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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTH GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

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Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) practitioners from around the world convened in Auckland, New Zealand from 7–11 March 2016 for the Fifth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (5th GFETW), which was organized by New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in partnership with the International MCS Network and with the collaboration of the FAO. The USA (NOAA), Norway (directorate for Fisheries), the Scottish Government (Marine Scotland), Australia (AFMA) and Canada (Fisheries and Oceans) co-sponsored the Workshop.

The themes of the 5th GFETW were “Toitu Te Moana” (“Sustaining the Life Force of the Sea”) and “Kahore He Wahi Heihuna” (“No place to hide”).

The focus of the Workshop was “Regional and global collective efforts in combatting IUU fishing using effective MCS management tools including enforcement powers to protect the sustainability and cultural and economic viability of all fish stocks.”

The Chair of COFI, Mr. Fabio HAZIN, presented the keynote address “Working together to combat IUU fishing to ensure the sustainability of world fish stocks: the role of COFI/FAO”.

Key sessions included:

- Case studies of International and Regional Cooperation
- MCS Partnerships, Sponsorship and Technical Assistance
- Successfully-introduced, Cost-effective MCS Tools
- New MCS Technologies and Methodologies

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- MCS Capability and Capacity Building Activities
- Case Studies of the Utilisation of MCS Tools in Indigenous Fishing Communities and Archipelago Nations
- The second Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest
- Development of an MCS IUU Risk Framework
- FAO presentations on instruments to fight IUU fishing

Enhancing cooperation is a primary focus of the International MCS Network with a special emphasis on collaboration with developing countries. The 5th GFETW was highly successful in bringing together more than 195 participants from 55 countries, including representatives of 46 State governments, including 35 developing countries. One regional economic integration organization (the European Union) was represented, and representatives of four regional fisheries management organizations (CCAMLR, CCSBT, SPRFMO and WCPFC) also participated in the Workshop. In addition to FAO, other intergovernmental organizations represented at the 5th GFETW included ICPO-INTERPOL, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Indian Ocean Commission and the World Bank. At least 7 non-governmental organizations were represented by 12-15 participants, and there were 15-20 representatives of academia, the private sector and other affiliations.

The 5th GFETW witnessed not only many cases where, on an operational level, authorities cooperated with each other through international partnerships, sponsorships and technical assistance aiming to combat IUU fishing activities as well as presentations and discussions on how to enhance the effectiveness of combatting IUU activities, inter alia, through capacity building and participating to joint operations between countries. Furthermore, several presentations highlighted the efforts of CCAMLR, New Zealand, Interpol and Spain in combatting successfully IUU fishing activities by a number of specific vessels fishing illegally for Patagonian toothfish in the CCAMLR zone. In the framework of Interpol, 20 countries participated to the investigations leading to the beneficial owners of these vessels who were hidden behind a range of shell companies established in many different countries.

One of the key sessions consisted of “Case Studies of the Utilisation of MCS Tools in Indigenous Fishing Communities and Archipelago Nations,” which was prefaced by a Keynote speech entitled “Māori Customary Fishing: The Journey.” Both this speech, which was delivered by delivered by Whaimutu Dewes, Chair of Aotearoa Fisheries Limited, and one of the presentations that followed highlighted New Zealand’s indigenous Māori fishing communities customary practices and rights and their journey to self-governance. The remaining presentations focused on the themes of indigenous and archipelagic fishing communities in other regions, including two Pacific island States, western Canada and Tanzania.

Preparation for the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement was another important topic at the Workshop. Some experiences with the application of Port State measures were presented at the Workshop together with options for international cooperation to build capacities in countries facing the implementation of PSMA.

Continuing the tradition begun at the 4th GFETW, a special session was dedicated to honoring the winners of the 2nd Stop IUU Fishing Award contest and giving them the stage to deliver presentations about their winning projects. Two separate projects submitted by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which is composed of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles, won first and second place, and Peru’s Ministerio de la Producción won third place. The IOC project that took the top prize was entitled “Small Pelagic Fishing Vessel License Pilot”, under which licensing authorities affixed colored plastic tags to registered vessels. The project proved effective, and its elegant simplicity made it accessible and replicable for other developing countries. It had been the unanimous choice for first place of all five judges on the Judging Panel.

As in previous Workshops, the 5th GFETW promoted the exchange of best practices in the field of new MCS technologies and methodologies as well as successfully introduced cost effective MCS tools. Several promising new MCS technologies were presented. Indeed, ever more technological solutions become available at more affordable costs.

One other key outcome of the 5th GFETW were the discussions on the development of an IUU Risk Framework by 5th GFETW participants through breakout sessions by geographical areas (Pacific, Indian Ocean, Atlantic) in which MCS professionals were able to contribute with their individual views and experiences. New Zealand presented a model for a risk framework in the Pacific while other presentations highlighted risk assessment approaches in other parts of the world. Since fishery is a global industry, local risks are connected to regional and global risks. Although the GFETW is not a forum for adopting conclusions or recommendations, the majority of the MCS professionals present at the Workshop thought that common views by MCS professionals on the main risks (at global, regional and local level) would enhance the effectiveness of combatting IUU activities and facilitate international cooperation. Indeed such exercise would prioritize common efforts combatting IUU activities.

Having listened to the presentations on risk assessment approaches in different parts of the World, the general opinion of MCS professionals present at the Workshop was favorable that the FAO would bring the idea of a MCS Risk Framework forward to COFI. Each MCS professional would have solid view on the main compliance risks in his own field but these risks may be connected for example to markets in other parts of the world. Therefore, all views on compliance risks (local, regional and global) should be brought together and where necessary be contrasted with further research and investigation.