



stop illegal fishing

Annual Report

2015



Prepared by the Stop Illegal Fishing Secretariat

For the Members of Stop Illegal Fishing



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1. Letter from the Secretariat

In the last Annual Report¹ the Stop Illegal Fishing Secretariat reported that SIF had received confirmation that at the Hundred and Fiftieth Session of the Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the nomination for SIF to be the recipient of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award for the biennium 2014-2015 in recognition of its work in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was approved. SIF proudly received our award at a ceremony held in Rome in December.² SIF has dedicated the award to Geoffrey Nanyaro, our founding Chairperson who sadly passed away earlier in the year.



“SIF was selected in recognition of an excellent African example of what can be achieved to stop IUU fishing by demonstrating that a lot can be accomplished with relatively small resources through good networking, the sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing.”

Statement by the FAO on awarding the 2014-2015 Margarita Lizárraga Medal to SIF.

The Secretariat is pleased to inform Members that in 2015 we received a new contract to organise and run the first International Symposium on FishCRIME,³ a particularly large and successful event held in Cape Town in October 2015.

We would like to thank our two Co-Chairs Mr Markus Burgener and Mr Dedi Seraphin for agreeing to stand as Acting Chairpersons following the proposal by the Executive Committee. At the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Members will elect the Chairperson who will carry us through the last year of the two year term of our current Executive Committee. We look forward to another productive year with you all.

¹ SIF Annual Report 2015

² Stop Illegal Fishing awarded the Margarita Lizárraga Medal

http://www.stopillegalfishing.com/sifnews_article.php?ID=168#sthash.xg1wZWtB.dpuf

³ The International Symposium on FishCRIME http://www.stopillegalfishing.com/sifnews_article.php?ID=166

2. Purpose

The primary purpose of the Society is to strengthen cooperation and coordination between governments and partners and to support the African Union's and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency's agendas and other community, national, regional and international processes to stop Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in African waters.

3. SIF Executive Committee

- Chairperson: Vacant
- Acting Co-Chairperson: Dedi Seraphin
- Acting Co-Chairperson: Markus Burgener
- Secretary: Per Erik Bergh
- Vice Secretary: Richard Ball
- Treasurer: Sandy Davies
- Executive Committee Member: Gerard Domingue
- Executive Committee Member: Victor Kargbo

4. Overview and Impacts

The objectives of the Society are to:

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

a) Evidence based advice to feed into policy reform and improved decision-making to fight IUU fishing in African waters

SIF, throughout 2015, continued to pursue and facilitate a number of cases that highlight illegal fishing operations and lessons learnt. These were particularly through the two projects FISH-i Africa and the West Africa Task Force. The outcomes of one such case were compiled in the SIF Case Study No. 10, entitled '*The Mystery of the Naham-4, International Cooperation Sheds light on Identity Fraud*', published in September 2015.

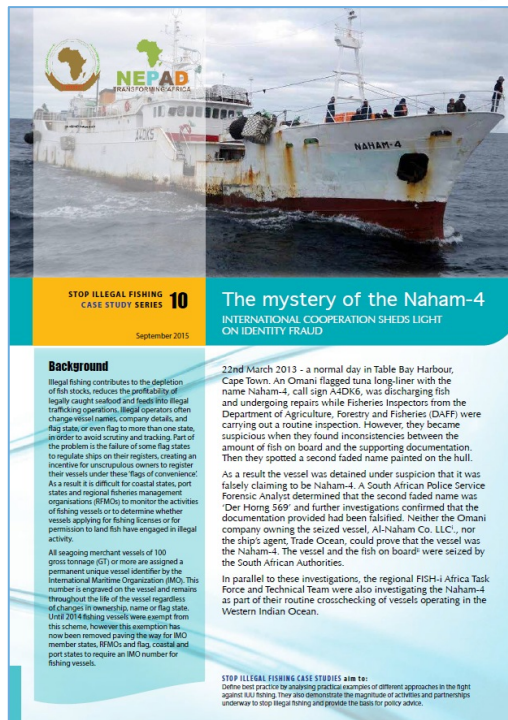


Figure 1: SIF CS10 - The mystery of the Naham-4

b) Coordinate an African Voice to influence international fishery policy processes

Following engagement by various SIF Members in the NEPAD and African Union process to prepare the pathway for the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture, in June 2015, SIF Members Richard Ball, Sloans Chimatiro and Sandy Davies participated in a three day expert consultative meeting in Kampala, Uganda. The meetings overall objective was to formulate criteria and identify indicators that can be used as a tracking tool for alignment of national and regional fisheries and aquaculture policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture. The reform policy was endorsed at the Summit of African Heads of States and Governments, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2014, as a blue print for African fisheries and Aquaculture development.



Figure 2: Participants at the African Union retreat to harmonise the framework for alignment of fisheries and aquaculture



Through the course of the year, SIF also continued to play an active role in supporting the ratification and implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA). SIF recognizes the PSMA as a vital and low-cost tool in the fight against IUU fishing and through its media platforms continues to champion countries that adopt the agreement as well as provide technical assistance to those in the process of ratification. Six African countries thus far have ratified the agreement, namely; Gabon, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia and South Africa.

c) Facilitate communications and education to create awareness and advocacy for compliant fisheries

SIF continues to make use of various online platforms to educate and create awareness regarding issues and developments in the fight against illegal fishing. The SIF website, Twitter account, Facebook page and newsletter continue to be valuable tools for creating awareness and sharing information with interested fisheries parties.

- In 2015 the SIF website had 20% more visitors than in 2014, and it was viewed in 189 countries on five continents.
- The number of likes on our Facebook page increased by 48% by the end of 2015. With about 773 people on average sharing stories about the SIF Facebook page per day in 2015.
- The total number of SIF's Twitter followers increased by 31% in 2015 and our Twitter account page was visited over 615 times on average per month over the course of the year.
- SIF newsletters were sent out over the course of the year to over 1,000 direct recipients from around the world.

In 2015 SIF was privileged to present at the 2014-2015 FAO awards ceremony, in Rome Italy. Speaking at the ceremony, SIF coordinator Per Erik Bergh highlighted the united efforts and achievements of the FISH-Africa Task Force in fighting IUU fishing.

“To fight illegal fishing, we do not compete with, or replace, any government, inter-governmental or NGO process – we add value. We tap into an additional energy and network to support these processes”



Figure 3: Per Erik Bergh, SIF Coordinator, Speaking at the 2014-2015 FAO award ceremony in Rome, Italy



d) Build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms and processes to curb IUU fishing

In 2015 SIF continued to provide technical support and facilitate the development of a number of tools, mechanisms and processes aimed at promoting effective and practical cooperation amongst national and international fisheries stakeholders to promote a united approach in the fight against IUU fishing.

- SIF continued to provide technical support to the FISH-i Africa Task Force, and through the sharing of intelligence information and coordinated analysis the Task Force was able to consolidate its role as a major tool in the fight against IUU fishing in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

“I have no doubt that FISH-i Africa works: we are working together; we are sharing intelligence and we are acting as one. It is no longer easy and profitable for fishing operators to use illegal practices and to plunder our waters, undermining sustainable fisheries and ocean health. We have shown that our countries in the Western Indian Ocean are committed to identify the wrongdoers and act against them. We have developed trust with one another that was not there before and this pooling of information and resources means we can out manoeuvre the illegal operators.”

Wallace Cosgrow, Seychelles Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture on the success of FISH-i Africa

- SIF is a member of the Coordination Team of the West Africa Task Force (WATF) an initiative to cooperate in fisheries management and particularly stopping illegal fishing in West Africa. The regional initiative is aimed at promoting information sharing and harmonizing initiatives against IUU fishing between the six member countries of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC). Other coordination team members include; the FCWC, TMT and NFDS.
- To kick-start efforts and processes aimed at fighting transnational and organised crime in the fisheries sector, SIF in partnership with the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade Industry and Fisheries and PescaDOLUS, facilitated the first **International Symposium on FishCRIME**. The event, held in October 2015, brought together nearly 200 delegates from 31 countries and provided an opportunity for fisheries professionals to discuss challenges and cooperation and explore future strategies for change.



Figure 4: SIF Acting Co-Chair Markus Burgener presenting at the FishCRIME Symposium

- SIF also attended the 3rd meeting of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Task Force on IUU Fishing. In its capacity as an International Technical Partner, SIF presented on potential support to the SADC regional Fisheries MSC Coordination Centre (MCSCC).

e) Capacity building to support the fight against IUU fishing

Supporting and facilitating the development and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources of fisheries officers and stakeholders in the fight against IUU fishing, SIF was active over the course of the year through various capacity building forums aimed at strengthening and harmonising human and institutional fisheries management efforts.



Figure 5: The 1st Regional Training Workshop of the WATF - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

As part of the coordination committee of the WATF to combat IUU fishing in the Gulf of Guinea, SIF assisted in the first Regional Training Workshop of the WATF which was held in Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire, in July, 2015. Bringing together participants from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Nigeria the training sessions focussed on the procedures and processes used to investigate suspected illegal fishing. A visit to the Port of Abidjan enabled some practical exercises and training on vessel inspection of both purse seiners and reefers.

As an extension of its IUU fishing capacity building in 2015, SIF facilitated the attendance of representatives of seven FISH- i Africa Task Force member countries as well as representatives of the WATF at the International Symposium on FishCRIME and the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group Dialogue Meeting, held in Cape Town, South Africa in October. The meetings provided an opportunity for representatives of the two Task Forces to interact with international professionals working in the sector, gain invaluable knowledge on the various crimes being committed in the fisheries industry, and participate in discussions on challenges and cooperation and to explore future strategies for addressing transnational fisheries crime.



f) Improved information and intelligence exchange to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of states' responses to IUU fishing

SIF continued to facilitate and implement various information sharing platforms equipping fisheries officers and policy makers in Africa with timely information, enabling targeted and prompt responses to IUU fishing challenges as they occurred.

As part of the coordination teams SIF continued to facilitate the exchange of information through the information sharing platforms utilized by the FISH-i Africa and the WATF Task Forces. This included, information on suspected illegal fishing activities as observed, activities of vessels of interest, developments in the fishing industry both regionally and internationally of possible interest to the Task Force members and technical advice as requested regarding illegal fishing activities.

In 2015 SIF also began work on creating a database of information on vessels operating or associated with the FISH-i Africa region. The database 'VISIBLE' will be a tool drawing information from available vessel lists to support the management and enforcement efforts of fisheries officers in the region.

Over the course of the calendar year SIF also utilised its [website](#) and various projects and events websites to provide timely information on developments and advances in the fishing industry particularly relating to illegal fishing. Through the website's news section information was shared daily on international and African developments highlighting how countries and fisheries institutions were meeting illegal fishing challenges over the course of the year. In light of the value of the website as an aid to timely information sharing, development of a new and improved SIF website is proposed for 2016.

SIF also coordinated the setting up and use of the event website for the [International symposium on FishCRIME](#). Through news articles and event documents such as flyers, the website was used to shed more light on the issues addressed and outcomes of the event.

The website for the FISH-i Africa project (www.fish-i-africa.org) proved to be a valuable tool in bringing attention to the issues of illegal large-scale fishing in the WIO and its impacts on the region's economic and food security. Information shared through the website also highlighted how through cooperation, information and intelligence sharing amongst Task Force members, enforcement actions were being taken against illegal fishing operators in the region.

g) Grow and support a network of professionals, experts and champions to lead the African campaign against IUU fishing

SIF continued to actively support various platforms that brought together professional, experts and champions in the fight against IUU fishing in Africa and the world.

In April of 2015, Mark Ssemakula (SIF Deputy Coordinator) participated in the 3rd meeting of the SADC IUU Task Force on IUU fishing, held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Other meetings SIF was privileged to be a part of included, an FAO Workshop on Fisheries Eco Labelling & Aquaculture Certification and the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime.

In May of 2015, Per Erik Bergh (SIF Coordinator) attended a conference focusing on how to implement Africa's maritime strategies, held in Pretoria, South Africa. The conferences objectives among others included; promoting awareness of the full range of stakes involved in African maritime



security, supporting African leadership and building on the key linkages between national, regional and continental maritime strategies and examining and recommending key next steps to develop African maritime security capacity and further implement African maritime security strategies. SIF was present at the conference to raise awareness about existing and potential crime taking place within the fishing industry. Other meetings SIF attended included, the IOTC annual Compliance Committee and Commission meeting and the eighth Ministerial Conference of the FCWC.

SIF also provided support to various other international illegal fishing forums and initiatives such as INTERPOL's project SCALE and attended the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group Dialogue Meeting in Cape Town. In June of 2015, SIF supported the launch of the Multi-Agency Task Team (MATT) against wildlife crime in Tanzania. SIF had been involved in raising awareness over the illegal fishing activities taking place in Tanzania and welcomed the cross agency approach being adopted in Tanzania and looks forward to being an active partner in addressing the destructive, illegal and criminal activities that take place in the fisheries sector.

5. Treasurers report of SIF accounts for 2015 (BWP)

Below the compiled composite accounts for 2015 are provided. This is the first year that SIF has had operating funds.

All figures are in Botswana Pula (BWP). SIF runs two accounts in BWP and USD therefore exchange rate fluctuations may occur between accounts.

Accounts will be presented to a professional accountant/auditor in 2016 for verification. It is requested that services of an accountant be contracted to work with the Treasurer on a quarterly basis to ensure all accounts are maintained in order and cross-checked.

It is requested that in 2016 in addition to the accounting services support remaining funds are utilised for updating the website (design costs) and communications costs (printing etc.) to support the in-kind work that the Secretariat is undertaking to update the content of the SIF website and to apply for funding for the work and future projects of SIF.

Project 01	West Africa MCS	
Income 2015		785,324.65
Paid to service providers		613,033.20
Secretariat payment		78,532.47
SIF		93,758.98
Project 02	Fisheries Crime	
Income 2015		378,787.88
Paid to service providers		331,292.49
Secretariat payment		37,878.00
SIF		9,617.39
Project 03	FISH-I Africa	
Income 2015		in kind
Paid to service providers		
Secretariat payment		
SIF		
Project 04	FAO Legal	
Income 2015		296,482.00
Paid to service providers		268,528.00
Secretariat payment		13,780.00



SIF	14,174.00
2015 Total	
Income 2015	1,460,594.53
Outgoings 2015	
Paid to service providers 2015	1,212,853.69
Secretariat payments 2015	130,190.47
(Remaining for operations 2015	117,550.37)
Refunds for costs owed before 2015	18,483.76
Administrative costs 2015	1,543.00
Bank charges 2015	2,404.13
Total outgoings 2015	1,365,475.05
<u>Remaining in SIF end 2015</u>	<u>95,119.48</u>