

## REPORT OF THE 2022 MEETING OF THE PORT INSPECTION EXPERT GROUP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND ASSISTANCE

*(Online, 13 June 2022)*

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The 2022 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG), held online on 13 June 2022, was opened by the Chair (Mr. Alexandre Kempff, EU) who welcomed the work group participants.

### 2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

Mr. Vincent Chapel (EU) was appointed to serve as rapporteur.

The Chair then gave a detailed presentation of the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda was adopted and has been attached as **Appendix 1**.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2**.

### 3. Review of progress since previous meeting

By way of introduction, the Chair recalled the background of the PIEG since 2017 as well as its mandate under Rec. 16-18. It was also recalled that, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to hold a meeting of the group in 2021. The Chair also recalled the work that has been carried out by the PIEG, in particular with regard to the port inspection training manual which had been developed by the external consultants (MRAG). During the meeting held in 2020, the members of the PIEG commented on this manual, in particular on its structure, and that it had been developed from an inspector's point of view. After the 2020 meeting, a revised version was approved by the PIEG. The translations of the manual into English, French and Spanish were also specifically reviewed with regard to the technical terms used. The final version of the manual is now available in the three official languages of ICCAT.

The Chair also reminded participants of the mechanism by which Contracting Parties and Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) may request assistance, based on a questionnaire developed by the PIEG in 2017-2018. The Chair highlighted that a review of the responses to the questionnaire has enabled prioritisation of the requests. After the meeting held in 2020, it was intended to carry out a pilot assessment mission in Côte d'Ivoire. However, it has not been possible to carry out this mission due to the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair recalled that CPCs were informed of the activities of the PIEG during the 2021 ICCAT annual meeting ([Update on the activities of the port inspection expert group for capacity building and assistance \[PWG-406/2021\]](#)).

With regard to the trainings held by the different CPCs represented in the PIEG, the EU-EFCA reported on its activities carried out within the framework of the PESCAO Project (West Africa, Gulf of Guinea), in particular the training of fishery inspectors. These trainings, usually held in situ, have been strongly impacted by the pandemic. To address this situation, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EU-EFCA) has built its capacities for online trainings. An ICCAT module delivered by the ICCAT Secretariat has been tested in some trainings. EU-EFCA continues to promote the use of the port inspection training manual. The manual is available to EU Member States on the EFCA online training platform.

Senegal presented the training delivered in December 2021 for national inspectors, a training held within the framework of the PESCAO Project in cooperation with EU-EFCA and a national trainer. This training contained an ICCAT module. Senegal highlighted the good synergy between the ICCAT Secretariat and the EU-EFCA trainers. The same applies for the training held by EU-EFCA in March 2022 in Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan) in partnership with the Institut de Sécurité Maritime Interrégionale (ISMI), and with the support of national trainers.

The United States informed the members of the PIEG of progress since the last meeting. Due to the pandemic, the activities have mainly been carried out online. The United States indicated that they are working to incorporate the ICCAT port inspection manual into the national and international training programmes (in countries of Southeast Asia).

Canada recalled the impact of the pandemic on the organisation of trainings. This year, Canada will resume its training activities and work to improve the national manuals. Canada is also working to develop international cooperation on training.

Morocco highlighted the importance of this manual for inspector training.

Tunisia also confirmed that this manual is very useful. Currently, the manual has not yet been incorporated into national trainings in Tunisia, but it will be taken into account for future trainings.

Namibia indicated that it had not yet implemented the manual within the framework of national trainings. It reminded the PIEG participants of its wish to cooperate with other countries for training of its inspectors.

The ICCAT Secretariat recalled the cooperation agreement in the area of training between Morocco and Senegal. This cooperation concerned in port inspection of the tuna fishery. Asked about this point, the expert from Morocco was not in a position to confirm if this bilateral cooperation was foreseen in the near future. The expert from Senegal highlighted the importance of this type of cooperation between CPCs.

The Chair of the PIEG concluded this agenda item recalling the general interest and demonstrated usefulness of this port inspection training manual. Incorporation of this manual in CPC national training programmes was also encouraged.

#### **4. Consideration of opportunities and partners to deliver training utilizing the new manual, including under ABNJ funding**

The ICCAT Secretariat briefly recalled the financing opportunities under the FAO ABNJ Programme<sup>1</sup>. The objective would be to request financing for trainings / capacity building activities with the ICCAT port inspection module. The current proposal foresees 1 to 2 sessions per year, of a duration of 2/3 days with 25 participants (i.e., some 125 inspectors in total), with an estimated budget of 450,000 dollars (i.e., 5 trainings + 5 assessment missions) over 48 months. It will be essential to find trainers to carry out these trainings.

The EU confirmed its interest in participating in these trainings and providing trainers. The United States and Canada also indicated their interest. Notwithstanding, the United States indicated that it will be useful to have more details on the organisation and planning of these trainings. The experts from Gabon, Namibia, Nigeria and Senegal expressed their wish to benefit from these trainings. Namibia stated that its Maritime Institute could be a partner for these trainings. Senegal confirmed that national trainers could also participate. In summary, and subject to ABNJ financing, the EU, Canada, Senegal and the United States could establish a team of trainers for the ICCAT port inspection module, subject to their availability.

The Chair proposed, based on the experience of the trainings already carried out, to include in the Programme budget the paper printing of training manuals for participants. The manual must be printed in the 3 official languages of ICCAT. This proposal was supported by the ICCAT Secretariat and the members of the PIEG. This item will be included in the ABNJ financing request. The ICCAT Secretariat stated that, to benefit from ABNJ financing, the FAO logo must be printed on the manual. There was no objection from the PIEG on this point.

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep-sea Living Marine Resources and Ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The expert from Canada also asked the PIEG whether it was appropriate to develop a central repository of national training programmes. This could avoid duplications and would facilitate cooperation between CPCs. The PIEG supported this request by Canada. The Secretariat requested the other CPCs to keep it informed of the training programmes in order to collect the relevant information. For confidentiality purposes, the Chair of the PIEG proposed to house this information at the PIEG level through a password-protected portion of the ICCAT website. The United States and Morocco supported this proposal.

For information purposes, the Chair shared with the members of the PIEG the internet address of the website with information on the capacity building projects recently set up by the FAO<sup>2</sup>.

## 5. Determination of next steps in the assessment of needs and review of training requests

The Chair recalled the prioritisation of training requests (CPC groups A, B, and C). All the details of this process are available in the reports of the previous meetings of the PIEG.

With regard to group A, priority CPCs, a pre-training in situ assessment is foreseen. Côte d'Ivoire was chosen as the pilot country in 2020. Due to the pandemic, this assessment could not be carried out. Therefore, it would be desirable to relaunch the assessment process in 2022. Senegal confirmed that it volunteers to participate in this assessment mission. The Chair indicated that, if necessary, a consultant could be hired. The assessment team could at least be composed of experts from Senegal and EU-EFCA.

To better assess the situation, the ICCAT Secretariat asked experts from CPCs to update their pre-assessment questionnaires. To date, only Nigeria has transmitted an updated version of its responses. Furthermore, the Chair informed Gabon, which expressed its desire to benefit from trainings for its inspectors during this meeting, that it must transmit the pre-assessment questionnaires to the Secretariat so that the PIEG can review them and prioritise its request.

In conclusion, the Chair proposed that the 5 training sessions envisaged should be aimed at Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and a fifth country to be determined from Guinea (Rep.), Mauritania, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Suriname and the PIEG participants did not express any objections. The United States and other CPCs expressed support in principle, requesting a more detailed planning discussion before committing personnel.

## 6. Other matters

With regard to funding under the ABNJ Programme, the ICCAT Secretariat would like to receive a letter of expression of interest from each CPC so as to submit the request as quickly as possible. The Chair of the PIEG considered that the report of this meeting should be sufficient to demonstrate the interest of the CPCs in implementing or benefitting from activities related to the Programme. This point of view was shared by the different experts of the PIEG. Therefore, at this stage, the PIEG agreed to use the meeting report for this purpose.

The expert from the United States highlighted that work should be done to prepare the planning of the activities under the ABNJ Programme. The Chair signalled that he agrees with this proposal, which must be discussed with the other CPCs that have agreed to provide trainers.

The Chair also asked the Secretariat to send letters to the different CPCs to urge them to include the ICCAT manual in their national training programmes for fishery inspectors (see point 5 of the [Report of the 2020 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance](#)).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/capacity-development/en/>

## **7. Adoption of report and closure**

It was agreed that the rapporteur for the meeting would prepare a draft report of the meeting which would be adopted by correspondence.

Finally, to conclude, the Chair proposed to continue to hold one meeting of the PIEG annually. No objection to this proposal was raised, and the Chair closed the meeting and thanked the port inspection experts for their participation in the discussions.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Review of progress since previous meeting
4. Consideration of opportunities and partners to deliver training utilizing the new manual, including under ABNJ funding
5. Determination of next steps in the assessment of needs and review of training requests
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of report and adjournment

## List of Participants

**CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Hentour**, Abderrahmane

Sous Directeur du contrôle des activités de la pêche et d'aquaculture, Ministère de la Pêche et des Productions Halieutiques, Route des quatre canons, 16000

Tel: +213 559 139 817, Fax: +213 214 33161, E-Mail: [abdou.hentour@gmail.com](mailto:abdou.hentour@gmail.com)**BRAZIL****Pierin Piccolo**, Natali Isabela

Aquaculture and Fisheries Secretary - Department of Register and Monitoring Setor de Autarquias Sul Q. 2 1 andar - DRM/SAP, 70070-906 Brasilia, DF

Tel: +55 21 708 00220; +55 613 276 4439, E-Mail: [natali.piccolo@agro.gov.br](mailto:natali.piccolo@agro.gov.br); [drm.sap@agro.gov.br](mailto:drm.sap@agro.gov.br); [gab.sap@agro.gov.br](mailto:gab.sap@agro.gov.br)**CANADA****Browne**, Dion

Senior Compliance Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 81 East White Hills Road, St. John's, NL A1C5X1

Tel: +1 709 772 4412; +1 709 685 1531, E-Mail: [dion.browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:dion.browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)**EUROPEAN UNION****Kempff**, Alexandre

European Fisheries Control Agency, Edificio Odriozola Av. Garcia Barbon 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 986 120 601, E-Mail: [alexandre.kempff@efca.europa.eu](mailto:alexandre.kempff@efca.europa.eu)**GABON****Boupana Bola**, Bernice Carol

BP: 9498, Libreville Estuaire

Tel: +241 075 39220, E-Mail: [carolboupana@gmail.com](mailto:carolboupana@gmail.com); [caroligaboughi@outlook.fr](mailto:caroligaboughi@outlook.fr)**MAURITANIA****Moulaye LV**, Ahmed Ould

Directeur des Opérations a la Garde Côtes Mauritanienes, Ministère des pêches et de l'Economie Maritime, Siege à Nouadhibou, 260 Dakhlet

Tel: +222 220 84909, Fax: +222 457 46312, E-Mail: [ahmedouldmoulaye@gmail.com](mailto:ahmedouldmoulaye@gmail.com); [ops@gcm.mr](mailto:ops@gcm.mr)**MEXICO****Soler Benitez**, Bertha Alicia

Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y pesca (CONAPESCA), Av. Camarón Sábalo 1210 Fracc. Sábalo Country Club., 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa

Tel: +52 669 915 6900 Ext. 58462, E-Mail: [berthaa.soler@gmail.com](mailto:berthaa.soler@gmail.com)**MOROCCO****Sabbane**, Kamal

Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Quartier Administratif BP 476, 10090 Agdal, Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 196, Fax: +212 537 688 382, E-Mail: [sabbane@mpm.gov.ma](mailto:sabbane@mpm.gov.ma)**NAMIBIA****Bester**, Desmond R.

Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz

Tel: +264 63 20 2912, E-Mail: [desmond.bester@mfmr.gov.na](mailto:desmond.bester@mfmr.gov.na)**NIGERIA****Garba**, Usman

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 1 Wilmont Point Road, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, 101241 Victoria Island, Lagos

Tel: +234 802 086 3461; +234 706 819 6006, E-Mail: [garbashafa@gmail.com](mailto:garbashafa@gmail.com)

**SENEGAL**

**Fall**, Cheikh

Chef de la Division des Inspections et du Contrôle, Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches (DPSP),  
Cité fenêtre mermoz, BP 3656, Dakar

Tel: +221 775 659 478, E-Mail: cheihf@gmail.com

**TUNISIA**

**Sohlobji**, Donia

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la  
Pêche, 32 Rue Alain Savary, 2036 Le Belvédère

Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: doniasohlobji1@gmail.com; bft@iresa.agrinet.tn

**UNITED STATES**

**Baxter**, Everett

NOAA, 1315 East West Hwy; Suite 3301, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8272, E-Mail: Everett.Baxter@noaa.gov

***OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES***

**BOLIVIA**

**Cortez Franco**, Limbert Ismael

Jefe de la Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima (UBPM), Calle 20 de Octubre 2502, esq. Pedro Salazar, La Paz

Tel: +591 6 700 9787, Fax: +591 2 291 4069, E-Mail: limbert.cortez@protonmail.ch; limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo;  
licor779704@gmail.com

**RAPPORTEUR**

**Chapel**, Vincent

European Fisheries Control Agency - EFCA, Avenida García Barbón, 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 986 120673, Fax: +34 88612 5239, E-Mail: vincent.chapel@efca.europa.eu

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**ICCAT Secretariat**

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

**Cheatle**, Jenny

**Parrilla Moruno**, Alberto Thais

**Baity**, Dawn

**Samedy**, Valérie

**De Andrés**, Marisa

**ICCAT INTERPRETERS**

**Faillace**, Linda

**Fleming**, Jack

**González**, Fernando

**Herrero Grandgirard**, Patricia

**Liberas**, Christine

**Linaae**, Cristina