



MCS Specialist – Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) Operations and Analysis

Location: Costa Rica with consideration given to applicants based in Colombia, Ecuador, or Panama.

Term: Two-year with potential for extension.

Working Hours: Full-time

Reports to: Senior MCS Specialist – JAC and Operations

Start Date: 01 June 2024

About the Network: The Vision of the IMCS Network is to create a globally connected and capable fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), compliance and enforcement community that works collectively to achieve and maintain optimal levels of compliance that effectively support marine conservation and fisheries management objectives. The Network was established in 2001 to strengthen and enhance fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement by promoting and facilitating effective communication, collaboration, coordination, and capacity development across our community.

The IMCS Network is an informal, voluntary organization that supports members from national and regional fisheries agencies and organizations. The Network also includes observers from Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions that support the objective of the Network and that play a key role in strengthening responses to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Global efforts to ensure the long-term sustainable management of fisheries continue to face multiple complex challenges, including the ongoing threat of IUU fishing. The activities and types of non-compliance that constitute IUU fishing are continually evolving. The Network believes that the best way to address these challenges is to directly support and inform those individuals working at the forefront of fisheries MCS, compliance and enforcement.

The IMCS Network, in partnership with TMT and Global Fishing Watch, established the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC). The JAC now also includes Skylight and C4ADS. The JAC provides national and regional partners with fisheries intelligence, data analysis and capacity building to help combat IUU fishing and related activities. By harnessing innovative technology and the complementary expertise of its collaborating organizations, the JAC fosters cooperation and collaboration to build insights and capacity that enhance fisheries management.

About the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR): In 2004, the four countries in the Central Eastern Tropical Pacific (CETP), Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama, established the CMAR initiative. The four countries agreed to work together to promote the protection and sustainable use of their marine resources. Over the years they have coordinated regional actions and in 2019 implemented a five-year action plan. The CMAR pledge was recently ratified at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26). At COP26, the Presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama signed the Glasgow Declaration, establishing their commitment to reach the 30 x 30 marine goal and their intent to create the first transboundary United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve.



CMAR countries are facing challenges to fully implement their commitments and protect their marine resources. There is a need to improve national and regional MCS and without this, CMAR's marine biodiversity is at risk. In response, PACIFICO and CMAR countries are working with a team of NGOs and the JAC, to improve collaboration and strengthen MCS in the CMAR region. The project will deliver increased marine enforcement capacity in the CETP, leading to greater conservation outcomes for marine wildlife and vital habitat that will create long-term economic benefits for local communities dependent on healthy oceans for their livelihoods.

About the Role: The IMCS Network is seeking to recruit an independent consultant with relevant MCS and analytical experience. The consultant will work as an MCS Specialist – CMAR Operations and Analysis and will provide MCS and analytical support to Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama. The individual will also contribute to JAC intelligence, analysis, and capacity building operations in the region.

The MCS Specialist – CMAR Operations and Analysis will support development and delivery of analysis for, and by, the four CMAR countries. The role will actively support CMAR fisheries MCS operations and the JAC provision of MCS capacity building and training, especially in the use of technology platforms and data analytics that support greater understanding of fishing activities occurring in the maritime domain in the CMAR region. The MCS Specialist – CMAR Operations and Analysis will report to the IMCS Network Senior MCS Specialist – JAC and Operations and with the JAC Coordinator, and other JAC analysts.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the CMAR MCS partners to identify priority emerging IUU risks and areas for JAC support.
- Work with the IMCS Network Senior MCS Specialist – JAC and Operations, the JAC Coordinator and other JAC analyst staff to contribute to the development of Fisheries Intelligence Reports related to the CMAR region.
- Support the CMAR MCS partners to interpret, integrate, and respond to Fisheries Intelligence Reports prepared by the JAC.
- Lead the in-country JAC engagement to support the development and delivery of MCS workshops, trainings, briefings, and other capacity building opportunities related to the project, including the training and use of technology platforms and data analytics.
- Provide direct JAC MCS technical support and advice to the four CMAR countries as requested, including facilitating, supporting and delivering on-the-job training to support the effective use and integration of tools, technology and data and to improve MCS skills in the region.
- Work with IMCS Network staff to develop and maintain strong working relationships with IMCS Network members in the CMAR and broader region and with other stakeholders.
- Assist with the development of JAC technical reports and contribute to expanding JAC MCS tools and techniques as needed.
- Assist with collecting and compiling information and data required for the submission of reporting requirements relevant to the project to PACIFICO.
- Support the broader regional work of the JAC and IMCS Network as required.
- Represent the JAC and IMCS Network during relevant engagements with governmental MCS representatives in the CMAR and broader region and at external meetings, workshops, and conferences as required.



Requirements:

Essential

- At least five years' experience working in an MCS, compliance or enforcement role/s at the national or regional level, preferably including experience in analytical roles in support of MCS, compliance or enforcement.
- A demonstrated understanding of the processes that support the generation of intelligence and the use of data, information, and intelligence in supporting effective fisheries MCS, compliance or enforcement.
- An understanding of the fisheries and MCS, compliance or enforcement challenges faced in the CMAR region.
- A demonstrated understanding of the data and information sources that can be used to support effective fisheries MCS, including maritime domain awareness platforms and satellite data sources.
- Excellent organizational skills, with a demonstrated ability to work with relative autonomy and under pressure to achieve results.
- A demonstrated ability to engage effectively with a diverse range of people, including from different cultures.
- Ability to travel, sometimes at short notice.
- Proficiency in both English and Spanish, including communicating technical information both verbally and through written means.

Preferred

- Experience working in or with developing countries, particularly in Latin America.
- A demonstrated understanding of international and regional fisheries management frameworks.
- Experience developing and delivering training.
- A relevant academic degree.
- Experience developing standard operating procedures and processes.
- Understanding of broader maritime security / transnational organized crime domain and its intersection with IUU fishing activities.

We offer: The IMCS Network is a uniquely positioned organization with a global footprint. The IMCS Network is a growing organization and you will be working with a small, dedicated, dynamic and professional team and diverse members, observers and partners. The IMCS Network offers this role on a contractual basis with a competitive daily rate to be paid monthly in US dollars. Given the diverse nature of your colleagues and our community, we offer flexible working hours that recognizes the need to sometimes work out of normal office hours.

To Apply: Please submit a cover letter outlining your skills and experience as they relate to the role and the requirements. Email this with your CV to mcs.network@imcsnet.org no later than **15 March 2024**. If you have any questions, please email Network staff at mcs.network@imcsnet.org