



**USAID | GHANA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## Fisheries Law Enforcement Training



MAY 19-21, 2016

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



This publication is available electronically on the Coastal Resources Center's website at [http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects\\_page/ghanasfmp/](http://www.crc.uri.edu/projects_page/ghanasfmp/)

**For more information** on the Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project, contact:

USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project  
Coastal Resources Center  
Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Rhode Island  
220 South Ferry Rd.  
Narragansett, RI 02882 USA  
Tel: 401-874-6224 Fax: 401-874-6920 Email: [info@crc.uri.edu](mailto:info@crc.uri.edu)

**Citation:** Friends of the Nation (2015). Fisheries Law Enforcement Training, May 19-21, 2015. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island and Friends of the Nation, Adiembra – Parks and Gardens. GH2014\_POL058\_FON 30 pp.

**Authority/Disclaimer:**

Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001), awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island, and entitled the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

**Cover photo:** Cross-section of participants in a group photograph (Credit: Philip Prah, FoN)

## Detailed Partner Contact Information:

**USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)**  
**10 Obodai St., Mempeasem, East Legon, Accra, Ghana**

**Telephone: +233 0302 542497 Fax: +233 0302 542498**

Maurice Knight	Chief of Party <a href="mailto:maurice@crc.uri.edu">maurice@crc.uri.edu</a>
Kofi Agbogah	Senior Fisheries Advisor <a href="mailto:kagbogah@henmpoano.org">kagbogah@henmpoano.org</a>
Nii Odenkey Abbey	Communications Officer <a href="mailto:nii.sfmp@crcuri.org">nii.sfmp@crcuri.org</a>
Bakari Nyari	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist <a href="mailto:hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org">hardinyari.sfmp@crcuri.org</a>
Brian Crawford	Project Manager, CRC <a href="mailto:brian@crc.uri.edu">brian@crc.uri.edu</a>
Justice Odoi	USAID Administrative Officer Representative <a href="mailto:Jodoi@usaid.gov">Jodoi@usaid.gov</a>

Kofi.Agbogah  
[kagbogah@henmpoano.org](mailto:kagbogah@henmpoano.org)  
Stephen Kankam  
[skankam@henmpoano.org](mailto:skankam@henmpoano.org)  
Hen Mpoano  
38 J. Cross Cole St. Windy Ridge  
Takoradi, Ghana  
233 312 020 701

Andre de Jager  
[adejager@snvworld.org](mailto:adejager@snvworld.org)  
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation  
#161, 10 Maseru Road,  
E. Legon, Accra, Ghana  
233 30 701 2440

Donkris Mevuta  
Kyei Yamoah  
[info@fonghana.org](mailto:info@fonghana.org)  
Friends of the Nation  
Parks and Gardens  
Adiembra-Sekondi, Ghana  
233 312 046 180

Peter Owusu Donkor  
Spatial Solutions  
[powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net](mailto:powusu-donkor@spatialdimension.net)  
#3 Third Nautical Close,  
Nungua, Accra, Ghana  
233 020 463 4488

Thomas Buck  
[tom@ssg-advisors.com](mailto:tom@ssg-advisors.com)  
SSG Advisors  
182 Main Street  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 735-1162

Victoria C. Koomson  
[cewefia@gmail.com](mailto:cewefia@gmail.com)  
CEWEFIA  
B342 Bronyibima Estate  
Elmina, Ghana  
233 024 427 8377

Lydia Sasu  
[daawomen@daawomen.org](mailto:daawomen@daawomen.org)  
DAA  
Darkuman Junction, Kaneshie Odokor  
Highway  
Accra, Ghana  
233 302 315894

Gifty Asmah  
[giftyasmah@Daasgift.org](mailto:giftyasmah@Daasgift.org)  
Daasgift Quality Foundation  
Headmaster residence, Sekondi College  
Sekondi, Western Region, Ghana  
233 243 326 178

### For additional information on partner activities:

CRC/URI:	<a href="http://www.crc.uri.edu">http://www.crc.uri.edu</a>
CEWEFIA:	<a href="http://cewefia.weebly.com/">http://cewefia.weebly.com/</a>
DAA:	<a href="http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa">http://womenthrive.org/development-action-association-daa</a>
Daasgift:	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-ENGO/135372649846101">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-ENGO/135372649846101</a>
Friends of the Nation:	<a href="http://www.fonghana.org">http://www.fonghana.org</a>
Hen Mpoano:	<a href="http://www.henmpoano.org">http://www.henmpoano.org</a>
SNV:	<a href="http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana">http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana</a>
SSG Advisors:	<a href="http://ssg-advisors.com/">http://ssg-advisors.com/</a>
Spatial Solutions:	<a href="http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.html">http://www.spatialsolutions.co/id1.html</a>

## **ACRONYMS**

APW	Ali Poli Watsa
CF	Chief Fishermen
DGN	Drift Gill Net
FC	Fisheries Commission
FEU	Fisheries Enforcement Unit
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishers Association
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
GPS	Ghana Police Service
HP	Horse Power
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
IUU	Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MMDA's	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
SOP	Standard Operations Procedure
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WR	Western Region

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CONTENTS

ACRONYMS .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
LIST OF FIGURES .....	v
LIST OF TABLES .....	v
INTRODUCTION .....	1
METHODOLOGY .....	1
TRAINING SESSION .....	1
Opening Statements .....	2
History and Importance of the Fisheries Laws .....	3
Fisheries Regulations, Standard Operations and MCS .....	6
Code of Conduct for Enforcement, Approaches and Communication .....	8
Field Study Tour .....	13
Traditional Fisheries Governance and Challenges .....	14
Lessons and Global Experience for Improved Fisheries Management .....	16
National Marine Fisheries Management Plan.....	17
Closing Ceremony .....	18
APPENDIX 1 .....	23

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Opening Statement .....	2
Figure 2 Mr. Alex Sabah (Western Regional Director of FC) delivering his presentation .....	4
Figure 3 Mr. Papa Yaw Atobrah (Central Regional Director of FC) delivering his presentation .....	5
Figure 4 Mr. Solomon Kusi Ampofo addressing the trainees .....	6
Figure 5 Mr. Atobrah explaining the standard operations of enforcement.....	7
Figure 6 Mr. Boachie-Yiadom presenting on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management .....	10
Figure 7 Some police officers actively engaging in the lessons by identifying ecosystem services and benefits and linking them to real life situations .....	11
Figure 8 L/Cprl Agyemang Opambour sharing on effective beach combing strategies.....	12
Figure 9 ASP. Emmanuel Addae delivering his presentation.....	13
Figure 10 Marine Police Officers (in mufti) interacting with some fishermen .....	14
Figure 11 Resource persons sharing on traditional fisheries governance.....	15
Figure 12 Mrs. Emelia Abaka Edu Speaking.....	16
Figure 13 Resource persons sharing study tour lessons from Tanzania and Senegal.....	17
Figure 14 Resource persons sharing lessons the Philippines.....	17
Figure 15 Mr. Yamoah taking participants through fisheries management options and plans	18
Figure 16 Cross-section of trainees, busily answering examination questions .....	19
Figure 17 Trainees Receiving Certificates.....	20
Figure 18 Trainees Receiving Certificate .....	21
Figure 19 Trainees Receiving Certificate .....	22

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 showing differences between the three fishing fleets .....	4
--	---

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Sustainable Fisheries Management (SFMP) is working with the police administration, Ghana Navy and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development to strengthen the capacity of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU). SFMP areas of support are focused more on shore based and community level Monitoring Control & Surveillance (MCS) improvements. To a lesser extent, it also focuses on understanding and coordinating regional Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing issues. A series of fisheries enforcement training has therefore been outlined for Marine Police Unit of the Ghana Police Service to contribute to improving enforcement for the adoption of responsible fishing practices by fishers.

This report presents outcome of the second in the series of fisheries enforcement training since the inception of SFMP. The three-day training workshop was held at the office of Friends of the Nation (FoN) from the 19<sup>th</sup> of May to the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The training brought together 30 officers of the marine police as well as officials from the Fisheries Commission. Resource persons with dignified backgrounds from Fisheries Commission (FC), Friends of the Nation and the Ghana Police Service (GPS) facilitated the three-day training.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The training was facilitated using mixed methods of delivery, including:

- Interactive Power-Point Presentations
- Experience Sharing
- Open Forum Segment
- Simulation exercises
- Field Study Tours

English was the main medium of communication during the training. However, Fante and Twi were often used where appropriate.

## **TRAINING SESSION**

This session presents the various discussions and activities spanning the three day period. It is grouped into the following themes:

- Opening Statements
- History and importance of the Fisheries Laws
- Fisheries Regulations, Standard Operations and MCS
- Code of Conduct for Enforcement, Approaches and Communications
- Field Study Tour
- Fisheries Management
- Traditional Fisheries Governance and Challenges
- Lessons and Global Experiences for Improved Fisheries Management
- Closing Ceremony

## Opening Statements



**Figure 1 Opening Statement**

Keynote addresses were delivered by invited dignitaries who chaired the opening of the training workshop. They included Mr. Donkris Mevuta (Executive Director, FoN), Mr. Alex Sabah (Western Regional Director, Fisheries Commission) and Chief Superintendent Samuel Owusu-Berko (Director, Marine Police, Railways and Ports).

Mr. Donkris Mevuta, in his welcome address, hinted that although there are laws governing the fisheries sector, level of compliance is very low due to a similar low level of enforcement. He noted that this training serves as an opportunity for enhancing capacities needed to ensure effective enforcement of the fisheries laws. Recalling a ‘Yellow Card’ warning against Ghana a year back due to illegalities in the fisheries sector, he informed that the Fisheries Commission together with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) has developed a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) which implementation could go a long way to revamp Ghana’s fisheries industry.

Counting on the Marine Police to enforce the laws, Mr. Mevuta hinted on SFMP’s efforts to strengthen the prosecutorial chain so not to make vain all the efforts put in to ensure successful arrests. Additionally, the SFMP is putting measures in place to refurbish and furnish the marine police camp at Anyinase in the Ellembelle District, where could be a possibility of having further competence development trainings. He informed that this initiative is still being discussed and when finally implemented, it could help to accelerate and enhance the trainees’ opportunity to be promoted. On this note, he thanked all participants for honoring the invitation to participate in the training.

Mr. Alex Sabah begun his statement with much appreciation to FoN, USAID and SFMP for organizing such a training session aimed at enhancing the capacity of law enforcers to operationalize the enforcement of the Fisheries Act and Legislative Instrument (LI). He appealed that since fisheries contributes enormously to the national development, managing



the fisheries resource is a civic responsibility; and that without enforcement, there is no management. On that note, he urged all the officers to take the training very seriously and ensure that their capacities are well enhanced for the task ahead.

Chief Supt. Berko, in his opening statement, explained that much attention is on the ocean today due to the vast economic wealth associated with it. He added that the need to protect the ocean and its resources cannot be overemphasized. He informed that the Fisheries sector faces great challenges especially related to IUU, due to inadequate or incomplete maritime domain awareness. He warned that unless the rapid depletion trend of the fisheries is quickly reversed, the country will pay a heavy price in terms of food insecurity. To reverse this trend, he advised that it is important for the law enforcement officers to be trained in various strategies that will ensure effective enforcement. He therefore thanked FoN and SFMP for this timely intervention and urged all officers to take the lessons with all seriousness.

### **History and Importance of the Fisheries Laws**

This session was facilitated by Mr. Alex Sabah (Figure 2) and Mr. Papa Yaw Atobrah (Figure 3), both from Fisheries Commission. They educated that the fishing industry has gone through series of developmental changes (including infrastructure, fishing gears and materials), up to its current stage of development as elaborated in Table 1.

#### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

- Traditional Authority
- The PNDC Legislative instrument L.I 1103
- Fisheries Law P.N.D.C.L 256. 1991
- Fisheries Commission Act 1993
- Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS)-Article 61(Conservation of the living resources). Article 62(Utilization of the resources i.e optimum utilization of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone).Art. 65 – (Protection, regulation and conservation of marine mammals). Art 73- (Enforcement of laws and regulations on the coastal state--boarding ,inspection, arrest and judicial proceeding to ensure compliance with the convention)



**Figure 2 Mr. Alex Sabah (Western Regional Director of FC) delivering his presentation**

**Table 1 showing differences between the three fishing fleets**

	<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	<b>SEMI-INDUSTRIAL</b>	<b>ARTISANAL</b>
Fleet size	145	405	13,000
Berth	2 ports	7 landing sites	302 landing beaches
Gears	Trawl Pole & line Purse seine	Trawl Purse seine	APW DGN Hook & line Set net Beach seine
Material	Steel	Wood	Wood
Engine	Up to 4000 HP	Up to 500 HP	9 – 40 HP (Out-board motor)
Length	22 m – 43 m	9 m – 25 m	6 m – 18 m
Storage	On-board freezing facilities	Icing	Icing

Other key information shared was that direct and indirect benefits of fish to the society and the stakeholders of the fishing industry are enormous. Below are some of the benefits or importance outlined during the presentation.

- Fish is a main source of dietary protein in Ghana ( per capital consumption of Ghanaians is 29.6 kg against world average of 17.8 kg, 60 % of animal protein consumption, and cheap source of animal protein)

- Provides employment (Est. 140,000 fishermen directly employed) and generates income
- Contributes about 4.5 % to GDP
- Foreign exchange through fish exports (billions of \$\$)
- Food security

Some challenges facing the fishing industry were also outlined as follows:

- Limited capacity of regulatory authorities/institutions (Limited enforcement capabilities resulting in widespread IUU by various fleets, weak staff numbers, and insufficient capacity of staff)
- Policy in-coherence (subsidies in the fishing industry (eg. Premix fuel, outboard motors, nets))
- Weaknesses in Policy and Legal Framework (no marine protected areas, No Closed Season, lack of co-management arrangement, open access system (Effort creep)
- Literacy level of Fishers often determines level of compliance to management regulations
- Weakened influence of traditional authorities (Inadequate institutional capacity building for Chief Fishermen, Fish processors)
- Some Judges and Magistrates not conversant with the Fisheries Laws and Regulation
- Widespread nature of country's landing beaches (more than 300 landing beaches)
- Lack of research vessel for reliable data on fish stocks
- Inadequate appreciation of the importance of fisheries by MMDA's



**Figure 3 Mr. Papa Yaw Atobrah (Central Regional Director of FC) delivering his presentation**

## Fisheries Regulations, Standard Operations and MCS

This session was handled by Mr. Solomon Kusi Ampofo of FoN (Figure 4) and Mr. Papa Yaw Atobrah. Mr. Ampofo's presentation captured detailed sections of the LI 1968 (Section 139 of the Fisheries Act). Emphasis was drawn to the fact that, the minister can prescribe measures for the purposes of conservation, management, development, licensing, and regulation types and sizes of fishing gears and other fishing devices. The R1-5 talks about the fisheries management plan focusing on preparation of fishery management plan, prohibition of the use of local industrial and semi-industrial fishing vessels without license, unauthorized use of registration and identification numbers and markings on fishing vessel. The R6- 17 also talks about the methods used to undertake fishing expedition which comprises fishing nets, fishing devices and the technique for fishing.



**Figure 4 Mr. Solomon Kusi Ampofo addressing the trainees**

Mr. Atobrah focused his session on standard operations of fisheries enforcement. He informed that the fisheries industry is considered to be a dangerous one as a result of the hazardous exposure by the various individuals who are directly involved in activities of the industry. By this, he alluded that human beings per their make-up are not built to live on the sea. On issues of monitoring, control and surveillance, he educated that *everyone is morally, and in some cases legally responsible for their own safety, the safety of colleagues, and the safety of others*. He explained this further that as enforcement officers, the collective responsibility is not to do anything that jeopardizes one's own safety, the safety of their colleagues, or the safety of others. However dangerous it may seem, inspecting of fishing vessels is one of the core mandates of enforcement officers, he informed. The objectives of the inspections, he noted, is to assess the quantity and type of catch on-board, the types of fishing gear, and to also look for signs of IUU fishing. In doing so, there is the need to:

- Asses the vessel's deck area and equipment
- Assess what type of fishing activity has taken place and how recent

- Look for obvious signs of non-compliance with gear requirements,
- Review the catch log.

He admonished that the dangers associated with the fishing industry can be controlled or eliminated by establishing health and safety measures which forms part of the standard operation procedure (SOP). Additionally, the responsibility for planning health and safety for inspections purposes lies with the boarding officer. He leads the risk assessment, establishes potential risks, the likelihood they might occur, and the potential consequences; and then takes steps to mitigate those risks. It is vital to conduct risk assessment and pre-inspection briefing so that everyone in the boarding event knows the risks and their responsibilities.



**Figure 5 Mr. Atobrah explaining the standard operations of enforcement**

### SUMMARY OF R6-17 OF THE FISHERIES ACT

R 7: prohibits setting of fishing gear across an inland waterway to obstruct navigation

R13: Mesh size definition:

- Maximum inside measurement between the two opposite knots of a stretched mesh and Mesh size to be measured when net is wet and by an approved flat gauge or with calipers.

R8: prohibits use of:

- Multifilament set-net of mesh size less than 50mm (2 inches)
- Monofilament set-net of mesh size less than 50mm (2 inches)

R9: prohibits use of: Beach seine net in estuaries and MPAs

R10: prohibits: manufacture, importation, sale of fishing net of mesh size less than 25mm (1-inch)

R11: prohibits use of:

- Light for fishing
- Dynamite for fishing
- Usage of aggregative devices
- Fishing in designated oil and gas exploration and production areas
- Pair trawling

R12: prohibits the use of:

- Shrimp trawl net of mesh size less than 50mm (2-inches)
- Large purse seine net of mesh size less than 100mm (4-inches)
- Trawl net of mesh size less than 60mm (24 inches)
- Small pelagics purse- seine net of mesh size less than 25mm (1-inch)

R14: prohibits catching, landing and purchasing of some particular fish species.

R16: prohibits the use of certain gears for fishing purposes as mention in the section

### Code of Conduct for Enforcement, Approaches and Communication

This session was facilitated by four resource persons including Mr. Papa Yaw Atobrah (Fisheries Commission), Mr. Theophilus Boachie-Yiadom (FoN), L/Cprl Agyemang Opambour and ASP Emmanuel Addae (Marine Police). Topics treated include *Code of Conduct and Ethical Behavior*, *Eco-system Based Approach to Fisheries Management*, *Strategies for Effective Beach Combing*, as well as *Stakeholder Interaction and Communication for Enhanced Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance*. A simulation on how to handle violence during beach combing exercise was also conducted by the officers.

## **Code of Conduct and Ethical Behaviour**

Mr. Atobra educated the officers on some key codes of conduct as well as ethical behavior to exhibit when conducting any enforcement activity. He explained that code of conduct is a product of Ethics and morals; adding that ethics are moral principles reflecting the way we conduct ourselves; go about our business, implement our laws, cultures, integrity and good judgment. It can also be identified in the commitment and dedication to our role as public servants maintaining a shared set of core values (i.e. being held accountable grounded in trust, building, maintaining and protecting the trust that binds individuals). As law enforcers, our activities are being governed by code of conduct in which it is the obligation of all fisheries law enforcers to operate within this code of conduct. A code of conduct is a good way to lay out expected principles, practices and values. The practice and values should contain the following element; honesty, integrity, impartiality, accountability, transparency, probity, openness, respect, leadership, selflessness, safety, and confidentiality.

Illegalities in the fisheries industry can only be eliminated by curbing the act of corrupt practices through the establishment of stringent penalties against offences of perpetrators of illegalities. There is no need to enforce laws when there are no penalties to deal with individual who go contrary to the law. Furthermore, the offences need to be proven before sanctions passed. The best offences are either *strict liability or absolute liability*. For penalties to be enforceable, every offence needs to be included in law complemented by evidences to the Act (logbook, transshipment register, captain log, net, gears, fish, shark fins, turtle shells, VMS, chart plotters etc.). Offences can be in national law or international law (i.e. recognized or given effect to). There is the need for all enforcers to develop the skills of gathering evidence (see, Table 4). It is important that before any inspection, the enforcement officer check the laws to ascertain offences and associated penalties related to fishing. The kinds of offences include:

- Fishing location, time and conditions
- Catch type, quantity and size
- Fishing gear quantity and size

However, penalties can vary dramatically. Lawful penalties that an officer can use against culprits of illegal practice are;

- financial penalties not just through fines but also operating losses when not working
- forfeiture of fishing gear
- forfeiture of catch
- forfeiture of vessels
- loss of reputation
- jail

These vital information above was shared with the officers by Mr. Atobrah

## **Eco-system Based Approach to Fisheries Management**

Mr. Boachie-Yiadom (Figure 6) who handled this session explained in simple terms the meaning of ecosystem and its linkage to fisheries. He further explained certain ecosystem services and benefits, including supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural benefits. On this, he engaged the officers to identify some of the ecosystem services and benefits (Figure 7).

He further informed that fish depend upon their surrounding supporting ecosystem (water, habitats) to survive and thrive. Hence managing fisheries in isolation from what they affect and are affected by has proven to be relatively ineffective and unsustainable. To ensure

sustainable development of the fisheries sector, the eco-system approach serves as a good option to consider. With this approach, a balance is created between ecological well-being and human well-being, and at any time that this balance is attained, there is sustainable development.



**Figure 6 Mr. Boachie-Yiadom presenting on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management**

He stated the *Riparian Buffer Zone Policy* as one such approach which aims at managing and protecting freshwater bodies. This Policy is intended to regenerate and maintain the native/established vegetation in riparian buffer zones to improve water quality by instituting proper procedures for managing and controlling activities along river banks. It therefore recommends the following buffer widths for water bodies:

- Shoreline protective areas = 60 - 90 meters
- Major Rivers/streams = 10 - 60 meters
- Streams within forest reserves = 10 - 50 meters

Mr. Boachie-Yiadom concluded with another ecosystem approach called *Ecofeminism* which he explained as an ecological perspective in a feminist theory, and the feminist perspective in solving ecological problems. He explained further that Ecofeminism takes into accounts women subordination & nature degradation, and informs that Ecofeminism pronounces that women are closer to nature than men are. He tells of a historical ecosystem movement called the *Chikpo Movement* where Indian women in 1906 prevented the destruction of a forest reserve by physically hugging themselves to the trees to prevent their being cut down. On this note, he advised that women in the fisheries industry can be very instrumental in its management if they are well educated on the ecological justifications of the fisheries laws. Law enforcement officers are also likely to be very successful if they gain collaboration of these women.





**Figure 7 Some police officers actively engaging in the lessons by identifying ecosystem services and benefits and linking them to real life situations**

### **Strategies for Effective Beach Combing**

This session was facilitated by L/Cprl. Agyemang Opambour of the Marine Police. He informed that Beach combing is one of the effective way of enforcing fisheries laws. It is defined as “an activity that consists of an individual “combing” or searching the beach and the inter-tidal zone, looking for things of value, interest or utility”. Beach combing is targeted at recovering illegal fishing gears and activities that can affect the fisheries industry or community negatively, he added. Further advising, he stated that it is important to respect enforcement officers who are part of one’s team as well as stakeholders within the vicinity in which an operation is taking place. The operation should be done within the confines of the law with force used only when necessary.

L/Cprl. Opambour also warned that the practice of partiality in enforcing laws during beach-combing should not be encouraged but rather officers were advised to be respectful, value life, and become open and accountable to the community. He noted that beach combing helps to:

- Reduce about eighty percent of the illegality in fishing (estimate).
- Check illegal activities of fishermen and related issues.
- Force fishermen to practice good fishing methods.
- Remove all illegal fishing gears from the beach.
- Protect sea mammals, mangroves and check sand wining.

Concluding his lessons, L/Cprl. Opambour warned vehemently that as an enforcement officer or an enforcement team, there is the need to ensure that effective communication gadgets are used during an operation. He added the following as shown below as very necessary to prepare officers for a successful operation.

- Recce (self or/and with other agencies).
- Form reliable relationships with positive stakeholders.
- Take along evidence gathering equipment (e.g. video and photo camera machine).
- If possible, don’t move individually (go as tourists etc).
- Read available materials and look at maps.
- Move with vehicles that can load seized items.



**Figure 8 L/Cprl Agyemang Opambour sharing on effective beach combing strategies**

### **Stakeholder Interactions and Communication for Enhanced Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance**

ASP Emmanuel Addai of the Marine Police, took the officers through proper interactions and communication with stakeholders. He hinted that communication is an important tool in the work of enforcement officers, adding that communication and decorum are very instrumental to success. He advised officers to be familiar with customs and practices of the communities they are assigned to work in. Information dissemination is predominantly key to ideas or knowledge acquired and this is achieved through effective communication, he noted. This becomes complete when the listener and the communicator feel satisfied on a subject in question. Communication, nevertheless, can equally breed and lead to an uncomfortable situations or conflicts when not addressed in a proper and precise manner, whether verbally or through non-verbal means.

He advised also that if possible, officers must try as much as possible to communicate with stakeholders in their native languages, since language is the primary source of communication and a common medium used in interaction. He informed also that in fishing communities most fisher folks feel comfortable and prefer to interact in their native language than any other, stating that generally, indigenous people feel comfortable when engaged in their native language.

ASP Addae cautioned that every traditional area has its own customs and beliefs which identify them as a group of people. Their rules of engagement (e.g. protocols) are unique to them and one needs to at least have a minimum knowledge about it. Pouring of libation or prayers depending on the area, initial address, addressing matters of interest, use of proverbs and figurative expressions, etc. should be taken notice of. Respect for traditional authority is highly recommended in the sense that information seeking comes from within and therefore, to gain confidence in them one need to be circumspect in all undertakings.



**Figure 9 ASP. Emmanuel Addae delivering his presentation**

### **Field Study Tour**

A study tour was organised to the Sekondi Fishing Harbor where the officers (trainees) interacted with fishermen (Figure 10) to have a detailed understanding of the various gears and vessels, and their operations. To avoid unnecessary attention and suspicions, the enforcement officers wore mufti instead of their normal uniforms. Amongst the key observations and lessons learnt during the two-hour trip are:

- Types of nets and their uses.
- Types of fishing vessels and what qualifies a vessel for the fishing type be it artisanal, semi-industrial or industrial.
- The types of out-board motors and in-board motors and the horsepower needed for each fishing type.
- The equipment installed in a boat for proper fishing spree. Examples include GPS and other communication devices.
- Necessary precautions to take when boarding fishing vessels.
- Entry point strategies when dealing with fishermen.

These lessons were shared after the officers recessed from the study tour. One other key observation by all officers was the sanitation conditions around the fishing vessels. They all informed that most of the surroundings including the sea, especially where most of the vessels docked were very dirty. This condition as well as poor boat conditions were explained to have worsened since the Fisheries Commission abandoned an earlier intervention by which officers of the commission thoroughly inspected every boat before it sets off. All boats which sanitary conditions were considered inappropriate were stopped from going offshore until a clean-up is done.



**Figure 10 Marine Police Officers (in mufti) interacting with some fishermen**

### **Traditional Fisheries Governance and Challenges**

This session was handled dignified stakeholders from the fishers' group. They included Nana Kojo Kondua (GNCFC), Mr. Sortor Mensah and Mr. Nii Botchway (GIFA) and Mrs. Emelia Abaka-Edu (NAFPTA). Mr. Mike Abaka-Edu (a Marine Mechanic) and Mr. John Dickson Eshun (GNCFC) also shared relevant information on this theme. The topics discussed included *the role of Chief Fishermen in Fisheries Governance, Role of Women in Fisheries Governance and Why Fishermen Break the Laws*.

#### **Role of Chief Fishermen in Fisheries Governance**

It was informed that the Chief Fisherman (CF) is the head of a fishing community who steers fishing affairs in the vicinity. The CF must be recognized by all fishermen in the area, the chief of the community and in some cases, his family. The way and manner CF are installed differ from one community to the other. Regardless of the manner of installation, all CF have the paramount mandate to as part of their duties:

- See to the proper administration of his landing beach taking sanitation issues into consideration.
- Arbitrate cases within their jurisdictional fishing communities. Where necessary, they may collaborate with other CF to arbitrate inter-jurisdictional cases.

However, the current political dispensation has indirectly reduced the powers of the chief fishermen who hitherto were more like court judges in their fishing enclaves. Nonetheless, there are national associations like the Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC), which regulate the various sectors of the fishing industry.

Regardless the somewhat role shifting by current political structure, CF usually serve as liaisons between their people and the political governance system. Hence, they have taken up the role of communication to convey information from the central and local government to

their people and vice versa. The collaboration with MMDAs have therefore improved over time.

Concluding on this, it was pointed out that most enforcement success and compliance in fishing communities usually hinge on the CF. therefore CF need to be empowered and resourced to assist the law enforcers to ensure effective enforcement.



**Figure 11 Resource persons sharing on traditional fisheries governance**

### **Why Fishermen Break the Law**

The panel members informed that the following are the key reasons why fishermen break the laws.

- Enforcement is often selective.
- Political interference in the fisheries sector.
- Insurgence of light fishing as a modern strategy for fishing, without proper scientific links started the pure illegal fishing regime. During the early days of enforcing laws against light fishing, the state lost a case to some offenders, and this made light fishing rampant with fishers having less fear.
- There is always blame-game in the industry. Artisanal fishers blame semi-industrial who in turn-blame the industrial fleets as the main perpetrators of illegal fishing.
- Lack of political will is also one principal reasons why fishers break the law. Fishers are aware that most governments are not committed to enforcing the laws which will make them lose the votes of majority of the fishermen.
- Fisheries Commission which should be educating and sensitizing fishers, lack the adequate capacity to do so.
- Adequate consultation was not done during the development of the Fisheries Act.

## Role of Women in Fisheries Governance



**Figure 12 Mrs. Emelia Abaka Edu Speaking**

Mrs. Emelia Abaka Edu (Vice President of the National Fish Processors and Traders Association- NAFPTA) who handled this session informed that a few women own canoes at the various landing beaches. However, she added that several fishing expeditions are pre-financed by women. Using a value chain analysis, she taught that apart from fishing, which is mainly done by men, all others such as processing and marketing are led by women. As a result, it is women who usually negotiate prices at the landing beaches.

Since it is women who really add value to fish, she advised it would be good that women are equally part of decision making at the landing beaches as men. Women can play a very good role of giving relevant information to the enforcers on illegal fish practices at their landing beaches. Women can make sure that fish purchased are of good quality and the right size. If women want, they can say NO to illegally caught fish, and make illegal fishing more unattractive.

In her conclusion, Mrs. Abaka-Edu stated that women play a very important role in fisheries governance therefore urged all stakeholders to give women the necessary push and participation.

### **Lessons and Global Experience for Improved Fisheries Management**

Four resource persons shared diverse experience they have had with the support of the previous ICFG and the current SFMP. While John Dickson Eshun and Mike Abaka-Edu shared experiences from Tanzania and Senegal respectively (Figure 13), ASP Emmanuel Addae and Emelia Abaka-Edu shared lessons from the Philippines (Figure 14).



**Figure 13 Resource persons sharing study tour lessons from Tanzania and Senegal**



**Figure 14 Resource persons sharing lessons the Philippines**

Some of the key cross-cutting lessons shared included but not limited to the following:

- Use of closed seasons to revamp the fisheries.
- Stakeholder engagement in policy formulation.
- There is effective sensitization and enforcement.
- There is effective community policing and support for effective law enforcement.
- There are also some basic incentives for community police to ensure continuous support and engagement. The incentives include free health insurance benefits, accident/life insurance, scholarship benefit for children, and free capacity building and training.

### **National Marine Fisheries Management Plan**

Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah of FoN (Figure 15) facilitated this session and took trainees through the Fisheries Commission’s developed Fisheries Management Plan as well as some relevant options for fisheries management. Some of the key management measures and options explained to the trainees include:

- 50% reduction in fishing days over the next 3 years for Trawlers (to be scaled annually).
- Implementation of Close Season (1-2 months but with exception of Artisanal fishers)
- Controlling new entrants to the fisheries.
- Implementing co-management for the artisanal sector.
- Modernization of the Fleets (fiberglass, steel, etc) to replace old canoes.
- Bycatch mitigation measures.
- Developing a Data Collection Regime.

- Undertaking Stock assessments survey.
- Collaboration with Universities.
- Increase effectiveness of fisheries enforcement.
- Implementing Close Areas (Marine Protected Security Areas-MPSA).
- Promoting community group involvement in post-harvest and facilitating business opportunities.
- Implementation of Insurance and Pension Scheme.



**Figure 15 Mr. Yamoah taking participants through fisheries management options and plans**

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

This took place on the final day of the training. Trainees were tested through a written examination (Figure 15) to measure the level of appreciation of the training. After the examination, closing statements from dignitaries were said, while the trainees' examination papers were been marked. They were then given certificates upon successful completion of the course. Resource persons were also given certificate of appreciation.

Nana Kojo Konduah of GNCFC expressed his profound gratitude to FoN, FC, and USAID SFMP for the efforts which he believed could revamp the fisheries industry in Ghana. He hinted that security measures that other countries have put in place to manage its fisheries industry are really working perfectly for the industry; and worth emulating. For this reason, he informed that he and his colleagues are truly happy that law enforcers are being trained for improved fisheries management. On this note, he urged all the officers to be up and doing once they have had their capacities enhanced.





**Figure 16 Cross-section of trainees, busily answering examination questions**

Mr. Alex Yaw Sabah, the Western Regional director of the Fisheries Commission extended an overwhelming appreciation to the USAID for supporting the fisheries industry, hinting that USAID has currently facilitated the purchase of 4 vehicles purposely for fisheries patrol. He urged the trainees to seek more information and be on top of their game with respect to the fisheries sector, since he considers 3 days not really enough for detail training. He informed that the doors of the FC are always open for any relevant information to equip the enforcement officers. He also advised the officers to make it their prime motive to perform their duties to counteract the public perception of police officers being prone to bribery. He then called for further collaboration with other outfits including the Jubilee Partners. On that note, he ended his statement saying *Long live FoN, Long live Marine Police, Long live Fisheries Commission, and Long live the USAID.*

Chief Supt. Owusu Berko of the Marine Police showed substantial gratitude to FoN and the USAID SFMP for the thought and implementation of this training session. He was hopeful that the enhanced capacity will enrich the approach to which his officers conduct their day to day activities especially at landing beaches. He urged the officers to be good ambassadors so that their colleagues will benefit from similar trainings. He also pleaded on them to ensure that the skills acquired during the 3-day training be put to good use, to ensure at the end of the day, the objective of revamping the fisheries industry becomes a reality.

FoN's executive director, Donkris Mevuta concluded the entire program with his closing speech. In his statement, he indicated that the three days spent with the law enforcers have presented an opportunity to discuss practical ways on how forces could be joined to rebuild marine fisheries and strengthen sustainable fisheries management, so that fisheries becomes viable and Ghana attains food (fish) security. He hinted that FoN plans instituting Annual awards for meritorious enforcement initiatives and therefore pleaded with the hierarchy of the Ghana Police Service, to ensure that this new crop of Fisheries Law Enforcement Officers are equally motivated to ensure responsible fisheries. On that note he thanked the trainees and

resource persons for their time and declared the three-day training course officially closed. See detail statement at appendix 1.

**PHOTO GALLERY: Showing some trainees and resource persons receiving certificates**



**Figure 17 Trainees Receiving Certificates**



Figure 18 Trainees Receiving Certificate



Figure 19 Trainees Receiving Certificate

## APPENDIX 1

Closing Address by Donkris Mevuta, Executive Director, Friends of the Nation at the Fisheries Law Enforcement Training

**Date: May 19, 2016 Venue: Friends of the Nation – Adiembra, Sekondi**

Good afternoon;

Mr. Chairman, the Director of Marine Police, Railways, and Ports, the Regional Directors of Fisheries (W/R & C/R), Representative of Jubilee Partners, Representative of Fishers, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, all Protocol Observed:

It is a pleasure for me to provide closing comments on the completion of a very successful training session on Fisheries Law Enforcement. As you can recall, the training had two main purposes. First, to improve the knowledge base of Enforcement Officers on the State of Fisheries in Ghana and the operations of the different fisheries fleets. Secondly, it was to inform Enforcement Officers on the ecological justification of the Fisheries Laws and Management Plans and emerging needs for compliance and effective enforcement.

The three days you have spent here have presented an opportunity to discuss practical ways on how we could join forces to rebuild marine fisheries and strengthen sustainable fisheries management, so that fisheries becomes viable and Ghana attains food (fish) security.

As you can testify, an immense knowledge has been gained from this event and I can say without any doubt that continuous training would transform you to become effective Fisheries Law Enforcement Officers.

Towards this, I am pleased to announce the commitment and continued support for responsible fisheries in Ghana by the American People through USAID and the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project. Already,

- We are in discussions on the development of a competence-based fisheries curriculum for adoption by the Ghana Police
- Training materials and equipment such as computers, furniture, etc., have been provided for the Aiyinasie Camp for training purposes;
- Four (4) vehicles (2 pick-ups & 2 Vans) have been provided to enhance fisheries enforcement and
- Judges, Prosecutors and others have been engaged to understand the ecological justification of fisheries laws in efforts to enhance adjudication of fisheries offences.

Mr. Chairman, for a longer and effective enforcement of Fisheries laws, I would at this point, like to re-echo some important messages that emerged here, that in enforcement of the law, Officers should note that:

- No person is above the law
- corruptible tendencies must be avoided
- violations of fisheries laws impacts on food security

In this regard, Mr Chairman, Friends of the Nation plans instituting Annual awards for meritorious enforcement initiatives and I will humbly plead with the hierarchy of the Ghana Police Service, to ensure that this new crop of Fisheries Law Enforcement Officers are equally motivated to ensure responsible fisheries.

As we look forward to working with you in the coming months and years; do not hesitate to consult the Fisheries Commission and our office for technical advices.

I wish to thank all and sundry especially, the Resource Persons who in diverse ways contributed to the success of this event and it is my singular honour now, to declare this three-day training course officially closed.

Thank you and God bless us all.