

## Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG)

(Online, 30 May 2023)

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG), held online on 30 May 2023, was opened by its Chair, Mr Alexandre Kempff (European Union - European Fisheries Control Agency (EU-EFCA)), who welcomed each participant and emphasised the high level of participation in this follow-on meeting.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

As for the 2022 meeting, on the proposal of the PIEG Chair, Mr Vincent Chapel (EU-EFCA) was appointed rapporteur for the meeting, without any objections from the participants.

The PIEG Chair then presented in detail the draft agenda for the meeting (Circular No. 3915/2023 of 8 May 2023). The meeting agenda was adopted, with no objections or comments from the experts and is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The List of participants is contained in **Appendix 2**.

### 3. Review of progress since previous meeting, including results of the Cote d'Ivoire needs assessment

The PIEG Chair proposed to hold a round-table discussion so that each participating expert could present the training activities carried out since June 2022 in the context of port inspection.

The EU-EFCA reported on its activities carried out under the Programme for Improved Regional Fisheries Governance in Western Africa (PESCAO) Project implemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency in the 13 Member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC). These activities focused mainly on training of fisheries surveillance centre operators (analysis and cross-checking of vessel monitoring system (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) data), training of inspectors and legal assistance, in particular to Togo in drafting implementing texts for implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and ICCAT obligations. Two workshops on inter-administration cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing and port inspections were also held in Gambia and Senegal. These workshops led to the drafting of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Finally, the EU-EFCA informed the experts that the FAO's capacity-building portal had been updated with information on the European Union and PESCAO<sup>1</sup>.

Mauritania confirmed that it had participated in a number of trainings under the EU-funded PESCAO project (training of trainers, training for its operators of the fisheries surveillance centre in Nouadhibou, and had received support for drafting of its national action plan to combat IUU fishing).

Guinea (Rep.) informed the members of the Group that a new team had been established to implement the PSMA with the support of the FAO. Guinea (Rep.) expressed a need for training of its new agents.

As regards Canada, the expert indicated that no specific activities had been carried out under the PIEG since the last meeting. Canada reiterated its interest in taking part in training (as a trainer), and that its participation would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/capacity-development/en/>

The United States reported on training and cooperation activities carried out in Asia (Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia) and South/Central America (Ecuador and El Salvador). The United States remains willing to participate in training courses (as a trainer) organised within the framework of the PIEG.

Namibia indicated that it had received general training on PSMA in May 2023. This training was organised by Stop Illegal Fishing, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

In February 2023, Nigeria received training in port inspection (methodology). This training course was run by the FCWC.

Similarly, in March 2023, in cooperation with the NGOs Global Fishing Watch and Stop Illegal Fishing as well as the company Trygg Matt Tracking (TMT), a general training course on port State control measures was organised for Ghana.

Further to this exchange of information, the ICCAT Secretariat emphasised the importance of exchanging this type of information to improve coordination of training and avoid duplication. Cooperation with other partners in the Gulf of Guinea could also be envisaged.

To complete this overview of the activities carried out since the last PIEG meeting, Mr Vincent Chapel (EU-EFCA) and Mr Cheik Fall (Senegal) presented the results of their mission to assess training needs in Côte d'Ivoire. The mission took place on 17-18 April 2023 in Abidjan. It took place under good conditions, with effective support from the Côte d'Ivoire authorities in charge of fisheries. The schedule made it possible to meet the authorities that may be involved in implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (Rec. 18-09)* and to identify training needs. It also highlighted the importance of inter-administrative cooperation, particularly for issue of port entry permits for foreign fishing vessels. A full report on this mission was prepared and circulated to the Group experts. The next mission will take place in Nigeria on 6-7 June 2023. Initially, a U.S. expert was to join the expert appointed by the EU-EFCA, but due to a problem in obtaining a visa, the EU expert will travel alone to Abuja (Nigeria) for this needs assessment mission.

With regard to these needs assessment missions, Guinea (Rep.) asked whether they concerned all the CPCs in the Group. In response, the Chair of the PIEG and the ICCAT Secretariat reminded that the CPCs concerned had been selected based on an assessment of the responses to the questionnaire on capacities and training needs that was developed by the Group in 2018. On this point, Senegal asked that the list of priority CPCs to receive these missions be updated. The PIEG Chair recalled that this was entirely possible and that it could be done following submission of the updated versions of the CPC responses to the questionnaire. This possibility was reiterated in the circular announcing the annual meeting of the PIEG. For the 2023 meeting, no update was received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

#### **4. Consideration of opportunities and partners to deliver training utilizing the new manual**

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

These two agenda items were discussed together.

Having reported on the progress of activities, the Chair of the Group confirmed that the next needs assessment mission would be conducted in Abuja (Nigeria) on 6-7 June 2023. As regards planning of the training courses to be held in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria (initially scheduled for July 2023), the Chair of the Group indicated that, at the time of the meeting, nothing could be confirmed, given the lack of visibility for the financing of these courses. On this point, the ICCAT Secretariat indicated that funding under the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO/ABNJ) had not yet been finalised, with discussions on some points still underway. However, the ICCAT Secretariat informed PIEG that it had a budget line that could be used to organise at least one training course and to start printing the manuals. The EFCA-EU indicated that it could help to finance this first training course under the PESCAO project.

With a view to planning future training courses and needs assessment missions, the ICCAT Secretariat reminded that, according to the rules governing the use of FAO/ABNJ funds, only one training course and one needs assessment mission per year could be carried out over the duration of the FAO/ABNJ funding (5 years), but it was agreed that the possibility of carrying out more than one needs assessment per year could be examined.

The Chair of the PIEG reiterated his request to the CPCs concerned to submit the updates of their responses to the questionnaire so that, if necessary, the order of priorities between the CPCs (groups "A", "B" and "C") could be updated. In these updates, the CPCs must specify the training courses they have already received (topics and participants) in order to avoid duplication.

Finally, Canada, Senegal and the United States confirmed their interest in taking part in the training courses as trainers.

## **6. Other matters**

Morocco raised the issue of the regulatory references that must be amended so the manual is up to date. The Chair of the PIEG took advantage of this request to mention the difficulty of keeping the manual up to date from a regulatory point of view, particularly due to the constant evolution of ICCAT regulations. This led to a discussion on whether or not it was necessary to retain all the regulatory references in the body of the manual. In general, the Group was in favour of removing the regulatory references (or adding footnotes) and retaining only the titles of the recommendations (which rarely vary) as suggested by the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat will revise the manual accordingly before it goes to press. Priority will be given to printing the English and French versions, with a view to having manuals available for both the forthcoming training courses in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

The expert from Canada asked the Group about the use of ICCAT manuals by NGOs in their training courses. In response, the Chair of the Group indicated that these manuals had been developed primarily for the authorities and authorised staff of the CPCs. The question of whether these manuals should be published on the ICCAT website, in the public portion or with restricted access, was also discussed. At the suggestion of the Chair of the Group, and pending more in-depth discussions at the next PIEG meeting, the manuals will be accessible on a transitional basis on the ICCAT website with restricted access. This point will be discussed in greater detail at the next PIEG meeting scheduled for 2024.

Finally, in order to avoid duplication of trainings, the PIEG stressed how important it is for experts to exchange information on the various training courses that have been or will be delivered in the CPCs.

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

At the suggestion of the Chair of the Group, it was agreed that the rapporteur would prepare a draft report of the meeting, which would be circulated by email by the ICCAT Secretariat to the PIEG members for adoption by written procedure.

## **Agenda**

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

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