

West Africa Task Force

COUNTRY PRESENTATION (GHANA)

Meeting 6

Lome, Togo

5-7 June 2018




West Africa Task Force
Groupe de Travail de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

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



EVOLUTION OF INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE

- The Fisheries Commission is established under the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625). It is placed under the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
- It is legally mandated to manage and regulate the exploitation of the fisheries resources of Ghana
- The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division is charged with the monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement activities in all fisheries waters.
- The Fisheries Act mandates the establishment of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit which comprises staff of the MCSD, Ghana Navy, Marine Police, Attorney General for the purpose of fisheries enforcement



EVOLUTION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625)
- Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1968)
- Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2014 (Act 880)
- Fisheries (Amendment) Regulation, 2015 (L.I. 2217)
- Other legislation related to Shipping, Maritime and Food
- The Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625) is currently under review



EVOLUTION OF AGENCY MANDATES/OPERATIONS

- The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Directorate works directly with the Fisheries Enforcement Unit to undertake fisheries enforcement activities.
- Sea Patrol and Boarding
- Port Inspections
- Beach Combing/Patrols
- Vessel Monitoring System
- Sensitization of Communities



EVOLUTION OF MCS OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

- 64 personnel are working in the Fisheries Enforcement Unit in Tema and Takoradi (marine) and Kpando Torkor (Volta Lake)
- Operational Vehicles include pick-ups and buses
- Boats from the Ghana Navy and Marine Police
- Vessel Monitoring System and Automatic Identification System capabilities in Tema and Takoradi including 24/7 monitoring shared with Ghana Navy, Marine Police, Ghana Air Force and Maritime Authority
- Electronic Monitoring System (utilizing closed-circuit video cameras) under the pilot Tuna Area Beyond National Jurisdiction Project (ABNJ)
- Prosecutions by Police and Attorney General Department



UPDATE ON OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

- West African Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP) – Ghana (2012-2017). Component 2 is aimed at Reducing Illegal Fishing
- Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) (2014-2019) is aimed at rebuilding pelagic stocks
- Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) – Ghana Tuna Project is aimed at improving management, combating illegal fishing, and protecting biodiversity in the tuna sector



Ratification and implementation of the PSMA

- Ghana ratified the PSMA in 2016
- Mandatory for Industrial vessels (foreign and domestic) to request to land
- The Fisheries Commission collaborates with the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and other Government Port Agencies in exercising Port State Controls
- The Fisheries Commission has trained fisheries inspectors for port inspections



OVERVIEW OF MCS ACTIVITIES, OPERATIONS IN RELATION TO WATF

- Sharing of fishing licenses with the WATF
- Sharing of information on suspicious vessel in the sub-region and Ghana's EEZ
- Training of staff
- Technical exchange
- Verification of third party fishing licenses



STATUS OF NATIONAL WORKING GROUP AND AREAS OF COOPERATION

- National Working Group is structured around the Fisheries Enforcement Unit
- Organized meetings to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and collaboration
- Agencies collaborate in sharing information related to fisheries:
 - Fish importation
 - Vessel importation and registration
 - Vessel inspection
 - Fish safety



SUMMARY OF CASES IN RELATION TO WATF

- Liberia notified Ghana about a Ghanaian vessel in its waters. The vessel was not charged because of inadequate evidence.
- Hijacking of Ghanaian registered vessel by armed robbers with 45 Crew including 3 Korean officers, and one observer on board.
- Suspected double registration by two Ghanaian vessels, Lu Rong Yuan Yu 219 and 220



UTILISATION OF INTELLIGENCE FOR MCS ACTIVITIES

- Intel on dual registration of vessels
- Intel of suspicious activities of reefers and trawlers in Ghana's EEZ
- Hijacking of Marine 711 in Ghana waters



BENEFITS OF WATF TO MCS OPERATIONS

- Facilitated knowledge and information sharing
- Facilitated networking at the regional level
- Facilitated networking with international organizations
- Enhanced regional response to IUU issues



ANY OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST / RELEVANCE

- Ongoing implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan
 - Implementation of Closed Seasons for artisanal and industrial fleet
 - Development of Marine Protected Areas
 - Co-management policy framework
- Launch of Study on Bio-degradable Fisheries Aggregation Devices (FADs)
- Fisheries Watch Volunteers assisting in the arrest and prosecution of fishermen



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Opportunities	Challenges
Some level of inter-agency cooperation exists	Inadequate personnel in fisheries education and law enforcement
The West Africa Task Force is operational	Lack of coordination in enforcement of fisheries laws
Existence of Regional Fisheries Bodies and Fisheries Management Organizations	Inadequate funds and logistics

TF 5 COUNTRY PRESENTATION (ADD COUNTRY NAME HERE)

Thank you for your attention



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