

West Africa Task Force

COUNTRY to COUNTRY LESSON LEARNING

Ghana: Maritime Domain Awareness
Platform Assessment towards strengthening
of inter-agency information sharing




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



ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM

To enforce fisheries regulations, and to ensure that unauthorized activity does not take place, Ghana has installed VMS and AIS on all its fishing vessels.

There is an inter-agency cooperation in the maritime surveillance to maximize the effective use of available tools with the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) being the lead agency for fisheries issues.

The FMC is manned 24 hours a day, by permanent personnel from Fisheries Commission and personnel from the Ghana Navy and the Ghana Marine Police.



ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM

The main system available to the FMC is the VMS, which is provided by the French company CLS and integrated through THEMIS software.

This has been expanded to the Navy through a web based remote access .

The FMC also has access to Exact Earth Shipview, which is the main source of AIS data.

The Navy and the Marine Police have AIS access to Exact Earth Shipview, through the Fisheries Commission .

Further, the FMC has access to Vessel Traffic Management and Information System (VTMIS) monitoring station provided by the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA). It is however limited to AIS information.

There is however, a Radar services upon request to the GMA.



FMC ACTIVITIES

The FMC monitors the various fishing zones, and depth limitations set for trawlers (fishing in depths beyond 30 meters contour).

Incursions of this type have dropped from a very high number of incidents in the past, to limited infractions today.

With the consistent VMS monitoring by the FMC, and regular sensitization of the operators of vessels there had been increased awareness of the operators regarding restriction zone.

Daily calls through the IP phones by GMA for the purpose of system checks have been expanded to sharing of operational information.



FMC ACTIVITIES

The software systems have functionalities that assist users to filter relevant data, based on values in the base sensor data.

VMS or AIS data are filtered based on areas of interest, and by static values transmitted from the vessels such as flag, speed or vessel type etc.

The systems also allow creation of “alerts” based on filter values, whereby notification is generated when vessels or events meet the criteria defined by the user.

Example is the 30 meter depth contour



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ARREST AND PROSECUTIONS OF FISHERIES CASES

Prosecution of fisheries offenders and imposition of various penalties by the courts and Out of Court arbitration.

TF 5 COUNTRY PRESENTATION (ADD
COUNTRY NAME HERE)



UPDATE ON FISHERIES CASES IN 2017

S/ N	ARRESTED VESSEL	OFFENCE	DATE OF ARREST	FINES IMPOSED (GH¢)	FINES STATUS (GH¢)
1	Guo Jin 811 (Naval Patrol)	Fishing without VMS	24-03-17	4,520,000	Not paid
2	Long Xiang 602	Unsupervised Transshipment	23-Mar-17	1,729,400	Not paid
3	Awoyaa 3 (Naval Patrol)	Fishing with doubled net	23-Mar-17	44,250	Fine fully settled
4	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 906	Use of undersized meshes net of 44mm; Discards of about 18 tons (19% of total catch)	01-Apr-17	6,000	Fine fully settled
5	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 920 (Naval Patrol)	Fishing juveniles	20-May-17	Pardoned	Pardoned
6	Meng Xin 13	Doubling of codend net; undersized meshes net 35mm	15-Apr-17	Case in court	PENDING
7	Comforter 2	Discards of about 20 tons (17% of total catch)	03-Apr-17	Police Investigation	PENDING
8	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 908	Discards of about 35.65 tons (25% of total catch)	10-Apr-17	6,000	Fine fully settled

Thank you for your attention



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