



**FCWC**  
Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



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Union

## IMPROVED REGIONAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE PROJECT

### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **FCWC Announces Launch of Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre**

**Tema, Ghana:** April 26, 2021

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Tema, Ghana, announces the launch of its Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (RMCS), a new centre for monitoring fishing and related activities in the Gulf of Guinea.

On 12 May 2021, FCWC Chairperson and current Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries for Benin, M. Gaston Dossouhoui ; and the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Ghana, H.E Diana Acconcia; in the presence of Ghana's Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson, are expected to attend the launch ceremony in-person.

“The establishment of our Regional MCS Centre fulfils a number of long sought-after goals, including: to improve national and regional capacity in fisheries enforcement; greater information-sharing; to reduce costs to Member States; and to increase oversight of vessel activity to addresses global challenges in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and related fisheries crimes. The RMCS's establishment brings us a step closer to having coordinated approaches to joint action, including patrols for better security in the maritime domain of our region.” says Seraphin Dedi, Secretary-General of the FCWC.

The RMCS develops and supports the following activities:

- Vessel monitoring and analysis to support coordinated efforts of fisheries inspection at port and at sea.
- Regional Record of Authorised Fishing Vessels. To maintain an up to date, easy to access list of authorised and IUU listed fishing vessels.
- Regional and joint at-sea patrols, to identify vessels operating illegally, without authorisation, or in contravention of national or regional conservation and management measures.
- Regional Observer Programme. Observers on fishing vessels provide first-hand scientific and compliance information.
- Training and capacity building to support national and regional capacity for MCS.



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The RMCSC has been established under the European Union-funded Improved Regional Fisheries Governance (PESCAO) project to allow Member States to track and monitor fishing activities across the region.

The RMCSC has been operational since April 2020, and is located in the Fisheries Research Institute Building, in Tema, Ghana. For more information on the RMCSC, visit <http://www.bit.ly/FCWCRMSC>.

## Background

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) is an intergovernmental body established in 2007, with a Secretariat hosted in Tema, Ghana. The FCWC facilitates cooperation in fisheries management between its member countries: Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria. The countries have several shared fish stocks and identified a need for cooperation and shared management of these resources.

For further information, please visit [www.fcwc-fish.org](http://www.fcwc-fish.org)

## Information on PESCAO

**The Programme for Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa (PESCAO)** is a five-year, European Union funded initiative, implemented with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. PESCAO has a budget of EUR 15 million and is running from 2018 to 2023. The objective of PESCAO is to enhance the contribution of fisheries resources to sustainable development, food security, and poverty alleviation in West Africa. FCWC Member States are benefiting from the FCWC PESCAO Project - direct support to the FCWC Secretariat from the larger programme - through component two for 'building the capacities of competent national and regional MCS authorities to deter IUU fishing'.

## RMCS and WATF integration

Further support is being provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), ensuring the integration of the RMCSC and the FCWC West Africa Task Force (WATF).

The West Africa Task Force (WATF) established in 2015 under the **Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa** project funded by Norad. The WATF has operationalised key regional and international instruments to combat IUU fishing. It has strengthened regional information-sharing and cooperation between countries; interagency cooperation at the national level; and enforcement actions triggered by intelligence analysis and intelligence-sharing. The WATF has laid the foundation for longer term and sustained regional cooperation and increased fisheries compliance in the region.

For further information on the WATF, please visit <https://fcwc-fish.org/projects/watf>

## PRESS CONTACT:



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