



International MCS Network – 2021-2022 Year in Review

IMCS Network Leadership

2021 began with an IMCS Network Business Meeting held early in January where Mr. Gary Orr of New Zealand (NZ) was elected to the role of IMCS Network Chairperson, a role he took on following service to the IMCS Network as Vice-Chair since the 6th GFETW in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2019. Gary has a long history of involvement with the IMCS Network and is expected to remain in the role of Chair for a period of four years. During the same Business Meeting, Mr. Glen Joseph of Republic of Marshall Islands and Mr. Thord Monson of Norway were both elected as Vice-Chairs with each serving for a period of two years in accordance with the IMCS Network Governing Framework.

Mr. Mark Young originally assumed duties as the IMCS Network Secretariat Executive Director in January 2020 and remains in this role. Mark brings an extensive background in fisheries MCS and policy development working within the frameworks of national, international, and non-governmental institutions. He is a retired Commander in the U.S Coast Guard, previous Director of Fisheries Operations with the Forum Fisheries Agency, and Senior Manager with The Pew Charitable Trusts with their Ending Illegal Fishing Project. Mark also earned a Master of Science degree in Marine Policy from The University of Washington.

Mr. Damian Johnson joined the IMCS Network Secretariat staff as Senior MCS Specialist in April 2022 and will serve in this role for at least the next three years. Damian is a New Zealand national and has extensive MCS expertise and experience not only within New Zealand, but also on an international level most recently with the Forum Fisheries Agency. Damian's position was funded through a collaborative initiative called the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC) that the IMCS Network embarked on in 2021 along with TM-Tracking and Global Fishing Watch as the founding organizations. At present, several grants have provided funding to all three organizations to further the development and operation of the JAC. Damian's extensive background in data analytics and MCS capacity building marks the beginning of the IMCS Network to once again be involved in operational engagement with developing countries with MCS capacity development needs, especially IMCS Network Member developing countries.

Dr. Amy Coombs is the IMCS Network Policy and Communications Manager. Amy has been with the IMCS Network since 2016 in a part-time capacity. She earned a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources from Purdue University and received her Doctorate in Economic and Environmental History from The University of Chicago.

IMCS Network Fiscal Sponsorship

The IMCS Network is an informal, voluntary organization. As such, this requires the IMCS Network to establish a partnership with an organization to act as the Network's fiscal sponsor and legal entity. The Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) acted in this role on behalf of the IMCS Network until the conclusion of the previous NOAA grant award period which ended in October 2020. In response to their departure, IMCS Network Secretariat established a partnership relationship with a new fiscal sponsor, Impact Philanthropy Group (IPG). IPG is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in the State of California that provides an affordable method to help manage and grow the philanthropic efforts of individuals and organizations to include fiscal sponsorship. IPG's leadership team has provided professional expertise and nonprofit experience to the Network Secretariat since November 2020 and helped the Network remain a strong and sustainable organization. IPG has hands-on experience managing charitable projects and has demonstrated best practice consulting services, administrative management, bookkeeping, oversight of Network programs and initiatives, and support for day-to-day IMCS Network Secretariat duties and responsibilities.

Current NOAA Grant – IMCS Network Baseline Operating Budget

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) supports the operation of the IMCS Network Secretariat through a federal grant award. The previous NOAA grant covered a three-year period that expired 31 October 2020. Shortly after the current Executive Director assumed his duties in January 2020, NOAA OLE provided a verbal commitment to continue to support the IMCS Network with a new grant. The new grant award was advertised to cover operations of the IMCS Network Secretariat and Network activities for the four-year period from 01 November 2020 to 31 October 2024.

In October 2020 IPG received notification from NOAA OLE that they had been awarded the grant specific to *“Support and Strengthening of the International MCS Network”*. Year One funding was fully disbursed to IPG and expended in accordance with the NOAA grant budget as documented to NOAA OLE via a requisite Year One NOAA Grant Annual Report. On 30 April 2022, a Year Two Mid-Year Report was submitted to NOAA covering IMCS Network activities between November 2021 and April 2022. Mid-way through Year Two, 41 percent of the Year Two annual budget has been expended, slightly behind track due primarily to limitations in travel caused by the global pandemic; however, 100 percent of Year Two funds is expected to be expended by the end of the grant year. Under the current grant, the IMCS Network Secretariat staff (Executive Director and Network Coordinator) operate as independent consultants. Neither of the positions are full-time positions given operational budget constraints.

Commitments for additional funding to support IMCS Network activities have been secured over the last two years by the Network Secretariat. These commitments of funding support include:

- Funds from New Zealand (MPI) to support IMCS Network Operations
- Funds from the FAO to support the 2021 virtual GFETW
- Funds from The Pew Charitable Trusts to support the 2021 virtual GFETW
- Funds from The Pew Charitable Trusts to support a series of virtual MCS seminars
- Funds from FAO and NOAA to support IMCS Network activities

- Funds from Australia (AFMA) to support the 7th GFETW and development of an IMCS Network Communications Strategy
- Grant funds from Canada to support development of a Carrier Vessel Job Aid for the Marshall Islands
- Funds from the FAO to support work of the Tuna Compliance Network (to be finalized in mid-2022)
- Grant funds from Bloomberg Vibrant Oceans Initiative (split with TM-Tracking) to support IMCS Network involvement in the Joint Analytical Cell
- Grant funds from OceanKind to support IMCS Network involvement in the Joint Analytical Cell

Total direct funding outlined above supporting IMCS Network activities beyond the NOAA grant baseline operating budget secured by the IMCS Network Secretariat amounted to an additional \$1.2 million USD in funds. While significant, it is important to note these funds are directed to provide support for specific IMCS Network activities rather than the baseline operating funds needed to keep the IMCS Network Secretariat functioning beyond the current grant timeframe.

Membership and Observers

The IMCS Network is currently comprised of seventy-one (71) member countries, four RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, NEAFC, and SPRFMO), one RFB (Forum Fisheries Agency) and one regional economic integration organization (the European Union). In 2022, Trinidad and Tobago joined the IMCS Network which followed on from three new members through requests and applications submitted by the Falkland Islands, NEAFC, and SPRFMO in 2021. An additional RFMO (NPFC) was considering becoming a member of the IMCS Network, but their 2022 annual Commission meeting was cancelled, delaying this decision. The Executive Director is currently engaged in discussions with The Maldives who recently expressed interest in becoming an IMCS Network Member.

In 2018, the Overseas Fisheries Development Council (OFDC) from Taiwan requested and obtained IMCS Network Observer status per Article 6 of the Network Governing Framework. In June 2020, Australia's national science agency - Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) - submitted a request to become an official Observer to the IMCS Network. This request was followed by Observer requests received from Global Fishing Watch, Skylight, TM-Tracking, Stop Illegal Fishing, and OceanMind, all organizations whose work is directly relevant to fisheries MCS. The IMCS Network Chair acknowledged all these requests and positively endorsed their official Observer organization status. In 2021 the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy of Florida International University set a precedent by becoming the first academic institution to receive Observer organization status with the IMCS Network, primarily related to their work in developing a virtual Security Research Hub and IUU Fishing Dashboard which represents an important public access research platform for IMCS Network Members in gaining more information or access to research, studies, and news events related to IUU fishing.

The IMCS Network is considered an official Observer to the Forum Fisheries Committee which allows the Network to participate as an official Observer to the annual FFA MCS Working Group Meeting. The IMCS Network is also a formal Observer to the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combatting IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) and participates as an Observer in their Coordination Committee meetings and other specific RPOA-IUU activities as requested by the RPOA-IUU Secretariat or its members. The IMCS Network is also considered an official Observer organization to SPRFMO, NAFO, NEAFC, and NPFC.

Network Activities in 2021 through to April 2022

Financial Management and Other Support

IPG provided financial management of the NOAA grant restricted funds of the IMCS Network and the Secretariat as well as oversight of Network Secretariat operations. IPG also allocated consultants for administrative or technical support, negotiated, drafted, and executed funding agreements, and provided overarching oversight of all activities under the NOAA award, as well as non-NOAA grant management and project management. IPG 's personnel also assisted and supported the leadership of the IMCS Network via the Executive Committee and GFETW Steering Committee.

IPG served as the fiscal sponsor for the IMCS Network since November 2020 and is anticipated to continue in that role until at least October 2024. IPG may continue in this role dependent on the availability of another NOAA federal grant supporting IMCS Network Secretariat functioning. As fiscal sponsor, IPG is responsible for all financial receivables and disbursements of the Network and serves as the legal entity for the Network for all grant agreements, contracts, and other binding documents. The following financial receivables, agreements, and contracts were either executed or otherwise drafted, monitored, and completed during 2021 through to mid-2022:

- Contract with *Nclud*, a commercial website development company contracted for services to revise and update the IMCS Network website.
- Contract with *Outsourced Events*, a commercial online conference planner contracted for services to develop the 2021 virtual GFETW website and support execution of the two-day online virtual GFETW.
- Contract with *OceanMind*, a not-for-profit entity that uses satellites, artificial intelligence, and analysis to empower fisheries authorities and seafood buyers to understand compliance of fishing around the world to develop a Strategic IUU Fishing Risk Assessment for the fisheries authorities of Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama.
- Contract with *Outsourced Events*, a commercial online conference planner contracted for services to develop a series of four to six virtual seminars on select MCS topics of interest to run between May 2022 and April 2023 as a bridging strategy leading up to the 7th GFETW scheduled in Halifax, Nova Scotia in August 2023.
- A Contribution Agreement with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) providing funding support to the IMCS Network for the planning and execution of both series of the virtual MCS seminars as well as the GFETW scheduled for August 2023.
- Two separate grant agreements with The Pew Charitable Trusts providing funding support to the IMCS Network for services associated with the 2021 virtual GFETW and planned series of virtual MCS seminars in 2022.
- An amendment to the contract with *OceanMind* providing additional funding for services associated with translating the final approved copy of their Strategic IUU Fishing Risk Assessment for the fisheries authorities of Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama into Spanish.
- A grant agreement through the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Program supporting the development of a standardized intelligence-driven carrier vessel job aid for the use of port

inspectors of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) of the Republic of the Marshall.

- A contract with an IT consultant to conduct a review and comparative assessment of the utility of RFMO IUU Vessel Lists and outline recommendations and potential costs associated with creating an API capability for potentially 14 different RFMOs that will help facilitate automatic updates and reduce manual labor associated with updating each IUU Vessel List when changes are made.
- A subgrant with Global Fishing Watch supporting the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC), a collaborative Project in conjunction with TM-Tracking and Global Fishing Watch. IPG also executed an agreement with the Bloomberg Philanthropies Vibrant Oceans Initiative that provided funding to the IMCS Network supporting the JAC which will be split with TM-Tracking; and
- A draft agreement with FAO providing funding support to the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) as a Capsule within the FAO Phase 2 ABNJ Tuna Project expected to commence in mid-2022.

Administrative, Logistical, and Travel Support

IPG provided the Network Secretariat administrative support consisting of allocations for supplies, telecommunications, postage/delivery, internet and website, and other direct costs to support Secretariat operations. All requests from the Network Secretariat for expenditures were approved by IPG per its Procurement Policy. Logistical support consisted of providing the IMCS Network Secretariat a physical address in care of Impact Philanthropy Group, 411 West Seaside Way, Suite 1005, Long Beach, CA 90802. The Secretariat remained at this address throughout 2021 and into 2022. Network Secretariat staff are home-based as this is the most cost-efficient method for management of the Secretariat and Network. No travel was conducted by the Network Secretariat in 2021. IPG provided travel logistics and support for the Executive Director for one work-related trip in April 2022 and for the Senior MCS Specialist for one trip to the UK and Nigeria in May 2022 that supported the JAC collaborative initiative.

Organizing and Implementing IMCS Network MCS Activities

Organizing and implementation of IMCS Network MCS activities was accomplished in collaboration between the Network Secretariat and Network leadership. At times, this was conducted through biweekly Steering Committee meetings that focused on planning for both the virtual and the 7th GFETW. The Executive Director participated in two virtual workshops associated with the JAC initiative that involved the planning and execution of processes and procedures for standing up the JAC to initial operating capacity in January 2022.

On behalf of the IMCS Network, Executive Director participated as a moderator, featured speaker, facilitator, steering committee member, panelist, presenter, or observer in the following IUU fishing and compliance workshops, seminars, and conferences over the past year:

- Florida International University (FIU) IUU Fishing Conference: Panelist; *Prospects for the Future: Challenges and Opportunities in Combating IUU Fishing*.
- Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies: Featured Speaker: *IUU Fishing: Challenges in the Indo-Pacific and Especially Oceania*.
- RPOA-IUU: Observer; *13th and 14th Coordination Committee Meetings*.

- Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies and MCS Seminar: Moderator; *Emerging Technologies and MCS*.
- Pew and ISSF Compliance Assessment Workshops: Steering Committee Member and Participant; *1st, 2nd, and 3rd Virtual Expert Workshops on Compliance*.
- FAO Webinars in Support of FAO Technical Report 661- Transshipment: A Closer Look: Presenter on three regional webinars; *An Overview of the FAO Study on Transshipment for COFI34*.
- FFA 24th Annual MCS Working Group Meeting: Observer; *Information Paper on the Benefits of Joining the IMCS Network*.
- National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) Maritime Information-Sharing Southwest Atlantic Working Group Meeting: Participant and Presenter; *Role of the IMCS Network as a Partner in the MIS-SWA Working Group*.
- US Maritime SAFE Act Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing: Submission of Written and Oral Public Comments; *Public Comments on Interagency Working Group Workplan*.
- Tuna Compliance Network: Facilitator; *TCN Core Group Meetings*.
- Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network: Facilitator; *PPFCN Core Group Meetings*.
- International Seminar on Implementation of the PSMA: Observer; *Seminar co-hosted by FAO and New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries*.
- IMCS Network virtual and 7th GFETW Steering Committee Meetings: Facilitator; *IMCS Network virtual and 7th GFETW Steering Committee Meetings*.
- IMCS Network informal 7th GFETW Planning Committee Meetings: Facilitator; *IMCS Network 7th GFETW Planning Committee Meetings*.
- US Department of State (DOS) Speaker Program: Speaker; *IUU Fishing and the IMCS Network; US Embassy staff in Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia including foreign fisheries administration invited guests*.
- Fisheries Committee of the Western and Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) Workshop on IUU Fishing: Panelist; *MCS Cooperation and Collaboration and the IMCS Network*.
- Florida International University (FIU) and Global Fishing Watch Seminar on IUU Fishing: Panelist; *Importance of Cooperation and Collaboration to Advance MCS Activities*.
- IMCS Network virtual GFETW: MC/Facilitator; *IMCS Network Virtual GFETW*.
- FAO Expert Consultation: Resource Staff; *Expert Consultation on the Development of Global Guidelines for Transshipment*.
- IDDRI Workshop: Participant and Presenter; *Towards Better Management of Western African Marine Resources*.
- FFA 25th Annual MCS Working Group Meeting: Observer; *Information Paper on the Benefits of Joining the IMCS Network*.
- Tuna Compliance Network: Facilitator; *TCN Core Group Meetings*.
- Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network: Facilitator; *PPFCN Core Group Meetings*.
- IMCS Network GFETW Steering Committee Meetings: Facilitator; *IMCS Network GFETW Steering Committee Meetings*.
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO): Observer; *9th Compliance and Technical Committee Meeting*.

- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO): Observer; *10th Annual Commission Meeting*.
- USAID Workshop Series: Participant; *Strengthening Information Flows to Counter Illegal Labor and Harvesting Practices in Wild Fisheries*.
- IDDRI/IUCN/IMCS Network Workshop: Organizer, Participant and Moderator; *High Seas Marine Protected Areas: Vast, Remote, and Costly?*
- Florida International University: Participant; *Security Research Hub Review and Input Workshop*.
- Forum Fisheries Agency: Participant and Presenter; *Maritime College Seminar*; and
- US Naval War College; Guest Lecturer; *IUU Fishing and the IMCS Network*.

The Secretariat collaborated with PACIFICO, a not-for-profit organization supporting the maritime interests of Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama to develop a Terms of Reference for a two-phase project that has as an end goal, the formation of a Regional Plan of Action on IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU) involving the four countries. All four countries are members of the IMCS Network. The first Phase of this initiative involved the development of a Strategic IUU Fishing Risk Assessment which was funded by the IMCS Network. The research will directly support and inform the fisheries administrations of Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama.

The Secretariat responded to interest expressed by the Compliance Managers of several RFMOs in the potential to coordinate and increase the overall utility of RFMO IUU Vessel Lists by improving the ability of RFMOs to receive near real-time information about updates, additions and/or removals of vessels from other RFMOs' IUU Vessel Lists. In March 2022 an agreement with an IT consultant was executed to conduct an initial phase of this work following interest expressed by 14 global RFMOs to be involved and support this work. The overall purpose of the initiative is twofold; (1) to reduce, or possibly even eliminate time delays associated with updates, additions, or removals of vessels from RFMO IUU Vessel Lists (required due to updates in other relevant RFMOs' IUU Lists); and (2) reduce the amount of manual intervention or "workload" on RFMO Secretariat staff to regularly, and comprehensively, review all other relevant RFMO IUU Vessel Lists for updates. The outcome of this work may also be beneficial to other organizations that utilize RFMO IUU Vessel Lists. The results of this initial phase of work are expected to be provided in July 2022.

Several MCS consultant opportunities associated with a variety of organizations was provided to the 14 MCS Experts that were vetted and approved for inclusion on the IMCS Network Register of Vetted MCS Experts. This includes providing the Job Description for the IMCS Network Senior MCS Specialist, a position for which several MCS Experts applied for. No additional MCS Experts were vetted and approved for inclusion on the Register during this semi-annual timeframe.

The IMCS Network was invited to participate with Oceana, Environmental Justice Foundation, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), TM-Tracking (TMT), C4ADS and AI2-Skylight (three of which are Observer organizations of the IMCS Network) in a transparency policy initiative organized by Oceans 5, a not-for-profit international funders collaborative. Oceans 5 commenced a series of convenings in April 2021 with these seven organizations to seek actionable strategies to achieve two specific objectives: (1) expand and

strengthen transparency policies consistent with the Environmental Justice Foundation Ten Principles of Transparency; and (2) improve key transparency platforms. The goal of the initiative was to develop proposals designed to achieve the two objectives that would be considered for funding a key group of donor organizations including Oceans 5, Paul Allen Foundation, Packard Foundation, OceanKind, Moore Foundation, Bloomberg, and Oak Foundation. A direct result of these convenings resulted in both a Bloomberg Vibrant Oceans Initiative grant to the IMCS Network via IPG as fiscal sponsor for a collaborative Project with TMT and GFW as well as an Oceans 5 and OceanKind grant to TMT and GFW also in support of the JAC which included a GFW subgrant to the IMCS Network.

Developing and Implementing IMCS Network Sharing Activities

This was accomplished through 2021 and into 2022 via use of the IMCS Network website (<http://imcsnet.org>) and the GFETW conference website (GFETW.org) on a WordPress platform. Imcsnet.org files were updated when server updates took place at Bluehost, and widgets and plugins were updated with security features. On the website front end, in the last six months 21 new posts were added, two major event announcements were designed and updated, multiple library items were added, and changes were made to the Activities, Leadership, and Members pages. Photo permissions were added to the Media Library. A member's portal and archive are in development. GFETW.org received the most attention as the full conference site was redesigned three times to reflect the announcement and then postponement of the in-person 7th GFETW due to the omicron variant of COVID-19 and ongoing travel restrictions related to the global pandemic.

After archiving the event and portal information for the first virtual GFETW held in July 2021 because of the pandemic, the 7th GFETW scheduled for July 2022 was announced in October of 2021 before being postponed again in January 2022. All pages on the site, including the conference Prospectus, Call for Abstracts, Stop IUU Fishing Award flier, travel fellowship application, visa and travel, contact, information, and photo caption content are being revised once again for the 7th GFETW set for 30 July – 04 August 2023. Because URLs for most pages contain dates and location details, these have been revised two to three times due to the changes. GFETW.org also received an over-all update to stay current on the version of WordPress. Both websites are currently undergoing search-engine optimization updates.

Eventbrite continues to be the registration service of the GFETW. The Network Secretariat developed and revised two new Eventbrite invitations to manage registration for the upcoming digital and in-person events. The Secretariat received approximately 50 registrants for the 7th GFETW at the last closing of the Eventbrite due to the pandemic; however, the Secretariat is about to re-launch registration and vetting for the 7th GFETW in 2023. This has required extensive research on liability waivers for COVID as well as better questions on the registration form designed to assess the needs of attendees.

The Network continues to use Mailchimp to distribute content to the Network's Point of Contacts, Leadership, Conference, and Network ListSers. The Secretariat has sent 18 campaigns that averaged 'opening rates' of approximately 50 percent, developed three new templates and updated all ListSers. This required updating contact lists based on the conference registration and participation as well as in response to ongoing correspondence.

The IMCS Network Secretariat continues to use LinkedIn.com for social networking. The IMCS Network LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/in/imcsnetec/> has 506 contacts and 15 new entries under Posts and Activities since the site was created in January 2021. LinkedIn is updated every time the Secretariat makes a post in Imcsnet.org.

Secretariat daily correspondence has become more involved at each account due to the reinvigoration of programming and the Secretariat's investment in virtual events during the postponement of the in-person GFETW. Email communication has more than tripled and requires daily commitments. In early 2022 the Secretariat transferred data to a new server at the Network's existing host to increase the reliability and speed of international service. Some international European Union-based domains were rejecting the Network's prior emails, perhaps due to the increased investment in digital security measures in some parts of Europe. This problem is now fixed, however the data transfer required numerous updates with the Network's webhost as well as many hours of staff time to minimize the downtime of client services. The transfer of data was successful, and no archived data was lost.

These many projects have required the development of new internal communications policies that streamline feedback and decision making from leadership. Content is edited and approved before posting. This draws from guidance developed from the draft IMCS Network Communication Strategy and associated Plan.

The Network Secretariat maintained or otherwise established seven different Projects or Teams on Basecamp, an online communication and collaboration tool, to help facilitate the work of members within those Projects. These Projects include:

- *TCN Core Group*: Ten members plus the Secretariat.
- *TCN Extended Group*: Seventeen members plus the Secretariat.
- *IUU Vessel Information Exchange*: Twenty members plus the Secretariat.
- *PPFCN Core Group*: Nine members plus the Secretariat.
- *2023 GFETW Planning Committee*: Four members plus the Secretariat.
- *Advancing RFMO IUU Vessel List Utility*: 22 members plus the Secretariat.
- *TCN IUU Vessel List Exchange Group*: Seven members plus the Secretariat.

Disseminating Information and Research Collected and Developed by the IMCS Network

An extensive library of more than 100 different studies and research on MCS topics has been compiled by the Secretariat and included as a feature on the IMCS Network website as a resource for Network members and other MCS stakeholders. The library feature is intended to be a living component of the website as the Secretariat intends to continually add studies and research on MCS topics and IUU fishing to the library's database. The Secretariat continues to investigate, analyze, and seek new information and tools for exercising efficient and effective MCS; when these are found, the Secretariat shares these with both the IMCS membership and the wider MCS community via the IMCS Network website.

In addition, the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy of Florida International University (FIU) set a precedent by becoming the first academic institution to become an Observer organization to the IMCS Network. The benefit this relationship provides is a greater opportunity for the IMCS Network to contribute to FIU's development of their Security Research Hub (SRH) found at (<https://srh.fiu.edu/home/>) which is a new virtual research platform that aims to harness publicly available information that supports collaboration and shared understanding about IUU fishing and security issues amongst FIU and its partners (such as the IMCS Network). The SRH focuses on a wide range of security-related topics such as transnational organized crime, migration, illegal fishing, and regional health concerns and uses publicly available data and applying analytic tools that aggregate research that leads to new, original findings. The SRH represents a new and important resource and research tool for the IMCS Network member community and the IMCS Network uses its relationship with FIU to provide input into the continued development of the SRH to better serve the needs and interests of IMCS Network members.

Representing the IMCS Network, the Executive Director either co-authored or contributed to the following publications which were released or published during 2021 through to mid-2022:

- *Toward Transparent Governance of Transboundary Fisheries: The Case of Pacific Tuna Transshipment*: Marine Policy.
- *Transshipment: A Closer Look – An In-depth Study in Support of the Development of International Guidelines*; FAO Technical Paper 661.
- *MCS Practitioners Introductory Guide to Industrial Fishing Vessel Inspections*: Produced by TM-Tracking and the IMCS Network.
- *MCS Practitioners Introductory Guide to Longline Fishing*: Produced by TM-Tracking and the IMCS Network.
- *MCS Practitioners Introductory Guide to Purse Seine Fishing*: Produced by TM-Tracking and the IMCS Network.
- *MCS Practitioners Introductory Guide to Pole-and-Line Fishing*: Produced by TM-Tracking and the IMCS Network; and
- *FAO Proceedings 68 – First Virtual Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop*: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the IMCS Network.

In addition, the Executive Director, representing the IMCS Network, was requested to provide peer review and MCS technical analysis of the following eight studies published during 2021:

- *A 2018 Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with Reported Transshipments in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Statistical Areas*.
- *A 2018 Comparative Analysis of Reported Carrier Trips and Transshipments in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Convention Area using AIS Data*.
- *A Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with Reported Transshipments Occurring in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area in 2018*.
- *A Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with Reported Transshipments in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Convention Area using AIS Data in 2019*.

- *A 2019 Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with Reported Transshipments in the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Statistical Areas.*
- *A 2019 Comparative Analysis of Reported Carrier Trips and Transshipments in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) Convention Area using AIS Data.*
- *A Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with Reported Transshipments Occurring in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area in 2019.*
- *Seafood Traceability: Aligning RFMO Catch Documentation Schemes to Combat IUU Fishing.*

The Executive Director was also approached by the Stanford Law School and their Center on Ocean Studies to be interviewed as an MCS and IUU fishing policy expert which contributed to a report eventually published as:

- *“The Outlaw Ocean Report: An Exploration of Policy Solutions to Address Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor in the Seafood Industry.”*

The Secretariat also coordinated with TCN members to facilitate the development of deliverables for two Compliance Assessment studies commissioned and funded by FAO to support the Tuna Compliance Network which commenced in January 2021. The first Study was finalized in October 2021 and the second study is being finalized for completion in June 2022. In addition, the Secretariat engaged with FAO to commence development of a draft agreement that will provide the basis for funding support for a capsule of work to the TCN for their continued interest in the goals and objectives associated with improving RFMO compliance assessment processes. This work is expected to commence in mid-2022.

Developing IMCS Network Membership and Partnerships

The Secretariat worked diligently in expanding the IMCS Network Membership and other partnerships. This was achieved through outreach which highlighted the mission of the IMCS Network to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of MCS activities through cooperation and information exchange between members and fellow MCS practitioners. In the past year, the Network has grown with two new national members; Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as two RFMOs (NEAFC and SPRFMO).

During the last year, the IMCS Network also became a founding organization of the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC), a cooperation mechanism established by the IMCS Network, Global Fishing Watch (GFW), and TM-Tracking (TMT) to harness their complementary organizational skillsets, technologies, and partnerships to tackle IUU fishing more effectively. Building on an existing collaboration, the JAC will provide the space and resources to develop new methodologies, standard operating procedures, data sources and technologies so that operations are conducted in a way that is more efficient, more coherent, and ultimately scalable.

The JAC will work in four key areas: provision of high-quality fisheries intelligence; MCS capacity building; strengthening access to data and technology; and partnership development. Whilst most intelligence provision and other support services will be provided to country partners, the JAC will also make key insights and analyses publicly available to support evidence-base policy, regulatory and legal reform efforts by

country and NGO partners. The work of the JAC reflects the founding organizations' drive towards greater transparency of activities occurring in the maritime domain but is also balanced with data confidentiality guidelines designed to ensure that JAC partners can share confidential information with the JAC with the knowledge that it will not be further shared or disseminated without their permission. Key initial intervention areas are providing analytical support on port controls, air and sea patrols, transshipment, MCS capacity training and evidence-basing global fisheries issues of interest.

The JAC is a partnership mechanism premised on the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – as such it is designed to grow, and the development of new partnerships to complement the existing founding partnership will be a core part of the JAC's mission. Partnerships will be formed with State and non-State actors. It is envisaged that non-State actors will act as data and technology providers, as well as operational partners in the delivery of training and technical MCS support. State actors will partner with the JAC in two primary ways – as receivers of intelligence and tailored support, which will be provided primarily, but not exclusively, to developing coastal States, and as providers of data, operational MCS support and funding as appropriate.

In addition to establishing formal partnerships, the JAC will seek to cooperate more broadly, with the aspiration that it could represent a first step in what can develop into a coalition of like-minded organizations and a 'home' for technology, data, and operational support. This would include engagement with, and support to, such entities as the FFA Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center (RFSC), especially regarding the provision of intelligence briefs to support operational planning associated with the annual FFA Regional Surveillance Operations. Support for the FFA-led regional Surveillance operation TUI MOANA is currently being conducted under the JAC umbrella.

By fostering collaboration and providing partner organizations a vehicle through which to align and unite engagement, the JAC will serve to reduce the significant confusion that has arisen regarding the multiple technology/data offerings and organizations that are operating in the sphere of fisheries intelligence provision. By reducing perceived competition, replication and ensuring greater efficiency of funding, the JAC will enable real change to be delivered on the water, faster.

As a cooperation mechanism, the JAC is not a standalone organization – while it will have a clear profile and will be cited as a source of intelligence and support, relationships with receivers will continue to be fronted by the partner organizations. The JAC will be operated by dedicated staff from partner organizations, with broader staff support as needed. It will be governed by a Steering Committee, composed of senior representatives of each of the three founding organizations. The JAC has already secured development funding and will commence operations in 2022 for at least the next three years.

The Executive Director remained actively engaged with the FAO and has been asked by FAO to participate as an MCS expert representing the IMCS Network as an intergovernmental Observer organization to FAO for the upcoming planned Technical Consultations on the development of global guidelines for the management of transshipment which the FAO was tasked to conduct as an outcome of COFI34 in February 2021.

The Executive Director, representing the IMCS Network, also conducted outreach to, or was approached by, a range of different organizations involved in fisheries MCS and established, or otherwise continued, the following relationships:

- The National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office (NMIO) requested the IMCS Network join NMIO as a partner organization in two Maritime Information-Sharing Working Groups. These include one involving partner South American countries to the US in the Southwest Atlantic (including Uruguay as an IMCS Network member) and one in the Eastern Pacific (including Peru, Chile, and Ecuador as IMCS Network members).
- NMIO also is the sponsor of the Ocean Prosperity and Maritime Security (OPMS) Partnership of which the IMCS Network was invited to be involved. The OPMS Partnership is designed to provide a flexible forum for discussions between interagency and private sector partners about the resources, barriers, and opportunities to collaborate to address shared interests in the maritime domain. The OPMS Partnership will initially focus on marine conservation, particularly efforts to counter IUU fishing, and seek to better understand the barriers to maritime data, information sharing, and maritime domain awareness that the IMCS Network as an organization faces, as well as ideas on ways in which the US Government might assist.
- The Network Secretariat engaged with the organizers and Steering Committee of the International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference to facilitate the ability of the IMCS Network to participate as an Observer organization in discussions and workshops at their 2023 IFOMC conference that involves observers in their role of documenting compliance issues. As a result, the Steering Committee requested the IMCS Network facilitate one of the planned sessions and actively participate in the conference.
- The US Coast Guard Fisheries Enforcement Division (CG-MLE-4) in the US Coast Guard Office of Law Enforcement expressed interest to partner with the IMCS Network and NOAA OLE in the development of specific MCS training that can be delivered by Coast Guard field units related to the goals and objectives outlined in the new US Coast Guard Strategy on IUU Fishing. This work is currently pending.
- The California Ocean Alliance requested IMCS Network involvement in their Interagency Collaboration on Fisheries initiative that was formed to: (1) work closely with governments to train resource managers, enforcement personnel, and customs officials in international best practices around fisheries and MPA-related MDA, MCS, and seafood traceability, to help strengthen their collective capacity to implement and maintain effective MCS regimes; (2) help governments fully integrate cutting-edge low or no-cost technologies to increase overall MDA and monitoring and surveillance of fishing vessels in and outside MPAs; (3) develop collaborative systems, tools and information exchanges to ensure near real-time fisheries and MPA-related MDA information collected by navies and coast guards is shared with relevant resource managers, fisheries enforcement personnel, and prosecutors; (4) setup joint interagency fisheries and MPA-related MDA, MCS and traceability information-sharing working groups; and (5) encourage international cooperation on MCS and help these working groups build alliances with partner nations, regional networks, international collaborators, and information sharing hubs.

- In February 2022, the FAO approached the Executive Director with the desire to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FAO and the IMCS Network that would facilitate the ability of the two organizations to work more closely and collaboratively together on areas of mutual MCS interest. The Executive Director is currently engaged with FAO staff in the development of this MOU which is anticipated to highlight several specific MCS areas of interest including transshipment, advancing the informal networking arrangements of officers responsible for compliance with RFMOs through mechanisms such as the TCN and PPFCN, FAO support related to the IMCS Network periodic GFETWs, and risk assessment tools that support and complement the PSAM GIES being developed by FAO.

Identifying Additional Resources and Funding for the Network

The Network Secretariat worked to identify additional resources and funding for the Network. The following represent activities associated with identifying additional resources to support the Network and its activities:

- The Network Secretariat and colleagues from the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) are working to finalize a Contribution Agreement for DFO to provide funding support to the IMCS Network for planning and completing four virtual seminar series on MCS topics of interest as well as the GFETW scheduled for August 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- The Network Secretariat and IPG worked with The Pew Charitable Trusts to finalize a grant agreement for Pew to provide funding support to the IMCS Network for planning and completing the series of four virtual seminars on MCS topics of interest over the course of the next year.
- The Network Secretariat and IPG are working with FAO to finalize a proposed Capsule for inclusion in Phase II of FAO's ABNJ Tuna Project commencing in 2022 to provide funding to support the work of the TCN over a period from June 2022 – October 2024.
- The Network Secretariat's Concept Note in partnership with the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority was accepted for funding to support an initiative regarding the development of a Carrier Vessel Job Aid to support Marshall Islands port inspectors in conducting intelligence-driven boardings and inspections of foreign-flagged fishing vessels seeking to enter the Marshall Islands port of Majuro.
- The IMCS Network received a two-year grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Vibrant Oceans Initiative – split between the IMCS Network and TM-Tracking - to support initial development of the JAC to initial operating capacity; and
- The IMCS Network received a three-year subgrant from Global Fishing Watch to support the development of the JAC from initial operating capacity to full operating capacity. This funding ensures the ability for the IMCS Network to maintain the Senior MCS Specialist position on the Network Secretariat staff for at least the next three years.

Funding previously provided by the Australia Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) was used to help fund the development of an initial draft of an IMCS Network Communications Strategy and associated Communications Plan – organizational guidance documents never previously promulgated by the IMCS Network. The initial draft of a Communication Strategy was developed by the Network Secretariat during

the past year and is currently on the agenda for discussion and feedback during this Executive Committee and Business Meeting.

Support for a series of virtual MCS seminars in 2022 and the 7th GFETW scheduled in 2023

The IMCS Secretariat and IPG consultants supported planning and implementing the 7th GFETW, an in-person workshop originally scheduled for August 2022 in Halifax, Nova Scotia hosted by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This follows the successful execution of a virtual GFETW in July 2021 instead of coordinating an in-person meeting due to the ongoing challenges and issues associated with the global pandemic. The Executive Committee stood up a GFETW Steering Committee which commenced biweekly meetings in August 2021 to plan the overall theme and agenda for the virtual 7th GFETW.

During the past year, an agenda was finalized around the overall theme: *“MOVING FROM WORDS TO ACTION” - Innovative Collaborative Partnerships to Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*. Four thematic areas were developed to continue to center around *“Cooperation and Partnerships,” “Risk Assessment and Analysis,” “Technology as an Enabler,”* and *“Transparency.”* A draft agenda for the GFETW was developed with a combination of presentations, panel discussions and tabletop exercise supported through solicitation for the posting of relevant papers, presentations and/or short videos related to MCS and IUU fishing issues.

A GFETW Prospectus was developed, finalized, and promulgated to provide MCS stakeholders notice of the upcoming virtual conference as well as a Call for Abstracts soliciting interest from both member States and organizations involved in fisheries MCS to submit papers, presentations, or videos relevant to MCS and the four thematic areas of the GFETW. These documents were also developed in both French and Spanish. The Network Secretariat created a GFETW website including the ability for interested MCS practitioners to register to attend the GFETW.

In addition to the GFETW Steering Committee, the Network Secretariat and IPG continued an informal GFETW planning committee with members of the Canadian Department of Fisheries that met biweekly to discuss planning and logistics for the 7th GFETW. This planning committee is separate in function from the GFETW Steering Committee that planned the agenda and program for the in-person 7th GFETW. In addition, the Network Secretariat and IPG ensured contracts were place for both the Halifax Convention Center (HCC) and with two groups representing four different hotels to establish contracts for holding blocks of rooms for GFETW participants.

Unfortunately, despite the extensive amount of work and planning by the Network Secretariat, IPG, and the GFETW Steering Committee, in January 2022 the Steering Committee unanimously determined it was prudent to postpone the GFETW scheduled for Halifax in August 2022 until 2023 due to the growing global concern with rising cases of the omicron variant of COVID-19, the on-going pandemic and its resulting impact on communicable spread and resulting impact on international travel restrictions. Due to the graciousness of the Network’s Canadian colleagues, DFO Canada agreed to continue to plan to host the 7th GFETW in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2023. The Network Secretariat quickly secured updated confirmed dates for the GFETW at the HCC for 30 July – 04 August 2023 as well as updated the hotel room contracts to

correspond to these dates as well. All the documents and the GFETW website are currently being updated to reflect the 7th GFETW scheduled for 2023.

As a bridging strategy, the GFETW Steering Committee agreed for the Network Secretariat to coordinate a series of virtual seminars on selected MCS topics of interest over the course of the next year which included the following four topics for primary consideration:

- The Joint Analytical Cell: Harnessing the Power of Collaboration to More Effectively Address IUU Fishing.
- Transshipment: Global Guidelines for the Management and Control of Transshipment – Operational MCS Implications.
- Transparency in Fisheries: Beneficial Ownership and Vessel Owner Transparency (VOT) Standard; and
- The FAO Port States Measures Agreement: Effectively Implementing the PSMA based on the Evaluation of Risks.

In addition, the Network Secretariat commenced engagement with Outsourced Events, the same commercial digital conference planner used by the IMCS Network to support the 2021 virtual GFETW, to develop the specific virtual seminar sites in accordance with the planned agenda for each. Outsourced Events is expected to sign an agreement with IPG in May 2022 to provide support to the IMCS Network for planning and execution of these virtual seminars.

Both the virtual GFETW in 2021 and the upcoming virtual seminars over the course of the next year will build upon the results and outcomes of the past six GFETWs, will cover both current and critical MCS issues, and will respond to the expressed needs of the Network's members and others in the MCS community leading up to the in-person 7th GFETW scheduled in 2023. Specific work for planning the virtual seminars and 2023 7th GFETW included:

- **Confirmation of host nation:** Canada will host the 7th GFETW in 2023.
- **Formation of Workshop Steering Committee:** Formed and active for the virtual seminars and awaiting formal establishment for the 7th GFETW.
- **Selection of date for the virtual seminars and 7th GFETW:** The four virtual seminars are planned to take place between May 2022 - April 2023. The 7th GFETW is scheduled for 30 July – 04 August 2023.
- **Preparation of budget; including fund raising goals:** Ongoing for the virtual seminars and 7th GFETW with Pew committed to providing funding, FAO committed to providing additional funding to support the 7th GFETW, and Canada committed to providing significant financial support in the form of two Contribution Agreements.
- **Establishing responsibilities of MCS Network and Host:** Completed for the virtual seminars and 7th GFETW with DFO Canada hosting the in-person conference in 2023.
- **Drafting Milestone timeline:** Ongoing for both the virtual seminars and 7th GFETW.
- **Prospectus and information material developed and distributed:** Completed for the 7th GFETW until

it was postponed in January 2022. Will require updating for the 2023 meeting.

- **Launch the 7th GFETW website:** Completed for the 7th GFETW until it was postponed. In the process of being updated for the virtual seminars and 2023 meeting.
- **Launch call for abstracts and selection of presenters and facilitators:** Completed for the 7th GFETW. In the process of being updated for the 2023 meeting.
- **Invitations issued to participants:** Not yet executed for the 2023 7th GFETW.
- **Registration process initiated:** Completed for the 7th GFETW until it was postponed. Will require relaunch later in 2022.
- **Develop detailed Workshop program:** Draft agenda nearly finalized for the 7th GFETW until it was postponed. Initial draft framework of the virtual seminars has been completed but needs to be finalized. Draft agenda for the 7th GFETW in 2023 will require development later in 2022.
- **Plan opening ceremony:** Draft plan finalized for the 7th GFETW until it was postponed. Will require updated for the 2023 meeting.
- **Explore options for site visits:** Ongoing for the 7th GFETW but will likely take place late 2022 or early 2023.

Support and Facilitation of Tuna Compliance Network Workshops and Activities

With support from FAO, the Network Secretariat assisted with the development, support, and management of the Tuna Compliance Network commencing in November 2016. This support has continued to date. Specifically, the Executive Director facilitated several virtual TCN meetings and assisted the Core Group in finalizing deliverables associated with two compliance assessment studies commissioned and funded by FAO. The first study commenced in January 2021 and the second is expected to conclude in June 2022. The Network Secretariat also developed a draft Capsule consisting of funding to support continued TCN activities that was included in FAO's Phase II of their ABNJ Tuna Project which will commence in mid-2022. The Network Secretariat is currently engaged with FAO in the development of the draft agreement between FAO and IPG for this support to be provided.

The Network Secretariat coordinated ongoing discussions involving the Compliance Managers of seven different RFMOs whose waters are included in the Pacific Ocean basin. These initial discussions indicated high interest by all the organizations (consisting of CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, NPAFC, NPFC, SPRFMO, and WCPFC) which culminated in the establishment of an informal and voluntary networking group using the model of the TCN in October 2021. The Executive Director assisted the participants with facilitating virtual meetings that included drafting and agreement of an Operational Framework and agreement the group would call themselves the Pan-Pacific Fisheries Compliance Network (PPFCN). The PPFCN elected its first-ever Chair, the Compliance Manager of SPRFMO and the Executive Director is supporting the PPFCN Chair and members with several initiatives including: (1) advancing the utility of RFMO IUU Vessel Lists; (2) creating an inventory of MCS tools employed by the PPFCN members; (3) development of an initial PPFCN logo and brochure to raise the visibility of this new informal network; and (4) assisting the NPAFC Executive Director with advancing interests in establishing a suite of IUU fishing risk indicators for NPAFC. To date, all work associated with PPFCN is unfunded although source funding is being sought.