



# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



FCWC  
Factsheet 04

JULY 2019

# MARITIME SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Fisheries agencies play a critical role in delivering maritime security in West Africa. Through supporting good ocean governance, effective enforcement and joined-up monitoring, control and surveillance activities, compliance in the fisheries sector will increase. Maritime security and sustainable fisheries are essential for blue growth and ocean health.



The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) is working to build strategic and operational cooperation with regional maritime security centres, in order to:

- Share information and intelligence to support at-sea operations.
- Cooperate with regional training centres and programmes for capacity building relating to vessel inspection, and safety and security at-sea.
- Develop and share knowledge of fisheries activities to improve maritime domain awareness (MDA).
- Map MDA tools and information sources to avoid duplication of effort and cost.

In line with the African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) the FCWC will:

- Increase oversight of fishing and related activities in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Improve targeting of at-sea patrols and in-port inspections.
- Provide timely information for planning and operationalizing FCWC joint patrols.
- Contribute to improved MDA.
- Enhance national and regional capacity.



# WHY?

High levels of piracy, armed robbery, illegal bunkering, illicit drug, arms and human trafficking, as well as illegal fishing contribute to the significant maritime security challenges of the Gulf of Guinea. The ECOWAS has responded by developing maritime domain initiatives to provide regional and coordinated oversight of the maritime sector.

The FCWC is well positioned to build strong and mutually beneficial links with other actors in the maritime domain to create a safe environment for fishing activity. By cooperating closely with the relevant ECOWAS institutions of the Regional Centre for Maritime Safety of West Africa (CRESMAO) and the Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres (MMCCs) in Accra, Ghana and Cotonou, Benin a more effective response will be possible. Increased maritime security will tackle threats to fishing vessels and their activity, and tackle the threats posed by fishing vessels, which may be used as a cover for illegal activity.

A secure and well-governed West African maritime domain will form the foundation of sustainable fisheries and a thriving blue economy.



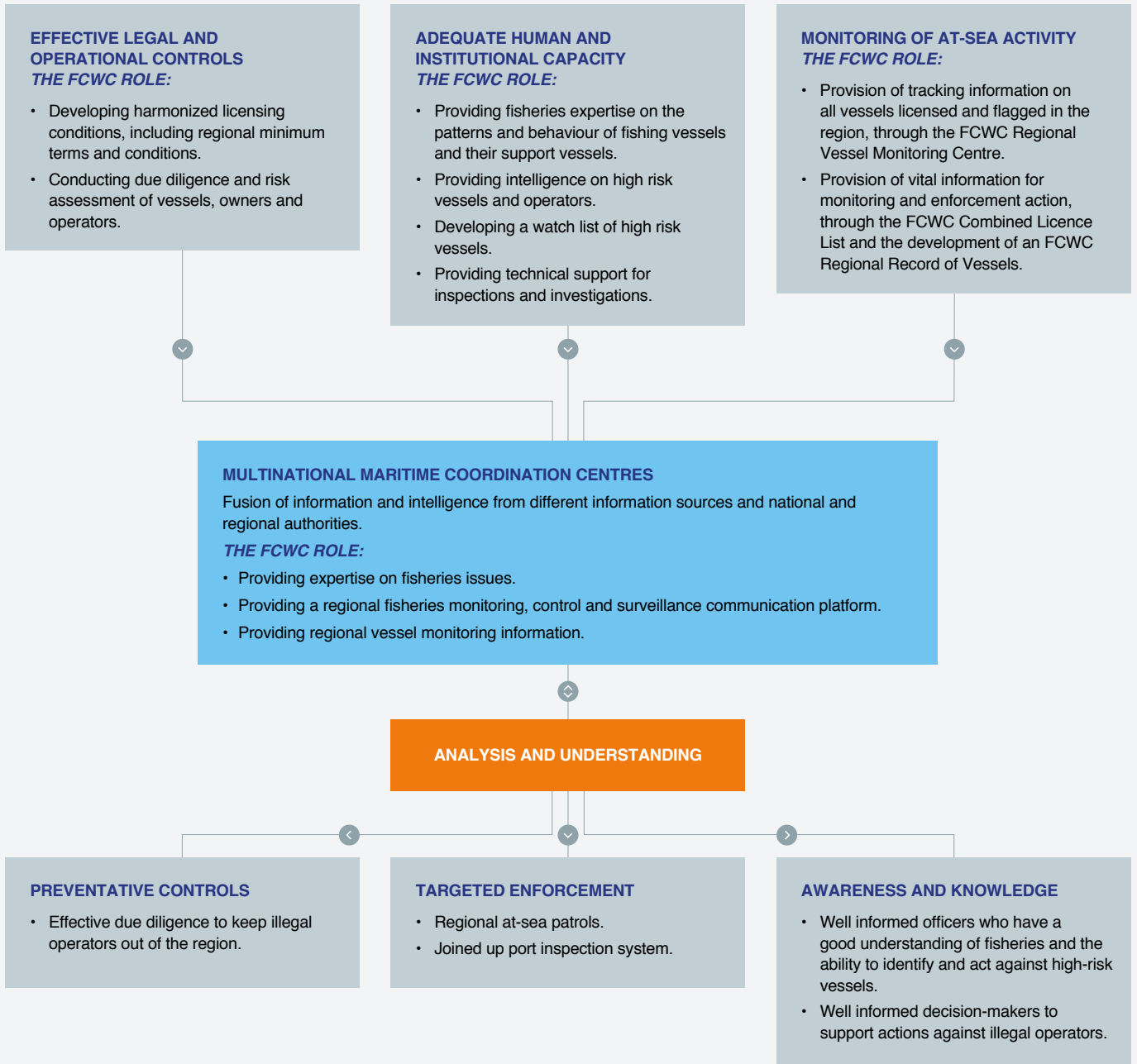
## WHAT DO FCWC MEMBER STATES NEED TO DO?

Through the West Africa Task Force the FCWC is supporting its' Member States in key activities and initiatives that will help build greater maritime security cooperation and awareness. Critical actions underway are to:

- Share information on fishing vessels authorized to fish in their waters.
- Adapt national legal and policy frameworks to support regional action.
- Develop national interagency cooperation agreements and information sharing.
- Build national capacity to conduct due diligence and inspections.

# HOW WILL IT WORK?

## THE FCWC ROLE IN BUILDING MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION





**THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2007 TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BETWEEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES: BENIN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA AND TOGO. THE COUNTRIES HAVE SEVERAL SHARED FISH STOCKS AND IDENTIFIED A NEED FOR COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE RESOURCES.**

The sharing of information and coordination of activity with maritime security actors in the FCWC region is a key element in developing sustainable fisheries, fighting illegal fishing and growing the blue economy.

FCWC member States will benefit from increased cooperation with the maritime security community through increased oversight of vessel activity, reduced costs, greater regional information sharing, and coordinated approaches to joint action.



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