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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Field Trip To The Monitoring, Control And Surveillance Unit Of The Fisheries Commission, Tema



MAY, 2017

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Development
Action Association

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Citation: Development Action Association. (2017). Field Trip To the Monitoring, Control And Surveillance Unit Of The Fisheries Commission, Tema. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. GH2014_ACT133_DAA 7 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: Participant of Field Trip to Tema (**Credit:** Development Action Association)

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SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

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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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 30 Fishermen who were trainees on illegal fishing and fishing laws at the Interim DAA Fisheries Training Center (DFTC) undertook a study tour to the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Department of the Fisheries Commission at Tema.

The objective is to understand the monitoring systems undertaken by the Fisheries Commission in implementation of the fisheries laws. The study tour was undertaken upon request of the participants during the two-day training on the fisheries laws.



Figure 1 Study tour participants listening to presentation of MCS



Figure 2 Participants looking at the samples of seized fishing nets by FC

Participants who are mainly canoe fishermen drawn from Kokrobite area initially thought the tuna vessels were the main culprits of illegal fishing while the Commission looked on without controlling these illegalities. Upon visiting the MCS department, they appreciated the hard work of the Commission and promised to cooperate in implementation of the law.



Figure 3 Participants at Tuna landing sites observing some offloading activities

Participants were taken through the monitoring system which included installation of tracking devices in the tuna vessels. All activities undertaken by the vessels were being monitored at the MCS unit. Sometimes some of the crew in the vessels try to avoid being tracked by covering the device, which has led to heavy sanctions.

2.0 FISHERMEN IN KOKROBITE AREA APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR CLOSED SEASON IN GHANA

Study tour participants from Kokrobite who visited the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance unit of the Fisheries Commission said they appreciated the need for fishing closed season in Ghana. Participants were surprised as they saw the huge sizes of tuna harvested as a result of closed season observed by the vessels. The closed season for the tuna vessels is November to January. They said that although it will be difficult at the initial stages, seeing the benefit that came with it, they are encouraged and thus have deeper understanding of the implementation of the management plan.

3.0 CANOE FISHERMEN ACCEPT TO BE MONITORED BY THE FISHERIES COMMISSION

As canoe fishermen observed the benefits derived by tuna vessels such as increased fish size and bumper catch, they appreciated the use of tracking devices installed on the vessels which had the objective of monitoring of fishermen activities to prevent any illegalities during fishing. The fishermen agreed to receive these tracking devices on their canoes so that the commission can monitor their activities.