



# IMCS Network Strategic Plan

2024 - 2029

## Introduction

The IMCS Network was established in 2001 following a commitment made by five countries through the *Declaration of the International Conference on the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fishing Activities “Responsible Fishing Declaration”*. The Declaration called for the establishment of an informal Network to connect those working at the forefront of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement. The need to support and connect those working at the forefront of fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement is as important today as it was over 20 years’ ago.

The IMCS Network is an informal, voluntary organisation that supports members from national fisheries agencies and regional fisheries organisations. The IMCS Network also includes observers from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-government organisations (NGOs) and academic institutions that support the objectives of the Network. We are a member-led and member-focused organisation and we exist to support the communication, collaboration, coordination and capacity development needs of our members. We believe that working collectively and collaboratively is the best way to strengthen fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement and that these elements are essential to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and effectively support marine conservation and fisheries management objectives.

The IMCS Network Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029 provides a roadmap to guide and strengthen the Network to ensure that we deliver results, add value to the work of our members and work effectively with our observers and partners.

## Vision

A globally connected and capable fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement community. A community that works collectively to achieve and maintain optimal levels of compliance that effectively support marine conservation and fisheries management objectives.

## Mission

To strengthen and enhance fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement by promoting and facilitating effective communication, collaboration, coordination, and capacity development across our community.

## Objectives

1. Improved fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement approaches that effectively combat IUU fishing and optimise levels of compliance.
2. Effective collaboration and cooperation established and maintained between members and across the global fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement community.
3. Empowered, informed and capable fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement practitioners.

## Guiding principles

Our Guiding Principles provide simple, clear, robust, and practical guidance on how we implement our Strategic Plan to ensure its success.



### Member focused

We will ensure that our priorities are member driven.



### Transparent

We will have open and impartial decision-making in all aspects of our work and communicate effectively with our community.



### Inclusive

We will be inclusive and representative of our community, seek opportunities to engage with, support and promote the voices of our members equitably.



### Collaborative

We will work collaboratively with our members, observers and partners, leverage the strengths of our Network and build on our successes.



### Adaptable

We will drive action, be adaptable and respond effectively to change, emerging priorities and new opportunities.



### Capable

We will ensure that the Network continues to provide consistent, well-informed and fit-for-purpose advice and support to meet our objectives.

## Outcome Areas

The Objectives will be achieved through several Outcome Areas that describe the priority areas of work for the Network. There may be overlap across the Outcome Areas and they may deliver on one or more Objective.

Objectives		
<p><b>1.</b> Improved fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement approaches that effectively combat IUU fishing and optimize levels of compliance.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Effective collaboration and cooperation established and maintained across the global fisheries MCS and compliance community.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Empowered, informed and capable fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement practitioners.</p>
Outcome Areas		
<p><b>1.1</b> Members have greater access to, and an understanding of, tools, technologies, and approaches, including new and emerging technologies.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Enhanced and strengthened networks are established, maintained and fully utilized by members and supported by observers and partners.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Effective needs driven capacity development initiatives that strengthen national and regional MCS, compliance and enforcement approaches are developed and delivered.</p>
<p><b>1.2</b> Members can effectively apply and integrate tools, technologies, and approaches, , including new and emerging technologies, to strengthen and enhance compliance.</p>	<p><b>2.2</b> Effective mechanisms for communication and information sharing are established, maintained and supported.</p>	<p><b>3.2</b> Access to capacity development, education and training opportunities are coordinated and supported.</p>
<p><b>1.3</b> Members have greater access to relevant data and information and can more effectively use, integrate and apply this data and information.</p>	<p><b>2.3</b> Mechanisms for communication and information sharing are promoted and fully utilized.</p>	<p><b>3.3</b> MCS, compliance and enforcement practitioners can easily access information, research, contacts and support they need to do their work.</p>
<p><b>1.4</b> National and regional compliance programs and frameworks are developed fit-for purpose and support agile and appropriate responses to non-compliance and IUU fishing.</p>	<p><b>2.4</b> Effective partnerships that support the work of the Network are developed and maintained for the benefit of members.</p>	<p><b>3.4</b> New and targeted approaches to support, strengthen and enhance capacity are developed, supported and maintained.</p>

## **Implementation**

The success of the Strategic Plan relies on effective implementation by Network members, the Executive Committee and the Network team. The implementation of the Strategic Plan will be guided by an annual work plan developed by the Network team. The work plan will include outputs and activities that will deliver on the Outcome Areas and Objectives. The work plan will be developed for the calendar year and identify persons responsible, resources and timeframes.

The work plan will document all Network projects and initiatives, the selection of which will be guided by the relevance to the Outcome Areas and Objectives, benefits to members, feasibility, cost-effectiveness and impact.

A Communication Strategy will be developed to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to ensure we that our communications are consistent, accurate, relevant and impactful.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The implementation of the Strategic Plan will be evaluated annually by the Network team and reported to the Executive Committee. The Network team will provide updates on work plan progress, potential issues and emerging opportunities to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be responsible for providing guidance on work plan progress and to evaluate the relevance of the Outcome Areas to ensure that progress towards the Objectives and Vision is achieved.



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The IMCS Network is an informal, voluntary organisation that supports members from national fisheries agencies and regional fisheries organisations. The Network also includes observers from IGOs, NGOs and academic institutions that support to objectives of the Network.

The Vision of the IMCS Network is to create a globally connected and capable fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement community. A community that works collectively to achieve and maintain optimal levels of compliance that effectively support marine conservation and fisheries management objectives. We work towards this Vision through our Mission to strengthen and enhance fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement by promoting and facilitating effective communication, collaboration, coordination, and capacity development across our community.

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