

**Maritime Security Search and Rescue
of lives in The Gambia Fisheries
Presented by: Amie Ndure
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Introduction

Overview:

Importance of maritime security in fisheries

The role of search and rescue (SAR)

Relevance to coastal nations, fishers, and the environment

Maritime Security in Fisheries

- Definition: Protection of fisheries from illegal activities, threats, and environmental hazards
- Key Threats:
 - Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing
 - Piracy and armed robbery
 - Smuggling and human trafficking
 - Environmental crimes

Importance of Maritime Security

- Economic Impact:
- Fisheries are vital for food security and livelihoods
- Environmental Protection:
- Prevent overfishing and habitat destruction
- Human Safety:
- Reduce risks to fishermen and crew from criminal or unsafe activities

Search and Rescue (SAR): An Overview

- Definition: Operations to locate and help people in distress at sea
- Objectives:
- Save lives
- Provide medical assistance
- Ensure timely evacuation

SAR in the Fisheries Context

- Why It Matters:
- Fishing is among the most dangerous occupations
- Small boats often lack communication or navigation tools
- Common Scenarios:
- Vessel capsizing
- Equipment failure

International Legal Framework

- Key Conventions:
- UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)
- SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea)
- SAR Convention (1979)
- Regional Coordination: Examples like MRCCs (Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers)

SAR Operations – How They Work

- Phases:
 - Alert Phase – Detection or distress call
 - Response Phase – Dispatch of SAR units
 - Rescue Phase – Location and retrieval
 - Recovery Phase – Return to safety, medical help
- Actors Involved:
 - Coast Guards
 - Navies
 - Local fisheries authorities

Technologies in Maritime SAR

- GPS & AIS (Automatic Identification System)
- Satellite communications
- Drones and aerial surveillance
- Search-and-rescue transponders (SARTs)
- Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs)

Challenges in SAR for Fisheries

- Inadequate SAR coverage in remote regions
- Limited awareness and training among fishermen
- Lack of proper safety gear
- Poor communication infrastructure
- Political and jurisdictional barriers

Best Practices & Recommendations

- Strengthen SAR coordination at regional and national levels
- Equip fishing vessels with basic safety and communication tools
- Conduct training for fishers on emergency response
- Improve data sharing between coastal nations
- Invest in coastal monitoring systems

Conclusion

-Maritime Security and SARs are essential for:

- Sustaining fishery industries
- Ensuring environmental safety
- Call to Action:
- Enhance collaboration, technology, and awareness

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