



FLASH INFO

Special Issue 25th anniversary

March/April 2010

EDITORIAL

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Sub-regional integration for the sustainability of our sea resources



The Sub regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) celebrated its 25th anniversary last March 29, 2010, under the theme "Fight against illegal fishing: the sub-regional cooperation for synergy of action."

By creating on March 29, 1985 the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), the Member States (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone) indicated their recognition of the important contribution of fisheries products to the economic growth, currency gains, revenue budget, employment and food security. Thus, governments increasingly share more common concern for resource sustainability and a better return on their use in the long term. The SRFC supports this concern by choosing to address the problem of illegal fishing to celebrate its 25th birthday. The illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is estimated at more than 50% of the catch for selected countries of Western Saharan Africa, nearly 100 million dollars in lost revenues to coastal states in West Africa. For example, recent estimates indicate that in some countries like the Republic of Guinea, the amount of illegally caught fish is much higher than the legal catch known. In Guinea Bissau illegal fishing finesse about 40% of the catch, while in Sierra Leone, the rate is nearly 35%. In addition to the damage on the economies, the damage caused by illegal fishing on the marine environment and fishery resources, take years to unwind.

Illegal fishing is not only driven by industrial fishing vessels. Small scale fisheries also have a sizable share of responsibility in the plundering of resources and compromise the regeneration of species. The number of artisanal fleets has grown unchecked over the past 30 years, with, in most cases free access to resources. The impact on the degradation of stocks and losses for our national economies, are therefore undeniable. The SRFC is implementing three projects aimed at strengthening capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zones of Member States. It has also developed technical legal instruments adopted since 1993 and currently in force. These include the Convention on the determination of conditions of access and exploitation of fishery resources off the coasts of the Member States, the Convention on the sub regional cooperation in the Freedom of the Maritime and Continuation Fisheries Monitoring between Member States.

These initiatives alone are not sufficient to cope and fight effectively against illegal fishing. Although Member States of the SRFC are convinced of the need to combine their efforts to meet the challenge of putting an end to the plundering of fish stocks and develop viable alternatives, but should go beyond mere belief. The phenomenon there is no national solution feasible. Only a regional response to be appropriate and relevant especially as the phenomenon is affecting more and more migratory and shared stocks. The current economic realities and trends of fisheries urge a more strategic vision. In 25 years the SRFC has much expertise and has capitalized enough like other sister organizations in other regions of the world to afford the challenge of integration. It is now up to Member States to reaffirm their political will and commitment with support from development partners. This is the only guarantee of sustainability of fisheries resources to benefit our economies and populations

Kane Ciré Amadou
SRFC
Permanent Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS

State Members celebrated the 25th anniversary



In Gambia, it is under the chairmanship of the Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources that a ceremony was attended by stakeholders of the fisheries. The Honourable Lamin Kaba Bajo, called for more cooperation at regional level to deal with illegal fishing that threatens the sustainability of the resources in our seas. This, especially since it has been fairly demonstrated that fisheries resources are common property.

The Republic of Guinea has not been left out, although the celebration was delayed for a few days for reasons of busy schedule of the Minister of Fisheries, Colonel Mamadou Diallo Korka. It's about a big party at the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture that the Guinean authorities have invited over 200 people to discuss the issue of illegal fishing and the role played by the SRFC. (picture 1)



In Mauritania, the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the SRFC were more or less eclipsed by reversals of services after changes to the management teams in some fisheries departments. However the information was conveyed with the deployment of banners at certain places well attended. (picture 2)

In Senegal, the SRFC host country, as in other Member States, the 25th anniversary has been solemnized. It was around a round table of panellists addressed the issue of illegal fishing in the legal, economic and environmental angles. The Permanent Secretary of the SRFC has exposed the role of the Commission for coordination in the fight against IUU fishing. Widely reported by national and international press, the event gave the actors present fisheries, to mention repeatedly the need to strengthen the mandate of the SRFC in order to endow it with power to enable it to fully play its role in this new context far different from that which prevailed 25 years ago. (picture 3)



In Sierra Leone a radio program was organized on the theme of illegal fishing. Discussions relayed through the airwaves of the United Nations radio in Freetown, also stressed the role of the SRFC and its importance to Sierra Leone. The press release was issued in a national newspaper. (picture 4)



PERMANENT SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

Joined us...

-The Permanent Secretariat office is enriched with a Head of Communications and Public Relations Unit in the person of Mr. Amadou Mbodj who joined the team on 1 March 2010.

Our visitors...

March 8, the Board of Directors of the Association for the Development of Artisanal Fisheries in West Africa (WADAF) met the Protected Marine Areas (PMA) project Coordinator and Head of Research and Information System (RISI) to take stock of various ongoing interventions in support artisanal fishing organizations in the sub region.

March 19, a delegation of the Committee for International Affairs and Cooperation of the Economic and Social Council of Senegal as part of the first regular session of said Council, visited the SRFC, to obtain technical advice on "International Agreements on Fisheries.

March 19, His Excellency Colonel Mamadou Korka Diallo, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Republic of Guinea made a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary of the SRFC. Following this visit, Mr. Diallo has reaffirmed his country's commitment to a greater regional cooperation in fisheries and has called on Member States to consistently support the SRFC, paying regular contributions.

PROJECTS UPDATE

Protected Marine Areas (PMAs)

On 23 February in Dakar: held the second meeting of the Steering Committee for the adoption of the Programme of Technical and Financial Performance for the year 2010.

On March 23, SRFC received a notice of no objection from the French Development Agency (FDA) on the contract of objectives between the SRFC and IUCN to co-finance the project "PARTAGE"

On 1 April; the project Coordinator received M.J-Y. Weigel, a researcher at the Research for Development Institute (RDI) and head of "Governance" thematic group of AMPHORE project

On 2 April, the project Coordinator received Mr Sadio from the Community Management Areas of the Ministry of Maritime Economy of Senegal, to exchange information on management systems for MPAs in Senegal and the sub-region

From 6 to 7 April, the project Coordinator had a working meeting with P. Chavance, program Officer of the Marine and Coastal Programme for Central Africa and West (MACO) of IUCN, and L. Tito de Morais, Director of research at RDI, to discuss the action plan developed as part of scientific monitoring of the MPAs of Urok in Guinea Bissau.

On 9 April, the project Coordinator received consultants from the research department of the Environment and Development Group (UK) in the context of financial sustainability study on MPA commissioned by the West Africa Marine Protected Areas Network (WAMPAN).

For May, Mr Philip TOUS, the project Coordinator plans to travel to Cape Verde to develop an action plan to support the proposal to establish a network of FADs.

"Small pelagic" Project

The project has resumed its activities in the framework of an extension of a period of eighteen months (July 2009 - December 2010). During the first quarter of 2010, the project organised a meeting in each of the following countries: Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia. The purpose was to present the results of the project, inform on planned activities and prepare the establishment of a National ad hoc Committee to study issues relating to the management and conservation of small pelagic, to propose appropriate management measures and to coordinate and cooperate with relevant countries (Gambia, Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal). The project Coordinator visited Mauritania and held three meetings in Senegal and Gambia with representatives of the profession, administration and research in order to establish the commission. The approach is to involve consultative structures identified at local level under the Fisheries Code to provide an institutional linkage for these commissions and ensure greater visibility among decision makers on issues of sustainable harvesting small pelagic. The goal is to set a system of regional governance

SRAP– Sharks

From April 12 to 18, the "Sub-regional Action Plan for Conservation of Sharks" project organized a mission of coordination and methodological support to National Action Plan for Conservation of Sharks in Guinea. The aim of this mission was to take stock of the progress of the implementation of the NAP-Sharks in this country. It was also an opportunity to raise the issue of sensitizing managers and partners to take subsequent measures for conservation of sharks, to update the content of NPA-Sharks, to support the focal point on reconversion perspectives for Sharks hunting actors. The mission also allowed training students on methodological actions on data collection on sharks. It visited the main sites of shark landings to assess the condition of their harvest and then make proposals to improve the level of implementation of activities of the NAP-Sharks.

From April 26 to 28, a mission visited Mbour and Joal (Senegal) with a team of filmmakers to shoot on the achievements of PSRA-Sharks on supporting shark hunting actors.

West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP)

Mr. Demba Yeum Kane, Coordinator of West Africa Fisheries Programme (WAFP) made:

from 7 to 9 March, a mission to Cape Verde to take part in the recruitment process of the Coordinator of the Programme in Cape Verde

from 19 to 26 March a mission in Sierra Leone jointly with the World Bank, to review the conditions of implementation and identify the first activities under the WAFP in Sierra Leone. The mission was led by Mr John Virdin in charge of WAFP at the World Bank, with the participation of Mr Stephen Akester, consultant.

from 12 to 16 April 2010, a mission to support the implementation of WAFP in Senegal: At the same time Mr John Virdin, accompanied by Mrs. Baye Diagne, Coordinator of the Unit Operational Implementation of Fishing Components at the Division of Marine Fisheries and Mr Cedric Boisrobert from the World Bank, met with the Permanent Secretary of the SRFC.

from 19 to 24 April a joint mission in Cape Verde, with the World Bank to review the conditions of implementation and identify the first activities under the WAFP in Cape Verde. The mission was led by Mr John Virdin in charge of WAFP at the World Bank with the participation of Mr Joaquim Tenreiro consultant.

Reinforcement of Regional Capacities for Fisheries Management in West Africa (RECAFMTWA)

In early March, Renaud Bailleux, the project Coordinator, co-hosted and co-managed a training session for the sub-regional working group on shared governance of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of the Senegal River Delta. The training aimed to strengthen skills in analysis of structures of governance of marine protected areas.

Mr Bailleux also worked to develop a methodology for analyzing the influence of marine ecosystems in reducing poverty and has conducted fieldwork in Yoff and Kayar. Such analysis will support the inclusion of fisheries in the Strategy Paper for Poverty Reduction in a sustainable manner

EVENTS

Support to the implementation of the International Plan of Action on illegal, unreported and unregulated

.25 and 26 November 2009, held in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM), the Workshop Startup Project TCP / RAF 3212: Support for the implementation of the IPOA on IUU fishing, unreported and unregulated fishing.

As part of the implementation of activities included in the timetable, a sub-regional tour is running. Through this activity, the PRSP and FAO are intended to provide support to Member States in seeking solutions for the integration of monitoring systems (VMS) in the overall monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) provide technical support to Member States in their efforts to prepare a plan of action on the sub-regional cooperation on VMS.

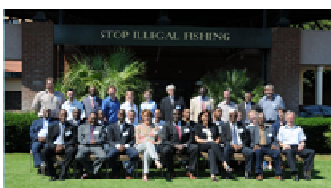
The first part of this mission (January 24 to February 18, 2010) involved successively Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, under the leadership of Mr. Robert Gallagher and Ibrahima Salif Sylla respectively FAO Consultant and Specialist of satellite surveillance programs and Head of Tracking, Control and Surveillance (MCS) at the SRFC.

In addition to VMS, important issues, including: register, offenses, infrastructure - equipment, personnel, databases; administrative and legal aspects were, among others, discussed during the mission. In terms of recommendations, member states have asked the organization of joint surveillance operations to stop the advance worrying IUU activities in the region. The second part of the tour scheduled from 17 April to 7 May 2010, will cover the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Cape Verde and Senegal. The activity will conclude with a sub regional workshop scheduled for May 12 to 13, 2010, in Conakry, Guinea.

Revision of the Convention on the Determination of Conditions of Access and Exploitation of Fishery Resources

A national workshop on the process of revising the Convention on the determination of conditions of access and exploitation of fishery resources off the coasts of the States members Sub regional Fisheries Commission of 1993 held from 6 to 7 April 2010, at the Hotel Novotel, in Conakry (Republic of Guinea). This workshop chaired by His Excellency the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Colonel Mamadou Diallo Korka, is the last of seven workshops held by the SRFC in each Member State, following recommendations from the Regional Workshop on April 2009 related to the revision process of the Convention. The aim of these national workshops was to validate at the national level the recommendations of the regional workshop, and to clarify some points on which the delegations of Member States of the SRFC could not pronounce. Some fifty participants from the fisheries administration, marine transportation, environment, civil society, the fishing industry, parliamentarians and the media, took part in the discussion, to present their proposals in perspective of the updating of the Convention in West Africa.

Meeting of the working group « Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) of NEPAD



Dr. Hamady Diop Head of Department of Research and Information Systems was in Gaborone (Botswana) on 11 and 12 March at the invitation of the Working Group Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) of NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development) International Partnership for African Fisheries Program. More than 30 experts from 18 countries attended the meeting more than 30 experts from 18 countries.

The discussions focused on five themes: the creation of knowledge on the issue, building human and institutional capacities to eradicate IUU fishing, sensitization of the actors to change attitudes in the fight against IUU fishing, the development of mechanisms for cooperation against IUU fishing and developing a strategy for one African voice in international forums. Several recommendations were made by thematic programs FIS and NEPAD. Among the most important can be learned: how the program FIS can support the SRFC in the celebration of its 25th anniversary under the theme of IUU fishing and how to involve the SRFC in RIS project number one on partnership concerning the coherence of regional policies in the fight against IUU fishing.

FIS was founded in 2007 to support the African Ministers of Fisheries in SADC country members in their fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) and improve sector governance.

Third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Expanded Regional Indicative Programme,

The Permanent Secretary, Mr Ciré Amadou KANE took part in the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Expanded Regional Indicative Programme, held from 19 to 21 April 2010 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. This meeting is scheduled in the technical and administrative provisions of financing agreements for projects co-ordination and Monitoring Mechanism of the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) 9th EDF.

Representatives of Committees of the WAEMU, ECOWAS, the Delegations of the European Union, as well as representatives of sub regional organizations attended the meeting.

INTRODUCTION TO ...

The Department Harmonization of Policies and Legislation

As part of the restructuring of its Permanent Secretariat, the SRFC has established a new organizational chart with three Departments and two technical Services. The Department of Policy and Harmonization of Legislation is responsible for making the SRFC an international reference on the harmonization of policies and legislation on fisheries. It is also responsible for supporting the Permanent Secretary in policy development and implementation of strategies and legislation on fisheries management, fishing agreements and protection of ecosystems. The Department is headed by Ms. Dienaba Beye Traore

DIARY....

- **10 to 12 May 2010**, mission to St. Louis to investigate the sawfish
- **12 to 13 May 2010**, sub-regional workshop on the integration of Vessels Monitoring Systems (VMS) throughout the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Conakry,
- **17 to 19 May 2010**, mission to assess the impact of furnace braising small pelagic provided by the SRPA-Sharks Sharks to processors in Senegal.
- **May 19 to 22, 2010**. Renaud Bailleux will co-host and participate in the workshop of information and awareness raising for the regional network of parliamentarians and local representatives officials on the theme fishing, oil and mangrove organised in collaboration with IUCN and WWF, Dakar.
- **1 to 4 June 2010**, the Permanent Secretary, Amadou Cire KANE will attend the fourth session of the Regional Advisory Committee of the Strategic Partnership for Fisheries Investment Fund (SPFIF), in Namibia.
- 6 to 12 June 2010**, SRPAN-Sharks team will be in Australia to attend the International Shark Congress to and present the achievements of the project.
- 7 to 14 June**, Mr Renaud Bailleux will travel to Guinea Bissau to support a field research of a scientist from INDP under the project component on migration of artisanal fishermen in the country.
- **13 to 17 June 2010**, Amphora meeting in Senegal. Mr Philippe TOUS and Hamady DIOP will attend on behalf of the SRFC.
- **Mid June 2010**, meeting of the Technical and Financial Partners of the SRFC (date to be specified later).

.RPMC Forum (28 -30 June)

The 5th Forum will be held the Regional Programme for Marine and Coastal Conservation (RPMC) forum in Nouakchott from 28 to 30 June under the theme "biodiversity, our security in a changing world." Over 150 participants representing various organizations of environmental protection and civil society will participate. The Regional Programme for Marine and Coastal Conservation in West Africa (RPMC) will strengthen the potential for partnership and mobilization of stakeholders (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Senegal) and partners to address the serious threats that affect the coast of West Africa. The forum of Nouakchott will address among other issues: the protection of biodiversity, the management of marine protected areas (MPAs), the management of fisheries resources and fishing impacts on West African economies, the climatic change, the coastal dynamics and risks, the citizenship and biodiversity, etc.. All these themes will be illustrated through an exhibition of communication materials produced by different institutions involved in the forum