP	Standard operating procedures
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
TED	Turtle exclusion device
TF	Task Force
TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
TOR	Terms of Reference
TT	Technical Team
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UK	United Kingdom
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	United States
USD	United States Dollar
VMS	Vessel monitoring system
VTMIS	Vessel Traffic Management and Information System
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Project
WATF	West Africa Task Force
WCO	World Customs Organisation



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5.2 Workshop agenda

08 May 2019

08:30 to 09:00 **REGISTRATION**

09:00 to 10:15 **OPENING SESSION**

Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Secretary-General Seraphin Dedi

- Remarks from the WATF Technical Team – TMT Executive Director Duncan Copeland
- Opening by Minister of fisheries or his representative – Côte d'Ivoire
- Introduction of participants
- Group Photo

10:15 to 10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 to 10:40 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Seraphin Dedi

- Agreement of agenda

10:40 to 11:30 **RECAP OF THE WATF INITIATIVE** – TMT

- Quick Recap of the WATF – Norad and PESCAO supporting initiatives to date
- Technical team report to the Task Force on TF7 Outcomes and Requests
- Update on cases

11:30 to 12:00 **REVIEW OF TECHNICAL VISITS** – FCWC, TMT

- Summary of discussions
- Way forwards

12:00 to 13:00 **LUNCH**

13:00 to 15:30 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS** – National Presentations
by Country Representatives

- Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire

15:30 to 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 to 17:00 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont.**

17:30 **END OF THE DAY**

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

5.2 Workshop agenda cont.

09 May 2019

09:00 to 09:05 **REVIEW OF DAY 1** – Seraphin Dedi, Côte d'Ivoire representative

09:05 to 11:15 **INCREASING ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE IN MCS ACTIVITIES**

- Why there is a need to increase access to intelligence
 - Identifying and integrating sources of information
 - Planned initiatives – Information sources and tools
 - Technical team intelligence support to inform MCS activities
 - Review of specific request – reefer analysis
 - Port Risk Profile
-

11:15 to 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 -12:30 **REGIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA** – SIF, FCWC AND TMT

- Overview of Concept Note
 - Presentation of action plan and identification of priorities
 - Discussion
-

12:30 to 13:30 **LUNCH**

13:30 to 15:00 **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Observer status for neighbouring countries and RFBs – Sierra Leone, Cameroun, SRFC and COREP
 - Review of management measures including small-scale fisheries sector – closed seasons Opportunities
 - WATF toolbox – toolbox on FCWC website, upcoming manuals, combined licence list
 - International meetings – Our Ocean 2019, FAO/IMO meeting, COFI 2020
-

16:00 to 16:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:00 – 16:00 **FCWC GENERAL UPDATE** – FCWC

- Introducing FCWC new communications materials and publications – FCWC Factsheets
 - FCWC communications channels, update on website development
-

17:30 **END OF THE DAY**

10 May 2019

09:00 to 09:05

REVIEW OF DAY 2 – Seraphin Dedi, Host country representative

COLLABORATION BETWEEN MARITIME SECURITY STRUCTURES AND FISHERIES BODIES

- Relevance of the collaboration between fisheries and maritime centres
- UNODC container control programme

09:05 to 10:00

JOINT FISHERIES PATROL OPERATIONS IN OTHER REGIONS

- East Africa Case Study
- Lessons learnt

10:00 to 11:15

JOINT MARITIME OPERATIONS AT SEA ZONE F

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and its relevance for FCWC countries
- Organisation of regional patrols under the MoU

11:15 to 11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 to 12:30

OPERATIONALISATION OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN MARITIME SECURITY STRUCTURES AND REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES

- Regional fisheries joint patrol in the FCWC region – involving all countries
- Identification of needs
- Discussion, Opportunities and recommendations

12:30 to 13:30

LUNCH

13:30 to 15:45

WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION – Member States

- Task Force discussion, requests, recommendations and internal decisions
Facilitator: FCWC, TMT, SIF

15:45 to 16:00

THANKS, AND CLOSING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

5.3 Attendance list

BENIN

Antoine Gaston Djihinto

Director of Fisheries

Samé Bernard Tossi

Head of MCS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Bina Fofana

Deputy Director of Maritime and Lagoon Fisheries

Serge Kpi

Fisheries inspector/ Directorate of Aquaculture and Fisheries

Diomande Baba Maxime

Directorate of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Head of FMC

GHANA

Alex Sabah

Head of MCS

Thomas Insaïdoo

Fisheries Commission

LIBERIA

Francis Boimah

NaFAA

Johns Isaac P

NaFAA

NIGERIA

Ime Umoh Sampson

Director, Department of Fisheries

Bola Aduke Kupolati

Deputy Director, Head of MCS

TOGO

Domtani Ali

Director of Fisheries

Kossi Ahoedo

Head of MCS

CRESMAO

Gbeuly Joel Landry

Head of Maritime Affairs Division

Noel Oboumou

Head of Information and Operations Division

UNODC

Ndeye Amy Ba

Programme Assistant, Regional Office for West and Central Africa

EU

Ponsard Erik

Program Manager, EU Delegation

EFCA

Patrick Allen

Desk Manager, Maritime Operations Centre

COMOROS/ IOC-PRSP

Mohamed Ali Mohamed

Head of Operations, National Fisheries Monitoring Centre

MMCC ZONE E

Cmdr Gaya Aliyu

Director (Nigeria Navy)

Col Major Yaye Hamadou

MMCC ZONE F

Cdr Yussif Benning

Director (Ghana Navy)

Lt Joshua Agbenyenu



Seraphin Dedi

Secretary General

Isaac Gatovuu

IT Officer

Kofi Taylor-Hayford

Communications Officer



Sally Frankcom

Communications Officer

Mark Ssemakula

Deputy Coordinator



Duncan Copeland

Executive Director

Jodie Yi Chiao Lee

Analyst

Yann Yvergnaux

Analyst

Viviane Koutob

West Africa Coordinator



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The West Africa Task Force brings together the six member countries of the FCWC – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal fishing and fisheries crime. The Task Force is hosted by the FCWC 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 establishing interagency working groups the West Africa Task Force are working together to end illegal fishing.

For more information go to:

www.fcwc-fish.org

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