



West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing



RECORD OF THE 6TH WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Lomé, Togo
5-7 June 2018





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1. Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Secretariat and member countries, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo formally established the West Africa Task Force (WATF) in 2015. Supported by a Technical Team (TT) which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF), the WATF operationalises important fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) commitments made by the FCWC Member States.

Since its formation, the WATF has helped to: improve regional information sharing and increase MCS cooperation; strengthen interagency cooperation at the national level through National Working Groups (NWG); identify, investigate and prosecute illegal fishing cases; and realise regional strategies towards strengthening fisheries controls and improving compliance by fishing operators in the region. Supported initially through a three-year project funded by Norad, the WATF is now the focus of broader regional MCS support projects in the FCWC region.

One of the key channels for WATF cooperation are the bi-annual TF meetings. The first and the second TF meetings (TF1, 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 and the fifth Task Force meeting (TF5) took place in Accra, Ghana in November 2017. This report is from the sixth TF meeting (TF6) that took place in Lomé, Togo from the 5th to 7th June 2018. It 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), the EU-funded Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa (PESCAO) Project, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa (CRESMAO).



1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General (SG), Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadjé welcomed participants, and thanked the Government of Togo for hosting the meeting. The SG noted the key role played by the fisheries sector in the region in terms of employment and food security, highlighting that the Gulf of Guinea is thought to have the highest rate of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the world. He commended the TF for its efforts in combatting IUU fishing, most recently the ongoing move by Member States towards mandatory International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers in all countries, and the ongoing sharing of licensing information.

Chair of the TMT Board, Mr Jan Thomas Odegard applauded the impressive progress made in the fight against IUU fishing in the FCWC region in the last four years. He encouraged participants to strengthen the relationships and trust developed through the WATF to better deal with new challenges as illegal operators adapt to heightened controls.

Noting that the meeting was taking place on the inaugural International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing, Mr Odegard stated that regional efforts such as the WATF are contributing to global efforts to tackle IUU fishing and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) in respect to life below water and the oceans.

Speaking on behalf of His Excellency Mr Jean Claude Brou, 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 emphasized the importance of aligning regional initiatives. Highlighting that ECOWAS's new agenda on fisheries and aquaculture prioritizes the strengthening of institutional and regional coordination, he welcomed further cooperation with the WATF and other partners.

Mr Madadozi Tezike, Director General of Central Supply and Management of Agricultural Inputs, representing the Minister of Livestock Fisheries and

Agriculture in Togo welcomed participants on behalf of Minister Col. Ouro-Koura Agadazi. He commended the importance given to fisheries by heads of States and leaders in the FCWC region, informing the meeting that the Government of Togo considers fisheries and the blue economy as key elements for development. The Government of Togo has undertaken various reforms including the development of a new Fisheries Act, and the construction of a new fishing port.

The Director General commended the FCWC Secretariat for facilitating the establishment of the WATF and its regional information sharing platform; and developing the regional fisheries management plan and regional plan of action to combat IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU). He stated the meeting facilitates the sharing of ideas, projects and initiatives, and will help the TF to plan relevant actions and to put in place robust MCS systems. Mr Madadozi wished participants success with deliberations and officially declared the meeting open.



**MR JAN THOMAS ODEGARD
APPLAUDED THE IMPRESSIVE
PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST IUU FISHING IN THE
FCWC REGION IN THE LAST
FOUR YEARS.**



1.3 International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing

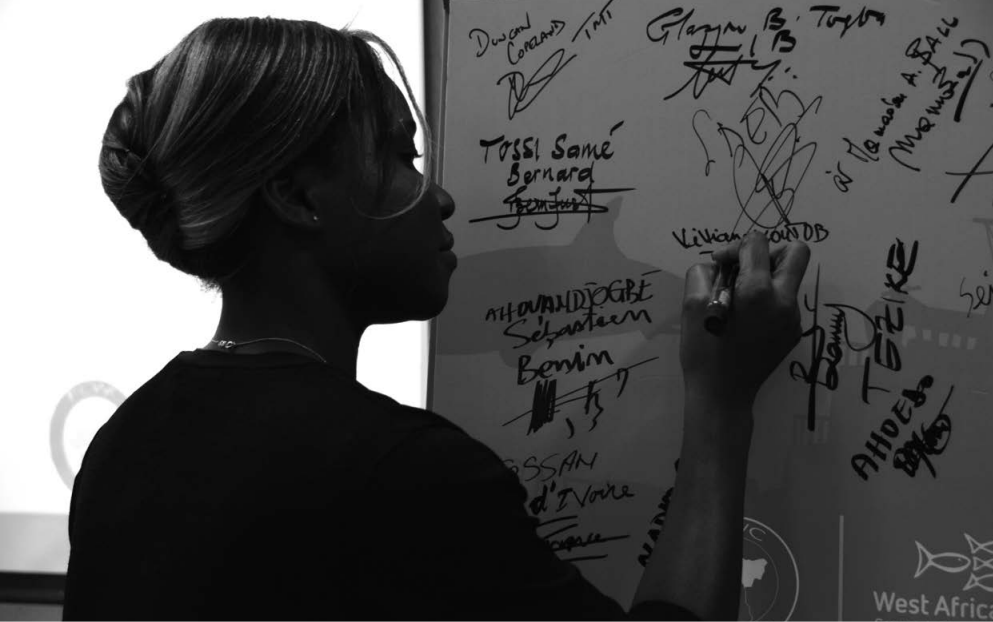
The International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was celebrated for the first time on 5 June 2018, with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the lead agency for the new international day. The date was selected because 5 June is the date, in 2016, when the first international treaty designed to end illegal fishing – the FAO Port State Measures Agreement – entered into force.

Mr Dedi said, "The United Nations has recently decided to celebrate the fight against IUU fishing with this international day. It is opportune that this falls on the first day of our WATF meeting as it gives us all an opportunity to reiterate our commitment and dedication to combatting illegal fishing. The WATF has further committed to institutionalize the celebration of International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing into future WATF activities and will continue to raise awareness of the event in the wider West Africa region."

Mr Brou commented, "Aware of the harmful consequences of IUU fishing on the sustainability of resources, on the economy of States and on the livelihoods of communities, the international community has committed to fight it."

The West Africa Task Force celebrated the day with the signing of a commitment board. Mrs Kupolati stated, "Fishing is the most unregulated industry across the globe, infected with abuse, slavery and causing a loss of fishing opportunities for coastal communities. Seafood fraud and illegal fishing is bad for everyone, from fishermen to seafood lovers, as it threatens the health of the ocean and bottom lines of the fishermen across the globe. This international day, which will help to raise awareness about the harm caused by illegal fishing, is an important initiative."





2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 National activities

Chaired by the FCWC Secretary General, the WATF member countries presented progress in national MCS activities, and any recent experiences and challenges in combatting illegal fishing since TF5 in November 2017. Members had been asked to focus their presentations on progress of national interagency cooperation, ongoing cases, illegal fishing cases at national level, and collaborations with other initiatives.

2.1.1 Benin

Mr Bernard Tossi, Head of MCS, explained that interagency cooperation has been strengthened in Benin but there remains a need to formalise it; this includes clarification on the relationship between the NWG and the Préfecture Maritime. To this end, discussion between senior-level staff in the agencies concerned are ongoing. The Benin NWG has decided to create a national communications platform, to enable more spontaneous communication, and to mobilise finances from the budget of the Directorate of Fisheries to ensure sustainability. The NWG has agreed to make a request to the ECOWAS Commission, through FCWC, that the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre (MMCC) Zone E monitors fishing vessels in Benin waters and inform the NWG of their movements.

Joint operations led by the fisheries department have included fisheries patrols in late 2017 and early 2018 in collaboration with the Navy and the River Police Special Unit (*Unité Spéciale de Police Fluviale*). A Joint Container Control Unit (*l'Unité Mixte de Contrôle des Conteneurs - UMCC*) comprising the Police, Customs, Fisheries and Forestry authorities has been formed to tackle illegal trade – including of fish products – and fisheries inspectors are engaged in activities relating to the control of fish products, such as sanitary inspections.

The case of the FV SHENG YUAN AN 1426 was discussed. This Côte d'Ivoire flagged vessel was inspected after it applied for a licence in Benin, and a due diligence request was placed on the WATF communications platform. Côte d'Ivoire informed Benin that the vessel had not been authorized to fish beyond their waters, resulting in Benin not licensing the vessel.



DISCUSSION:

Nigeria welcomed the progress made by Benin in terms of initiating cooperation with seafood importers, stressing that export of illegal fish by road from Benin into Nigeria still needs to be tackled. The connections between fish trade and IUU fishing need to be better documented and understood and this Benin-Nigeria land border is a known point of entry of illegally caught or unreported fish and other hotspots may exist in the region. It was agreed that container controls could be further reinforced for import and export.

Noting that Benin was the first FCWC country to formalise its NWG through the adoption of a Ministerial Order, Côte d'Ivoire enquired why Benin went one step further by preparing an inter-ministerial order. Benin explained that NWG agencies have suggested that their respective ministries should be legally bound and held accountable, so that responsibilities does not rest solely on the fisheries department. It was agreed that future progress on the formalization process, particularly in terms of clarifying the mandates of the different structures in place and the relationship with the *Préfecture Maritime*, would be shared with the WATF.

2.1.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Dr Hermance Gossan, Head of MCS, stated that Côte d'Ivoire's NWG has been working on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalise interagency cooperation. The NWG includes representatives from Maritime Affairs, the Navy, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Police, and the Air Force. She further explained that the bilateral agreement between the Fisheries department and the Navy was under review. Under the current agreement with the Navy, joint patrols are undertaken quarterly with funding from the EU Fisheries Partnership Agreement. Information is also being exchanged bilaterally between the Fisheries department and the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs, to facilitate the registration and de-flagging of fishing vessels. The challenges faced include the need to improve capacity, strengthen relationships between agencies, and placing observers aboard European Union (EU) fishing vessels.

Participation in the OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise as well as training under the Gulf of Guinea Inter-Regional Network (GOGIN) have all strengthened interagency cooperation. Côte d'Ivoire will participate in Operation Junction Rain, the operational phase of the United States African Command's African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership (AMLEP), from August 2018. The AMLEP program enables African partner nations to build maritime security capacity and improve management of their maritime environment through real-world, combined maritime law enforcement operations. Côte d'Ivoire authorities have also signed an agreement with the French Navy as part of the African NEMO exercise.

Law No. 442 of June 30, 2017, on the Maritime Code has been adopted, the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) has been validated and its implementation has been budgeted for. A vessel monitoring system (VMS) is in place and transponders have been installed on 100% of the trawl fishery (28 vessels); however, this is yet to be extended to tuna vessels.

DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire noted the need to formalise cooperation and increase information sharing in their NWG, underscoring the experience shared by Benin. Responding to enquiries regarding the funding of the VMS transponders, Côte d'Ivoire explained that they were also funded under the fisheries agreement with the EU, and that a process was in place to access the EU tuna fleet VMS data. It was noted also that potentially agreements are needed with neighbouring countries Ghana and Liberia for their systems to be able to communicate and exchange VMS data.

FCWC noted that 'National Working Group' was the term coined by FCWC to designate national platforms aimed at strengthening interagency cooperation on fisheries enforcement, and countries were invited to use their own terminology when reporting on national level activity, depending on meeting format and host agency or umbrella structure.

CRESMAO stressed that the 'Yaoundé Process' has also been set up to facilitate multilateral cooperation between agencies, where designated agencies can take the lead depending on areas of focus. Those platforms have been established to facilitate exchanges, not to over-centralize all processes, and they should not be seen as military structures only since their mandate covers more than defence and security aspects.



PARTICIPATION IN THE OBANGAME EXPRESS EXERCISE AS WELL AS TRAINING UNDER THE GULF OF GUINEA INTER-REGIONAL NETWORK (GOGIN) HAVE ALL STRENGTHENED INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.



2.1.3 Ghana

Mr Joseph Yeboah, Assistant Director of MCS stated Ghana continues to share licensing information and information on suspicious vessels and activity with the WATF. Staff have been trained and Ghana has participated in technical exchanges and verification of vessel documentation on several occasions. Notably, Ghana has cooperated with the WATF on the case of the Ghanaian registered vessel, FV MARINE 711, hijacked by armed robbers in Nigerian waters with 45 crew including three Korean officers, and one observer on board; and in the case of the suspected double registration by two Ghanaian vessels.

Ghana's National Marine Fisheries Management Plan is being implemented, including the introduction of closed seasons for the artisanal and industrial fleet, the development of Marine Protected Areas and the implementation of a co-management policy framework. A study on bio-degradable fish aggregation devices (FADs) has been launched.

MCS activities are in the process of being expanded to all major landing sites in addition to Tema and Takoradi ports, particularly to tackle 'saiko fishing' – the landing of fish transhipped from industrial trawlers to canoes illegally. A community watch programme, Fisheries Watch Volunteers (FWV), is assisting in the arrest and prosecution of fishermen and has resulted in the arrest of 39 fishermen with 19 already processed and fined. The programme began in May 2017 and was initially piloted in Ada and Jamestown, in partnership with the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council.

DISCUSSION:

Noting that MCS activities are concentrated at the major ports of Tema and Takoradi, and that transhipment at sea has been an issue, Mr Arthur-Dadzie, Director of the Fisheries Commission in Ghana urged the WATF to learn lessons from Ghana's experience and encouraged all FCWC states to have an operational VMS. He also highlighted the need to investigate vessels potentially registered with dual flags. The meeting was informed of a workshop occurring in Ghana the same week on the implementation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

Responding to a query from Benin on the management of beach seine fishing activities in Ghana and the presence of Ghanaian nationals with illegal gear in Benin, Mr Arthur-Dadzie stated that this is not regulated under the current legal framework, and that confirmation would be needed in respect to nationality of these fishermen. He also proposed regional harmonization of regulations on the beach seine fishery. Togo added that they have developed a management plan for the beach seine fishery: a minimum mesh size has been set and nets were distributed in coastal areas in exchange for prohibited gear. Togo explained that they have also started a process of registration of canoes, a similar process is also ongoing in Ghana.

Nigeria explained that it is still unclear whether the kidnapping of Korean nationals from the FV MARINE 711 involved Nigerian nationals. They commended Ghana's implementation of the closed fishing season and stated that they are benchmarking from Ghana's progress, noting that they are looking into suspected fishing in prohibited areas which has resulted in the catching of juvenile fish.

2.1.4 Liberia

Mr Glasgow Togba, MCS Director for the recently established National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) stated that despite challenges posed by the Sea Shepherd patrols carried out in Liberia, the interagency cooperation in Liberia is now improving and activities of the NWG have been included in the workplan of NaFAA. Ministers from five other government agencies: Liberia Coast Guard, Liberia Maritime Authority, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and the National Ports Authority, have now agreed to update the MoU signed in 2010 to form Liberia's MCS Coordinating Committee (MCSCC).

Liberia has signed an MoU with the Korean Government to support their Fisheries Monitoring Centre and facilitate the export of fisheries products. Recent cases of illegal fishing in Liberia, uncovered through the cooperation between Sea Shepherd and the Liberia Ministry of Defence, produced fines of over USD 300,000 being paid to the Government of Liberia.



DISCUSSION:

Responding to a request for more information on recent cases, Mr Togba described the example of four vessels, the FV LIAO ZHUANG YU 15029, FV LIAO ZHUANG YU 15030, FV LIAO DA ZHONG YU 15178 and F/V LIAO DA ZHONG YU 15177, that left Nigeria for Liberia to apply for licences. The vessels have now been granted permission to fish, and he assured the TF they would get IMO numbers soon. The HAI LUNG, an IUU listed vessel arrested in September 2017 and released by Nigerian authorities, was intercepted travelling to Liberia in March 2018 and brought to the Port of Monrovia. Posing an environmental threat to Liberian waters, she was released and required to leave Liberian waters, and is thought to have headed for Freetown.

Bolstering previous comments from Ghana and Nigeria, the FCWC Secretary-General highlighted that very limited information has been made available to flag States of the region upon the arrest of fishing vessels flying their flag by Liberia under the Sea Shepherd supported patrols, including the infractions committed and penalties applied. It is hoped that with the new institutional arrangements and the protocol for the sharing of information, efforts will be made to improve exchanges between countries in case of new arrests.

LIBERIA HAS SIGNED AN MOU WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THEIR FISHERIES MONITORING CENTRE AND FACILITATE THE EXPORT OF FISHERIES PRODUCTS.

2.1.5 Nigeria

Ms Bola Kupolati, Head of MCS stated that their NWG met earlier this year, after previous attempts to convene the group under the current budget were in vain. Information exchange is taking place through the NWG communications platform and this has led to the investigation or arrest of several fishing vessels. This includes the FV STAR SHRIMPER XXV, for operating without authorisation in Liberian waters, the FV YELE (now HAI LUNG) and four Chinese fishing vessels FV ANQI 1, 2, 3 and 4, arrested for operating in a non-trawling zone. It is planned that an MoU for the NWG will be established, and the Department of Fisheries is going to sensitize relevant agencies on the importance of formalizing this cooperation. Sensitization of relevant officials will continue to prevent mistakes such as the premature release of vessels that are under investigation. Bilateral cooperation between the Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF) and the Nigerian Navy is ongoing. The Nigerian Navy have provided at-sea inspection and surveillance capacity support and further cooperation is being built to ensure that Fisheries Authorities receive reports of fisheries non-compliance from the Navy.

Two fisheries officers were involved in the OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise organized through the Navy, and MCS officers together with members of the NWG attended a Technical Workshop to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the NWG. A workshop on IUU fishing was also organised for the Navy in cooperation with the TT.

A pre-assessment and validation workshop was organized for Cameroon, Gabon and Nigeria by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency to move the shrimp fishery towards a certification with Eco Mark Africa (EMA) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Support for a legal review of their fisheries regulations following the preparation of a new fisheries law is a current gap and support for this was requested.

Nigeria is in discussions with a VMS service provider for installation of VMS and support to develop the VMS system was requested.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to comments on the fisheries department's reliance on the Navy, Nigeria noted that although the President has approved the purchase of two patrol vessels dedicated to fisheries surveillance, they currently rely solely on the navy for patrols.

Benin stated that there are Beninese canoes carrying out pair trawling in Nigerian waters to avoid controls, and asked whether Nigeria is aware of this, or able to monitor Beninese canoes that tranship in their waters. Ms Kupolati stated that they are aware and need financial and technical support to get the Beninese canoes registered. Regarding transhipment, they rely on the Nigerian navy to monitor this.

The FCWC Secretariat noted that any requests for support from the Secretariat, in particular for legal reviews and the elaboration of National Action Plans, can be addressed under the PESCAO initiative, which will begin on the 1st August 2018.



2.1.6 Togo

Mr Kossi Ahoedo, Head of MCS stated that Togo has two licensed trawlers and an estimated 400 canoes, noting the need for a census on the latter. Interagency cooperation has been strengthened and the NWG now includes the High Council for the Sea and the Préfecture Maritime. There has been collaboration between the Directorate of Maritime Affairs and the Directorate of Fisheries on the registration of fishing vessels and canoes, and joint patrols organised through the Préfecture Maritime. Two joint patrols were organised in 2017 but none in 2018 yet. The need to formalise the NWG, insufficient financial resources and patrols are some the challenges faced by the NWG.

During a joint inspection, Togolese authorities boarded a canoe which had shark fins of species listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). A fine of CFA 500,000 was issued and paid.

Reefers have been receiving more attention in Togo lately. The Fisheries Directorate has introduced an 'import validation certificate' for fish products, which can only be issued to a reefer if it has been demonstrated that no IUU-listed vessel was among the donor vessels. Reefers that are authorised to unload are still subject to inspections. Foreign fishing vessels coming to Lomé port for repairs or refuelling have also been inspected, as well as FV PATRICK – one of the two nationally flagged trawlers.

Togo, together with Benin, carried out training for fisheries inspectors in November 2017, and participated in the OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise and GOGIN training. Togolese fisheries authorities attended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Fisheries Crime Training in February 2018 and are actively utilising the inspection equipment from the Norad funding to the WATF project.

Togo intends to develop and validate a NPOA-IUU and ratify the UN Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement). Togo requested support for the development of new fisheries regulations, following the recent adoption of a new Fisheries law and Maritime Code.



DISCUSSION:

Responding to queries on the involvement of the judicial system in the determination of fines, Mr Ahoedo responded that the law provides for two procedures in case of breach, administrative and judicial. The Maritime Brigade is responsible for investigating infractions committed at sea and depending on the circumstances the Fisheries Department can either choose the administrative or the judicial way. With the former, the level of the fine to be paid is agreed through an out-of-court settlement. When the matter is forwarded to the judicial system, sanctions are imposed based on legally set fines and jail sentences.

2.2 Review of the WATF initiative and report on the TF5 recommendations

Mr Duncan Copeland, Executive Director of TMT, gave a short recap of the WATF and provided an update on the status of the outcomes and requests to the TT from recent Task Force meetings. He particularly noted that both the Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information, and the FCWC-WATF Strategy to Combat Transshipment at Sea were finalised following the last TF meeting and adopted at the Tenth FCWC Conference of Ministers. Progress on other outcomes are summarised below:

Outcome	Comments
Mandatory IMO numbers	The target was to implement on all flagged and licensed fishing vessels before target date of 31st October 2017. Currently 227 out of 294 vessels licensed in FCWC region (77%) are carrying IMO numbers.
Transshipment	The FCWC-WATF Strategy to Combat Transshipment at Sea was adopted at the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.
Cooperation	Information is being shared within the WATF on operational inspections and national cases, and some progress updates of these are also provided. Synchronisation of capacity building efforts with existing and future projects and institutions to bolster capacity building effort is ongoing. Exchange visits between Task Force members to share experiences and expertise, and exchange information on cases are ongoing. There is improved communication with other sub-regional fisheries organisations as the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea (COREP) to promote information sharing between Member States from those regions.
Information sharing	The Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information was adopted and agreed at the 2017 FCWC Conference of Ministers.
NWGs	Progress towards strengthened NWG operations and cooperation in five of the six FCWC countries.
Harmonisation	The development of minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) for foreign fisheries access in the FCWC region will be incorporated into future Norad project support. A harmonised approach to the management of trawlers in the region and the implementation of a coordinated seasonal closure of the trawler fishery in the FCWC region has been incorporated into the Regional Management Plan approved in May 2018.

DISCUSSION:

It was noted that Liberia was unable to make progress on NWG activities due to election and change of Government, and the formation of the newly established autonomous fisheries authority NaFAA. Liberia confirmed the institutional changes and stated that their fisheries observer programme has reached 100% coverage, and that they are planning to implement mandatory IMO numbers, anticipating 100% coverage as well.

Togo noted that a legislative change is required in their country for the implementation of IMO numbers. Responding to comments on the eligibility of vessels to be issued IMO numbers, the TT stated that in future, further updates will indicate eligible vessels and those not eligible for IMO numbers based on the regional combined licence list.

2.3 Recent cases, and considerations for information sharing

2.3.1 Update following national level workshops on interagency cooperation

Mr Yann Yvergniaux, from the TT, gave an update on discussions held and milestones achieved at the NWG workshops held in each country, and summarised future steps for the NWGs.

- The Benin NWG will take part in the current maritime risk assessment process undertaken by the *Préfecture Maritime*. They plan to build awareness of fisheries regulations and related offences among police officers and judges. There is a need for an inter-ministerial order to share and clarify responsibilities including with the *Préfecture Maritime*, and it was recommended by the interagency members that the NWG should be fully recognized as a technical arm of the *Préfecture Maritime* to address fisheries enforcement and broader fisheries crimes.
- Côte d'Ivoire plans to formalise the NWG through the finalisation and adoption of a decree and finalise a multi-lateral MoU. Members have agreed to work towards the integration of the NWG under the wider umbrella of the *Secrétariat Permanent du Comité Interministériel de l'Action de l'Etat en Mer* (SEPCIM-AEM), most likely as an advisory group. They plan to create a national-level communications platform and set-up a task force dedicated to increasing the efficiency of port inspections. Côte d'Ivoire intends to make automatic identification system (AIS) mandatory for all fishing vessels operating in their waters and facilitate the sharing of AIS information (and licence information) between agencies.
- The Nigerian NWG will build on the existing bilateral cooperation between key agencies to prepare a new multi-lateral MoU. Agreements already in place on a bilateral basis include one between Fisheries (FDF) and the Maritime authority (NIMASA), and one between FDF and the Nigerian Navy – the latter mainly focusing on the conduct of fisheries patrols. The NWG considered developing more inclusive and systematic assessments for licence renewal, and developing a mechanism to provide Customs Officers, Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), and border officials with information on the requirements for fish products and containers.

- The Togolese NWG discussed the preparation of regulations and other related legal texts to allow for the implementation of the new Fisheries Law and the new Merchant Shipping Code, and to work towards recognition of the NWG as an 'advisory committee' under the High Council for the Sea (*Haut Conseil pour la Mer*). On the other hand, the *Préfecture Maritime* is focused on operations at sea (response to crises or joint controls).

2.3.2 Proposed way forward with NWGs

Mr Copeland presented potential areas for support through the proposed Norad project going forward (Phase 2). The TT can assist in the review of MoUs/agreements under preparation and contribute technical support to the formalization of NWGs where needed. The need for the engagement of decision makers in each agency was highlighted. TF members were encouraged to establish national level communication structures if they have not already done so and prepare standard operating procedures (SOPs) for selected activities based on national priorities (e.g. inspections, licensing or registration of vessels, etc.). It was proposed to foster interagency cooperation through 'pilot projects' concentrating efforts around specific issues (such as port inspections) to serve as testing ground for collaboration.



IT WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERAGENCY MEMBERS THAT THE NWG SHOULD BE FULLY RECOGNIZED AS A TECHNICAL ARM OF THE PRÉFECTURE MARITIME TO ADDRESS FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT AND BROADER FISHERIES CRIMES.

2.3.3 Armed robbery attack on MARINE 711 in Ghanaian waters

Mr Yeboah requested to make a short presentation on the armed robbery and hijacking of the Ghanaian vessel FV MARINE 711, following the previous discussions on this case. He noted that the vessel was boarded by armed robbers in Ghanaian waters on the 26th March 2018 and forced to sail through Togo and Benin waters into Nigerian waters. Positions of the fishing vessel during its transit across EEZs were provided by the TT and Ghana through Basecamp. The robbers disembarked into a speed boat and fled after the vessel was contacted by a Portuguese military aircraft partaking in OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise. The robbers abducted three Korean crew members and further took two of the three persons they had earlier abducted from another vessel. Security agencies collaborated to secure the rescue of the abducted crew. The abductees were released on 27th April 2018 after negotiations with the owners and Korean officials and payment of an undisclosed amount.

On the 4th May 2018 a meeting was organised for operators of industrial vessels to mitigate threats of armed robbery in Ghanaian waters and beyond. Amongst the recommendations were the sharing of information, interagency cooperation, background checks on crew members and security training for crew of fishing vessels.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat agreed that cooperation on security issues should go beyond national level action and recommended deepened implementation of regional cooperation between governments and institutions. Awareness material based on this case should be developed to sensitize decision makers.

Nigeria added that four days before the hijacking in question, two vessels were hijacked, while the OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise was ongoing. The pirates used speed boats to board the anchored trawlers and abduct crew members. They transferred the crew into one speed boat and abandoned the other before fleeing to a creek where they could not be pursued by the Navy's bigger and slower ships. The hijackers have advanced equipment, and it was suggested that ECOWAS could support improving the capacity of the navies in the region as this issue could not be dealt with at a national level.

The TT, noting the limitations in dealing with maritime security issues, committed to providing information to support maritime security cases where possible, but recommended the need for the WATF to remain focussed on fisheries MCS cooperation; this was strongly supported by ECOWAS, who noted that other regional structures were in place to prioritise maritime security issues. A request was made for support to train officials responsible for maritime security, to detect fisheries related infringements.



2.3.4 WATF ongoing cases

Mr Yvergniaux discussed ongoing cases of the TF, including: IUU-listed vessel HAI LUNG, previously known as YELE that was denied port services in several WATF countries; and the IUU-listed LABIKO 2, fined in Liberia for using unauthorized gear and targeting unauthorized species. He also described the chase of the STS-50 (previously flagged to Togo and known as SEA BREEZE 1) in the Western Indian Ocean, noting it was a good example of cooperation between the WATF and the FISH-i Africa Task Force.

Cases recently initiated included those with a focus on vessels 'going dark' on AIS, vessels suspected of dual flagging, longliners conducting unidentified coastal activity, and reefers showing unusual sailing patterns. The benefit of sharing information about national-level cases on Basecamp was noted to contribute to lesson learning, to allow for identification of gaps and to prevent similar incidents from happening in the region. Intelligence requests submitted by countries to the TT over the past six months were also presented, with a focus on due diligence requests concerning vessels applying for a flag or licence in a Member State.

THE BENEFIT OF SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL-LEVEL CASES ON BASECAMP WAS NOTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO LESSON LEARNING, TO ALLOW FOR IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS AND TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS FROM HAPPENING IN THE REGION.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat encouraged TF members to respond to requests for information when dealing with cases, to ensure transparency. Côte d'Ivoire responded that, where possible, they provide all information available to them, but that their insufficient regulatory framework was a limiting factor in terms of the country's ability to act upon intelligence. It was also raised that some cases are not easy to understand, and Task Force members would welcome additional training to be able to better interpret the information received and act upon it. Vessel inspections as part of training workshops were also welcomed, however it was noted that the information derived from those exercises should be handled with care; it was suggested that if infractions were identified during these exercises they should be highlighted as such for lesson learning purposes, rather than necessarily fully investigated and prosecuted at the time. The justification for this was that there was a need for access to vessels for training exercises, and if vessels were prosecuted each time then the cooperation from the owners would stop. Rather the inspectors could learn from the exercise, and the next time the vessel was inspected look for the same problems, and if they were again there, then investigate and prosecute.

Unclear delimitation of maritime borders was raised as a challenge, in the light of the case concerning the Togolese-flagged vessel PATRICK. Togo stressed that although some border disputes are unresolved, there is a need for an agreed framework to enforce legislations, and to regulate access to marine resources in general, pending the final determination of borders.

Regarding the case of the STS-50 in the Western Indian Ocean, Togo reiterated that the vessel had already been de-flagged in 2017 while the vessel was still called SEA BREEZE 1. Togo had deregistered all foreign fishing vessels flying its flag outside of the country following the formal warning (yellow card) given by the EU. Togo was urged to share the deregistration certificate of the SEA BREEZE 1 to assist with the ongoing investigation and to avoid incrimination.

2.3.5 Information sharing protocol

Mr Dedi noted that the Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information under the West Africa Task Force has been finalised and is available. The objective of the FCWC Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information is to ensure that the Members operate and share information on a basis of trust, grounded in the parties' joint efforts to end illegal fishing. The framework will help maintain secure information sharing between all Member States and TT partners and continue to strengthen the capacity of the Member States. The Additional Protocol relates to the 'Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data in the area of the FCWC'.

DISCUSSION:

Togo raised the case of the STS-50 in the context of information sharing and requested clarifications as to the type of document to be sent to the WATF to confirm the vessel's deregistration. He suggested that the deregistration certificate could be sent by way of official letter but could also be shared on Basecamp depending on what the FCWC would judge appropriate.

Côte d'Ivoire enquired about the nature of the Additional Protocol, and especially wanted to know if it was a binding document and if sanctions were included into the provisions. The FCWC Secretariat urged countries to state when documents are confidential and clarified that this Protocol is an addition to the Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data in the area of the FCWC – which like all other FCWC documents is non-binding and relies on Ministerial commitment to implement it.

MR DEDI NOTED THAT THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHARED INFORMATION UNDER THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE HAS BEEN FINALISED AND IS AVAILABLE.



2.4 Country to country lesson learning

WATF members presented national-level case studies of interagency cooperation for discussion and lesson learning.

2.4.1 Nigeria – Fisheries and NIMASA

Ms Kupolati described Nigerian authorities' pre-licensing process, describing the guidelines for obtaining a letter of assurance, and the NIMASA vessel registration process and requirements. Before a vessel is registered it must undergo a 'Condition Survey' carried out by a NIMASA surveyor, to ascertain the general condition of the fishing vessel. This survey is carried out every five years and subject to annual inspection. Other types of survey for certification on fishing vessels include a Fishing Boat Survey Certificate, Safety Radio survey and certification and Dry-Docking survey and certification.

Nigeria has registered and certified more than 300 fishing vessels. These vessels are currently flying Nigerian flags and being supported by NIMASA, who also certify the training and competency of the crew on board these vessels. To be registered in Nigeria and granted a fishing licence the following documents must be submitted:

- A Vessel Data Form
- A Certified copy of the MoU and Article of Association
- A Letter of assurance from the Federal Department of Fisheries, certifying that a fishing licence application has been submitted
- A substantive certificate of registry
- A certificate of tonnage measurement
- A technical inspection report

Nigeria issues annual fishing licences that expire on the 31st December in the year issued, and differ depending on the length of the vessel, the species fished and waters the vessel will operate in.

2.4.2 Ghana — Maritime Domain Awareness Platform Assessment

Mr Copeland and Mr Yeboah gave an overview of the assessment carried out on the Maritime Domain Awareness Platforms (MDAPs) available to the Ghanaian Fisheries, Navy and Maritime Authorities that have relevance to MCS. The assessment was conducted by TMT in cooperation with the agencies under the US State Department Security Governance Initiative (SGI). The initial findings in late 2017 showed that there was limited awareness of fisheries issues in the non-fisheries agencies. Further there was limited use of available system functionalities such as filters and alerts, and limited awareness of both the capabilities and the limitations of MDAPs. Finally, that access to the platforms held by each agency was limited or non-existent to other agencies.

The initial findings were incorporated into a training workshop held in February 2018, at the naval headquarters at Burma Camp, Accra. Participants included personnel from the Ghana Navy, the Fisheries Monitoring Centre of the MCS Division, the Ghana Maritime Authority and Marine Police. Emphasis was on practical exercises to improve usage of MDAP functionalities, and the 'layering' and analysis of information from multiple platforms.

Recommendations for further follow up by Ghana were provided in a final project report in May 2018. They included strengthening staff training, strengthening routines, conducting joint 'live' exercises, combining MDAPs to support patrols, improving interagency access to radar and VMS, and improving data storage. Mr Yeboah noted that progress was being made to implement these recommendations, and that improved access to each agency's systems by the others was already in place.

2.4.3 Togo – Experience of the development of the Préfecture Maritime

Mr Ahoedo stated that the need for coordination and information sharing between agencies led the Head of State to create the National Agency for the Action of the State at Sea (ONAE) by decree No. 2014-13/PR of April 30, 2014. The Préfecture Maritime is one of ONAE's two organs, the other being the High Council for the Sea (HCM). The Préfecture Maritime is the operational arm of the ONAE. It ensures the application of laws, regulations and governmental decisions at sea. The objective is the pooling of resources and the cohesion of actions of agencies. It is responsible for:

- Policing and law enforcement at sea
- Safety of nautical and aerial activities at sea
- Protection of the marine environment
- Coordination of search and rescue (SAR) efforts
- Coordination of the fight against illegal activities
- Safeguarding of assets
- Medical aid at sea

Since its establishment it has had to deal with many cases including the case of the FV YELE, and a recent case involving a canoe caught with prohibited shark fins. The Préfecture Maritime has organised in collaboration with other partners several maritime exercises including African NEMO in 2016, the OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise in 2017, and GOGIN in 2018. They have also coordinated joint fisheries patrols.

OVER 30 VESSELS WERE INSPECTED OR REROUTED, AND THERE HAS BEEN AN APPARENT DETERRENT EFFECT SEEN THROUGH A REDUCTION IN ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY.



2.4.4 Côte d'Ivoire – Experiences from the planning and execution of joint at-sea patrols

Lt/Col Fofana presented on the experiences from the planning and execution of Joint Navy-Fisheries at-sea patrols in Côte d'Ivoire. The purpose of the joint surveillance missions is to pool the resources of the Navy and the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAP) for monitoring fisheries in the Côte d'Ivoire EEZ. The Navy provides logistical support, vessel capacity, supplies, and submits mission reports to DAP. DAP's obligations include; to communicate to the Navy all the documents or information useful for the accomplishment of the missions, to provide the necessary human resources (fisheries inspectors), to provide a material contribution (e.g. fuel) necessary for the organization of missions, and to contribute to the training of Navy personnel in the basics of fisheries regulations.

The Navy vessel engaged in maritime patrol missions is an RPB 33. The crew is composed of 28 people including 16 patrolmen, 8 commandos from the Navy and four fisheries inspectors. Over 30 vessels were inspected or rerouted, and there has been an apparent deterrent effect seen through a reduction in illegal fishing activity.

The type of information shared between the agencies includes the list of authorized vessels and the position of ships. The cooperation has allowed for speedy reactions, synergy of actions and means, and frank collaboration between services. The future challenges are to make the cooperation work optimally, to have a functional VMS and mandatory AIS.

2.4.5 Liberia – At-sea patrols in cooperation with Sea Shepherd

Mr Togba described Liberia's experience in their cooperation with Sea Shepherd Global, an international conservation non-governmental organisation. Sea Shepherd commenced operations in Liberian Waters on 13th February 2017, called 'Operation Sola Stella', using two off-shore civilian patrol vessels, the MY BOB BARKER and the MY SAM SIMON.

Sea Shepherd signed a Defence Pact with the Ministry of Defence, and operations were military oriented. NaFAA (then the Bureau of National Fisheries) and other member agencies of the interagency MCSCC (except for the Ministry of Justice) were not involved. Approximately 14 arrests have been made from early 2017 to date on fishing vessels for fisheries, fiscal, health, environmental and maritime violations.

Moving forward, a review of the MCSCC MoU, and SOPs that involve the Fisheries Authority is required. This should include the engagement of other agencies in any future cooperation agreements signed with Sea Shepherd to ensure they are interagency operations.



2.5 Region to region lesson learning

2.5.1 Recent experiences in Tanzania – an alternative patrol model

Ms Sally Frankcom, from the TT, presented the recent experiences in Tanzania's cooperation with Sea Shepherd. 'Operation Jodari' utilised Sea Shepherd's civilian offshore patrol vessel the OCEAN WARRIOR. The cooperation included Tanzania's Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA), the Navy, and the National Multi-Agency Task Team (NMATT) to combat transnational organized environmental crime. A MoU between Sea Shepherd, Tanzania and FISH-i Africa governed the cooperation and operations, ensuring that it had both national interagency cooperation, and regional cooperation, in-built from the beginning.

An experienced investigator was on board the OCEAN WARRIOR to provide technical and operational support on inspection, evidence collection, interviews and witness statements, and the FISH-i Africa Task Force coordinated communication between all the parties. FISH-i were central to the operation and included on all communications. They were able to offer legal advice, operational advice, and intelligence support, directly to agencies involved.

The operation began on the 15th January 2018, and inspections on tuna longliners revealed detached shark fins and carcasses as well as frozen juvenile dolphins, and human rights violations. The operation caused the whole tuna fleet that was licensed to leave the Tanzanian EEZ to fish in international waters. Out of the 24 deep sea fishing vessels licensed to fish in Tanzania, 19 absconded from inspections by fleeing, and have now been fined TZS 1 billion each by the ministry responsible for fisheries for failing to undertake post fishing inspections by authorities in Tanzania. Operation Jodari is still ongoing and has detected several violations on local vessels, including the smuggling of illegally cut mangrove wood. It is hoped the operation will expand to other FISH-i Africa countries and the FISH-i Task Force will continue to support and be part of the activity.

DISCUSSION:

A general discussion took place on the benefits and challenges of such an operation. Responding to a discussion point about protected areas, Mr Arthur-Dadzi from Ghana described the procedures followed, and the agencies involved in Ghana to establish and monitor protected areas and stated that supported by the World Bank and in line with the Fisheries Management Plan experts will soon map out which areas are used for spawning at certain times of the year. Monitoring of MPAs in Ghana is to be undertaken jointly and therefore it should be part of the mandate of fisheries MCS. He noted however that other stakeholders including the Environmental Protection Agency, Maritime Authority and the Petroleum Authority are yet to be brought on board.

Côte d'Ivoire separately requested observer training to facilitate an increase in observer coverage and improve the capacity of fisheries inspectors. The FCWC Secretariat stated this can be conducted at NWG level through PESCAO.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME
THAT BOTH REGIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION HAS LED
TO ENFORCEMENT ACTION
THROUGH FISH-I.



2.5.2 GREKO 1

Mr Mark Ssemakula from TT presented the case of the FV GREKO I. Following Somalia becoming a member of the FISH-i Africa Task Force in 2015, they alerted the TF that this vessel falsely claimed to be licensed to fish in the Somali EEZ and requested that should the vessel seek port access in a FISH-i Africa port, it be denied, and an inspection of the vessel carried out. In September 2016, GREKO I attempted to enter port in Mombasa, but was denied port access by Kenya. On 5th October 2016, the vessel returned to Mogadishu and was inspected by representatives from the Somali police and Coastguard, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and supported by a TT member of FISH-i Africa. The violations identified were:

- Operating in the Somali EEZ without a valid licence
- Using forged licences and documents
- Fishing in an area reserved for Somali fishermen
- Using fishing gear of a type that is illegal under Somali law
- Not reporting any data regarding its activities and operations regarding effort and catch to the Somali authorities

On the 13th October 2016, GREKO I fled Mogadishu. However, five days later, the captain enacted 'force majeure' to gain port access in Mombasa. Kenya contacted Somali authorities who contacted Belize authorities once more. The Belize authorities issued a 'prohibition-to-sail' notice and suspended the high seas fishing licence, making it illegal for the vessel to leave port without prior authorisation from Belize to do so. A second inspection was carried out and the registered owner was contacted and presented with the legal charges. The Somali authorities settled outside of court, and the USD 65 000 fine agreed was paid. There were concerns that the beneficial owner had previously received EUR 1.4 million for the possible scrapping of the vessel and a sister ship, the GREKO 2, in Greece.

The case highlighted that communication mechanisms and structures between coastal, port and flag States are vital, photographic evidence can reveal details that would otherwise be missed and that sanctions must act as effective deterrents.

2.5.3 Role of Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centres in the Indian Ocean in the STS-50 case

Ms Frankcom presented the case of the FV STS-50. STS-50 called in port in Madagascar in February 2018 where inspectors identified that it was in fact the IUU listed vessel that was better known under its previous names of ANDREY DOLGOV, AYDA and SEA BREEZ 1.

Tracked by FISH-i as it sought to refuel and obtain fresh provisions, the STS-50 was held and inspected by a multi-agency team in Mozambique who seized the documents of the vessel and crew and detained the vessel for further investigation. The vessel fled from Mozambican authorities and all the region's ports were placed on high alert. Despite attempts to hide its identity and location TT analysts were able to track the STS-50, enabling pursuit of the vessel by the Sea Shepherd patrol boat OCEAN WARRIOR that was actively patrolling in the Tanzanian Exclusive Economic Zone. This positional information was also shared with the Maritime Information Fusion Centres in Madagascar and Singapore, contributing to the successful arrest of the vessel by the Indonesian Navy as the STS-50 fled the WIO and headed for South East Asia.

This was the first time that both regional and international cooperation has led to enforcement action through FISH-i. The RMIFC in Madagascar was only established in 2016 and this is the first time that FISH-i exchanged information with them.



2.5.4 FISH-i Task Force – Our Future

Ms Frankcom then discussed the recent FISH-i publication, 'FISH-i Africa: Our Future'. Since its establishment in 2012, the FISH-i Task Force has been involved in over 40 cases, resulting in enforcement actions and sanctions; the publication presents an analysis of the cases and proposes future solutions.

Of the cases analysed, 13% included opportunistic violations of fisheries rules and regulations, 80% included deliberate enabling crimes or illegalities to support illegal fishing, and 26% included sinister crimes, outside the scope of the TF work. This was an unexpected result, as the TF had set out to identify and focus on fisheries violations. The 80% included illegal access to fish, subsidies, markets and quotas, and illegal avoidance of sanctions, taxes and costs. FISH-i has found illegal fishing to be part of a complex, systematic, planned web of crimes designed to increase profit gained from the fisheries sector.

FISH-i intends to implement a programme VIGILANCE, carrying out background checks, systematic cross checking of documents and physical inspections focussed on the fishing vessel, and thus targeting prosecution of the owner. Had this due-diligence been taking place in the region earlier, it would have successfully stopped several of the vessels that operated illegally in the WIO by preventing document forgery, vessel identity fraud, and other identity issues.

DISCUSSION:

Asked about the challenges of analysing information from flag States whose documentation and information is produced in non-Roman script the TT stated that methods are being developed to analyse documents, information and characters in several languages.

A common problem encountered during inspections is the language barrier with vessel captains; it is recommended that "Q cards" are used to ask questions and make requests. Developing relationships and communication channels with flag States is a crucial part of the VIGILANCE process.

2.6 Update on FCWC activities

The 9th Ministerial Conference of the FCWC held in Monrovia, Liberia in 2016 made several relevant recommendations to the WATF, including:

Recommendation 6: Requested the development and implementation of a Regional Fisheries Management Plan in the FCWC region that could among others facilitate: exchange of personnel and expertise in fisheries; collaboration with regional bodies on MCS strategies to combat IUU fishing; as well as help in the revision of the FCWC Regional Plan of Action for combating IUU fishing.

Recommendation 9: Requested the support of the African Union (AU) to among others evaluate the implementation of the 2009 FCWC RPOA-IUU by the member States.

An update was therefore provided to TF members to reflect on the progress made towards the implementation of those two recommendations.

2.6.1 Adoption of the FCWC Regional Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing

Mr Dedi stated that an evaluation of the existing 2009 FCWC RPOA-IUU was made and based on these findings a revised FCWC RPOA-IUU was drafted for the period of 2019- 2023 and validated at a meeting in Nairobi in May 2018. The revised RPOA-IUU is presented in three parts: Part 1 gives an overview of international and global context of IUU fishing; Part 2 presents the fisheries profile in the FCWC Region and specific concerns regarding IUU fishing; and Part 3 outlines a range of measures and the timeframe for implementation of the measures at national and regional levels to combat IUU fishing in the FCWC Region.

The plan identifies the following priority actions:

- Development and adoption of NPOA-IUU
- Ratification/accession/signing of international instruments
- Strengthening and improvement of MCS systems
- Awareness creation for and participation of professional associations and NGOs
- Harmonization of deterrent sanctions
- Access control
- Strengthening of research and dissemination of research findings
- Port control measures
- Export control measures
- Appointment of focal persons for implementation of RPOA-IUU

2.6.2 Update on the Regional Fisheries Management Plan

Mr Dedi noted that the existence of shared stocks, the cross-border mobility of fleets, and the need to harmonize management measures justify the development of a Regional Fisheries Management Plan (RFMP) coherent with regional and international instruments.

The RFMP will contribute to the improvement of food security and the economic and social well-being of FCWC Member States. It aims at creating conditions for the sustainable management of FCWC's marine fisheries by strengthening sub regional cooperation. The expected results are:

- Consolidation of ongoing initiatives in the region
- Harmonization of policies, laws and regulations governing marine fisheries
- Regulation of access to resources for artisanal fisheries
- Shared stock management

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC stated that priorities were determined through national consultation, and WATF member states noted that their concerns had been considered.

THE REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF FCWC MEMBER STATES.

2.6.3 National and regional good practices in seafood traceability in Africa to combat IUU fishing

Speaking on behalf of Dr Amadou Tall, Mr Dedi presented on the trade measures which could be used to tackle IUU fishing on the continent. The need to gauge the extent to which the markets facilitate and/or drive IUU fishing and to determine how they can be closed to products derived from IUU fishing was noted. The key trade-related measures to combat IUU fishing fall into two distinct categories; trade restrictive measures (TREMs), sometimes referred to as trade sanctions enacted by one or more market-states and catch certification schemes.

Trade measures suggested include:

- The FAO 2017 Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Traceability
- Eco-certification
- The Stop Illegal Fishing Industry Charter

African States are often facing challenges to comply with trade measures, in particular the lack of resources and infrastructure needed to meet trade requirements (e.g. EU IUU regulation), and the high cost of monitoring compliance in the small-scale fisheries sector.

It was recommended that countries align themselves to the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa and harmonize actions of bodies responsible for seafood traceability systems, incorporate traceability requirements into national and regional legislation, and coordinate with AU-IBAR, NEPAD and the FAO to facilitate capacity building on good practice guidelines on national seafood traceability systems.

DISCUSSION:

Togo felt that the link between fish trade and illegal fishing practices in the small-scale fisheries sector was not sufficiently stressed, highlighting that the small-scale fishing sector needs to be actively promoted to help fishers to move away from prohibited and unsustainable practices.

The FCWC highlighted that the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries are being used as a guiding document to address fish trade in small-scale fisheries. Data collection efforts on small-scale fisheries have been concentrated on designated landing sites, however it is known that a significant part of the catch is landed outside of those sites, making traceability very challenging.

Togo stressed on the need to develop a regional traceability mechanism with catch certificates to facilitate the monitoring of cross border trade. Countries should use their experience with the EU regulation to develop a similar mechanism in the region.

FCWC reminded participants of the studies undertaken under the FishTrade project on the West Africa trade corridor, which have identified the different flows of fish products between countries. It was stressed that awareness raising of policy makers was going to be key to put this issue on the policy agenda of the region.



UNAUTHORISED AT-SEA
TRANSHIPMENT ENABLES
ILLEGAL OPERATORS TO
MAXIMIZE PROFITS.

2.7 Review of the FCWC Strategy to Combat Illegal Transhipment at Sea

Unauthorised at-sea transhipment enables illegal operators to maximize profits by: reducing time and fuel spent carrying fish to port; avoiding taxes, such as buying a licence; avoiding inspection of the catch, for example for prohibited species; avoiding inspection of the fishing vessel, in order to verify documentation or ensure compliance with fishing gear, safety and sanitary requirements; enabling other fisheries crimes; and by creating an environment conducive to labour abuse of the crew and human trafficking. Transhipment at-sea is principally illegal within the FCWC region. Mr Copeland led a discussion on the FCWC Strategy to Combat Illegal Transhipment at Sea, approved by the FCWC Ministerial Conference in 2017, with the objective of identifying the next steps towards its implementation.

DISCUSSION:

It was agreed that an implementation plan was needed, highlighting both regional and national requirements. To aid this it was agreed the TT will draft an initial draft plan, including a questionnaire for Member States to complete to establish what is needed; responses will inform the implementation plan. This will then be circulated ahead of the next Task Force meeting, discussed and refined at the meeting itself, and then presented to the 2018 FCWC Ministerial Conference.

The meeting noted that although the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has adopted measures to regulate transhipment in the High Seas, what occurs in national waters is a national responsibility. Countries were therefore encouraged to apply regulations already in place and determine where there are gaps.

At the operational level Côte d'Ivoire requested additional information from the TT on various vessels, including reefers in Côte d'Ivoire waters, and particularly on their previous activities. The TT stated they would be able to examine vessel history, conduct a risk assessment, and inform the inspection regime as requested.



2.8 PESCAO presentation and coordination requirements

Mr Dedi presented PESCAO, a four-year EU funded program being implemented by the ECOWAS Commission in collaboration with Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) FCWC and SRFC. The overall goal is to improve the contribution of fisheries resources to food security and poverty alleviation in West Africa. The specific objective is to improve regional fisheries governance in West Africa through better coordination of national fisheries and aquaculture programs and policies.

Of the expected results, relevant to the TF is the second result, that measures to prevent and combat IUU fishing are strengthened and coordinated through improved MCS at regional and national levels. It aims to do this by harmonising fisheries legal frameworks, facilitating regional cooperation, improving the infrastructure and equipment of the sub-regional MCS centres, linking them to national centres, organising joint regional patrols and missions, and setting up a network of observers.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Secretariat stated that the support will begin on the 1st August 2018, and countries are encouraged to indicate their needs at national level. One of the most important aspects of PESCAO is to establish a regional VMS Centre. The project documents will be made available to countries as soon as possible. The complementarity between PESCAO and the Norad project to support the WATF was noted and this new collaboration to the WATF was welcomed. Technical partners including the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the MCS Technical Assistant (TA) recently appointed by the EU and the WATF TT confirmed their commitment to collaborate and organise activities jointly. WATF members agreed to provide the TA with access to the Basecamp platform as a member of the TT.

The role of the NPOAs-IUU and the new RPOA, and linkages between them, was discussed in the context of PESCAO, particularly that the documents now refer to each other and allow for the alignment of priorities.

It was highlighted that PESCAO will not provide funding for the organisation of joint patrols at this stage, as member countries don't have experience running this type of patrol yet. The feasibility of conducting joint patrols in the FCWC region will however be assessed as part of the project's future, and capacity building activities will take place including through a twinning and exchanges with SRFC.

THE OVERALL GOAL IS TO IMPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION OF FISHERIES RESOURCES TO FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN WEST AFRICA.

2.8.1 Options for the regional VMS centre

Mr Copeland described the functionality and importance of a VMS system, before presenting for discussion three potential models for the FCWC region; the first being a system in which all six countries have separate national systems that feed information into a regional centre, and the second system being a central FCWC system to which member countries have access. A third option proposed was a hybrid system where the three existing national VMS feed information to a regional centre and the regional centre sends information to national systems, and further provides access to countries where no national VMS is in place.

DISCUSSION:

Mr Mamadou Ball, MCS Technical Advisor to the FCWC under the PESCAO project, noted that Benin and Togo do not have a VMS, and stated that a regional system could be put in place in Tema, Ghana that allows for the countries to have a dedicated access to the systems of the other countries. This would be particularly relevant for Benin to monitor Ghanaian fishing vessels operating in their waters. Alternatively, once Togo and Benin install their own national VMS, these could be integrated. Other technical aspects, such as the need to have a dual traffic system, were discussed.

Countries expressed concern about confidentiality issues, and they stressed that operators might oppose some resistance if VMS information is no longer monitored and recorded locally. It was however reminded that confidentiality and related agreements normally relate to the commitment of FMCs not to share any VMS information with the industry to protect commercial interests, but countries should be able to share information between their respective government agencies, in particular with the additional protocol now in place in the FCWC region.

It was noted that a regional VMS would also have issues in terms of financial support from countries – at national level VMS were set up through project funding and countries are now facing financial challenges to sustain the systems in place. For this reason, individual national VMS may be preferable. ECOWAS noted however that the PESCAO project did not have funds to support individual VMS in each country. The positives of a regional VMS were also discussed, including; regional harmonisation of information formats, improved traceability and the possibility to have a web-based platform accessible by each country (with customised access restrictions based on fleets and boundaries). Cost recovery and the financial contributions of fishing operators were also discussed.

It was agreed that more information on the technical capability, the costs involved and the benefits of all options, be provided to allow countries to make an informed decision.

COUNTRIES EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES, AND THEY STRESSED THAT OPERATORS MIGHT OPPOSE SOME RESISTANCE IF VMS INFORMATION IS NO LONGER MONITORED AND RECORDED LOCALLY.

2.9 Looking ahead

2.9.1 Update on Norad assessment and looking towards Phase 2

Mr Copeland stated that the Norad partner assessment of TMT, a requirement for future funding support, was submitted with positive results, to be finalised mid June. This allows the TT to now move forward in the process of finalising the updated Phase 2 proposal. The progress made in the past year extension, and the cooperation with PESCAO will be incorporated into the proposal. The extension of Phase 1 ends on the 30th September 2018, and Phase 2 will hopefully begin on the 1st October.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to a request from the ECOWAS Commission, the FCWC Secretariat agreed to share the assessment and proposal once finalised. Lessons learned from Phase 1 will be part of the Phase 2 proposal and they will be useful to both the WATF and PESCAO. The Secretariat also stated that there will be coordination between the FCWC MCS initiatives.

2.9.2 CRESMAO and support to fisheries activities

Boniface Konan, Director of CRESMAO discussed the Yaoundé Process, a regional strategy to combat piracy and maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea based on two UN Resolutions, UN Resolution 2018 (2011) and UN Resolution 2039 (2012).

Implementing the structures arising from the Yaoundé Process, two Regional Coordination Centres have been developed (CRESMAO and CRESMAC), as well as an Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC). The Centre is the body for strengthening activities aimed at cooperation, coordination, and pooling of resources, with a view to implementing the regional maritime safety and security strategy common to both West and Central Africa (the Yaounde Code of Conduct). Staff was deployed to the ICC in February 2017.



It was stressed that IUU fishing is among the list of organized transnational crimes to be addressed by the Yaounde Process, and that is reflected in the Article 8 of the Code of Conduct.

To achieve its objectives, CRESMAO relies on the following programs that are set up with the support of ECOWAS Member States and partners in the Yaoundé Process:

- **Program 1** Exchanges with other centres, exchanging good practices and participating in the installation of centres not yet functional
- **Program 2** Capacity building
- **Program 3** Communication, which focusses on increasing visibility and interactions with partners
- **Program 4** Documentation and harmonization of regional texts

The opportunities include improved expertise and information sharing, and synergy of actions. The hope is that by the end of the year all the centres will be adequately staffed. The success of this initiative depends on the adoption by States and structures working in the maritime space of the Yaoundé Process.

DISCUSSION:

Addressing the inclusion of the fisheries sector in CRESMAO activities, it was noted that maritime safety and security must involve experts from all sectors, and this should not be limited to military. CRESMAO explained that Maritime Operations Centres (MOCs) are traditionally established on military bases, however it is planned to establish them in areas where civilians have access to. The aim is to develop a system where all military and civilian structures collaborate and exchange information. At the national level the *Préfectures Maritimes* are an expression of that process.

2.9.3 Other ongoing initiatives in the region

- The World Bank initiative in Ghana ended in June and the Norad Fish for Development Programme is ongoing. Ghana has bilateral agreements with Seychelles and Togo, particularly relating to mariculture. VMS training is ongoing through the World Bank, together with Liberia.
- Liberia has a five-year Korea focussed project and has signed an MoU with the Korean Government to support a Fisheries Monitoring Centre and facilitate the export of fisheries resources.
- The FCWC Secretariat and TT is in discussions about regional training with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The OBANGAME EXPRESS exercise has also started working closely with NOAA.
- ICCAT has funds to support countries to reinforce their competencies, especially in terms of Port State Controls, specifically for member countries and national fisheries focal points are encouraged to send requests for support.
- The ECOWAS Commission is participating in the FAO programme Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST). FIRST represents a strategic partnership between FAO and the EU, whereby the EU is making an investment of nearly EUR 8 billion in over 60 countries during the 2014–2020 period to improve food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA). FIRST will provide governments with policy assistance and capacity development support to:
 - Review current national policy and institutional frameworks for FNSSA
 - Identify bottlenecks and leverage opportunities for improving impact
 - Develop options to improve delivery and impact
 - Advocate for and develop human and organizational capacities for change
 - Facilitate evidence-based and inclusive policy dialogue and stakeholder coordination

2.9.4 COFI

Mr Dedi stated that the 33rd session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) will take place from the 9th – 13th July 2018. The Executive Secretaries of regional bodies meet one day before and one day after the meeting. WATF Member States were encouraged to be part of the 'African Voice' to ensure a combined stance on issues of relevance to the region and the continent.

He added that COFI 33 will see the launch of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), and that FCWC will set up an information stand to display its publications. Documentation from the FAO meeting will be circulated to FCWC member states.

DISCUSSION:

Addressing a concern that States are expected to cover fees for COFI attendance, the ECOWAS Commission stated that there is a mechanism for countries to request support from FAO for COFI attendance through national FAO offices. As far as ICCAT is concerned, FCWC has made budget provisions for the attendance of member States to meetings, including to preparation meetings to discuss compliance reporting and other issues among themselves.

ICCAT HAS FUNDS TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO REINFORCE THEIR COMPETENCIES, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF PORT STATE CONTROLS.



3. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

3.1 Outcomes of the 6th Task Force meeting

The WATF Member States agreed the following outcomes, to:

a. Cooperation within the TF

- 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

b. 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
- Indicate, where possible, the vessel IMO number on all vessel documents and for all vessel information shared
- Share details of fishing vessels that are de-registered by a Member State as this occurs
- Share vessel documents, in particular registration certificates and licence documents, to prevent dual flagging issues
- Establish improved information sharing protocols for vessels arrested at sea, to eliminate delayed feedback or updates between Member States
- Initiate systematic communication with Flag States as part of due diligence processes

c. VMS

- Agree to move forward with the establishment of a regional VMS. Requirements and architecture will be determined at the planned FCWC PESCAO project launch (end of July 2018), based on options and technical specifications provided by the TT

d. Fish trade

- Further investigate into the links between fish trade and illegal fishing both at the national and regional levels

e. Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment at Sea

- Develop an action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for consideration at the next TF meeting, for agreement and presentation at the 2018 FCWC Ministerial Conference. Priority areas for support at country level will be communicated to TT and compiled into an action matrix

f. NWGs

- Continue to strengthen National Working Group structures, cooperation and information sharing through the processes identified at the NWG workshops, and ensure associated national budget needs

g. Coordination of WATF support

- Welcome support to be received through ECOWAS under the recently started EU-funded PESCAO project, and encourage continued ECOWAS-led initiatives in support of the Task Force
- Communicate country-level needs and identified areas for support to the PESCAO Technical Assistant for inclusion into the first workplan under the MCS component of the project
- Ensure close cooperation between all funded projects in support of the WATF, including Norad (Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa project) and EU (PESCAO project)
- Identify and share national support needs for PESCAO support and inform the FCWC Secretariat before the FCWC PESCAO project launch (end of July 2018)
- Agree the PESCAO Technical Assistant will become a member of the regional communications platform Basecamp

h. Cooperation with other initiatives

- Further collaborate with ECOWAS on maritime security issues, including by encouraging the operationalization of the 'Yaoundé Architecture' (CRESMAO-MMCC-MOC)
- Share lessons learned from maritime security issues and crisis situations where the WATF played a key role in the sharing of information in support to operations
- Formally engage with CRESMAO to facilitate the uptake of fisheries-related issues in work routines and promote the sharing of information extracted from Maritime Domain Awareness platforms
- Keep the FCWC Secretariat up to date with any national level MCS initiatives that are complementary to or need coordination with the WATF



3.2 Requests from the Task Force

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

a. Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment at Sea

- Support the development of the implementation plan, including through a consultation process for presentation at Task Force 7 meeting
- Support the pre-inspection analysis of reefers in the WATF region

b. Capacity building

- Carry out training to improve the capacity to carry out due diligence
- Facilitate the training of observers to work towards increased observer coverage

c. IMO numbers

- Compile a quarterly list based on the Combined Licence List to monitor and report on the uptake of IMO numbers in the FCWC region

d. VMS

- Provide detailed technical information on the options for developing a regional VMS by mid-June 2018
- Support the development of the FCWC regional VMS, including national level capacity building

e. Other technical support

- Facilitate communication between the WATF members and relevant flag states to support due diligence processes
- Conduct further assessment on the risk of dual flagging by fishing vessels in the region

f. Cooperation with other initiatives

- Provide the Task Force with the PESCAO project documents as soon as is convenient
- Ensure coordination between PESCAO and Norad Phase II through sharing of project documents, lessons learned and coordination of workplans

g. International Fora

- Explore opportunities to fund members of the WATF to attend relevant international fora, particularly COFI and ICCAT

3.3 Additional requests outside the scope of the WATF

Legal support

- Support a legal review of Nigeria's fisheries regulations following the preparation of a new fisheries law
- Support the development of Fisheries Regulations in Togo, following the recent adoption of a new fisheries law and a new Maritime Code

4. Closing remarks

Mr Dedi thanked all attendees and commended the presence of the international organisations that came to share their experiences with the sub region. Mr Copeland thanked TF Members for an informative and productive meeting. Closing the meeting on behalf of the Minister and the host country, Dr Domtani Ali, Director of Fisheries of Togo thanked the WATF for its efforts, urging national and regional implementation of the decisions made.



5. Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIS	Automatic identification system	NIOMR	Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research
AMLEP	African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
AU	African Union	NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
CFA	West African CFA franc	NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
CITES	The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	NWGS	National Working Groups
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	ONAEM	Organisme National pour l'Action de l'Etat en Mer
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea	PESCAO	The European Union's 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' Project
CRESMAO	Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa	PFRS	Policy Framework and the Reform Strategy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	PSMA	FAO Port State Measures Agreement
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	RFMP	Regional Fisheries Management Plan
EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency	RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
EMA	Eco Mark Africa	SDG 14	The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14
EU	European Union	SG	Secretary General
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SGI	Security Governance Initiative
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
FPA	Fisheries Partnership Agreement	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
FV	Fishing vessel	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
GOGIN	Inter-Regional Network for the Gulf of Guinea	TF	Task Force
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	TF1	Task Force meeting 1
IMO	International Maritime Organization	TF2	Task Force meeting 2
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)	TF3	Task Force meeting 3
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance	TF4	Task Force meeting 4
MCSCC	MCS Coordinating Committee Liberia	TF5	Task Force meeting 5
MDAPS	Maritime Domain Awareness Platforms	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
MMCC	Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre	TOR	Terms of Reference
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	TT	Technical Team
MTC	Minimum terms and conditions	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
NAFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Liberia	USD	United States Dollar
NAQS	Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service	VMS	Vessel monitoring system
NEPAD	The New Partnership for Africa's Development	WATF	West Africa Task Force
NEMO	Navy's Exercise for Maritime Operations	WIO	Western Indian Ocean

5.2 Workshop agenda

5 June 2018

08:30 to 09:00 **REGISTRATION**

09:00 to 10:15 **OPENING SESSION**

Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Seraphin Dedi

- Remarks from the WATF Technical Team – Jan Thomas Odegard
- Remarks from ECOWAS – Aboubacar Sidibe
- Opening by Government of Togo
- Introduction of participants
- Celebration of International Fight Against IUU Fishing Day
- Group photo

10:15 to 10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 to 10:40 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

- Agreement of agenda

10:40 to 11:10 **RECAP OF THE WATF INITIATIVE**

- Quick recap of the WATF to date
- Technical team report to the Task Force on TF5 Outcomes and Requests – status

11:10 to 12:30 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS**

- National presentations by country representatives
- Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Togo

12:30 to 13:30 **LUNCH** (*Participants sign the #FightIUUFishing Board*)

13:30 to 15:15 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont.**

15:15 to 15:30 **#FIGHTIUUFISHING GROUP PHOTO**

15:30 to 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 to 17:00 **UPDATE FOLLOWING NATIONAL-LEVEL WORKSHOPS ON INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

Formalization of NWGs and other mechanisms, key outcomes and considerations moving forward

17:00 **END OF THE DAY**

6 June 2018

09:00 to 09:05 **REVIEW OF DAY 1 – Meeting Co-Chairs**

09:05 to 10:30 **RECENT CASES, AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR INFORMATION SHARING**

- WATF ongoing cases – presentation and discussion
- Update on the FCWC Additional Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information under the WATF
- Importance of the Combined licence list and its implications for MCS operations and vessel registers

10:30 to 10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:45 to 12:30 **COUNTRY TO COUNTRY LESSON LEARNING**

- Nigeria – Fisheries and NIMASA – cooperation in flagging and licensing fishing vessels (Nigeria)
- Ghana - Maritime Domain Awareness Platform Assessment towards strengthening of interagency information sharing (TMT and Ghana)
- Togo – experience of the development of the Prefecture Maritime in Togo, and future relevance to Fisheries MCS (Togo)
- Côte d'Ivoire – Experiences from the planning and execution of Joint Navy-Fisheries at-sea Patrols (Côte d'Ivoire)
- At-sea patrols in cooperation with Sea Shepherd
 - Liberia Experiences and lessons learned
 - Recent experiences in Tanzania – an alternative model

13:00 to 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 to 14:45 **REGION TO REGION LESSON LEARNING**

- Case Study – GREKO 1
- Case Study - Role of Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centers in Fisheries in the Indian Ocean in the recent STS-50 case
- FISH-i Task Force – OUR FUTURE

14:45 to 15:30 **UPDATE ON FCWC ACTIVITIES**

- Adoption of the FCWC RPOA-IUU
- Update on the Regional Fisheries Management Plan
- Fish Trade and IUU - Update on FAO regional workshop on 'Good practices in seafood traceability in Africa to combat IUU fishing'

15:30 to 15:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:45 to 17:00 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TRANSHIPMENT**

- Review of the FCWC Strategy to Combat Illegal Transshipment at Sea
- Discussion: considerations for implementation
 - Regional
 - National
 - Technical / Project Support

19:00 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE DINNER**

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

5.2 Workshop agenda cont.

7 June 2018

09:00 to 09:05 **REVIEW OF DAY 2** – Seraphin Dedi, Host country representative

09:05 to 10:30 **PESCAO**

- PESCAO presentation and coordination requirements
- Role and collaboration of the TA and TT of the WATF
- Options for the regional VMS center and discussion

10:30 to 10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:45 to 12:00 **PESCAO cont.**

- Look towards the Ministerial Conference
- Draft Recommendation on Information Sharing Protection Framework
 - Draft Recommendation of the Regional Transshipment Strategy
 - WATF attendance, technical and financial Support of to the conference
 - Communications needs

12:00 to 12:30 **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Update on Norad assessment and looking towards Phase II
- Coordination between FCWC MCS initiatives
- Introduction of the Maritime Security Regional Coordination Centre for Western Africa (CRESMAO-Abidjan) and support to Fisheries activities
- Other collaborations
- COFI

12:30 to 13:30 **LUNCH**

13:00 to 15:00 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION**

- Task Force discussion, requests, recommendations and internal decisions

15:00 to 15:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15 to 16:45 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION cont.**

16:45 to 17:00 **THANKS AND CLOSING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TOGO**

5.3 Attendance list

BENIN

A. Gaston Djihinto

Director of Fisheries

Samé Bernard Tossi

Head of MCS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Lt/Col Bina Fofana

Deputy Director of Maritime and Lagoon Fisheries

Dr Gossan Hermance

Head of MCS

GHANA

Joseph Yeboah

Assistant Director of MCS

Michael Arthur-Dadzie

Director of Fisheries

LIBERIA

Augustine Manoballah

Deputy Director General NaFAA

Glasgow Togba

Director of Marine Division

NIGERIA

Adepegba Olabisi

Deputy Director

Bola Aduke Kupolati

Deputy Director, Head of MCS

TOGO

Ahoedo Kossi

Head of MCS

Ahoedo Kossi

Head of MCS

Amidou Nadio

Geographer SIG / HCM

Ayetou Adjoh-Komlan

Senior Maritime Transport Technician

Kadjogbe Olanlo

HCM Environmental Issues Officer

Kinamso Damecheti

DPA/MAEP

Salamatou Tebie

Head of Maritime Transport

Tezike Madadozi

Director General of the Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Agriculture

Umul-Khair Gbare

Assistant to the Chief Fishing Section

Vigno Louyah

*Communication Manager,
Maritime Prefecture*

ECOWAS

COMMISSION

Aboubacar Sidibe

Senior Policy Officer Fisheries & Aquaculture

EFCA

Neil Ansell

Desk Manager

Sergio Amorim

Project Officer

PESCAO

Mamadou Ball

Technical Advisor

CRESMAO

Konan Boniface

Director



Felicia Agyei

Secretary

Isaac Gatorwu

IT Expert

Kofi Taylor-Hayford

Communications Officer

Seraphin Dedi

Secretary General



Duncan Copeland

Executive Director

Jan Thomas Odegard

Board Chair

Viviane Koutob

West Africa Field Coordinator

Yann Yvergniaux

Analyst



Mark Ssemakula

Deputy-Coordinator

Sally Frankcom

Communications Officer



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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 stop illegal fishing.

For more information go to:

www.fcwc-fish.org

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