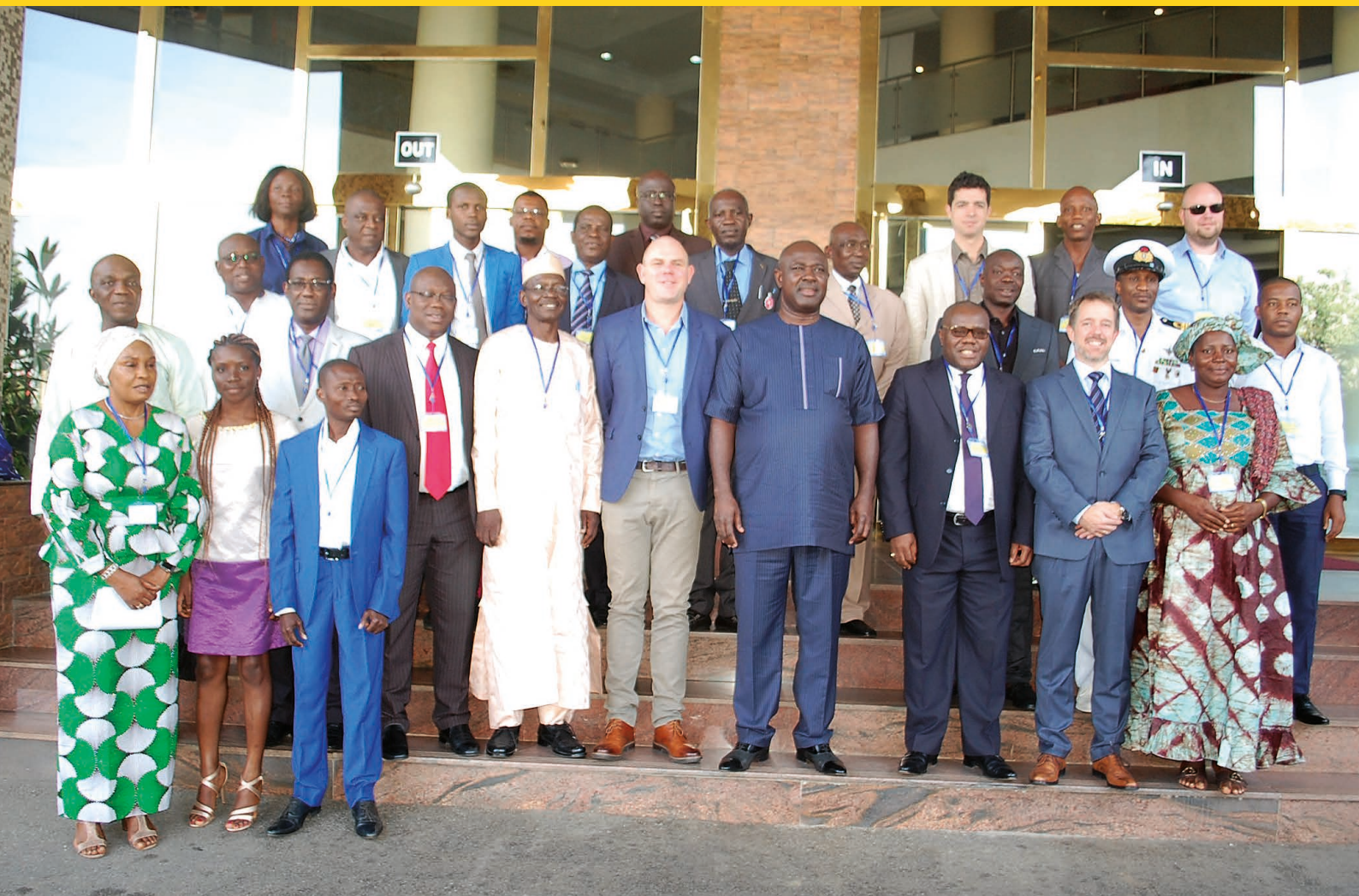




West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing



RECORD OF THE 7TH WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Abuja, Nigeria
12 - 14 November 2018





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1. Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

The FCWC West Africa Task Force (WATF) was formally established in 2015 by the six member States of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) - Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo. Facilitated by the FCWC Secretariat, and supported by a Technical Team (TT) which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), the WATF was initially supported by a Norwegian Development Agency (Norad) funded project entitled, 'Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Support in West Africa'.

The WATF operationalises important fisheries monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement (MCSE) commitments of the FCWC, including the 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone of the FCWC and the 2019-2023 FCWC Regional Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Since its formation, the WATF has helped to: improve regional information sharing on fisheries operations and cases of illegal fishing; increase MCSE cooperation between countries; strengthen interagency cooperation in each Member State through National Working Groups (NWG); and support the sharing of intelligence to spur enforcement actions. The initial

three-year Norad project was provided an extension to September 2018, during which time a second project phase was developed and approved by Norad. Phase 2 will run from 2018 to 2022, with components supporting the WATF to further strengthen regional, national and international cooperation and information sharing to combat illegal fishing. In 2018 the agreement of the EU supported Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa (PESCAO) Project saw the MCS component of this project also integrate support to the operations and activities of the WATF.

One of the key implementing structures of the WATF are the bi-annual TF meetings, bringing together the Directors

of Fisheries and Heads of MCS for each Member State together to facilitate dialogue and share best practise. The first and the second TF Meetings (TF1 and TF2) were held respectively in April 2015 and April 2016 in Accra, Ghana; the third TF Meeting (TF3) in Cotonou, Benin in October 2016; the fourth TF meeting (TF4) was held in Lagos, Nigeria in May 2017, the fifth Task Force meeting (TF5) took place in Accra, Ghana in November 2017 and the sixth TF meeting (TF6) that took place in Lomé, Togo in June 2018. This report is from the seventh TF meeting (TF7) that was held in Abuja, Nigeria from the 12th to 14th November 2018.



The TF7 meeting was attended by representatives of the six FCWC countries, the FCWC Secretariat, and the TT, together with observers representing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), PESCAO, and the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).

1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General (SG), Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadje welcomed participants, and thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting the meeting. The SG noted the importance of the continued cooperation of the WATF, and thanked Norad for their renewed support. This will allow for the continuation of activities from Phase 1, as well as expansion into new areas such as building transparency and tackling corruption in fisheries. Mr Dedi thanked the ECOWAS for their continued cooperation, and the TT for their support to the FCWC and the region.

Mr Duncan Copeland, Executive Director of TMT and member of the TT, congratulated participants for the achievements of the WATF in Phase 1

and for their support in securing a second phase to the project. He reminded participants that the WATF started three years ago with a group of individuals who came together with a will to achieve something for the good of the region's fisheries. After seven TF meetings, the progress has been remarkable, and the initiative has contributed to increased compliance across the region and had a perceptible deterrence effect. He stressed that with four more years of funding, Phase 2 can be a springboard for even greater achievements.

Mr Sven Biermann, Director of FiTI, stressed that transparency and participation are two fundamental pillars of good ocean governance, which has become a key topic in international forums. Unfortunately, most of the information on fisheries and how they are exploited remains out of the public domain. Noting that transparency cannot be the responsibility of governments alone, or the industry alone, he explained that FiTI is a vehicle to gather stakeholders and promote the sharing of information in the public domain.

Stressing that information published by a single actor is often seen as doubtful, he said that transparency should not be considered as an end but a means to make the information, shared in a concerted manner, more credible. He welcomed the WATF focus on transparency in Phase 2, stressing that it is a key driver for reducing IUU fishing, and invited participants to learn from the lessons of Indonesia, Mauritania and Seychelles, the FiTI pilot countries. He also congratulated Nigeria for showing interest in joining the FiTI as a new candidate country and hopes other FCWC countries will follow their lead.

(continued overleaf...)



INFORMATION COVERED UNDER THE FITI STANDARD INCLUDES STATUS OF FISH STOCKS, VESSEL REGISTRIES, ACCESS AGREEMENTS, ROYALTIES PAID TO GOVERNMENTS, ETC.

Speaking on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Bru, Chairman of the Commission of ECoWAS, and the Honourable Sékou Sangaré, Commissioner of the ECoWAS Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Dr Aboubacar Sidibe, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Officer, welcomed the cooperation with the WATF and other partners. He explained that one of the main expected results of the European Union (EU)-funded PESCAO programme is the strengthening of regional cooperation for the implementation of measures against IUU fishing. He said that despite all the efforts the marine fisheries sector in West Africa faces certain challenges that continue to seriously impact the economies and livelihoods of the region. In addition, low transparency, poor levels of participatory management, insufficient regional coordination and the lack of a concerted evaluation framework to measure the real impact of our initiatives, are also having a negative impact.

Dr Sidibe informed the meeting that the strategic vision of the new fisheries and aquaculture policy of ECOWAS is being developed; he called for a better integration of the fight against IUU fishing into maritime security initiatives. Acknowledging the support of the EU and Norad in making regional governance of the sector stronger, he congratulated the TF on the progress made thus far and pledged the support of ECOWAS to the work planned for Phase 2.

The Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, welcomed attendees to Nigeria, applauding the WATF as a unique initiative that has increased transparency in the region through information sharing and cooperation. He noted that due to the lack of infrastructure or capacity to control operations at sea, the Gulf of Guinea has become a “guinea pig” for all sorts of illegal practices. He highlighted the importance of the WATF meeting, as an assembly of experts and partners bringing knowledge and experience to find a way for the FCWC to reduce illegal activities.

He stated that Nigeria has committed to bring about more transparency in its fisheries sector, stressing that the proposed regional vessel monitoring system (VMS) will be a great step towards increased cooperation in the monitoring of fishing operations across the whole region. He noted that the WATF is comprised of the Directors of Fisheries as well as the Heads of MCS of the various FCWC countries; he urged them to continue to provide guidance and leadership in the fight against IUU fishing. Senator Lokpobiri wished participants success with deliberations and officially declared the meeting open.

ONE OF THE MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)-FUNDED PESCAO PROGRAMME IS THE STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES AGAINST IUU FISHING.





2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 National activities

The session was chaired by the FCWC SG. The WATF member countries presented progress in national MCS activities and strengthening inter agency cooperation, including a brief summary of National Working Groups activities for the year 2018, the entry into force of any legal text or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between agencies, main challenges faced and an overview of national cases that involved various agencies.

2.1.1 Benin

Benin has strengthened interagency cooperation and improved information sharing between fisheries officials, the Maritime Police and Naval Forces, resulting in combined patrols and MCS activities as well as the sharing of equipment. A draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the NWG has been sent to the relevant agencies for review, and updated contact points have been requested from the agencies to facilitate further NWG cooperation. Once finalized, activities of the NWG will be included in Benin's fisheries administration's 2019 Annual Work Plan and budget. Benin officials have established a national communication platform for the agencies, and developed procedures for information sharing prior to the inspection of reefers as well as for the monitoring of Beninese flagged vessels.

Specific recent cases discussed included the boarding and inspection of two trawlers operating inside the five nm Inshore Exclusion Zone (IEZ) in September 2018, in response to an alert from the Maritime Prefecture which led to the seizure and sale of illegal fish. The funds from the sale of the fish have been returned to the public treasury and the vessels have been fined. Products have also been seized from 12 small-scale fishing boats arrested for fishing in a prohibited area and for using illegal gear, an operation conducted in cooperation with the Navy. The fish seized was offered to the civil prison of Cotonou and the fine paid to the public treasury.

The Maritime Prefecture is reviewing their fisheries related legal text with the assistance of a commission composed of the Navy, Maritime Police, the Department of Forestry, legal advisors from the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Justice, Customs, the Institute of Fisheries and Oceanographic Research and the Cotonou Port Authority. The mission of the commission is to reflect on existing legal texts in order to harmonize them with the subregion, considering the sub regional, regional and international texts that Benin has adopted.



2.1.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has finalized the MoU for collaboration between national agencies drafted at the NWG meeting held in April 2018. The NWG established a communications platform in June 2018, and members attended a validation workshop for a National Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) in September 2018, where a budget for implementation of the Plan, including all the relevant agencies, was approved. The Fisheries Department are now collaborating with the Director General for Maritime Affairs to facilitate the flagging, and de-flagging, of fishing vessels.

In August authorities participated in 'Operation Junction Rain' in cooperation with the United States (U.S.) Coast Guard and U.S. Navy, which supported capacity building in all relevant agencies. Côte d'Ivoire authorities also took part in the African Naval Exercise for Maritime Operations (NEMO) in November 2018 and carried out IUU fishing and antipollution exercises with fisheries authorities and the Ivoirian Anti-Pollution Centre (CIAPOL) with the support of the French Navy.

Four joint patrols between the Ivoirian Navy and the Fisheries Department will take place before the end of the year, with funding from the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the EU. With the existing cooperation agreement for joint patrols, VMS information can be shared by the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) to the Navy. The FMC also helps the Navy interpret VMS data, so that not only positions are communicated, but also information on the nature of the operations of the fishing vessel of interest. Sharing of VMS data also took place during joint exercises as part of Operation Junction Rain, and led to several arrests at sea. The recent case of the FV BONHEUR was raised to highlight the existing cooperation between agencies. The FMC alerted the Navy and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) as soon as the event took place, as the initial hypothesis was that the vessel had been hijacked by pirates. A joint team was set up to monitor the situation during the night and contact was made with the Monrovia MRCC.

Challenges faced are the ongoing formalisation of the NWG, difficulty ratifying international texts, and difficulty developing a text dealing with the distribution of fines between agencies.



FOUR JOINT PATROLS BETWEEN THE IVOIRIAN NAVY AND THE FISHERIES DIRECTION WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, WITH FUNDING FROM THE FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (FPA) WITH THE EU.



A WORKSHOP WAS HELD FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN JUNE 2018, WITH SUPPORT FROM FAO AND STOP ILLEGAL FISHING, TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PSMA.

2.1.3 Ghana

Ghana's NWG is structured around the FEU (Fisheries Enforcement Unit), through which the Fisheries Commission continues to collaborate with the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and Narcotics Control Board to exercise port State controls. Agencies also cooperate in maritime surveillance, with the FMC being the lead agency for fisheries issues. The FMC is manned 24 hours a day by permanent personnel from the Fisheries Commission and personnel from the Ghana Navy and the Ghana Marine Police. Ghana's legislation does not specifically address interagency coordination, and they face ongoing challenges to establish protocols for information collection, maintenance and dissemination between relevant agencies, and implement the 2009 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on the Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA), due to insufficient laws and regulations.

A workshop was held for all stakeholders in June 2018, with support from FAO and Stop Illegal Fishing, to develop a national strategy and action plan for compliance with the PSMA. Following the workshop, a national interagency cooperation mechanism was established, led by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD), to implement the PSMA, with the initial intention being to develop a new regulation specifically implementing some of the Agreements' obligations. Other initiatives at national level include the Ghana-European Union IUU Working Group meeting held in October 2018, the ongoing review of the legal framework, the review of licence fees, the review of the NPOA to take place in early 2019, and the obtaining of 100% observer coverage of all fishing vessels.

Giving an overview of the recent cases encountered, Ghana described the arrest of the MV LONG TAI 1 for illegally landing tuna outside of Ghana in September 2018, resulting in USD 100,000 fine; the arrest of the MV MENG XIN 29 for landing juvenile fish at port, resulting in an as yet unpaid fine of GHS 500,000; the MV LU RONG YUAN YU 920 arrested and fined USD 10,000 for fishing within the 30m depth zone; and the MV LONG XIAN 601 and MV MENG XIN 2 arrested and fined GHS 60,000 and GHS 126,000 respectively, for dumping of fish at sea.

2.1.4 Liberia

With regards to national activities, Liberia is drafting an MoU for all state actors in the fisheries sector, and a policy document is being developed between the Liberian Maritime Authority (LMA) and Fisheries Authorities. The National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), the recently established State-owned enterprise dealing with fisheries issues that previously were under the Ministry of Agriculture, has begun preparations for the establishment of Collaborative Management Associations (CMAs) in coastal counties across the country. NaFAA has also been involved in implementation of the Maritime Security Strategy project of the Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network (GoGIN). Liberia recently launched an NPOA on sharks and rays, in collaboration with the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF).

There have been regular sea patrols carried out by fisheries in collaboration with the Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of an illegal fishing vessel in the Liberian exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Liberia has limited enforcement capacity and have recently been given a patrol boat by the United Kingdom (UK) government to improve this. An exercise on national crisis response training has been approved for February 2019, involving the Liberian Coast Guard, LMA, NaFAA; the Ministry of Justice, the National Port Authority and other relevant agencies. There is a need to improve awareness on roles and responsibilities of the various authorities and improve response time to requests for interagency collaboration.

Looking at recent cases in Liberia; the FV GUOJI 808 was fined for exiting Liberia's EEZ without authorization, the FV LABIKO2 was fined and had her licence revoked for using incorrect gear, and six semi-industrial fishing vessels were fined for illegal fishing activities.

LIBERIA RECENTLY LAUNCHED AN NPOA ON SHARKS AND RAYS, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION (EJF).



2.1.5 Nigeria

Nigeria's NWG has in 2018 carried out capacity building, planned joint operations, and shared information through the existing national communications platform, all with the intention to strengthen interagency cooperation. The inter-agency MoU is yet to enter into force, and the Department of Fisheries is working to sensitize the agencies' executives and legal departments on the relevance of the MoU for the NWG to have legal recognition. Regular training is organised to sensitize naval officers on fisheries management and MCS issues. Further interagency cooperation at operational level included; collaboration between the Department of Fisheries, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to organise a workshop on the Blue Economy, and meetings between the Department of Fisheries, the Navy and NIMASA on the arrest of Nigerian flagged shrimping vessels in Cameroon, and the activities of the IUU fishing vessel GOOD HOPE. The three shrimping vessels belonging to Banarly and Olokun fishing companies were arrested for fishing in Cameroon waters without authorization and are yet to be released. Discussion on their release is ongoing with the management of the companies, and the Department of Fisheries will conduct investigations on the arrest once the captains, crew and vessels return to Nigeria.

The implementation of mandatory AIS is being monitored by the Department of Fisheries, however many operators do not seem to comply as of today, with many AIS units being turned off regularly. FDF has also assisted NIMASA with the deflagging of four trawlers that have been transferred to Liberia while they were still on the Nigeria registry of vessels.

Nigeria has completed a review of their National Fisheries Policy, which will facilitate the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU). The Sea Fisheries Laws were reviewed to align them with international instruments, and a draft version is available. Nigeria is looking to implement a closed season and a committee comprised of the Fisheries Department, the Research Institute and the Industrial Fishing Association has been established to come up with recommendations. Nigeria is also expecting to procure two dedicated fishery patrol vessels in 2019 and is currently deciding on a VMS service provider.

Ongoing challenges faced include limited funds for strengthening cooperation and improving capacity, and the different locations of the MCS office and the Administrative office of the Department of Fisheries, located in Lagos and Abuja respectively.

NIGERIA HAS COMPLETED A REVIEW OF THEIR NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY, WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE IUU FISHING (RPOA-IUU).



2.1.6 Togo

Togolese authorities are developing the implementing legislation for the new Fisheries Act and the Merchant Marine Code and have produced; the Decree defining the conditions of delegation of power for observation and inspection on board Togolese vessels, the Decree defining the rules applicable to the chartering of foreign fishing vessels, and the Decree on the organization and operation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund. Togo intends to develop an NPOA-IUU, but this could not happen in 2018 due to budget constraints. The draft inter-ministerial Decree formalising the NWG has been developed and is awaiting signature, and the NWG is working to be recognised by the High Council for the Sea.

Since TF6 fisheries authorities and relevant agencies in Togo have been improving their capacity to manage their fisheries resources. Members of Togo's NWG participated in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) workshop on harmonisation of fisheries policy and legislation held in September 2018. MCS trainers took part in a PESCAO-supported capacity building workshop in October 2018, and fisheries authorities participated in training on fisheries crime organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Container Control Program. NWG members participated in three joint patrols organized by the Préfecture Maritime, including the OBANGAME EXPRESS and NEMO exercises. Togolese authorities shared reefer arrival notifications for pre-inspection analysis and shared the inspection reports on the national communications platform. They continue to share vessel lists for small scale fisheries vessels, as well as exchange MCS information.

The challenges faced in Togo include financial constraints and limited logistical capacity to implement MCS measures.



DISCUSSION:

It was noted that the country presentations highlighted new challenges for fisheries authorities, showing operators are breaking other aspects of the fisheries law as the ability to enforce the most common offences improves. Participants were encouraged to share information on national level cases through the communications platform in order to improve the knowledge and understanding of all members.

Togo requested support from PESCAO to develop an NPOA-IUU.

In response to a further request for support to develop a harmonised fisheries inspection manual, the TT stated that there is an intention to expand the WATF Toolbox to include an inspection manual, in cooperation with PESCAO, noting that ideally in the future the region will have a harmonised inspection regime. The TT also informed of plans to better coordinate with the UNODC and its work in the region, particularly on the Container Control Program.

WATF members were encouraged to make use of available information and perform due diligence before flagging vessels. They were reminded of the need to always make sure a vessel has been effectively deflagged, by requesting a deregistration certificate, before a new flag is granted. Countries were cautioned on the complexity of acquiring and managing patrol vessels and advised to carry out a cost-benefit analysis prior to procurement, with realistic timelines in mind.

The case of the FV BONHEUR raised issues pertaining to the use of VMS and highlights the strengths and limitations of those systems. The issue of maritime borders is likely to come up more as countries establish their VMS, and it was recommended that buffer zones be established where no fishing takes place, especially in cases of disputes. The delimitation of maritime borders will need to be addressed when setting up the regional VMS.

Benin was asked to share more information with the TF on the trawlers arrested in their waters.

Participants were encouraged to share lessons learned from their participation in the INTERPOL's 7th Meeting of the Fisheries Crime Working Group held in Denmark in October.



2.2 Review of the Phase 1 achievements, and overview of Phase 2

Mr Copeland gave a recap of Phase 1 of the WATF and presented a summary of the upcoming Phase 2. Describing the status of issues relating to MCS and IUU fishing prior to the establishment of the TF, he showed how the work of the WATF has had a positive impact on the region's ability to combat IUU fishing.

He explained that the basis for the establishment of the WATF was a ministerial decision to establish an MCS working group, as well as the FCWC Conventions, particularly the Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Fisheries Information and Data, and the Convention on Minimum Requirements for Access to the Fishery Resources. He highlighted the achievements, challenges and lessons learned from Phase 1 of the initiative.

Phase 1 resulted in strengthened legal frameworks, improved relationships and cooperation between agencies nationally and at regional level, the establishment of trained and equipped port inspection teams in all countries, increased numbers and quality of port inspections, improved sharing of information and MCS cooperation, and information sharing with other initiatives, regional bodies and countries, resulting in improved cooperation and concrete enforcement actions.

Lessons learned from Phase 1 include the need for regular communication and rapid information sharing, the importance of political support, and the need for access to and dialogue with trusted expertise. Limited human capacity and resources within MCS agencies, rotation of staff, varying levels of MCS capacity amongst TF countries, slow engagement by TF on potential cases, the complexity of the cases encountered, lack of familiarity with legal frameworks, language barriers and occasional political interference were amongst the challenges identified.

Phase 2 was approved in October 2018 under the Norad's 'Fish for Development' programme and will be rolled out in close collaboration with other initiatives focusing on MCS in the region. The new phase runs for four years from the fourth quarter of 2018 to September 2022. Phase 2 has three components, national, regional and international. It will coordinate with national and regional projects and initiatives including; PESCAO, support to the implementation of the PSMA, and regional training provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The three anticipated overarching outcomes of Phase 2 are that:

1. WATF members actively cooperate and effectively act to reduce illegal fishing and fisheries crime in the region.
2. National agencies actively cooperate and enforce fisheries and related laws.
3. Task Force outcomes inform and shape international processes to end illegal fishing and fisheries crimes.

TF Members were in favour of moving ahead with Phase 2 as described.



FURTHER, THE TT WILL BE BOLSTERED IN THE PHASE 2 TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT, REMOTELY OR IN PERSON, AND TF MEMBERS WERE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE USE OF THIS.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire thanked the TT for their support in Phase 1, particularly in building national capacity, stating that their confidence in the work being done has increased exponentially. They encouraged countries to improve information exchange and follow through with cases.

Responding to a remark by Côte d'Ivoire that the countries still require assistance to express their support request, the FCWC Secretariat reminded participants that the PESCO MCS Technical Assistant will work with national agencies to help them formulate their needs and ensure that NWGs play their liaison role between the national and regional levels.

Liberia noted the need to consider capacity training at national level in MCS centres and focus on successful prosecutions of IUU fishing cases in the next Phase.

Nigeria thanked Norad and the TT for their efforts and support, noting the benefits the region has gained from the initiative.

The TT clarified that support is available technically to implement the activities of the NWG, but these activities will be initiated and led by States. Further, the TT will be bolstered in the Phase 2 to provide more effective support, remotely or in person, and TF Members were encouraged to make use of this. The TT is looking forward to strengthening national and regional capacities and working together for another four years. The TT reminded the TF that the focus is on industrial fisheries, and that national level small-scale fisheries surveillance initiatives should be integrated in MCS systems.

It was further explained to participants that all requests and recommendations from previous TF meetings were reviewed and used as inputs to the Phase 2 proposal.

Although one of the three components focus on national-level support, countries were reminded that they are expected to keep their NWG active and to make budget provisions for meetings. The TF will support technical processes and capacity training at national level, and project support will be planned and budgeted for as clear requests emanate from active NWGs.

FCWC explained that a big emphasis will be put all along Phase 2 on building the ownership of the TF, with the FCWC Secretariat and TF members taking an increasing role in running the different implementing structures.

It is also expected that in Phase 2 collaboration with neighbouring countries Cameroon and Sierra Leone will be initiated through their respective regional fisheries bodies.

2.3 Overview of cases and information exchange

Mr Yann Yvergniaux, TMT Analyst, gave a presentation on cases currently being followed-up with by the WATF. The presentation included the case of an IUU-listed vessel that has been tracked across the region for more than two years. Recent port calls and inspections by FCWC Member States were discussed as well as the current operations of the vessel. The case of trawlers which exhibited discrepancies in information submitted to Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire as part of their licence application was also discussed. Cross-referencing of vessel documents was recommended in order to determine if the vessels have been operating under two different registrations simultaneously.

Mr Yvergniaux went on to highlight examples of the information exchanged between TF members since TF6, including vessel identity information, information on vessel tracking and examples of compliance checks, and discussed the requests made for due diligence support and analysis of AIS data performed for Côte d'Ivoire (rendezvous at sea) and Nigeria (implementation of mandatory AIS on fishing vessels).

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC reminded the TF of the importance of sharing licence lists, stressing that identifying discrepancies in vessel identity is one of the many possibilities that combining vessel information from the region offers. In addition to licences, monitoring vessels entering and leaving the region's registries is key, and that's one of the objectives of the future regional registry of fishing vessels.

RECENT PORT CALLS AND INSPECTIONS BY FCWC MEMBER STATES WERE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS THE CURRENT OPERATIONS OF THE VESSEL.



2.4 Discussion on outcomes and requests from TF6 and related progress

Ms Viviane Koutob presented the outcomes and requests from the sixth Task Force meeting and provided an update on related activities and progress.

Since TF6 there has been continued country-level needs assessment, and progress towards the formalisation of NWGs. Support has been provided for due diligence in the form of pre-inspection intelligence amongst other things, and TF countries have participated in regional training. There has been increased cooperation between coastal States as well as between regional fisheries bodies, and TF activities have been harmonized with the activities of PESCAO where relevant.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat stated that collaboration with Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa (CREMAO) has been initiated following TF6, but this needs to grow to better integrate fisheries control within maritime security missions and duties; a MoU is under discussion to formalize the collaboration. Fisheries administrations in Member States were encouraged to develop relationships with the existing operational centres, so that maritime surveillance systems and other tools they host can be better exploited. The reduced sharing of licence information in 2018 was noted with concern.

Benin stressed that reefer inspection remains a challenge and they raised a case where the Master of the vessel outrightly refused to submit to a fisheries inspection on the grounds that he had already been inspected by sanitary services. They requested support from the TT in order to be better prepared and know what to do in similar circumstances. Benin also requested that the Technical Team spends time in all countries to go through the support to be provided under the two MCS projects (Norad and EU).

It was suggested that Benin find a way to carry out inspections in close collaboration with different services, something that falls within the mission of the NWG. It was also suggested they conduct an exchange visit with Togo, who has more experience in terms of reefer inspections.

Côte d'Ivoire reassured the meeting that they will continue to share information, and that delays are due to procedural reasons. Côte d'Ivoire will ensure that a verified list is provided to the region regularly. Regarding the uptake of International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers, some vessels do not meet the criteria to apply for an IMO number, but the expanded fleet of 20 new seiners can



request an IMO number. Côte d'Ivoire has developed a national strategy for State action at sea and has established a "Préfecture Maritime" to coordinate operations. They expressed confusion regarding the establishment of a regional VMS under PESCAO, noting that when the project was under preparation there was no national VMS in any of the FCWC Members States, and there are now three functional systems (four with Nigeria under development). They requested support in order to better understand costs and benefits. Côte d'Ivoire explained that they were fully committed to implementing the Yaoundé Process and cooperating with CREMAO.

The newly appointed Fisheries MCS Director of Ghana introduced himself and said he was committed to work with the FCWC Secretariat. He explained the organizational reshuffle that has taken place in Ghana, which also explains delays experienced by the FCWC in getting responses, including licence information. Participants were also reminded that Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu (the former head of MCS of Ghana) is now based at the port of Takoradi where he is still able to cooperate with the TF.

Liberia requires assistance in the use of VMS and satellite imagery, and in terms of capacity building for the newly recruited staff at the FMC. It was suggested that Liberia should formally establish their NWG as a starting point.

Nigeria requested technical assistance setting up and using VMS. They were congratulated for reaching an uptake of 250 vessels carrying an IMO number.

Togo has been unable to get a list of all fishing vessels deregistered since the Government's decision to deregister vessels, as the Maritime Authority's partner International Registration Bureau (IRB), the company that runs Togo's open registry from Greece, has not yet provided the list.

2.5 Integration of Phase 1 lessons learned into Phase 2 activities

Mr Copeland noted the valuable aspects of the WATF, including; the provision of access to information about fishing vessels and licences, regional cooperation resulting in timely communications and MCS actions, advice provided to support decision making in respect to cases, capacity building, strengthening of national interagency cooperation and increased awareness about IUU fishing. The successes and progress achieved in Phase 1 required significant resource, sometimes beyond the scope of Norad funding.

Further lessons from Phase 1 showed that:

- regular communication facilitated rapid information sharing and encouraged more reticent members;
- communications materials and sharing of information led to increased engagement and interest;
- vessels moving, and trading internationally require those fighting illegal fishing to cooperate and share information beyond their sub-regions;
- MCS capacity varies significantly between countries, requiring harmonisation;
- high levels of complexity in cases with extensive communications needs has been the norm, demanding that integrated intelligence and information is gathered and analysed, requiring considerable time and resources;

- lack of national confidence in legal frameworks has presented challenges for interpretation and decision-making in some cases;
- lack of unique vessel identification numbers on some industrial vessels has created challenges;
- sanctions have focussed on fisheries violations only, and other fisheries crimes are not investigated and prosecuted;
- language barriers are significant in West Africa;
- there is occasional political interference in cases of illegal fishing;
- coordination and cooperation with other initiatives is required; and
- there is international interest in the WATF, both in terms of cooperation with the initiative and member countries, but also in the adaptation of the approach in other regions.

Phase 2 of Norad support will continue the provision of technical and analytical support to the FCWC countries and build on the regional cooperation established between the countries, the cooperation between the WATF and relevant port, flag, and market States, and with regional and international organisations. The intention of Phase 2 will be to expand communications focussed on both regional and international audiences, strengthen and expand the technical support, expand capacity building and analytical support activities, build on Phase 1 activities to promote WATF members to require IMO numbers for flagged and licensed fishing vessels, promote NWG cooperation, and raise awareness of the issues in cooperation with WATF members.

THE SUCCESSES AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN PHASE 1 REQUIRED SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE, SOMETIMES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF FUNDING.



2.6 Regional communication strategy

Kofi Taylor-Hayford, FCWC Communications Officer, presented the Regional Communications Strategy. Development of the Strategy was approved at the 2017 Minister's Meeting and will provide an opportunity to increase awareness of fisheries issues and challenges, develop consistent regional messaging to strengthen knowledge and visibility of issues, and develop common standards for shared information. Effective communication increases transparency, which is important to gain confidence from the fishing industry and international community.

Mr Taylor-Hayford outlined the objectives of the strategy, which are; to provide information to influence decision makers, to engage and mobilise coordinated participation, to share information nationally, regionally and internationally, and to raise the profile of the work being done by the WATF and in the region. The priority areas for implementation of the Strategy include a new FCWC website, improved social media engagement, production of publications, and improved use of the press. The FCWC website is at the centre of communication for this initiative and for fisheries in the region and needs to be improved, updated and streamlined to become a more effective tool and improve access to information by the public.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire praised the FCWC Secretariat for its communications efforts. It was suggested that implementation of the Regional Communications Strategy should also address the need for increased ownership of the FCWC as an organisation by its members, in particular by stimulating the interest of participating agencies in ongoing initiatives.

The FCWC Secretariat reminded the TF that their attendance at WATF meetings and other engagements makes them a communication liaison between the WATF and national administrations. Noting the need for engagement by decision makers, the FCWC Secretariat was encouraged to cooperate closely with administrations and ensure that communication flows both ways. The Secretariat advised the TF to share information and successes with the TT and particularly the Communications Team, for awareness, lesson learning and wider dissemination. They further urged members to align their websites and communications with the FCWC website, as some members have already done. The FCWC Secretariat commended the efforts of SIF in supporting communication for the WATF and encouraged members to make use of their expertise.

The representative from FiTI highlighted the need to link activities, challenges and successes to global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to make regional efforts internationally applicable.



2.7 Regional strategy to combat illegal transshipment at sea

Transshipment is a challenge to sustainable fisheries as it allows for whitewashing of fish, making illegal fish appear legal and allowing illegal operators to maximise profit. This happens frequently in West Africa and beyond taking revenue away from coastal States, yet there is little information available on it. The largest volume of unauthorised transshipment at sea occurs between fishing vessels and reefers, but it also occurs between fishing vessels, allowing laundering, and from small scale fishing vessels to canoes. Transshipment at-sea is principally illegal within the FCWC region.

Per Erik Bergh and Duncan Copeland presented an update on the Regional Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment at Sea, which was approved at the 10th FCWC Conference of Ministers in 2017. The Strategy lays the foundation to establish a framework for an action plan, giving priority to actions that can be taken collectively across the region. At TF6 the TF requested that an action plan be developed identifying practical national and regional actions to implement the Strategy. The Strategy identifies 10 strategic areas, and it was proposed to develop the action plan around the four identified action areas:

- Establish and implement legal and operational standards for fisheries transshipments within the FCWC area of competence.
- Validate and share information on fishing vessels and reefers that engage in transshipment within the FCWC area of competence.
- Monitor and inspect transshipments taking place within the FCWC area of competence.
- Conduct evidence-based research and reporting to increase knowledge and awareness of transshipment.

The TF were asked to provide input on the proposed action areas, identifying the actions, assigning responsibilities and proposing timelines for action and delivery.

DISCUSSION:

The TT stated that investigations in the Western Indian Ocean have revealed links between transshipments and a number of crimes. In Kenya, for instance, a common feature was heroin being transhipped and trafficked, and this has created addicts in the communities involved. Although this is outside the jurisdiction of fisheries, and highly complicated, it highlights the need for cooperation and further investigation to identify the drivers of these operations.

Benin stated that surveillance of transshipment is difficult, and the navy is unable to effectively detect transshipment due to the range of their equipment. They encouraged the FCWC to ensure the MGS Centre has adequate equipment.

Nigeria noted the role played by small-scale fisheries in transshipment and proposed that the issue be flagged at the FCWC Ministers Conference, giving priority to the registration and monitoring of small-scale vessels.

FCWC noted the need to facilitate cooperation between all port actors, including vessel agents, when putting in place new procedures. However, this will require political will to impose those standards, hence the need to sensitize decision makers on the scale of the problem as a first step.

The TF agreed that the four action areas proposed form the framework for activities in Phase 2. It was requested that activities and the overarching action plan be developed through country visits, where national requirements will be determined.

TRANSHIPMENT IS A CHALLENGE TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AS IT ALLOWS FOR WHITEWASHING OF FISH, MAKING ILLEGAL FISH APPEAR LEGAL AND ALLOWING ILLEGAL OPERATORS TO MAXIMISE PROFIT.

2.8 Anti-corruption measures in the FCWC region

Mr Bergh gave a presentation on corruption in fisheries. Corruption has a significant impact on IUU fishing and associated crimes. Almost every single IUU case investigated has elements of corruption. Corruption is prolific, and the opportunity for corruption increases if more agencies are involved, however this also provides options for transparency.

Fisheries corruption can involve instances of 'petty' and 'grand' corruption within both government and private sector, including; nepotism, bribery, conflict of interest, organised criminal behaviour and active political interference. Corruption takes place against a backdrop of decreasing fish stocks worldwide and high demand for seafood products. Vulnerabilities to corruption occur throughout the whole value chain. There is no 'silver bullet' to tackle corruption in fisheries. Policing and enforcement are extremely challenging and are not able to deal with the problem. Fraud and corruption in the fishery sector are hard to detect and even harder to investigate, and a lack of interagency cooperation can hamper progress. The various corruption points in fisheries include:

- during negotiations of access agreements;
- during negotiations of catch limits;
- when licensing fishing vessels;
- when registering fishing vessels;
- during transshipment;
- during port operations and landings; and
- during MCS operations and when non-compliance is detected.



To reduce corruption, fisheries managers need to increase transparency, make licence lists, registration records and VMS information public, strengthen the fisheries legal framework, create awareness, and cooperate with anti-corruption commissions.

DISCUSSION:

TF members participated in break-out sessions to discuss reducing corruption at national and regional levels. They were asked to describe the types of corruption they see or experience in the conduct of their duties, to identify risk factors and to suggest ways to reduce corrupt practices. They agreed that corruption is a serious problem in the fisheries sector, with the greatest risk of corruption in MCS thought to be at the level of the authorities in charge of detecting and investigating offences and conducting prosecutions. The most common forms of corruption experienced are the exchange of cash or favours against services, blackmail and nepotism. They agreed on the need to address corruption, through promoting transparency, which should be considered as a facilitating factor for anti-corruption measures. Tools to promote transparency should be developed for FCWC countries to use.

Back in plenary, rapporteurs provided an overview of group discussions, and solutions identified included; motivation of inspectors and observers including through financial incentives; adapted legal framework; procedures that allow for oversight and ensuring that decisions are not taken by individuals in isolation.

MCS operations prone to corruption were discussed, including observer programmes where the observers onboard are paid by captains to turn a blind eye to illegal fishing operations, or at sea inspections of industrial vessels that are known for carrying large amounts of cash money. It was suggested that electronic monitoring systems and the use of new technology be implemented, to limit human interaction, such as the use of cameras onboard vessels currently being trialled in Ghana. Nigeria stressed the need to improve capacity and empower institutions to be able to monitor and understand the maritime domain and ensure instant information sharing.

The FCWC Secretariat stated the need for national commitment to fight corruption and committed to research and access new technologies where possible.

2.9 Fisheries transparency in the FCWC region

Mr Biermann clarified what FiTI is and outlined what countries need to do in order to become official FiTI countries. FiTI is a transparency initiative focusing on coastal countries' marine jurisdictional waters and marine fisheries resources. It demands that credible information on both large and small-scale fisheries be shared in the public domain in order to manage fisheries sustainably.

Regarding the information that governments should publish, the FiTI standard comprises of 12 transparency requirements. Countries do not need to have complete data for every transparency requirement from the beginning. Public authorities must disclose the information they have, and where important gaps exist, demonstrating improvements over time. Countries must answer four questions:

1. Is information available at all?
2. Is information provided in the public domain?
3. Is information in the public domain accessible?
4. Is information in the public domain complete?

The expected benefits of the FiTI for implementing countries include meaningful participation in fisheries decision-making, trust among key stakeholders, improved cooperation in trade and regional fisheries management, support in the fight against IUU fishing and corruption, and an enhanced investment climate.

In the region, Senegal and Nigeria have expressed intent to become FiTI compliant. In order to become an official FiTI country, States need to complete six sign-up steps and submit a FiTI candidate application to the International Board. The Candidates then publish their first FiTI Reports and undergo validation to become compliant. Four countries are at this stage, Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania and the Seychelles. Countries then publish Reports annually and undergo regular validations to remain FiTI compliant. None of the FCWC countries have completed any of the six sign-up steps.

TF Members were asked to discuss opportunities for implementing FiTI in the region and propose recommendations for FCWC's Conference of Ministers.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to questions, it was clarified that FiTI is not a non-governmental organisation (NGO) or a business. It began with an idea to improve the governance in fisheries by improving transparency, with the realisation that this must be multi-stakeholder. FiTI has an international board with six people from government, six people from business (three small scale and three industrial) and six people from civil society. FiTI is currently an initiative, but it is planning to become a legal entity, with the same character. The entity will be moving to the Seychelles in 2019, the first time that the international headquarters of a transparency initiative is based in the South.

Elaborating on what support countries need to implement FiTI, it was clarified that countries do not require external support to complete the initial six FiTI sign-up steps that precede the submission of the FiTI Candidate application. Nor is it required for countries to report their status with regards to the 12 transparency requirements. However, it should be noted that donors are eager to support countries that show they are willing to be transparent.

There are financial implications to FiTI, representatives need to be supported to attend meetings, and other administrative costs. However, they are not significant. The FiTI Board recently decided on an annual country contribution fee. For low income countries, annual contribution is USD 10,000 and up to USD 50,000 for more developed countries, effective from January 2019.

Ghana stressed that joining the FiTI could be an interesting process for countries in the FCWC region willing to keep exporting fish products to stricter markets. In the region, lessons can be drawn from the participation of Liberia in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The possibility of using the FCWC as a regional support hub for the FiTI could be explored.

2.10 Maritime security and fisheries enforcement in the FCWC region

2.10.1 Introduction to maritime security focus areas

Mr. Fjellberg, defined maritime security as the protection from threats to the freedom or good order at sea. Piracy in Southeast Asia, off the coast of Somalia and in West Africa has triggered recognition for the detrimental effects of maritime insecurities for economic development, human security as well as the environment – especially in a context where 80% of the global population now live on or near the coasts. Issues clustered under the notion of maritime security include crimes such as piracy, armed robbery at sea, trafficking of people and illicit goods, pollution and illegal fishing.

Fisheries activities represent a significant part of the total vessel movements in the maritime domain. Understanding fisheries activities and operations, is a key component of achieving good maritime domain awareness (MDA) and control, a natural prerequisite for strengthening maritime security. Maritime security strategies have historically prioritized trade, human trafficking, smuggling, and piracy, with focus on fisheries activities only recently being recognized. Maritime security issues link with each other and solutions require specialized agencies with capacity to work on their own domain issues, with strong interagency cooperation and information-sharing structures. These need to focus on:

- An integrated issue approach, addressing the challenges and how they link
- Guiding strategies and policies
- Sharing knowledge and domain competencies
- Strong links and communication channels at the regional and international level

FISHERIES ACTIVITIES REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE TOTAL VESSEL MOVEMENTS IN THE MARITIME DOMAIN.

2.10.2 The links between maritime security and fisheries activities

Mr Bergh described that approaches to maritime security have to a large extent been driven by developed States willing to protect their interests. However the 'old school' thinking has resulted in losses for coastal States – with many navies in the global South becoming moribund or being hampered by fuel and budget issues. There is now a new thinking that maritime security must be a collective consideration of the coastal States, not only based on military infrastructures and with increased linkages with maritime sectors of the economy such as fisheries.

Mr Bergh explained that the increase in maritime insecurity changed the thinking on maritime security from national security to include the regional security as well as the marine environment. The marine environment now includes a third domain, the 'blue economy'. The African Unions (AU's) 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy has the blue economy at its centre. Marine security is important as 90% of global trade travels by sea.



2.10.3 ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy

Mr Dedi, on behalf Dr Abdourahmane Dieng (Col Rtd), presented the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS). At TF6 in June 2018, Col. Konan Boniface the Director of the CRESMAO discussed the EIMS. The mandate of the Strategy is to create a holistic policy framework to guide future action plans on maritime safety and security in the region. It comprises of five strategic pillars:

1. Strengthen maritime governance
2. Maritime security and safety
3. Maritime environmental management
4. Optimise ECOWAS maritime economy
5. Promote maritime awareness and research

The EIMS lists the priority to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing as:

- Working with neighbouring States and relevant regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) to impose stringent regulations on fishing activities;
- Encourage member States to sign and ratify all the existing regional and international treaties dealing with fisheries and the preservation of natural resources;
- Encourage member States authorizing fishing and fishing support vessels to fly their flags to exercise effective control over those vessels in accordance with international law;
- Encourage member States to use ECOWAS bodies and RFMOs in sharing names of licensed industrial fishing vessels operating in EEZs and warnings of fines issued for IUU fishing.

Amongst the challenges faced in implementing the Strategy are the need for the administrative agreements to be signed, and the lack of funding sustainability for the Centres. The ECOWAS maritime security architecture aims to realize a safe, secured and well governed West African maritime domain.

Mr Dedi opened the discussion and asked participants to identify ways to integrate WATF activities with the ECOWAS maritime security and safety framework, stressing that initiatives in support to fisheries MCS such as PESCAO Component 2 and Norad projects are offering opportunities to synergise.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire stated that the strategy complements initiatives already in place, and there is a need to cooperate with the military and ensure actions are coordinated. Like in most francophone countries in the region, they have an agreement between the fisheries department and the military to cooperate with respect to maritime security through the Préfecture Maritime. It was noted that, through CRESMAO, national level cooperation could be enhanced between fisheries and the military authorities. Togo however stressed that despite the Préfectures Maritimes being in place, lack of resources to conduct joint operations remain a challenge.

Nigeria highlighted the recent security issues in their waters, noting that the Navy was doing all it could to put an end to hijackings at sea. Their investigations concluded that there might be a lot of insider involvement, suggesting that in some of the cases, individuals on board the vessels were aiding the attackers, which could explain the relative ease with which the vessels were boarded, and passengers kidnapped. Nigeria has maritime security infrastructure in place that provides good coverage, but need support to improve the legal framework, specifically increasing fines on vessels that turn off their AIS. Although cooperation, between fisheries and the Navy is encouraged there can be difficulties when civilians are deployed on naval vessels as their operations cover issues outside of fisheries and can be at sea for long periods. However, whenever dealing with a cluster of fishing vessels, a naval vessel is deployed to that area with fisheries officials on board.

The FCWC noted that Governments are already taking steps and stated there is a need for them to ensure that fisheries are brought forward in these ongoing initiatives. The FCWC's role, in particular through the WATF, is to get administrations closer to each other and ensure that military and civilian agencies cooperate. This cooperation could then mobilize joint operations and actions, with collaboration between fisheries and maritime authorities.

2.11 Operational MCS cooperation in the FCWC region

2.11.1 Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre, Responsibility and legal framework

Mr Mamadou Ball from PESCAO presented on progress in developing a Regional MCS Centre. The proposed Centre will be the first of kind in the region, equipped with a regional system combining VMS and AIS, receiving and processing data on behalf of member States. For the Centre to operate effectively, the Member States should:

- Install transponders for their national fishing vessels (shipowners will bear the cost of units onboard foreign vessels).
- Amend or enact new laws or regulations to align with the RPOA-IUU and facilitate the activities of the Centre.

A draft legal framework for setting up and operating the regional VMS was provided to FCWC in July during the PESCAO launch, for countries' consideration. Once operational, the Regional MCS Centre will coordinate all future joint fisheries surveillance operations in FCWC Member State waters.

DISCUSSION:

Benin raised concerns regarding security of data and how it will be shared. They further requested support to install VMS transponders on vessels.

The MCS Technical Assistant responded that data shared with the VMS centre will be confidential unless otherwise instructed, and installation of transponders will be a national initiative.

Regarding the need for a legal framework, FCWC warned that agreeing on a new document could be a regressive step as the Committee already has a Convention in place for the sharing of information. It would create opportunities for countries to backtrack to a system where exchange of information is more limited than it currently is.

FCWC further stressed that the regional VMS represents an opportunity for those countries who don't have a national system in place, as the installation of transponders will be the only requirement to be met – with shipowners bearing the cost of the equipment if countries decide so.

Countries shared their experience in dealing with the financial and technical aspects of their national VMS. Liberia explained their difficulties in keeping the system operational following the end of the World Bank support in 2016. Côte d'Ivoire explained the issues faced with their equipment since the beginning of the deployment of the system last year.

Côte d'Ivoire agreed that legal aspects will be simplified given the existing framework established by FCWC. They noted however that the Secretariat still needs to gather advice on what the most cost-efficient solution would be. He pointed out that there might be no need for installing additional equipment at FCWC since all national VMS are web-based, which means that countries could simply share access through a dedicated account. There are diverging views of what the system's scope is and what it will consist of, even internally at the FCWC Secretariat and among the countries, which means that further advice and clarifications are needed before moving forward.

Mr Amadou Tall, PESCAO Team Leader at ECOWAS, reminded TF countries that all ECOWAS Member States have agreed on the content of the PESCAO programme, which includes the establishment of a regional VMS in both the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the FCWC.

Responding to concerns regarding compatibility, TF Members were reassured by FCWC that the system will be established in a way that ensures full compatibility with existing national systems.



2.11.2 Lessons learnt from the regional fisheries patrol in SRFC Region under PESCAO Project

Mr Ball gave a presentation on joint at-sea patrol operations in the SRFC region, with a focus on the operation supported by the PESCAO project in September 2018, to which the FCWC Secretariat participated as observer.

He explained that SRFC conducts three different types of joint operations, depending on targeted countries and the naval means available. The operation in September was a Type B operation, meaning that it covered countries in the centre of the cooperation area: South Senegal, Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

This operation was coordinated from an Operational and Coordination Centre in Guinea Bissau, which hosts several fisheries inspectors and radio operators from the region.

He explained that the operation led to the inspection of 41 vessels and the arrest of 6 of them for various infractions including illegal mesh size and lack of mandatory vessel documents.

The following lessons learned were drawn from the mission:

- It is important to build relationships between navies to allow for hot pursuits across the region and routine port calls. Agreements need to be in place in order to avoid having to request authorisations on a case-by-case basis (potentially as part of a regional MCS agreement).
- Joint patrols require navy vessels that are capable of sailing for more than 8 days. Patrol vessels below 20m in length are not recommended.
- The average cost of an operation of that size is EUR 90,000 to 110,000.
- Coordination through the Operational Coordination Centre allows for an optimized use of all detection and identification equipment.
- Coordination is also required to escort arrested fishing vessels to port while the operation goes on.

DISCUSSION:

Benin was interested in learning more about the prerequisites to organize a joint patrol, particularly the arrangements to make the pooling of naval means possible. They also asked whether a cooperation framework could permanently allow for the pursuit of offenders across borders, giving the example of Nigerian fishers using illegal gear in Benin waters and escaping controls by crossing the border. Nigeria stressed on the need to harmonize fines and make penalties more deterrent.

Mr Ball explained that the first prerequisite is adequate financing to conduct the operation. He noted that the SRFC has never organized such joint patrol on its own, as all previous operations were donor-supported. The second condition is to have at least one patrol vessel available and capable of staying at sea for 10 days. In the case of the SRFC, only military patrol vessels took part in the operation, but some countries do have civilian fisheries patrol vessels. Nigeria, for instance, explained that they are currently procuring two new fisheries patrol boats dedicated to the monitoring of territorial waters as well as collaboration with neighbouring countries.

On the need to have agreements in place between navies, Nigeria explained that UNCLOS makes provision for any country to pursue any vessel it believes has broken the law – which is called the right of hot pursuit. Legally the possibility is there, and recent meetings between navies in the Gulf of Guinea are aimed at making this cooperation easier from an operational point of view as well. The recent case of a Ghanaian fishing vessel hijacked and taken to Benin and Nigeria is a good demonstration of the growing cooperation among navies of the region.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NAVIES
TO ALLOW FOR HOT PURSUITS
ACROSS THE REGION AND
ROUTINE PORT CALLS.**

THE IOC-PRSP HAS A REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT (RCU) COMPOSED OF HEADS OF OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL FMCS.



2.11.3 Regional lesson learning – example of regional VMS and patrols in the Indian Ocean

Using the example of the Indian Ocean Commission's (IOC) Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan (PRSP) Mr Yvergniaux explained how a regional monitoring program functions. Founded in 2007 through a Ministerial commitment, it was developed to implement a regional strategy to improve the effectiveness of combatting IUU fishing and enhance operational MCS in the maritime waters of participating States. The IOC-PRSP achieved this by strengthening national MCS centres, sharing information, hosting a regional VMS, conducting risk analysis for MCS planning and organizing joint at-sea patrols across EEZs.

The IOC-PRSP has a Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) composed of heads of operations of the national FMCS. They meet several times annually to undertake risk analysis exercises and plan surveillance missions. VMS data is shared through a data exchange memorandum signed in 2014. Participating States pooled assets to conduct targeted and deterrent controls based on the ongoing analysis of fishing fleet activities relevant to set MCS priorities.

Lessons learned from the IOC-PRSP are that sharing of data and information is at the core of regional MCS operations, clear mandates allow for sound operational decisions, and there is a need for a permanent risk analysis function using regional VMS and other shared operational data. Data sharing was politically sensitive, and it was important to clearly communicate why the sharing of information is important, how it will be used, and what benefits result. Lesson learned regarding prosecution and follow up were that inadequate legal frameworks can lead to an absence of prosecution or lack of sanctions, feedback on actions taken by coastal or flag State is key to measure impact, and feedback on prosecutions is key to foster deterrence, improve compliance and build the confidence of fisheries enforcement officers.

DISCUSSION:

Nigeria noted from the presentation that countries often lack the resources to take the process forward beyond arrest and detention. They stressed on the need to involve the Navy, Police and legal personnel to guide fisheries officials on how to address arrests and prosecutions.

The TT noted that most FMCS in that region are funded through financial contributions secured through FPAs with the EU. Ideally, with the emergence of regional VMS systems and related information sharing agreements, national VMS might become unnecessary in the future, thereby reducing overall monitoring costs for States.

The FCWC Secretariat proposed a meeting in 2019 with the navies of the region to analyse those existing initiatives and improve collaboration.



A POLICY FRAMEWORK OF RELEVANT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS WILL GUIDE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

2.12 FCWC general update

2.12.1 Implementation of the FCWC Regional Fisheries Management Plan

Mrs Abena Serwah stated that the objective of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan is to contribute to the improvement of food security and the economic and social welfare of FCWC member countries by creating conditions for the sustainable management of the FCWC's marine fisheries by strengthening sub-regional cooperation. A policy framework of relevant regional and international instruments will guide the Management Plan. The Plan will be implemented from 2019-2022, with a proposed budget of EUR 5.3 million (30% of which is supposed to be funded by Member States), and the expected outcomes are:

1. The development, adoption and implementation of management plans in FCWC fisheries;
2. Harmonization of policies, laws and regulations governing marine fisheries;
3. Regulation of access to fisheries resources in artisanal fisheries; and
4. Integrating marine protected areas into coastal fisheries management.

Fisheries management in the region is characterised by weak technical management measures, and weaknesses regarding access rights. The artisanal fishery is uncontrolled and there are weak fisheries governance tools and absent regional policy for control of effort and capacity.

The four proposed implementation activities will hopefully result in:

- strengthened technical capacities of fisheries management officers;
- strong and harmonized legal system and policy across the region;
- science based management measures being employed; and
- a better managed artisanal fleet.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat highlighted the proposed closure of the fishery in Ghana as an example of a measure that would be better done regionally and supported by all, and even if not done regionally should involve regional awareness involved to mitigate negative effects.

Côte d'Ivoire welcomed a regional management plan. Noting the initiation of a closed season in Ghana, they acknowledged that both Ghana and Nigeria are adopting this measure and committed to supporting the efforts of their neighbours. The creation of an association regrouping producers' organizations from the region was proposed in order to facilitate communication and inclusion in decision making.

Ghana voiced the need for a beach seine management plan, stating that they are in the process of developing one.

Liberia has a national fisheries management plan, and requested support to further plans for the various fisheries, particularly the artisanal fishery. They also requested any advice regarding a beach seine management plan, as this is fishery they are struggling to manage. They emphasized the importance of partnering with the beneficiaries of the fishery.



2.12.2 PESCAO

Miss Koutob, provided an overview of the EU-funded PESCAO project being implemented in the ECOWAS region. She highlighted areas for synergies between component 2 of the project, focusing on strengthening fisheries MCS in the Member States of both FCWC and SRFC, and the Norad-funded project in support to FCWC.

In the FCWC region, Component 2 of PESCAO will focus on the following results:

- **Result 1** - Fisheries legal frameworks are harmonized and consistent with international standards to ensure proper fight against IUU fishing;
- **Result 2** - Cooperation between countries, administrations and organisations is facilitated;
- **Result 3** - FCWC is equipped with a Regional MCS Centre with improved linkage to national MCS structures;
- **Result 4** - Countries' and FCWC capacities in operational MCS are strengthened, along with their ability to sustain this in the long-term through enhanced training programmes;
- **Result 5** - Joint regional fisheries/patrol missions are organised in the Gulf of Guinea; and
- **Result 6** - FCWC countries get support in the development of a pool of regional observers.

She then went on to explain how the EU and Norad projects will collaborate, stressing that both will build on the achievements from Phase 1 and aim at strengthening the WATF. Practically, coordination will be achieved through:

- centralized coordination;
- sharing of project documents;
- harmonised workplans;
- consultation and concertation around the organisation of meetings;
- technical support for PESCAO operational activities;
- joint trainings; and
- dedicated support for national capacity building.

PESCAO will also use the legal review from Phase 1 as a baseline to provide legal support to countries.

2.12.3 FCWC 11th Conference of Ministers

The 11th FCWC's Conference of Ministers 2018 is scheduled for the 28th – 30th of November and will be held in Lomé, Togo. The theme for this year's conference is 'Maritime Security to support sustainable fisheries development'.

The FCWC stated that Phase 2 of the WATF would be presented to Ministers at the upcoming Ministerial Conference, to inform them that support has been approved, and to receive the go-ahead for implementation. Elaborating on the procedures of the Conference, the Secretariat explained that it works closely with Directors to define activities that are then validated by Ministers. These are implemented at national and regional level with Directors, and the outcomes are reported back to the Ministers the following year, and further planning is done. The Conference provides guidelines for the work and budget of the FCWC.

3. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

3.1 Outcomes of the Task Force

The WATF meeting had the following outcomes, to:

3.1.1 Support of the Task Force

- Welcome the successful completion of Phase 1 of the Norad support to the WATF, and the approval by the funder Norad of the submitted proposal for Phase 2
- Reiterate and reinforce the will and intention of all Member States to uphold the cooperation; communication and coordination objectives of the WATF, and continue the fight against IUU fishing
- Welcome the finalization of the Regional Fisheries Management Plan as a vehicle to promote sound management of fisheries resources across the region, hence contributing to the priorities for future MCS

3.1.2 Cooperation with other initiatives

- Provide to ECOWAS, information on illegal fishing as part of the elaboration of the regional fisheries and aquaculture policy document
- Keep the FCWC Secretariat up to date with any national level MCS initiatives that are complementary to or need coordination with the WATF and other regional relevant initiatives
- Ensure that the ongoing capacity needs assessment undertaken by the MCS Technical Assistant under PESCAO is supported with the required inputs on national requirements, in coordination with activities under the Norad Phase 2 support.

3.1.3 Information sharing

- Share information on national-level cases on the communication platform to improve lesson learning and increase understanding of fishing operations in the region.
- Encourage the sharing of relevant documents and templates (e.g. licences and registration documents).

3.1.4 FCWC Strategy to combat illegal transshipment at sea

- Agree on the four following areas of action and workplan matrix proposed to support the implementation of the FCWC Strategy for Combatting Illegal Transshipment at Sea, and the development of a more detailed action plan for implementation highlighting support areas for Norad Phase 2 (2019-2022) and other potential support programmes such as PESCAO.
 - Establish and implement legal and operational standards for fisheries transshipments within the FCWC area of competence.
 - Validate and share information on fishing vessels and reefers that engage in transshipment within the FCWC area of competence.
 - Monitor and inspect transshipments taking place within the FCWC area of competence.
 - Conduct evidence-based research and reporting to increase knowledge and awareness of transshipment and its impacts.

3.1.5 Operational cooperation

- Ensure that representatives from the region's navies are involved in a dialogue process that will lead to cooperation for joint surveillance operations, both through NWGs and through regional dialogue
- Explore the opportunity for a dedicated meeting in 2019 to engage the Member State navies in this process
- Recognise the value of the existing FCWC Conventions as the basis for the sharing of information related to MCS operations, including the planned regional Vessel Monitoring System.

3.1.6 Transparency in the fisheries sector

- Recognise the challenge that corruption presents to MCS efforts and broader fisheries governance in the region and agree to a new WATF area of focus on corruption in the fisheries sector, including the initiation of activities and tools aimed at increasing awareness of and opportunities to limit corruption in the fisheries sector.
- Express sincere interest in exploring the potential of implementing the FITI to increase transparency in the fisheries sector within the region.
- Recognise that FITI is a global multi-stakeholder initiative that provides governments with a comprehensive and credible way to achieve and maintain high levels of transparency on the management of the marine fisheries sector and the activities of fishers and fishing companies.
- Recommend conducting a dedicated 2-day workshop on the FITI among all stakeholders from the FCWC region (governments, business, civil society) to:
 - Enhance the understanding of fisheries administrations and other key stakeholders regarding the FITI (and in particular FITI Standard) and its applicability and value-addition for countries in the West Central Gulf of Guinea;
 - Learn from countries that are already in the process of implementing the FITI (e.g. Mauritania, Seychelles)
 - Discuss benefits and practical implementation challenges of the FITI and identify synergy opportunities with current and planned activities of the FCWC;
 - Develop concrete plans of actions for each country.
- Such a workshop should be ideally held within the first quarter of 2019 (subject to the availability of funding).

3.1.7 Maritime security

- Contribute to realizing the commitment of FCWC Heads of States to ensure maritime security contributes to increased maritime governance and to the optimization of the maritime economy, including recognition of the key role of good fisheries governance in achieving this.
- Realise cooperation between FCWC and CRESMAO for increased cooperation between these two entities and between national administrations and the operational structures established under the Yaoundé process

3.1.8 Implementation of Phase 2

- Reiterate support to the implementation of Phase 2 and for the results framework and headline activities
- Welcome the priority to see increased WATF ownership and progressive transfer of implementation responsibility to the FCWC Secretariat over the implementation period
- Support the development of a detailed workplan for the first full year of implementation (2019)
- Share updated NPOAs for fine-tuning of workplan and activity timeframes as required

3.1.9 Communications strategy

- Recognise the importance of the FCWC Communications Strategy and encourage Member States to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy. MCS officials are the designated focal points for providing information in this regard.
- Recognise FCWC website as a key communication tool within the region and beyond, and the need to improve this website and ensure linkages with existing national websites.
- Member States are encouraged to contribute updated content to the FCWC website.

3.1.10 FCWC Ministers Conference 2019

- Promote the theme for the 2019 Ministers Conference as Maritime Security. Member States are encouraged to involve national agencies relevant to maritime security, to ensure successful engagement at the Conference and beyond.

3.2 Requests from the Task Force

The WATF meeting agreed to the following requests to the TT, to:

3.2.1 Transhipment strategy

- Assist with the further development of a detailed action plan for implementing the FCWC Strategy for Combatting Illegal Transhipment at Sea, including through national technical visits to identify national requirements and the identification of common priority areas in the Member States
- Support the action plan implementation with dedicated project activities and technical assistance

3.2.2 Communication with other States

- Assist in building further cooperation and communication with other flag, coastal, port and market States to improve information exchange and cooperation when conducting routine MCS operations and on cases of suspected illegal fishing.

3.2.3 Operational cooperation

- Initiate dialogue to improve national and regional cooperation between navies and fisheries authorities and pave the way for future joint surveillance operations.

3.2.4 Transparency in the fisheries sector

- Support improved understanding by fisheries administrations and other key stakeholders from the FCWC region of the FITI and its applicability and value-addition for countries in the West Central Gulf of Guinea.

3.2.5 Implementation of Phase 2

- Make available Phase 2 project documents to TF members in both English and French, ahead of technical visits to develop the resulting work and capacity support plans.

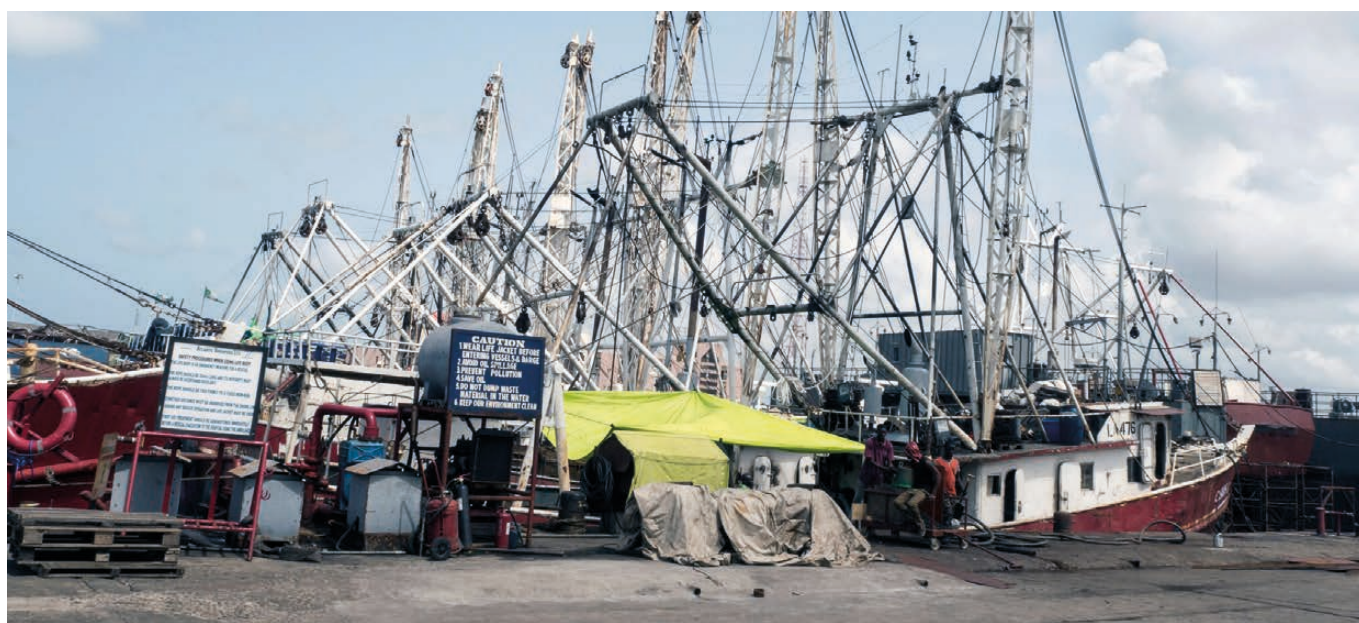
3.2.6 FCWC communication strategy

- Assist in the development of an action plan and supporting budgets for the FCWC Communications Strategy, with a focus on the FCWC website.

3.3 Additional requests outside the scope of the WATF

3.3.1 Fisheries management plan

- Increase participation of private actors and relevant stakeholders, including fishing and producers' organisations, in the fisheries sector in the development and implementation of management plan measures
- Take into consideration illegal activities in the small-scale sector and explore opportunities to support the registration of small scale vessels in Member States.





4. Closing remarks

Mr Dedi thanked all attendees and commended the continued commitment of the countries to combatting IUU fishing in the region. Mr Copeland thanked TF Members for an engaging meeting. Closing the meeting on behalf of the Minister and the host country, Mr Muhammed Muazu thanked the WATF for its efforts, and wished the TF success in its Second Phase.



5. Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIS	Automatic identification system	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
AU	African Union	NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
CIAPOL	Centre Ivoirien Anti-Pollution	NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
CMA	Collaborative Management Associations	NWG	National Working Group
CRESMAO	Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa	PESCAO	The European Union's 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' Project
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	PRSP	Indian Ocean Commission's Regional Fisheries Monitoring Plan
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	PSMA	UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement
EIMS	ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy	RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
EU	European Union	RPOA-IUU	Regional plan of action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SDG	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	SG	Secretary General
FITI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Center	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
FPA	Fisheries Partnership Agreement	TF	Task Force
FV	Fishing vessel	TF1	Task Force Meeting 1
GHS	Ghanaian Cedi	TF2	Task Force Meeting 2
GOGIN	Inter-Regional Network for the Gulf of Guinea	TF3	Task Force Meeting 3
IEZ	Inshore exclusion zone	TF4	Task Force Meeting 4
IMO	International Maritime Organization	TF5	Task Force Meeting 5
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission	TF6	Task Force Meeting 6
IRB	International Registration Bureau	TF7	Task Force Meeting 7
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
LMA	Liberia Maritime Authority	TOR	Terms of Reference
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance	TT	Technical Team
MDA	Maritime domain awareness	UK	United Kingdom
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	US	United States
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre	USD	United States Dollar
NAFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Liberia	VMS	Vessel monitoring system
NEMO	African Naval Exercise for Maritime Operations	WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
NGO	Non-governmental organisation	WATF	West Africa Task Force
NIMASA	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency		

5.2 Workshop agenda

Monday 12 November 2018

08:30 to 09:00

REGISTRATION

09:00 to 10:15

OPENING SESSION

Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Secretary-General Seraphin Dedi

- Remarks from the WATF Technical Team – TMT Executive Director Duncan Copeland
- Remarks from the Fisheries Transparency Initiative – FITI Director Sven Biermann
- Remarks from ECOWAS Representative
- Opening by Minister of State of Government of Nigeria
- Introduction of participants
- Group photo

10:15 to 10:30

COFFEE BREAK

10:30 to 10:40

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Seraphin Dedi

- Agreement of agenda

10:40 to 12:00

RECAP OF THE WATF INITIATIVE – TMT

- Quick Recap of the WATF to date
- Norad Phase 2 Announcement
- Technical team report to the Task Force on TF6 Requests, Recommendations and Cases

12:00 to 13:00

LUNCH

13:00 to 15:30

WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS – National Presentations by Country Representatives

- Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire

15:30 to 15:45

COFFEE BREAK

15:45 to 16:15

WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont.

16:15 to 17:30

REVIEW OF PHASE 1 ACHIEVEMENTS – FCWC, TMT

- Summary of achievements
- Challenges
- Lessons learnt

17:30

END OF THE DAY

Tuesday 13 November 2018

09:00 to 09:05	REVIEW OF DAY 1 – Seraphin Dedi, Nigeria representative
09:05 to 11:00	REGIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA – SIF, FCWC and TMT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a Plan of Action to the Transshipment Strategy• Discussion
11:00 to 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 to 12:30	REGIONAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGY – SIF, FCWC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan of action, budget and funding• Discussion
12:30 to 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 to 15:00	ANTI CORRUPTION MEASURES IN THE FCWC REGION – SIF, FCWC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corruption and its impacts in the fisheries sector• Discussion: status of anti-corruption measures in Member States, and areas for strengthening
15:00 to 16:00	FISHERIES TRANSPARENCY IN THE FCWC REGION – FITI <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transparency in the fisheries sector in the FCWC region• The FITI and its relevance to the region
16:00 to 16:15	COFFEE BREAK
16:15 to 17:30	PHASE 2 OF NORAD WATF SUPPORT – TMT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project overview and discussion
17:30	END OF THE DAY

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

5.2 Workshop agenda cont.

Wednesday 14 November 2018

- 09:00 to 09:05** **REVIEW OF DAY 2** – Seraphin Dedi, Host country representative
-
- 09:05 to 10:00** **MARITIME SECURITY AND FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT IN THE FCWC REGION** – FCWC, TMT and SIF
- Introduction to maritime security focus areas and their links with fisheries activities
 - Review of potential collaboration with regional maritime centers
-
- 10:00 to 11:15** **OPERATIONAL MCS COOPERATION IN THE FCWC REGION** – FCWC, TMT
- Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre, responsibility and legal framework
 - Lessons learnt from the regional fisheries patrol in SRFC Region under PESCOAO Project
 - Regional Lesson Learning – example of regional VMS and patrols in the Indian Ocean
 - Discussions, Opportunities and recommendations
-
- 11:15 to 11:30** **COFFEE BREAK**
-
- 11:30 to 12:30** **FCWC GENERAL UPDATE - FCWC**
- Implementation of the Regional Fisheries Management plan: opportunities and way forward
 - Preparation for the FCWC 11th Conference of Ministers
-
- 12:30 to 13:30** **LUNCH**
-
- 13:30 to 15:45** **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION** – Member States
- Task Force discussion, requests, recommendations and internal decisions
Facilitator: FCWC, TMT, SIF
-
- 15:45 to 16:00** **THANKS, AND CLOSING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**
-

5.3 Attendance list

BENIN

Victor Ahomlanto
Chief Division Post Capture
Representant DPH

Samé Bernard Tossi
Head of MCS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Bina Fofana
Deputy Director of Maritime and
Lagoon Fisheries

Diomande Baba Maxime
Responsable VMS

GHANA

Alex Sabah
Head of MCS

Nemorious Pengyir
Deputy Director

LIBERIA

Andrew Sumo
Industrial Fisheries Officer

Abraham Saah
MCS Manager

NIGERIA

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri
Honourable Minister of State for
Agriculture and Rural Development

Remi Abioye
RTD Director of Fisheries

Muhammed Muazu
Director of Fisheries

Babatunde John
Deputy Director

Bola Aduke Kupolati
Deputy Director, Head of MCS

Tracy Marcus
ACFO-MCS

Lt. Cmdr. SM Kabir
SO II Operations (AATA)

Captain Fadahunsi
Deputy Director, Nigerian Navy

Solomon Osegbuwa
CFO

Popoola Babatunde A.
Assistant Director MCS

Umoro James
Head of Marine Industrial Fisheries

TOGO

Gbare Umul - Khaivi
Assistante au Chef Section
Promotion Pêche

Assogba Kokouvi Dziedzom
Inspecteur Des Pêches

ECOWAS COMMISSION

Dr Amadou Tall
Team Leader PESCAO

Dr Sidibe Aboubacar
Senior Policy Officer

EU

Ponsard Erik
Program Manager, EU Delegation

FITI

Sven Biermann
Director

PESCAO

Mamadou Ball
Technical Assistant



Seraphin Dedi
Secretary General

Kofi Taylor-Hayford
Communications Officer

Abena Sewah Asante
Fisheries Technical Adviser

Ere-Walson Tomogha Ayebaine
MCS Compliance Coordinator



Per Erik Bergh
Coordinator

Mark Ssemakula
Deputy Coordinator



Duncan Copeland
Executive Director

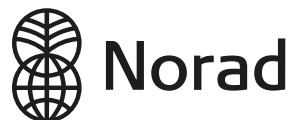
Stig Fjellberg
Analyst

Yann Yvergnaux
Analyst

Viviane Koutob
West Africa Coordinator



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The West Africa Task Force brings together the six member countries of the FCWC – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo – to tackle illegal fishing and fisheries crime. The Task Force is hosted by the FCWC and supported by a Technical Team that includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing with funding from Norad. By actively cooperating, by sharing information and by establishing interagency working groups the West Africa Task Force are working together to end illegal fishing.

For more information go to:

www.fcwc-fish.org

FCWC

4th floor of Fisheries Research Institute Building
Community II area
P.O. Box BT 62 Tema
Ghana
Tel: +233 (0) 303 20 53 23