

**INTERAGENCY COOPERATION TO PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT  
INTERNATIONALLY-AGREED MEASURES TO COMBAT  
IUU FISHING AND RELATED MATTERS**

**Update on capacity-building activities to address IUU fishing (the CAPFISH project)**

**Submitted by the World Maritime University (WMU)**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document provides a summary of capacity-building activities undertaken by the World Maritime University in the context of the CAPFISH project to promote international instruments and address IUU Fishing with the support of specialized agencies of the United Nations

**Introduction**

1 The fourth session of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters (JWG) recommended that specialized agencies of the United Nations cooperate “in the exchange of information and experience in the context of the scope and content of a potential integrated capacity-building and technical cooperation programme on IUU fishing and promotion of international instruments relevant to fishing, taking into consideration existing implementing tools and material” (document JWG 4/15).

2 With the generous financial contribution of the Republic of Korea, the World Maritime University (WMU) in collaboration with the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) launched the CAPFISH project (Capacity-building to combat IUU Fishing project) in 2021. This consisted of a series of higher education knowledge-building workshops and collaborative activities involving numerous representatives from developing countries.

**CAPFISH principles**

3 The CAPFISH Project incorporated the principles proposed during the fourth session of the JWG in document JWG 4/10/1 to involve inter-UN agencies cooperation and integrate diverse knowledge on IUU fishing.

4 The CAPFISH workshops brought together the expertise of specialized agencies of the United Nations such as FAO, ILO, IMO, UN DOALOS and UNODC. Additionally, CAPFISH activities included supplementary perspectives by involving organizations such as the OECD, the European Commission DG Mare and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Finally, the project opened to non-governmental actors, including The Pew Charitable Trusts and Global Fishing Watch, as well as leading academics, independent experts in fisheries, and industry representatives.

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5 By inviting different experts, organizations and agencies and by deliberately breaking silo thinking, the workshops sought to expose participants to new knowledge and generate diverse perspectives, allowing delegates to connect the many dimensions of IUU fishing when addressing it at national or multilateral levels.

6 As part of the capacity-building strategy participants were invited back to subsequent workshops to present their experience in addressing certain aspects of IUU Fishing at national level. Thus, the project elevates attendees to formal experts providing practical knowledge and solutions to inspire other developing countries.

7 The project targets developing countries and engaged with 52 of them in sharing their knowledge and practices. Women represented one third of the participants.

### CAPFISH activities

8 In its first phase (October 2021- February 2023), the CAPFISH Project offered four capacity-building workshops (see Table 1 for details of participants and delegates). Initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshops were conducted in a hybrid form (in-person and online).

Capacity-Building Event	Participants by country	Participant organizations
Workshop 1 19-22 Oct 2021 Malmö, Sweden	Africa –16 Asia –4 Latin America –2 Caribbean -1 Europe –1	Coast Guard (Philippines) Navy (Ghana, Malawi, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal) Fisheries Dept (Guyana) Maritime Dept (Nigeria, Ghana, Guatemala, Bahamas, Liberia, China) Environment Dept (Sri Lanka, Tanzania) Justice Dept (Nigeria) Transport and Shipping (Nigeria, Uganda, Greece, Iran) Academia/Research (South Africa) UN Agencies (MINUSMA Sierra Leone)
Workshop 2 15-18 Feb 2022 Malmö, Sweden	Africa –8 Asia –5 Latin America –2 Caribbean –2 Pacific –1	Coast Guard (Peru) Fisheries Dept (Liberia, Ghana, Philippines, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Montserrat, Belize, Pakistan, Morocco, Fiji, Maldives, Kenya, Mexico) Maritime Dept (Senegal, Indonesia) Agriculture Dept (Vietnam) Academia/Research (Somalia)
Workshop 3 18-21 Oct 2022 Malmö, Sweden	Africa – 14 Asia –10 Latin America –4 Pacific –1	Coast Guard (Sri Lanka, Philippines, Chile, Philippines, Korea) Navy (Ghana, Gabon, Peru, Nigeria, Ecuador) Fisheries Dept (Ghana, Fiji, East Timor, Uganda, Indonesia) Maritime Dept (Sierra Leone, Comoros, Kenya, Nigeria) Agriculture Dept (Nepal) Science and Technology Dept (Nigeria) Port Authority (Angola, Belize) Transport and Shipping (Côte D'Ivoire, Nigeria, Tanzania) Academia/Research (Brazil, Kenya) IGOs/NGOs (Abalobi South Africa)
Workshop 4 13-16 Feb 2023 Busan, Korea	Africa –12 Asia –3 Latin America –1 Pacific –4 Europe –1	Fisheries Dept (Ghana, Samoa, Senegal, Fiji, Tanzania, Kiribati, Kenya, Bangladesh, Malawi, Cameroon) Maritime Dept (Madagascar, Indonesia) Science and Technology Dept (Nigeria) Licensing Authority (Rwanda) Transport and Shipping (Spain)

	Academia/Research (Vietnam, Peru)
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Table 1. Participants and delegates in attendance at the 4 workshops.

9 The second phase of CAPFISH had a regional focus. WMU and KMI partnered with FAO-GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) to deliver a two-week summer academy (14-25 August 2023) for the Mediterranean region. The details of the programme were jointly elaborated and agreed. The delegates from the Mediterranean region were carefully selected by FAO-GFCM to attend this capacity-building activity (see Table 2 for details).

Capacity-Building Event	Participants by country	Participant organizations
Summer Academy: Mediterranean 14-25 Aug 2023 Malmö, Sweden	Morocco –3 Algeria –1 Tunisia –2 Libya –2 Egypt –3 Lebanon –3 Türkiye –3 Albania –3 Montenegro –3	Centre National de Recherche et de Développement de la Pêche et de L'aquaculture, Algeria Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Morocco Directorate for Fisheries, Montenegro Directorate General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Tunisia Directorate of Fisheries, Albania General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Türkiye Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, Egypt Marine Biology Research Center, Libya Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon Office of Rural Development and Natural Resources of North District, Lebanon Production and Operation Department, Egypt Rural Development and Natural Resources Service in North Beqaa Area, Lebanon Université de Carthage, Tunisia

Table 2. Participants and delegates in attendance at Mediterranean Summer Academy.

## Outcomes

10 Since its inception, CAPFISH has trained nearly 120 participants from primarily developing country administrations, including fisheries and maritime law enforcement agencies (Navies, Coast Guards and Ministries of Justice). The majority of CAPFISH alumni are from the African continent (53%), but there is also good representation from Asia (24%), with a smaller contingent from Latin America (8%), Europe (7%), the Pacific Islands (5%), and the Caribbean (3%).

11 Additionally, the Project has produced a range of educational materials, including two books of expert contributions (CAPFISH Volumes 1 and 2), two workshop reports, a video archive of workshop presentations and an academic article in [Ocean and Coastal Management](#). All materials are open access and/or available to view or download from the project website <https://capfish.wmu.se/> or WMU Maritime Common <https://commons.wmu.se/>.

12 Participant and expert feedback on CAPFISH activities has been overwhelmingly positive. All participants stated that they would use knowledge gained from the programmes in their work. Some delegates are now involved in regional interagency cooperation initiatives, e.g. Operation Grand Africa Nemo in Ghana and AMERP in Ecuador.

## Way forward

13 The Project aims to build on the successes and deliver further regional summer academies and develop a more extensive higher education program with the support of the UN Agencies and stakeholders.

**Action requested of the Joint Working Group**

14 The Joint Working Group is invited to note the information provided above.