



  
stop illegal fishing

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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For more information, please go to [www.stopillegalfishing.com](http://www.stopillegalfishing.com)

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## ***Acronyms and abbreviations***

AIS	automatic identification system
AREP	advance request for entry into port
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCWC	Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea
GFETW	Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop
IMCS Network	International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Network
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPMU	Interim Project Management Unit
IPOA	international plan of action
IUU	illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
MCS	monitoring, control and surveillance
MCSCC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre
RFMO	regional fisheries management organisation
RTT	regional technical team
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIF	Stop Illegal Fishing
TWF	The Waterloo Foundation
WATF	West Africa Task Force
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit



# 1 Our vision and mission

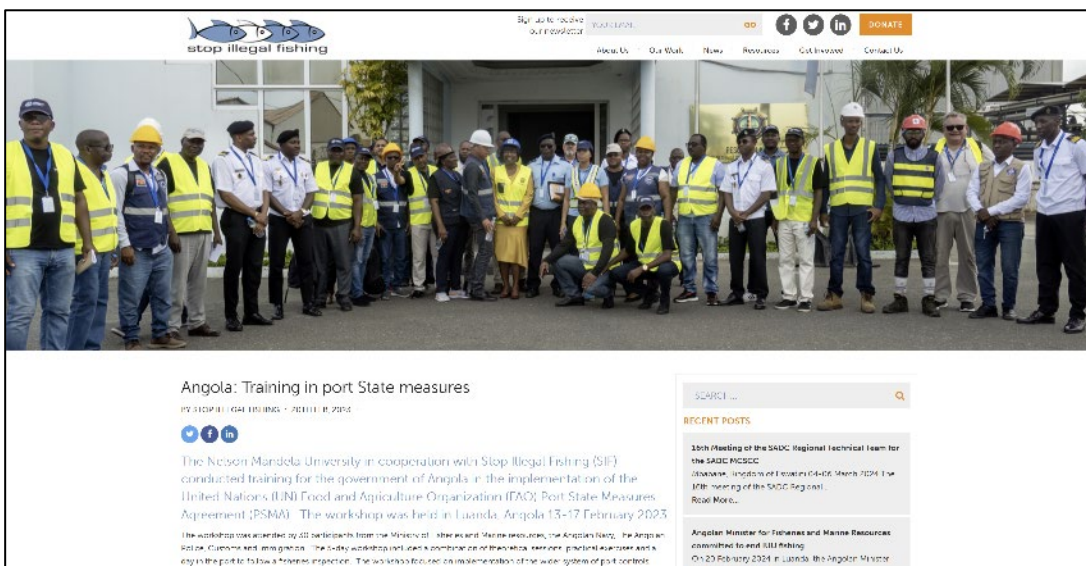
Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) is working to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally, so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fisheries resources and blue growth.

Our objectives 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.

SIF actively works in West and Southern Africa through a range of initiatives and with support from different funding sources.



**Figure 1: SIF training in port State measures in Angola February 2023**

## 2 Project overview and financial summary

In 2023, SIF received grants relating to nine projects (see Table 1 and Figure 2) with a total of around 15,918,324 BWP or 1,173,976 USD received in grants. This has been the busiest year in terms of turn-over that SIF has had and it has also been significant in that we have been able to focus most of our work in the Southern African region, where SIF has historically had most impact. The main sources of income have related to SIFs two larger projects which we are the lead implementing partner for, that is the SADC Atlantic and Oceans Vigilance projects.

SIF is grateful to all our partners that support SIF’s work and enable us to fulfil our mandate.

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, Secretariat costs and costs related to the Executive Committee.

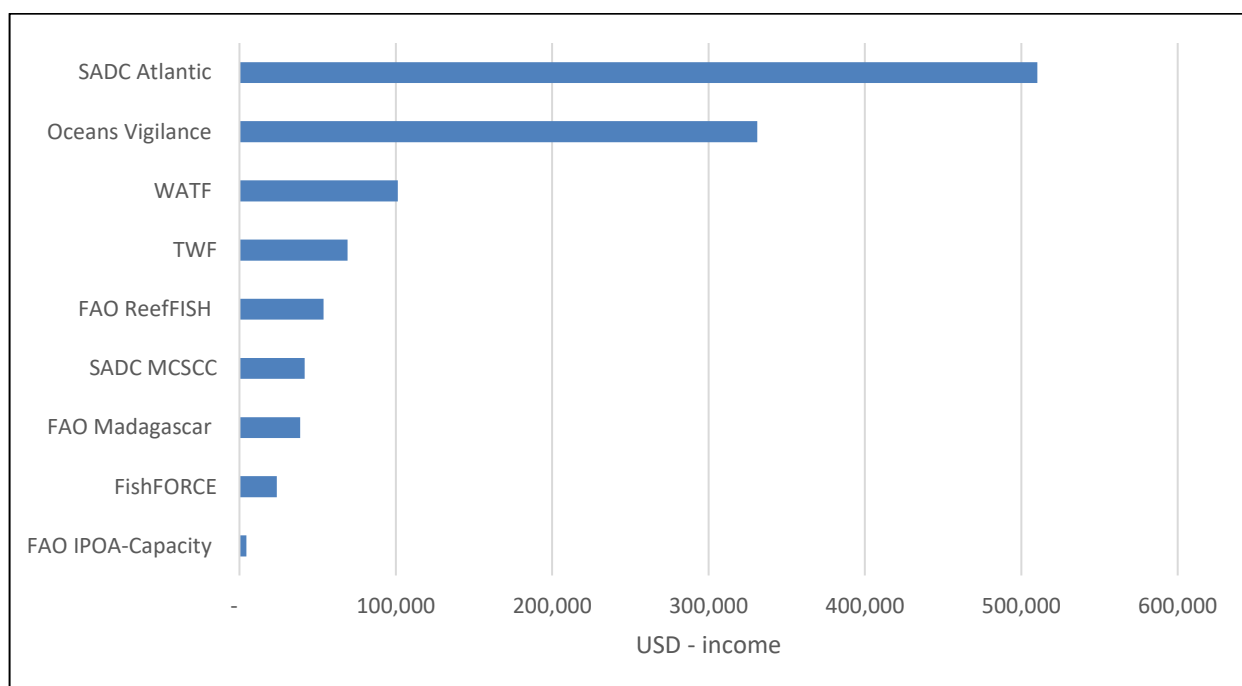
SIF uses an independent accountant to prepare the Annual Accounts for the Registrar of Societies in Botswana, and the larger projects are audited annually by auditors selected by the funding partners. SIF still aims to secure funding to enable it to employ it’s own staff and move away from project type agreements, however, few funders are prepared to support the organization with this type of core funding.

Table 1: Summary of grants and income to SIF in 2023\*

Projects	Comment	USD estimate (based on exchange BWP to USD of the 31 Dec. 2023)
<b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) IPOA-Capacity Review</b>	This project only began in December 2023 and involves preparing a review of implementation of the International Plan of Action (IPOA)-Capacity for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), funding from FAO.	4,425
<b>FishFORCE PSMA training</b>	Our ongoing partnership with FishFORCE housed at the Nelson Mandela University Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy, South Africa. FishFORCE included delivering a training workshop in Angola in 2023 on the PSMA, funding from Norad via FishFORCE.	23,815
<b>PSMA Madagascar</b>	Our ongoing cooperation with the FAO in respect to implementing port State measures, continued in 2023 with work in Madagascar to prepare a Strategy and Roadmap, a review of Interagency Cooperation, and a benchmarking of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capacity, funding from Germany via FAO.	38,764
<b>SADC MCSCC</b>	SIF continues to provide support in intelligence, policy and communications to the Southern African Development Community (SADC). MCS Coordination Centre (MCSCC) with funding from Germany via WWF.	41,596
<b>FAO ReefFISH</b>	During 2023 SIF assisted the FAO to prepare community surveillance plans for communities in Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles, funding from FAO.	53,764

Projects	Comment	USD estimate (based on exchange BWP to USD of the 31 Dec. 2023)
<b>SADC Information Exchange</b>	This project focuses on improving information exchange within the SADC region and SIF works closely with the SADC MCSCC to achieve this, funding from The Waterloo Foundation (TWF).	69,122
<b>West Africa Task Force (WATF)</b>	This is SIF's longest-term project, working with the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and supporting the 6 countries of West Africa, funded by Norad via TMT.	101,229
<b>Oceans Vigilance</b>	This 3-year project started in 2023 to develop the policy change needed and practical capacity for a SADC Regional Register of Fishing Vessels enabling a harmonised approach to minimum standards for transparency of fishing vessels in the SADC, funded by Oceans 5.	331,075
<b>SADC Atlantic</b>	This is the second year of the project to support the countries of Angola, Namibia and South Africa to engage more in the SADC MCSCC and to build capacity to assess risk of fishing vessels and to implement PSM. This project, funded by the U.S Embassy in Botswana.	510,187

\*These are based on one 12-month period, even if the 'year' does not run for the actual calendar year.



**Figure 2: Grants and income to SIF in 2023\***

### 3 Core activities – Southern Africa

SIF has been supporting the SADC Member States with fisheries MCS matters for over two decades. This support continues with SIF working closely with the regional MCSCC to support its objectives. To do this, SIF, along with its partners are implementing several projects, some directly through the MCSCC and others with targeted countries within SADC.

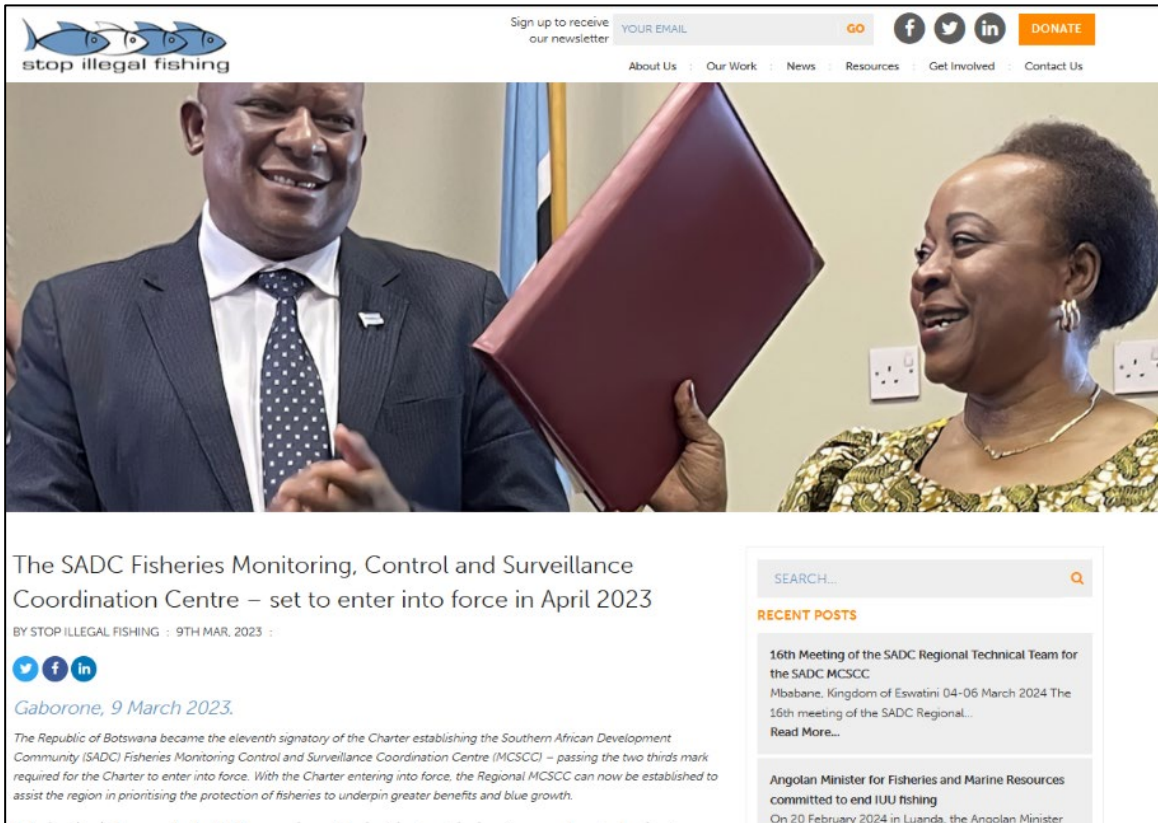
#### 3.1 The SADC MCS Coordination Centre

It is exciting to be able to report that the long-anticipated Charter establishing the SADC Fisheries MCSCC came into force on 8 April 2023. The Region finally reached the required two-thirds threshold for the Charter to enter into force when Botswana became the 11th signatory on 9 March 2023. This was a joyous occasion for all the stakeholders who know and appreciate how long this process was, and the effort and resources that were involved to make this possible. The operationalisation of the MCSCC is a turning point, it gives the means to move to the full collaboration model of working together, to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and promote blue growth. SIF was given an opportunity to say a few words at the event, and the Chairperson, Mark Ssemakula reaffirmed SIF’s support to the SADC region by assisting the MCSCC through our partnerships with the US State Department and the US Embassy in Gaborone, The Waterloo Foundation, Oceans5, FAO, WWF and FishFORCE. SIF assisted with the preparations for the event with the support of TWF funds, as we designed and made banners based on the themes of the report ‘Protecting our Fisheries – working towards a common future’ and we printed copies of the report and made these available for all at the event.



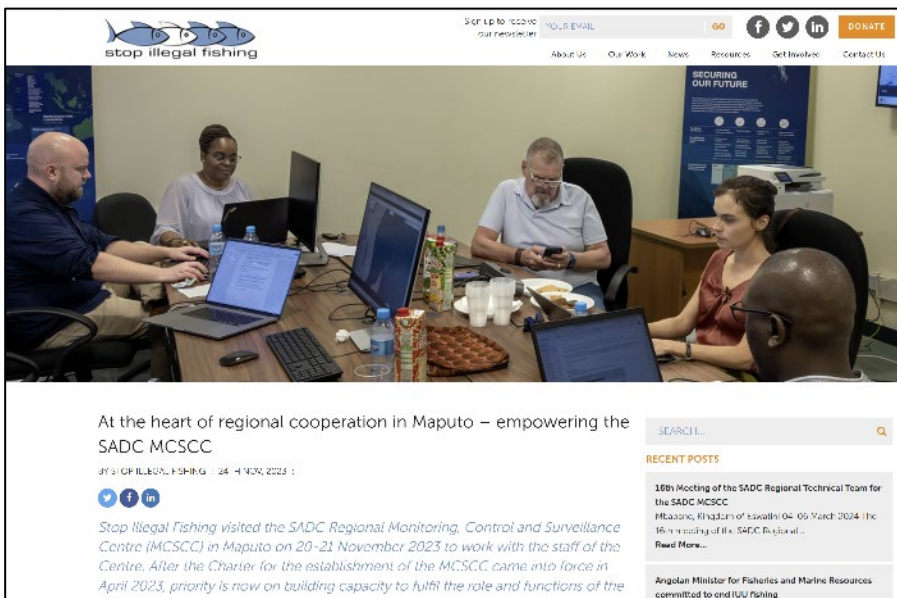
Figure 3: SIF Chairperson pledges commitment to the SADC MCSCC





**Figure 4: The SADC MCSCC – ready to enter into force**

In November 2023, SIF visited the SADC MCSCC in Maputo to enhance the staff's capabilities. The MCSCC is already equipped with state-of-the-art tools, including computers, large screens, SeaVision, and Starboard, to monitor the region's waters and provide valuable intelligence to SADC Member States in the event of suspicious vessel activity. However, building capacity to fulfil the Centre's role and functions is now the top priority. Therefore, the purpose of this visit was to strengthen its human capacity through training and continuous coaching, which was made possible through the Oceans Vigilance funding.



**Figure 5: The SADC MCSCC – training underway by SIF**



The trainings and coaching conducted by the SIF team have also assisted in building the capacity of the regional and national MCS officials to conduct monitoring, strengthen their capacities to analyse the evidence collected, and enable enhanced regional cooperation through the exchange of intelligence and best practices to fight IUU fishing. The information from the risk assessments has allowed the countries and the MSCSS to identify risk factors associated with these vessels and inform the activities to be implemented to give the MCS officials the tools to enable them to take necessary actions. SIF realized that MSCSC can have all the equipment and technology in the world, but it is only as good as the regional MCS officials feeding into it. Therefore, it is important that they are also trained to ensure that there is a return on investment.

The MSCSC is instrumental to successful regional cooperation. Even before the entry into force of the Charter, the team provided SADC Member States with rapid information and intelligence reports on demand. To support to the MSCSC with efficient information-sharing amongst countries, SIF uses vessel monitoring technology, analysis of intelligence reports, as well as information-sharing through the regional information platform – basecamp – coordinated by the SADC MSCSC to monitor fishing vessel movements in SADC’s territorial waters and EEZs to get an understanding of the activities of fleet within these waters, and patterns associated to their actions, and so far, this has helped a lot of countries in the SADC Indian ocean and Atlantic to deter IUU fishing.

SIF supports the MSCSC by producing quarterly communications reports of what has been achieved in the region. These reports are crucial for raising awareness of the MSCSC and demonstrating the success of the Centre, SADC States, and its partners. With SIF's unwavering support, the MSCSC is well-positioned to effectively monitor the region's waters and combat IUU fishing.



**Figure 6: The SADC MCSCC staff visiting SIF in Botswana for training and planning**

### 3.2 Support to regional processes

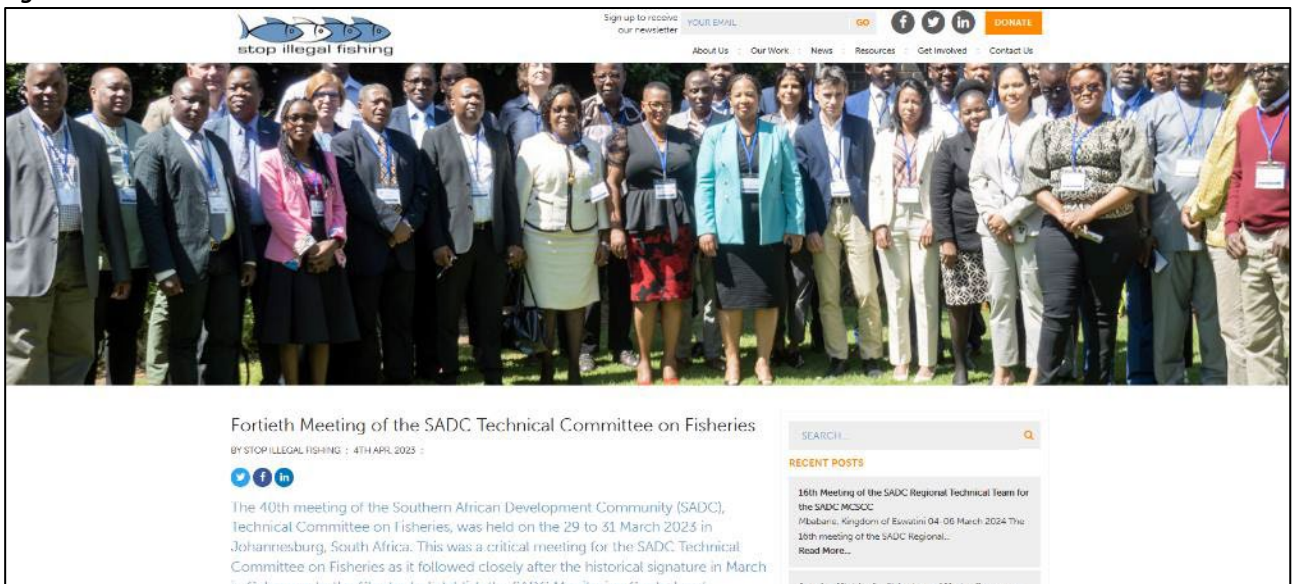
SIF has been supporting regional SADC processes throughout the year by attending meetings, participating in processes and providing support and input to the SADC Secretariat and the IPMU in Maputo. The SADC MCSCC Regional Technical Team (RTT) was appointed by the SADC Ministers responsible for Fisheries to oversee the establishment and operationalisation of the MCSCC. The RTT has been working to garner support for the MCSCC and to support and guide the work of the IPMU. SIF has worked very closely with the SADC Secretariat to support these processes and in 2023, with support from TWF, SIF attended three physical SADC meetings:

- The 40th meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries, which was held in March 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The 14th Meeting of the SADC RTT took place in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2023.
- The 15th Meeting of the SADC RTT took place in Cape Town, South Africa, in December 2023.

To support these meetings as well as attending, SIF drafted the Terms of Reference for the SADC MCSCC Operational Task Force so that this could be discussed and agreed. SIF presented the findings from the incident log and the cases on IUU fishing and the analysis from the cases and has been able to assist in the translation of materials to the languages of SADC.

At the 40th meeting of the SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries a special event was held to discuss the issue of transparency in fisheries and to launch a SADC report on this issue. Per Erik Bergh coordinator of SIF gave brief remarks at this event which was supported by SIF, through the Waterloo Foundation and WWF: “In 2001, when SADC Member States signed the SADC Protocol on Fisheries, they were already promoting regional sharing of information on fishing and related activities through the establishment of a mechanism for the registration of international and national fishing vessels in the region. Back then the States did not use the term “transparency”, but they were certainly promoting it as a means to support sustainable management of all living aquatic resources and aquatic ecosystems within their jurisdictions. Now the sharing of information and coordination amongst States is also one of the objectives of the MCSCC and we can say that the MCSCC is fundamentally built around this need for transparency amongst Member States.”

**Figure 13: SADC Technical Committee on Fisheries**



**Figure 7: The SADC FTC**

Representatives of the signatory countries to the MCSCC Charter gathered in Cape Town in December 2023 for the first meeting of the SADC MCSCC Operational Task Force. The inaugural meeting of the MCSCC Task Force was meant to formalise and advance all the processes linked to the operationalisation of the MCSCC, including the establishment of a Regional Register of fishing vessels operating in the SADC waters. This included discussing the Terms of Reference of the Task Force and re-emphasising the roles and functions of the MCSCC and the MCSCC Task Force. This is a new milestone for cooperation on the protection of the region’s fisheries, which advances further the processes for the operationalisation of the SADC MCSCC. SIF attended the meeting and supported it financially through Oceans Vigilance.

At the request of the SADC Secretariat to support South Africa with the severe issue of illegal abalone trade, SIF was invited to participate in a multi-stakeholder workshop held in Stellenbosch between the end of February and early March 2023. The workshop aimed to develop a National Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Combat the Trade in Illegally Harvested South African Abalone. Illegal harvesting and trade of abalone is a major concern for South Africa, as it is intertwined with environmental, economic, social, and political issues and is linked to high levels of crime in South Africa, including the trade of drugs by crime syndicates. The workshop was supported by TRAFFIC, FishFORCE, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), and other stakeholders.

### 3.3 Monitoring, intelligence and analysis of IUU fishing

The SIF team closely monitored territorial waters and EEZs of SADC countries using automatic identification system (AIS), SeaVision, and Starboard systems to effectively track fishing vessel movements in all ports. SIF maintains a log of IUU incidents observed in the region for the SADC MCSCC and other regional bodies and countries. The fourth volume of the log covers 2023, incidents 86 to 117, with an impressive record of 31 incidents in the same year. SIF has also developed a highly efficient log to monitor activity on the basecamp platform for the MCSCC. It records all activity on the platform, including who posts, the nature of the activity, and the actions taken after the posts. The objective of this log is to enable the MCSCC to follow up on messages, ensure countries' requests are answered, and ensure swift follow-up on actions taken by the countries when necessary. The log has already been tested, and the IPMU will be trained to take over the coordination of this tool. The log has identified certain unanswered requests and actions taken by countries upon receiving intelligence, which were not always known.

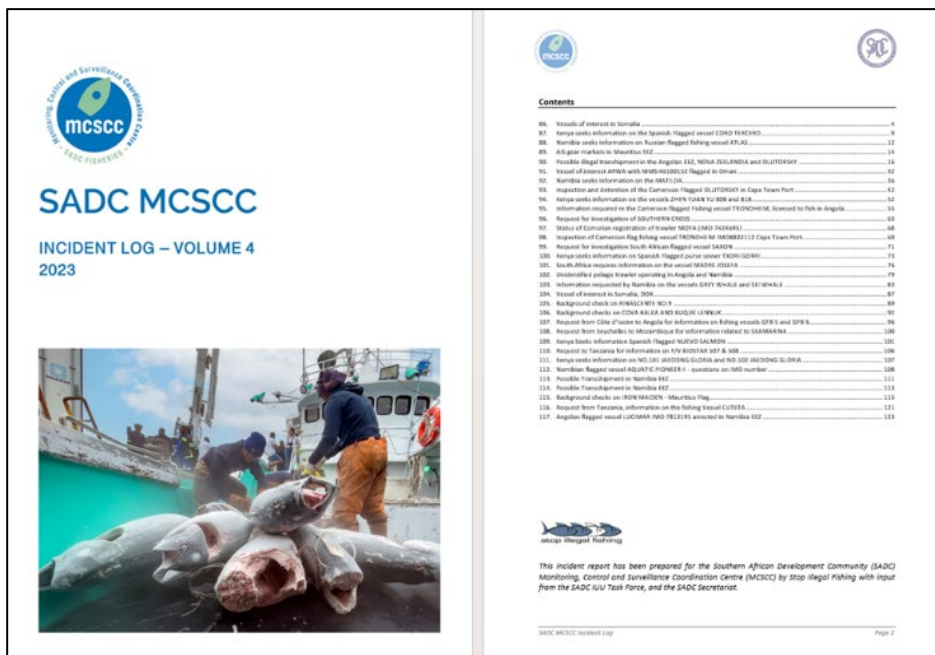


Figure 8: The 2023 incident log for the MCSCC



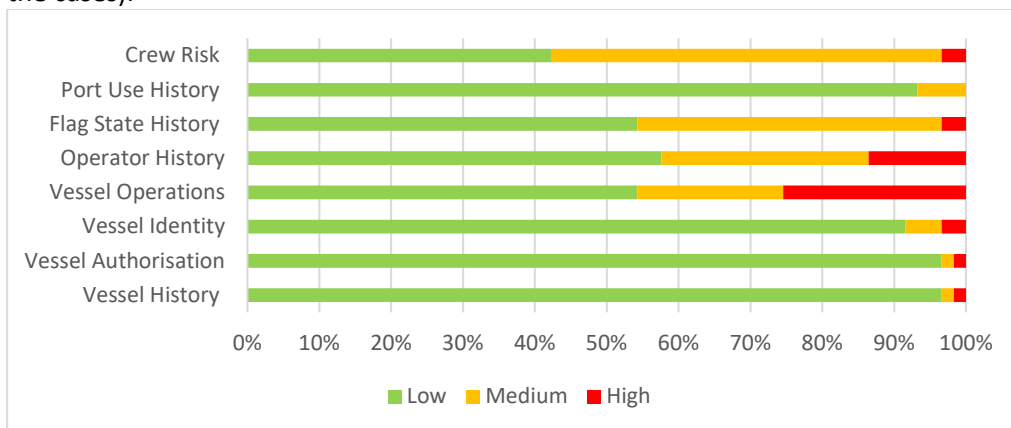
### 3.4 Support to the Atlantic coast countries

In 2022, the SADC Atlantic project was introduced by SIF, which was funded by the United States Department of State through their Embassy in Gaborone, to support the Atlantic coast countries of Angola, Namibia and South Africa to engage more fully with the MCSCC. In 2023, the project achieved several milestones. Inception meetings were held with the countries in Cape Town, South Africa, and Walvis Bay, Namibia, in February and March, respectively, to present SADC Atlantic, confirm the countries' support for the project, and agree on next steps. The visits enabled the framework for cooperation and plans for the project to be agreed and action plans developed.

In July, the first risk assessments training workshops were held in Walvis Bay and Lüderitz for Namibia, and Cape Town for South Africa, focusing on risk assessments for MCS staff. The workshops also covered associated work practices, information collection needs for officers in charge of fisheries compliance, vessel inspections, and the associated collection of evidence and statements. In addition to the workshops, SIF provided South Africa and Namibia with body-worn cameras to strengthen the capacity of MCS officers and inspectors to conduct risks assessments and inspections. Under this project, SIF conducted 42 trainings throughout 2023, focusing on the use and monitoring of body-worn cameras, inspection mentoring, the use of MCSCC Basecamp, the use of Starboard platform, pre-inspection briefing, risk assessment mentoring, and inspection mentoring. A total of 334 fisheries stakeholders were trained, of which 170 were female and 164 male, and a total of 307 were MCS officials.

Monitoring and evaluation helped countries identify suspicious activity in their waters. In 2023, 104 risk assessments and inspections of fishing vessels were conducted on fishing vessels requesting entry into the ports of Walvis Bay and Cape Town, leading to the reporting and recording of 18 incidents involving IUU or suspected IUU fishing in the SADC waters. Both countries have grasped the value of risk assessments and the results have allowed fishing vessels with a higher risk of having been engaged in IUU fishing activities to be identified. The analysis of the risk assessments is also assisting SIF to fine tune the risk assessment matrix and procedures which will be highly valuable for the MCSCC to enable risk assessment of vessels seeking port entry, fishing licences or registration in a SADC country. SIF has been working on (practical) risk assessments for some years, and we are constantly surprised at how long it is taking us to arrive at a really robust system and matrix.

The main risks identified through these assessments, for all foreign vessels (combining Namibia and South Africa) concerned the crew (47 percent of all vessels), the flag State (42 percent), the vessel's AIS tracks and previous links of the owner, operator, master and/or agent with IUU fishing (32 percent of all vessels, respectively). In 66 percent of the cases, the countries took measures to address the identified risks. The most frequent decision made was to delay port services until an inspection was finalised (in 74 percent of the cases).



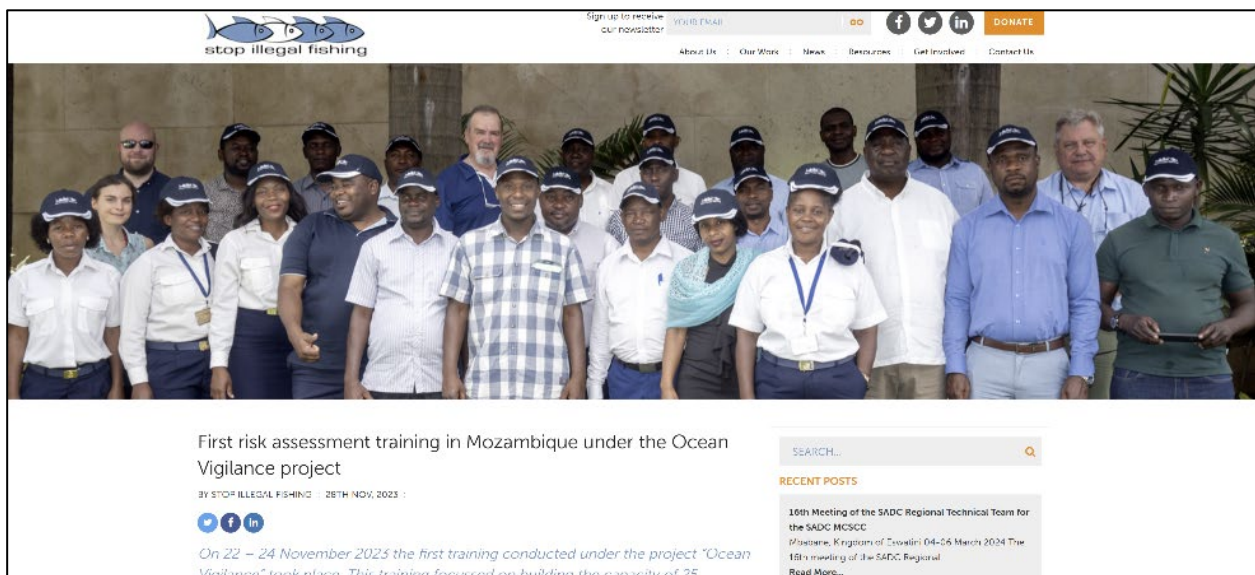
**Figure 9: Risks identified for fishing vessels calling into port in South Africa and Namibia**

### 3.5 New support to the SADC MCSCC – Oceans Vigilance

In the second quarter of 2023, SIF launched a new project called Oceans Vigilance, aimed at supporting the SADC MCSCC through the establishment of a SADC Regional Register of Fishing Vessels. The project's primary goal is to increase transparency in fisheries, and it will run for three years, to June 2026, funded through an Oceans 5 grant. The project objectives align with the SADC Member States' steps towards developing the Regional Register, which includes developing SADC minimum conditions for fishing vessels to operate in the region, building capacity and the framework for the Regional Register, piloting it, and analysing the results. The project's systematic sharing of information about licensed and flagged fishing vessels operating at sea and on shared lakes will enable the MCSCC to build a powerful database of fishing vessels, their operators, and agents to support decision-making and MCS enforcement action.

In November 2023, the Oceans Vigilance project team conducted the first training in Mozambique, focused on building the capacity of officers to assess the risks of fishing vessels operating in the country's waters. The training presented various techniques to assess risks of fishing vessels to identify operators that could potentially engage in illegal activities. The training highlighted the importance of building the knowledge of MCS officers on the legislation and legal mechanisms available to them. Therefore, priority needs were identified, and commitments were made by the participants, and SIF will continue building national capacity through in-person and remote coaching based on these.

In October 2023, SIF sponsored Gordon S Negongo, a Senior Fisheries Observer at the Namibian Fisheries Observer Agency, to attend an Ocean Governance Training Programme in Cape Town, South Africa. The International Ocean Institute (IOI) in South Africa annually hosts the Ocean Governance Training Programme for participants from around Africa. The course aimed to equip early career ocean advocates to explore the concept of the "Blue Economy" and how their work can help inform policy-making and decision-making processes concerning blue economic growth. The 2023 edition of the IOI programme included a pool of candidates from seven different countries, South Africa, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Namibia, Algeria, and Cameroon, enabling an active exchange from different perspectives. Mr. Negongo will share his knowledge and experiences within the Fisheries Observer Agency and, ultimately, the SADC MCSCC.



**Figure 10: The first national workshop for Oceans Vigilance in Mozambique**

### 3.6 Capacity building in port State measures

The FishFORCE initiative of the Nelson Mandela University partnered with SIF to provide training to the government of Angola on the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). The workshop was held in Luanda in February 2023 and was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Angolan Navy, the Angolan Police, Customs, and Immigration. The focus of the training was on the implementation of the wider system of port controls, which includes the PSMA as well as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Cape Town Agreement and the International Labour Organization (ILO) C188 - Work in Fishing Convention. These agreements aim to promote fair, safe, and legal fisheries practices.

Per Erik Bergh, SIF's Coordinator, said after the workshop, "The implementation of port State measures is an important MCS tool to reduce illegal fish entering SADC ports. Having Angola support the implementation of the Agreement will strengthen both Angola's and the SADC region's ability to combat IUU fishing."

### 3.7 A focus on port State measures in Madagascar

In cooperation with the FAO, SIF implemented a workshop in Antananarivo in June 2023, aimed at creating a formalised interagency mechanism for implementing port state measures under the leadership of the Ministry for Fisheries and the Blue Economy (MPEB). The workshop aimed to identify the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies in more detail and explore different options for an interagency mechanism. Parallel to this process, the SIF team worked with Madagascar's MCS actors in respective ports to prepare a baseline assessment of MCS capacity in each port.



**Figure 11: The interagency workshop in Madagascar**



## 4 The West Africa Task Force

SIF is committed to supporting the Fisheries Commission for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) and its Member States through the West Africa Task Force (WATF), which is the only focused activity on West Africa.

The WATF is facilitated by the FCWC Secretariat and supported by a Technical Team that includes TMT and SIF with funding from Norad. By actively cooperating, by sharing information and by facilitating national interagency working groups the WATF is working together to stop illegal fishing. This second phase of the work was initially planned for twelve months from October 2022 to September 2023, but was later extended to cover 15 months until December 2023.

In January 2023, Accra, Ghana hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Ministers of the FCWC, the highest authority in the organization. The two-day technical session before the meeting aimed to prepare the ministers on various crucial topics, such as fisheries management plans and governance. SIF created the flyer, banners, and informational materials for the conference.

SIF participated in two regional capacity training in Nigeria and Ghana, which aimed to enhance interagency cooperation on marine fisheries sustainability. In Nigeria, the participants reviewed the report on imports and trade prepared by SIF, while in Ghana, SIF assisted in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related to processing Advance Requests for Entry into Port (AREP) and conducting inspections of fishing vessels. The WATF held two regional meetings in 2023, and SIF's technical expert Sandy Davies delivered presentations on some of the work that SIF is doing to support the WATF (see Figure 12), including a ten-year financial sustainability plan and the FCWC's regional strategy to combat illegal transshipment in the FCWC region.



Figure 12: SIF produces reports and analysis to support the WATF

## 5 SIF in the international arena

SIF continues to grow and support the network of African voices in the campaign against illegal fishing. SIF continues to be a key supporter of international processes, to ensure that more African States are represented at important fisheries international gatherings.

### 5.1 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop

In August 2023, SIF attended the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network’s 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thanks to the support from TWF and Oceans 5, SIF was able to make the workshop available to colleagues who work in fisheries MCS, compliance, and enforcement. During the workshop, SIF presented on various topics with Christian Nzowa from the Deep Sea Fishing Authority in Tanzania, Benedict Kiilu from the Kenya Fisheries Service, Roddy Allisop from the Seychelles Fishing Authority and Per Erik Bergh and Sandy Davies from SIF.

The presentations covered several sub-themes, including collaboration and partnership, specifically regional cooperation and partnerships, under which Per Erik Bergh and Benedict Kiilu discussed 'The Evolution of FISH-i Africa – Building Sustainable Regional MCS Collaboration.' This talk was able to share information about how FISH-i had been the pre-cursor for the SADC MCSCC and how the cooperation between the countries has grown. During a presentation on cooperation and partnerships to address labor standard issues on fishing vessels, Per Erik Bergh and Christian Nzowa discussed 'Misery at Sea – Examples from Southern Africa and a Tanzanian Tale.' This was based on several case studies that SIF has prepared drawing on evidence from investigations, this enabled us to provide interesting talks with many examples of some of the challenges faced by those working at sea. Sandy Davies and Roddy Allisop spoke about the role of corruption in IUU fishing in East Africa, using analysis of corruption in the SIF supported investigations as examples.

These presentations provided valuable insights on emerging issues and innovative responses from the work of SIF, highlighting the importance of collective efforts and information sharing to combat illegal fishing. We were grateful for the opportunity to present at this meeting, and we were pleased to see a good level of interest in the talks, this was mainly due to many examples that we were able to incorporate, based on the findings from the practical work that SIF is able to do in support of countries.

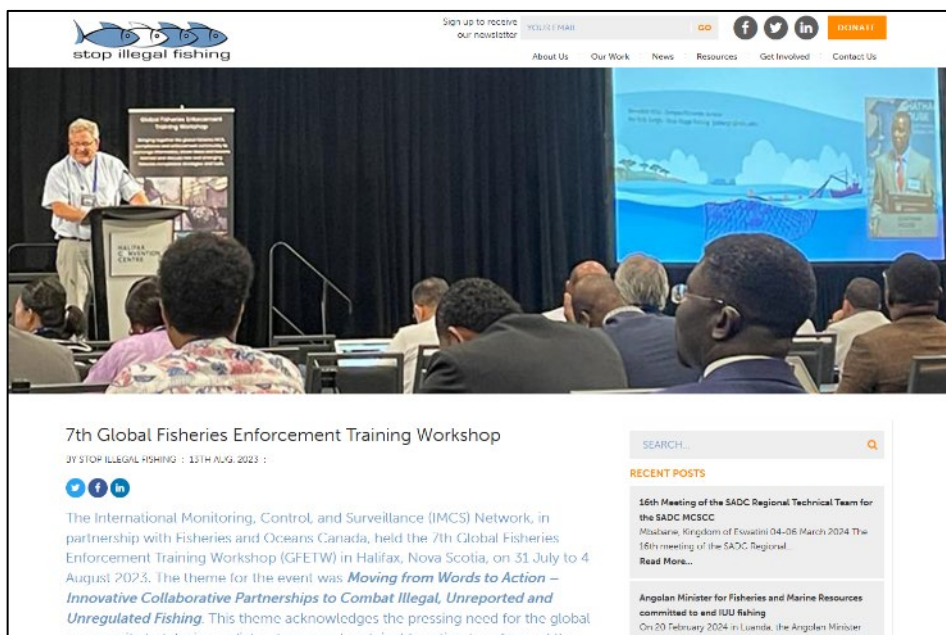


Figure 13: Per Erik Bergh presenting at GFETW

## 6 Awareness material

SIF has had another year of producing various material to create awareness about IUU fishing, the positive work under way to fight it, and the initiatives and projects that SIF is promoting. In addition the SIF website is active with our activities and also we are using X, formerly Twitter, to promote the great work taking place to stop illegal fishing. Some examples are given below:



Figure 14: The MCSCC flyer

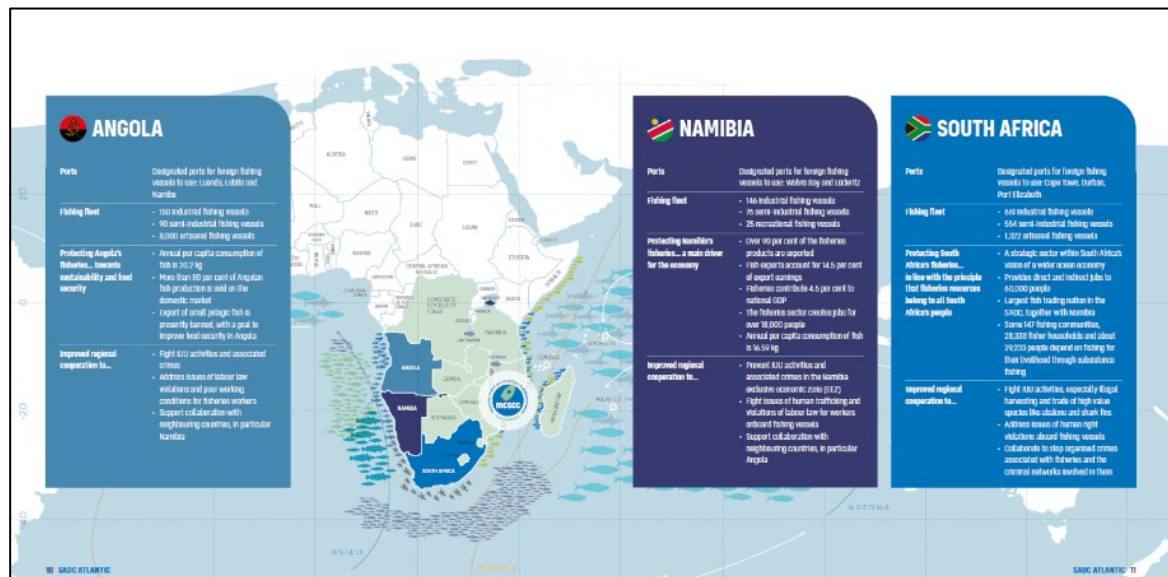


Figure 15: The SADC Atlantic flyer





Figure 16: Banners prepared for the Charter signing ceremony



Figure 17: Latest incident case study



Figure 18 SIF on X



## 7 Executive Committee

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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.

In 2023, Mark Ssemakula continued as SIF's Chairperson. As per the SIF governing rules, it was time to vote for the whole Executive Committee excluding the Chairperson position as it will remain unchanged for one more year. It was sadly noted that Peter Flewwelling had been nominated as vice Secretary and had accepted the appointment; unfortunately, owing to his passing, the Vice-Secretary position was left vacant for a later date.

The Chairperson congratulated the new office bearers, stating that he is looking forward to working with them and thanked the Secretariat for facilitating the voting.

Our 2023 Executive Committee were:

- Chairperson: Mark Ssemakula
- Vice-Chairperson: Nicholas Nthekeka
- Vice-Chairperson: Dedi Seraphin
- Secretary: Per Erik Bergh
- Treasurer: Sandy Davies
- Executive Committee Member: Steven Ambabi
- Executive Committee Member: Hosea Mbilinyi