

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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This report was approved by the ninth Annual General Meeting of SIF on 29 March 2022.

Our vision and mission

Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) is working to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally, so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fisheries resources and blue growth.

The objectives of Stop Illegal Fishing are to:

- Provide evidence-based advice to feed into policy reform and improved decision making to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in African waters.
- Coordinate an African Voice to influence international fishery policy processes.
- Facilitate communications and education to create awareness and advocacy for compliant fisheries.
- Build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms, and processes to curb IUU fishing.
- Provide capacity building to support the fight against IUU fishing.
- Facilitate improved information and intelligence exchange to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of states' responses to IUU fishing; and
- Grow and support a network of professionals, experts, and champions to lead the African campaign against IUU fishing.

Through our work in these areas and through our ongoing involvement with policy development, and practical support of enforcement officers we aim to stop illegal operators in the fisheries sector. With the increased emphasis on growing the blue economy it is vital that the fisheries resources are protected and developed sustainably as a source of much needed revenue and nutrition.

Letter from the chair

The past year has presented us all with many challenges as the way we work, and travel have been disrupted by the Covid pandemic. I am proud to say that Stop illegal Fishing has risen well to these challenges. We have developed new ways of working, and found innovative, low-cost, and practical solutions, such as online training and the use of body worn cameras for supervision and mentoring of fisheries officers. These solutions will continue to be used long after the pandemic is over – extending our reach and maximising efficiency.

This year has also seen major progress with the launch of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (RMCSC) and significant progress in the establishment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC). SIF's roots lie in developing regional cooperation to stop illegal fishing, through our support to the process culminating in the signing of the 2008 SADC Statement of Commitment on IUU Fishing and the subsequent foundation of the FISH-i Africa Task Force.

In 2021 we were able to look back at the critical events and progress in our flagship report 'Regional Cooperation to Stop Illegal Fishing: A Tale of Two Task Forces'. It was gratifying to see the achievements made and to see how the two different regions, with different drivers, funders and priorities have found common solutions. The role of systematic information sharing, monitoring of vessels and common standards and procedures are all now accepted as core to fighting illegal fishing.

SIF has also continued to contribute to the international policy arena. In 2020, in our 'Moving Tuna' report we provided an analysis of transshipment in the Western Indian Ocean. During 2021 we have been examining the role of transshipment in the FCWC region. An initial publication pulls together case studies from the region and a fuller exploration will follow in early 2022. As the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) considers the development of international guidelines on transshipment, we hope our contribution provides sound evidence to inform policy.

Much of our focus in 2021 has been on the implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). As the first binding international agreement to specifically target IUU fishing it presents a significant opportunity for African States to block illegally caught fish from being landed and keep illegal vessels out of ports. Ports provide a critical control point for fisheries and for all activity at sea. African States have shown strong commitment to ending illegal fishing and this has been demonstrated by the high number who are now party to the PSMA. Our next big challenge is in implementing our PSMA commitments fully and well. To do this we need to share information, work with our neighbours, build cooperation with our national agencies, and use all the technology and tools available to us. By working closely with Ghana, Madagascar and Mozambique, SIF has supported training, mentoring, awareness and building understanding of the challenges involved with implementation.

I would like to thank our partners and funders for their ongoing support and cooperation.

Elsa Patria

Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing

Effective port State measures allow port States to refuse known or suspected IUU vessels access to port, and to identify high-risk vessels for inspection or investigation. These are powerful tools in the fight against illegal fishing. A fishing vessel cannot operate without access to port to offload, refuel, take on supplies or to be repaired. Thorough and targeted inspections make best use of resources and efforts and help to identify illegal vessels.

The relatively low cost and high impact of port State measures make them especially attractive for African States who have limited resources and large maritime zones. With well drafted legislation and thorough implementation, port State measures can help to improve not only the fisheries sector, but also contribute to maritime security, ecological sustainability and human rights.

The PSMA sets out the minimum controls a State should use when fishing vessels enter or apply to enter one of its ports; and to verify that all fish landed were caught legally. If a vessel is suspected of illegal activities, the PSMA enables port officials to deny the vessel access to port and to services such as refuelling and repairs; or be subjected to immediate inspection on arrival.

For this agreement to succeed it is important to have national policies, laws, institutional and operational capacities and cooperation and coordination in place to identify, inspect and act against high-risk vessels.

Stop Illegal Fishing, with support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has since 2018 implemented an initiative: 'Supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in selected African countries', known as Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing (PSM-SIF). This is implemented in close cooperation and partnership with FAO to ensure that our joint efforts support the countries in a synergistic manner.

PSM-SIF supports the development of legal frameworks for robust implementation of port State measures (PSMs); the development of national interagency cooperation and global information sharing; building human and institutional capacity to support effective PSMs; creating awareness; and providing tools and mechanisms to operationalise the PSMs in Ghana, Mozambique and Madagascar.

Capacity building and expert support

PSM-SIF has undertaken a number of trainings in 2021, this has included direct in-person training, online classroom training via Zoom, and mentoring and live training supported by a team of SIF in-country experts supported by remote input via body worn cameras.

In total, 19 trainings took place in 2021 including 192 government officials where 21 were females. We anticipate that those trained will be able to share these lessons and knowledge with their colleagues in an on-going manner. Through more agencies understanding the issues and need for PSM, support for the interagency approach will hopefully increase.

In Ghana, six training events have been organised and taken place, with a total of 47 personnel from the Fisheries Commission, Marine Police, Navy, Ports and the Fisheries Enforcement Unit. These trainings have been in Takoradi and Tema the two PSM ports of Ghana and have included training in the use of body worn cameras to monitor inspections, risk assessment, inspection procedures, port operations procedures, and training with the ports authority in the use of the advanced request for entry into port (AREP). The trainings have taken place throughout the year.

In Mozambique 56 fisheries officers have been trained throughout the year. These trainings have taken place in Beira and Maputo and have included the Project taking inspectors from Maputo to join the training in Beira to improve cooperation between the ports. The third port of Nacala, is not very active in PSM inspections as the larger foreign vessels are not able to use this port. The training has been in inspection procedures, and risk assessment for 14 AREPs. The challenge in Mozambique is that only fisheries inspectors attend the inspections, we hope that following the interagency meeting this situation will change and they will adopt the new operating procedures for multiagency inspections.

In Madagascar, 89 officials have been trained over the year, covering the ports of Diego Suarez, Toamasina, Tamatave, Fort-Dauphin and Mahajanga. The training has been provided to fisheries inspectors, the Gendarmerie, Police, Navy, Customs, and other agencies and has included training in inspection procedures, risk assessment, use of AREPs and use of the BWCs.

The development of training lessons continued in 2021 with five new lessons being added to the set, these are:

- Applying Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) e-PSM.
- Considering corruption in fisheries.
- Inspecting fishing vessels in port.
- Safe and decent working conditions in SADC fisheries.
- Risk assessment, denial of port entry and use as a multi-agency tool to combat IUU fishing.

Using body worn cameras for remote mentoring and inspection support

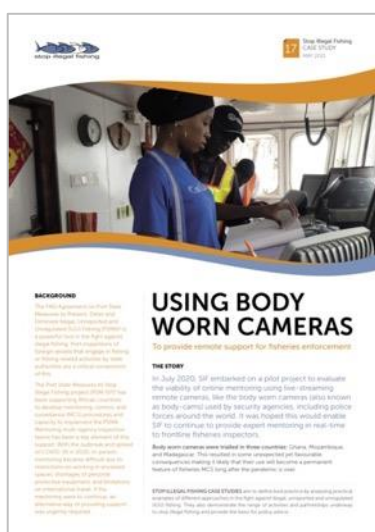
In 2020 SIF adopted the use of body worn cameras as a temporary measure to assist in the continuation of support to inspections while covid travel restrictions were in place. It quickly became clear that this was an effective means of supporting fisheries officers as they conducted inspections in port.

The use of the body worn cameras has continued throughout 2021 and has enabled SIF to engage in mentoring, training, and monitoring of inspections. These cameras have enabled the SIF experts to mentor inspections, even in ports that we have previously struggled to visit; they also enable MCS officials to monitor inspections from remote locations.

The system has been developed to enable online participation from national monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) or fisheries officials. The opportunity for other colleagues and senior officers to be watching inspections, in real time or from the recording, enables them to oversee the inspection, even if they are based in a city far away from the port, and this offers an excellent opportunity for them to evaluate officer's performance and to give positive feedback to encourage improved performance.

The benefits of using body-worn cameras include:

- Inspectors and other relevant staff can be trained in all aspects of the PSMA more frequently, but with reduced expenses due to not having to be physically present at inspections.
- Reviewing recordings of inspections and using these to finalise the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for the implementation of PSMs.
- Oversight offered by supported inspections reduces opportunities for corruption, increases transparency, safety and welfare of fisheries inspectors.
- Recordings can provide a detailed record that may provide evidence for enforcement or legal action.
- Assist in an evaluation of an official's performance, which can in turn be used for training purposes.



“With so much MCS activity limited by COVID restrictions it is good to see the continued support for the implementation of port State measures. On the job training is a valuable way of building capacity amongst our inspectors and helps us to develop improved procedures for vessel inspections.”
Leonid Santana Chimarizene, Director of Fisheries in Mozambique

A Stop Illegal Fishing case study has been produced to share lesson learning on the use of body worn cameras: [SIF Case Study 17: Using body worn cameras to provide remote support for fisheries enforcement](#)

Supporting the three treaties approach

In recent years the membership of the FAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have developed a framework of international instruments to use ports to block illegally caught fish from being landed, to reduce the number of accidents and crew fatalities and to improve safety and working and living conditions in the fisheries sector. The three treaties are the FAO PSMA, the IMO Cape Town Agreement (CTA), and the ILO Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (C188).

To become effective tools, it is important that the minimum standards and requirements from these international instruments are adopted as widely as possible.



Ports and port States play a unique role in the governance of the fisheries and maritime sectors. Port States are responsible under international law to control and monitor fishing vessels entering and using their ports, and fish being moved through their ports. Since activity at sea is difficult to monitor and oversee, ports provide an opportunity to enforce regulations to stop illegal fishing and identify unsafe vessels and unfair working conditions.

Through 2021 PSM-SIF has integrated the 'three treaties approach' into in-country activities, presentations at national, regional, and international events, and development of training and awareness materials.

"Fishing vessels are very often the common link between illegal activity at sea. We see the same vessels and the same operators involved in fisheries violations, associated crimes such as document forgery and forced labour, and a disregard for vessel safety regulations. We must invest now in cleaning up the sector, this will be an investment in ocean health and will help us to secure our planet's future."

Per Erik Bergh, Stop Illegal Fishing

Supporting national interagency cooperation

PSM-SIF in Ghana

As a result of Ghana's ratification of the PSMA, the Ports Task Force Ghana (PTFG) was established in 2019, to take the lead in operationalizing the National Strategy and Action Plan for the implementation of the PSMA. The PTFG supports agencies to work together towards stopping illegal fishing and its associated crimes. It is coordinated by the MCS Division of Ghana's Fisheries Commission and supported by the PSM-SIF initiative.

The PTFG is demonstrating just how important interagency cooperation is in implementing port State measures. Whether it is evaluating the risk level of a vessel, making decisions about port access, or undertaking inspections or enforcement actions, agencies need to share information, respond quickly to requests, and actively support each other to keep illegally caught fish out of Ghana's ports.



FIGURE 1: FOURTH MEETING OF THE PORTS TASK FORCE GHANA

The PTFG held its fourth meeting in Tema on 14 –15 April 2021. The meeting was coordinated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) and supported by Stop Illegal Fishing in collaboration with the FCWC West Africa Task Force. Participating The meeting brought together representatives from eleven agencies involved in port controls in Ghana. Discussions focussed on collaborative mechanisms that will allow for effective cooperation and communication.

The Task Force welcomed the newly designated area of anchorage allocated specifically for fishing vessels, which was developed by the Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA) in response to requests made at previous PTFG meetings. This area will enable logistically easier inspections and improved oversight of fishing vessels. To support its use, a draft memorandum of understanding between the MOFAD and GPHA was prepared by SIF and delivered at the meeting.

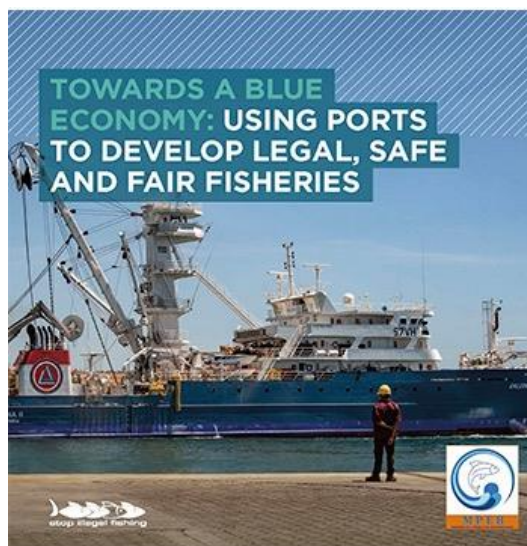
The PTFG comprises 14 member authorities, has now had four formal meetings and is cooperating via an online communications portal and in physical meetings.

PSM-SIF in Madagascar

The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy (MPEB), with support from the PSM-SIF project, hosted an interagency meeting in Madagascar. The one-day high-level meeting and the two-day national interagency workshop on ‘Harmonising Implementation of Tools for Port State Measures, Safety and Labour – Towards a Blue Economy’, were held from the 3 – 5 November 2021 in a hybrid format, physically in Mahajanga and via Zoom for remote participants.

Meeting attendees included representatives from regional and national organisations including the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC), the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (CSP), the Agence Portuaire Maritime et Fluviale (APMF), Customs, Navy, National Gendarmerie, National Police, Defence Ministry, as well as and three civil society organisations. Additional international participants, who joined the meeting virtually, included the FAO, ILO, IMO, SIF, and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The high-level meeting focussed on harmonising implementation of the tools for port state measures, safety and labour. The links between a compliant fisheries sector and successful blue economic growth make this a priority area as Madagascar looks towards the ocean to bring economic, social and food security to its people. In closing, Minister Mahatante gave thanks to the ILO, IMO, CTA, the national entities for being part of the meeting; and SIF and GIZ for making it possible. He encouraged everyone involved in the implementation of the PSM to do their part to fulfil the listed commitments for the benefit of the Malagasy people and for the SADC region.



A live demonstration on the use of body worn cameras to support frontline fisheries inspectors as they operate in port was streamed to meeting participants. Leading the real-time inspection of a trawler in Mahajanga port, JD Kotze of SIF, showed the benefits of rapid cross checking and validation of information on vessel identity, authorisation and activity were confirmed.

At the close of the meeting Per Erik Bergh, SIF, stated, “We have been delighted to have so many agencies represented at this interagency meeting. It can be difficult to find new ways of working and to really connect agencies in a useful and mutually beneficial way. The implementation of the PSMA has really made us step up and work better and smarter and in greater cooperation.”

PSM-SIF in Mozambique

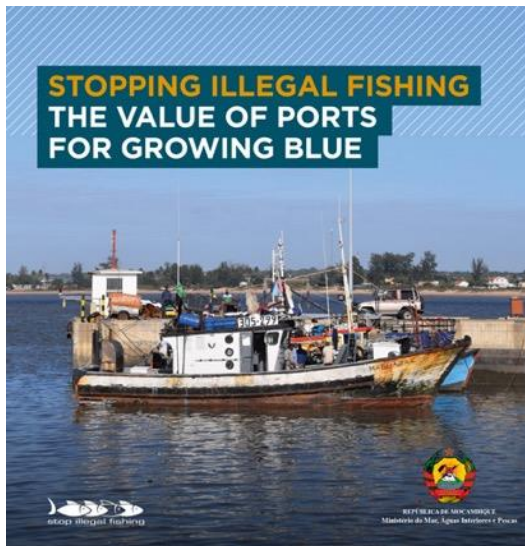
Mozambique is working to implement port State measures in all three of its ports (Beira, Maputo and Nacala), and they have been designated under PSMA as able to receive foreign flagged fishing vessels. With support from the Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing initiative, Mozambique is actively using its ports to:

- Refuse access to known or suspected IUU fishing vessels.
- Identify high-risk vessels for inspection or investigation.
- Work across agencies to identify, sanction and stop illegal operators
- Establish systems and procedures that reduce the risk of corruption.
- Increase compliance in the industrial sector to support a sustainable artisanal sector.
- Improve maritime security.

Mozambique has agreed on a two-year work plan with the United Nations (UN) FAO for technical assistance to be provided to the country to strengthen their implementation of the PSMA and complementary international instruments. The Work Plan was elaborated with the support of FAO, through the Swedish project on support for the implementation of the PSMA and related instruments to combat IUU fishing (GCP/INT/313/SWE). Stop Illegal Fishing provided support to the process through the PSM-SIF project, supported by the GIZ on behalf of BMZ.

“Stop Illegal Fishing welcomes this initiative and the opportunity for us to continue to collaborate with the FAO in supporting Mozambique to keep illegally caught fish out of their ports and markets. Mozambican ports are strategically positioned, linking the Indian and Southern Oceans, signifying that applying strong port State measures to the transient foreign fishing vessels visiting these ports, is likely to have far reaching positive impacts to fight IUU fishing.”

Sandy Davies, Stop Illegal Fishing



Maputo hosts the fledgling Southern African Development Community (SADC) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC).

“The establishment of a SADC wide centre creates an excellent opportunity for the regional fight against IUU fishing. By working closely with the SADC MCSCC, we can ensure that the lessons learnt from Mozambique’s work implementing port State measures are shared with neighbouring countries. This will strengthen our regional response and build our regional capacity to stop illegal fishing.”

Elsa Patria, Chairperson Stop Illegal Fishing

Regional cooperation

West Africa Task Force

The West Africa Task Force (WATF) is hosted by the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC). With funding from Norad and technical support from TM-Tracking (TMT) and SIF, the WATF operationalizes key FCWC conventions on information sharing and MCS cooperation between its Member States. The first phase of the project supporting the WATF was implemented between 2015 and 2018, and a second phase between 2018 and 2022. Support from the European Union (EU), through the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) PESCO project is also contributing to the funding and activities of the WATF.

The WATF is underpinned by sharing of intelligence and information amongst national and regional fisheries enforcement officers; national agencies involved in or relevant to fisheries; technical experts; supported by practical tools to spur enforcement actions against illegal fishing operators. SIF has been implementing various activities focused on the Task Force meetings, National Working Group meetings, support to communications and awareness material development, operational and technical capacity (especially in respect to PSM), and engagement in African processes and activities to ensure that the impact of the WATF goes beyond the region.

Launch of the FCWC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre



A new Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (RMSC) aimed at combating illegal fishing, was launched by the FCWC in May 2021. With its headquarters in Tema, Ghana, the RMSC provides an operational hub for MCS activities and has been equipped with vessel-tracking systems, and has the capacity to collect data on authorized fishing vessels across the region to support the identification of illegal fishing and related activity.

SIF provided communications support for the RMSC launch event and participated in a virtual technical seminar discussion, to demonstrate the RMSC's contribution to strengthening coordination in the fight against IUU fishing in the FCWC area through collaboration with partners and other stakeholders.

Task Force meetings

During 2021 two WATF meetings were held. The tenth WATF meeting (TFT10) was held in Ghana on 13-17 September 2021 and the eleventh WATF meeting (TF11) was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 22-23 November 2021. Participation of the directors and heads of MCS from the FCWC Member States, Technical Team members, and representatives of partner organizations was through in-person and online attendance.



FIGURE 2: TENTH WATF MEETING



FIGURE 3: ELEVENTH WATF MEETING

The meetings focused on activities advancing regional cooperation and coordination to fight IUU fishing, including discussion on ongoing cases of illegal fishing, planned joint patrols, the pilot regional observers programme, and ongoing support provided by the RMCSC and the WATF training programme. The WATF discussed ongoing progress in the implementation of port state measures throughout the region. This is a key challenge as FCWC members struggle to build cooperation with national agencies to ensure that the correct information is shared in a timely manner ahead of vessels arrival in port. Developing strong mechanisms to check on the vessel's activity, identity and catch is vital to making informed decisions on port entry and to prioritise inspection capacity.

“As a regional organisation the FCWC effectively uses its position to train, test, innovate, modernise approaches, and to share and establish best practices. Through the establishment of the WATF in 2015 and the FCWC RMCSC in 2020, we have seen very real progress in regional coordination and collaboration to stop illegal fishing.”

Sandy Davies, Stop Illegal Fishing



In addition, the thirteenth session of the FCWC Ministerial Conference took place on 17 December 2021 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It was preceded by a two-day Advisory and Consultative Session where the directors of ministries responsible for fisheries and the heads of MCS reviewed working documents and prepared recommendations for adoption.

The FCWC adopted the 2022 theme 'Using innovative technology to increase oversight for safe, fair and legal fisheries'.

“Stop Illegal Fishing is proud to have partnered with FCWC during this critical time in their development. By embracing new technologies, we are better able to identify and act against the illegal operators.”

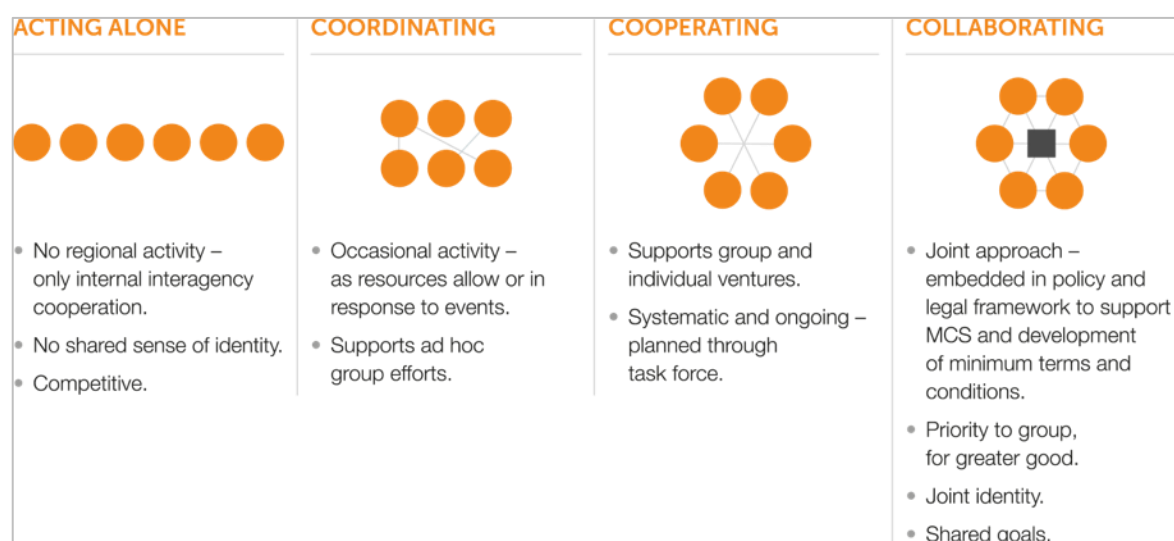
Elsa Patria, Chair of SIF

Support to the SADC Regional MCS Coordination Centre

The evolution of the FISH-i Africa Task Force

The FISH-i Africa Task Force was created in 2012 as an informal inter-governmental network working together to identify and act against illegal fishing operators. It pioneered the routine sharing of information and intelligence and has taken cooperative action. The value of the Task Force has been widely recognised and the SADC Ministers approved the recommendation to incorporate and operationalise the FISH-i Africa Task Force mechanisms into the SADC Fisheries MCSCC that is being established in Mozambique.

SIF continues to support the process to embed the FISH-i mechanism into the MCSCC. We work closely with the SADC Secretariat and partners and are guided by their procedures, priorities, and timelines.



What did we do in 2021?

Support to the SADC MCSCC

Stop Illegal Fishing was contracted by WWF Mozambique to perform a consultancy to provide services for throughout 2021, to the SADC MCSCC. The main objective was to provide technical and coordination support to the Interim Project Management Unit (IPMU) of the SADC MCSCC to operationalize the basecamp communications portal and to support information sharing towards the development of a regional fishing vessel record. While the work covered many aspects of regular support to the MCSCC, it also helped to facilitate the IPMU to post 69 messages, 38 comments and 246 files between during 2021. This demonstrated the real engagement in the regional processes and the work of the Centre.

SADC Policy briefs

Two SADC policy briefs were prepared by Stop Illegal Fishing in partnership with the SADC IUU Task Force, the SADC Secretariat and WWF. SIF cooperated with the SADC Secretariat to present successful webinars on both policy briefs.

www.sadc.int February 2021
SADC Fisheries Policy Brief

PORT STATE MEASURES
KEEPING ILLEGALLY CAUGHT FISH OUT OF SADC MARKETS.



Sea ports are critical for fisheries operations as well as for the import and export of fishery products. Fishing vessel operators that catch fish and seafood use ports to unload their catch for sale, processing, or onward transport. They then reapply their vessels with the provisions needed to return to sea and continue catching. Transport vessel operators use ports to load and unload frozen or processed fish and seafood to transport it to global destinations. Vessels used include refrigerated cargo vessels known as reefers and container vessels and general cargo or container vessels.

Industrially caught fish and seafood will almost certainly have passed through one or more ports, either in fishing or transport vessels, before it is consumed. These ports provide an operational bottleneck, offering an opportunity for fisheries management authorities to check information before allowing a vessel to enter port, and inspect fishing vessels and catches in port, before allowing the fish to be offloaded from the vessel. Applying these checks and inspections enables authorities to assess if fishing has taken place legally – with the correct authorisations and in compliance to the applicable rules and regulations – this process is known as applying Port State measures.

When Port State measures are comprehensively applied and sufficient proof that legal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has taken place, States must as a minimum, deny access to either their port or port use – stopping illegally caught fish from entering their country and their markets.

When Port State measures are applied cooperatively and systematically across all ports within a region, the entire region – including landlocked countries – are protected from the importation of illegally caught fish. Taking this step will protect SADC's fishery value chain, markets, and legitimate operators from illegal products and players and it will pave the way for sustainable blue growth for the benefit of all SADC citizens.

Policy Brief 1

FIGURE 4: PORT STATE MEASURES

www.sadc.int August 2021
SADC Fisheries Policy Brief

SAFE AND DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS IN SADC FISHERIES



Working in fisheries is amongst the most dangerous occupations in the world. With almost 40 million people working in fisheries globally the United Nations estimates that 80 lives are lost annually per 100,000 fishers – that is around four lives lost every hour in the fishery sector, which is four times more than the number lost in road accidents.

In addition, many more fishers and fishery sector workers are injured or become ill due to accidents while at work, including fishery observers and inspectors that work at sea on fishing and patrol vessels. These fishery related fatalities and accidents, often have major and long-term impacts, bringing increased hardship and suffering to fishers, their families, and their communities, who are often living in vulnerable situations with poor conditions with no insurance or financial safety nets.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) prioritises improving the lives of people as part of the regional integration agenda. Therefore, reducing risks and saving the lives of those working in the fishery sector – the fishers, crew, fishery officers and observers – is critical to all Member States of the SADC. This can be achieved by preparing for, reducing or removing risks, through the systematic implementation of agreed standards and procedures for safety, and improving the skills and capacity of those working in the fishery sector.

Working together to achieve safe and decent working conditions within all fishery sectors of the SADC – on all SADC flagged fishing vessels, and for all SADC citizens wherever they work in the world – will contribute to the achievement of development aspirations including the sustainable development goals, the growth of blue economies, and the furtherance of human rights.



Policy Brief 2

FIGURE 5: SAFE AND DECENT WORKING

Developing international cooperation

SIF continues to grow and support a network to lead the African campaign against illegal fishing,

What did we do in 2021?

The African Ports Network (APN)

Pioneered through the three PSM-SIF countries, the APN is a platform to share information between the countries and with other Africa countries and regional processes. It also provides alerts on high-risk vessels building a network of those implementing PSM and will share training and research to better equip frontline fisheries officers as they implement port State measures.

International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network

Stop Illegal Fishing was accepted as an official Observer to the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network in April 2021. Established to facilitate cooperation to combat IUU fishing, the IMCS Network has over 70 country members and grants observer status to like-minded institutions that seek to coordinate efforts to end IUU fishing. The mission of the IMCS Network is to promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among Members through information exchange, capacity development and collaboration in order to achieve the improved effectiveness and efficiency of MCS activities.

“The value of networks has been at the heart of SIF’s work since our formation in 2008. We wholeheartedly support the aims and objectives of the IMCS Network and look forward to building ever stronger connections between our organisations.”

Elsa Patria, Stop Illegal Fishing Chairperson

Participation in international events

Challenges for MCS in the Western African Region webinar

A virtual panel discussion examining the challenges for MCS in the Western African Region, organised by the independent policy research institute IDDRI, took place on 23 November 2021. The webinar focused on the important efforts towards MCS of fishing activities in the exclusive economic zones of Western Africa, and the challenges and gaps in addressing IUU fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Sandy Davies, SIF, outlined some of the MCS challenges posed by COVID-19. These include the difficulties around travel, reduced human capacity, and restrictions on access to vessels for inspections. Some initiatives have been successfully developed to counter COVID constraints, including the use of body worn cameras to provide remote involvement and support to frontline inspection officers.

Growing Blue

Stop Illegal Fishing participated in the second Growing Blue International Conference. This hybrid event, held in Vilankulo, Mozambique on 18-19 November 2021, brought together over 1,500 participants under the theme, ‘Investing in Ocean’s Health is Securing Planet’s Future’. The experiences and challenges of implementing port State measures were shared in a presentation by Per Erik Bergh, SIF, ‘Risk assessment, denial of port entry and use as a multi-agency tool to combat IUU fishing’. Elsa Patria, Chair of Stop Illegal Fishing, presented an analysis of the regional IUU situation based on the work of the FISH-i Africa Task Force.

Speaker at journalists webinar

Elsa Patria the SIF Chair, participated as a speaker at a webinar “Pescas, sustentabilidade e Jornalismo” Organised with Earth Journalism Network (EJN) for Portuguese speaking countries globally. At the webinar she spoke about illegal fishing in Africa and what the journalists can do to help eradicate IUU fishing.

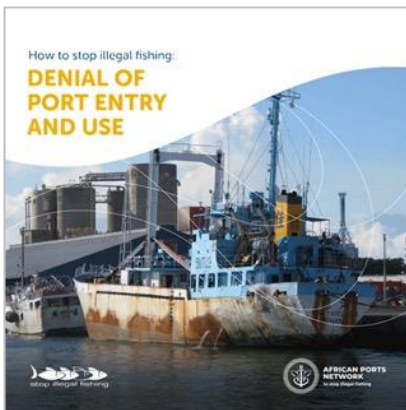
SIF, through the Chair, Elsa Patria also contributed to the EU IUU coalition film.

Increasing understanding

Stop Illegal Fishing brings global attention to the issue of illegal fishing, and the work that is being done to stop it. We highlight issues and challenges as well as promote the many innovative ways that we are making change happen. Based on evidence and analysis, our publications and online presence aim to improve awareness and understanding of the needs of African fisheries and countries. Our 2021 publications include reports, investigations, case studies, and pamphlets.

How to Stop Illegal Fishing series

This series aims to improve awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of different actors in stopping illegal fishing. It provides enforcement officers, policy makers and decision takers with the knowledge needed to decide, and take action against IUU fishing.

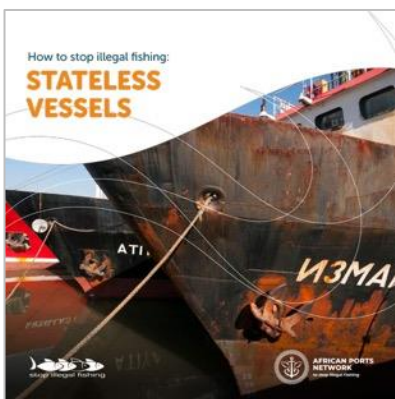


HTSIF: Denial of Port Entry and Use

This pamphlet provides enforcement officers, policy makers and decision takers with the knowledge needed to decide, and take action against IUU vessels by denying port entry and port use. It explains:

- the rights and duty of a port State to identify and take measures against vessels that have been involved in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related activities
- the importance of pre-authorisation checks
- the need for sufficient proof of IUU fishing for denial of port entry
- when entry to port for inspection is advised
- denying port entry or port use
- steps needed to deal with vessels claiming force majeure or distress.

The pamphlet is available in English, French and Portuguese.



How to Stop Illegal Fishing: Stateless Vessels

Strengthening action against stateless vessels will target vessels and operators that are intentionally operating in the dark zone of illegality and criminality. This pamphlet explains:

- the meaning of “stateless vessels”
- why, when and by whom stateless vessels can be boarded, inspected or detained
- how and why stateless vessels can be denied port access and use
- actions and measures that may be taken where there is evidence of statelessness
- the impact of statelessness on the rights of crew
- steps needed to prevent the insurance of stateless vessels

The pamphlet is available in English, French and Portuguese.

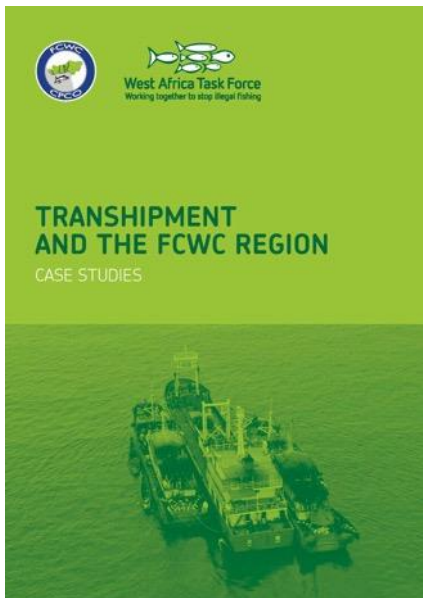
Reports



Regional Cooperation to Stop Illegal Fishing: A Tale of Two Task Forces

The experiences of the FISH-i and West African Task Forces provide lessons on the role and impact of regional cooperation in stopping IUU fishing. This report tells the story of the development and operations of two regional task forces and how they made a difference to stopping illegal fishing. It showcases what worked, lessons learned, provides a comparative analysis of the two task forces, considering their differences and similarities, and highlighting how these differences shaped the two models.

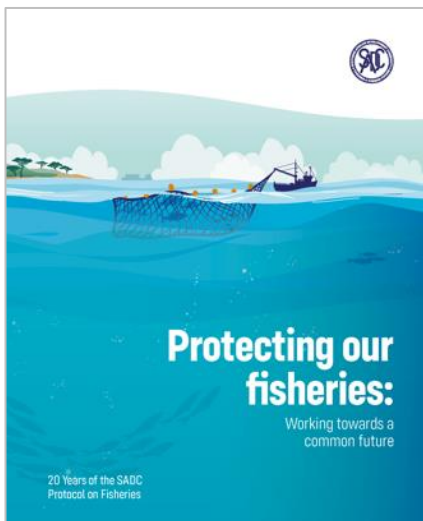
This report was written by Stop Illegal Fishing, in cooperation with TM-Tracking and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea.



Transshipment and the FCWC Region: Case Studies

This collection of case studies aims to highlight the diverse and complex role that transshipment plays in the FCWC region. Findings demonstrate the complexity of transshipment and its impacts, ranging from compliance aspects for fishery legislation, implementation of RFMO conservation and management measures, facilitation of fishery crimes and social economic impacts on local fishing communities and government returns. The complexities in respect to overlaps between national authorities including fisheries, port, police and customs authorities has also been apparent and the resultant potential gaps in oversight that this can create.

This report was produced by Stop Illegal Fishing, TM-Tracking, and the FCWC Secretariat.

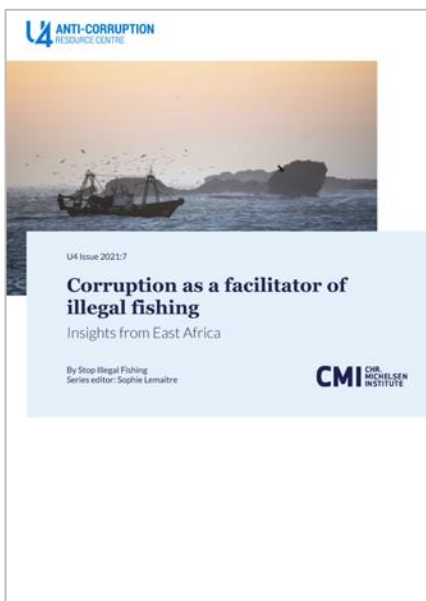


Protecting Our Fisheries: Working Towards a Common Future

Marking 20 years of the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, this report reviews its progress and commitments to date, and explores the role of the SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) in protecting the regions fisheries. It maps the progression of cooperation and collaboration in the region and demonstrates the need for and role of the Regional MCSCC.

This publication is part of the SADC State of Fisheries series and was written by NFDS Africa and Stop Illegal Fishing on behalf of the SADC Secretariat, with support from WWF Mozambique through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Investigations and analysis



Corruption as a facilitator of illegal fishing: Insights from East Africa

Drawing from analysis and research into 20 published FISH-i Africa investigations, the report aims to encourage discussion and awareness about corruption from an MCS perspective. Ten of the investigations were identified by SIF as having an indication that corruption linked to the IUU fishing may have taken place. A total of 22 possible incidents of corruption were identified within the ten investigations. The investigations explored if there was any evidence, or suspicion of corruption having occurred. In both scenarios, the analysis then considered how the corruption occurred, where, why, and by whom. As a result of this analysis, we have proposed possible anticorruption activities as solutions that aim to reduce the occurrence of fisheries corruption and, likewise, the occurrence of IUU fishing.

This report was written by Stop Illegal Fishing and published by the U4 anti-corruption resource centre at the Chr. Michelsen Institute.



FISH-i Africa Investigation No. 22: COBIJA exploits weak states to escape sanctions

A known toothfish poacher CAPE FLOWER continued to fish illegally after it was listed as an IUU fishing vessel. By changing names and operating as a stateless vessel it offloaded high value toothfish using fake registration documents. Targeting ports in states with low capacity or weak governance and producing a series of faked and forged documents, COBIJA was a persistent and systematic offender.

Commenting on the case Per Erik Bergh, Stop Illegal Fishing, stated, “We are used to seeing document forgery as part of our illegal fishing investigations, but the COBIJA case is an extreme example. Poor quality forgeries have been used and the information they contain is not only contradictory but leads to further allegations of illegal fishing..”

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of up to eight members elected at the Annual General Meeting. The duties of the Executive Committee include overseeing the activities of the Society; supervising the Secretariat; reviewing and approving work plans, reports and budgets; make, amend or repeal by-laws or regulations for the society and settle any disputes and problems that may arise.

Our 2021 Executive Committee were:

- Chair — Elsa Patria
- Vice Chair — Nicholas Ntheketha
- Vice Chair — Mark Ssemakula
- Treasurer — Sandy Davies
- Secretary — Per Erik Bergh
- Vice Secretary — Sally Frankcom
- Executive Committee Member – Victor Kargbo
- Executive Committee Member — Manuel Castiano

Financial summary

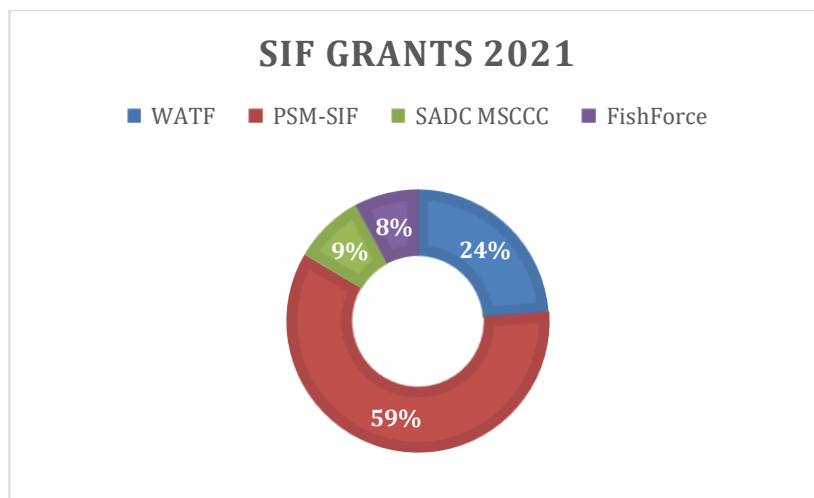
The work of SIF requires resources to ensure its continuation and growth. Over the past decade SIF has received financial and in-kind support from governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, private sector and individuals. SIF is grateful to all our partners that support our work and enable us to fulfil our mandate.

Financial commitments are generally linked to specific projects and activities. In 2021 these were all managed by the SIF Secretariat to a value of USD 666,400. In addition to the financial grants that SIF receives, the Executive Committee, SIF members and the Secretariat generously provided their time to support the work of SIF in 2021.

SIF grants are principally used for direct project expenses and the associated project management. Where possible, depending on the individual agreement, SIF secures an overhead which is then used to cover the costs of communications (website maintenance and upkeep, and publications) annual accounting, costs related to the Executive Committee (although none were used in 2021 as the Committee was unable to meet physically), and possibly other costs agreed with the Chairperson and Executive Committee.

SIF uses an independent accountant to prepare the Annual Accounts for the Registrar of Societies in Botswana and the larger projects are audited annually, in 2021 the WATF and PSM-SIF projects were audited by Norad and GIZ appointed auditors.

Funder	Project	Short name	Grant to SIF (USD estimate)
Norad (Norwegian Development)	West Africa Task Force	WATF	159,040
GIZ/BMZ (German Development)	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing	PSM-SIF	397,270
WWF (Norad funding)	Support to the SADC MSCCC	SADC MSCCC	58,051
Nelson Mandela University	FISHForce PSM Training	FISHForce	52,039
		TOTAL	666,400



Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas beyond national jurisdiction
APN	African Ports Network
AREP	Advance request for entry into port
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
C188	Working in Fishing Convention
CTA	Cape Town Agreement
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCWC	Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
HTSIF	How to Stop Illegal Fishing
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMCS	International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (Ghana)
MPEB	Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (SADC)
PSMA	Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing
PSM	Port State measures
PSM-SIF	Port State Measures to Stop Illegal Fishing
PTFG	Ports Task Force Ghana
RMCS	Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Centre (of the FCWC)
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
SOPs	Standard operating procedures
SWIOFC	South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Committee
TF10	Task Force meeting 10 (of the West Africa Task Force)
TF11	Task Force meeting 11 (of the West Africa Task Force)
TMT	TM-Tracking
UN	United Nations
WATF	West Africa Task Force
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature