



**International MCS Network
Business Meeting
Rome, Italy (FAO
Headquarters)
14 July 2016
DRAFT MINUTES**

Participants

Cephas Ralph, Scotland, Chair IMCS Network
Todd Dubois, US, IMCS Network Vice Chair

Members:

Gordon Neil (Australia)
Randy Jenkins (Canada)
Andrew Wright (CCAMLR)
Robert Kennedy (CCSBT)
Felix Avellan (Costa Rica)
Tim Costelloe (Cook Islands)
Lars B. F. Poulsen (Denmark)
George Madden (Fiji)
Amador Fallon (Gambia)
Desri Yanti (Indonesia)
Thord Monsen (Norway)
Ahmed Al-Mazroui (Oman)
Monica Corralos (Spain)
Bernard Liedemann (South Africa)
Paul Okware (Uganda)

Prospective Member:

Joanne Fischer (SPRFMO)

IMCS Network Secretariat

Harm Koster, Director, IMCS Network
Elise Stull, IMCS Network Coordinator
Melinda Soffer, IMCS Finance Manager

Former IMCS Network Chair

Michele Kuruc

AGENDA

- 1. Opening---**Participants signed in and short introductions made. The meeting was open to IMCS members and prospective members (one of whom attended), the Network leadership, the Network Secretariat and the Network Former Chair.
- 2. Adoption of Minutes of Last Meeting** (Annex 1)—The minutes from the Business Meeting convened Tuesday 8 March 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand were adopted as final by the meeting participants.

3. Reports on Recent Activities

a. 5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (5th GFETW)

A short oral report was presented by Harm Koster, Network Director. The 5th GFETW was hosted by New Zealand in Auckland March 7-11, 2016. The Workshop was highly successful in bringing together more than 200 participants from 55 countries, including MCS practitioners from 45 State governments, including 34 developing countries. One regional economic integration organization (the European Union) was represented, and MCS experts of four regional fisheries management organizations (CCAMLR, CCSBT, SPRFMO and WCPFC) also participated in the Workshop. In addition to FAO, other intergovernmental organizations represented at the 5th GFETW included ICPO-INTERPOL, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Indian Ocean Commission.

The Network is preparing a draft Report of the 5th GFETW to FAO, which will be reviewed and finalized; it will be published electronically in the coming months and will be available on both the IMCS Network website and the FAO COFI website.

Building upon the success of the 5th GFETW, there will be a 6th GFETW. The host nation and dates are yet to be confirmed; however, these will be confirmed with a formal announcement pending for early fall 2016.

b. COFI IUU Side Event

At lunch on Thursday 14 July 2016 during the COFI meeting, the Network Chair participated in a joint side event on IUU fishing with PEW Trusts, ISSF, Google and FAO. There was a good discussion of issues among the participants and the presenters.

c. Safe Ocean Network Planning Meeting

A planning meeting for a new global initiative called Safe Ocean Network (formerly called “Sea Scout”) was convened in Washington, DC on 29 -30 June 2016. The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen and enhance efforts to detect, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. Countries and other organizations have been asked to join as partners by pledging “pilot projects” to the initiative. Currently the Safe Ocean Network has about 20 country partners as well as intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Representatives of about 13 countries participated planning session, along with representatives from INTERPOL, FAO, UNODC and about twelve NGOs. The Network Coordinator attended on behalf of the IMCS Network.

During the session, the U.S. State Department delivered a presentation about the Safe Ocean Network’s secure web portal under development, where all of the projects will be uploaded and which will serve as a forum for partners to seek assistance and offer mutual support. The Network has participated in providing advice regarding the secure web portal. The portal is to be formally launched at the 3rd Our Ocean Conference, which will be held in Washington, DC, 15-16 September 2016. Cephas Ralph has accepted an invitation to participate at the 3rd Our Ocean Conference representing the Network.

d. Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project Meeting

The Network Executive Director participated in the third meeting of the Project Steering Committee Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna project, 6-8 July 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome. Discussions continued regarding the IMCS Network establishing an MCS sub-network for

compliance officers and MCS experts from tuna RFMOs. Moreover, the Secretariat met with FAO on 14 July 2016 at FAO in Rome to pursue further collaboration on the MCS sub-network.

e. MPA MCS/Enforcement Session at IUCN World Conservation Congress

The IUCN convenes its World Conservation Congress (WCC) every two years, and this year it will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 1-10 September 2016. The WCC is usually focused on environmental protection and conservation issues. This year, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiated an effort to incorporate enforcement issues. The IMCS Network and about five other organizations supported this and have been assisting with preparatory work.

The Network has been requested to provide a trainer for the half-day training session (a “conservation campus” in WCC terms) called “Application of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Tools for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)” which will be conducted on 2 September 2016.

f. 5th Fisheries Crime Working Group Meeting

The 5th annual meeting of INTERPOL’s Fisheries Crime Working Group (FCWG) will be held on 6-8 October 2016 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. A request was made at the business meeting for a Network member to represent the Network at the upcoming FCWG meeting. Thord Munson of Norway accepted the responsibility.

4. Budget and financial arrangements

The Director of Finance of IGSD presented three financial reports:

- Final Report for the 4th GFETW convened 12 -17 February 2014 in San José, Costa Rica
- Final Report for the 5th GFETW convened 7-11 March 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand
- Budget of the International MCS Network

These documents were made available to the members prior to the meeting by email.

Comments included a request to provide a carryforward of revenues for the Budget of the IMCS Network.

Further issues discussed were sustainability of financial support for the Network. Norway proposed a fund raising initiative from the membership on an annual basis. Norway offered to assist with a solicitation letter to the membership. Korea was mentioned as a fundraising opportunity as well.

5. Draft Business Plan 2016-2018

The draft Business Plan 2016-2018 was circulated to Network Members on June 24, 2016, and is available to view or download as PDF or as a Microsoft Word document in English, Spanish and French here: <http://www.imcsnet.org/network-business-meeting-july-14-2016/>.

The draft Business Plan was discussed with a focus upon proposed activities for the upcoming two years with recognition that fundraising is required.

These activities include the following:

- Revamping the IMCS website and creating a web portal dedicated solely to members.
- Organizing the 6th GFETW; it was mentioned that a host has been identified and a

formal announcement will be made in the early Fall 2016.

- Organizing the 3rd Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest
- Providing support to capacity building opportunities dependent upon available funds
- Expand the Register of Vetted Experts including regions and languages
- Establishment and subsequent activities for the T-RFMO MCS Sub-Network in collaboration with FAO
- Continue to facilitate Equipment Exchange
- Explore options for Research
- Collaboration with INTERPOL's FCWG
- Support of Safe Ocean Network

The draft Business Plan was adopted as final by the members at this meeting. It may be amended at subsequent business meetings of the Network.

6. Update on 6th GFETW and 3rd Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest

As mentioned while discussion of the draft Business Plan, a host for the 6th GFETW will be formally identified and confirmed in early Fall 2016.

The 3rd Stop IUU Fishing Award contest will be launched as soon as the host nation and approximate date of the 6th GFETW are confirmed. The Network will request all Members to help promote the 6th GFETW and the contest at that time.

7. Election of the Chair

The current Chair, Cephas Ralph, Director of Marine Scotland was elected to serve for another term. There were no other nominations.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members

In line with the e-mail of May 17, 2016, members of the Executive Committee for the next three years must also be confirmed. Therefore, it was requested that Members interested in serving on the Executive Committee to notify the Network Secretariat. All current Executive Committee members were confirmed to continue for the next three years.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.