



West Africa Task Force
Working together to stop illegal fishing




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Groupe de Travail de
l'Afrique de l'Ouest
Ensemble pour la lutte contre la pêche illégale

**MEETING OF
DIRECTORS OF FISHERIES
AND
WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE**

11-13 April 2016

CENTRAL HOTEL - ACCRA, GHANA

**RÉUNION DES
DIRECTEURS DES PÊCHES
ET GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

11-13 Avril 2016

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Norad



RECORD OF THE 2ND WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE MEETING

Accra, Ghana
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1. Introduction and opening

1.1 Introduction

West Africa is endowed with abundant fisheries resources which provide key nutrition to coastal populations, and support employment for more than three million people. It also provides revenue to governments through taxes, royalties and other fees collected through licences and fisheries access agreements. However, this valuable resource is under threat due to various political, economic and environmental factors, including illegal fishing. Numerous cases of illegal fishing activities are reported annually off the coast of West African States, making this region a hot spot for illegal fishing operators.

National efforts by West African countries to strengthen their fisheries management systems have resulted in improved monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of some fisheries. However, many of the regions commercial fish species are migratory and the national and foreign fishing operators that target them follow these stocks, therefore sustainably and effectively tackling illegal fishing requires a regional approach to fisheries enforcement. In many cases, the national capacity to cooperate regionally in order to identify, track, gather evidence and mount enforcement and prosecution actions against illegal fishing operators is limited, and requires support.

In response to these issues, the Fisheries Intelligence and MCS support in West Africa initiative, a three year Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) supported Task Force (TF) was established. The initiative is a collaboration between the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and the Technical Team (TT), which includes Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) and Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS). The West Africa Task Force (WATF) as it is known aims to 'contribute to more effective governance of regional fisheries resources in West Africa through a reduction of illegal fishing'.



THE WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE AIMS TO 'CONTRIBUTE TO MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF REGIONAL FISHERIES RESOURCES IN WEST AFRICA THROUGH A REDUCTION OF ILLEGAL FISHING'.

The WATF held its first Task Force Meeting (TF 1) on the 28th and 29th of April 2015 in Accra, Ghana. The first year of the TF - 2015 – was the pilot-phase during which Ministers and relevant authorities were sensitized leading up to the official endorsement of the TF by FCWC Ministers at the Ministers Conference in December 2015. During the successful pilot-phase, the regional communications platform was established, the WATF Terms of Reference (ToR) were developed, and National Working Groups (NWGs) were established, supported by national and regional training workshops. The TF Members also actively engaged in a joint information sharing platform, a first in the region and this tool facilitated numerous events of information and intelligence sharing in respect to issues of illegal fishing and illegal fishing vessels.

Ghana hosted the second TF Meeting (TF 2) in Accra on the 11th and 12th of April 2016. Representatives of the six FCWC countries attended the meeting: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo, the FCWC Secretariat, and the TT.

1.2 Opening session

The FCWC Secretary General Mr Dedi Seraphin began proceedings by welcoming participants. He noted the progress the TF had made and the support it has provided to the FCWC in the last year in particular the information sharing portal, the technical advice in respect to intelligence information, monitoring and tracking information and the dialogue between member States. Mr DEDI noted the recruitment of the Communications Officer to the FCWC Secretariat in Ghana and support by the WATF towards ordinary meetings of the FCWC. He thanked the government of Norway for their support and the experts of the Coordination Team (CT). Mr DEDI encouraged heads of MCS in member States in their on-going participation of the Task Force and called on them and the Directors to continue their commitment to the success of the WATF to fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

Mr DEDI urged closer cooperation between the WATF and the flagship initiative FISH-i Africa. He questioned why IUU fishing vessels are still harboured in the region, and urged participants to try and find ways to curb and prevent this in the future.

Mr DEDI then welcomed Mr Samuel Quatey the Director of the Fisheries Commission in the host country, to deliver welcome remarks. Mr Quatey welcomed all participants to the working group on behalf of his government and people. He noted the vast losses incurring in the region due to IUU fishing in their waters, and the need for the countries of the region to work together to find innovative ways to overcome the perpetrators. He noted that in December 2015 the Ministers adopted the ToR for the WATF and he thanked the government of Norway for their assistance to the work of the Task Force and declared the meeting open.

Mr DEDI invited all participants to introduce themselves. He then welcomed and introduced Ms Sandy Davies, SIF Coordinator, to facilitate the meeting and to start by introducing the agenda. Ms Davies presented the agenda and participants were able to make comments and to adopt the agenda.

2. Presentations, discussions and plenary

2.1 Review of West Africa Task Force activities to date

Mr Duncan Copeland (TMT) began by highlighting the key objectives of the WATF, these being to: operationalize key FCWC conventions and processes; supporting a TF to stop illegal fishing in the FCWC area; to realise regional communication and information sharing and cooperation; to support the fight against IUU fishing; to provide and share intelligence and analysis aimed at building capacity and operationalizing fisheries intelligence; to support MCS and to build wider regional and international cooperation and support to fight illegal fishing.



The structure of WATF was described as comprising of representatives of the member countries, NWGs within each country, a TT to provide technical support, and a CT with financial support from NORAD. Mr Copeland then went on to discuss each of the key objectives in detail after which he discussed the actions identified in TF 1 and their status. The list of actions included: distribution of project documents; development of ToR; regional training; establishment of the national groups which is ongoing; approval of the project at the FCWC Ministers Conference; establishment of an information sharing platform and the appointment of a Communications Officer. The presentation concluded with a list of the operational actions and compliance results for WATF.

DISCUSSION:

The FCWC Executive Secretary noted his participation at a recent FISH-i Africa Task Force meeting and that he found a strong and motivated team that this TF is able to engage with. He **REQUESTED** that the cooperation between the two TFs be strengthened.

2.2 National Activities

This session facilitated by Ms Davies allowed Members to present their national progress, situation, experiences and challenges in combatting IUU fishing. The presentations given by TF member countries are summarised below.

2.2.1 BENIN

Mr Sossa Ghislain presented an overview on behalf of Benin. He noted that progress has been limited due to elections, but now progress is advancing with activities and establishment of the administrative Mr Sossa Ghislain presented an overview on behalf of Benin. He noted that progress has been limited due to elections, but now progress is advancing with activities and establishment of the administrative arrangements. Benin noted that the cooperation between the NWG, MCS officers and other agencies was now running smoothly. National agencies involved in the WG include: the Fisheries Production Directorate (DPH) and the Merchant Marine Directorate, the Cotonou Port Harbour Master, the Naval and Police Forces, which included the National Crime Bureau (NCB) of INTERPOL and the Police Special Unit for Fisheries, the Directorate General of Customs and Excise, the Directorate of Forestry Management and Natural Resource and the General Director for the Environment. Authorities in Benin held a feedback workshop to inform the Minister of the importance of this working group and he directed it to be established. The speaker concluded by proposing greater support to improve the capacity of fisheries inspectors, support for equipment and exchange visits with other MCS organisations to strengthen the cooperation within the NWG and the TF.

DISCUSSION:

Nigeria and Benin share concerns over the movement of illegal imports between the two countries facilitated and led by influential businesspersons with partners in Nigeria and Benin. It was noted that there is need for increased monitoring and cooperation between the two countries. Nigeria has developed a regulation to support local producers by limiting the volume of imports of fish. As a result businessmen are now importing fish in Benin and smuggling it into Nigeria. The TF may be able to determine what documents or checks can be used to improve the situation, and what documents are required to support the countries in tracking these violations through non-payment of tax.

2.2.2 CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mr Kouame Marcellin from Côte d'Ivoire reported that 39 tuna seiners, 2 tuna cargo vessels and 58 small pelagic reefers had visited its fishing port in 2015. Abidjan had 95 visits from Spanish vessels, 64 from France 38 from Panama. The NWG was said to comprise of representatives from the Navy, the Ports and Maritime Affairs General Directorate (DGAMP), Customs, the Ministries in charge of Foreign Affairs and Justice, a national consultant legal expert in maritime law and fisheries, the Directorate of Fishing Harbour and Police Immigration. The NWG was said to have been involved in joint patrols in 2015 which had led to the arrest and diversion of 30 vessels illegally fishing. Côte d'Ivoire's proposals for strengthening cooperation within the NWG and TF were: improving the provision of equipment for information sharing and exploring the possibility of contributing to their acquisition, improved speed of response to requests (within 24-48 hours), expanding Basecamp presence to other coastal countries in Africa, designing a framework that included all requirements for the TF, a standard register or form which could be used to register requests and record the final outcome and the lessons learnt from requests. Côte d'Ivoire concluded by noting that real results of interventions in the fight against IUU fishing were limited due to weak legal frameworks that are inoperative and unsuited to the current context. They further proposed: improved sharing of information and the pooling of resources and regional cooperation; building human and material capacities; development of a national plan against IUU fishing and a procedural MCS manual; and ratification of the PSMA as ways to improve the effectiveness of the fight against IUU fishing in the country.

DISCUSSION:

Mr KONAN confirmed that the surveillance department is currently being established, and as yet the administrative system is not yet fully in place. In respect to the discharge of fish at the Port of Abidjan, questions were raised as to whether the offloadings are checked to ensure they aren't IUU fish. It was noted that the authorisations/licences are checked to ensure that the products are legal. Some of the WATF countries felt it was important to include legal officers in the NWGs. There was a request that the list of IUU convicted or fined vessels be shared with all TF members.

2.2.3 GHANA

Mr Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu presented on the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) and the WATF operations in Ghana. Mr Baidoo-Tsibu began with a brief summary on the establishment of FEU and its activities. These included conducting at-sea patrols, vessel boarding and inspection, land patrols, electronic surveillance, compliance observer mission, prosecution of fisheries infractions and community sensitization. The operational areas of the FEU are the waters of Ghana, fisheries waters of other countries, high seas and port and land areas. Mr Baidoo-Tsibu noted the delisting of two vessels, Hai Lu Feng 5 & 6, the sinking of the vessel OK Fish 10, receiving assistance from Togo on the inspection of the Ranrigoa (registered to St. Kitts and Nevis) and assisting the Chinese embassy who had requested information about a missing Chinese vessel. There were also alerts from WATF members which were passed on to the Ghana Navy, Marine Police and GPHA. Mr Baidoo-Tsibu provided information on the trends in the number of boarding /arrests, the sea patrol hours for 2015, changes in the number of trawler violation from 2013-2015 and a comparison of the fines given to trawlers for the same period. The number of boardings and arrests were highest in October and November, with more than 20 boardings during each month. There were more than five arrests in October and more than 10 in November. Improved monitoring had led to trawler violations being identified at significantly higher levels in 2014 and 2015 with more than 25 violations each year compared to less than five in 2013. This same trend was reflected in the number of fines issued from 2013 to 2015.

DISCUSSION:

The procedure for settling out of court was explained: the offender must admit to the offence, and then all evidence should be taken to the police for documentation of the case. The offender(s) can then post bail and request that the matter be settled out of court.

2.2.4 LIBERIA

Mr Ahmed Sherif from Liberia noted that the NWG has been set up with a meeting schedule and they have reviewed information on the Basecamp platform and other MCS related issues. He noted that in Liberia the TF activities have assisted MCS efforts by allowing other ministries and agencies to be informed on MSC related issues and concerns. The sharing of intelligence information amongst FCWC member countries has been helpful and in particular the information sharing between Liberia and Ivory Coast regarding the detention of two out of four fishing vessels for illegally conducting fishing activities in Liberia waters in October 2015. The agencies involved in the NWG and their roles are Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF), Liberia Coast Guard (LCG), Liberia Maritime Authority (Lima), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), and National Port Authority (NPA). To strengthen TF activities, Liberia proposed establishing a staff experience exchange program, the inclusion of other non FCWC countries in the sub region on the Basecamp Platform, conducting training of fisheries inspectors and general FMC operational training. The presentation concluded by outlining future challenges for Liberia's NWG such as funding, provision of field gadgets and periodic surveillance training.

DISCUSSION:

Responding to a request for more information, the presenter stated that Liberia has four defender class patrol vessels with limited scope up to 40 nm from shore in an extreme case due to security reasons. He noted that mainly reefers offload fish in port not fishing vessels. It was asked how Liberia authenticates the catch certificates from Reefers, this was discussed by several participants but it was agreed to discuss this further under the 'reefer session'.

It was noted that the training programme by NOAA for fishery on-board observers was very valuable and may have benefits to be expanded in the region. Liberia observed that the NOAA training was on scientific information and observers are not deployed to act as inspectors but as 'observers', it was also noted that they do require more training on MCS elements but not in order to enforce the law.

Liberia requested more equipment, stating that some of the equipment previously received from the WARFP programme was damaged and they now have limited equipment to work with.

It was noted that their LMA is flagging reefers around the world and the BNF is concerned about this. They have tried to continue the dialogue with LMA but they cannot get the list of registered reefers, which they believe are around 80. It was proposed that Liberia continue to work on tightening these aspects and also to include access to the port for MCS officers which is currently not the case.

2.2.5 NIGERIA

Ms. Bola Aduke Kupolati from Nigeria began by providing an overview of the implementation at national level and the people involved: Director of Fisheries and Head of MCS under the Federal Department of Fisheries, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Nigerian Port Authority (NPA), Navy and National Quarantine Services. She noted that the TF activities that have benefited MSC operations include: the provision of technical support and training, receiving information and advice from the TF, monitoring of fishing vessels, improved control and ownership of national water, improved awareness of IUU fishing and information sharing with FCWC member states. Details of the cases dealt with by the WATF in Nigeria were given, These included the inspection of vessel Green Music for possible involvement with transshipment, a case of five inshore vessels that tried to obtain unauthorized overseas licenses, information on refrigerated cargo vessel activities in 2016, information on fishing vessel operation analysis in West Africa, investigations into the illegal fishing vessel Viking that was detained flying the Nigerian flag but was not flagged to Nigeria and alerts on the illegal fishing vessels Perlon and MV Blue Gate operations in the region. To strengthen TF cooperation and information sharing Nigeria proposed the establishment of regional monitoring and a database, exchange of lists of licensed fishing vessels and prompt responses for intelligence advice. She concluded by noting some of the challenges faced by the country such as the need for continuous training for the NWG, inadequate sanctions against IUU fishing, technical assistance for VMS, and direct access of the Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF) (MCS Staff) to ports.



Ms. Bola Aduke Kupolati
Head of MCS
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
Nigeria

DISCUSSION:

It was noted that there have been many questions on Basecamp about Nigerian flagged vessels and Ms Kupolati noted that this was because of weak legislative systems and lack of capacity to enforce this legislation. Discussion about the value of regional harmonisation of legal frameworks took place and it was noted that this is a case by case situation with alternative ways to make amendments. The need for higher sanctions for IUU activities was noted. It was noted that the INTERPOL Purple Notices will be distributed on Basecamp. A request for communications to encourage support political awareness about the importance of sustainable management of natural resources.

2.2.6 TOGO

Mr Kossi Ahoedo, presented for Togo, providing an overview on activities in Togo and the establishment of the NWG. Mr Ahoede first discussed the High Council for the Sea and the US AFRICOM organised year on maritime safety namely “OBANGAME EXPRESS 2016” held in March. The exercise focused on IUU fishing, marine pollution, illegal immigration and drug trafficking. The aim was to strengthen the capacity of the institutions involved in state actions at sea. Mr Ahoedo reported on the inspection of the ship Rangiroa by the Fishing Department. The inspection was carried out based on Basecamp information on IUU fishing activities of the ship in Ghanaian waters. Mr Ahoedo described how based on this action the Ministry of Fisheries had asked agents representing Reefer vessels involved in importing fish, to communicate information about the vessel to authorities 72 hours before arrival in the port of Lome. In respect to the NWG, the Navy, Maritime Brigade, Harbour, Fisheries department, Veterinary department and Marine department were identified as crucial partners now present on Basecamp



Mr Kossi Ahoedo and Mr Banguina Kékéou from Togo

DISCUSSION:

Togo was congratulated on their operation and the growth of their national working group and in particular the reaction in response to a request from Ghana through the TF. It was questioned why the vessel was not inspected as soon as it arrived in port, to which Togo responded that this did not happen due to lack of experience by the MCS team in Togo and in particular as the vessel was not in port but anchored. They noted that this was the first time they had ever inspected a reefer vessel. This highlighting the need for training and experience for the MCS officers in practical aspects of the work of inspectors, especially to overcome fears of going to sea.

It was noted that in Lomé they have a ship yard that provides information to the MCS officers about all vessels that come for repair. Other than this the only vessels that come to Lomé are reefers and one Togolese fishing vessel. The national maritime office has AIS and they do the vessel checks. It was noted that Togo cooperated with Ghana when the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen was fishing in Ghanaian waters.

2.3 Processes and procedures for operation of the WATF

Ms Davies presented options for procedures for the operation of the WATF. Ms Davies highlighted articles from agreed conventions of the FCWC that provided the basis for the operation procedures. These included the 2007 Convention for the Establishment of FCWC, 2013 Convention on Minimum Requirements for Access and the 2014 Convention on the Pooling and Sharing of Information and Data. Ms Davies then went on to discuss the 2015 Terms of Reference (ToR) for the WATF focusing on the functions of the TF and means by which the procedures for operation would be developed and agreed upon by the TF. Ms Davies proposed the form for the TF to agree on issues including: requests, outcomes and recommendations. Ms Davies concluded her presentation by discussing areas for consideration for requests, outcomes and recommendations for the 2nd TF meeting (TF 2) which would be discussed over the course of the meeting and recorded in the TF 2 meeting record.



Ms Sandy Davies
STOP ILLEGAL FISHING

2.4 Reefer Operations in West Africa

Mr Copeland and Mr Stig Fjellberg of TMT gave a review on reefer operation in West Africa outlining the risks reefers posed to MCS operations and the need for better control of their activities. Some of the MCS risks associated with reefers outlined in the presentation included: difficulty to control and monitor when fish is being brought into the region from various origins; lack of vessel monitoring systems (VMS); and transshipment to reefers which allowing IUU fishing vessels to stay at sea longer and facilitating whitewashing. An overview of the operations of reefer vessel in West Africa was then given, where 82 different reefers were shown to have entered one or several TF exclusive economic zones (EEZs) in 2016. A map showing the most frequently used ports, and general patterns followed by the reefers along the Gulf of Guinea coast was shown, after which a description of the general patterns of reefer operations was discussed. Over 40 incidents where reefers had deviated from this pattern in 2016 were identified, six incidents involving reefer vessels, Green Austevoll, Sierr Lara, Green Freezer, Frio Antwerp and Frio Pacific, were then discussed. These cases mostly involved reefers on route to their reported destination deviating into waters of WATF member. Often the vessels would disappear in the EEZ of one country and appear several days later in the in a neighbouring country's EEZ. Possible reasons for this, such as national conditions and company conditions were stated as well as the likely possibility of transshipment. The presenters proposed ways to better control reefers and why this was needed. These were, to ensure that they comply with national laws, to avoid landing of illegally caught fish or transshipment in TF ports, correct revenue collected, avoid identification as a non-cooperating state. Finally the types of information needed to better control reefer operations were presented and the need for a regional approach to improve understanding and compliance of reefers in the WATF region.

DISCUSSION:

It was noted that the presenters had noted that reefers are generally not on VMS and it was clarified that in general reefers are not inspected by fishery personnel. Ghana noted that they have VMS transponders on two reefers and one supply vessel and that they monitor it on their VMS.

It was noted that in Nigeria there are challenges with issuing the permits for imports of fish that can often detain the reefers. Therefore a lot of fish is now being imported by refrigerator containers rather than in reefer vessels.

A question about the recording of the temperature in the hold was made and if this could be used to assess if holds were opened and possibly transshipments made. It could be considered that this could be a legal requirement and checked in port inspections. It was noted that countries or as a region could request more information from reefers navigating through their EEZs or during inspections in ports. This would assist in building a fuller picture of the activities of reefers in the region and their possible links to IUU fishing.

It was noted that some reefers are not registered with ICCAT.

There was also some discussion on the use of boxes and the labelling on reefers.

It was noted that in Lomé they have a ship yard that provides information to the MCS officers about all vessels that come for repair. Other than this the only vessels that come to Lomé are reefers and one Togolese fishing vessel. The national maritime office has AIS and they do the vessel checks. It was noted that Togo cooperated with Ghana when the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen was fishing in Ghanaian waters.

2.5 Legal Overview of FCWC countries

NFDS legal expert Ms Ariella D'Andrea presented a legal overview of the FCWC countries focusing on the state of national legal frameworks for reacting to and facilitating sanctions against IUU fishing activities for each FCWC member country as well as regional frameworks established by the FCWC in support of this. She provided an assessment of the state of domestication of international and regional frameworks into the national legislation of member countries focusing on areas where increased harmonization was desirable, these, among others, included ratification of treaties such as the PSMA, with Benin and Ghana shown to be in the process of ratifying while the other four FCWC countries were in the process of acceding to the PSMA.

Regarding registration and licensing systems for vessels Ms D'Andrea gave a description of the requirements and costs associated with this in the six FCWC countries showing that these differed from one country to the other while also noting that applications forms for the member countries were not fully compliant with those annexed to the FCWC access conventions. She further stated that only Ghana sanctioned vessels without nationality while Benin, Ghana and Liberia were the only countries where legislation required the fisheries administration to keep a register of licensed vessels authorised to fish on the high seas. Discussing the state of collection and sharing of information, Ms D'Andrea stated that regulations requiring fishing vessels to regularly communicate catch data to the fisheries administration were not always in place and not all countries required notification of entry into and exit from national waters, or advance notification of port entry.

Ghana was the only country shown to have established the mandatory installation of VMS for industrial and semi-industrial fishing vessels and only Benin, Ghana and Liberia allowed the fisheries administration to require the presence of observers on board vessels. Ms D'Andrea then proceeded to detail some of the common fisheries violations in TF member countries and their sanctions, which differed from one country to another. Common violations highlighted included, fishing without a licence, use of forged documentation, illegally transshipping catch and targeting of unauthorized species, among others. Ms D'Andrea concluded her presentation by providing recommendations for consideration by the TF in relation to improving the effectiveness of the legal frameworks governing the TF member countries fisheries management activities.

DISCUSSION:

Togo followed by Benin noted their wish to have assistance with joining ICCAT and requested information on this procedure. There was a general request to have an explanation as to the benefits of joining or becoming party to international agreements and RFMOs.

The issue of imprisonment of foreigners in the EEZ and territorial waters was discussed. It was noted that in territorial waters the same law applies as does to the land.

Fisheries crimes, or the associated crimes that occur in relation to fisheries were discussed and the crossover into the mandate of other agencies (hence the national working groups). The difference between criminal law and administrative law was discussed.



2.6 Maximising the benefits of Basecamp

Mr Copeland presented on the benefits, to the WATF, of utilising the information sharing platform Basecamp. Mr Copeland began by giving a summary of the current level of interaction by the TF on Basecamp by indicating that the number of TF representatives on Basecamp as of April 2016 was 42, with 30 being from the six FCWC countries and 12 from the technical team. He also provided information on the total number of messages (65), comments on messages (801) as well as the types of communication and information shared on Basecamp by the WATF representatives. Mr Copeland presented some of the operational actions and compliance results from the use of Basecamp, these, among others, included; strengthened due diligence for licensing and flagging, vessel inspections & identification of irregularities, vessel arrests and fines and investigations into broader fleets, fines and fishing bans by the TF. Mr Copeland concluded by outlining areas of possible improvement in relation to the use of Basecamp by the TF, these included systematic sharing of relevant information and transmission of formal requests for enforcement cooperation, among others.

DISCUSSION:

There was some discussion around the issue of being active on Basecamp and what this really means. For example Liberia noted that they view Basecamp regularly so they are active but they only post when relevant. A Basecamp log was requested to follow through what is happening in response to requests on the Basecamp.

Some postings have been unserious and this should not happen on Basecamp. It is important to be specific in your requests and ask very clear questions.

It was noted that at times the technical people on Basecamp many not have the authority to respond and it may be helpful if FCWC could send an email to the senior staff in the countries to assist them in getting a response.

It was noted that TF Members need to be careful what is put on Basecamp as confidentiality and legality is an issue and the impact of information is not always known.

It is essential to respect national processes and allow these to take their time.

2.7 Toolbox Review

The presentation outlined the additions to the Toolbox in 2015. These consisted of two training manuals and 16 training presentations. It concluded by discussing possible additions to the Toolbox in 2016 to support MCS operations with input and discussion by the TF. These include an inspection checklist, risk list, combined license list, vessel identity case study, national level licensing conditions, national catch reporting requirements, AIS study and a vessel identify fraud case study.

DISCUSSION:

The value of sharing the licence lists in the region is highly important. All countries agreed there was a need to share their license lists.

It was also requested to have information on other nationality vessels. It was noted that it will be compiled and collected on Basecamp. The FCWC Secretary General noted that the FCWC has MoUs with other bodies and this can facilitate more information on vessels from outside the region.

Liberia relies on imports, and getting the details of fishing vessels then a combined list would be very helpful.

Côte d'Ivoire noted that they had many of the items in the toolbox and they need to use them to then have comments.

There was considerable discussion about the duration of the licence and how these are calculated.

2.8 Activities and Training

Mr Per Erik Bergh of Stop Illegal Fishing presented on the need and options for competence based training, focusing on the modules concept and options for recognition (certification). Mr Bergh presented various training modules for consideration by the TF, these included, fisheries management for fisheries officers, advanced - patrol boat and plane based MCS, investigation and prosecution, observer training and safety and conflict resolution, among others. Mr Bergh addressed issues to give attention to when considering the needs for such training, such as what needed to be done, why it should be done, how often it should be done as well as the nature and duration of the modules for the training. He presented the guiding principles for competence based training and gave an example of fisheries enforcement training, outlining the purpose, prerequisite modules, duration and the learning outcomes of the module. Mr Bergh proposed some ideas about recognition (certification) such as seeking cooperation with National Qualification Authority in one country and formal recognition, establishing a WATF certificate issued by FCWC endorsed by SIF and possibly approaching the World Maritime University (World Fisheries University) to gauge interest in a wider perspective.

DISCUSSION:

Togo and Benin are the two countries where the initial capacity needs have not been identified.

There was concern that these modules are not recognised nationally for promotion and that more formal training may be better. Scholarships for MSC training could be considered.

Training the trainers is needed and this should be very practical if the modules were very hands-on.

It was proposed to first assess what training has already been undertaken in each country and then decide what training is required.



3. Task Force outcomes, requests and recommendations

3.1 Outcomes of the Task Force

The TF in their final session agreed on the following outcomes, to:

1. share lists of national and foreign industrial fishing vessels licensed to fish within the EEZ and external waters on a quarterly basis on the information sharing portal of the WATF (Basecamp)
2. consider options and procedures for expanding the Task Force cooperation at the next Task Force Meeting



Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GHANA

3.2 Requests from the Task Force

The TF agreed to the following requests, for:

1. TF members to be facilitated to have exchange visits between each other and to external partners
2. TT to assist in preparing capacity needs assessments in member countries
3. TT to assist with engagement of other agencies in some NWGs
4. TT to provide advice and support on the process for membership for ICCAT for Togo and Benin
5. TT to finalise the legal review
6. TF and TT to work with other member countries to sensitise migrant small-scale fishermen on the use of appropriate fishing gear
7. TT to identify communication needs, processes and materials to support the Task Force
8. TT to develop a strategy for a regional approach to reefers
9. TT to develop a scoping study on options and feasibility for a Regional MCS Centre of Excellence

4. Closing remarks

Mr DEDI thanked all the attendees before handing over to Mr Baidoo-Tsibu to close the meeting on behalf of the host country. He praised participants for a fruitful and productive meeting and reminded the FCWC country representatives present of the importance of regional cooperation and applauded the progress made by the TF thus far. He urged participants to continue in this spirit of cooperation, before officially declaring the meeting closed.

William Y. Boeh, Coordinator, Bureau of National Fisheries, Liberia with Dedi Nadjé Seraphin, Secretary General, FCWC



5. Annexes

5.1 List of acronyms and abbreviations

BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries	NIMASA	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
CT	Coordinating Team	NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
DPH	Fisheries Production Directorate (Benin)	NPA	Nigerian Port Authority
DGAMP	Ports and Maritime Affairs General Directorate (Côte d'Ivoire)	NWGs	National Working Groups
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea	SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
FDL	Federal Department of Fisheries	TF	Task Force
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit	TF 1	Task Force Meeting 1
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)	TF 2	Task Force Meeting 2
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	TMT	Trygg Mat Tracking
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	ToR	Terms of Reference
NCB	National Crime Bureau	TT	Technical Team
NFDS	Nordenfjeldske Development Services	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
		WATF	West Africa Task Force
		WG	Working Groups



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5.2 Workshop agenda

Tuesday 12 April 2016

08:30 to 09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 to 09:30 OPENING SESSION

- Welcome by FCWC Secretariat – Secretary-General Seraphin Dedi
- Introduction of participants
- Opening by Government of Ghana - Mr Samuel Quatey the Director of the Fisheries Commission
- Agreement of agenda – Facilitator S. Davies
- Housekeeping – V. Koutob

09:30 to 10:30 REVIEW OF WATF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- Presentation by Technical Team – D. Copeland
- Presentation by all TF members on activities at the national level – TF countries

10:30 to 10:45 BREAK

10:45 to 12:30 ...CONTINUED

12:30 to 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 to 14:45 TASK FORCE PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

- Implementing the FCWC information sharing Protocol – S. Davies
- Internal decision making processes within the West Africa Task Force – S Davies

14:45 to 16:00 BASECAMP

- Review of activity, participants and value added on combatting IUU in the region – D Copeland and all Members countries
- Lessons learnt and best practices of use of Basecamp
- How can we improve? Is there more we can share?

16:00 to 16:15 BREAK

16:15 to 17:30 REEFER REVIEW

- Reefers and their operations – a key MCS concern
- Review of reefer movements in the region – Duncan Copeland / Stig Fjellberg
- Identification of information and operations required to better control reefer operations in the WATF region – Duncan Copeland / Stig Fjellberg
- Development of regional approach – Duncan Copeland / Per Erik Bergh

WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE DINNER

Wednesday 13 April 2016

09:00 to 10:45 **...CONTINUATION**

10:20 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE PHOTO**

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

10:45 to 11:30 **LEGAL REVIEW**

- Background and Results, including identification of gaps in national laws
- Discussion of gaps, and identification of national needs and ways forward

11:30 to 12:45 **TOOLBOX**

- Review of Toolbox from 2015 – Dedi Seraphin / PE Bergh / Duncan Copeland
- Presentation of proposed toolbox development in 2016, with input and discussion by TF
 - Inspection checklist
 - Risk List
 - Combined License List
 - Vessel identity case study
 - National Level Licensing Conditions
 - National Catch Reporting requirements
- Other recommendations from the Task Force

12:45 to 13:30 **LUNCH**

13:30 to 14:30 **ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING**

- Overview of activities in 2016, and input on topics and dates – S. Davies/D Copeland
- Modules concept and certificates – S Davies/PE Bergh
- Development of Regional and National Training schedule – D Copeland / Seraphin Dedi / all countries

14:30 to 15:15 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION – FACILITATED S DAVIES**

- Task Force discussion, recommendations and internal decisions

15:15 to 15:30 **BREAK**

15:30 to 17:20 **WEST AFRICA TASK FORCE SESSION (CONT.) – FACILITATED S DAVIES**

- Task Force discussion, recommendations, and internal decisions
- AOB

17:20 to 17:30 **THANKS AND CLOSE 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:

www.fcwc-fish.org

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