

IMCS NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- 3rd GFETW—Mozambique Scheduled 20-24 Sept 2010
- MCS Membership: 50 Countries.
- IMCS addition—IMCS Network Coordinator Marcel Kroese

NOTE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MCS NETWORK CHAIR

Welcome to the first edition of the International MCS Newsletter. As we all drive towards the same goal of reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, this newsletter will strive to highlight the many different practices, technologies, partnerships, and policies to move us closer to that goal. Additionally, because the sharing of MCS information is a fundamental operating principle of the MCS Network, this newsletter will seek to facilitate the sharing of ideas, accomplishments, and IUU events to help the MCS Network nations keep up to date on these issues.

Within this newsletter you will find summaries of articles, created by the IMCS Staff, from around the world on the various IUU related situations that have occurred since July of 2008, acknowledgements within the MCS Network, and a spotlight of a new addition to the IMCS team. All of the articles and



information in this newsletter have been found on open-source websites. In addition to the summaries, links to the full length articles are included within the article and a full reference on the last page of this newsletter for further investigation.

I would like to thank all of the MCS Network members

who help contribute to this first newsletter and hope you will continue to provide information to be shared throughout the Network. I would also encourage you to forward on any articles, announcements, or statements you wish to include in future editions to trent.johnson@imcsnet.org

-Dale Jones

EU TO OVERHAUL FISHERIES POLICY

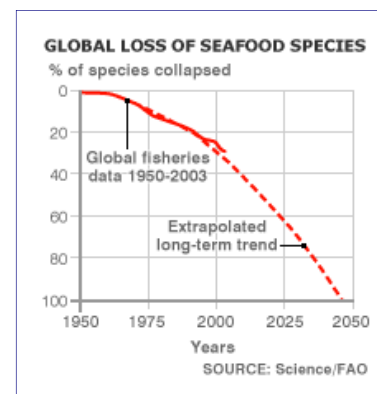
September 17, 2008

[BBC News](#)

The European Commission has announced a full review of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy because of its inability to protect the fish stocks. In response the EU is looking into cutting the size of fleets and time fishermen spend at

sea.

The Common Fisheries Policy was established in 1983 and was last reformed in 2002. In 2003, 29% of open sea fisheries were assessed as being in a state of collapse, defined as a decline to less than 10% of their original yield.



PAIR TRAWLING STILL IN PRACTICE

September 16, 2008

[Joy Online](#)

Local fishermen in Ghana have claimed that pair trawling, a fishing technique using a vessel at each end of the net to encircle a school, has destroyed the habitat of local fish, killed small fish and driven others away. As a result, fishermen have been forced to lay off their employees and seek new careers outside of the fishing industry.

After these claims were heard by the Ministry of Fisheries, a challenge was given to the fishermen to provide

evidence of pair trawling. Local fishermen reacted by using canoes to spy on vessels in Elmina, Axim and Half Assin. The results were vivid photographs of the vessels engaged in pair trawling, along with one of the vessel names: Ahuya I Ahuya II.

Earlier, the Program coordinator of FoN, Mr Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah, called on the Government to, "as a matter of urgency, ban the practice of pair trawling in Ghanaian waters, and this must be followed by an effective enforcement of the ban to ensure

that no illegal pair trawling goes on".

Mr Yamoah asked the Ministry of Fisheries, the Fisheries Commission, the Ghana Navy and the coastal communities to be "adequately resourced to effectively carry out the monitoring, control and surveillance activities". He proposed the re-establishment and institutionalization of community-based fisheries management committee structures at the community, district, regional and national levels to help police the county's waters.

"as a matter of urgency, ban the practice of pair trawling in Ghanaian waters, and this must be followed by an effective enforcement of the ban to ensure that no illegal pair trawling goes on"

FoN, Mr Kyei Kwadwo Yamoah



Photo of Trawler that engaged in pair trawling

GHANA IMPOSES FINE FOR PAIR TRAWLING

October 9, 2008

[ICSE](#)

This article is a follow up to the previous article entitled "Pair Trawling still in Practice"

After Ghana's Minister of Fisheries, Mrs. Gladys Asmah, received evidence from local fishermen of pair trawling, the ministry used the evidence to catch the owners

of the two trawlers. The Ghanaian Navy engaged the pair trawlers at Apam and the owners were fined \$48,000, after admitting to the offense. Two additional trawlers are under investigation by the national security for engaging in illegal fishing in the country's waters.

The Ghanaian Navy was commended for intercepting the pair and promised 30% of

amount of the fine would go into the internally-generated fund for the Ministry of Fisheries.

The minister warned that foreign trawlers that fished in Ghanaian waters without the appropriate licenses would face the full rigors of the law under Section 116 of the Fisheries Act (625) of 2002.



Ghana's Minister of Fisheries, Mrs Gladys Asmah

SECOND GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP, TRONDHEIM NORWAY

August 7-11, 2008

The Second Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop was hosted by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and held in Trondheim, Norway from August 7-11, 2008. During the five day conference there were 35 presentations on a variety of topics, including Combating IUU Fishing at Sea, Technology, IUU Impacts, Port State Measures, Uses of Law in Combating IUU, and many more.

At the conclusion of each session the audience was able to address questions to the panel of presenters directly.

The objective of the work-

shop was to provide discussion-provoking presentations on tools all countries can benefit from, regardless of the extent of their IUU activity or level of MCS capabilities, as well as an opportunity to meet, learn from and partner with other nations to combat IUU at home, regionally and internationally.

The conference benefited from the support of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), Indian Ocean Commission (COI), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) of the United States, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs who together supported over 30 participants to attend this workshop.

To follow on the success of the Trondheim Workshop the Third Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop is already in the planning stages. The Workshop will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, in September 2010. An announcement will be made when the website becomes active.

2nd Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop

MARITIME SURVEILLANCE OPERATION BEGINS IN PACIFIC

September 12, 2008

[Radio Australia](#)

An FFA maritime surveillance operation is underway in the South Pacific involving authorities from 10 Pacific countries as well as Australia, France and the United States.

Operation Kuru-Kuru is covering a 10 million square mile area of the ocean with authorities on the look out for

illegal activity including human trafficking, smuggling and illegal fishing.

Maritime officials in Solomon Islands say 20 vessels have already been tagged for investigation because of anomalies with registration papers.

Governments in the region are clamping down on illegal fishing as the fishing industry

is a major source of revenue for many Pacific nations.



FFA Logo

Operation Kuru-Kuru is covering a 10 million square radius of the ocean with authorities on the look out for illegal activity including people trafficking, smuggling and illegal fishing.

U.S. COAST GUARD AND TAIWAN ANNOUNCE COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE

October 14, 2008

[BBC Monitoring](#)

In a collaborative initiative between the U.S. and Taiwan, Ten U.S. Coast Guard Administration officers will embark on an 89 day mission aboard the vessel Hsunhu No1, as directed by the Taiwanese Fisheries Agency, under the Council of Agriculture. The mission will monitor Taiwanese fishing vessels operating

on the high seas in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

The officers will conduct onboard inspections and send a USCG observer to other vessels for scientific observation. The dispatch of the vessel is in accordance with the management measures of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. This is a measure of Taiwan's determination to achieve good

management in deep-sea fishing.



Coast Guard Vessel (Stock Photo)

UGANDA: COUNTRY TO LOSE SH96 BILLION OVER ILLEGAL FISHING

September 30, 2008

[All Africa](#)

Ogenga Latigo, the leader of the opposition in Parliament, recently said Nile Perch fish had reduced in size because they were mating at an early age. He blamed this on the pressure put on them by over fishing. However, the major reason for the dwindling fish stock remains the use of undersize and illegal fishing mesh nets.

The fishing industry in Uganda has experienced major growth between 1998 and 2008, growing from a \$0.4m (USD) to over \$145 million (USD) industry. The country's

processing capacity has also grown from two factories to 18 in the last ten years.

With the substantial increase in fish processing and over fishing, locals are worried about fish stocks being depleted for future generations. Locals fear with the depletion of fish stocks the current industrial levels can not be supported. This collapse would in turn, cause the loss of jobs persuading youth into the rebel movement to provide a source of income.

In response, the Government has closed seven fish processing plants that deal in immature fish. Also, 10,000

undersized mesh nets were torched and 20 people who were using illegal nets were arrested by the Association of Fisheries and Lake Users of Uganda, the Police, maritime security and BMU Personnel.



Ogenga Latigo

"No one should sleep and eat well when someone is depleting fish stocks,"

Ogenga Latigo

SOUTHERN AFRICA GETS TOUGH ON ILLEGAL FISHING

July 4, 2008

[Pretorian News](#)

Eight southern African coastal states have agreed to set up a regional task force to deal with illegal fishing in their waters and save dwindling fish stocks, according to fisheries ministers.

A three-day ministerial con-

ference held in Namibia decided to implement the plan banning trans-shipment of catches at sea and prevent illegally caught fish, mainly by Asian vessels, from landing at regional ports.

The plan outlines launching a regional monitoring center, a tracing system (labeling) for

caught fish and fish products and stricter control of which vessels fly flags of SADC states.

By June 2009, the regional action plan will be finalized and implementation is set for the end of 2011, according to the commitment agreement signed at the end of the three-day conference.

KOREAN BOATS FORFEITED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

October 17, 2008

[New Zealand News](#)

Two Korean fishing vessels, the Melilla 201 and Melilla 203, have been ordered to be forfeited to the Crown and their captains fined \$360,000 for illegal fishing in New Zealand waters. The vessels were catching fishing in one fishing area and reporting it as being caught in another.

The charges related to the trio, two captains as well as their distributor, providing false and misleading information on the fishing returns of eight trips investigated by the Ministry of Fisheries throughout 2007.

The fishing trips netted about 700 tonnes of ling. Ling catch entitlements are more expensive and difficult to

obtain in some areas than others.

The Melilla 201 and Melilla 203 are registered as New Zealand fishing vessels and operated by Trans Pacific Fishing Ltd under a charter agreement with the vessel's owner, Dae Hyun Agriculture and Fisheries Ltd, a Seoul registered company.

Two vessels ordered to be forfeited to the Crown and their captains fined \$360,000 for illegal fishing

TANZANIA TO CURB ILLEGAL FISHING

September 25, 2008

[IPP Media](#)

Tanzania estimates that 70 ships are fishing illegally in their waters, targeting tuna, kingfish, lobsters and prawns. This is surprising because of the newly introduced regulations by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism aimed at protecting Tanzania's dwindling fish stocks and the cost of licenses are USD 18,000/year/vessel, which experts say is very low.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, John Magufuli, announced that the government would use military vessels to curb illegal fishing by foreign firms and that the government had suspended prawn trawling in the Indian



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries John Magufuli

Ocean indefinitely. Currently ten licensed commercial fishing firms operate in the area. Utilizing military vessels, in addition to a joint project with the EU, will increase patrols on its EEZ.

While illegal fishing has become an issue with sustaining a healthy level of fish in their waters, another reason for the increase in patrolling has been the use of dynamite and poisons which is a major safety and environmental concern. Dynamite fishing and use of poisons, while being a threat to individuals, is also destroying coral reefs and the natural habitat of many aquatic species.

Beach Management Units (BMU) have been doing their best to prevent crime and other problems using educational campaigns but have not had the desired effect after decades of use.

“My Ministry and the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) would set up patrol on the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on the India Ocean to curb theft of marine resources”

John Magufuli

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND THAI FISHERY BUSINESSMEN TO COOPERATE TO OVERCOME ILLEGAL FISHING

October 8, 2008

[MCOT](#)

Indonesian and Thai businessmen are working together in order to try to overcome illegal fishing in Indonesian waters. This initiative is based on a Maritime and Fisheries Ministry regulation which requires certain fishes

caught by Thai fishermen in Indonesian waters to be processed in Indonesia.

The cooperation would require Thai vessels to be flagged under Indonesian flags by using the Indonesian embassy in Thailand as a bridge between Indonesian and Thai businessmen. Thai

fishermen will no longer be able to fish in Indonesian waters unless certain fishes they catch are processed in Indonesia. In order to accommodate this change many new processing plants have been planned to be constructed in specific locations as approved.

“...the Indonesian embassy in Thailand will act as a bridge between the Indonesian and Thai businessmen,”

Mohammad Hatta

PATROLS LOCK IN THEIR POSITIONS

October 14, 2008

[Australian IT News](#)

Fisheries Management Authority compliance officers in Australia have typically tracked illegal fishing vessels at night by calculating GPS coordinates using paper maps and radio contact with the head office which has proven to be a time consuming and inaccurate process.

The problem has been that

even though headquarters has the ability to map vessel locations on a digital screen, there has not been a way to send that image to patrol vessels which are actually making the apprehension.

The authority's 20-plus field team has been issued laptops which are designed to run in standalone mode so that field staff on activities at sea, remote from any network con-

nectivity, can input GPS data and view positions of vessels on an ESRI ARCIMS mapping system .

This information can be loaded into the authority's database after returning from sea and saved for historical analysis. The authority has been collecting commonwealth fisheries data for more than two decades.

TONGA'S BID TO LIST VESSELS FOR ILLEGAL FISHING HAS BROAD SUPPORT

October 6, 2008

[Saipan Tribune](#)

At the Fourth Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Tonga pursued its bid to get Taiwanese fishing vessel F/V Chu Huai No. 638 on the WCPFC's provisional IUU list for illegal fishing in Tongan waters.

The Taiwanese fishing vessel was detected to be fishing in Tonga by a New Zealand P3 Orion aircraft on Jan. 28, 2008. Reports indicate it had been fishing without a license



from Jan. 15 to 28.

After this information was presented to the WCPFC, it was generally agreed by the Technical and Compliance Committee that the vessel would be listed on the provisional Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) vessel list (pending further development of this decision). This techni-

cal committee makes recommendations but not decisions about which vessels should be added to the WCPFC Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated vessel list. Decisions will be made about whether or not to accept these recommendations at the 5th session of WCPFC in December this year in Pusan, Korea.

NIUE TREATY ON COOPERATION IN FISHERIES

October 17, 2008

["Scoop" Independent News](#)

At the second meeting of Parties to the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement in the South Pacific Region, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members agreed to cooperate further to combat illegal fishing.

The Niue Treaty is an agreement on cooperation between FFA members regarding monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing. It includes provisions on exchange of information (about where the position and speed of vessels at sea, which vessels are without licenses) plus procedures for cooperation in monitoring, prosecuting and penal-

izing illegal fishing vessels.

The efforts by the Niue Treaty Parties to work together and with regional organizations were supported by the Pacific Forum Leaders in their 2007 Vava'u Declaration on Pacific Fisheries Resources and in the 2008 Niue Declaration.

This year's meeting agreed to progress work on a draft multilateral subsidiary agreement patterned on the Niue Treaty subsidiary agreements

NAMIBIA: FISHING VESSELS LOSE LICENSES

July 23, 2008

[All Africa](#)

Namibia cancelled the fishing licenses of two vessels that engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing. The "Paloma V" was apprehended in New Zealand's port of Auckland in May 2008 and "Antillas Reefer" in July 2008 in Mozambique.

Both vessels flew Namibian flags and held Namibian fish-

ing licenses, acquired in 2007 under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1951.

Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Dr. Abraham Iyambo, told journalists that MFV "Paloma V", licensed to catch for a Namibian fishing right holder Gongala Fishing JV (Pty) Ltd, was in May found by New Zealand authorities to be involved in illegal fishing.

The Minister said that upon landing at the Port of Auckland, authorities inspected the vessel and, based on information from three computers that were installed on the vessel, it was discovered that the vessel was involved in IUU fishing activities.



Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Dr. Abraham Iyambo

MASSIVE ILLEGAL FISHING TRIAL UNDERWAY IN WESTERN SWEDEN

August 27, 2008

[The Local](#)

Sixteen fishermen and one purchaser have been charged with illegally pulling in 109 tonnes of cod in 2005 and passing it off as Pollack in order to circumvent strict EU quotas limiting cod fishing. Two of the people charged admitted wrongdoing.

By mislabeling the cod as Pollack the purchaser helped facilitate the fishermen making an additional 1.83 million

kronor (\$286,950 USD). The indictment covers 143 landings by nine boats in ports on the Swedish west coast in early 2005.

The fishermen who admitted wrongdoing explained that the cod was accidental by-catch. They allegedly had intended to catch other species and inadvertently caught massive amounts of cod. They had the choice to toss the already dying fish back into the water or admit that they

had over fished their quota until they discovered they had the opportunity, through the purchaser, to file the catch under the category of Pollack.

The prosecutor called for each of the fishermen to be fined the sums they made on the illegal fishing. He may also exercise the option to request sentences of up to two years in prison if found guilty.

"Cod is very vulnerable ... In this case, one has in principle expanded the (legal) quota by 12 percent, which of course can have serious (environmental) consequences,"

Control Chief, Johan Lövenadler

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This section of the newsletter will allow all participants of the International MCS Network to send acknowledgements of work conducted, assistance provided, or any news which is noteworthy.

The IMCS network Analysts would like to thank the United

Kingdom (an MCS Network member) and Uruguay (an attendee at the GFETW) for their assistance in investigating IUU fishing allegations against a vessel under their control. Network members cooperated to rebut a factually incorrect allegation contained in an NGO press release that the vessel con-

cerned had engaged in "completely unregulated" fishing.

For more information on the applicable EU IUU regs regarding this issue please view Article 49 (2) and 51 on the link found in the references page.

COUNTRY/NETWORK PROFILE SPOTLIGHT: MARCEL KROESE

Job Title:

MCS Network Training Coordinator and Technical Liaison

What do you do as the Training Coordinator:

As Training Coordinator, I assist IMCS members with determining their MCS training needs. This can be done through evaluation of the country's request or through analysis of its fisheries, management practices and available resources, in order to design a training package. Training opportunities and funding is then sourced and provided to the country.

As Technical Liaison, I can assist countries with compliance and MCS problems, such as designing more efficient operational planning tools, where to source funding for MCS projects, or how to stop a fleeing IUU vessel with available resources.

Future with IMCS Network:

The Network is now staffed to assist its members in a variety of ways, from sharing information, assisting in the analysis of information to determine trends, or tracking products or ships. The Network can also assist in how to use your domestic resources and international resources to prevent and deter IUU fishing.

There are many actions that can be undertaken collectively to frustrate IUU operators. This can be achieved even with limited maritime assets. This is primarily where the MCS Network can assist you, by identifying and developing these resources, helping to build regional areas, and/or centers of operations.

Useful sources or advice to pass to the Network members:

IUU fishing is an interconnected activity, which affects many, if not all maritime countries. If we can tackle it in a coordinated and integrated manner, we will be able to reduce its impact on the ever diminishing marine resources.



Marcel Kroese

Monitor Control Surveillance

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