

RECAP OF THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE (WATF)

**Task Force Meeting 5
Lomé, Togo
5-7 June 2018**



Ensemble pour
la lutte contre
la pêche illégale

Working together
to stop
illegal fishing

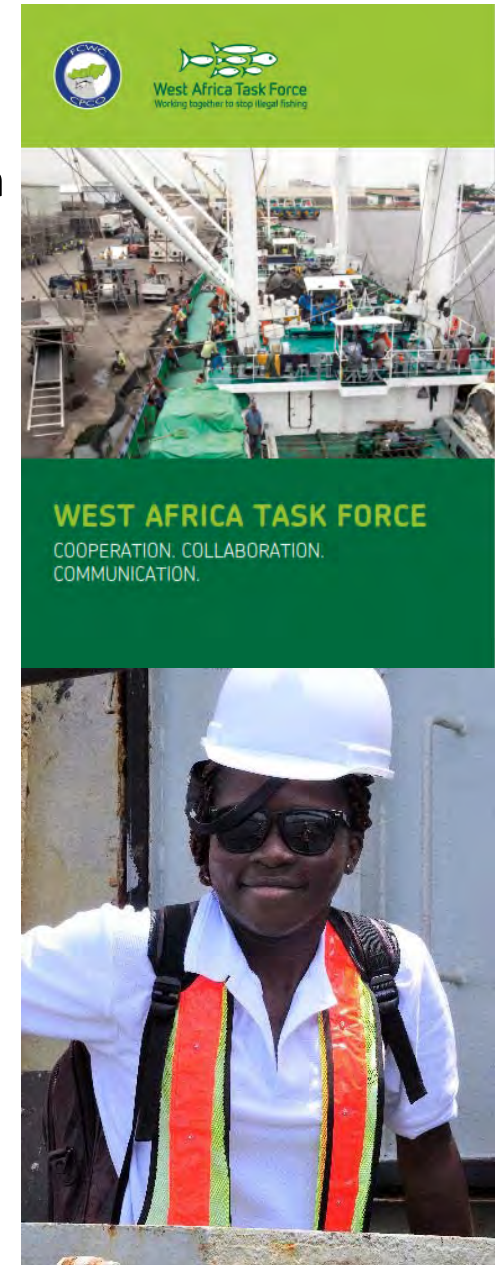




Key Objectives of the WATF

- **Operationalize key FCWC conventions** through the formation and maintenance of a **Task Force** to combat illegal fishing in the FCWC area.
- **Cooperation, Communication, Collaboration**
 - Information exchange
 - Regional cooperation
 - National inter-agency cooperation
- **West Africa Task Force ToRs** agreed at FCWC Ministerial Meeting in December 2015
- **Coordinate all Regional efforts** to address illegal fishing and fisheries crime

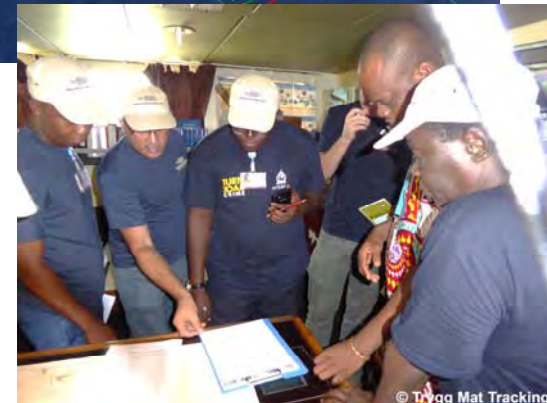
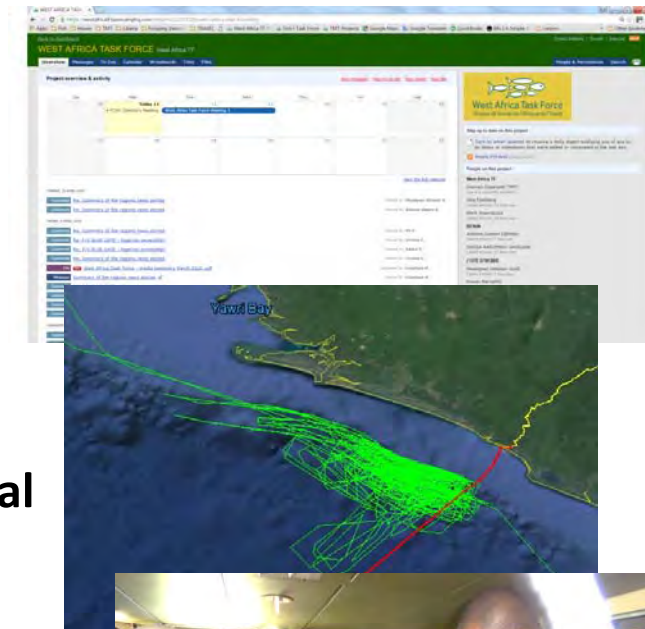
- A **Task Force** of representatives of participating countries
- **National Working Groups** within each country
- A **Technical Team** of experts providing technical, operational, training, comms and legal support
- A **Coordinating Team**
- **Norad**





Key Decisions of the WATF

- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing between the 6 member states of the FCWC through a regional communications platform
- Strengthen cooperation between fisheries agencies at the national level through National Working Groups
- Routine sharing of fishing license lists
- Cooperation and assistance provided on cases of illegal fishing
- Implement IMO numbers for all fishing vessels
- Harmonize procedures and approaches to MCS





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



Operational Actions and Compliance Results

Résultats opérationnels et de conformité

Strengthened due diligence for licensing and flagging – Renforcement de la diligence pour la licence et le pavillon

Vessel inspections, identification of irregularities – Inspections de navires, identification des irrégularités

Refusal to License – Refus de licence

Vessel arrest and fines
Navires arraisonnés et amendes

Investigation into broader fleets, fines and fishing bans
Investigation dans les flotilles en general, amendes et embargo sur les poissons

Identification of reefer control challenges
Identification des défis du controle des reefers

Countries on standby in response to possible arrival of vessels suspected of illegal activity
Pays en attente pour répondre aux possible arrives des navires suspectés de peche illégale

Ongoing investigations – Enquêtes en cours

Deterrent effect and Increased Compliance

STATUS OF OUTCOMES AND REQUESTS TO THE TECHNICAL TEAM

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WATF4 held 25-26 May 2017
in Lagos, Nigeria

WATF 5 held 7-9 November
2017 in Accra, Ghana





OUTCOMES TF4

Implement IMO Numbers on all flagged and licensed fishing vessels with a target date of 31st October 2017

Status: 227 out of 294 vessels licensed in FCWC region (77%) are now carrying IMO numbers

Member State	# Licensed Vessels	# Vessels w/ IMO#	%
Benin	5	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	48	3	6
Ghana	95	88	92
Liberia	0	0	N/A
Nigeria	144	136	94
Togo	2	0	0



Explore opportunities to share additional types of information among the WATF, and across the broader region

Status: still under discussions and the TT is still encouraging WATF countries to do so

Share experiences and lesson learning among the WATF to strengthen and harmonise regional MCS capacity.

Status: Ongoing through exchanges of personnel, to be developed further under Phase II and PESCAO

Extend communication (via the WATF Communications Platform) and cooperation with other sub-regional organisations – SRFC and COREP

Status: Ongoing collaboration between the RFBs at the Secretariat level, case by case only at the operational level. Potential in Phase II to extend observer status to neighbouring States?





Develop formal collaboration/cooperation on building links between fish trade (formal and informal cross-border) and IUU fishing
Status: Update to be provided on Day 2

Focus all other regional and national initiatives and activities in support of MCS through National Working Groups (NWGs)
Status: NWGs meetings recently held in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Benin and Togo.
Update on Day 1

Continue to move towards becoming a party to the PSMA for each FCWC Member State, to apply for available support
Status: Process still ongoing. Ghana and Togo are already Parties.

Explore the opportunity for a regional inspection programme.

Status: To be discussed as part of the PESCAO project on Day 2 of the TF meeting





Utilise the FCWC Member State Regional Legal Review to improve national and regional legal frameworks and harmonisation of laws to combat IUU fishing across the region

Status: ?

Develop a regional FCWC fisheries management plan to address fishing zones and implement/manage closed seasons.

Status: Update on Day 2

Invite ECOWAS to become an observer of the WATF

Status: Done





OUTCOMES TF5

Cooperation within the TF

Further strengthen information sharing on operational inspections and national cases, and provide follow ups on the progress of these to the TF.

Status: Limited

Endeavour to ensure that all cases are handled with due consideration of human rights of crews.

Status: ?

Information Sharing

Finalise the Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information, and formalise at the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.

Status: Completed, and agreed at the 2017 FCWC Conference of Ministers. To be discussed Day 2





Transshipment Strategy

Adopt the FCWC WATF Transshipment Strategy, and formalise at the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.

Status: Completed, and will be discussed on Day 2

Harmonisation

- *Develop minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) for foreign fisheries access in the FCWC region.*

Status: To be incorporated in future project support

- *Develop harmonized forms and procedures for operational inspections in the WATF, including:*
 - inspection manuals for vessels conducting fisheries operations;
 - forms for inspections and reporting; and
 - SOPs to ensure harmonized work-flows and procedures.

Status: To be discussed

- *Develop a harmonised approach to the management of trawlers in the region.*

Status: Regional management plan?

- *Work towards implementation of a seasonal closure of the (trawler) fishery in the FCWC region.*

Status: Regional management plan?





- **NWGs**
- Strengthen NWG operations and cooperation, both through existing mechanisms and developing more formal structures in Member States where this is required.
- Utilise examples of inter-agency cooperation successes that exist to support the processes of NWG strengthening throughout the region.
- Plan annually the national activities and budget of NWGs, to share with the Technical Team and allow for integration into the workplans of national authorities, towards sustainability of the NWGs.

Status: To be discussed on Day 1

Cooperation with other initiatives

- Synchronise capacity building efforts with existing and future projects and institutions to bolster capacity building effort.
- Strengthen cooperation and links with the FISH-i Africa Task Force through activities such as exchange visits between Task Force members to share experiences and expertise, and exchanging information on cases.
- Utilise improved communication with other sub-regional fisheries organisations – SRFC and COREP – to promote information sharing between Member States from those regions.

Status: Ongoing



WATF Requests to the TT

Request	Status
<i>Provide ongoing technical support towards the uptake of IMO numbers by WATF members</i>	Ongoing
<i>Support the finalisation of the Regional Transshipment Strategy in French and English</i>	Completed
<i>Incorporate capacity building and technical support for the implementation of the Regional Transshipment Strategy into Phase Two.</i>	Completed
<i>Support efforts to strengthen sub-regional and regional MCS efforts and information sharing.</i>	Ongoing
<i>Continue to support the development of a Phase Two of Norad support to the WATF.</i>	Ongoing, update on Day 3
<i>Ensure that both English and French have equal prominence in all documents and communications and share project documents in both languages once available.</i>	Ongoing
<i>ECOWAS was encouraged to support the TF model of cooperation, collaboration and communication within the PESCAO project</i>	Ongoing, to be discussed on Day 3
<i>Finalize the Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information and the FCWC Transshipment Strategy in French and English, and circulate ahead of the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.</i>	Completed



WATF Requests to the TT

Request	Status
<i>Assess the feasibility of developing Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTCs) for licensing in the FCWC region, based on the experience from the SWIOFC region, that take into account the WATF priority of strengthening trawler controls in the region.</i>	To be incorporated into Phase II
<i>Implement activities to further strengthen the use of harmonized forms and procedures for operational inspections</i>	To be discussed
<i>Support the development of a regional trawler closed season with relevant information</i>	To be conducted as required
<i>Support the strengthening of NWG operations and cooperation, particularly in the development of formal cooperation mechanisms in Member States that identify this need.</i>	Ongoing
<i>Develop NWG capacity building workplans in cooperation with other relevant initiatives, and implement.</i>	Ongoing, in coordination with PESCOA, others
<i>Facilitate strengthened cooperation between the WATF and FISH-i Africa</i>	Ongoing
<i>Provide technical and communications support towards the 2017 FCWC Ministers Conference.</i>	Ongoing

Thank you

Inspecteur
des pêches


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