



Friends of the Nation

FAR BAN BO (FBB PROJECT)

contemporary community-based approach to addressing IUU fishing: successes and challenges.

Illegal fishing ripping sector apart

- Causes massive revenue losses
- GDP contribution nears insignificance
- Fishing stock faces complete collapse

See story on page 4

T-bill rates decline Turn to real estates - Expert

See story on page 4

Markets

GSE ALL-SHARE INDEX

30/09/2018	638.42	638.42
PREVIOUS CLOSE	638.04	638.04
CURRENT CLOSE	638.04	638.04
CHANGE FROM TODAY	0.00	0.00

MACROECONOMIC TARGETS FOR 2018

Overall GDP growth rate of **6.8** percent;
 Annual GDP growth rate of **5.4** percent;
 Inflation rate of **8.5** percent;
 Average inflation rate of **8.5** percent;
 Fiscal deficit of **4.5%** versus GDP;
 Primary Balance (Surplus) of **1.6** percent of GDP;
 Gross Foreign Assets to cover at least 2.5 months of imports of goods and services.

TREASURY SECURITIES RATES

Monday 25/09/18 to Friday 25/09/18	
91 Day Bill	13.3487%
182 Day Bill	13.8200%
2 - 1/2 Year Note	15.0000%
3 - 1/2 Year Fixed-Rate Bond	16.2500%

CURRENCY MARKETS

30/09/2018	
1 US Dollar (Demand)	GH¢15.0000 / GH¢15.0000
1 US (Demand)	GH¢14.1250 / GH¢14.1250
1 Euro	GH¢15.2000 / GH¢15.2000
1 UK Pound	GH¢12.1000 / GH¢12.1000

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Authority/Disclaimer:

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ACRONYMS

FBB	Far Ban Bo
EU	European Union
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council
IUU-CMG	Illegal Unreported Unregulated Fishing Community Monitoring Group
IUU	Illegal Unreported Unregulated fishing
IEZ	Inshore Exclusive Zone

INTRODUCTION

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries activities are a worldwide problem, affecting both domestic waters and the high seas, and all types of fishing vessels, regardless of their size or gear. This implies that both domestic and foreign fishers and vessels are undertaking actions that either at home or abroad or under international treaty can be illegal, unreported, or unregulated.

However, the way fisheries authorities (national or international as in the case of regional fisheries



Figure 1: Illegal transshipment operation at sea

management organisations) deal with these issues varies quite substantially both in terms of processes (i.e., legal, administrative, and economic actions that national and international authorities have at their disposal to stop such activities) and in terms of outcomes i.e., once caught, are the fines/penalties that can be imposed an effective deterrent? IUU fishing activities is an international problem because such activities are harmful to global fish stocks. In addition, IUU also undermines the effectiveness of measures adopted nationally, regionally, and internationally to secure fish stocks for the future. By undermining effective management systems, IUU fishing activities generate harmful effects on economic and social welfare of the society as a whole but for legal fishers in particular and reduce the incentives to comply with rules. This is an important challenge for policy makers to deal with.

In Ghana, the fisheries industry contributes significantly towards the socio-cultural and economic development of the country. The sector supports the nation's economic development objectives relating to food security, employment, poverty reduction, GDP, and foreign exchange earnings. Fish also provides the Ghanaian consumer with about 60% of animal protein

needs and supplies naturally augment food availabilities ensuring good nutritional outcomes particularly to the poor and rural population. The vast number of people engaged in the fishing industry earn incomes that improve upon their access to food, medicine, clothing, and other necessities of life. The fisheries sector indeed has far-reaching implications for food security in Ghana.

However, the sector is currently faced with widespread Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing because of the absence of community and fisher's participation in monitoring and reporting of IUU cases, weak enforcement of fisheries laws, low compliance, and weak governance and weak deterrence regimes. These have led to wasteful over-capacity, giving rise to the declining marine fisheries resources being experienced by the Country.

As part of efforts to reduce the fisheries infractions in Ghana's Inshore Exclusive Zone (IEZ), the Far Ban Bo Project (FBB project) formed five (5) IUU Community monitoring groups (IUU-CMGs) among small-holder fishers in 5 project communities namely, Dixcove, Anomabo, James Town, Kpando Torkor and Kedzikorpe. This is because the involvement of local fishers in fisheries governance and enforcement is critical to the survival of the artisanal fisheries sector which is near collapse. There exists a plethora of evidence which points to illegal trawl activities within the inshore exclusive zone (IEZ) contrary to the provisions in section 81(5) of the fisheries Act 625 which prescribes that the IEZ is exclusively reserved for small-holder fishers including small semi-industrial vessels, canoes and recreational vessels.

IUU FISHING IN CONTEXT.

In Ghana there are basically two levels of IUU, the first is the local IUU practiced by local Ghanaian fishers and the second is the high seas illegal industrial fishing: including poaching, dumping of fish, transshipment, and other illegal practices by Industrial Fishing vessels.

Amongst all the levels of IUU fishing, the most frequent and undesirable IUU are fishing without a license (Industrial and semi-industrial canoe), Illegal fishing in the IEZ by trawlers, light fishing (even for tuna vessels for catching bait), the use of Small Mesh size nets (undersize nets), use of monofilament nets by canoe

fishers, beach seining in sensitive areas (estuarine areas in particular) and illegal transshipment of by-catch industrial fishing units to canoes. Perpetrators of IUU fishing have often argued that their activities are intended to support government efforts to feed the nation. They further argue that IUU fishing has provided job security for especially women along the fish value chain.

However, it is pertinent to demonstrate that IUU fishing contributes to high capture of juvenile fish, and this reduces the fish stock available to reproduce. Additionally, IUU fishing destroys the very eco-system and fish habitats that supports the fishery, especially, trawling in the IEZ, use of explosives and obnoxious substances. IUU fishing is also very harmful to human health as some of the chemicals used for the fishing poisons the fish and lead to food poisoning when consumed by humans. Despite the devastating effects of IUU fishing on the economy and the livelihoods of the smallholder fishers, there has been a long absence of effective and sustainable enforcement actions.



Figure 2: From left to right: A picture of a fishmonger carrying frozen saiko fish in pallet and saiko fish being offloaded from an artisanal canoe.

THE FAR BAN BO'(FBB) PROJECT

The Far Ban Bo (Protecting Fisheries Livelihoods) Project which was a 4-year European Union funded project was implemented by a consortium of partners made up of Care Denmark, Oxfam and Friends of the Nation aimed at ensuring that smallholder fishers and processors benefited from equitable and sustainable rights-based fisheries resources management as well as addressing the challenges confronting Ghana's fisheries sector including illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and improving food security, nutrition and the livelihoods of smallholder fishers. The project ended in December 2020.

Central to addressing the crippling and devastating effects of IUU on the livelihoods of smallholder fishers was the piloting of the establishment of Illegal Unreported Unregulated Community Monitoring Groups (IUU-CMGs) to participate in monitoring, documenting, and reporting of IUU incidence to the law enforcement agencies to ensure successful prosecution and deterrence. Accordingly, the Far Ban Bo Project piloted the formation of 5 IUU-CMGs in the four coastal regions of Ghana and an inland community namely Kpando-Torkor. This brief publication highlights the success stories of the IUU Community Monitoring Groups.

THE EFFECTS OF IUU FISHING

IUU fishing is a national phenomenon that undermines conservation and other management measures directed at conserving stocks and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries. The effects of IUU fishing are often a vicious circle. For example, in Ghana, the lack of resources for surveillance and enforcement both onshore and offshore enabled IUU fishing particularly illegal transshipment to develop with impunity, which has led to lower income for smallholder fishers. Additionally, the absence of community and fisher's participation in monitoring and reporting of IUU cases, has aided the perpetrators of the act, giving rise to the declining marine fisheries being experienced in Ghana. For example, In Keta and adjoining communities along the coastal stretch, the emergence of Pole and line fishing of anchovies as bait in the inshore exclusive zone (IEZ) in contravention of section 11(1) of the fisheries regulation 2010 (LI1968) became so perverse and deprived the people access to that critical resource. The practice of Pole and line fishing in the Keta IEZ has not only been a threat to Ghana's attainment of SDG goal one aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms but has also affected the right of the smallholder fishers to have equitable access to the fisheries resource under their jurisdiction.

Indeed, the cascading effects of IUU fishing on the smallholder fishers can be anything including deepening poverty in coastal communities, stifled protein supply and food security. The table below catalogues some of

Table 1: Possible Negative Social Impacts of IUU Fishing at the National Level

PARAMETER	INDICATORS	IMPACTS
Employment	Employment rates in marine fishing communities	IUU fishing may lead to lower employment if it has a negative impact on stocks and the activities of artisanal and local coastal fishing activities. Less opportunities for new generations of fishers to participate in fishing
Household incomes	Gross and net household incomes	IUU fishing through conflicts with local fishing fleets and by over exploitation of certain species may lead to reduction in household incomes and therefore exacerbate poverty. Possible negative impacts on income distribution.
Gender issues	Employment of women in fishing and fish marketing	IUU fishing may have a negative impact on shore fishing by women and on the marketing opportunities for women who in many societies have an important role in basic fish processing and marketing.
Nutrition and food security	Availability of fish on local markets at affordable prices.	In some cases, IUU fishing through its negative impact on fish stocks and availability may have a detrimental impact on the availability of fish, an important source of protein in some countries.

the negative social effects of IUU fishing on artisanal fishermen and to larger extent Ghana as a whole.

THE FORMATION OF THE IUU COMMUNITY MONITORING GROUPS (IUU CMGs).

A critical observation of the devastating effect of IUU fishing in Ghana compelled the President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo- Addo to encourage organisations and agencies working in the fisheries sector to support Government to tackle the menace (provide reference). In acceding to the call of the President of the Republic, the Friends of the Nation with citizen participation at the core of its operations and under the auspices of the Far Ban Bo project piloted the formation of 5- IUU-CMGs in 5 communities to contribute to effort at combating IUU through community led monitoring initiatives and ensure that fishing practices take place within the context of approved laws and regulations. The beneficiary communities included Dixcove (in the Ahanta West District, Western Region), Anomabo (in Mfantsemen District, Central Region), Jamestown (in Greater-Accra Region), Kedzikope (in Keta, Volta Region) and Kpando-Torkor Kpando District (Inland fishing community in Volta Region).

The formation of the IUU CMGs began with consultations with key fisheries stakeholders where thorough discussions for the formation of the IUU-CMGs in the proposed communities were held to inform them at which forums their concerns and recommendations were sought.

The process also collated issues anticipated before the formation including challenges to be expected. The Stakeholders engaged involved the Fisheries Commission, the respective District Assembly, The Ghana National Canoe Fishermen’s Council (GNCFC), the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) and other relevant actors. A series of recognisance visits were conducted in proposed communities for on-the-ground assessments to confirm the possibility of formation and implementation of IUU monitoring and grievance mechanism in those communities. These visits included interaction with community leaders, chief fishermen, women leaders and traditional leaders which brought

clarity on the type of fishing, and experiences of encounter with trawlers, etc.

THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF COMMUNITIES AND RECRUITING FOR THE IUU CMGs.

In forming the IUU-CMGs, the criteria for selection of communities for the IUU CMGs was pivoted on the following as outlined below: (Use infographics)

- **Strong Community Leadership:** leadership is key for co-management to be effective. Decision making and complying strictly to the rules require the backing of a strong leader who is firm, level-headed, open-minded, charismatic and command respect in the community.
- **Community Cohesion:** community cohesion provides a strong root for joint actions such as IUU monitoring. It is proven that communities where there is disunity, conflicts, blaming and lack of community cohesion co-mgt. is likely unsuccessful.
- **Community Interest and will:** Strong will to participate in resource governance was a key factor because this requires volunteerism and commitment where the community champions can provide support for the process.
- **Good fisheries practices:** where the community does not engage in IUU such as light fishing, illegal transshipment, etc. (if the community is deeply involved in IUU then they would have no moral right to go and report others who do same). Community where members are not only good practitioners in fishing but will voluntarily offer their services in achieving the aims and objectives of the group and the project.

MEMBERSHIP OF CMGS

The members of the IUU CMGs were nominated by the community stakeholders through consultation with community leaders. Community durbar was held to confirm or endorse the members, and when consensus is reached then the nomination is accepted. The IUU

monitoring was mostly conducted offshore and in other fishing areas, therefore the membership of the CMGs were mostly fishermen who were already engaged in active fishing in the communities. The membership of the CMGs at any point in time was odd number and ranged between seven (7) to about fifteen (15). This allowed them to take decisions quickly when there was the need to vote, etc. The membership included key stakeholders or active fishing groups in the community. The members elected the chairperson and assistances for the term agreed by them. The FBB Project also supported the formation an advisory committee made up of key leaders in the community including the local chief, chief fisherman, Konkohene, Assemblymen and other key actors in the community. The advisory committee provided the leadership to support the work of the IUU-CMGs.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR THE IUU CMGs:

The 5-IUU-CMGs so formed with support from the FBB Project received a series of training which built and strengthened their capacities in monitoring IUU activities including illegal trawling in the IEZ, illegal transshipment, dumping of fish at sea and other visible illegal practices by Industrial Fishing vessels, effective evidence gathering and documenting of the IUU infractions. These trainings were supported by the Fisheries Enforcement Units and the Fisheries Commission. Overall, about fifteen capacity building trainings were held for the IUU-CMGs with constant support from the Project Field Officers. Additionally, the IUU-CMGs were provided with and trained in the use of smart mobile phones installed with specially purposed design application called the DASE mobile App for electronic gathering and documenting evidence and sharing same through an online platform which provided opportunities for recognition of the work done by the IUU-CMGs.

Moreover, the FBB project facilitated four (4) IUU multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms at the regional and national levels with key stakeholders that provided a forum for tracking of reports and demanded actions from the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) to follow-up with reports from the IUU-CMGs. This obviously promoted communication, transparency and social

responsibility among the IUU-CMGs and the FEU. The IUU-CMGs cumulatively gathered and reported through the DASE mobile application over 607 evidences out of which 15 of these cases were verified and settled.

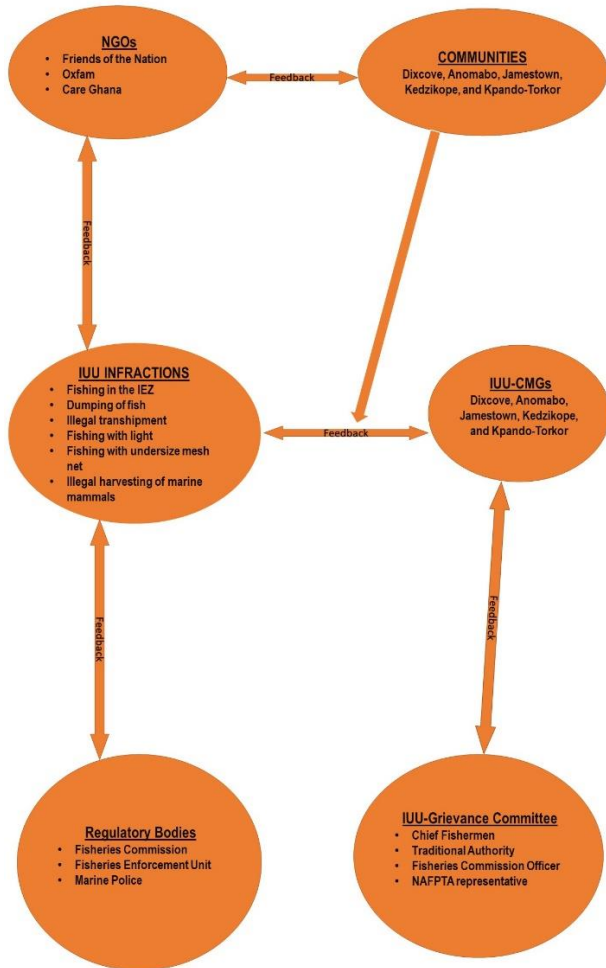


Figure 3: A Flow chart showing the processes of IUU-CMGs formation and core duties.

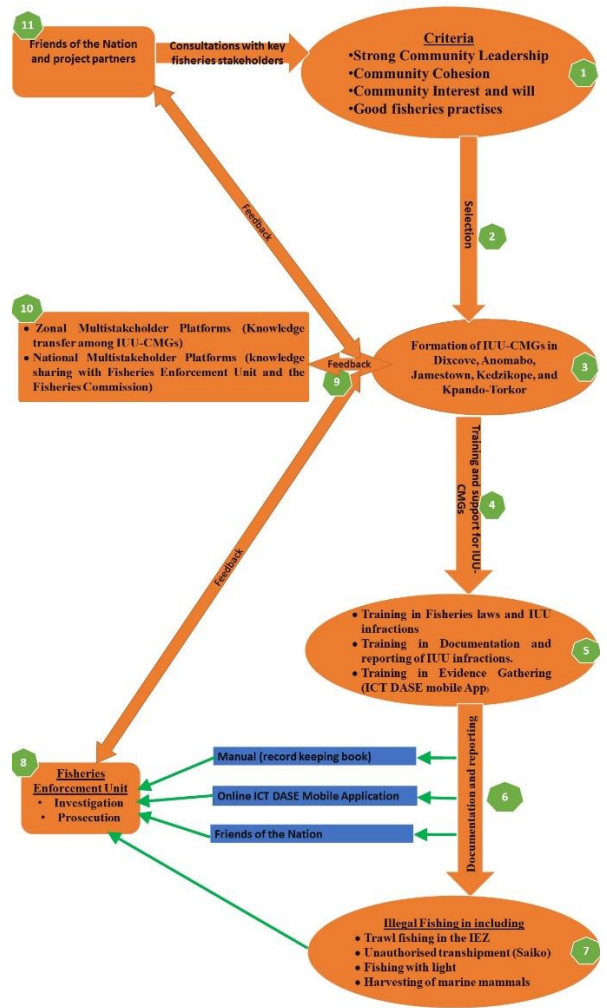


Figure 4: A flow chart showing IUU-CMGs feedback channels.



Figure 5: A picture of Kudzikope IUU-CMG in discussion with the Eastern Naval Command to stop Pole and Line trawl vessel from harvesting anchovies within the Keta IEZ.

With the capacities of the IUU-CMGs built and strengthened, the IUU-CMGs in Kudzikope (Keta) effectively collaborated with the Eastern Naval Command and the FEU to challenge the legality of the permit granted by the Fisheries Commission to the Pole and Line Trawl vessels to fish in the Keta IEZ. The Eastern Naval Command and the FEU after a series of engagements with the IUU-CMGs in Keta advised the Fisheries Commission which subsequently withdrew the permit, and the Pole and Line trawl vessels were moved from that fishing ground. This brought great relief to the people whose economic livelihood depended on this critical resource which also is a major component of the staple foods of the people in that Region.

The success story of the IUU-CMGs in Keta.

The success of the Kudzikope IUU-CMG in protecting the interest of the smallholder fishers have led to the formation of an additional spontaneous group at Adina, a fishing community in the Ketu South Municipal of the Volta Region. This has resulted in increased deterrence and vigilance among the community folks to monitor and report any suspicious fishing activity in the Keta IEZ to the FBB field officers and the Fisheries Enforcement Unit. Excerpts of the formal documentation and engagement is shown below.

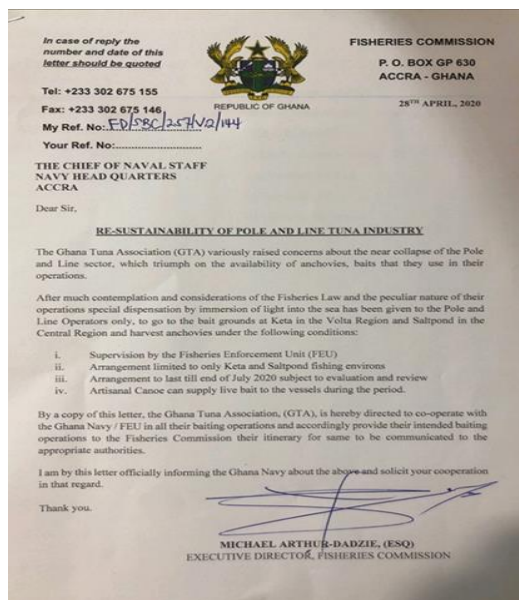


Figure 2: A picture of the copy of letter granting permission to the Pole and line trawl vessels to harvest anchovies in the Keta IEZ contrary to section 11(1) of the fisheries regulation 2010 (LI 1968)

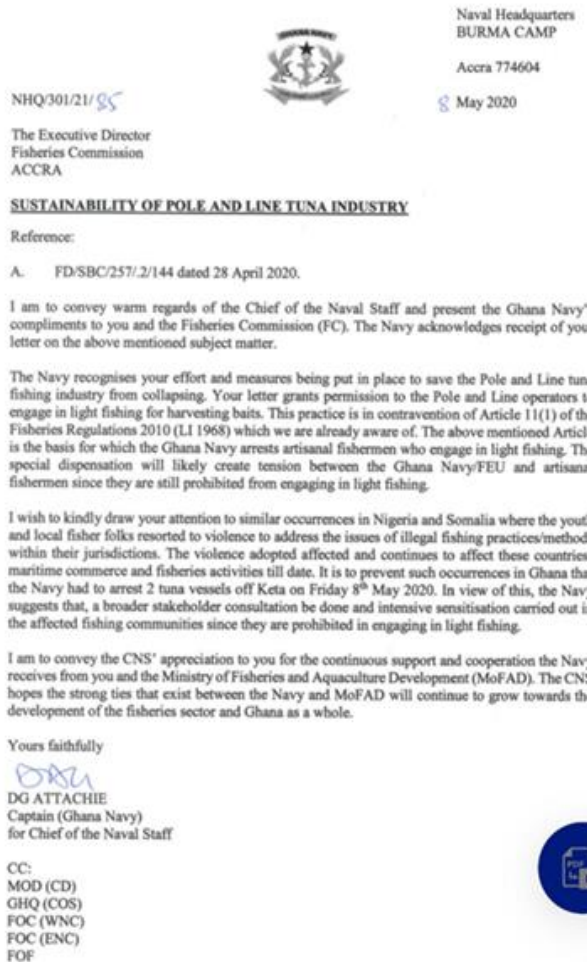


Figure 7: A picture of a copy of letter of responds to the Fisheries Commission by the Eastern Naval Command declining invitation to indulge the Pole and line trawl vessels in illegal harvesting of anchovies in the Keta IEZ contrary to section 11 (1) of the fisheries regulation 2010 (LI1968)

The success story of Mr. Daniel Dadze a member of the Jamestown IUU-CMG

Mr. Daniel Dadze an artisanal fisherman in Jamestown became a member of the Jamestown IUU-CMG under the Far Ban Bo Project. Mr. Dadze was able to report a trawl vessel which had destroyed his fishing gear within the Greater Accra IEZ to the appropriate authorities with documented evidence. Mr. Dadze was able to capture the trawl vessel number and the time of the incidence which he tendered to the FEU and the Fisheries Commission. The Fisheries Commission subsequently

supported Mr. Dadze to file formal complaint against the trawl Vessel and the issue is currently under investigations. Mr. Dadze says without the training received under the Far Ban Bo Project he would not have been able to document the illegal fishing activity of the trawl vessel in the IEZ. He was very grateful to the Far Ban Project for the invaluable knowledge and capacity he has developed. He now has a sense of ownership of the Far Ban Bo Project and has shown willingness in exposing IUU infractions within his maritime jurisdiction.

THE CHALLENGES

Among other things, the production of clear pictures depicting the committal of IUU infraction by trawl vessels has been a challenge. This is ostensibly due to the fact that most of the infractions occurred in the night and the smart phones camera resolution capability was limited and there unable to produce very clear good pictures which could advance or trigger investigations.

Another challenge observed was the fear of retribution from colleague fishermen involved in illegal fishing activity in the trawl fishing industry. Some IUU-CMGs reported that they did not receive immediate response from the FEU upon report of IUU incidence in their jurisdiction. This they said was a demotivation to some of them.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The leadership of the GNCFC should have been involved in the deployment of the DASE mobile phone application for institutional adoption after the end of the FBB project.
- The FEU should have been signed on to the DASE mobile phone application to grant them direct and timely access to reported IUU cases for prompt action.

THE WAY FORWARD

- The leadership of the GNCFC should under-study the use of the DASE mobile phone application for institutional adoption

to enhance monitoring, and transparency in the reporting of IUU infractions.

- The FEU should be signed on to the DASE mobile phone application to grant them direct and timely access to reported IUU cases for prompt action.
- The work of the IUU-CMGs must be recognised by state institutions and supported to continue to play active role in the management of fisheries resources.
- The IUU-CMGs must continue to document IUU- incidence both offshore and onshore and alert the Fisheries Enforcement Unit as well as other stakeholders including the media to publish these infractions to enhance deterrence and transparency.
- It is further recommended that the IUU-CMGs must be provided with continuous refresher trainings to keep them updated with knowledge and trends in IUU fishing.