



CCSBT-CC/1310/13

International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS) Membership

Introduction

The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network is a non-profit and informal organisation, not bound by treaty, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral co-operation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities. Its governing framework is provided at Attachment A.

The overall objective of the IMCS Network is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among national organisations/ institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS activities.

Its vision is to be recognised as the first point of contact, primary facilitator and trusted advisor on all issues regarding fisheries-related monitoring, control and surveillance on local, regional and international levels, and to be utilised as such.

In order to achieve its objectives, the Network has identified a number of activity areas that will support its long-term success. These are provided in the IMCS Strategic Plan at Attachment B. The IMCS's most recent work-plan is provided at Attachment C.

Membership

All States, Regional Economic Integration Organisations (REIOs), fishing entities and intergovernmental organisations responsible for fisheries and fisheries related MCS are eligible to become members of the International MCS Network. In order to become a member, applications need to be submitted to the Chairperson in writing. Current Observer Members include the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Fishery Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). There is no membership fee associated with becoming a Member, and donations (refer to Article 19 - Funding - at Attachment A) are currently optional.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the CCSBT join the IMCS Network as an Observer Member in order to facilitate the sharing of high level information on MCS trends and concerns, and to assist with building a global network of MCS colleagues for consultation purposes as appropriate. If the CCSBT became an Observer Member, it is expected that there would be occasional travel costs associated with the Secretariat attending some meetings of the International MCS Network.

Prepared by the Secretariat



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Governing Framework for the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network

Article 1 Scope

The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network is a non-profit and informal organization, not bound by treaty, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities.

Article 2 Objective

The objective of the International MCS Network is within its scope to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MCS concerning fishing and fisheries-related activities through cooperation, coordination, collection and exchange of information among the organizations or institutions responsible for fisheries and fisheries-related MCS activities.

Article 3 General Principles

In giving effect to its objective, the International MCS Network will, inter alia:

- (a) seek common solutions to IUU fishing and associated activities;
- (b) facilitate communication and information exchange among members;
- (c) develop and maintain information sharing capabilities;
- (d) foster joint efforts, cooperation and collaboration;
- (e) strengthen capacity building;
- (f) coordinate education and training opportunities;
- (g) enhance opportunities for sharing technology and technology transfer;
- (h) promote new MCS tools; and
- (i) improve public awareness.

Article 4 Composition

States, regional economic integration organizations, fishing entities and intergovernmental organizations responsible for fisheries and fisheries related MCS are eligible to become members of the International MCS Network.



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Article 5 Membership

- 1 In order to become a member applications shall be submitted to the Chairperson in writing.
- 2 Members that wish to withdraw from the International MCS Network shall notify the Chairperson in writing.

Article 6 Observers

- 1 The Chairperson may, on a case by case basis, decide that non-Members, including non-governmental organizations and other interested parties which support the objective of the International MCS Network, are entitled to participate as observers at meetings of the International MCS Network. Requests for observer status shall be submitted to the Chairperson in writing.
- 2 Observers may address such meetings at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- 3 Observers shall not participate in decision making.

Article 7 Rights and Commitments of Members

- 1 Each Member is entitled to:
 - (a) participate in all activities organized by the International MCS Network at its own expense;
 - (b) request services provided by the International MCS Network;
 - (c) receive all publications and general information provided by the International MCS Network; and
 - (d) make proposals and provide advice with respect to activities and work of the International MCS Network.
- 2 Each Member should:
 - (a) authorize a representative to act on its behalf, who shall also have a prominent position in the day by day operations of MCS issues for that Member;
 - (b) use its best efforts to meet the objective of the International MCS Network;



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- (c) respect decisions pursuant to Article 10;
- (d) support and, to the greatest extent possible, participate in activities organized by the International MCS Network;
- (e) collect and provide timely and accurate MCS information to other Members on request, respecting domestic legislative requirements and existing international evidence request systems;
- (f) consider and respond to requests and, where appropriate and possible, cooperate with other Members in joint MCS activities;
- (g) promote technical assistance, training, experience exchange and institutional development to increase MCS knowledge and capability amongst Members;
- (h) address the particular needs of developing country Members; and
- (i) carry out such other activities as may be necessary to achieve the objective of the International MCS Network.

Article 8 The Organization

The International MCS Network shall consist of:

- (a) a General Membership;
- (b) a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson;
- (b) an Executive Committee; and
- (c) a Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director.

Article 9 The General Membership

- 1 The General Membership shall consist of a representative of each Member, who may be accompanied by advisers as required.
- 2 Meetings of the General Membership shall be convened at least every other year. A Member may request additional meetings of the General Membership, which shall be convened if one third or more of the Members agree to that request.

Article 10 Functions of the General Membership

In giving effect to the objective of the International MCS Network, the General Membership shall:

- (a) review the implementation of the general principles;
- (b) approve the operational policies and procedures of the International MCS Network;



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- (c) approve the work programs of the International MCS Network;
- (d) approve reports of from the Secretariat;
- (e) approve the budget, as appropriate, and financial arrangements;
- (f) review the expenditures and accounts;
- (g) elect the Executive Committee as needed;
- (h) seek funds and other resources to ensure the long-term operations of the International MCS Network; and
- (i) decide on any other matter related to the work of the International MCS Network that is not specifically assigned to any other of its organs.

Article 11 **The Roles of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson**

1 The General Membership shall, if consensus is not reached, elect by simple majority of Members present and voting, a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the International MCS Network for a term of four (4) years, who shall be eligible for re-election for an additional term of four (4) years. The initial Vice-Chairperson will hold a two (2) year term to ensure continuity. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be representatives from different Members, with one of the, to the extent possible, representing a developing country Member.

2 The Chairperson shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) convene and preside over meeting of the General Membership and the Executive Committee;
- (b) appoint the Executive Director;
- (c) determine, after consultations with the Executive Director, draft provisional agendas for meetings of the General Membership and the Executive Committee;
- (c) sign a report of the proceedings of each meeting of the General Membership and the Executive Committee;
- (d) represent the International MCS Network at international meetings; and
- (e) generally make such decisions and give such directions to the Executive Secretary to ensure, especially in the interval between meetings, that the business of the International MCS Network is carried out efficiently and in accordance with its objective and its decisions.

2 Whenever the Chairperson is unable to act, the Vice-Chairperson shall exercise the powers and the duties prescribed for the Chairperson. If the office of the Chairperson is vacated, the Vice-Chairperson shall become the Chairperson for the balance of the term. The Vice-Chairperson also serves as an advisor to the Chairperson and acts for the Chairperson if requested by the Chairperson to do so.



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Article 12

The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, and of representatives of at least four Members as decided by the General Membership, preferably from different world regions. The representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and shall be eligible for an additional term of three (3) years.
2. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be convened at least every six (6) months by telephone or video conferences or other adequate means of communication.

Article 13

Functions of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the Chairperson, and will in particular:

- (a) propose revisions to this Governing Framework, the Strategic Plan, the Work Plan, and the Business Plan as needed;
- (b) provide advice on the recruitment of the Executive Director;
- (c) advise on participation at meeting by non-Members as described in Article 6; and
- (d) carry out any other activity assigned to it.

Article 14

Sub-Committees

The General Membership or the Executive Committee may establish time-limited ad-hoc sub-committees with specific tasks including terms of reference as necessary.

Article 15

The Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- (a) implement decisions;
- (b) draft operational procedures for the Secretariat and International MCS Network;
- (c) develop the Secretariat's work program;
- (d) draft budgets and prepare financial statements;
- (e) draft annual reports of the International MCS Network's activities and a review of the implementation of the general principles;
- (f) provide general service and support;
- (g) provide services to meetings;



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- (h) maintain minutes, records, documents, files and the website; and
- (i) notify any change concerning the membership; and
- (j) carry out any other activity as may be instructed by the General Membership or the Executive Committee.

Article 16 Staff

The staff of the International MCS Network shall consist of such qualified technical and other personnel as may be required to fulfill the functions of the International MCS Network, including the day-by-day running of it. The staff shall be appointed by the Executive Secretary duly taking into account the need for cost-effectiveness.

Article 17 Liaison with the Secretariat

The Member which serves as the host for the Secretariat should provide a liaison to interact with the Secretariat and the International MCS Network as required.

Article 18 Decision Making

Notwithstanding the procedure for the election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson under Article 11, paragraph 1, decisions shall be taken by consensus.

Article 19 Funding

The Network shall be funded from, but not limited to the following sources:

- (a) donations from the Members;
- (b) developmental funding agencies;
- (c) contributions and donations from the public and private sectors; and
- (d) any other income derived from the activities and services within the scope of the International MCS Network.

Article 20 Cooperation with other Organizations

The International MCS Network may seek to develop cooperative relationships and may enter into agreements with organizations that can contribute to its work.



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**Article 21
Revision**

This Governing Framework may be revised by the General Membership if circumstances so require.

**Article 20
Languages of the International MCS Network**

The official languages of the International MCS Network shall be English, French and Spanish.

**Article 21
Entry into Force**

This Governing Framework is adopted by the General Membership on 29 March 2012 in Valparaiso, Chile, and enters into force on the said date.

**Article 22
Authentic Texts**

The English, French and Spanish texts of this Governing Framework are equally authentic.

International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan will be used to provide guidance to the development of work plans, which will establish specific performance indicators for measuring the performance of the Network and the activities included in this plan.

The Secretariat will ensure the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and will also use it to support raising short- and long-term funding to carry out the work of the Network.

This Strategic Plan will be updated at the election of the new Chair or **at a time** deemed otherwise necessary.

Mission: To promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the members of the Network through information exchange, capacity development and joint work in order to achieve the improved effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.

Vision: To be recognized as the **principal** point of contact, facilitator and advisor on all issues regarding MCS to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related fisheries activities on local, regional and international levels.

Goals: In order to carry on the Mission, the Network will focus on the following three Strategic Objectives:

1. Facilitate increased information exchanges and collaborative MCS activities amongst members;
2. Coordinate and encourage international cooperation on MCS and raise awareness of MCS issues; and
3. Help to strengthen the capacity of members to implement and maintain effective MCS regimes.

In order to achieve these Strategic Objectives, the Network has identified a number of activity areas that will support long-term success. Work plans will be based on, and measured against, these action items.

Project Selection and Evaluation

The Network will develop work plans consisting of projects related to the activity areas under each Strategic Objective. Specific projects shall be selected and evaluated upon the following criteria, as appropriate:

- ⤴ Relevance to the Mission and **the overall Objective** of the IMCS Network
- ⤴ Value added by IMCS Network
- ⤴ Cost effectiveness
- ⤴ Potential partners
- ⤴ Feasibility of carrying out the work within a reasonable time frame
- ⤴ Potential to attract funding and other support
- ⤴ Feasibility of replication of project outcomes

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Facilitate increased information exchanges and collaborative MCS activities amongst members

Projects under the following activity areas will support this objective:

- a) Develop a communications strategy that will aim to increase knowledge, publication and dissemination of Network projects and achievements in journals and popular and social media as well as among members.
- b) Encourage members to share information with the Network regarding training programs, changes to domestic MCS regimes (laws, regulations, policies and/or programs) or the development of best management practices, etc.
- c) Encourage members to utilize and develop the Network for requests to other countries for MCS information.
- d) Generate a regular Newsletter that will highlight projects **undertaken by members and other relevant matters**, in particular those that showcase successful collaboration.
- e) Develop and maintain a Network website, including links to members' websites as appropriate.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate and encourage international cooperation on MCS and raise awareness of MCS issues

Projects under the following activity areas will support this objective:

- a) Expand Network membership, particularly in currently underrepresented regions.

- b) Expand Network relationships with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working on MCS activities and existing regional initiatives through the development of strategic partnerships or by encouraging them to be observers of the Network, where appropriate.
- c) Encourage attendance of Network representatives at relevant meetings to increase the visibility, knowledge base and connections of the Network.
- d) Bring together leaders of fisheries enforcement agencies on a regular basis to share information and to discuss issues of common concern.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Help to strengthen the human and technical capacity of members to implement and maintain effective MCS regimes

Projects under the following activity areas will support this objective:

- a) Facilitate or provide assistance and/or appropriate contacts for members, in particular in responding to suspected IUU incidents or strengthening their capacities related to MCS activities.
- b) Facilitate and organize, where appropriate, international, national and/or regional MCS training activities, and provide associated follow-up support and evaluation.
- c) Facilitate and organize, where appropriate, “train-the-trainer” sessions.
- d) Monitor and communicate MCS training opportunities and technical support.

INTERNATIONAL MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE NETWORK



WORKPLAN

Mission: To promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the members of the Network through information exchange, capacity development and joint work in order to achieve the improved effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities.

Vision: To be recognized as the principal point of contact, facilitator and advisor on all issues regarding MCS to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and related fisheries activities on local, regional and international levels.

Scope: The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network is a non-profit and informal network of members, not bound by treaty, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated activities.

Objective: The objective of the IMCS Network is within its scope to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) concerning fishing and fisheries-related activities through cooperation, coordination, collection and exchange of information among the organizations or institutions responsible for fisheries and fisheries-related MCS activities.

General Principles:

In giving effect to its objective, the IMCS Network will:

- (a) seek practical solutions to combat IUU fishing and associated activities;
- (b) facilitate communication and information exchange among members;
- (c) develop and maintain information sharing capabilities;
- (d) foster joint efforts, cooperation and collaboration;
- (e) strengthen capacity building;
- (f) coordinate education and training opportunities;
- (g) enhance opportunities for sharing technology and technology transfer;
- (h) promote new MCS tools: and
- (i) improve public awareness.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Facilitate increased information exchanges and collaborative MCS activities amongst members

Output	Activities	Allocated Budget	Timeframe	Responsible Members	Indicators of Achievement
1(a) - Develop a communications strategy that will aim to increase knowledge, publication, and dissemination of Network projects and achievements in journals, popular and social media, and among members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft and implement an effective communications strategy. 2. Encourage participation with media sources to raise awareness of IUU Fishing and the IMCS Network. 	TBA	April 2012 – April 2013	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	
1(b) - Encourage members to utilize and develop the Network for requests to other countries for MCS information.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain an up to date list of contact details of IMCS Network members. 2. Assist IMCS Network members with information requests. 	TBA	April 2012 – April 2014	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	
1(c) - Encourage members to share information with the Network regarding training programs, changes to domestic MCS regimes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate the flow of information to IMCS Network members. 2. Seek information 	TBA	April 2012 – Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	

<p>(laws, regulations, policies, and/or programs), or the development of best management practices, etc.</p>	<p>from members on MCS Related activities and share with the network.</p> <p>3. Where possible and appropriate, disseminate MCS related documents for inputs and comments from participating countries of the IMCS Network.</p> <p>4. Develop inventory of country expertise of various types of MCS measures.</p>				
<p>1(d) - Generate a regular newsletter that will highlight projects and other relevant news occurring in member countries, or interest to MCS professionals and in particular those that showcase successful collaboration.</p>	<p>1. Publish events, articles and MCS related matters quarterly on the website and through email.</p> <p>2. Encourage greater contribution to the newsletter by all members</p>	TBA	April 2012 - Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	
<p>1(e) - Develop and maintain a Network website, including links to members' websites as</p>	<p>1. Encourage members to update and maintain their websites with updated information</p>			Executive Director and Executive Committee	

appropriate	<p>related to statistics, operations, contact lists and other information of interest to MCS.</p> <p>2. Establish an assessment of information needs, circulate and then compile resources that are available and post them.</p>				
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate and encourage international cooperation on MCS and raise awareness of MCS issues

Output	Activities	Allocated Budget	Timeframe	Responsible Members	Indicators of Achievement
2(a) - Expand Network membership, particularly in currently underrepresented regions.	<p>1. Make underrepresented regions aware of the existence and importance of the IMCS Network through electronic correspondence and all other appropriate means.</p> <p>2. Identify and invite non participating</p>	TBA	April 2012 – April 2014	Executive Director and members of the IMCS Network.	

	countries and relevant organizations to IMCS Network meetings.				
2(b) - Expand Network relationships with intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations working on MCS-activities and existing regional initiatives through the development of strategic partnerships or by encouraging them to be observers on the Network, where appropriate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify other appropriate international organizations for raising awareness about the network and possible future partnerships if appropriate. 2. Invite RFMOs, international organizations and other non-governmental organizations to attend the IMCS Network Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshops and other workshops as appropriate. 3. Source funding for awareness and workshops 4. Develop and maintain a communication network for sharing of information and 	TBA	April 2012 to March 2015	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	

	<p>channeling information of IUU fishing activity.</p> <p>5. Invite RFMOs, international organizations and other non-governmental organizations to render support to developing countries to improve their MCS strategies.</p> <p>6. Explore the potential cooperation and agreement with other organizations such as Interpol</p> <p>7. Work on Stop IUU Fishing Award.</p>				
2(c) - Encourage attendance of Network representatives at relevant meetings to increase the visibility, knowledge base and connections of the Network.	<p>1. Encourage IMCS Network members to promote the network while attending relevant meetings.</p> <p>2. Where possible travel and represent the IMCS Network at other MCS and IUU meetings.</p>	TBA	April 2012 - Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	

	3. Raise awareness of the IMCS Network by various means to include distribution of the IMCS Network Newsletter.				
2(d) - Bring together leaders of fisheries enforcement agencies on a regular basis to share information and to discuss issues of common concern.	<p>1. Develop an electronic communication network (part of the website) for countries to share their daily experiences, challenges, successes, suggestions, etc.</p> <p>2. When appropriate, ad hoc meetings should occur whenever possible.</p> <p>3. Encourage participation of leaders of fisheries enforcement agencies in the GFETW.</p> <p>4. Explore possibility of seeking observer status with the FAO.</p>	TBA	April 2012 – Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Help to strengthen the human and technical capacity of members to implement and maintain effective MCS regimes.

Output	Activities	Allocated Budget	Timeframe	Responsible Members	Indicators of Achievement
3(a) - Facilitate, or provide assistance and/or appropriate contacts for members, in particular in responding to suspected IUU incidents or strengthening their capacities related to MCS activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate member's requests by providing direction and support to MCS related activities. 2. Assist in providing positive exposure (Media. Magazines, etc.) to the outcome of the assistance required. 3. Collect and allow access to MCS Practices through the website. 4. Endeavour to render assistance to developing countries to attend the Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshops 	TBA	April 2012 – Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	
3(b) - Facilitate, and organize, where appropriate, international, national and/or regional MCS training activities, including “train-the-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain funding to conduct at least one Global Enforcement Workshop every two years. 	TBA	April 2012 – Ongoing	Executive Director and Executive Committee.	

<p>trainer” sessions, and provide associated follow-up support and evaluation.</p>	<p>2. Showcase IMCS Network efforts at these Global Enforcement Workshops to obtain more participating countries to the IMCS Network.</p> <p>3. Establish a steering committee for the 4th GFETW.</p> <p>4. Update participating members on latest training techniques methods and equipment utilized for training Fisheries Officers.</p>				
<p>3(c) - Facilitate, and organize, where appropriate, “train-the-trainer” sessions</p>	<p>1. Develop and maintain a register of trainers, entities and facilities for fisheries MCS trainings.</p>				
<p>3(d) - Monitor and communicate MCS training opportunities and technical support</p>	<p>1. Monitor and communicate MCS training opportunities and technical support</p>				