THE 2015 STOP IUU FISHING AWARD CONTEST

The 2nd 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 5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop in Auckland, New Zealand 7-11 March 2016 where they will be awarded prizes and deliver presentations.

See **www.imcsnet.org/2ndstopiuufishingaward** or **www.gfetw.org** for entry form and other details.

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 first Stop IUU Fishing Award contest, a wide range of entries was received from around the world from 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 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

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.

Timor-Leste's Community-Based IUU Reporting System

The SPOT© tracker is a personal GPS locator beacon available in the consumer electronics market. These hand-held devices are usually marketed to outdoor enthusiasts such as hikers. They automatically transmit positions every 15 minutes, in near to real time, via satellite, and positions can be viewed online.

The SPOT© tracker is central to Timor-Leste's Community-Based IUU Reporting System. One of two buttons was repurposed to report illegal fishing, while the other can be pressed in an emergency to emit a distress signal. It identifies the boat's exact location, and the international monitoring center sends SMS messages to the cellular phones of the heads of police and inspection departments. The innovation in this program lies in its simplicity and the working relationship it helped to build between artisanal fishers and the government, which loaned them the SPOT© trackers. The fishers' safety at sea is improved, and, in exchange, they use the devices to report in real time any illegal fishing activities they see in the areas they fish.

This system earned Timor-Leste first place in the Stop IUU Fishing Award contest out of more than 20 entries. At the Network's 4th GFETW in February 2014, a special session was dedicated to the winners, moderated by Chair of the Judging Panel Michele Kuruc of the World Wildlife Fund.

In presenting the award to Pedro Rodrigues of the Ministry of Fisheries, Ms. Kuruc said, "This successful project carried out by Timor-Leste shows that there are low-cost solutions that can both support the long-term interests of fishermen in combatting IUU activities—which undermine sustainable harvests of marine living resources— and improve safety out on the water in an environment which can sometimes be deadly."

Second place was awarded jointly to the Environmental Justice Foundation and Sierra Leone's Joint Maritime Commission, and third place was awarded to Stop Illegal Fishing.

From left: Michele Kuruc; Per Erik Bergh and Geofrey Nanyaro, both of Stop Illegal Fishing; Pedro Rodrigues; Mariah Boyle, of Fishwise; and Cephas Ralph, Chair of IMCS Network.

Entries may be made in the form of a written document and/or a short documentary video. Submissions should be made in English by **November 6, 2015** 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.

ISSF INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION

ISSF's objective is to improve the sustainability of global tuna stocks by developing and implementing verifiable, science-based practices, commitments and international management measures that result in tuna fisheries meeting the MSC certification standard 1 without conditions and becoming the industry standard for vessel owners, traders, processors and marketers.

INTERNATIONAL MCS NETWORK

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.