



International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Title of project:

Improving fisheries management and combatting illegal fishing in West Africa through vessel registries and modern techniques in monitoring and reporting.

Organization:

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Web site:

<http://iss-foundation.org>

Priorities identified by the project:

To combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and improve Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Objectives of the project:

The overarching objectives are to build sustainable tuna fisheries and to combat IUU fishing in the coastal waters of West Africa. The specific objectives include: (i) to use electronic reporting to provide real time reporting of critical fisheries information recorded by vessel captains and human observers; (ii) to use electronic monitoring systems to provide real time information on fishing vessel location and activities; and (iii) to use vessel registries to improve transparency in fisheries, to implement specific best practices, and to create new opportunities for the marketing of legally caught tuna from West African waters.

Overview of the project – provide 1-3 sentences:

There is a crucial need for effective information management to monitor, manage, and regulate fisheries in West Africa and to combat IUU fishing. Electronic reporting and monitoring provide cost effective tools for providing this information, while vessel registries allow owners to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and provide financial incentives to engage in legal fishing activities through additional marketing



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opportunities. ISSF and its partners have pioneered the use of these tools in Ghana and in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and we are now working to extend those efforts across West Africa.

Relationship to security issues, if any:

The emphasis of our project on IUU fishing is pertinent to maritime security.

Relationship to governance issues, if any:

Our work contributes to good ocean governance through: (i) combatting IUU fishing and improving fisheries management by providing accurate data on fisheries and vessel activities for fisheries resource managers; (ii) providing opportunities for vessel owners to publically commit to specific best practices; (iii) by building capacity in Ghana and elsewhere in West Africa for the long term implementation of items (i) and (ii) above; (iv) by providing financial incentives for participation in legal fishing activities; and (v) improve compliance with member country obligations to ICCAT.

Status of the project - timeline of the project:

Ghana is the site of an ongoing Common Oceans/Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Tuna Project that has employed electronic monitoring in five of the country's large-scale purse seine vessels. The project is led by WWF with support from the Government of Ghana, ISSF, FAO and the Ghanaian tuna industry. It is anticipated that all 17 Ghanaian purse seiners that are registered with ICCAT will be equipped with electronic monitoring. Thirteen of Ghana's large-scale purse seine vessels are listed on ISSF's ProActive Vessel Registry (PVR). Funding for a workshop on the use of electronic monitoring, electronic reporting, and the adoption of ISSF's PVR in West Africa has been requested from NOAA's Fisheries International Cooperation and Assistance Program (FICAP). Pending approval of funding, the workshop will be held in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Designated main contact and contact information:

Susan S. Jackson, President, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF). Email address: sjackson@iss-foundation.org.



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Historical context for the project (how project initiated, etc.):

The Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project began in January 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding between ISSF and the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (ATLAFCO) was signed in November 2014 in order to improve fisheries management, to combat IUU fishing, and to promote scientific knowledge and principles of good ocean governance. ATLAFCO is an intergovernmental organization of 22 countries, ranging from Morocco to Namibia, including Ghana.

What kind of partnership do you have with Ghana? (partners/collaborators, funders, implementers, etc.):

Partnerships include the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, the Ghana Tuna Association, ATLAFCO, and tuna industry participants. The Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Who is your main Ghana partner(s)? (government, agency, local NGO, university etc.):

Our main Ghana partner in the tuna industry is Ghana Tuna Association while our main partner in government is the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

For questions about our international development efforts in Africa, please contact NOAA Fisheries / Oriana Villar (oriana.villar@noaa.gov).