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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Terms of Reference Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG)



2015

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program

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SECTION 1: CONTEXT

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (*USAID/SFMP*) established a Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG) to support the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission with the implementation of the marine fisheries national fisheries management plan. The STWG is a scientific group with an overarching mission to provide science-based management advice, which assures long-term sustainability of fish stocks based on the best available scientific information. The STWG strives to advance scientific assessments that guide fisheries managers and improve communication with stakeholders in order to promote best fishing practices. Members of the STWG carefully examine existing data collected by the Fisheries Scientific Survey Division and other fisheries related studies to improve understanding of the current status of various fish stocks and establish practical indicators to monitor fisheries management performance measures toward a healthy and sustainable state. The STWG takes into account fishermen's knowledge and experience for the formulation of the status of the resource and the development of management recommendations.

The STWG will serve to address the legal requirements of the Fisheries Act of 2002 (625/42-1(a)) which requires fisheries management plans to be developed using the best available scientific information. The STWG could be formalized under the authority of the Minister and the Fisheries Commission to appoint advisory committees (625/9 -1&2) for the development, collection, evaluation, and peer review of information relevant to the fisheries management plan.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP

The STWG was formed in 2015 and worked for three years to prepare the status of the stock for small pelagic and demersal fish stocks of Ghana, establish rebuilding targets, peer-review the stock assessment results and provide future research recommendations. In addition, the STWG reported on the fisheries' performance and assessed expected responses to short- and long-term management scenarios. The STWG proposed a science-based management measure for ending overfishing and begin the rebuilding process for small pelagic stocks in 2016. The recommendation consists of a one-month closure for all fisheries during peak spawning of the main pelagic species (sardinella, anchovies and mackerel).

The STWG is currently chaired by Professor Kobina Yankson from the University of Cape Coast. His role is to assure a fair representation of input from all members and oversees the proceedings of the working group. The STWG is co-chaired by Mrs. Patricia Markwei, a retired Deputy Director of the Fisheries Commission, to lead the proceedings and represent the STWG in the absence of the Chairperson. Staff of USAID/SFMP and West Africa Regional Fisheries Program (WARFP) serve in an advisory capacity and provide scientific and administrative support of its programs. The STWG convene quarterly meetings to develop and review existing research and management and evaluate performance of the fisheries against its established rebuilding goals.

The current membership representing research, academia, government agencies and fishing sector representatives is:

N.	Affiliation	Organization	Pax	TERM
1	Manager	MoFAD/Fisheries Commission (FC)	2	4 years
2	Scientist	Fisheries Scientific Survey Division (FSSD)	2	4 years
3	Law Enforcement	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (FC-MCS)	1	4 years
4	Scientist	University of Ghana	1	4 years
5	Scientist	University of Cape Coast	2	4 years
6	Stakeholder	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council	1	4 years
7	Stakeholder	Ghana Inshore Fishers Association	1	4 years
8	Stakeholder	Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association	1	4 years
9	Stakeholder	National Fish Processors and Trade Association	1	4 years
10	Advisor	WARF	1	4 years
11	Advisor	USAID/SFMP	1	4 years

SECTION 3: ACTIVITIES

The STWG functions would include among others:

- Assemble fisheries and biological information needed to develop sound management practices.
- Compile and disseminate existing fisheries statistics collected through existing programs
- and provide summary tables to managers.
- Conduct bio-ecological and bio-economic assessments on the small pelagic fisheries.
- Conduct a peer-review process to validate the final assessment and adopt biological indicators for the purpose of monitoring management performance.
- Provide fisheries management recommendations to managers and stakeholders on various scenarios of management measures needed to prevent overfishing.
- Propose a series of research recommendations for improving assessment models and the impacts of management measures.
- Assist fisheries managers and stakeholders in understanding the impacts of each measure on the biological, social, and economic well-being of the fishery.

SECTION 4: QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES

The STWG members are appointed from among those with skills, knowledge, and experience in the fishing sector and in the conservation and management of fisheries resources and selected from nominees proposed from the organizations shown in the table above, and with the advice and consent of MoFAD and FC.

Four (4) members shall be representatives of the marine fishing sector; two (2) shall represent the Fisheries Scientific Survey Division, two (2) represents MoFAD and the Fisheries Commission, one (1) represents the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and three (3) from Academia. The remaining members represent the USAID/SFMP and WARP projects

and will serve in an advisory capacity and provide administrative and financial support with no voting rights. All members shall have skill, knowledge, and experience in the conservation and management of fisheries resources and/or marine biology, ecology, oceanography and socio-economics.

Members of the STWG serve for a term of four (4) years and may not succeed themselves more than once. All members of the STWG shall serve without compensation and shall be reimbursed for their necessary expenses incurred in travel and in the performance of their duties.

Current membership of the STWG

Table 1: Current membership of the STWG

Name	Affiliation	Home town	Email address
Prof. Kobina Yankson	UCC	Cape Coast	kyankson@ucc.edu.gh
Mrs. Patricia Markwei	Retired	Accra	patmark3@yahoo.com
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Prof. John Blay	UCC	Cape Coast	Jblay@ucc.edu.gh
Godfred Tsibu	FC-MCS	Tema	godfreytsibu.gbt@gmail.com
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Capt. Claude Noah Amfo	GITA	Tema	legon@yahoo.com
Emmanuel Dovlo	FC-FSSD	Tema	emkwdovlo@yahoo.co
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