

FCWC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre Launch

Organiser: Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC).

Venue: **FCWC HQ**, Fisheries Research Institute Building, Tema, Ghana.

Date: 12 – 13 May 2021

Participation & Attendance: In-Person and Remotely via Zoom

On May 12th 2021 the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) will officially launch the **Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (RMSCS)**.

The aim of the RMSCS is to address major national, regional and global challenges in stopping illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related fisheries crimes.

This will be achieved through pooling and analysing information, working in a cooperative manner, promoting cooperation with relevant regional and national authorities and institutions, and building capacity.

The RMSCS will develop and support the following activities:

- Vessel monitoring.
- Regional Record of Authorised Fishing Vessels.
- At-sea patrols.
- Regional Observer Programme.
- Training and capacity building.

Background

The RMSCS will integrate the West Africa Task Force (WATF) activities that have been established in 2015 under the **Fisheries Intelligence and MCS Support in West Africa** project – Phase 2 (2019-22) funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The WATF has operationalised key FCWC agreements to combat IUU fishing. It has strengthened regional information-sharing and cooperation between countries; interagency cooperation at the national level; and enforcement actions triggered by intelligence analysis and intelligence-sharing. The WATF has laid the foundation for longer term and sustained regional cooperation and increased fisheries compliance in the region.

The Regional MCS Centre (RMCS)

The European Union-funded **Improved Regional Fisheries Governance (PESCAO)** project (2018-23), has supported the establishment of the RMCS. With VMS and AIS integrating existing systems, and links to national MCS systems the RMCS overcomes the FCWC region's limited capacity to monitor fishing related activity in national exclusive economic zones.

Ensuring the legality and sustainability of fishing and related operations is central to the RMCS mandate. It will achieve this by providing increased oversight of fishing and vessel activity and help with coordinated approaches to joint action.

In addition, the RMCS will enhance cooperation, communication and collaboration between FCWC members, regional organisations and internationally. Transparency and accountability will be developed by facilitating the sharing of national level information throughout the region; by cross-checking licence lists; by sharing VMS data and, by encouraging the move to making information publicly available.

Format of the launch

The launch ceremony will be a two-day hybrid event (in-person and online), hosted at FCWC HQ located at Ghana's Fisheries Research Institute Building in Tema, Ghana, on 12 – 13 May 2021.

The in-person launch ceremony will be co-chaired by the FCWC Chairperson and current Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries for Benin, M. Gaston Dossouhoui; and the Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Ghana, H.E Diana Acconcia; in the presence of Ghana's Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson.

The audience will include relevant sector representatives, partners and collaborators from the six FCWC countries - Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo - as well as international civil society and non-governmental organisations.

A virtual technical seminar discussion is scheduled for the next day, 13 May 2021, to demonstrate the RMCS's contribution to strengthening coordination in the fight against IUU in the FCWC area through collaboration with partners and other stakeholders. The panel discussions will be organized around three thematic areas:

- RMCS in support of policy and fisheries management implementation in West Africa.
- RMCS in support of capacity building in fighting IUU.
- Synergies and partnerships in combatting IUU.

Zoom Meeting Link

<http://bit.ly/FCWCRMCSLaunchZoom>

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Agenda (Provisional)

Day 1 – Launch of the FCWC RMCS

Time	Activity (30 minutes presentation followed by discussion)
9:30am	Registration of Participants, Zoom Waiting Room enabled http://bit.ly/FCWCRMCSLaunchZoom
10:00am	Introduction and Welcome Address <i>Seraphin Dedi, Secretary-General, FCWC</i>
10:00am	Speech by Ghana’s Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development <i>Hon. Mavis Hawa Koomson, MOFAD-Ghana</i>
10:15 am	Speech by Head of European Union Delegation to Ghana <i>H.E Diana Acconcia, EUD-Ghana</i>
10:30 am	Speech by ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development <i>Sékou Sangaré, ECOWAS, Abuja, Nigeria</i>
10:45am	Keynote speech by FCWC Conference of Ministers Chairperson <i>M. Gaston Dossouhoui, Minister, MAEP-Benin</i>
11:00 am	Powerpoint presentation on RMCS – Why the FCWC established a regional MCS centre <i>Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu, Coordinator, FCWC RMCS</i>
11:30 am	Ribbon-cutting ceremony <i>H.E Diana Acconcia, Head of EUD Ghana</i> <i>M. Gaston Dossouhoui, FCWC Chairperson and Minister MAEP-Benin</i>
11:45 am	Tour of RMCS and demonstration of identified relevant activities to be performed at the centre <i>Godfrey Baidoo-Tsibu, Coordinator, FCWC RMCS</i>
12:15 pm	Interview/Questions by journalists <i>Kofi Taylor-Hayford, Communications Officer, FCWC</i>
12:30 pm	Photography session <i>Kofi Taylor-Hayford, Communications Officer, FCWC</i>
12:45 pm	Closing remarks <i>Seraphin Dedi, Secretary-General, FCWC</i>
13:00 pm	Refreshment



Day 2 – Demonstrating the RMCSC’s contribution to the fight against IUU

Day two of the conference is to demonstrate the RMCSC’s contribution in strengthening coordination in the fight against IUU in the FCWC area through collaboration with partners and other stakeholders.

Time	Topic	Resource Persons
10:00am 15 min	1. RMCSC in support of policy and fisheries management implementation in West Africa Moderator: Dr. Ife Okafor-Yarwood, University of St Andrews, Scotland	
10 min	Implementation of conservation and management measures such as closed seasons	Panelist 1: Michael Arthur-Dadzie, Ghana’s Fisheries Commission (FC)
10 min	Providing technical and financial support in natural resources management at the regional level	Panelist 2: Phillipe Tous, African Development Bank (AfDB)
10 min	Importance of evidence and intelligence in the fight against IUU	Panelist 3: Duncan Copeland, Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT)

10:45am 15 min	2. RMCSC in support of capacity building in fighting IUU Moderator: Dr. Kamal Deen-Ali, CEMLAWS, Ghana	
10 min	Vessel monitoring and analysis to support coordinated efforts of fisheries inspection at port and at sea	Panelist 1: Yann Yvergnaux (TMT) and Global Fishing Watch representative
10 min	Training-of-trainers and experience-sharing strengthened across the region	Panelist 2: Alexandre Kempff and Patrick Allen, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
10 min	Use of new technology (AIS, VMS, Earth Observation) in combatting IUU RMCSC in support of capacity building in fighting IUU	Panelist 3: Marc Young, International MCS Network

11:30pm 15 min	3. Synergies and partnerships in combatting IUU Moderator: Sandy Davies, Stop Illegal Fishing, Botswana	
10min	Building synergies (technical and financial) in operationalization of the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy	Panelist 1: Cmdr. Yussif Benning, Multinational Maritime Coordination Center (MMCC) Zone F,
10 min	Strengthening regional cooperation for the implementation of international agreements related to combatting IUU (PSMA, Global Record) - FAO	Panelist 2: Glenn Quelch, (Food and Agriculture Organization – Port State Measures Agreement (FAO-PSMA)
10min	Collaboration with other FMCs and technological partners	Panelist 3: Dr. Axel Klein, PM of Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS)

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