



## EDITORIAL

### IUU fishing, a scourge for world fishing

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## Summary

### Editorial

- IUU fishing, a scourge for world fishing

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### Cooperation /Partnership

- 3rd coordination meeting between the institutions and regional fisheries organizations operating in ATLAFCO area
- Africa-Turkey symposium on fisheries
- ATLAFCO / AU-IBAR



**Mr. KOBENAN KOUASSI ADJOUMANI**

Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of  
Côte d'Ivoire, Acting Chairman of ATLAFCO

*"An electronic newsletter! That's what was  
lacking in our organization to raise awareness  
about the work done for the benefit of regional  
fisheries cooperation.*

*The simplicity of use, clarity and brevity are all  
assets that enable this tool to inaugurate a new  
era of communication for our organization "*

## EDITORIAL

### IUU fishing, a scourge for world fishing

- **WHAT IS IUU FISHING**

*Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major threat worldwide to sustain fish stocks and marine biodiversity. It can also cause considerable losses to fishing fleets operating legally which are confronted with unfair practices on the fishing grounds and on the markets. It can also be detrimental to coastal communities, where fish products may represent a major source of food supply and play an important role in poverty reduction and food security and nutrition.*

- **WHY DO IUU FISHING OCCUR?**

*IUU activities persist because they generally constitute a profitable business for the operators concerned. This is mainly due to two factors.*

*(i) IUU fishing activities under flags with no or low social standards and selling the products through offshore companies would imply overall costs lower than those of firms abiding by the rules. IUU operators often willingly disregard fisheries conservation and management rules and do not report (or misreport) their catches. In addition, the low probability of being penalized and the actual penalties sometimes incurred may be considered insufficient to constitute an actual deterrent to engage in IUU fishing.*

*(ii) Sanctions can be perceived as any other operational costs. On the other hand, IUU firms also tend to target valuable species, which command higher market prices.*

*Another explanation for the profitable continuation of IUU activities is the system of flag registration. Largely, the IUU phenomenon is linked to the use of flags of convenience by fishing fleets. Such flags are usually designed to register foreign-owned vessels. By nature, they infer legal and operational shortcomings, which lead to a situation where no proper control is ensured by public authorities of the Flag State as to respect by their vessels of rules for the conservation and management of fisheries resources. The duty to exert this control, under the law of the sea, is incumbent upon the Flag*

*State. States hosting flags of convenience are however not willing or able to discharge it. In such situation, and in the absence of an internationally agreed understanding of what the "genuine link" between a Flag State and vessels flying its flag should consist of, there are only limited means to remedy the illegal harvesting activities of such vessels.*

- **FAO PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU**

*The Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted on this issue in 2001 by the FAO reflected consensus among the international community that all appropriate means should be devoted to fighting IUU fishing. This has been widely recognized in all international and regional bodies in charge of fisheries management and conservation (UN General Assembly, OECD, and Regional Management Fisheries Organizations (RFMOs).*

*Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in world fisheries is of serious and increasing concern as it undermines efforts to conserve and manage sustainable fish stocks in all capture fisheries. It generates problems to coastal countries particularly those where fish resources are important sources of employment, cheap animal protein and foreign exchange earnings.*

- **COSTS OF IUU FISHING WORLDWIDE**

*IUU fishing causes an estimated economic loss of US\$ 10-25 billion/year. IUU in West Africa nowadays, hits a new record of around US\$ 1.2 billion representing 37% of total fish caught.*

- **THE PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT (PSMA)**

*The main purpose of the Agreement is to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through the implementation of robust port State measures. The Agreement envisages that parties, in their capacities as port States will apply the Agreement in an effective manner to foreign vessels while seeking ports access or when they are at port.*

*The application of the measures set out in the Agreement will, inter alia, contribute to harmonized port State measures, enhanced regional and international cooperation and block the flow of IUU-caught fish into national and*

international markets. The Agreement is binding and it stipulates minimum port States measures. However, countries are free to adopt more stringent measures than those outlined in the Agreement. It entered into international force in June 2016 and is a major milestone in the effort to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. IUU fishing is done contrary to established rules or regulations; it is either unreported or misreported to relevant national or regional organization. It is also conducted by a vessel without nationality or flying a flag of a State not party to regulations governing the fishing area.

- **HOW DOES THE PSMA HELP COMBAT IUU FISHING?**

IUU fishing is a global problem that threatens ocean ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. IUU fishing includes violations of conservation and management measures, such as those establishing quotas or bycatch limits, established under the domestic laws of coastal nations and international agreements related to high seas and shared fish stocks. Since all fish must come to port to enter into trade, preventing vessels carrying illegally harvested fish from accessing ports around the world is an effective way to prevent and deter IUU fishing. Denying port entry and access to port services, and consequently preventing illegal seafood from entering trade, increases the costs associated with IUU fishing operations and removes the financial incentives for engaging in these activities.



- **Where does PSMA apply?**

This Agreement does not focus solely on IUU fishing vessels. It also requires measures against vessels engaged in support activities such as refueling or transporting fish from IUU vessels at sea. Unfortunately, the lack of training, knowledge or experience impedes the ability to establish regional procedural standards for inspections of fishing vessels.

- **AFRICAN NEEDS**

Numerous African countries still have weak governance of fish and fish products entering into global trade. The Port State Measures Agreement sets the global standard by which inspections will be conducted and documented, therefore reducing the opportunity for the products of IUU fishing activities to enter international trade and increasing the international community's ability to detect IUU fish and fish products.

- **ATLAFCO'S ROLE TOWARDS THE PSMA**

One of the major provisions of the Agreement is increased information sharing and communications among participating nations. In this line, ATLAFCO, which already coordinates joint policy and research activities of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in its region, will lead the implementation of a technical assistance program. This will help catalyzing information collection and sharing. ATLAFCO proposes also the setting up of a Harmonized Regional Port Inspection Program. The objective of the Harmonized Port Inspection Regional Program is to develop national capacities and promote regional coordination so that countries are better placed to strengthen and harmonize their port State measures and implementing the relevant International legal instruments.

The editors: Mr. Benabbou Abdelouahed, ATLAFCO Executive Secretary  
Dr. Amadou Tall, Consultant

- **ATLAFCO's MS that ratified PSMA 2009:**

Cabo Verde, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Togo.

### **WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS**

#### **Lessons learnt from phase I of WARFP and strategic direction for phase II**

Invited by the SRFC, ATLAFCO attended the international workshop on "regional workshop for the Phase 1 of the West Africa Regional Fisheries Program and the preparation of Phase 2.

Jointly organized by the World Bank and the SRFC, this event was held from 13-17, February 2017 in Saly (Senegal) with the main objective of capitalization of lessons learnt from Phase I and

the preparation of Phase II. In addition to ATLAFCO, the workshop was attended by representatives of the **WARFP** beneficiary countries, the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (**SWIOFish**), African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (**AU-IBAR**), the Fisheries Committee for the Western Gulf of Guinea Center (**FCWC**); the New Partnership for Africa's Development (**NEPAD**), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (**FAO**), the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility; the European Union (**EU**), African Development Bank (**AfDB**), Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**), French Development Agency (**AFD**); the German Cooperation, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**), Japan, Korea, Norway, Sweden; the United Kingdom (Department of International Development - **DFID** and the Isle of Man); the United States (**US** Agency for Oceanic and Atmospheric Observation - **NOAA**) Coast Guard; the United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**), the Pacific Islands Forum (**FFA**) and other development partners and regional institutions.

### Third Coordination meeting between the institutions and regional fisheries organizations operating in ATLAFCO area:

The third coordination Meeting between the institutions and regional fisheries organizations operating in **ATLAFCO** area was held on 18 February 2017, in Agadir (**Morocco**). This meeting aimed to: (i) the assessment of the status of cooperation between collaborating institutions; (ii) the information exchange on the priorities highlighted at international, regional and sub-regional; (iii) the adoption of a joint program reflecting the priorities identified at the regional level.



The following institutions has participated in this meeting:

The Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (**COREP**);

- The Committee for Fisheries for the Central West of the Gulf of Guinea (**FCWC**);
- The Intergovernmental Organization for Information and Cooperation for Fishery Products Marketing in Africa (**INFOPÊCHE**);
- The Network on Fishing Policies in Africa (**REPAO**);
- The West African Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries (**WADAF**).
- The Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (**SRFC**) has not been able to participate in this meeting.
- The African Union Inter- African Bureau for Animal Resource (**AU-IBAR**) and the Economic Commission for West African States (**ECOWAS**) chairing the Bureau of the African Platform of regional institutions of fisheries, aquaculture and management of aquatic systems attended for the first time a session of the coordination meeting between Institutions and Regional Fisheries Organizations operating in the **ATLFCO** region.

### Recommendations

- Strengthen regional integration through strategic cooperation, synergies and complementarities in programs at sub-regional and regional levels;
- Strengthen the roles of RFOs, key players in fisheries policies at the level of the Regional Economic Organizations;
- Strengthen regional coordination and collaboration capacities.

### "Improving product quality and safety for better access to regional markets"



A training session was organized on 17-18 February 2017, in collaboration with the Women's Forum for Fish (**WFF**) and the Higher Institute of Maritime Fisheries (**ISPM**) Agadir, for women members of the African Network of Women operating in Fisheries (**RAFEP**),

*The objective of this session is to take up the challenge of enhancing the value of fishery resources by providing training on techniques for improving the processing of fishery products in order to enable African women to have technical capacities for improving the quality and safety of processed fishery products, in order to facilitate the market access.*

**Reflection on " Oceanographic operational products and services for monitoring, forecasting and early warning responses to the needs of decision-makers and stakeholders in the fisheries sector in the region "**



*Much of the surface of African Atlantic waters has not been extensively studied or monitored due to lack of prospecting, monitoring and research (Vessels) and other expensive oceanographic equipment ( Buoys) to collect long-term data from countries in the region.*

*The organization of a workshop on 14-15 February 2017 in Agadir aimed to initiate a collective reflection to identify the fields for collaborative action with a view to strengthening, appropriating and empowering the coastal oceanographic observation on a regional level.*

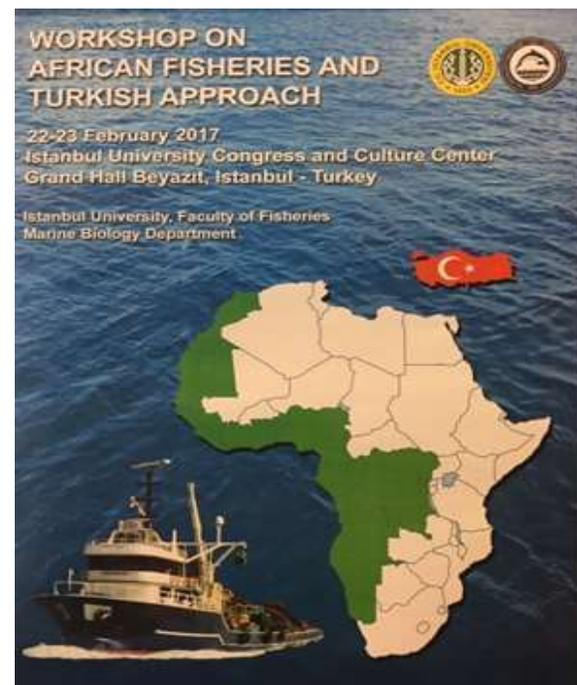
#### **4<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE HALIEUTIS SHOW**

*15-19 February 2017 Agadir –Morocco  
ATLAFCO participated at the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Halieutis, held from 15-19 February 2017, Agadir (Morocco).*



*The following member countries: **Guinea, Guinea -Bissau, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal** cooperated with ATLAFCO to get stands for displaying their fisheries products. The goal was to explore new trade opportunities and partnership; attract customers with the variety of African seafood products; build South-South trade facilitation and B-to-B contracts*

#### **COOPERATION PARTNERSHIP AFRICA- TURKEY FISHERIES 22-23 February 2017, Istanbul- Turkey**



*At the initiative of the **University of Fisheries of Istanbul** and the Government of Turkey, a workshop on African fisheries and the Turkish Approach took place on 22 Feb 2017.*

*The meeting gathered representatives of **ATLAFCO, Gabon, Senegal, and Guinea** from African part and representatives of the Turkish government, scientists, and fisheries relevant private sector.*

*Among the recommendations raised during the workshop is that the African countries should make requests on their special needs to ease the Turkish partners to do business in those countries in the proper manner.*

*It was highlighted that there is a need to promote research programs along the African coast to primarily estimate the population of different species in order to target those subject to a potential business.*

*African representatives have shown their readiness to discuss all the opportunities offered by the Turkish part to do business in their countries once these propositions are based on the sustainable use of fisheries resources, transparency and good governance.*

#### **ATLAFCO and AU-IBAR**

**ATLAFCO and UA- IBAR** initiated talks to explore areas for joint activities for a better coordination of their activities towards contributing to boosting sustainable fisheries and Aquaculture.

