



UPDATE FOLLOWING NATIONAL-LEVEL WORKSHOPS ON INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

West Africa Task Force

Meeting 6

Lomé, 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



PART 1: OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Summary of discussions held and milestones reached in each country



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INTER-AGENCY WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

19-20 Apr. 2018
(technical visit)

17-19 Apr 2018
(NWG)

20-21 Feb 2018
(SGI)

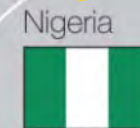
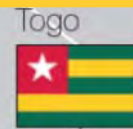
18-23 Mar 2018
(OBANGAME)

14-16 May 2018
(NWG)

17-18 May 2018
(NWG)

9-10 May 2018
(NWG)

11 May 2018
(Nigerian Navy)





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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Côte d'Ivoire National Working Group



17-19 April 2018



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Côte d'Ivoire National Working Group

Key topics/issues discussed

- Status of the formalization process (decree)
- Centralization of fishing-related activity in the “Terminal à pêche” of the Port Autonome (and challenges related to authorized personnel, multiple inspections, etc.)
- Agreement between the Fisheries department and the Navy (lessons learned, planning process, funding mechanism, need for aerial support, etc.)
- Challenges with observation of in-port transshipments
- Port State Measures (PSMA process)
- Common violations (significant decrease in the detection of illegal fishing in inshore exclusion zones)
- Vessels calling to port without prior notice
- Administrative barriers (e.g. inability of Customs officers to board any vessel, inability of Port personnel to share information, etc.)
- Challenges with in port inspections (numerous agencies involved vs. port standards)
- By-catch and how to distinguish between incidental and targeted
- Bunkering hotspot
- Suspicions of dual flagging
- Sharing of license list with Navy
- Ongoing ad-hoc cooperation with Maritime Authority (DGAMP) and with Port Authority (Port Autonome)



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Côte d'Ivoire National Working Group

Key operational considerations

- Create national-level communications platform
- Set up a task force dedicated to increasing the efficiency of port inspections
- Make AIS mandatory for all fishing vessels operating in Côte d'Ivoire waters and facilitate the sharing of AIS information (and license information) between agencies

Key institutional considerations

- Formalize NWG through finalization and adoption of decree
- Reinforce existing cooperation mechanisms through the current review of bilateral agreements
- Finalize multilateral MoU
- Reinforce the capacities of member administrations and their level of understanding of fisheries issues
- Seek financial support from partners, including through FCWC, for the functioning of the NWG



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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Nigeria National Working Group



9-11 May 2018



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Nigeria National Working Group

Key topics/issues discussed

- New act in process: increased cost of penalties
- Activities not conducted due to budget issues (but included in 2018 budget)
- Need for increased monitoring of sensitive areas in cooperation with Navy (inshore exclusion zones, point of entry into “inland” waters, etc.)
- Previous cases (e.g. Star Shrimper XXV)
- Challenges with monitoring of distant water fishing vessels (e.g. Thyworld)
- Current issues with the shrimp trawler fleet (incursions at night in closed areas, fishing gear violations)
- Cost of the proposed VMS system
- Non-fisheries crimes detected in the industry (labor abuse, suspect deaths or missing crewmembers, etc.)
- Previous mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation (back in the 90’s)
- Fish imported into Nigeria by road from Benin
- Supply of illegal fishing gear to trawlers by SSF
- Implementation of the AIS requirement (issue of non-compliant vessels)
- License renewal process
- Mafia-type situation in some coastal areas (piracy, vigilantes, etc.)



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Nigeria National Working Group

Key operational considerations

- Gathering of intelligence from the field (fishing communities, local administrations, etc.)
- Informing patrol planning process with AIS and knowledge on fisheries operations
- Consultation with additional agencies for due diligence checks
- Inclusions of additional illegal activities in the scope of the NWG (illegal bunkering, provision of illegal fishing gear to trawlers from shore, etc.) for reporting to relevant agencies
- Risk assessment for targeted inspections (prioritization of risk vessels for more efficiency)
- Continuous provision of training to other agencies (in particular Navy) by Fisheries Department on fisheries-related issues and regulations
- Inclusion of aerial support in the IA mechanism (in particular for monitoring sensitive areas, or fishing grounds at night)



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Nigeria National Working Group

Key operational considerations (cont.)

- More inclusive and systematic assessment for license renewal (including information on the behavior of operators, working conditions on fishing vessels, AIS compliance over the past license period, illegal bunkering, etc.)
- Improved use of available MDA systems for fisheries enforcement, in particular the Regional Maritime Awareness Capability (RMAC) and Falcon Eye
- Mechanism for Nigerian administrations to remain aware and accountable for the activities of vessels operating abroad under a DWFL (and for related sanctions such as deflagging/deregistration)
- Early warning systems when potential infractions are detected (e.g. Navy able to get radar contact in non-trawling zone when AIS off)
- Feedback system to inform FDF on fishing vessels arrested by Navy and handed over to Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) for prosecution (for action and also for recording offences)
- Mechanism to provide Custom officers, NAQS (Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service) officers at land border posts with information on requirements for fish products (catch certificate, etc.) and container movements, and to take onboard the existing Task Force against smuggling of fish across land borders.



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Nigeria National Working Group

Key institutional considerations

- Legal ability of agencies to sign the MoU
- Recognition of the MoU as a legal instrument in Nigeria law (identification of prerequisites for such document)
- Existing laws, regulations that could undermine the effectiveness of the MoU
- Information protection and confidentiality issues
- Internal rules in member agencies that could be in contradiction with provisions of the MoU
- Ability to use information shared among the group for prosecution purposes
- Clashes with existing mandates



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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Togo National Working Group



14-16 May 2018



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Togo National Working Group

Key topics discussed

- New fisheries law and new Merchant Shipping Code enacted – and related texts under development
- PSMA integration into new laws
- Maritime Domain Awareness systems used by the Navy (radar + AIS through SeaVision) and sharing of data with Ghana and Benin
- Reefer inspections: procedure in place and current needs (sharing of information prior to inspection, import certificates, sharing of inspection reports, etc.)
- Ongoing cases, including YELE/HAI LUNG (inspection by Togo and issue of Beninese operator) and PATRICK (incursions in neighboring EEZs and in Togolese 6 nm-Inshore Exclusion Zone), PANOFI MASTER (AIS gaps, etc.)
- Foreign fishing vessels flagged to Togo (new law not permitting the flagging of foreign fishing vessels, all fishing vessels presumably deregistered since 2010-2012)
- Establishment and operationalization of the Préfecture Maritime since 2014 (including quarterly joint patrols with Fisheries, Customs, etc.)



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Togo National Working Group

Key operational considerations

- Development of a National Plan of Action on IUU fishing by the NWG
- Development of an inspection manual to be used by member agencies concerned
- Planning of joint patrols, including for the execution of controls on a spot-check basis, through the *Préfecture Maritime*
- Improved sharing of prior notifications of arrival for reefers in order to facilitate pre-inspection analysis
- Due diligence checks for flagging procedures
- Systematic sharing of information related to deregistered fishing vessels
- Awareness raising among member agencies on the PSMA and its implications for new filtering/risk assessment procedures upon request to enter port
- Systematic sharing of license and registration information of SSF vessels with agencies responsible for enforcement in the field
- Sharing of information obtained through Maritime Domain Awareness systems used by the Navy



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Togo National Working Group

Key institutional considerations

- Prepare regulations and other related legal texts to allow for the implementation of the new Fisheries Law and the new Merchant Shipping Code
- Ensure continuity of the work within the NWG by securing the participation of existing representatives from member agencies
- Make use of the existing mechanisms under the « action of the State at sea » (*Action de l'Etat en Mer*) as a basis for inter-agency cooperation
- Work towards the recognition of the NWG by the High Council for the Sea (*Haut Conseil pour la Mer*)



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WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Benin National Working Group



17-18 May 2018



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Benin National Working Group

Key topics discussed

- Reefer traffic (transiting reefers and port calls in Cotonou)
- At-sea boarding training with French Navy
- Sensitization of frozen fish importers (regulations in place, requirements and inspections)
- Ongoing cases (PATRICK, PANOFI MASTER)
- New nationally-flagged vessels licensed (locally built TIAN YU fleet and ex-Nigerian, ex-Ghanaian SECONDI)
- MDA systems in use by Navy: RMAC and SeaVision
- Due diligence over vessels recently arrived in Cotonou
- Challenges with monitoring of Ghanaian-flagged distant water fishing fleet in Beninese waters
- Role of the ECOWAS Zone E Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre (MMCC)
- Ongoing operationalization of the *Préfecture Maritime*



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Benin National Working Group

Key operational considerations

- NWG to take part in the current maritime risk assessment process undertaken by the *Préfecture Maritime*
- Create national-level Communications Platform
- Train MMCC personnel to detect suspicious activity by fishing vessels or reefers
- Develop procedures for sharing information on reefers as part of the pre-inspection analysis
- Request regular reports on the activity of fishing vessels in the Beninese EEZ to flag States in order to better understand their operations
- Improve collaboration between fisheries authorities and the Port authority to facilitate the work of fisheries inspectors in the port area
- Build awareness of fisheries regulations and related offenses among Police officers and judges



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Benin National Working Group

Key institutional considerations

- Need for inter-ministerial order to share responsibilities among member agencies and clarify relationship with the *Préfecture Maritime*
- Seek recognition of fisheries-related infractions as criminal matters and their integration into penal law
- Appoint focal persons in each administration taking into consideration the representatives already nominated under the *Préfecture Maritime*
- Use the model MoU as a basis to develop a document that will describe the functional relationships between agencies
- Facilitate request from FCWC to ECOWAS to include fisheries monitoring into the duties of the MMCC Zone E



PART 2: PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

Suggestions for strengthening inter-agency cooperation in Phase 2



PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

to increase inter-agency cooperation

Awareness building and formalization

- Countries are at different stages of the formalization process, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution
- ⇒ **Review texts under preparation and contribute to validation process as needed/where requested**
- Need for the new agreements to be taken to the political level for endorsement
- ⇒ **Engagement of high level officials is a potential area of support in particular in terms of awareness raising**



PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

to increase inter-agency cooperation

Communications and SOPs

- Need for increased sharing of information on local issues and cases, and on regional cases being addressed through the WATF
⇒ **Establishment of national-level communications platforms**
- Operational considerations identified during NWGs as well as key activities or operations requiring sharing of information need to be reflected into work routines
⇒ **Preparation of Standard Operating Procedures for selected activities/operations based on priorities**



PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

to increase inter-agency cooperation

Operationalization through concrete actions

- Need to prioritize MCS routine activities and enforcement operations based on existing plans of action and operational issued identified during NWGs
- ⇒ **Assist in the preparation of an annual operational work plan for the NWG (or other structure already in place)**
- Inter-agency cooperation can be fostered through concrete actions and by concentrating efforts around specific issues that require urgent attention
- ⇒ **“Pilot projects” to serve as a testing ground for collaboration using communication and procedural routines established**



THANK YOU



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la lutte contre
la pêche illégale

Working together
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illegal fishing

