PROTOCOL ON THE PRACTICAL MODALITIES FOR THE COORDINATION OF
SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE SUB-REGIONAL
FISHERIES COMMISSION

PREAMBLE

The Governments of:

- the Republic of Cape Verde;
- the Republic of The Gambia;
- the Republic of Guinea;
- the Republic of Guinea Bissau;
- the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- the Republic of Senegal,

Herein after referred to as "the Parties",

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the agreement on sub-regional cooperation in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit in maritime zones, especially its Article 9,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
(Surveillance Operations)

A. Joint surveillance operations, shall, whenever possible, be conducted by the fisheries surveillance units belonging to member States which are parties to the present protocol.

To this end, the State parties shall determine the modalities for the conduct of the said operations. It is understood that the fisheries surveillance units belonging to a given State party may, when necessary, ask for support from another State party during instant operations conducted within the former's waters.

B. The fisheries surveillance units belonging to State parties to the present protocol shall meet, at bilateral or multilateral level, to determine all the practical modalities required for effective coordination of joint surveillance operations.
C. The joint surveillance operations shall be specifically directed against foreign vessels flying the flag of a Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission non-member State and operating in maritime zones under the jurisdiction of State parties without a license issued by one of the said parties.

D. The fisheries surveillance units shall exchange information on any illegal activities carried out by vessels flying the flag of one of the States in the sub-region in the maritime zones under their respective jurisdiction, to enable them take the necessary measures to put an end to such activities.

E. Heads of fisheries surveillance units shall exchange on a regularly basis, a list of all vessels licensed to fish in the waters under their respective jurisdiction. The State selected to maintain this sub-regional fisheries register shall coordinate the disclosure of the information.

Article 2
(Communication)

Fisheries surveillance units shall establish permanent communication links amongst themselves through appropriate channels by radio or fax. To this end, they shall acquire where possible, technical equipment with the same specifications.

Radio communications shall be conducted in line with the document entitled "Directives for Transmission".

Article 3
(Training)

In order to harmonize their working methods, the fisheries surveillance units shall, where possible, organize staff exchange programmes in the field of training and instruction.

Article 4
(Communication Equipment)

The State parties to the present protocol shall acquire as soon as possible, the equipment needed to achieve the objectives defined in Article 2 above.

Article 5
(Stopping and Examining of Vessels)

Any infringement committed by a fishing vessel within the waters under the jurisdiction of a State party shall be recorded and a copy shall be given to the captain of the said vessel. To this end, the State parties shall harmonize the model of the certificate of infringement.

Article 6
(Port Facilities)

Surveillance vessels and aircraft belonging to a State party shall, where necessary, use the port and airport facilities belonging to other State parties. Requests to this end shall be channeled through the national marine or surveillance units.
Article 7
(Collaboration with Observers from member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission)

Observers, who are nationals of a State party, and boarded on vessels flying the flag of a non-member state of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission, shall collaborate, where possible and whenever necessary, with surveillance patrol boats belonging to State parties to the present protocol.

Article 8
(Identification)

In order to make it easy to identify fisheries surveillance vessels belonging to State parties, especially during hot pursuits within the territorial waters of another State party, the said vessels may carry a pennant common to member States of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.

Article 9
(Right of Hot Pursuit)

The right of hot pursuit shall be applied in accordance with the agreement on sub-regional cooperation in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit and the application protocols concluded between the parties.

Article 10
(Dispute Resolution)

Any dispute arising from the interpretation and application of the provisions of the present protocol shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the agreement on sub-regional cooperation in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit.

Article 11
(Signature)

The present protocol shall be open for signature by the State parties stipulated in the preamble above. An original copy of the present protocol shall be given to the depositary of the agreement on sub-regional cooperation in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit and to the Permanent Secretariat of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission.

Article 12
(Depository)

The Ministry in charge of external relations in the State party hosting the headquarters of the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission shall be the depositary of the present protocol. To the end, it shall:

a) provide certified copies of the present protocol to the States mentioned in the Preamble above;

b) inform the State parties mentioned in the Preamble above:
1. of the entry into force of the present protocol; and
2. of the date of the entry into force of the present protocol by virtue of Article 13 below.

**Article 13**
**(Entry into Force)**

The present protocol shall enter into force with respect to the State parties which are signatories to the agreement on sub-regional cooperation in the exercise of the right of hot pursuit.

The present protocol was prepared in English, Arabic, French and Portuguese, all being equally authentic.

Done in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 1st September 1993.

For the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde
(Signature)
Maria Helene Semedo

For the Government of the Republic of The Gambia
(Signature)
Sajo Touray

For the Government of the Republic of Guinea
(Signature)
Ibrahima Sory Sow

For the Government of the Republic of Guinea Bissau
(Signature)
Eduardo Fernandes

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
(Signature)
Abdullahi ould Abdi

For the Government of the Republic of Senegal
(Signature)
Abdourahmane Sow