



Meeting Proceedings Report of the 2018 Guianas Regional IUU Fishing Workshop,

Paramaribo 27 - 28 November 2018

SAIS building, LVV complex at the Letitia Vriesdelaan



This workshop was organized with the support of IUCN NL, WWF- NL and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, strategic partners in the program 'Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS).

Contents:

Preface.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Meeting procedures Day 1, 27 th of November 2018	2
Meeting procedures Day 2, 28 th of November 2018	6
Closing remarks & Evaluation	10
Annex 1: Participants list.....	11
Annex 2: Meeting Agenda Day 1	13
Annex 3: Meeting Agenda Day 2	14

Preface

Working on sustainable fisheries in the three Guianas (French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana), WWF Guianas has recognized that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) is of great concern but it is not easily addressed. IUU fishing is a transboundary issue that needs to be addressed at a regional level. Therefore, WWF Guianas organized the first Regional IUU Fishing in the Guianas Workshop, and in collaboration with stakeholders and partners a regional dialogue was initiated to identify national and regional IUU issues, trends and solutions.

Introduction

The Regional IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing in the Guianas Workshop included participants from Suriname, French Guiana, Guyana and France, was held on 27 and 28th November 2018 in Paramaribo, Suriname. Participants gathered to exchange data and information, discuss, and brainstorm on IUU fishing issues in the region. Furthermore, regional approaches and solutions on IUU fishing in the Guianas were discussed.

The objectives of the workshop:

- To share data and exchange information amongst the 3 territories in the Guianas
- To assess in-country IUU fishing occurrences and anti- IUU efforts.
- To identify the national and regional issues of concern for IUU for each country and brainstorm on practical and possible solutions.
- To facilitate networking and partnerships between key-stakeholders on the regional issues of IUU on an operational level.

The expected outcomes among the territories included the:

- Exchange of relevant and reliable information and data.
- An overview of the national and regional (trans-boundary) IUU fishing occurrences.
- An inventory of the anti-IUU efforts.
- An overview of national and regional issues of concern and possible solutions.
- Networking among key-stakeholders for long-term communication and exchange.

Meeting procedures Day 1, 27th of November 2018

Opening remarks: Mrs Hanneke van Lavieren, WWF Guianas Oceans Coordinator, represented the Director of WWF Guianas. The Head of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of agriculture, animal husbandry and Fisheries in Suriname, Mrs. Yolanda Babb, welcomed the participants to the meeting. Both speakers stressed for participants to be constructive and collaborative, in order for the meeting to be successful.

All Participants agreed to the values for discussion and interaction at the workshop:

- Listen & communicate
- Open mindedness
- Collaboration
- Cooperation
- Stay positive
- Participate
- Transparency

WWF Guianas presentation by Michael Hiwat, WWF Guianas Fisheries Officer: what is IUU, What IUU stands for, the importance of IUU reduction and WWF global efforts against IUU fishing.

Remarks: mainly by Mr. Karam from French-Guiana on IUU fishing of Guyanese vessels in French-Guyana waters and a plea was done for sustainability in fisheries in Suriname and Guyana waters and reduction of fishing effort. Karam compared the numbers of vessels and licenses in French-Guyana (140) versus the number of licenses in Guyana and Suriname.

Country presentation for Guyana by Gary Baird, Department of Fisheries Guyana:

The presentation included:

- The local Guyana situation
 - The ratification of the Port State Agreement
 - Stakeholder workshop from FAO
 - IUU fishing in Guyana
 - The establishments of local IUU working groups
-
- Mr. Karam repeated his concerns about high fishing effort in Suriname and Guyana leading to overfishing, leading to poor fishing grounds driving IUU fishing in the region. Mr. Baird noted to the defense of the Ministry that fishing effort was calculated based on scientific data on the carrying capacity of the stocks targeted. A note on IUU fishing by Guyanese fishers fishing in Suriname waters, but landing (part of) the catch in Guyana to be tolerated by Suriname over decades sparked a discussion during the break amongst participants. Another important note is that there is a closed season for coastal fisheries in Guyana from August to October, which is enforced by the enforcement agencies and used by fishermen to conduct annual maintenance of their vessels and gear.

Other remarks, questions and answers:

- Mr. Baird asked other nations to assist Guyana with the VMS technology if possible.

- For the elimination of IUU the countries should partner up with regional and international partners.
- Most IUU fishing in Guyana comes from abroad, from large vessels fishing in deep waters, which is difficult for Guyana to tackle, due to financial constraints.
- According to one of the participants; if the catch of the Seabob fleet is reduced the problem of IUU fishing could be solved. As Seabob is the food for the larger fish and the fishery uses nets with small mesh size scoping out other small non-targeted fish.
- 'Most Guyanese fleets are licensed to fish in the Suriname waters'. This was disputed by the Fisheries department representatives of Suriname.
- Mr. Baird mentioned Catch Monitoring Systems on board of large fishing vessels. They are working with cameras on the vessels. On which a participant asked who has access to these cameras and how they work? *The fisheries department and the vessel owners both have access to this imagery.*
- Can a boat from Suriname go to Guyana? *If they have proper documentation, yes.*
- Would it be possible to reduce the number of licenses? *Fishing creates jobs, for uneducated people mostly.*

Country presentation for La Guiane by Mr. Bruno Morin, Head of the French Maritime Affairs

IUU Fishing in French Guyana is a very big problem. French Guyana is facing problems, which are:

- There is a massive problem at the border and offshore in Suriname.
- The majority of vessels do not have legal papers or registration.
- IUU fishermen are mainly from Guyana, Brazil and Venezuela.
- French Guyanese are themselves practicing IUU fishing.
- The French Guyanese have smaller fleets than their neighbor countries.
- The price of fish is very low compared to other countries.
- There is a major risk of overfishing on some species including the Totoaba.
- 1 kg of Bang Bang (*Cynoscion acoupa*) costs €6 in French Guyana.

Their fight against IUU fishing is with the assistance of: The French Navy, Customs, Maritime affairs and Environmental police. They use satellite observation which costs several million euro.

Some proposal for the fight against IUU:

- Joint patrols between French Guyana/ Suriname and French Guyana/Brazil
- Joint deployment plan with mixed crew vessels
- The Guyanese delegation asked for guidance through the process from the French Guyanese, because French Guyana seems to be ahead of all the other nations when it comes to IUU.
- Formal and operational visits from French Guyana to Guyana should be implemented.
- Destroy the ships, unless there is documentation (licenses, certifications) on board and or communication with authorities is possible.
- A regional enforcement approach can send a message to fishermen that there is nowhere to run.
- Regional exchanges of enforcement crews.

Remarks from Mr. Karam: the fishing sector is in danger. In an effort to make the fish stocks healthy again, we should have no trawling inside 30m fathom depth lines and no Seabob fishing.

Country presentation for Suriname by Mrs. Amritpersad Parveen, Senior Fisheries Officer

IUU fishing takes place in: Territorial waters and the EEZ, with foreign and national fleets and with Illegal vessels

Anti IUU efforts:

- Mandatory use of the VMS for coastal –fleet,
- Anti-spy paper for licenses
- Number plate system
- Carving the name and number on the vessel
- Training for the coastal guards, the marines, etc.
- Upgrading the existing VMS system
- Developing strategies to lower the costs for patrol and law enforcement
- Updating the fisheries legislation

Remarks: According to Mrs. Amritpersad it seems that the Guyanese are the ones fishing with Surinamese vessels. Possibly the vessels are in fact “rented” to the Guyanese because the vessels are registered and licensed in Suriname. Fishermen continuously violate fishing license agreements. Surinamese licenses for Surinamese are rented to Guyanese fishermen to fish.

A presentation on community enforcement and anti IUU fishing activities in the Reserve Naturelle Amana was given by Mr. Alain Auguste.

- They mentioned that the reserve is experiencing a lot of illegal fishing from Suriname and Guyana
- There will be surveillance in the isolated areas of the reserve.
- The reserve is also working with the fisheries department of French Guyana

A presentation on anti-IUU efforts from the perspective of the EU was given by Nolwenn Cozannet, WWF France in French Guiana and Selim Azzi from WWF France

- The European Union is the largest importer of seafood products; approximately 24% global.
- Several mechanisms are developed to detect and ban IUU caught fish from the EU market. IUU sensitive countries are watched and monitored closely through the Catch certification mechanism, which works with traceability of catch. There is a listing of countries. Once on the black list, countries will have to take effective measures against IUU to be able to export their fish products to the EU.

Working group session 1

- **Perspective:** National
- **Exercise:** List the IUU occurrences, disadvantages and drivers of IUU for your country. What keeps IUU going in your country? And why make efforts to reduce IUU from your point of view? Present the results. Other countries and stakeholders comment on the presentations of this working group session.
- For the results, please see the next page.

Guyana

IUU Occurrences:

- Inaccurate catch reporting
- Duplication of licenses
- Fishing in closed seasons
- Fishing outside of jurisdiction/ prohibited
- Unregistered /unmarked/ unlicensed vessels
- Unregistered unlicensed fishermen
- Illegal fishing gears

Disadvantages:

- Depletion /extinction of species
- Loss of revenue
- Incorrect data projected
- Negative impacts on labor force
- Negative impacts on food security

Drivers:

- Financial benefits
- Lack of knowledge/effective mngt
- Limited employment opportunities

Why reduce IUU:

- Economic benefits (Socio- Economic)
- Sustainable fish stocks
- Protection of EEZ
- Minimum impacts on SD

Q & A: Is there an increase of IUU going on during the closing season and how is this assessed?
The closing season is between August and October, but also during turtle season it is forbidden to fish. The sea is being patrolled.

French-Guiana

Occurrences

- Foreign – incursions into FG waters by foreign vessels
- Use of unauthorized fishing materials
- Fishing without authorization
- Not recording daily productions during and at end of trip
- Vessels registered as pleasure crafts that produce and sell

Disadvantages

- Efforts made by one country to conserve are awaited by others who do not inspect borders
- Inability to keep accurate statistics due to poaching
- Risk of overfishing

Drivers

- Owners who send their crew to poach
- Overfishing in one area leads to ramifying of stocks, leading to searches further afield

Keeps IUU going in F.G

- Difficult to apply European norms
- Lack of qualified persons capable of obtaining the right to fish so persons choose IUU
- Absence of local vessels at sea leave sea wide open to foreigners
- Illegals often accept low prices so buyers are easy to find
- Not enough control by authorities for those who sell and buy illegal fish

Q & A: What is done to illegal vessels in the French Guyana waters? *The vessels are*

destroyed. On the 27th of November 2018, 101 vessels were destroyed by the French Guyana but still vessels keep coming into their waters.

Suriname

Occurrences

- Fishing without a license
- Fishing outside of EEZ(e.g. F6)
- Fishing in no fishing zone
- Non – compliance with license conditions (gear , area etc.)
- Landing outside your country

What keeps it going?

- Payoffs & corruption
- Impunities
- Lack of cooperation (exchange of information)
- Lack of MCS (monitoring control surveillance)
- Economic benefits
- Lack of proper / outdated legislation

Why reduce

- Underreporting of catches affects stock management
- Loss of revenue
- Undermining of conservation management measures
- Food security
- Safety issues
- Secure export market
- image

Q & A: no questions.

Meeting procedures Day 2, 28th of November 2018

Presentation: Research on supply chains and IUU reduction in coastal fisheries, by Avanaisa Turny, presenting in the capacity of former intern at WWF Guianas.

Topics discussed:

- Why supply chain & IUU?
- The supply chain (product exchange, information, and data)
- IUU sensitivity in the chain
- Recommendations

Notes and remarks:

1. Vessel ownership: vessels are now also build in Suriname
2. The most responsible person is the boat (vessel) owner
3. When vessels depart they leave without notice, because there is no place where they can stop and say that they are leaving.
4. The captain is responsible for the fish catch. The catch is then divided 50% for the boat owner and 50% for the captain and his crew. And the boat owners should also give up 20% of the catch to the captain.

According to the research it seems that piracy is often between fishermen. If one vessel did not catch enough or any fish they would most likely steal from other vessels.

Mr. Jainarain from Guyana noted that the Guyanese and his company rent license from Surinamese Vessel owners to fish on their waters. However, this practice has been going on for decades. A formalized structure for this situation would take these fishermen out of illegality. According to Mr. Baird, bilateral arrangements must be made to solve these problems, because even if there is a line, people will still cross their borders to fish. With that being said you cannot put everything under IUU fishing but make arrangements to control illegal fishing. It will not be easy to stop IUU.

Mr. Mario Ijsspol also mentioned that in his observation; we are all looking at IUU and are all confronted with the situation. A list will be released that can blacklist Suriname on the EU market. Suriname and Guyana are already forbidden to export catfish to the United States of America, so we need to do something or we will lose everything. There are no restrictions on foreigners starting a business. Fishermen can start a business and register at the chamber of Commerce and request a permit to fish.

Notes were made that Guyana should have more inclusivity because of Guyanese fishermen fishing and Surinamese do not have the culture to fish. Suriname could explore closed seasons and quota's to reduce efforts.

Working group session 2:

Perspective: Regional

Exercise: In your shoes! Countries will brainstorm on practical and possible solutions, making an effort to draft solutions for another country taking its own perspective, but especially the perspective of that country into account. French Guyana for Suriname, Suriname for Guyana and Guyana for French-Guyana). Present solutions per country, comment and have discussions. Results on the next page:

French Guiana for Suriname and Guyana:

- Control of fishing fleet
- Limit number of boats
- License ALL boats
- VMS on ALL boats

For Suriname:

- More control at sea
- Land ALL product in Suriname
- Report ALL departures and arrivals

For Guyana:

- Educate fishermen (programs to inform fishermen of their responsibility to respect marine resources)
- Convince captains of necessity to report to Maritime authorities all departures and arrivals
- Reduce the number of boats

Guyana for Suriname and French-Guiana:

Practical and possible solutions: tripartite Agreement for the Guiana shield

For Suriname:

- Simplify licensing
- Establish closed systems
- Education/ Awareness
- Stringent Measures

For French-Guiana:

- Utilization of Marine resources
- Adjust Punitive measures
- Increase communication amongst countries.

Suriname for Guyana and French Guiana

For Guyana:

- Fully implement license system with license conditions
- Increase Monitoring Control Systems
- Establish Anti-IUU department/ Unit
- Make an agreement with Suriname on Region 6 boats in Surinamese waters

For French-Guiana:

- Permanent Coast Guard base on West Coast functioning as deterrent
- Public accessibility portal for illegal vessels
- Connect license extension with reporting of landings

Working Group session 3

Perspective: Regional

Exercise:

- A. Brainstorm on regional issues in regional groups and develop a regional approach to IUU in the Guianas. Present the results. Discuss the outcomes of the presentations.

Results for exercise 3A:		
Results 3A		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Short term	Short term	Short term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralize information sharing system through MOU between 3 countries. Network: Website/ database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of data/ information (vessel list) → a regional IUU unit 	Joint commission: Establish mandate, timely reporting and stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tri-partisan workshops with fishermen / boat owners for education / awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common regional numbering system (FAO) 	Joint Patrols: Monitoring and Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMS on all vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suriname should ratify PSM agreement 	Network: Website / Database
Long term solutions:	Long term:	
Joint patrols (IDP) with military & police	Overfishing – driver for IUU, regional stock assessment → effort control	A tripartite agreement making the above possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education & Awareness 	Tripartite agreement	

- B. Identify criteria for regional collaboration. And develop regional approaches to IUU. Develop a work plan (on national level) to contribute to the chosen regional approaches to IUU, identify stakeholders, describe the implementation and reporting. Present the results.

Results on the next page

Results 3B		
Suriname:	Guyana:	French-Guiana:
What: Technical IUU team/ Working group	What: Anti-IUU fishing unit	What: Joint commission on an International Level (France; FAO, EU) and or on a Technical Level: FG/ FMC
Whom: high level representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Ministry of MAAHF → fisheries Department; • the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; • the Ministry of Defense → the Navy; the Ministry of Justice and Police → Maritime Police; • the ministry of Finance → Customs; • the Coast Guard; • MAS → Maritime administration. 	Whom: representatives of: the Fisheries Department, Coast Guard, the MARAD, Marine Police, MLA, MFA and Fishermen representatives.	Whom: International level: Paris/EU for negotiation (long term). Technical level: French-Guiana, Suriname, Guyana andBrazil
Tasks and responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of international agreements (signed and ratified (PSM) • Data sharing • Implementation of National IUU Action Plan 	Objective: to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU Tasks and responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose laws and regulations • Develop an Anti-IUU National Plan of Action • Develop and Maintain Country's Database • Education/ Awareness • Execute Plan (NPOA) Collaborate with other countries	Objective: to facilitate exchanges between the 3 countries and address assessed common problems.

Closing Remarks & Evaluation

- ❖ Focal points were chosen at the meeting for participants to contact. These persons will also influence and follow the developments in their countries with regards to IUU and Anti-IUU fishing efforts and report it to the group where needed. They will also keep communication with other stakeholders ongoing within their position to keep a focus on IUU reduction. They will lead the next steps of this meeting.
- ❖ **Focal points:**
 - For Suriname: Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad (Fisheries Department) and M.Hiwat (WWF Guianas)
 - For French-Guiana: Mr. Bruno Morin & Jérôme Le Poulhalec (French Maritime Affairs) and Nolwenn Cozanett (WWF France in French Guiana)
 - For Guyana: Mr. Gary Baird (Fisheries Department) and Sopheia Edgehill (WWF Guianas)
- ❖ **The next steps:**
 - Suriname, Guyana and French-Guiana, will make efforts to develop a National anti-IUU Plan of Action. These efforts are initiated, lead, communicated and or advocated by the focal points. Focal points will stay in communication with WWF regarding these efforts and request support for the development of these National anti-IUU Plan of Actions, where needed.
- ❖ Evaluation of the meeting: the meeting participants thought that all the objectives of the meeting were met.
- ❖ Most important notes for improvement: Time management, more regional activities, more key participants, including Brazil.



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Annex 2: Meeting Agenda Day 1



AGENDA

27th of November 2018

- 08:00 Registration and breakfast
- 08:30 Welcome notes by WWF Guianas, French-Guyana, and Guyana
- 08:45 Welcome and Opening Note by Suriname
- 08: 50 Announcements: transportation, breakfast, lunch, breaks, etc.
- 08:55 Introduction: interactive round to get to know each other, mutual acquaintance.
- 09:00 General presentation on IUU fishing (WWF)
- 09:30 Country presentation: Guyana
- 10:10 Country Presentation: French-Guyana
- 10:50 Break
- 11:10 Country Presentation: Suriname
- 11:50 Research Presentation French-Guyana/ France
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Working group session 1 (national level): Exercise: List the IUU occurrences, disadvantages and drivers of IUU for your country. What keeps IUU going in your country? And why make efforts to reduce IUU from your point of view? Present the results. Other countries and stakeholders comment on the presentations of this working group session.
- 14:50 Closing notes / closing day 1



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Annex 3: Meeting Agenda Day 2



- 08:00 Registration and breakfast
- 08:30 Opening and introduction: Agenda Day 2
- 08:40 Research presentation Suriname on Coastal Fisheries
- 09:20 Working group session 2: In your shoes! Countries will brainstorm on practical and possible solutions, making an effort to draft solutions for another country taking its own perspective, but especially the perspective of that country into account.
- 09:10 Present solutions per country, comment and have discussions.
- 10:20 Break
- 10:30 Working group session 3: Brainstorm on regional issues and develop a regional approach to IUU in the Guianas.
- 11:00 Plenary session: Present results. Discuss the outcomes of the presentations.
- 12:00 Identify criteria for regional collaboration. And pick/ develop one regional approach to IUU.
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Develop a work plan (on national level) to contribute to the chosen regional approach to IUU, identify stakeholders, describe the implementation and reporting. Present the results. Questions and answers.
- 14:40 Evaluate the objectives of the workshop with participants.
- 14:50 Final announcements. End notes by WWF and Guyana, French Guyana representatives. End note and closing by Suriname representatives
- 15:00 .Closing



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