

Original: English

UPDATE ON ACTIONS OF PORT INSPECTION EXPERT GROUP FOR CAPACITY AND ASSISTANCE
Chair of Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance

1. ICCAT Specific Training Module

As agreed by the Commission at its 2018 meeting, the Secretariat called for Tender for the development of an ICCAT Port Inspection Training Module. Three bids were received and reviewed by the selection committee which comprised a sub-set of the Port Inspection Expert Group on Capacity Building and Assistance (Port Inspection Expert Group). The selection committee identified the Consortium comprising MRAG and Capfish as the best candidate to carry out this work.

The Secretariat signed the contract with the Consortium on 31 July 2019, and hence the first draft of the module will not be available until after the ICCAT Annual meeting. The draft will be circulated as soon as possible to all members of the Port Inspection Expert Group, who will have two months to provide input and comments prior to finalization of the training module.

Once the module is finalised, it will be made available to all CPCs, and, unless the Commission objects, to all other organisations which may be involved in Port Inspection Training and may wish to include the ICCAT specific module.

2. Needs assessment of developing CPCs

The Port Inspection Expert Group agreed that all CPCs which had applied for assistance were eligible, but that priorities needed to be set. Based on a set of selection criteria developed by the Expert Group, and on the pre-assessment forms received, it was agreed that Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria should be the first Contracting Parties to be assessed.

The EU had indicated that such assessments could possibly be undertaken in conjunction with a project being undertaken in the region. After some unforeseen delays, a basic training for Nigerian inspectors took place on 2-4 October in Abuja, in the framework of the EU-funded project PESCAO. Twenty fisheries inspectors from Nigeria participated in this training, which included methodology to conduct inspections in port. This training session was provided by experts from the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) with the support of a national trainer from Nigeria.

Following this basic training, initial reports indicate a clear interest for going further and organising a specialised/practical training in 2020 covering more specifically ICCAT provisions. These activities will also be carried out in the framework of the EU-funded project PESCAO.

No date has yet been set for the assessment of Côte d'Ivoire. However, the EU indicated that a similar approach as in Nigeria could be followed in 2020 for Côte d'Ivoire which is also covered by PESCAO.

3. Commission Review and Approval of Next Steps

Approval of the above outlined course of action is requested from the Commission at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

In addition, it is requested that the Commission authorize, and approve funding for, a meeting of the Expert Group on Port Inspection as early as possible in 2020. The meeting is needed to address the following items:

- a) Review and consolidate all comments of the Expert Group on the submitted draft of the training module in order to finalize the ICCAT specific Port Inspection training;
- b) Review all new and pending requests for assistance from developing CPCs and establish priorities and timing for next round of assessments and training; and
- c) Identify ICCAT members and other international organizations to deliver training utilizing the finalized training module