International MCS Network
Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop

7th GFETW Prospectus

“MOVING FROM WORDS TO ACTION”
Innovative Collaborative Partnerships to Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

01 – 05 August, 2022
Halifax, Nova Scotia
www.gfetw.org
Introducing the 7th GFETW:

The International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network will partner with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to convene the 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW) from 01-05 August, 2022 at the Halifax Convention Center in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This represents the first time that the GFETW has been hosted in North America and represents an important milestone as the Network celebrates its 21st anniversary. Due to the challenges and issues posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the International MCS Network coordinated the first ever virtual GFETW in July 2021. The Network will once again be meeting in person in 2022 to welcome Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) practitioners from around the world, as well as other fisheries stakeholders and organizations to participate in an interactive schedule of speakers, panel discussions, breakout sessions, a tabletop exercise, and a myriad of opportunities to engage and network with the global MCS community. The venue also offers the opportunity to schedule private meeting rooms for group and individual networking and engagement sessions.

About the 7th GFETW Host:

Welcome to Canada! As the world’s second largest country with the world’s longest coastline, Canada deploys over 600 Fishery Officers to help ensure marine areas, fisheries resources and habitats will be there for generations to come. As part of its responsibility for safeguarding Canadian fisheries and oceans resources, Canada works with several partner countries including Japan, the United States and Ecuador as well as non-governmental organizations such as Global Fishing Watch, OceanMind and Trygg-Mat Tracking to address illegal fishing issues at a global level. Canada regularly works with regional fisheries management organizations and coordinates its activities across several federal departments, including Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to manage ocean resources, defense, and global affairs. Canada recently announced a Dark Vessel Detection Program and deployed a new Dash-8 patrol aircraft. On Canada’s East Coast, fishing has long been a mainstay in many communities. We hope all 7th GFETW participants enjoy their time in Halifax and the down-home hospitality in this part of our country!

About the GFETW:

The GFETW is the only international meeting place designed specifically for global MCS practitioners. The GFETW offers a forum for sharing information and experiences on the challenges facing compliance officers. Participants will also be exposed to new and emerging compliance strategies and fisheries law enforcement “best practices.” Healthy and sustainable fisheries can only be achieved when fishing activities occur in conjunction with appropriate management measures coupled with an effectively implemented MCS regime that ensures
fishers demonstrate high levels of compliant behavior with management rules and regulations both domestically and on the high seas; in particular, via compliance with conservation and management measures reflecting international agreements via Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. Model global fisheries are subject to MCS regimes that provide adequate levels of monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement to respond to the threats. The GFETW offers MCS practitioners a unique opportunity to engage with their global counterparts, as well as other MCS stakeholders, to discuss and resolve issues related to their work. This fosters greater trust between MCS practitioners and facilitates increased international cooperation amongst national and regional fisheries compliance and enforcement authorities.

About the IMCS Network:

The International MCS Network is a voluntary and informal organization whose membership has grown to 68 member countries, the European Union, three RFMOs (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)), and one RFB (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency). In addition, the International MCS Network has provided formal Observer recognition to eight organizations or entities that provide resources in support of Network Members. These organizations include the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) of Australia, the Offshore Fisheries Development Council of Taiwan, Global Fishing Watch, Trygg Mat Tracking, AI2, Stop Illegal Fishing, and OceanMind. The Security Research Hub at the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy of Florida International University became the first academic Observer for their development of a virtual platform that facilitates information sharing related to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.

Photo courtesy of: Kyle Bedell
The International MCS Network celebrates its 21st anniversary in 2022 following the efforts of six like-minded countries who collectively expressed interest in working closer together to address the global issues associated with illegal fishing. These founding Network members - Australia, Canada, Chile, the European Union, Peru, and the United States – envisaged the Network would help to facilitate a decrease in IUU fishing activities via its expressed Mission:

“To promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination of the members of the Network through information exchange, capacity development and joint work in order to achieve the improved effectiveness of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities”

Photo courtesy of: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
GFETW Registration:

The International MCS Network actively encourages MCS practitioners from both developing and developed nations as well as members of stakeholder organizations involved in fisheries MCS to register and attend the 2022 7th GFETW at Halifax, Canada. Interested participants should pre-register to be vetted in order to confirm their link or relationship to State departments and Ministries of fisheries, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), regional fisheries bodies (RFBs), regional economic institutions, or other relevant MCS organizations or entities. Applications can be submitted through Eventbrite and must be received no later than 01 June 2022. A registration fee of $400 USD will be charged to participants who are approved following pre-registration. If participants pre-register prior to 15 January 2022 and pay before 31 January 2022, they will receive a 50 percent discount on the registration fee.

PRE-Registration is now open on Eventbrite via the following link:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-global-fisheries-enforcement-training-workshop-pre-registration-registration-160250923827

If you are selected to participate, you will be notified by the International MCS Network Secretariat within ten days of your date of application.

COVID-19 Disclaimer:

For those wishing to participate in the 7th GFETW in person, please note that restrictions associated with travelling to Canada are in constant development due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on requirements for travelling to Nova Scotia can be found on the www.gfetw.org website as well as on the following site, Travel, Testing and Boarders by Canada.ca:


Participants will also be required to show proof of vaccination at the IMCS Network registration desk at the Halifax Convention Center just prior to the start of the workshop. During pre-registration and at the conference, participants may be asked to sign confirmations of health and waivers acknowledging the risks of travel during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. During the conference participants will socially distance and wear masks in accordance with any local, regional, and national guidelines.
7th GFETW Thematic Focus:

‘MOVING FROM WORDS TO ACTION’ Innovative Collaborative Partnerships to Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

One of the key challenges for effective MCS is communication, cooperation, and coordination - within States, amongst States, amongst regional regimes, and with civil society. Recent developments in the fight against IUU fishing indicate that there is sufficient appetite amongst States to advance regional and global approaches to MCS and establish greater public-private partnerships. At a national level, States have begun to develop mechanisms that allow for inter-agency cooperation and coordination, for example between fisheries agencies, customs and tax authorities, navy and coast guard, and the police and prosecuting authorities.

On a regional level, some organizations have called upon their member States to strengthen information exchanges, increase the use of satellite technology, better transparency and improve monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities as well as identify innovative partnerships and international cooperation to strengthen the capacity of members to combat and prevent IUU fishing. For instance, in November 2020, the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, and Peru adopted a declaration in which they declared the need to optimize mechanisms for coordination, cooperation and the exchange of information in real time, with the aim of evidencing alleged IUU fishing practices and promoting the adoption of prompt and efficient measures at the local and regional levels. Moreover, they declared their willingness to Foster joint efforts to consolidate common interests aimed at ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the region. This includes a desire to increase joint regional surveillance operations at sea and establish sea-going navies and coast guard networks.

Photo courtesy of: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
At the global level, the FAO/ILO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) on IUU fishing and related matters is a strong example of cross-sectoral coordination. Indeed, since 2000, the Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have worked together to address IUU fishing and related matters. The JWG enhances collaboration to coordinate efforts to address IUU fishing and related matters within the context of each UN agency’s mandate: the FAO for fishing, the ILO for human safety and labour standards and the IMO on maritime safety. Cross-sectoral cooperation is essential to ensure these issues are addressed together, as they are strongly intertwined.

Further cooperative partnerships provide States with pathways towards the development of larger coalitions of private sector resources, including technology, data, policy groups and other civil organizations that work collaboratively to achieve shared goals. These public-private partnerships are facilitating the provision of analytical and MCS capacity building support to developing States, especially those that take an active approach to addressing IUU fishing.

The 7th GFETW will also consider the emerging complexities associated with transparency in and its effect on both corruption and beneficial ownership. It is evident that transparency on beneficial ownership is key to preventing, detecting, and prosecuting illicit fishing activities. However, the fisheries sector provides two mechanisms that allow beneficial owners to stay in the shadows: myriad corporate structures; and welcoming jurisdictions. Although international principles are established, there must be a genuine link between flag States and their flagged vessels. Some international registries have few restrictions on individuals or companies who want to register vessels in a jurisdiction other than their own, commonly known as Flags of Convenience. Vessel owners who seek to remain hidden may have their fishing vessels flagged with such States to enjoy opacity. This opacity is often combined with poor regulations, such as compliance with labor and safety standards. The possibility for vessel owners to choose jurisdictions that have more favorable secrecy laws than their own, and to use corporate structures to hide their identity, helps to foster corruption.
Be a part of the 7th GFETW Program:

Those organizations, entities or individuals interested in submitting short paper, presentations, or videos relevant to fisheries MCS can send an abstract of the intended submission along with a brief CV of the author(s) to gfetw@imcsnet.org on a rolling basis until **15 July 2022**. All submissions will be reviewed and evaluated, and the authors of those abstracts accepted for inclusion in the GFETW program will be notified of their acceptance.

Preference will be given to presentations that highlight initiatives or activities to foster international cooperation for effective MCS: both collaborative activities that are proven to illustrate “best practice” methods in the fight against IUU fishing, as well as new and emerging tools and technologies developed to be responsive to current challenges, especially those that involve innovative cooperative partnerships to combating IUU fishing. Presentations should address the following four themes of the 7th GFETW:

- **Cooperation and Partnerships**, where we are ‘United in the Fight Against Illegal Fishing’;
- **Risk Assessment and Analysis**, where we look to ‘Uncover Hidden Activities’;
- **Technology as an Enabler**, where we are ‘Unwavering in Pursuit’; and
- **Transparency**, where we seek to ‘Unmask the Perpetrators of IUU Fishing’.

Photo courtesy of: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
7th GFETW Plenary Discussions and Dialogue:

The 7th GFETW will address relevant challenges in fisheries MCS through interactive conversations with participants. Rather than relying on a one-way delivery of presentations, the 7th GFETW is scheduled to include a tabletop exercise designed to engage maritime security, military, and coast guard participants with national and regional fisheries officers representing administrations or organizations dedicated to fisheries compliance and enforcement and stopping IUU fishing. Several panel discussions on relevant IUU fishing topics will comprise a wide range of fisheries MCS experience and expertise, and breakout sessions will address emerging technologies employed in fisheries MCS and the challenges of beneficial ownership and corruption which are tied to overall transparency in fisheries.

Photo courtesy of: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
The Success of Past Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshops:

The International MCS Network has successfully built a climate of trust and mutual respect between MCS professionals and fisheries enforcement authorities from all interested countries. Outcomes of past GFETWs have improved the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among responsible national and regional authorities.

Previous in-person GFETWs were held in:

- Bangkok, Thailand (2019), with the theme ‘Closing the Net: Global cooperation between flag, coastal, port and market States for effective enforcement of international and domestic law’;
- Auckland, New Zealand (2016), with the theme ‘Working together to combat IUU fishing to ensure the sustainability of world fish stocks’;
- San José, Costa Rica (2014), with the theme ‘Protection of the livelihoods of artisanal and regional fishing communities’ dependent on sustainable fisheries’;
- Maputo, Mozambique (2011), with the theme ‘Compliance with and effective enforcement of fishing laws’;
- Trondheim, Norway (2008), with the theme ‘Effective and innovative tools and methods being used to detect IUU including apprehension techniques’; and
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2005), with the theme ‘Sharing information and experiences and receive training on a broad array of MCS topics’.

The Global Impact of IUU Fishing:

All States have a role to play in deterring IUU fishing. Efforts by a State to manage, control and enforce measures designed to ensure the sustainability and legality of fishing activities are only rendered effective in combatting IUU fishing if they are developed and implemented through the lens of international cooperation, collaboration and the sharing of information and resources at global, regional, and national levels. The pervasive trend of IUU fishing carries negative consequences not only for legal operators but also for the livelihoods and cultures of coastal communities dependent on fisheries for food security. Furthermore, IUU fishing may be associated with other crimes, undermining, for example, international labor standards. The global annual losses of revenue derived from IUU fishing activities has been estimated to range between USD $10 – 23.5 billion. IUU fishing undermines the sustainable utilization of fish stocks, in some cases to the point where stocks are depleted, the ecosystem is irreversibly damaged, and the long-term sustainability of some species threatened.
Sponsors and Supporters of the International MCS Network 7th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop:

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