



GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

18-22 July 2005
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

hosted by
Government of Malaysia

in cooperation with
International MCS Network¹, and FAO FishCode Programme²

PROSPECTUS

Background

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has been identified by the international community as being a major constraint to the achievement of sustainable, responsible fisheries. IUU fishing occurs throughout the world, and encompasses a wide range of activities within domestic waters and on the high seas. As recognized in the 2005 Rome Declaration adopted on 12 March 2005 by the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, IUU fishing has "...harmful and worldwide consequences...on the sustainability of fisheries (ranging from large-scale high seas fisheries to small-scale artisanal fisheries), on the conservation of marine living resources and marine biodiversity as a whole and on the economies of developing countries and their efforts to develop sustainable fisheries management".³ Although difficult to quantify, the incidence of IUU fishing is significant, and many of the participating fishers are using increasingly sophisticated methods to conduct illegal fishing and to evade detection.

The world community has acted on concerns regarding illegal fishing with increasing dedication over the past decade. A number of international agreements and initiatives have focused on the problem of IUU fishing. Nearly all of these efforts call for increased monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) efforts.

¹ The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries-Related Activities (MCS Network) is a network of participating MCS professionals. See www.imcsnet.org.

² See www.fao.org/fi/fishcode.htm.

³ See <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2005/100200/index.html>.

Objectives

The Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Conference will be a gathering of operational-level MCS professionals from the global community who are dedicated to resolving IUU fishing issues. Participants will receive training on a broad cross section of MCS topics, and will share information and experiences, latest developments and new ways forward to improve fisheries enforcement. The conference will be an opportunity for participants to build contacts and partnerships.

Focus

The five-day conference will review enforcement techniques and MCS operations, by means of individual presentations, case studies and panel discussions. Participants will discuss a range of tools available to assist countries in dealing more efficiently with IUU fishing (e.g. fishery observers, vessel monitoring systems, utilizing customs information, specialized investigations and financial analysis), as well as the methods of applying these tools through legal systems.

An important component of the conference will be a series of “how-to” sessions dedicated to explaining the steps to be taken in building a successful case, including incident investigation, evaluation as an infraction, and the ultimate charging and resolution.

Conference Format

Technical experts from many countries and organizations will present information on enforcement topics. There will be plenary training sessions, discussions and ample opportunities for questions and answers on each topic to encourage information sharing. Activities outside the conference setting will facilitate the informal sharing of experiences among participants.

Expected Outcomes

A summary report will be prepared on the conference proceedings. The report, along with all conference reference material, will be provided to conference participants.

Participation

Invitations to participate in the conference will be sent to specific government personnel who are involved with MCS and to governmental officials asking them to identify appropriate individuals where no particular MCS contact is known. Limited financial resources for travel may be available for developing country participants upon request. A very small number of invitations will be sent to non-governmental personnel involved with MCS, who will be asked to present on relevant topics. In addition, participation will also be encouraged through open registration (via a website, no invite required) for those governmental MCS personnel who do not require their travel to be sponsored.

Participants will represent a broad cross section of operational-level enforcement professionals, including prosecutors, attorneys and judges, domestic and RFMO compliance staff, fisheries observers and inspectors, and fisheries administrators.

Languages

The conference will be conducted in English, Spanish and French.

Conference Fees

There will be no registration fees for participants.