



Commission Sous-
Régionale des Pêches
(SRFC)
Sub-Regional Fisheries
Commission
(SRFC)

Sub-regional Workshop Implementation of national registers for industrial fishing vessels

19 to 20 March 2007, Hotel Palm Grove – Banjul, Gambia

Workshop Report

Background and objectives of the workshop

In line with its strategy to improve the efficiency in the monitoring and control of the fisheries in the sub-region, and with the financial assistance of the SRFC-GTZ Project, the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC has organized a workshop in Banjul, The Gambia, from 19 to 20 March 2007. The objectives of the workshop were:

- assess the current situation in the implementation of the national vessel registers and identify means of improvements the Permanent Secretariat could assist with;
- Identify the main obstacles to the implementation of a sub-regional fishing vessel register.

Participants

A total of 23 persons participated in the workshop. They represented the institutions of all seven Member States dealing with licensing and monitoring of fishing vessels. Staff of the Surveillance Operations Coordinating Unit (SOCU) of the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC participated as well. The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

Organization of the workshop

The program of the workshop was divided into four sessions. The first one was used for presentations by the SRFC and the representatives of the Member States for a mutual information exchange on the current status of the implementation of **national registers**. Based on the presentation of the first section, tables were compiled and validated by the participants in the 2nd session which – for each country separately – contained in a comprehensive form information on the current status and the management of the national industrial fishing vessel registers. In the 3rd session, the representatives of the countries summarized the procedures related to the arrest of fishing vessels considered having committed an **infraction**, the follow-up and the documentation of infractions. The 4th session finally allowed for an in-depth discussion of the advantages and the constraints in respect to the implementation of a **sub-regional register** for industrial fishing vessels. See Annex 2 for the time table of the workshop.

Workshop activities and results

Opening Ceremony

Following the welcome remarks by the representative of the Sub-regional Fisheries Commission, Mr. Mamadou Ball, Director ad interim of SOCU, the workshop was officially opened by Mr. Adiatou Njai, Fisheries Director of the Gambia.

The participants appointed Mr. Mamadou Ball to preside over the sessions of the workshop and designated Mr. Bahi Ould Bayé and Mr. J. Michael Vakily as rapporteurs.

Session 1 & 2

The workshop started with a reminder of its objectives and expectations. Also given was a short presentation of the technical assistance provided to the SRFC in the context of the SRFC-GTZ project funded by the German Cooperation.

Mr. Bahi Ould Beyé reminded the participants in his presentation of the institutional framework that governs the implementation of the fishing vessel registers in the Member States of the SRFC. He specifically mentioned the international context (the recommendations issued by the FAO) as well as the sub-regional context following the recommendations made by the 8th Extraordinary Session of the Conference of the Ministers in Mindelo in November 2004. These recommendations were:

- approval of the decrees establishing a national register for industrial fishing vessels;
- designation of a national correspondent;
- put into place a sub-regional database on fishing vessels.

It was also mentioned again that the decision to create a sub-regional fishing vessel register should allow for a more efficient fight against illegal fishing and a concerted approach to the management of the resources, thus contributing to the strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation.

After this introduction the participants presented the current status of the implementation of the national registers for industrial fishing vessels in their countries. In general, these reports covered the following points:

- the process involved in registering a fishing vessel;
- the process involved in obtaining a fishing license;
- the government institutions involved in those processes;
- the format used;
- the tools used for storing and processing the information;
- the potential needs for improving the current system.

The information contained in these national reports was summarized in a matrix featuring six components:

1. Legal framework
2. Implementation of the national register for industrial fishing vessels;
3. Attribution of fishing licenses;
4. Data management in respect to the national register for industrial fishing vessels
5. Data management in respect to fishing licenses;
6. Constraints and principal needs.

This matrix was discussed and validated by the participants. The implementation of the national registers in the Member States can be summarized as follows:

1) Legal framework

Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, and Senegal have completed the legal procedures (decrees) required for the implementation of their registers. In Sierra Leone and The Gambia, this process is still on-going (see Annex 3a).

The legal framework for the attribution of fishing licenses exists in all Member States of the SRFC.

2) Implementation of the national register for industrial fishing vessels

In all Member States of the SRFC, the ministry in charge of fishery is always involved in the implementation of the register. In some countries (Gambia and Sierra Leone), beside the ministry other institutions also play a decisive role (e.g. the Port Authorities in The Gambia) (see Annex 3b).

As to the actual storing of the data of the register, only Senegal and Sierra Leone dispose of computer software specifically developed for this purpose. In all other countries, storage of data is still quite traditional (hard copies, electronic files created with MS Word or MS Excel).

Beside The Gambia and Sierra Leone, all other countries have applied the format suggested by the SRFC for the vessel registration forms.

3) Attribution of fishing licenses

In all Member States of the SRFC, the ministry in charge of fishery and its relevant divisions are responsible for the attribution of fishing licenses. The final decision remains with the minister. With the exception of The Gambia, physical storing of the data is done by means of more or less specialized computer applications (see Annex 3c).

4) Data management in respect to the national register for industrial fishing vessels

In all Member States, handling of data in respect to the registration of fishing vessels is done by the concerned divisions of the ministry in charge of fisheries. Depending on the level of computerization these divisions are in a position to produce more or less detailed reports on the actual status of the register. These listings are prepared "on demand", with a restricted distribution within the ministry. The information is generally not available to the public, Mauri-

tania and Sierra Leone being the exception in that a detailed summary of registered vessels is published in annual or quarterly bulletins (see Annex 3d).

5) Data management in respect to fishing licenses

As for the registers the relevant divisions of the ministry in charge of fisheries handle themselves the data related to fishing licenses. These divisions are in a position to produce detailed listings containing number and type of licenses approved. These listings are prepared "on demand", with a restricted distribution within the ministry. The information is generally not available to the public, Mauritania and Sierra Leone being the exception in that a summary of allocated licenses is published in an annual bulletin (see Annex 3e).

6) Constraints and major needs for the improvement of the national fishing vessel registers

The participants have identified constraints and major needs experienced by their national institutions in charge of maintaining the registers for industrial fishing vessels, and which the participants consider necessary to be addressed in order to improve the national registers (see Annex 3f). The needs can be categorized as follows:

- Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation, especially between institutions which use database applications, and exchange of expertise and experience;
- Assistance in the development of computer-based applications at national level;
- Training for the managers of register systems (analysis and processing of data);
- Development of a user manual for the sub-regional fishing vessel register;
- Equipment and materials.

Sessions 3

The 3rd session dealt with the reporting, follow-up and documentation of infractions committed by fishing vessels. This permitted to establish for each Member State the exact procedure in respect to the apprehension of fishing vessels found to have committed an infraction and the ensuing follow-up across all instances involved (see Annex 4).

It was shown that in all Member States except for Guinea-Bissau it is the minister in charge of fisheries who has ultimate authority to decide that an infraction has taken place. This decision is usually based on propositions by relevant institutions within the ministry, which are either the bureau of fisheries or consultative commissions specifically created to deal with matters related to infractions in this sector. In Guinea-Bissau the final decision is with an inter-ministerial commission (fisheries, finance, and defense).

The information in respect to infractions is always archived at the level of technical services of the ministry in charge of fisheries. Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal use a dedicated computer application to process the information. The distribution of the information is restricted and limited to the relevant in-house services. However, in Sierra Leone information about infractions committed by a fishing vessel are announced over the radio.

Sessions 4

The last session served to critically appreciate advantages and constraints of implementing a sub-regional register for fishing vessels. In the course of an open and frank discussion, the following points were mentioned as major advantages of a sub-regional vessel register:

- Contribution to a sub-regional information system;
- Strengthening of information exchange;
- Improvement of the reliability of the information on boats;
- rapidity with which reliable information can be accessed;
- Ease of storing information;
- Control of fishing activities;
- Harmonization of operations against infractions;
- Reduction of illegal fishing;
- Pursuit of ships having committed infractions;
- Possibility to measure fishing effort on a regional level;
- Contribution to the harmonization of fisheries legislation;
- Contribution to the coordination during the negotiation of fisheries agreements;
- Potential use of the sub-regional register as a source of revenue for the SRFC.

While fully acknowledging the necessity of establishing a sub-regional registry for fishing vessels, the participants nevertheless noted a number of constraints. In respect to the legal framework, the participants mentioned the delays in the finalization of decrees etc. for setting up the national vessel registers. This prevents to some degree to make progress in respect to the sub-regional vessel register. To this adds a number of other constraints of a more practical character, of which the most important ones are the following:

- Lack of sensitization of the political decision makers in the Member States;
- Absence of a legal framework for the transfer of data;
- Absence of a clear intention to share data;
- Lack of expertise in the countries;
- Lack of human and financial resources;
- Lack of dedicated infrastructure specific to the transfer of registers;
- Lack of motivation of the persons managing the registers.

General conclusions and recommendations

The participants unanimously recognized the importance of setting up fishing vessel registers, both on a national and a sub-regional level. They acknowledged that certain Member States had already made considerable progress in setting up their national registers, while others are still preoccupied with finding an efficient solution. However, the participants also noted that the implementation of the sub-regional register still lacked the dynamism

needed for its realization. In the light of all this, the participants felt compelled to formulate the following recommendations:

1) Recommendations for the Permanent Secretariat of the SRFC

- Initiate soonest possible the setting up of the sub-regional register for fishing vessels;
- Demand that The Gambia and Sierra Leone rapidly adopt the necessary decrees for the implementation of their national registers;
- Assist the Member States in their quest to establish their national registers;
- Translate into English all key documents related to the establishment of the sub-regional register;
- Put into place the necessary mechanisms for the transfer of data between the different partners;
- Sensitize the decision makers by means of a demonstration of the usefulness of the data in the sub-regional register;
- Improve the information flow between the Permanent Secretariat and the Member states.

2) Recommendations for the Member States

- Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the services in charge of managing the registers;
- Encourage the sharing of information;
- Provide incentives for the personnel responsible for managing the registers;
- Authorize the dissemination and sharing of information related to infractions.

Annexes:

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Time table

Annex 3: Summary of the information provided by the representatives of the Member States of the SRFC in respect to the implementation of their national registers for industrial fishing vessels and the attribution of fishing licenses.

Annex 4: Steps and procedures at national level in respect to the reporting and follow-up of infractions committed by industrial fishing vessels.

Annex 5: Photo gallery

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*Sub-Regional Workshop
Implementation of national registers
for industrial fishing vessels
Hotel Palm Grove – Banjul, 19 - 20 March 2007*



Timetable

Sunday, 18 March 2007

Arrival of participants in Banjul, transfer to the Hotel Palm Grove

Monday, 19 March 2007

Opening of the workshop

09.15 Registration of participants

09.45 Participants to be seated

10.00 **Opening ceremony**

Welcome remarks by the representative of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, Mr. Mamadou Ball,

Opening speech by Mr. Adiatou Njai, Director of Fisheries, The Gambia

10.30 *Coffee break*

11.00 **Introduction:**

- Designation of the chair of the meeting and of the rapporteur [BOB];
- Objectives and expectations of the workshop [BOB];
- The institutional support provided by the CSRDP/GTZ project [JMV];
- Presentation of the institutional framework for the implementation of a national fishing vessel register in the CSRDP member states (BOB);

Session 1: Presentation by Member states

11:30 The Gambia;

12:00 Sierra Leone, with presentation of the IFDaS software application;

13:00 *Lunch at the hotel*

14:30 Guinea

15:00 Guinea-Bissau

15:30 Mauritania

16.00 *Coffee break*

- 16:30 Senegal, with presentation of the Access based software application;
17:30 Cape Verde;
18.00 *Session end*

Tuesday, 20 March 2007

Session 2: Format and implementation of fishing vessel registers

- 09.00 Development of a matrix (by country) indicating the steps involved in the process of registering fishing vessels [BOB, JMV]
11.00 *Coffee break*
11.30 Round table discussion on technical difficulties experienced in the context of identifying fishing vessels (How to prevent false declarations by vessel owners?");
13:00 *Lunch at the hotel*

Session 3: Documentation of violations of fishing laws at national level

- 14:30 Round table discussion: "What are current procedures in the member states in respect to the documentation of observed infractions (responsibilities, availability of information)?".

Session 4: Towards reviving the setting-up of a sub-regional fishing vessel register and the documentation of observed infractions.

- 15:30 Experiences of SUCO and the prospects of the implementation of a sub-regional fishing vessel register [SOCU];
16.00 *Coffee break*
16:30 Round table discussion: "What are the factors impeding the implementation of a sub-regional fishing vessel register and the sharing of the documentation on observed infractions?"
18.00 Closing of the workshop

Wednesday, 21 March 2007

- 09.00 *Departure of the participants for Dakar / Conakry*

Friday, 23 March 2007

- 09.00 *Departure of the participants for Sierra Leone*

Annex 3

Summary of the information provided by the representatives of the Member States of the SRFC in respect to the implementation of their national registers for industrial fishing vessels and the attribution of fishing licenses.

The information provided by the participants and documented in tables (a) to (f) was structured in the following way:

- (a) Legal framework**
 - a. National register for industrial fishing vessels
 - b. Attribution of fishing licenses
- (b) Implementation of the national registers for industrial fishing vessels**
 - a. Authorities concerned
 - b. Was the standard form of the SRFC applied?
 - c. Format for recording the information
- (c) Attribution of fishing licenses**
 - a. Authorities concerned
 - b. Format for recording the information
- (d) Data management in respect to the national register for industrial fishing vessels**
 - a. Institutions in charge
 - b. Regularly produced outputs
- (e) Data management in respect to fishing licenses**
 - a. Institutions in charge
 - b. Regularly produced outputs
- (f) Constraints and major needs for the improvement of the national fishing vessel registers**

a) Legal framework

	National register for fishing vessels	Attribution of fishing licenses
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Décret-Loi 53/2005 (06.08.2005) • Arrêté n°67/2005, du 12.12.2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Décret-Loi 53/2005 (06.08.2005)
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fisheries Bill 2006 (under preparation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fisheries Bill 2006 (under preparation)
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loi L/95/13/CTRN (15.05.1995) • Arrêté n° 1745/MPA/CAB/2005 (05.05.2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Décret D/97/227/PRG/SGG (16.10.1997) • Arrêté annuel
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Décret-Loi n.° 4/96, (2.09.1996) • Décret-Loi n.° 6-A/2000, (22.08.2000) • Despacho Ministerial N° 21/GMP/04 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Décret-Loi n.° 4/96, (2.09.1996) • Décret-loi n.° 6-A/2000, (22.08.2000) • Arrêté annuel
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loi n° 2000-025 (24.01.2000) • Arrêté n° 0482 (20.04.2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loi n° 2000-025 (24.01.2000) • Décret n° 2002-073 (01.10.2002)
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loi 98-32 (14.04.1998) • Arrêté n° 000853 (03.03.2005) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loi 98-32 (14.04.1998) • Décret n°98-498 (10.06.1998)
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1994 Fisheries Management and Development Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1994 Fisheries Management and Development Act

b) Implementation of the national registers for industrial fishing vessels

	Authorities concerned	SRFC Form?	Recording format
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministério de Estado e das Infraestruturas, Transportes e Mar – (Ministry of State and Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea) 	Yes	MS EXCEL files
Gambia	<p>National vessels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of State for Fisheries & Water Resources (DSF&WR). • Gambia Ports Authority (GPA) <p>Foreign vessels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of State for Fisheries & Water Resources (DSF&WR) 	Not yet	Paper
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture 	Yes	Paper; application in MS ACCESS under development
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministério das Pescas e Economia Marítima – (Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy) 	Yes	Paper, computer application to be developed
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministère des Pêches et de l'Economie Maritime (MPEM) 	Yes	Paper, computer application to be developed
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministère de l'Economie Maritime et des Transports Maritimes Internationaux 	Yes	Application in MS ACCESS
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources • Sierra Leone Maritime Administration 	No	Application in MS ACCESS

c) Attribution des licences de pêche

	Authorities concerned	Recording format
Cape Verde	Nationals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direcção Geral des Pesces (DGP) Foreigners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministério de Estado e das Infraestruturas, Transportes e Mar (Ministry of State and Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea) 	MS EXCEL
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of State for Fisheries & Water Resources (DSF&WR) 	Paper
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture 	MS ACCESS
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministério das Pescas e Economia Marítima – (Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy) ; Ministère des Finances 	MS ACCESS
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministère des Pêches et de l'Economie Maritime (MPEM) 	?
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministère de l'Economie Maritime et des Transports Maritimes Internationaux 	Application in MS ACCESS
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) 	Application in MS ACCESS

d) Data management in respect to the national register for industrial fishing vessels

	Institutions in charge	Outputs
Cape Verde	National vessels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institut Maritime et Portuaire (IMP) ; Direcção Geral des Pesces (DGP) – (Bureau of Fisheries) Foreign vessels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direcção Geral des Pesces (DGP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of authorized vessels
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Department (FD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing on demand
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre National de Surveillance et de Protection des Pêches (CNSP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direcção Geral da Pesca Industrial - (Bureau of Industrial Fisheries) ; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing •
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Délégation à la Surveillance des Pêches et au Contrôle de Mèr (DSPCM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing Quarterly bulletins
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches (DPSP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of authorizations Status of infractions Status of MCS activities
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report

e) Data management in respect to fishing licenses

	Institutions in charge	Outputs
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direcção Geral des Pesces (DGP) – (Bureau of Fisheries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing on demand
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Department (FD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing on demand
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction Nationale de la Pêche Maritime (DNPM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing on demand
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direcção Geral da Pesca Industrial - (Bureau of Industrial Fisheries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing on demand
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction de la Pêche industrielle • Direction de la Pêche Artisanale Côtière 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing on demand
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction des Pêches Maritimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report

f) Constraints and major needs for the improvement of the national fishing vessel registers

	Constraints and needs
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with institutions in the sub-region having developed database applications; • Training for the managers of the register system (processing and data analysis); • Development of a user manual for database applications; • Exchange of expertise and experience among the partners in the sub-region; • Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation;
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer equipment; • No database available; • Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation;
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment; • Strengthening and training of the managers of the register;
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment; • Strengthening and training of the managers of the register; • Development of a database; • Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation;
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a computer application; • Training of personnel; • Computer equipment;
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer equipment; • Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation;
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer equipment; • Training of database managers; • Capacity development; • Strengthening of the sub-regional cooperation;

Annex 4

Steps and procedures at national level in respect to the reporting and follow-up of infractions committed by industrial fishing vessels

	Steps and procedures
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Direction Générale des Pêches (DGP) • Decision by the Minister of State in charge of fisheries • In-house archiving (DGP)
Gambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Fisheries Department (FD) • Meeting of the mixed Consultative Commission • Decision by the Minister in charge of fisheries • In-house archiving (FD)
Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Meeting of the National Commission for Apprehensions • Decision by the Minister in charge of fisheries • Information recording in a database (CNSP)
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Meeting of the Technical Commission (consultative) • Decision by the Inter-ministerial Commission (Fisheries, Finance, Defense) • In-house archiving (FISCAP, Fisheries Ministry)
Mauritania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Meeting of the “Commission consultative des transactions” • Decision by the Minister in charge of fisheries • Information recording in a database (DSPCM)
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Meeting of the Consultative Commission for Fisheries Infractions • Decision by the Minister of State in charge of fisheries • Information recording in a database (DPSP)
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension • Decision by the Minister in charge of fisheries • Public announcement via radio • In-house archiving (Fisheries Ministry)

Annex 5 Impressions from the workshop



Opening speech given by the Director of Fisheries in The Gambia, Mr. Adiatou Njai



The opening ceremony



The participants from Cape Verde making their presentation



The president of the workshop, Mr. Mamadou BALL and the rapporteur M Bahi O. BEYE



A moment to relax



The participants