

Towards a Better Understanding of the role of Maritime Security and Search and Rescue of Human Life at Sea in the ATLAFCO Region

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. Introduction/Background of Ghanaian fisheries**
- 2. Fisheries Sub-sectors**
- 3. Fisheries Legal Framework**
- 4. MCSD Operations**
- 5. Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU)**
- 6. Inter-agency Collaborations**
- 7. Piracy Case**
- 8. Challenges**
- 9. Recommendations**
- 10. Conclusion**

BACKGROUND



**Fish for Food
security- 60% Protein**



Jobs- 10%



Revenue –

**4.5% Agric GDP
1.2% National GDP**



**Foreign exchange
earnings -\$200M**



**International
collaborations**



ARTISANAL VESSELS



- Traditional wooden canoes, often motorized.
- Operate in inshore zones (up to 6 nautical miles).
- Target species: Sardinella, anchovies, mackerel, snappers.
- Contribute 70–80% of total marine fish catch.

Landing Beach Enforcement Committee (LaBEC)



SEMI-INDUSTRIAL (INSHORE) VESSELS



- Medium-sized vessels (8–37 meters).
- Operate between 6–30 nautical miles.
- Target species: Demersal species like sea bream and cassava fish.
- Significant for local and export markets

INDUSTRIAL TRAWL VESSELS



Large steel trawlers equipped with advanced technology.

- Operate beyond 6 to a maximum of 200 nautical miles within the EEZ.
- Target species: Demersal species, and high-value fish.
- Contribute to export revenue

INDUSTRIAL TUNA VESSELS



REEFER VESSELS (IMPORT FISH)



ILLEGAL UNREPORTED UNREGULATED FISHING (IUU)

Fishing is illegal if:

- no authorisation
- against conservation and management measures by RFMOs
- against national laws or international obligations.



NOT OK



Fishing is unreported if:

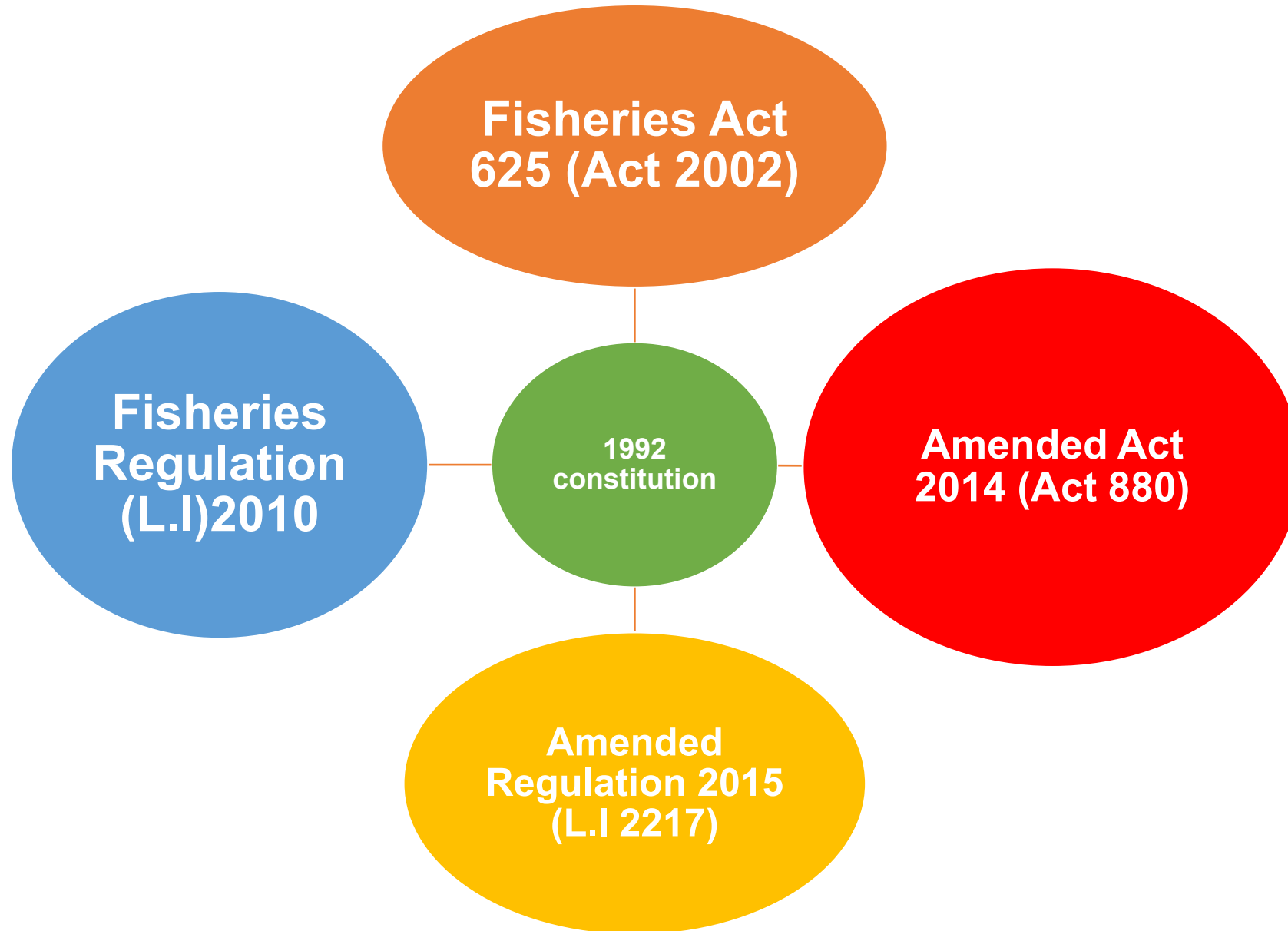
not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.

Fishing is unregulated if:

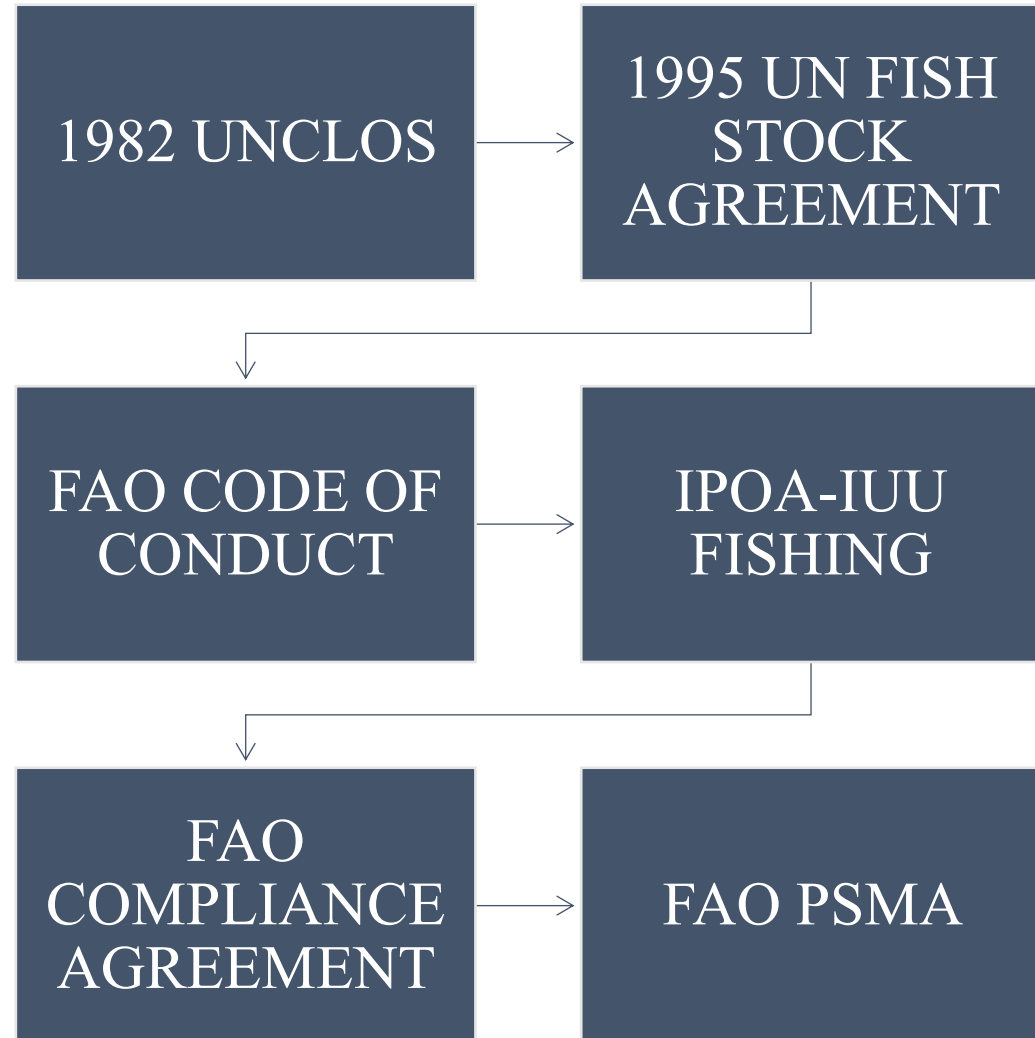
- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.



FISHERIES LEGAL FRAMEWORK, GHANA



International Legal/Policy frameworks



Monitoring

Definition:

The collection and analysis of data on fishing activities, including catch size, effort, species, and location.

Purpose:

Provides the baseline information necessary for decision-making in fisheries management.

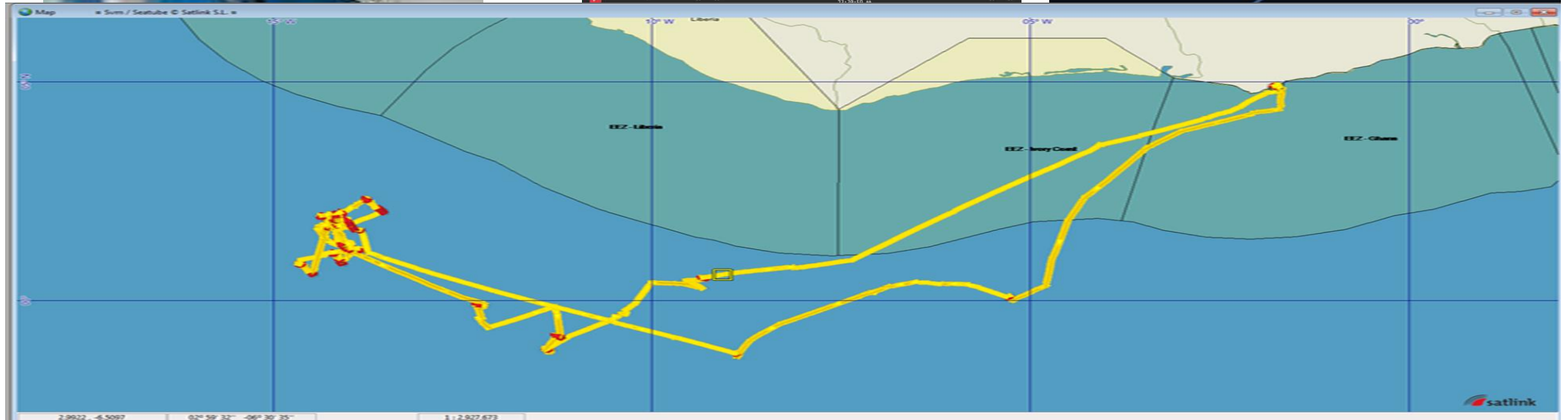
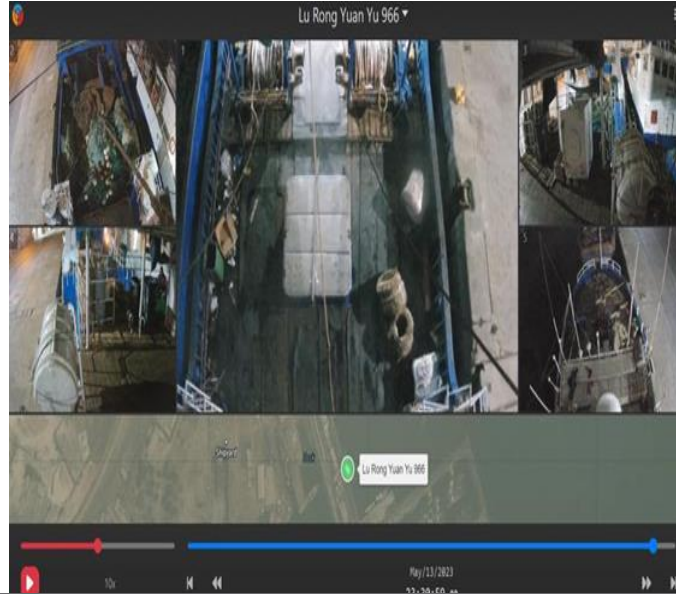
Tools:

- Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)
- Satellite imagery
- Logbooks and electronic reporting systems

Fisheries Monitoring Centre(FMC)



Electronic Monitoring (AIS/ VMS/EMS)



Control

Definition:

The establishment of rules, regulations, and policies governing fishing activities.



Purpose:

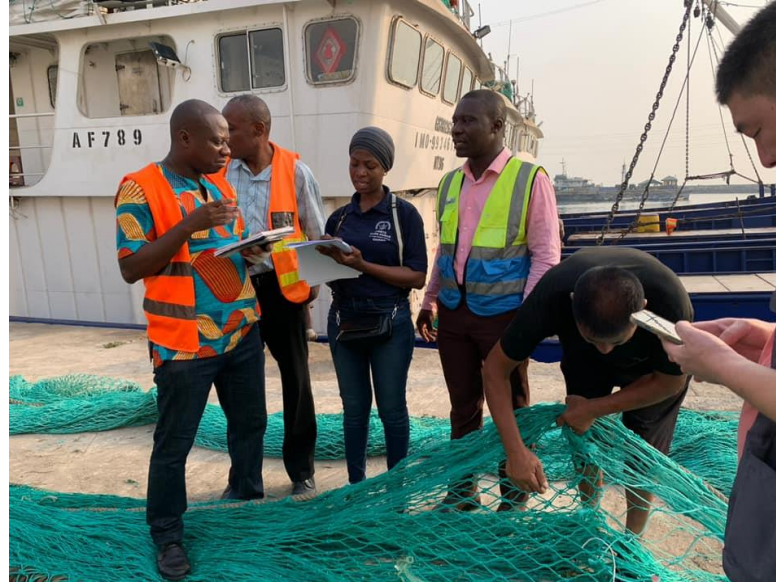
Defines legal frameworks, limits on catch, gear restrictions, and closed seasons or areas



Examples:

- Quotas and Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
- Licensing systems
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

QUAYSIDE INSPECTION



SURVEILLANCE

Definition:

The enforcement of fisheries laws and the detection of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

Purpose:
Ensures compliance with regulations and discourages violations.

Methods:

- Patrols by air, sea, or land
- Port inspections
- Use of drones and remote sensing technologies

Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority



Ghana Police (Marine)



Ghana Navy



Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU)

- Introduction to the FEU:
- Multi-agency unit established by the Fisheries Act.
- Comprises officers from Fisheries Commission (MCSD), Ghana Navy, and Marine Police.



Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU)

Key Responsibilities:

- At-Sea Operations: Board and inspect vessels.
- Port Inspections: Verify catches and compliance with regulations.
- Community Engagement: Educate fishers on legal provisions.
- Ensure security at sea







INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

- Fisheries Commission (LEAD AGENCY)
- Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority
- Ghana Maritime Authority
- Ghana Immigration Service
- Ghana Police (Marine)
- Ghana Navy
- Port Health
- Attorney General's office (Legal)
- Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC)



PIRACY CASE



Kidnapped Chinese sailors rescued, brought to Ghana - Ghanaian Times

The Chinese sailors, who were kidnapped during a pirate attack on a registered Ghanaian vessel named MENGXIN 1 on sea, have been rescued in Nigeria and conveyed to Ghana. Aga...
ghanaiantimes.com.gh



<https://ghanaiantimes.com.gh/kidnapped-chinese-sailors-rescued-brought-to-ghana/>



Challenges in Enforcing Fisheries Laws

- Delays in information sharing and also withholding information
- Insufficient patrol vessels, equipment, and other logistics
- Limited budget for enforcement activities
- Prolonged court cases
- Limited Awareness

Recommendations and Way Forward

- Enhance Interagency Coordination
- Strengthen Enforcement Capacity
- Invest in additional patrol vessels, and modern technology
- Improve Legal and Prosecution Systems
- Establish special courts for fisheries violations
- Raise Public Awareness
- Promote stakeholder involvement in fisheries management
- Leverage International Collaboration
- Access technical and financial support from international bodies like FAO

Conclusion

- The true measure of maritime strength is not just in guarding our waters, but in safeguarding every life upon them. Security and rescue are not separate duties — they are twin anchors of our shared humanity at sea.

- Saving lives at sea is not a choice, it is an obligation. Maritime security begins with human security.”—

Adapted from IMO (International Maritime Organization) principles



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THANK YOU