



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries Commission
for the Mediterranean
Commission générale des pêches
pour la Méditerranée



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

Joint workshop ATLAFCO-GFCM

“Supporting the regional implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement: a decisive step toward an international Day of the fight against IUU fishing”

Tangier, Morocco, 6-8 December 2016

Training of inspectors in the ATLAFCO/GFCM area: main hurdles to overcome
by ATLAFCO-GFCM Secretariats

Main hurdles

- Raising awareness on the relevance and importance of port State measures
- Different level of capacities at country level, including different standards in place for trainings of inspectors
- Need to harmonize legislations on the basis of applicable international law, including recommendations by regional fisheries bodies and the provision of technical assistance for capacity building
- Streamline existing resources and opportunities, including the pooling of such resources
- Ensure regular provision of training of inspectors, including the training of trainers at the national level

Relevant initiatives

- **Training of Mediterranean Sea inspectors, 17- 18 March 2015, EFCA HQ, Vigo, Spain:**
 - Joint EFCA-GFCM initiative funded by the European Commission
 - A total number of **18 participants** attended from relevant national authorities of GFCM countries
 - Hands-on, practical training provided, consistent with Annex E of the FAO-PSMA, recommendation GFCM/2008/32/1 on port State Measures (Annex C) and the GFCM roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Practical case studies on the conduct of inspections
- **Training of Black Sea inspectors, 24-25 November 2015, Constanta, Romania:**
 - Joint EFCA-GFCM initiative funded by the European Commission
 - A total number of **10 participants** attended from relevant national authorities of GFCM countries
 - Hands-on, practical training provided, consistent with Annex E of the FAO-PSMA, recommendation GFCM/2008/32/1 on port State Measures (Annex C) and the GFCM roadmap to fight IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Practical case studies on the conduct of inspections
- **Common outcome: request for similar trainings at the national level**

The fight against IUU fishing: an area of common interest

- Fishing vessels flying the flag of GFCM countries are at times engaged in fishing operations off the coasts of West Africa
- Fishery products caught (and sometimes processed) in Western African countries are often sold in the markets of GFCM countries
- MoU between ATLAFCO and GFCM focuses on better coordination between these two organizations, including exchange of relevant information which could be facilitated through the respective Secretariats including by:
 - Setting up of an alert system when vessels flying the flag of a non-Member are sighted transiting from one geographical area to the other (Mediterranean to Western African);
 - Lessons learnt and best practices for MCS of fishing vessels (monitoring of SSF vessels);
 - Dissemination of relevant IUU fishing vessels
- **UN SDG 14: by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** (common obligation that requires a regional approach)

A concerted approach to training of inspectors

- Subsidiarity principle: to safeguard the ability of countries to take action, intervention is deferred to regional organizations when the objectives of an action cannot be sufficiently achieved by countries alone and can be better achieved at organizational level by reason of the scale of the action
- **The training of inspectors is by now an international obligation under the FAO PSMA** (and in the context of regional decisions by competent regional fishery bodies)
- **Without proper harmonization and the respect of certain quality standards the training of inspectors will not effectively deter IUU fishing** (IUU relies on weakest links and safe harbours)
- **Special requirements of developing States are also an international obligation** (Part VII of 1995 UNFSA refers)
- Expertise exists to train inspectors at the regional and trans-regional level
- Undertaking a regional/trans-regional training of inspectors would set a precedent which could be replicated at country level (MoU between ATLAFCO and GFCM provides for the possibility of launching joint initiatives/projects)

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a photograph of sand dunes underwater, with light filtering through the water to create a textured, undulating landscape.

Thanks for the attention!

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