

## **Introduction**

In accordance with Article 9 of the 2012 Governing Framework, the IMCS Network convened a meeting of its General Membership in January 2026. To maximise participation across regions, two sessions were held, 13 January 2026 and 15 January 2026.

This meeting was the first-ever virtual General Membership Meeting of the IMCS Network and provided the opportunity for members to reconnect, exchange ideas, and contribute to shaping the future direction of the Network. The General Membership Meeting covered updates on key areas of work and a discussion on strengthening the Network's governance to support its continued growth and effectiveness.

45 members participated in the meeting (Annex I) and adopted the agenda (Annex II).

## **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The IMCS Network Chair, Gary Orr, opened the first virtual General Membership Meeting of the IMCS Network, noting the significance of convening the membership in this format for the first time. While the Network has long operated as a global community, holding a virtual General Membership Meeting was recognised as an important milestone, reflecting both the Network's growth and the increased connectivity across regions.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, appreciation was expressed to members, partners and colleagues for their continued commitment to the IMCS Network and to strengthening fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance, compliance and cooperation globally. It was noted that the Network's effectiveness is grounded in the expertise, experience and willingness of members to share knowledge and practice.

The Chair reflected on 2025 as a significant year for the IMCS Network. During this period, the Network further strengthened its role as a practitioner led global community of practice, expanded engagement across regions, deepened collaboration through trusted initiatives, and continued to deliver practical support through tools, training and convening activities. It was emphasised that these achievements were driven by, and responsive to, needs identified directly by practitioners.

Looking ahead, the Chair noted that 2026 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the IMCS Network. This milestone was described as an opportunity to acknowledge the Network's foundations and sustained relevance, while continuing to evolve collectively to address emerging and ongoing challenges.

Following the opening remarks, the Chair invited the IMCS Network Executive Director, Sarah Lenel, to provide an update on Network activities and priorities.

The Executive Director noted that 2025 was a year of significant growth and impact for the IMCS Network and expressed optimism for the year ahead. It was reaffirmed that the Network was founded on the principle that professionals working on the frontlines of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance, compliance and enforcement must be connected and supported. This principle was noted as remaining as relevant today as it was at the Network's inception 25 years ago.

Members were advised that the IMCS Network currently connects 82 members and 10 partners across regions, and appreciation was expressed for the strong level of engagement reflected in attendance at the meeting. The Executive Director noted that 2026 will mark the Network's 25th Anniversary and outlined that a number of significant initiatives are planned for the year ahead. Before introducing these, a brief overview of selected achievements from 2025 was provided to illustrate the Network's work in practice.

As part of the update, an overview was provided of developments in learning, tools and regional collaboration. Members were informed of the launch of [the IMCS Network Portal](#) in early 2025. The Portal is a secure, member only online facility designed to strengthen peer to peer connection across the Network. Current features include a searchable member contact database and an interactive [discussion forum](#) to support information sharing, problem solving and collaboration. Members were encouraged to create and update profiles, actively participate in discussions and provide feedback to inform future improvements.

The Executive Director also highlighted progress on the development of a comprehensive MCS curriculum to support capacity development and ongoing professional development for practitioners. This work includes the establishment of a learning management system providing self paced, on demand training modules focused on practical application. The curriculum is being integrated into Joint Analytical Cell training programmes and will be hosted on a new [Network Learning Portal](#), with access to expert support and mentoring. Members were invited to propose additional online training modules to address emerging needs.

An update was also provided on [the Combined Regional Authorised Vessels Tool \(CRAVT\)](#), which was launched in late 2024 in collaboration with regional compliance networks. The CRAVT replaces and expands on the former FAO hosted Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels and automatically combines vessel authorisation data from seven, soon to be eight, regional fisheries management and advisory bodies. The tool enables users to search and analyse vessel authorisation data across regions and identify discrepancies and patterns of activity.

Building on this work, members were advised of the launch of the IUU Vessel List Hub in November 2025. The Hub provides a central repository for RFMO secretariats to manage and share IUU vessel list data in a streamlined and timely manner. It was noted that all but one RFMO secretariat is now using the Hub, providing the foundation for the development of a combined IUU vessel list planned for release in late 2026.

The Executive Director also confirmed that [the 2026 Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop \(GFETW\)](#) will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in the first week of August 2026. The theme of the workshop, *From Commitment to Compliance: Delivering Global Goals through Collective Action*, was outlined, and it was noted that a new and more interactive approach is being taken to programme design.

Finally, the Executive Director introduced the Wavemakers - *Women Shaping the Future of the Global Fisheries MCS, Compliance and Enforcement Community*. Wavemakers is a global professional development initiative open to all working in fisheries, MCS, compliance and enforcement (our Navigators). The programme is designed to be structured but flexible, and importantly it will be co-developed with participants. Our intention is to create a safe and supportive space where Navigators can reflect on their professional experiences, share challenges and learn from one another and from experienced women leaders serving as Guides. The programme is guided by a small Advisory Group of senior women leaders. Members were advised that Wavemakers will be introduced in March 2026 with an open call for Navigators and Guides with matching and programme commencement scheduled for May 2026.

The Executive Director delivered an overview of key initiatives, noting that the update drew on work being progressed across the Network team. Presentations were provided on several priority areas, including ongoing and planned initiatives, programme development, and operational activities supporting members and partners.

It was noted that these initiatives reflect the Network's practitioner led approach and its continued focus on delivering practical, needs driven support to the global fisheries MCS, compliance and cooperation community.

The update concluded with a brief discussion and an opportunity for members to seek clarification and provide feedback.

## **Governance**

The Executive Director provided an overview of the [IMCS Network's new Operational Framework](#) and the rationale for its development.

It was explained that the Operational Framework responds to the Network's significant growth in scope, membership, and activities since the adoption of the 2012 Governing Framework. While the 2012 framework was drafted in legalistic language reflecting an earlier vision of the Network as a more formalised organisation, the IMCS Network has since evolved into a practitioner-led, voluntary international community operating through collaboration, trust, and shared technical expertise. The Operational Framework reflects this evolution and provides a clearer, contemporary description of how the Network functions in practice today.

The Executive Director noted that the Operational Framework does not amend or replace the 2012 Governing Framework. Rather, it serves to clarify how the principles, objectives and structures established in 2012 are applied in current practice. Where differences in terminology or emphasis arise, the Operational Framework is intended to guide interpretation of the Network's intent and operations, while respecting the original framework.

Members were advised that the Framework introduces updated terminology to better reflect the Network's inclusive and apolitical nature and to avoid confusion with RFMO or intergovernmental terminology. In particular, the term "Partners" replaces "Observers" to recognise the active role of organisations contributing technical expertise and support, including agencies from disputed or non recognised jurisdictions, without implying political recognition. Language throughout the Framework has been simplified to align with the Network's collaborative, practitioner driven identity.

It was noted that the Executive Committee reviewed and endorsed the Operational Framework in late 2025. Members were advised that the draft Framework had been circulated to the membership, with comments invited by 23 January 2026. No comments were received during this period, and the Operational Framework has therefore been adopted.

The Chair introduced the nomination of a new member to the IMCS Network Executive Committee.

It was noted that the Executive Committee serves as the Network's primary governing body, providing strategic guidance and advice on priorities, partnerships and resourcing. Its composition is intended to reflect the global diversity of the Network and includes representatives from member agencies and organisations, as well as appointed advisers where appropriate. Executive Committee members serve a four year term from the date of appointment and may be reappointed for one additional four year term.

The Chair advised that New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries had nominated Mr Delvis Fortes, Senior Fisheries Officer with the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), for membership on the Executive Committee. The nomination was seconded by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

The nomination was endorsed by the General Membership. In endorsing the nomination, members recognised Mr Fortes' extensive technical expertise, strong regional knowledge and experience, and his contribution to strengthening fisheries MCS, compliance and cooperation at the regional and international level.

### **Expectations and Priorities**

A facilitated discussion was held with members to reflect on the IMCS Network's role, value and future direction. The discussion was facilitated by the Chair, with support from a member of the IMCS Network team.

The discussion confirmed strong consensus that the Network's founding purpose, connecting practitioners working on fisheries MCS and compliance remains highly relevant. However, members emphasised the need for more dynamic and practical mechanisms for connection that go beyond static databases or formal structures.

Participants highlighted the critical role of informal, practitioner-to-practitioner networks as essential operational infrastructure. Examples were shared of real-time information exchange through trusted personal and regional contacts, including the use of direct messaging platforms to support vessel identification, port State measures implementation and rapid operational coordination. These informal channels were consistently described as faster and more effective than formal mechanisms.

A recurring theme was the challenge of knowing who to contact for specific operational issues. Members noted that the IMCS Network is well placed to address this gap by strengthening its role as a living, actively facilitated connector between operational personnel, RFMO contacts and enforcement colleagues, rather than as a static directory.

Regional representatives stressed the importance of the Network supporting and strengthening existing regional activities and training efforts, rather than creating parallel initiatives. This approach was seen as critical to avoiding duplication and ensuring that the Network adds value through facilitation, targeted support and coordination where gaps exist.

RFMO participants noted that while formal data sharing can be challenging, informal collaboration between practitioners is often effective. Members highlighted opportunities for the Network to facilitate these connections and explore mechanisms such as memoranda of understanding to support cooperation, with reference to the role of the Joint Analytical Cell in responding to smaller operational requests.

An emerging theme was the increasing linkage between fisheries MCS work and broader maritime security objectives. Participants noted that fisheries data, tools and expertise can contribute to wider maritime security outcomes, suggesting opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and expanded relevance of fisheries compliance work.

Regional examples were also shared, including informal enforcement networks in Latin America that support information sharing and cooperation to prevent IUU fishing. These examples were cited as evidence of organically developed practitioner communities that the IMCS Network could help nurture and strengthen in a more structured and sustainable way.

Participants further highlighted the importance of access to technology and tools, including dark vessel detection, ground-truthing capabilities, and access to AIS and imagery data. Reference was made to the value of formal arrangements and partnerships to support operational needs.

Finally, members emphasised the importance of coordination with other capacity-building initiatives to avoid duplication and maximise collective impact. Several regional organisations were identified as potential partners for improving coordination and visibility of training and support activities across the compliance community.

Overall, the discussion pointed towards the continued evolution of the IMCS Network as an actively facilitated, practitioner-focused ecosystem that enables timely, relevant and operationally meaningful connections across regions and institutions.

## **Closing**

In closing, the Chair thanked members for their thoughtful contributions and constructive engagement throughout the meeting. He noted that the discussion strongly reaffirmed the IMCS Network's founding purpose of connecting practitioners working on fisheries MCS and compliance, while also underscoring the need to continue evolving how those connections are facilitated in practice.

The Chair reaffirmed the Network's commitment to strengthening practitioner-to-practitioner connections, supporting existing regional and operational efforts, and delivering practical, needs-driven support that responds directly to how members work on the ground. He also highlighted the opportunities ahead in 2026, noting in particular the Network's 25th Anniversary as an important milestone, alongside the delivery of flagship initiatives that will further strengthen collaboration, learning and collective impact across the global community.

In closing, the Chair encouraged members to remain actively engaged in the life of the Network and to participate in the initiatives outlined during the meeting. Members were invited to review and provide feedback on governance materials, including the 2026 Operational Framework and Executive Committee nomination processes, to update their profiles and contribute to discussions and resource sharing through the Network Portal, and to propose new learning modules to support current and emerging professional development needs. The Chair also encouraged members to engage with forthcoming flagship initiatives, including the Wavemakers programme, which will open in March 2026, and the GFETW to be held in Bali in the first week of August 2026. Members were further invited to continue sharing insights and perspectives through email and member forums to inform the Network's ongoing development and priorities.

## **Resources**

[IMCS Network's new operational framework](#)

[IMCS Network Portal](#)

[Wavemakers](#)

[2026 Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop \(GFETW\)](#)

[Combined Regional Authorised Vessels Tool \(CRAVT\)](#)

**ANNEX 1. List of Attendees**

## Session 1 Attendees - 26

	Country	Agency	Name	Title	Email
1	South Africa	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Delricia Augustus	Deputy Director: Mcs Compliance	DAugustus@dfre.gov.za
2	Gambia	Department of Fisheries	Mamie Rose Badjan	Fisheries Inspector	bmamierose31@gmail.com
3	Seychelles	Seychelles Fisheries Authority	Karyss Belle	Manager MCS	kauguste@sfa.sc
4	Costa Rica	OSPESCA	Bernal Chavarria	International Fisheries Policy Coordinator	bchavarria@lsg-cr.com
5	Philippines	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	Rommel Adolf Diciano	Fisheries Law Enforcement	adolfdiciano@gmail.com
6	Japan	North Pacific Fisheries Commission	Judy Dwyer	Compliance Manager	jdwyer@npfc.int
7	Iceland	Fiskistofa/ Directorate Of Fisheries Iceland	Sævar Guðmundsson	Coordination & Development	saevar.gudmundsson@fiskistofa.is
8	Norway	The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries	Ole Høstmark	Senior Adviser	olhos@fiskeridir.no
9	South Korea	FMC Of Korea – Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries	Geunho Jang	Chief Inspector	fmc2014@korea.kr
10	South Korea	FMC Of Korea – Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries	Taerin Kim	Advisor	shararak@korea.kr
11	Malawi	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change - Department of Fisheries	Allan Katola		allan_katola@yahoo.com
12	Réunion	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement	Johnny Louys	Compliance Officer	johnny.louys@siofa.org
13	Uganda	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	Okware Paul	Principal Fisheries Inspector	okwarepaul12@gmail.com
14	Iceland	Directorate Of Fisheries	Njáll Ragnarsson	Mcs Specialist	njall.ragnarsson@fiskistofa.is
15	New Zealand	WCPFC	Penelope Ridings	Legal Advisor	pennyridings@yahoo.com
16	Thailand	Department Of Fisheries, Thailand	Thira Rodchevid	Fishery Biologist, Professional Level	thirar.dof@gmail.com
17	Thailand	SEAFDEC/TD	Kongpathai Saraphaivanich	Training and Research Supporting Division Head	kongpathai@seafdec.org

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>
18	Thailand	Department Of Fisheries	Nalinee Uysuwan	Responsibilities For The Port State Measures Implementation In Thailand	nalinee.uysuwan@gmail.com
19	Kenya	Kenya Fisheries Service	Eric Thurania	Fisheries Officer	thuraniraeric9@gmail.com
20	New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries	Gary Orr	Director Investigations	gary.orr@mpi.govt.nz
21	Australia	IMCS Network	Sarah Lenel	IMCS Chair Executive Director	slenel@imcsnet.org
22	Australia	IMCS Network	Allison Delvendiep	Training and Administration Manager	adelvendiep@imcsnet.org
23	Panama	IMCS Network	Vivian Quiros	Regional lead – Latin America	vquiros@imcsnet.org
24	South Korea	IMCS Network	Kate Chung	Regional Lead - Asia	kchung@imcsnet.org
25	FSM	IMCS Network	Youky Susaia Jr.	Adviser	youkijr@gmail.com
26	Australia	IMCS Network	Viv Fernandes	Adviser	vivfernandes@hotmail.com

#### Session 2 Attendees - 23

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>
1	New Zealand	SPRFMO	Randy Jenkins	Compliance Manager	rjenkins@sprfmo.int
2	Peru	Ministerio De La Producción - Perú	Karl Pavel Alvarez Huaman	Profesional de la DGFS-PA	kalvarez@produce.gob.pe
3	Chile	Servicio Nacional De Pesca Y Acuicultura	Tapia Almonacid	National Director	stapiaal@sernapesca.cl
4	Panama	ARAP	Giselle Achon	Captador de Datos - ARAP	gachon@arap.gob.pa
5	Chile	Sernapesca	Pablo Ortiz	Deputy Director Of Fisheries	portiz@sernapesca.cl
6	Panama	ARAP	Yessica Madrid	Cpc / register of vessel	ymadrid@arap.gob.pa
7	Solomon Islands	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	Allan Rahari	Director Fisheries Operations Division	allan.rahari@ffa.int
8	Australia	CCSBT	Damian Johnson	Compliance Manager	djohnson@ccsbt.org
9	Canada	Fisheries And Oceans Canada	Felicia Cull	Policy Advisor	Felicia.Cull@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>
10	Australia	CCAMLR	Eldene O'Shea	Compliance Officer	eldene.oshea@ccamlr.org
11	New Zealand	South Pacific Fisheries Management Organisation - Sprfmo	Bernard Vigga	Data Manager	bvigga@sprfmo.int
12	Canada	Fisheries & Oceans Canada	Dustin De Gagne	Senior Program Officer/fishery Officer	dustin.degagne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
13	Panama	ARAP	Vergara Yarkelia	Jefa de Organismos Regionales - ARAP	yvergara@arap.gob.pa
14	Australia	CCAMLR	Claire Van Werven	Analyst	claire.vanwerven@gmail.com
15	Peru		Angella Guzman		iguzman@produce.gob.pe
16	Canada	Canada's Department Of Fisheries & Oceans	Patricia Demille	Compliance Manager In Dfo's International Enforcement Program	PATRICIA.DEMILLE@DFO-MPO.GC.CA
17	Australia	CCAMLR	Todd Dubois	Fisheries Monitoring And Compliance Manager	Todd.Dubois@ccamlr.org
18	New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries	Gary Orr	Director Investigations	gary.orr@mpi.govt.nz
19	Australia	IMCS Network	Sarah Lenel	IMCS Chair Executive Director	slenel@imcsnet.org
20	Australia	IMCS Network	Allison Delvendiep	Training and Administration Manager	adelvendiep@imcsnet.org
21	USA	IMCS Network	Paige Roberts	Programme Lead – Joint Analytical Cell	proberts@imcsnet.org
22	Panama	IMCS Network	Vivian Quiros	Regional Lead-Latin America	vquiros@imcsnet.org
23	Fiji	IMCS Network	Shaunalee Katafono	Adviser	shauna.katafono@gmail.com

## IMCS Network General Membership Meeting

### Introduction

In accordance with the IMCS Network Governing Framework, the Network will convene its annual General Membership Meeting in January 2026. To maximise participation across regions, two sessions will be held:

- Session 1: Tuesday, 13 January 2026 at 07:00 UTC
- Session 2: Thursday, 15 January 2026 at 21:00 UTC

Members are welcome to attend the session that best suits their time zone. It's a chance for members to reconnect, share ideas, and help shape the Network's future direction.

This meeting marks the first-ever virtual General Membership Meeting of the IMCS Network and it will provide the opportunity for members to reconnect, exchange ideas, and contribute to shaping the future direction of the Network. The General Membership Meeting will include updates on key areas of work and a discussion on strengthening the Network's governance to support its continued growth and effectiveness.

As a global community of fisheries MCS, compliance, and enforcement professionals, the strength of the IMCS Network lies in our shared expertise, practical experience, and collective commitment to advancing effective fisheries governance.

### Agenda

Time (HH:MM)	Agenda Item	Lead
0:00-0:10	1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	Gary Orr Chair of the IMCS Network
0:10-0:30	2. An overview of the IMCS Network	Sarah Lenel Executive Director
0:30-0:40	3. Governance 3.1 IMCS Network Operational Framework 3.2 Executive Committee nomination	Sarah Lenel Executive Director
0:40-1:20	4. Member Facilitated Discussion: Expectations and Priorities	Paige Roberts Programme Lead - JAC Gary Orr Chair of the IMCS Network
1:20-1:30	5. Closing Remarks	Gary Orr Chair of the IMCS Network