

West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing



RECORD OF THE 5TH WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Accra, Ghana
7 – 9 November 2017





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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, in collaboration with a Technical Team (TT) which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) and Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) developed a Norad funded project entitled, 'Fisheries Intelligence and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Support in West Africa'.

Through this project the West Africa Task Force (WATF) has been established with the key task to operationalise important MCS commitments of the FCWC, including the 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data on Fisheries in the Zone of the FCWC and the 2009 FCWC Regional Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The WATF was formally established in 2015, when the FCWC Conference of Ministers adopted the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Task Force (TF) and endorsed its existence. Since its formation, the

WATF has helped to: improve regional information sharing; increase cooperation between countries; strengthen inter-agency cooperation at national level through National Working Groups (NWG); and support the sharing of intelligence between the TF and TT, to spur enforcement actions. Initially a three-year project, an extension has now been granted to June 2018 as a second project phase is being developed.

One of the key implementing structures of the TF 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 in October 2016; and the fourth Task Force meeting (TF4) was held in Lagos, Nigeria in May 2017. This report is from the fifth TF meeting (TF5) that took place in Accra, Ghana from the 7th to 9th November 2017 which was initially planned to take place in Togo but was relocated to Accra due to unforeseen circumstances. It was attended by representatives of the six FCWC countries, the FCWC Secretariat, and the TT, together with an observer representing the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General (SG), Mr Seraphin Dedi Nadjé welcomed participants, and extended greetings from the Chair of the FCWC, Commissioner James Kollie Jr, Head of the Liberian Maritime Authority (LiMA). He conveyed thanks to the Government of Ghana for hosting the meeting on short notice, demonstrating their support for the FCWC and the WATF. The SG reflected on the activities carried out in phase one and encouraged participants to engage in the meeting and contribute to the development of the new phase, highlighting the need for member countries to take ownership of the TF. He announced that the development of phase two was targeting the provision of four more years of support to the WATF, and further collaboration with regional projects, particularly the European Union's (EU) 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' (PESCAO) project.

Honourable Elizabeth Afoley Quaye, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Ghana, welcomed attendees. Noting the importance of fisheries to the region, economically and with regards to food security, the Minister underscored the significance of this meeting. Minister Quaye stated that weak national and regional capacity have led to increases in illegal activity including transshipment, use of illegal gears, and light fishing. The Minister described Ghana's efforts to combat these illegalities, noting the establishment of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) and provisions made in the Fisheries Management Plan of Ghana 2015-2019 for enhanced port and at sea legislation and community based management programmes. Minister Quaye stated that Ghana and the other FCWC countries need to cooperate, citing the infamous case of the FV THUNDER as a successful example of collaboration that can be built

upon. She was optimistic that attendees would work hard to develop the next steps needed to strengthen efforts in combatting IUU fishing in the sub-region.

Mr Duncan Copeland, Executive Director of TMT, welcomed participants on behalf of the TT, and gave a brief overview of the WATF including its development and structures. He noted the results achieved to date including: increased enforcement action; strengthened compliance; the establishment and growth of the NWGs; and successful information sharing. Mr Copeland stated that the potential for increased efforts to fight illegal fishing and related illegalities, as well as collaboration and integration with complementary initiatives looked promising in the next phase of the WATF.



MINISTER QUAYE STATED THAT WEAK NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CAPACITY HAVE LED TO INCREASES IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY INCLUDING TRANSHIPMENT, USE OF ILLEGAL GEARS, AND LIGHT FISHING.

2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 National activities

In this session, facilitated by Mr. Dedi, Members presented their national monitoring, control and surveillance status, progress, recent experiences and challenges in combatting illegal fishing since TF4 meeting in May 2017:

2.1.1 Benin

Mr Bernard Tossi, Head of MCS in Benin, announced the development of two new decrees – one on fisheries and one on aquaculture – in a drive to review and harmonize national legislation. This new legal framework will give the newly established Fisheries Police of Benin increased authority to contribute to fisheries enforcement. The ongoing legislative review intends to improve and harmonise some of the statutes relating to illegal fishing and authorisation of vessels to fish in Beninese waters. As part of this review, a legal text is being drafted to allow for the presence of Benin fisheries inspectors onboard foreign – essentially Ghanaian – fishing vessels. Various local agencies play an active role in supporting MCS efforts through the NWG, and were thankful for equipment and training provided to fisheries inspectors from the WATF.

The role of the National Gendarmerie in seizing gear and outboard engines from small canoes suspected of illegally transshipping fish from trawlers was explained. A trawler boarding training took place in that context, involving fisheries inspectors and a Navy patrol boat. Officials from Benin, including the presenter, participated in training on law enforcement in fisheries held in Accra, Ghana and facilitated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the TT, and this along with other TF activities has allowed Beninese fisheries managers to better understand illegal fishing and fishing crimes, evidence gathering and inspection procedures, and case preparation.

Benin is in the process of ratifying the 2009 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA). Due to inadequate infrastructure, industrial fishing vessels are unable to land fish in Benin but there are considerable imports of fish. Benin expressed their wish to hold a NWG meeting in early 2018, and requested support.

DISCUSSION:

The seasonal closure of the trawler fishery in Ghana was held up as an example, and Benin expressed interest to do the same. It was noted that the demersal fishery is based on a shared resource and therefore the conservation and management measures (CMMs) should be implemented at the regional level.

The occurrence of illegal transshipment from trawlers to artisanal fishers was highlighted as a problem that needs to be urgently addressed.

The uptake of International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers on fishing vessels flagged to the region was commended, and it was noted that the percentage of vessels with IMO numbers in the FCWC region is planned to increase to near 100% by mid-2018 ahead of the 33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

Explaining the reason behind the restructuring of enforcement agencies, Benin stated it is often difficult for fisheries inspectors to act quickly on information received, hence the need to give police power and by doing so to create a fisheries paramilitary force like the existing forest rangers.

Nigeria, noting the increased fish imports in Benin, stated that authorities suspect illegal fish enters Nigeria through Benin land border because of Nigeria implementing a quota requirement, and they are setting up a TF to inspect the cold storage facilities along the Benin-Nigeria border to prevent these illegal imports. Nigeria requested cooperation in this action.

The landing obligation for foreign fishing vessels was discussed, and it was highlighted that the current inability to require this – because of the lack of infrastructure – is not only causing an economic loss to the country, but it also deprives Benin of inspection opportunities in port.

Benin fisheries authorities have been able to organize joint activities with other agencies on an ad-hoc basis, however the NWG is not yet able to conduct regular joint planning exercises. The need for NWG activities to be planned and budgeted in advance, and for inter-agency collaboration to be more systematic through formalized arrangements were noted. The use of existing interagency arrangements with similar structures or overlapping membership, such as the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) National Network or the *Préfecture Maritime*, may offer opportunities for cooperation in this respect.

2.1.2 Côte d'Ivoire

Deputy Director Lt/Col Bina Fofana, representing the Director of Côte d'Ivoire, emphasized the importance of fisheries to the country, stating that on average 500 fishing vessels make stops in their ports annually. A Maritime Code has been drafted for adoption that affirms Côte d'Ivoire's commitments to the international conventions to which it is a party and defines the status of the Maritime Authority and the institutional framework for Maritime Affairs. There are plans to relax the conditions for permitting foreign vessels (of all types) to register with the Côte d'Ivoire and to support a competitive open market economy for actors in the maritime and port sector.

The NWG is established and awaiting formal establishment through a decree. The first outcome of the NWG is an agreement with the Navy for assisting with boarding fisheries inspectors onto fishing vessels using resources from the general fisheries budget, the first joint patrols to support this have taken place. MCS capacity has improved with support from: the WATF through the acquisition of inspection equipment; from the Environment Justice Foundation (EJF) to monitor coastal vessels; and, from MESA in the form of data dissemination (automatic identification system (AIS) vessel lists and weather information).

The Cabinet has approved the Bill for accession to the PSMA and the documents have been sent to the National Assembly for consideration. A vessel monitoring system (VMS) is in place and relevant legal texts to meet International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) requirements for vessel monitoring have been developed. The overall system, including the purchase of VMS units and recruitment of information technology personnel at the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC), represented a total cost of more than CFA 300 million. The benefits gained from the WATF are increased information exchange, rapid decision making and improved effectiveness in combatting illegal fishing.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to enquiries regarding the long-term funding sustainability of the new VMS system, Côte d'Ivoire informed the TF that they have established a fisheries fund to support the system, and that fines from illegal fishing activity and taxes from fish products will support the fund. They are currently tracking 30 vessels. It was noted that as the VMS system of Ghana is compatible with that of Côte d'Ivoire, a cooperation agreement to share information between the systems could be envisaged. It is expected that the VMS, if supplemented with an electronic fishing logbook, could solve problems of catch reporting by EU vessels (to better monitor the reference tonnage and vessel reference tonnages).

Participants raised concerns that new structures with broader mandates such as the *Préfecture Maritime* might overshadow the nascent NWG inter-agency cooperation specifically targeted at fisheries issues, however as they all work towards a common goal they can be developed to create synergies. Côte d'Ivoire fisheries authorities are cooperating with the navy, and were asked to share the memorandum of understanding (MoU) that has been developed between these two agencies with the TF for lesson learning.

ON AVERAGE, 500 FISHING VESSELS MAKE STOPS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE PORTS ANNUALLY.



2.1.3 Ghana

Mr Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu, Head of MCS in Ghana stated that the Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625) is currently being reviewed, with the hope that within a year there will be a new Fisheries Act that captures all the sub-sectors under one law. He recalled that the MCS directorate works directly with the FEU to undertake fisheries enforcement activities such as sea patrol and boarding, port inspections, beach patrols, VMS and sensitization of communities. The ongoing and forthcoming projects supporting fisheries enforcement in Ghana include; Component Two of the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) Project aimed at reducing illegal fishing, the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) aimed at rebuilding pelagic stocks, and the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Ghana Tuna Project aimed at improving management, combating illegal fishing, and protecting biodiversity in the tuna sector.

Ghana is in the process of implementing their national fisheries management plan, which requires significant reduction in the trawler fleet. They are currently going through this process, starting with vessels that have fisheries compliance histories or are not compliant with other regulations, such as vessel safety. The licensed fleet has reduced to 50, though some vessels are working to complete their upgrades and will be licensed as well. Mr. Baidoo-Tsibu noted that this process was not an easy one, and had required a more gradual reduction than had been planned.

A party to the PSMA, the Fisheries Commission (FC) collaborates with the Ghana Ports and Harbours (GPHA) Authority and other Government Port Agencies in exercising port State controls, and has trained fisheries inspectors for port inspections.

The WATF has aided Ghana in the sharing of information, the training of staff, verification of documentation, and an expanded network, introducing and linking with regional and international partners. Ghana noted that the necessary legislative framework is needed to implement enforcement actions, and called for a review and harmonisation of laws. Ghana is implementing an expanded observer programme, stating that they have trained 100 new observers to add to the 40 staff members already trained.

DISCUSSION:

Togo explained their bilateral cooperation with Ghana, facilitated through a joint commission. There is a proposed draft cooperation agreement on fisheries and aquaculture to further support this cooperation; it is expected to be signed soon. Ghana explained that to support enforcement efforts a community based MCS programme, modelled after the Philippines SeaWatch initiative, has been developed.

Ghana will no longer register new fishing vessels, and meet regularly with the industry prior to licensing for fishing to sensitize and update the vessel operators on CMMs. It was noted that identity and reasons for those vessels that had been de-licensed from Ghana should be shared with the TF so other countries could be aware of their challenges if they came to apply for licences in their countries.

Nigeria shared lesson learning with the TF regarding their interagency cooperation, stating that improved communication with the Navy has helped them avoid costly misunderstandings and operate more efficiently.

2.1.4 Liberia

According to Mr Glasgow Togba, Director of the Marine Division of the Liberia fisheries agency, Liberia loses almost USD 12 million annually to IUU fishing, but this is reducing in part due to collaboration within the WATF, and a recovery in fish stocks has been evidenced. A new Fisheries Act has been passed by the Legislature, and signed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. This establishes a new and autonomous Liberian Fisheries Authority. This new Act expected to come into force after elections are concluded, although time will be needed to put management measures in place.

It was noted that Liberia had been facing some recent challenges on inter-agency cooperation between Fisheries and Coast Guard, due to the recent Sea Shepherd patrols conducted in Liberia. These patrols had only involved Coast Guard personnel, with no cooperation with fisheries, and there had been some challenges with the charges levied against some of the vessels arrested by the Coast Guard which fisheries had disagreed with. Mr. Togba noted that some of the arrests had involved vessels flagged to FCWC countries, and apologised that more information had not been shared at the time, however stated that often fisheries were provided with limited information about the cases. He assured the meeting that work was now ongoing to re-build cooperation with the Coast Guard as this had previously been fisheries' closest cooperating agency.

Liberia is yet to become party to the PSMA, but is implementing port state controls, and have developed a national plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU). With investigative support from the WATF, and in cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire, Liberian authorities arrested FV YEU HONG 2 and charged the vessel with a USD 110 000 fine. It was stated that a new Fisheries Monitoring Centre had just been completed in the new fishing port in Monrovia, but has yet to become operational. Mr. Togba noted that the benefits to Liberia from the WATF include increased regional collaboration, information sharing and assistance with investigations, all areas that were particularly needed by fisheries authorities in Liberia. The assistance of member States in the possible detention of the vessel NEW BAI 168, currently on the ICCAT IUU list, was requested, as attempts by Liberia to contact the owner and agent have been unsuccessful.

DISCUSSION:

Elaborating on the case of the FV YEU HONG 2, Liberia stated that the vessel was detected by Liberian authorities to be fishing illegally. The vessel operators admitted to fishing illegally and an out of court settlement was reached.

In respect to the EU Yellow Card, Liberia is currently addressing the comments made by the EU, and has improved its legislation with the new Act. There is also a joint monitoring centre established to monitor all Liberian flagged fishing vessels – including reefers flagged by the overseas register representing the Liberia Maritime Agency – and a list of Liberian flagged vessels will soon be published on the BNF website.





2.1.5 Nigeria

Mrs Bola Kupolati, head of MCS in Nigeria described the case of the STAR SHRIMPER XXV, which was prevented from fishing as it did not have a turtle exclusion device (TED), and the case of the notorious vessel the FV RAY/YELE, highlighting how support from the TF and interagency cooperation within the NWG assisted in the handling of these cases.

There is a need for the Nigerian Sea Fisheries law to be reviewed and updated, and for regular meetings with relevant agencies and stakeholders to create awareness about the roles played by all in combatting IUU fishing. To improve the capacities of other agencies, Nigeria has integrated fisheries management and enforcement into the navy college education and training of officers belonging to other agencies, so that these officers are able to better deal with fisheries matters. An increase in requests from operators to register vessels in Nigeria highlighted the need to consider improved CMMs, Nigeria is implementing a mandatory AIS requirement for their flagged fishing vessels.

DISCUSSION:

Elaborating on the mandatory AIS, Nigeria stated that although the Fisheries Act is still being reviewed, operators and the Fisheries Department have a good understanding and fishers comply with what the Department suggests even when not yet enforced in the Act. The Nigerian Navy will monitor the vessels' AIS transmissions. Responding to a query regarding the procedures followed when applying fines and sanctions, Nigeria stated that this procedure is being revised, but currently, when vessels are arrested a memo is written to the Director of Fisheries who then decides on what action to take.

2.1.6 Togo

Mr Kossi Ahoedo, head of MCS in Togo, noted that the Togolese Navy has improved their MCS capacity and have purchased three patrol boats, while the Fisheries Directorate has received new inspection equipment through the WATF. Fisheries Authorities struggle significantly with internet availability.

Togo has put in place new laws: Law N° 2016-026 of 11 October 2016 on the Regulation of Fishing and Aquaculture, Law N° 2016-028 of 11 October 2016 on Bearing the Code of the Merchant Navy and Law No 2016 of 30 March 2016 on Maritime Areas Under National Jurisdiction. Regulatory texts for these various laws are being finalised. Although there is no legislation enforcing mandatory IMO numbers, this is anticipated.

Togo acceded to the PSMA in 2016, and between January and October 2017, seven reefer inspections have been conducted. Togo is developing a NPOA-IUU to be finalised by 2018. They have received training through the MESA Project to improve data collection methods. The Togo navy also took part in several joint drills with foreign navy forces, including one with France (African NeMo) and one with the United States.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to queries about the collaboration between the Fisheries Directorate and the Maritime Brigade, Mr Ahoedo clarified that the Maritime Brigade is responsible for issuing fishing licences and is based at the port. Until recently, fisheries matters were dealt with by the Maritime Affairs department and there was no dedicated fisheries authority, this new institution is therefore still developing.

To improve inter-agency cooperation, the NWG should seek collaboration with existing umbrella organizations, such as the ONAEM (*Organisme National pour l'Action de l'Etat en Mer*). The benefits of the WATF were noted to be the information provided to supplement national MCS efforts and the continuation of this was considered important including to inform patrol planning.

2.2 Review of WATF activities to date and report on TF4 recommendations

Ms Viviane Koutob, from the TT, gave an update on the status of the recommendations and requests of the WATF. She reviewed previous requests, highlighting: the incorporation of capacity building and technical support for the implementation of the regional transshipment strategy into phase two of the initiative, the production of the Cooperation publication, and the established cooperation and coordination with other initiatives in the region. The outcomes are summarised in the table below.

2.2.1 Status of the implementation of TF4 recommendations and requests

Outcome	Comments
Mandatory IMO numbers	The target was to implement IMO Numbers on all flagged and licensed fishing vessels before 31st October 2017. As of today, 302 out of 374 fishing vessels licensed in the FCWC region (81%) are now carrying IMO numbers.
Transshipment	The transshipment strategy has been drafted for consideration at the Conference of Ministers in December 2017, followed by implementation. Strengthening MCS activities regarding small-scale fisheries transshipment is ongoing and will be part of implementation of the transshipment strategy.
MCS	WATF encouraged to explore new opportunities to share additional types of information internally, and across the broader region – this is still under discussion between TF and TT members. Sharing of experiences and lessons learned is ongoing through exchanges of personnel: e.g. Ghana MCS to Nigeria, Benin personnel to Côte d'Ivoire.
Fish trade	Efforts to build links between fish trade issues and IUU fishing issues are ongoing, however through the FishTrade Project some aspects of collaboration were considered.
Cooperation	NWG meetings were held in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria. Further meetings are planned for early 2018. Ongoing collaboration between the sub-regional fisheries organisations (FCWC, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea (COREP) Secretariats and on a case by case basis at operational level. Cooperation between MESA and WATF ongoing through communication between TT and focal person. MESA project is now closed, and continuation of the partnership will depend on next project taking over from MESA.
PSMA	Ghana and Togo are Parties and other countries are in various stages of ratification or accession. Regional inspection programme and procedures to be discussed as part of the PESCAO project.
Legal framework	Implementation of the legal review study recommendations is still ongoing. Aspects relating to harmonisation of legal frameworks and licensing conditions to be discussed in this meeting.
Data confidentiality	Draft protocol for the protection of shared information prepared and circulated. To be finalized in this meeting for consideration at the Conference of Ministers.
Fisheries management	The process to develop a regional FCWC fisheries management plan (focusing on fishing zones and closed seasons) is well underway with support from the African Union.
ECOWAS	Invited to attend TF5, and consideration to invite ECOWAS to join the WATF communications platform.

DISCUSSION:

Regarding the uptake of IMO numbers, Togo explained that they are working on a legal text to make it a requirement for flagged and licensed fishing vessels, which will allow them to address the issue with their sole industrial vessel (FV PATRICK). Côte d'Ivoire explained that there is currently no legal basis for allowing their vessels to fish outside their exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which is why they have made less progress with respect to IMO numbers.

Nigeria expressed the need to promote exchanges of personnel between TF countries and requested support to do so.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

A good communication line has been established between regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), which means that information sharing is now effective between FCWC, SRFC and COREP. TF members requiring information to support their MCS activities or cases are encouraged to make requests through the FCWC Secretariat.

TF members were encouraged to share new legal documents with the FCWC Secretariat in a more systematic manner to make the harmonisation process easier. Legal frameworks are being reviewed in several countries and new enabling texts are being prepared, and it is important to keep track of them so that progress can be assessed against the recommendations of the regional legal study.

FCWC Secretariat stressed on the need to further exchange vessel tracking information, and to address related legal requirements. Ongoing and future projects such as WARFP and PESCAO will consider the compatibility of tracking systems to facilitate information sharing.

2.2.2 Ongoing WATF activities

Mr Yann Yvergniaux, of the TT gave an overview of the TF activities since TF4: all six TF members have established NWGs; participated in a regional training workshop in collaboration with NOAA; and the first combined vessel licence for all six countries was shared. Reviewing recent cases, Mr Yvergniaux described the flagging and subsequent de-listing to Togo of the IUU-listed vessel FV SEA BREEZE 1, the due diligence in the flagging of the FV KRISTALIN NO. 20 to Nigeria, investigation into the FV JIIN SHUN HORNG NO. 101/ NO. 3, in port for repairs in Ghana, and the unusual movements of the Senegalese flagged FV VEMA.

DISCUSSION:

Liberia reiterated support for the uptake of IMO numbers, and stated their intent to sensitize authorities about this and the value of AIS in fisheries enforcement.

On the case of the SEA BREEZE 1, Togo confirmed that according to a discussion with the Affaires Maritimes (*Maritime Affairs Authority*), the vessel had been deregistered. On the case of the JIIN SHUN HORNG NO. 101 and JIIN SHUN HORNG NO. 3, Ghana said that they would request an update from the Fisheries Department on potential steps taken.

On the case of the LU RONG YUAN YU 988, Ghana noted that they were not comfortable with the way it has been conducted, noting that the crew were kept in detention on the vessel 40 days in Liberia including one Ghanaian fisheries observer, without evidence of violations being presented. They had received reports that crew members were not given access to medical support during that time when they become ill, only eventually being allowed to attend a private clinic that they had to pay for. Liberia regretted the long detention and for the treatment of the crew, explaining that the detention was conducted by the Coast Guard under the command of the Ministry of National Defence, without consultation with fisheries authorities. Ghana noted that in all cases, inhumane treatment should be avoided.

Nigeria, referring to the case of the KRISTALIN NO. 20, said that due diligence was applied and that the fishing licence application was treated with caution – all information having been sent to Abuja for consideration. Regarding AIS, Nigeria noted that all fishing vessels must maintain operational AIS and the failure to do so will result in vessels not being able to leave port.

Côte d'Ivoire noted the value of the recent information regarding the pre-licence movements of the CIDADE DE PORTIMAO shared by the TT. Investigations are underway, and in the meantime the authorities have suspended a fishing licence application submitted by the owner for a sister ship.

The usefulness of the combine licence list was noted, which allows the quick checking of information prior to inspections or to inform fishing licence applications. It was noted that although not all cases require regional cooperation, there may be lesson learning in the national cases that is relevant and important to all, and the TF was encouraged to share national cases and progress in these.

2.2.3 Case Study: Nigeria AIS requirement

Mr Stig Fjellberg, of the TT, presented a case study on AIS using examples from Nigeria and Togo to demonstrate what happens practically when a management decision such as including AIS as a licensing requirement is taken. AIS complements traditional MCS tools and adds to the intelligence and monitoring picture.

DISCUSSION:

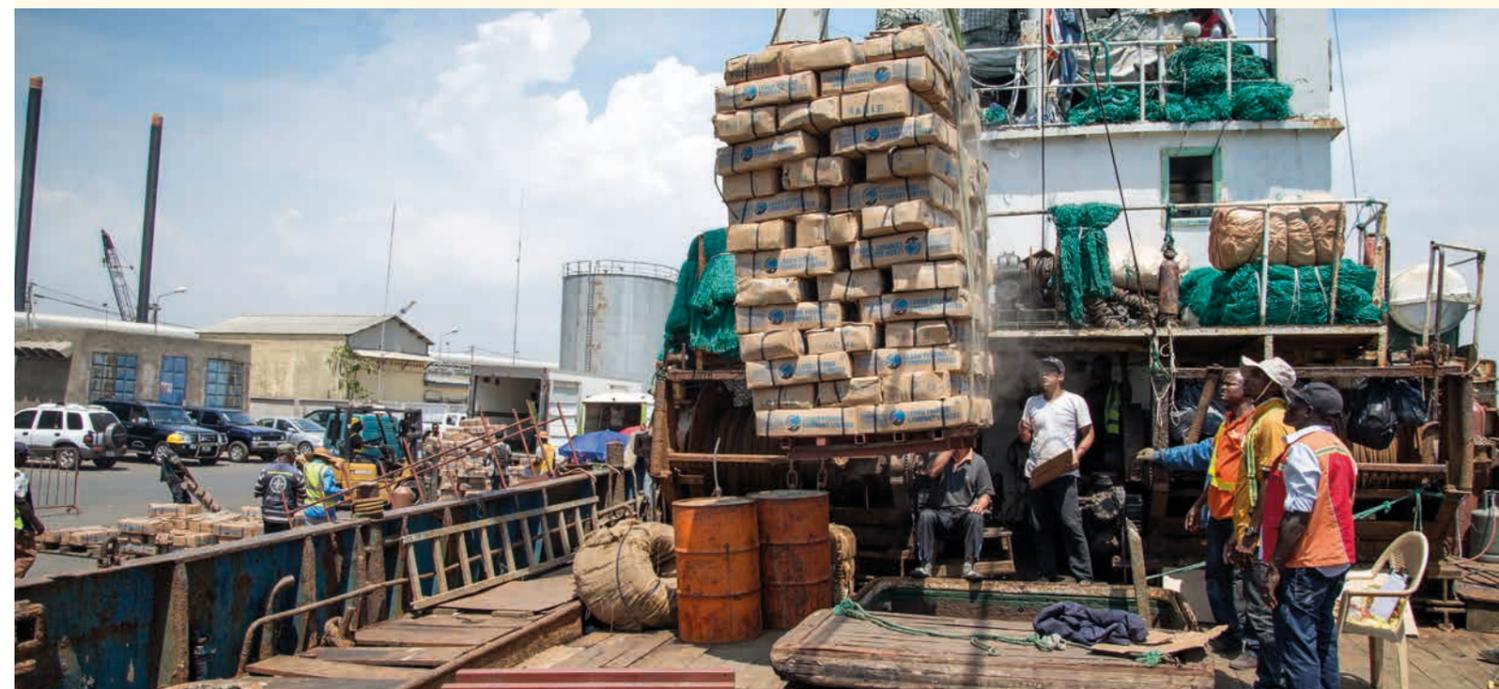
Nigeria stated that they almost have full AIS coverage on their flagged fishing vessels, and hope to have 100% AIS coverage on their vessels by January 2018. Ghana stated that although they use AIS they rely more on VMS. They announced that under WARFP there has been an initiative to put AIS on artisanal fishing vessels, which has been supported by the University of Ghana and MESA.

It was noted that MESA has expertise in and equipment for vessel tracking, and the TF were encouraged to take advantage of the MESA system and build capacity to use it. Ghana noted that fisheries officers have already benefitted from training under MESA, and that such training could be upscaled through the WATF.

2.3 Information sharing protection framework

Mr Dedi explained that this session is held in response to discussion at previous TF meetings and a request for a formal agreement between WATF members relating to the use and protection of shared information. He reminded participants that the political will for sharing information among WATF countries was expressed through the 2014 FCWC Convention on the pooling and sharing of information, which already identifies key types of information to be shared and Member State obligations. The Communications Platform provides access to public servants from a range of agencies from different sectors and covers 5-10 agencies per country. Some information shared by the WATF is sensitive and this needs to be better identified. It is important that members feel confident that the information shared is treated appropriately as this will increase willingness to share information.

Mr Copeland presented draft text for a proposed Protocol for the protection of shared information within the WATF. The aim of the protocol is to strengthen the information sharing environment that is already being implemented under the Convention on the pooling and sharing of information, further operationalising this Convention. It was noted that various types of information can be considered sensitive, for example because it is relevant to an ongoing case, or because a source needs to be protected. Each clause was reviewed, and the session was opened to discussion.



DISCUSSION:

Côte d'Ivoire requested clarification on the processes and ownership of information shared with the TF. It was confirmed that the TF has a joint responsibility for the information shared. At national level different regulations will apply as information deemed to be confidential in one country might not be in another. Côte d'Ivoire noted that the nature of the information shared – e.g. sensitive or not – can vary overtime, and that information shared within the WATF can be utilized by different receivers' overtime, hence the need to properly associate a status with each information

It was highlighted that all member countries involved in the WATF are subject to the FCWC information sharing Convention, and at present all documents are shared within the objectives of the WATF, and the agreement is that no information should be shared beyond this without the prior consent of the FCWC Secretariat.

It was also highlighted by the FCWC Secretariat that it has in place a cooperation agreement with the TMT, that includes language on the confidentiality of cooperation and information sharing. Further the FCWC Secretariat has reviewed the internal confidentiality agreements that are signed by all staff members of TMT, and the confidentiality clauses in cooperation agreements made with other TT partners, and is confident that these are legally robust.

Ghana highlighted the importance of information sharing in combatting IUU fishing. Most of the information shared relates to foreign fishing vessels and can be highly sensitive. Ghana are involved with a pilot project testing the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras on fishing vessels. This is in a trial phase, but an MOU has been drawn up between the operators and the authorities, according to which information cannot be shared outside of the parties, unless the operator gives its prior consent.

Nigeria highlighted the need for the Protocol to define that the country that shares the information owns the information, and how to ensure that information is not shared outside of the group. Benin highlighted the need to better characterise the different types of information and define how they should be handled, and that the Protocol should be

considered binding as an implementing mechanism of the Convention. The issue of who is the custodian of the information, and who is responsible if the information goes out of the group was discussed. For practical reasons, not all fisheries agents or officers dealing with fisheries have access to Basecamp, however they might use the information for enforcement actions when they receive it from their WATF focal point. This poses the question of the protocol being binding for FCWC member countries.

Participants also discussed the nature of the information shared among FCWC member countries, highlighting that most of the information pertaining to fishing vessels and their characteristics and identifiers is already accessible through public or subscription sources. The information that is not publicly available, and which can be key for resolving cases, relates to vessel behaviour, compliance history and beneficial ownership - such information should be treated carefully when shared within the WATF and the TT

Ghana suggested adding specific detail into the Protocol to clarify use of national level information and suggested the addition of the following language: *'In the event that a FCWC member country has to divulge information deemed confidential to a third party as part of national fisheries management activities, prior consent is required from the country to which the information pertains.'* It was also suggested that countries might need to check their domestic legal situation on information sharing.

The importance of information sharing, and transparency was emphasised by Ghana and Nigeria with the suggestion that FCWC member countries need to clearly state when information they share is confidential. Côte d'Ivoire supported the position that the information shared amongst the countries and in the sub region be confidential and information shared beyond the WATF needs to be approved by the TF.

Participants also discussed the title of the document to be put forward for formal adoption. It was agreed that the document should be considered as a Protocol adding to the existing Convention, and that it should be clear that it focuses on the protection of information. It was recommended that the document be finalised and submitted for approval at the 2017 FCWC Conference of Ministers.

2.4 Ongoing FCWC activities

Mr Dedi provided an update on the current and future activities of the FCWC.

2.4.1 FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project aims to strengthen routine fisheries data collection. This has involved training on data collection and surveys as well as an introduction to the use of fisheries databases such as Open ARTFISH. The results from a study to determine the contribution of artisanal fishery to national GDP will be shared at a forthcoming meeting in Liberia.

2.4.2 FishTrade

Supported by the WorldFish Centre, the FishTrade initiative has developed a manual for the capture of data for each FCWC country, this will be the first time that fisheries trade data has been collected. Funds are now being sought to analyse the data collected.

2.4.3 African Union

The African Union (AU) support has provided funding for two consultancies:

- Evaluation of the Status of implementation of and Review of Regional Plan of Action against IUU fishing
- Development of a Regional Fisheries Management Plan for the FCWC Sub region

The outcomes of which will be presented at the 2017 FCWC Conference of Ministers.

2.4.4 10th anniversary of the FCWC

2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the FCWC and this will be celebrated at the 2017 FCWC Conference of Ministers, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria. A report of the key achievements of the FCWC is in preparation as well as a publication showcasing FCWC's publication on 'Pioneers of Fisheries Cooperation'. Support from SIF and the TT towards the Conference of Ministers was requested. An exhibition showcasing fish and fish products will be held to run alongside the Ministers Meeting, other exhibitors are being encouraged to participate.

The Conference of Ministers will also see the launch of the 2018-2020 triennial plan.

2.4.5 Regional legal framework visibility

Mr Kpadanou Ostane, FCWC Webmaster, presented the work that has been undertaken to increase the visibility of the regional legal frameworks. New pages have been added to www.fcwc-fish.org showing the policies and legal frameworks for FCWC member countries. Currently information from Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria are displayed with the remaining countries to follow shortly. Compilation of legal texts is helpful for the harmonisation process, as it allows for the monitoring of legal developments. Harmonisation is only possible if regional approaches on specific issues such as IEZs, licensing, transshipments, are reflected by minimal provisions in national legal frameworks.

DISCUSSION:

The TF raised concern about the control of trawling in the region and a request for the FCWC to assist in developing a harmonised approach to the management of trawlers in the region was made.

There were also calls for the need to regulate the artisanal sector. Benin, Ghana and Nigeria commented on the supply of fish from trawlers to artisanal fishers and would like further research and data collection regarding the catch, landings, fish going to the market.

Nigeria is looking forward to hosting members at the FCWC's Conference of Ministers in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2017.



2.5 Looking ahead

Mr Dedi and Mr Copeland confirmed that Norad is currently providing a one-year extension to phase one of the WATF; this allows time for Norad to facilitate a required organisational review. It is hoped that this will be followed by a four-year phase two of the project beginning in July 2018. Activities during the extension phase will be guided by TF requests and decisions. An increased focus will be placed on personnel exchanges between countries and a strengthening of the collaboration with other TFs.

The EU funded PESCAO project will start in 2018 and will benefit from significant synergy with the WATF. Close cooperation will include joint work and capacity building plans being developed. An MCS Advisor will be recruited who will be based within the FCWC and will be expected to work closely with the WATF and become a member of the Technical Team. The expansion of FCWC staff may necessitate a move from the current offices in Tema.

Other ongoing collaborations include training support from NOAA, and the MESA project.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to Ghana's question on how the WATF can ensure the ongoing technical support that is important to prompt and support enforcement action, the TT noted that cooperation with PESCAO and NOAA is partially to consider this ongoing provision of capacity to support national efforts and that a regional MCS centre may be a possibility under the PESCAO funding.

2.6 Towards harmonisation

2.6.1 Regulatory

Mr Per Erik Bergh of the TT provided insight into the process to adopt 'minimum terms and conditions' (MTCs) that has taken place within the South West Indian Ocean region. Developed partially in response to coastal States wishing to gain more from their fisheries and based on a similar initiative of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in the Pacific, the aim is to provide a framework for countries to benefit more from their fisheries resources. By adopting a regional approach with harmonised requirements and penalties the coastal States may increase their benefits while also increasing compliance. Terms and conditions can be developed to suit regional needs but may include e.g. mandatory AIS, VMS and IMO numbers for all vessels.

2.6.2 Operational inspections

Mr Bergh looked at options to harmonise inspection procedures and the potential benefits this may provide. This could include harmonised:

- Pre-port entry information collected.
- Inspection procedures and form (foreign and/or national vessels).
- Format for information sharing.
- Procedures for communication with flag, port and market States as well as reporting procedures to FCWC.

The option to develop inspection manuals for relevant vessel types (longliners, purse seiners, trawlers, reefers etc.), inspection forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to harmonize work-flow and procedures were offered.

DISCUSSION:

The benefits of a harmonised regulatory and operational approach were noted and the fact distant water fishing nations are attracted to West Africa due to reduced monitoring and enforcement in this region. It was felt that current ICCAT CMMs offer the minimum requirements and there are gaps in implementation at the national level.

Issues of concern were raised included: abuse of crew on foreign flagged vessels, the beneficial ownership of fishing vessels; and the role of agents. It was suggested that agents be from the country where vessels are flagged, so that there can be someone to take legal responsibility for representing the foreign entity/company in the country, and they can be taken to task for the actions of the vessel operators.

The potential use of observers was discussed, with options such as using two observers and rotating them around the fleet, to reduce opportunities for corruption.

Although the MTC process from the Western Indian Ocean was considered relevant to the FCWC region – given the role of FCWC in supporting the implementation of ICCAT recommendations in its Member States – participants insisted on the particular need to better regulate the trawler fleet, for which there is no regional management framework in place. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire highlighted the need to develop MTCs for trawlers, most of which are not foreign vessels but rather locally flagged vessels (sometimes with suspected dual flags) with foreign beneficial ownership or control. FCWC Secretariat called on participants to formally request the trawler fleet to be given specific consideration in the preparation of the regional fisheries management plan as well as in the revised RPOA-IUU.

2.7 Task Forces: lesson learning and cooperation with the FISH-i Africa Task Force

Mr Bergh provided an overview and update of the FISH-i Africa Task Force, an alliance of eight coastal States of the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). Established in 2012, FISH-i investigations have found high levels of systematic enabling crimes such as document forgery, vessel identity fraud and human trafficking that indicate higher levels of illegality than had been expected by enforcement agencies. A system of 'VIGILANCE' is being launched to conduct systematic checks verifying the identity and legality of the fishing vessels that are licensed by FISH-i members.

The current globalised fishing fleet is highly mobile and links between vessels operational in the FCWC region are often found in the WIO; the increased sharing of information between and cooperation with the two Task Forces would potentially be beneficial to both.

DISCUSSION:

TF members welcomed the opportunity to cooperate more closely with FISH-i Africa. The benefit of sharing lessons learned from FISH-i within national and interagency settings was agreed.

Document forgery, identified as a major facilitator of illegal fishing in the WIO, has been a significant issue in certain West African countries in the past, but steps are being taken to address this.

2.8 Transshipment strategy review

Mr Copeland presented an amended text, based on the previously discussed text to form the basis of an FCWC Transshipment Strategy. Unauthorised at-sea transshipment occurs in three main ways, from industrial fishing vessels to:

- refrigerated transport vessels – commonly referred to as 'reefers' – through highly organised pre-arranged systems whereby the reefer brings supplies of fuel, food, bait and crew, and takes away the catch, usually directly to foreign markets thus avoiding further oversight;
- other fishing vessels – this enables the 'laundering' of illegally caught fish by mixing illegal and legal fish, with the illegal fish taking on the documentation of the legal fish when later offloaded in regional or international ports; or
- small scale fishing vessels and transport canoes – that take industrial-caught fish directly to buyers on-shore – this practice enables illegal industrial vessel owners to abuse the management system, often depleting coastal fish stocks that are essential for local economies and nutrition.

The text was reviewed in session and agreed for adoption at the 2017 FCWC Ministers Meeting.

DISCUSSION:

All TF members agreed on the benefits of taking a regional approach to monitoring transshipment. All countries already essentially ban at-sea transshipment, apart from in exceptional circumstances, but greater controls are needed including designated ports for transshipment, prior authorisation for transshipment and that it only to take place in areas where it can be monitored.

Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana supported the use of observers to support MCS efforts in monitoring transshipment. The purchase of fish from trawlers by the artisanal fishers was identified as a significant issue, where further monitoring and understanding is required.

2.9 FCWC 2017 Ministers Conference

Mr. Dedi provided an overview of plans for the FCWC 2017 Ministers Conference, including a synopsis of all activities and key decisions. Documents adopted during the TF5 meeting of the WATF will be discussed further at the Conference of Ministers. This includes:

- Draft Recommendation on Information Sharing Protection Framework
- Draft Recommendation of the FCWC Regional Transshipment Strategy
- Draft FCWC strategic communications document

Final draft copies of all documents will be circulated to the TF prior to presentation to the Advisory and Coordination Committee (ACC)

DISCUSSION:

TF members requested that all WATF Focal Points participate at the Ministers Meeting. The FCWC Secretariat welcomed this involvement and asked Ministries to sponsor their participation.

3. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

3.1 Outcomes of the Task Force

The WATF meeting had the following outcomes, to:

- a) Cooperation within the TF
 - Further strengthen information sharing on operational inspections and national cases, and provide follow ups on the progress of these to the TF.
 - Endeavour to ensure that all cases are handled with due consideration of human rights of crews.
- b) Information Sharing
 - Present the Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information, for consideration at the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.
- c) Transhipment Strategy
 - Present the FCWC WATF Transhipment Strategy, for consideration at the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.
- d) Harmonisation
 - Develop minimum terms and conditions (MTCs) for foreign fisheries access in the FCWC region
 - Develop harmonized forms and procedures for operational inspections in the WATF, including:
 - Inspection manuals for vessels conducting fisheries operations;
 - Forms for inspections and reporting; and
 - SOPs to ensure harmonized work-flows and procedures.
 - Develop a harmonised approach to the monitoring of trawlers in the region.
 - Work towards implementation of a seasonal closure of the trawler fishery in the FCWC region.

- e) NWGs
 - Strengthen NWG operations and cooperation, both through existing mechanisms and developing more formal structures in Member States where this is required.
 - Utilise examples of inter-agency cooperation successes that exist to support the processes of NWG strengthening throughout the region.
 - Plan annually the national activities and budget of NWGs, to share with the Technical Team and allow for integration into the workplans of national authorities, towards sustainability of the NWGs.
- f) Cooperation with other initiatives
 - Synchronise capacity building efforts with existing and future projects and institutions to bolster capacity building effort.
 - Strengthen cooperation and links with the FISH-i Africa Task Force through activities such as exchange visits between Task Force members to share experiences and expertise, and exchanging information on cases.
 - Utilise improved communication with other regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) within the west African region – SRFC and COREP – to promote information sharing between Member States from those regions.



3.2 Requests from the Task Force

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

- a) Information Sharing
 - Finalize the Protocol for the Protection of Shared Information in French and English, and circulate ahead of the 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference.
- b) Transhipment Strategy
 - Circulate the Transhipment Strategy ahead of the Abuja 2017 FCWC Ministerial Conference in French and English.
- c) Harmonisation
 - Assess the feasibility of developing Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTCs) for licensing in the FCWC region, based on the experience from the SWIOFC region, that consider the WATF priority of strengthening trawler controls in the region.
 - Implement activities to further strengthen the use of harmonized forms and procedures for operational inspections, with details to be agreed at the next TF meeting.
 - Provide information to inform the process of developing a regional trawler closed season with relevant vessel monitoring information.

- d) NWGs
 - Support the strengthening of NWG operations and cooperation, particularly in the development of formal cooperation mechanisms in Member States that identify this need.
 - Support the development of NWG capacity building workplans in cooperation with other relevant initiatives, and support the implementation of these.
- e) Cooperation with other initiatives
 - Facilitate strengthened cooperation between the WATF and FISH-i Africa.
- f) Ministers Conference
 - Provide technical and communications support towards the 2017 FCWC Ministers Conference.

3.3 Additional requests outside the scope of the WATF

- a) Small-scale fisheries management
 - Consider the need to cooperate on the management of small-scale fishing in the region.



4. Closing remarks

Mr Dedi thanked all attendees and urged the TF to move forward with a spirit of cooperation and trust. Mr Copeland thanked TF Members on behalf of the TT, for an informative and productive meeting, noting that their dedication was the crucial component of the WATF's success. He noted that he is looking forward to meeting in Abuja and further strengthening efforts to combat illegal fishing in the region.

Closing the meeting the Head of MCS in Ghana Mr Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu said he was impressed with discussions and the level of participation, applauding the participants for their work. He noted that the aim, to manage the fisheries resources and make the value accrue to the countries, was being achieved, reminding attendees that fisheries is the livelihood of many in the region. He urged attendees to continue to work hard, together, and share information to lighten the burden. Emphasizing that important management decisions should be done collectively to ensure their success, he closed the meeting.



5. Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

ABNJ	Area beyond national jurisdiction	NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
AIS	Automatic identification system	NPOA-IUU	National plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
AU	African Union	NWGS	National Working Groups
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries, Liberia	ONAEM	Organisme National pour l'Action de l'Etat en Mer
CCTV	Closed circuit television	PESCAO	The European Union's 'Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in West Africa' Project
CFA	West African CFA franc	PSMA	FAO Port State Measures Agreement
COFI	Committee on Fisheries	RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
COREP	Regional Commission of Fisheries of Gulf of Guinea	SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone	SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
EJF	Environment Justice Foundation	SFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
EU	European Union	SG	Secretary General
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	TED	Turtle exclusion device
FCWG	INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group	TF	Task Force
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit	TF1	Task Force Meeting 1
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	TF2	Task Force Meeting 2
FV	Fishing vessel	TF3	Task Force Meeting 3
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	TF4	Task Force Meeting 4
IEZ	Inshore exclusive zone	TF5	Task Force Meeting 5
IMO	International Maritime Organization	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)	TOR	Terms of Reference
LIMA	Liberia Maritime Authority	TT	Technical Team
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
MESA	Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa	USD	United States Dollar
MOFAD	Ghana Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development	VMS	Vessel monitoring system
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Program
MTC	Minimum terms and conditions	WATF	West Africa Task Force
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	WIO	Western Indian Ocean

5.2 Workshop agenda

Tuesday 7 November 2017

08:30 to 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 to 10:00	OPENING SESSION Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Secretary-General Seraphin Dedi <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remarks from the Technical Team – Duncan CopelandOpening by Government of GhanaIntroduction of participantsGroup Photo
10:00 to 10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 to 10:35	ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Seraphin Dedi <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agreement of agenda
10:35 to 10:45	RECAP OF THE WATF INITIATIVE – Duncan Copeland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quick review of the FCWC WATF
10:45 to 12:30	TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS – National Presentations by Country Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo <i>Facilitator: Togo</i>
12:30 to 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 to 16:00	TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont. <i>Facilitator: Benin</i>
16:00 to 16:15	COFFEE BREAK
16:15 to 17:30	TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont. <i>Facilitator: Côte d'Ivoire</i>
17:30	END OF THE DAY

Wednesday 8 November 2017

09:00 to 09:05	REVIEW OF DAY 1 – Seraphin Dedi, Host Country representative
09:05 to 10:00	TASK FORCE COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS cont. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Liberia <i>Facilitator: Benin</i>
10:00 to 10:15	COFFEE BREAK
10:15 to 11:00	WATF ACTIVITIES SINCE TF4 MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Technical team report to the Task Force on TF4 Requests - Viviane KoutobOverview of activities and WATF ongoing cases - Yann YvergniauxCase Study: Nigeria AIS Requirement - Stig Fjellberg <i>Facilitator: Côte d'Ivoire</i>

11:00 to 12:00	INFORMATION SHARING PROTECTION FRAMEWORK – Seraphin Dedi, Duncan Copeland, Per Erik Bergh Developing Guidelines to ensure confidentiality and security of information shared by the West Africa Task Force <i>Facilitator: Nigeria</i>
12:00 to 13:00	ONGOING FCWC ACTIVITIES – Seraphin Dedi <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment of the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action to combat IUU- OutcomesFirst Regional Fisheries Management PlanFAO TCP projectRegional legal framework visibility – FCWC webmaster10th Anniversary of the FCWC- Achievements, Challenges of FCWC <i>Facilitator: Liberia</i>
13:00 to 13:45	LUNCH
13:45 to 15:00	TOWARDS HARMONISATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Legal: Implementation of legal review recommendations – Seraphin DediRegulatory: Harmonisation of licensing conditions, access, penalties<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lessons from the Western Indian Ocean – Per Erik BerghPriorities for the FCWC – Seraphin DediOperational: Inspections – Per Erik Bergh <i>Facilitator: Côte d'Ivoire</i>
15:00 to 16:00	LOOKING AHEAD – Seraphin Dedi and Duncan Copeland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extension of Norad Phase 1 and looking to Phase 2Introducing EU/PESCAO support<ul style="list-style-type: none">Objectives of the initiativeExpected outcomesCoordination between Norad and PESCAO supportOther Collaborations <i>Facilitator: Benin</i>
16:00 to 16:15	COFFEE BREAK
16:15 to 17:00	TASK FORCES: LESSON LEARNING AND COOPERATION WITH FISH-I TASK FORCE – Per Erik Bergh <ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on the FISH-i Task ForceOpportunities for cooperation and collaboration <i>Facilitator: Togo</i>
19:00	WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE DINNER

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

5.2 Workshop agenda cont.

Thursday 9 November 2017

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

09:05 to 10:30 **TRANSHIPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW** – Duncan Copeland

Review and Discussion towards adoption of the Regional Transhipment Strategy, and future implementation.

Facilitator: Ghana

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

10:45 to 12:00 **FCWC 2017 MINISTERS CONFERENCE** – Seraphin Dedi

Look towards the Ministerial Conference

- Draft Recommendation on Information Sharing Protection Framework
- Draft Recommendation of the Regional Transhipment Strategy
- WATF attendance, technical and financial Support of to the conference
- Communications needs

Facilitator: Nigeria

12:00 to 13:00 **LUNCH**

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

- Task Force discussion, requests, recommendations and internal decisions

Facilitator: TMT, SIF, FCWC

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 GHANA**



5.3 Attendance list

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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 TMT, Stop Illegal Fishing and NFDS 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:

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