THE 3RD STOP IUU FISHING AWARD CONTEST

The 3rd Stop IUU Fishing Award contest will recognize fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) innovations being used in both small and large-scale fisheries that demonstrate creativity, success, and tangible solutions. These can be high tech, low tech or based on local or traditional knowledge.

First through third place winners will be selected by an international panel of judges composed of leading experts from the MCS field. Entries from developing countries are particularly encouraged. Winners will be flown to the 6th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-22 February 2019, where they will present their projects and receive their award.


About the Contest

Illegal fishing has been estimated to cause losses in the range of USD 10-23 billion annually as well as unquantified, indirect negative consequences for marine resources, fishers and food security.

In the short term, IUU fishing results in the unsustainable harvest of fish stocks and other loss of fish for future harvest, loss of nutrition and loss of income for legitimate fishers. In the long term, it can deplete local, and even some global, fish stocks to the point where they become commercially unviable or even push them to the brink of extinction.

Fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is a discipline where innovation and ingenuity are highly valued. Finding effective and creative ways to outsmart the illegal actors is crucial.

In the past two editions of the Stop IUU Fishing Award contest, a wide range of entries was received from around the world from governments, intergovernmental organizations, RFMOs, IT experts, entrepreneurs, and students.

Examples of entries included fishery trade data analysis for incorporation into MCS, DNA analysis translating to traceability, co-management in a small-scale fishery, digital labels for fish, SMS networks to stop dynamite fishing, data mining looking for patterns, electronic fishing permits, and software to identify choke points for IUU vessels in the ocean and at ports.

ENTRIES JUDGED ON:

Success: tangible impact in reducing IUU fishing.

Innovation: creative solutions to combatting IUU activities.

Feasibility and cost: practical and able to be replicated across fishing communities or adapted by others.

Potential: possible basis for implementing pilot projects.

Educational: sharing MCS practices that are new or not widely known that will strengthen global fight against IUU fishing.

ENTRIES WELCOME FROM:

• Individuals
• Government authorities
• RFMO/RFMAs
• International organizations
• Regional or sub-regional organizations
• Fishers & fisher’s organizations
• Cooperatives
• Community-based organizations
• NGOs
• Private Sector
• Academic/ research organizations
• Students
Winners of the 2nd Stop IUU Fishing Award

The winners of the 2nd Stop IUU Fishing Award contest were the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which is composed of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Seychelles, for two separate projects, and Peru’s Ministerio de la Producción for its SMS application for MCS.

The top prize was awarded to the IOC-Smartfish for its **Small Pelagic Fishing Vessel Pilot** in Tanzania, under which licensing authorities affixed colored plastic tags to registered vessels. The project proved effective, and its elegant simplicity made it accessible and replicable for other developing countries. See [5th GFETW Presentation (PDF) Here](#).

**Second award was for** IOC-SmartFish Programme’s **Projects on destructive fishing gear**, which provided partnerships, sponsorship and technical assistance to prevent Blast Fishing. See [5th GFETW Presentation (PDF) Here](#).

**Third prize was awarded to** Peru’s **SMS SISESAT Application** for the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activity to facilitate the fight against IUU fishing. See [5th GFETW Presentation (PDF) Here](#).

Entries may be made in the form of a written document and/or a short documentary video. Submissions should be made in English by December 10, 2018 to mcs.network@imcsnet.org or mailed to Stop IUU Fishing Award, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, 300B, Washington DC 20007, USA. Questions may also be directed to mcs.network@imcsnet.org.

**Note on Confidentiality:** It is recognized that the effectiveness of some successful MCS initiatives will be diminished if details are made public. All entries will be treated in confidence. A general summary about the entries will be listed on the Network’s website to inspire others and expand how these innovations are used. Consultations on published details will take place with entrants, where appropriate.

The International MCS Network aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among national organizations and institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS.