



**COMMISSION SOUS-RÉGIONALE DES PÊCHES
SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION**



**MCS/EU/WAEMU Project on “Enhancing Sub-Regional Cooperation for
the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities (MCS)
in the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission Area (SRFC)”**

**REPORT ON THE MAIDEN MEETING OF THE MCS (CT/MCS/SRFC)
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF SRFC MEMBER STATES**

Banjul, October 2011

I/OPENING CEREMONY

The SRFC's MCS Technical Committee set up during the MCS/FAO and EU/SRFC Validation and Launching workshops organised in Banjul in March 2011, held its first meeting in Banjul, Republic of the Gambia, on October 10 and 11, 2011.

Present at the meeting were directors/heads of MCS national bodies of all SRFC member States and Liberia's representative as an observer. The list of participants and the meeting's agenda are attached to this report.

The opening ceremony was chaired by **Mr Nfamara Dampha**, Gambia's Director of Fisheries and Chairman of the SRFC Coordination Committee. He, on behalf of the Gambian Minister of Fisheries and current Chairman of the SRFC Ministers' Conference, welcomed participants to the Gambia.

Before stressing the importance of sub-regional integration as one of the ways through which maritime resources can be protected, he stated that the fight against IUU fishing helps solve malnutrition and hunger problems.

In the light of difficulties faced during the OCTOPUS operation, he called on the directors of MCS structures to put forward a realistic budget that is able to mobilise enough human and material resources for carrying out effective operations. He also underscored the importance of communication between the operational Coordinators (PCs) and surveillance units at sea.

After the words of welcome, the floor was given to **Mr Kane Ciré Amadou**, SRFC Permanent Secretary, who first recalled the context of the current meeting which was especially focussed on joint operations, while stressing the appropriateness of making the right decisions at the end of the meeting. In light of the extent of IUU fishing, he underlined the importance of this kind of meeting despite financial constraints.

The Permanent Secretary recalled that four Member States were expected to participate in the OPS OCTOPUS. Owing to technical reasons, two of them participated ultimately and boarded and arrested six vessels. A briefing was held in Conakry on 9/12 and 13, 2011, resulting in a press release.

Due to delays noted in achieving the mission for 2011, **Mr Kane** urged participants to concentrate the reflection on surveillance operations in order to get a clear execution calendar for the next six months.

At the end of these discussions, an agenda was adopted. Guinea-Bissau was appointed as chairperson with Senegal as rapporteur, assisted by SRFC.

MCS heads/directors of member states were asked to present their MCS situation for the 2009-2011 periods as provided in the meeting agenda.

II/SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Cape Verde. The coast guard is an offshoot of the armed forces. Its mission is to defend the integrity of the national territory. It ensures maritime protection, conducts rescue, patrol, research operations and participates in joint operations while stressing on marine environment protection. Some activities are also conducted under international commitments.

There are three coastal stations all over the territory: Mindelo, Palmera and Praia. Each base has a boat that patrols the defined area.

In terms of air and maritime surveillance resources, the Dornier 228 is currently out of use and will not be available until February 2012. The *Vigilante's* main engine has also broken down. *Tainha* vessels with three-day autonomy namely *Espardate* and *Rei* are available for local surveillance.

Concerning infrastructure, the US-funded COSMAR centre has been operational for a year now and can receive sub-regional trainings. It brings together many agencies within the framework of the fight against drug trafficking and IUU fishing.

The Gambia. The marine (Navy) has two boats that are currently operational.

Guinea-Bissau. The fisheries sector accounts for 40% of the country's income. The fisheries surveillance service (FISCAP) has 40 inspectors, 106 supervisors, 04 surveillance bases located in Cacheu, Carvella, Boubaques and Cacine. Each base has a boat, two inspectors and five security agents.

The FISCAP does not receive any State subsidies for surveillance operations. Such funding comes from the financing secured through the fisheries partnership agreement with the EU, and part of it comes from the fishing resources funds (FRH).

The 2009-2011 period shows controls results of 29, 17 and 09 ships respectively. This last figure of 2011 includes the three ships arrested during the OCTOPUS mission.

Guinea. The National Centre for Fisheries Surveillance and Protection (NCFSP) has six bases along the coast, namely Bongolon, Kalaya, Koba, Koukoude, Matakang and Conakry. Each has six fisheries inspectors. Effective from 2009, obtaining a fisheries license is subject to the installation at navigational beacon/transponder for satellite surveillance (VMS) on board. Since then, the NCFSP installed a total of 61 such transponders.

The outcomes of the surveillance efforts presented over the three years from 2009-2011 show a good frequency of sea missions at the beginning of each quarterly period. Out of a total of 309 boats inspected over 2009-2011, 35 were boarded and inspected, including 19 in 2009, 05 in 2010 and 11 in 2011, plus three during OPS OCTOPUS.

The challenging surveillance period is July-September. Despite the boarding and inspection rate, there are very few sea voyages due to limited financing.

Mauritania. Due to limited resources, the Fisheries Surveillance Authority (DSPCM) is constantly thinking about identifying other less costly surveillance resources in order to get around the financial constraints. The Delegation has two deep-sea patrollers, a coastal vessel, an large fleet of boats, a functional VMS centre, four radar stations and two others to be built.

The VMS makes it possible to efficiently track vessels' position in the sea despite the fact that patrollers are more and more blocked by fishing vessels. The plane is currently rarely used in surveillance because of the VMS's performance as well as combined action with AIS-radars stations.

Senegal. The importance of the fisheries sector has led the State to attach special significance to fisheries protection by permanent institutional adaptation of the surveillance structure. The structure made it possible to set up a coherent surveillance policy through the introduction of a body of legal and legislative instruments, the allocation of financial resources, the acquisition of naval and air facilities. The country has the following ten coastal stations: Saint-Louis, Fass-Boye, Kayar, Joal, Djiffer, Kafountine, Cap Skirring Mbour, and Yoff.

Staffing is estimated at 150 members, including marine officers and engineers, fisheries inspectors, supervisors, maritime policemen, contract workers. Apart from the protection and surveillance of fisheries resources and fighting against IUU fishing, the DPSP is also responsible for certification of catches according to EU standards in order to determine traceability of fishing products exported into the European market, monitoring the security of small-scale fishing as well as implementing cooperation agreements related to fisheries surveillance.

Of a total of 375 days at sea over 2009-2011, 312 vessels were checked and 38 boarded and inspected, including 15 in 2009. There were various types of offences.

The following surveillance equipment is currently available: deep-sea patroller (Poponguine), a research unit (ITAF DEM), and two 20m patrol boats.

As part of the next joint operations planned by DSCS/SRFC, the availability period of the equipment is slated for January 2011 considering other ITAF DEM commitments. The DPSP Director preferred not to talk about the surveillance plane whose availability is currently uncertain.

Sierra Leone. In view of the importance attached to surveillance of fisheries, the Minister developed a programme to train the maritime observers who have to be onboard authorised vessels. These agents received a training to acquire basic notions essential for their activities.

The Ministry jointly conducted surveillance operations with partner institutions such as Sierra Leone Maritime Protection Service. It also collaborated with SRFC to conduct joint air and sea operations. From 2002 to June 2010, with the African Development Bank fund, the Ministry carried out patrols. Since 2008, surveillance activities are supported by the USA coast guard at the ZEE.

In 2009, the Ministry signed a contract with other institutions working in the maritime sector to implement the Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) with mandate to fight against IUU fishing.

In 2010, the American government offered an AIS-radar system to the JMC. This year, 2011, the Ministry initiated the installation of the VMS system onboard shrimp and other fishing vessels.

The Regional Project for West Africa (RPWA) also made funds available to complete surveillance of diverse species. In terms of surveillance efforts in 2010, 56 vessels were visited, 08 of which were boarded and arrested. 7/8 vessels paid a fine. Over the first half of 2011, 2/8 vessels were boarded and arrested.

Constraints mainly include regular breakdowns of surveillance units and the continued unavailability of service of the patroller Sir Milton. 1/3 cutters is out of service, 1/3 regularly breaks down and the other third requires minor repairs.

Liberia, Observer Status. The 2010 regulations attach great importance to MCS. The issues here include mainly the overexploitation of resources, IUU fishing, catch reduction, limited enforcement of fisheries laws.

The main challenges include the time scheduling, staff, execution of surveillance operations, availability of funds and equipment (boats).

Liberia gets funding from the World Bank, the USAID, EU, and the African Development Bank and there is an active presence of regional institutions such as SRFC, FCWC, and AU.

Despite these opportunities, the population faces many difficulties due to lack of strong and effective MCS; the majority of communities living along the coasts practise fishing and related activities. During the past six months, five boats were boarded and arrested, of which two belonged to Chinese.

MCS Department/SRFC. The MCS department head recalled the mission of the MCS Technical Committee (MCS/TC) in accordance with the recommendations of the MCS/FAO Validation workshop and the MCS/EU launching workshop, to re-establish and convene the MCS Technical Committee, in order to discuss, to decide the SRFC priority and strategic orientations as regards MCS; to make recommendations, followed by an implementation time schedule for regional OPS.

Owing to the delays in the execution of 2011 missions, the meeting should mainly aim to (i) make recommendations complete with an execution time chart for regional OPS (ii) give its opinion on training and investment programmes and on the content based on sub-regional database, and (iii) give its opinion on the synergies with other SRFC projects with MCS components.

A reminder was made of (i) OPS types A, B, C and D and the reasons for the delay in the launching of OPS, (ii) OPS OCTOPUS results. This led to some questions about the next stage for OPS A and the next stages of types A, B, C, D in terms of staff, air, maritime, communication and detection resources.

The training and investment programmes respectively concern (i) training of MCS departmental staff, national experts and observers as well as inspectors and (ii) setting up AIS-Radar stations in some Member States; VMS popularisation; integration of systems (VMS-AIS) into the overall MCS mechanism within each of the member States. As to the issue of AIS-radar stations, the departmental head talked about examining the need to place those stations in places where they are really needed.

To conclude, **Mrs Traore Dienaba Beye**, asked a number of questions dealing with the decisions for OPS A, B, C, D; measures regarding planned investments; priority trainings; and the time chart for the implementation of activities.

For information, the MCS SRFC/EU Project Coordinator talked about need for sustainable financing of MCS within the SRFC area, both at national and regional levels. **M. U. Schack** stressed the importance of further MCS investments at the national level. These investments should comprise both naval units and MCS staff training needs. At the sub-regional level, he talked about the importance of the coordination of surveillance programmes and laid emphasis on MCS departmental capacity building at the coordination centre in Banjul.

The MCS SRFC/EU Project Surveillance Advisor talked about the AIS-Radar monitoring systems. **M. Jean-Louis Lauziere** recalled that African coasts are intensely used by large ships carrying various dangerous substances or products. On account of difficulties in detecting such ships due to their number and the lack of prior information, but also to costs and the limited resources of the region's national MCS bodies, the choice of protection and monitoring systems become strategic de facto.

The resources include techniques for tracking maritime vehicles, notably surveillance radars and the VTS-AIS automatic detection systems. The AIS-Radar integrated system is thus recommended to meet the needs of MCS systems for a permanent surveillance of coasts. Some existing stations in some member States and acquisition costs were presented.

Within the framework of legal agreements between the World Bank, the SRFC and the beneficiary States, **Mr Demba Kane**, West Africa Regional Project Coordinator (WARP),

requested that an independent experts panel be set up to evaluate activities related to MCS, every two years. In this connection, he asked MCS directors to help the SRFC identify such experts.

III/DISCUSSIONS. At the request of the Permanent Secretary, the bulk of discussions was concentrated on the preparation of the forthcoming surveillance operations and the planned regional training of fisheries inspectors.

Concerning joint operations, **Mr Kane** urged the MCS directors/heads to concretely state their opinion on the availability of surveillance resources first over the **October-December** period and then over the **next six months**. They thus took turns to inform attendees on the state of their resources, leading to the following table on units and periodicity (see next page).

On the point of operations. **Mr. Paolo Baranção**, chairperson of the meeting and Guinea-Bissau's representative, asked about the need to know whether the OPS OCTOPUS has to be finished before starting others. **Mr. Kargbo**, Sierra-Leone's representative as well as Liberia's representative/guest requested to complete the first OPS OCTOPUS in which two States did not participate.

To answer the question, **Mr Kane** and **Mrs Traore** indicated that following the declaration of **Mr Moussa Kabassan Keita**, CNSP director about the GLC vessel being committed elsewhere until December 2011, it would be advisable to start other types of OPS for which surveillance units are available, such as type D OPS.

Concerning future operational planning. According to **Colonel Sidina**, Mauritania's representative and **Mr Jean-Louis Lauzière**, the boarding of CMMs will take place in Nouakchott for the OPS D in order to maintain the mission's secrecy. **M. Ibrahima Salif Sylla**, MCSD Programme Officer, and head of operations, requested that boarding take place in the same way as the GLC to avoid air transport costs.

On the role of patrol vessels. **Mme Dienaba Beye Traore**, MCS department head, requested that Arguin/RIM and Poponguine/Senegal patrol vessels be used only to serve as logistical support to national units. According to the head of operations, the representatives of Senegal and Mauritania, the SRFC/permanent Secretary, those units would be more useful when aligned as controlling units; this would not prevent them from providing support to national units.

On training. Regarding **Mr Ulrich Schack's** recommendation that international experts be hired, **Mr Matar Sambou**, DPSP director and rapporteur of the meeting, indicated the need to opt for the regional approach by using the local expertise that is available in terms of trainers. That recommendation was seconded by all participants.

IV/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

The MCS Technical Committee recommends:

4.1. Surveillance operations and budget

- OPS Plan for the next 06 months

Month	Boats	Types of OPS
November 2011	Arguin	D
December 2011	Poponguine + Arguin	B
December 2011	GLC	A
January 2012	ITAF DEM	C
February 2012	ITAF DEM	A
March 2012	Vigilante + Poponguine + RIM	B
April 2012	Poponguine	A

4.1.1. OPS Budget for Operations

- The revision of the budget to reallocate funds not used in the account of the five operations of 2011 so as to achieve two type A and C operations;
- The continuation of the financing of national units for their intervention in their coastal area;
- The inclusion in the budget of the subsidies already granted to Sierra-Leone and the Gambia that were not yet used as well as Guinea-Bissau's outstanding funds during the OPS OCTOPUS;
- Combined coastal and deep-sea operations should be retained.

4.1.2. Training

- On the basis of discussions, the MCS Project's Technical assistance must review the schedule in order to organise a training for *inspectors and controllers* under 2011;
- A manual will be prepared latest by the end of November 2011 and will concern the following modules: Navigation, fishing techniques, fishing methods, communication and regulations while taking into account the budgetary limits for training;
- Instructor trainers will be hired from within the region;
- *Praia* (Cape Verde) is selected to host the training workshop whose tentative scheduling is planned for the first half of January 2012;
- **Supervisors and MCS experts'** training is planned for 2012.

4.2. Other issues

- At the request of Liberia's delegate, the Technical Committee recommended the country's participation in the joint MCS operations within the framework of the West Africa Fisheries Regional Programme (WAFRP). In this respect, an official letter shall be sent to the Chairman of the Conference of Ministers with a copy to SRFC Permanent Secretary;
- The setting up of the sub-regional register of fishing boats following confirmation by States' representatives of the existence of national registers;
- Guinea-Bissau and Guinea will have to provide technical and financial Reports on the OCTOPUS operation as well as all related documents no later than October 20th.

4.3. Date of the next Technical Committee meeting

- The next MCS Technical Committee meeting was scheduled for January 2012 in Freetown (Sierra-Leone).

V/CLOSING CEREMONY

On behalf of his colleagues MCS officers, the chairperson of the meeting, **Mr Paolo Baranção**, thanked all the participants for the quality of contributions during deliberations. He wished them a safe return to their respective countries.

The Permanent Secretary congratulated and thanked all participants for the encouraging results they obtained at the end of deliberations. He urged MCS officers to forward the decisions to their bosses.

He thanked the session's chairperson for steering the conduct of deliberations. **M. Kane** also thanked the experts for the quality of the work accomplished. He said Liberia's participation as an observer showed the need to enhance cooperation between the sub-region's States and the sub-regional approach in the fight against IUU fishing.

Before concluding, the Permanent Secretary thanked the Gambian authorities for the warm welcome they reserved to the participants and the facilities offered for deliberations.

ANNEXE I

**MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (CMCS)**

October 10th -11th 2011 Banjul (The Gambia)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**Monday, October 10th 2011
FIRST DAY**

MORNING

09 h 00 - 09 h 45

Opening

- Opening Speech of the Permanent Secretary
- Opening Speech of the President of the Coordination Committee

09 h 45 - 10 h 15

Coffee Break

10 h 15 - 10 h 45

- Presentation of the Member States' National Directors
- Adoption of the agenda
- Organization of the Session (*Designation of the President and the reporting person*)

10 h 45 - 11 h 45

- Results and constraints of the fight against IUU Fishing (Member States)

11 h 45 - 13 h 00

- Presentation of joint surveillance programs Type A, B, C & D : priorities for the next 6 months; operational status of surveillance vessels (by the DMCS/SRFC)

13 h 00 - 14 h 30

Lunch

AFTERNOON

14 h 30 - 17 h 00

- Discussions
- Discussions (following)

End of the first day

Tuesday, October 11th 2011
SECOND DAY

MORNING

09 h 00 - 10 h 15

- Identification of training needs and programs for MCS Senior staff, inspectors, controllers and fisheries observers

10 h 15 - 10 h 45

Coffee break

10 h 45 - 13 h 00

- Presentation of problems related to the financing of fisheries surveillance at national and sub-regional levels (by Ulrich SCHACK)

13 h 00 - 14 h 30

Lunch

AFTERNOON

14 h 30 - 16 h 00

- Presentation of the investment Program for coastal Stations AIS-Radars (by Jean Louis LAUZIERE)

16 h 00 - 16 h 30

- Date of the next meeting

16 h 30 - 17 h 00

- Closing of the meeting by the Permanent Secretary

APENDIX II

SRFC MCS TECHNICAL COMMISSION'S MEETING (CT/SCS/CSRP), HELD

ON 10/10-11/2011, BANJUL/ THE GAMBIA

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