

CONGO MARINE PROGRAM APRIL -AUGUST 2018



Congo's waters are home a large population of whales including humpback whales © Kristian Metcalfe/UOE

SUMMARY

- o 18 days of patrols, during which 63 boats were checked of which 50 were operating illegally.
- o 3 training sessions for officers of the Departmental Directorate of Fisheries:
 - 18 agents trained on the use of GPS.
 - 15 agents trained on industrial fisheries surveillance data collection.
 - 8 agents trained on using the SMART tool.
- o Significant progress in revising the sectoral law to include important measures for more sustainable management of fisheries resources.
- o An exchange mission held in Libreville between the Congolese and Gabonese representatives to ensure exchange of knowledge between the Congo Marin program and the Gabon Bleu initiative.
- o A training mission on monitoring of artisanal and industrial fisheries.
- o A feasibility study was carried out for the development of an industrial fisheries observer program.
- o Training provided by an expert to build capacity in maritime surveillance.

CREATION AND EXPANSION OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



The design of the marine spatial planning document continued during this period with our partner the University of Exeter. The document will allow the spatial delimitation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) under different scenarios of development of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Congo. The completion of this document is planned for the end of 2018.

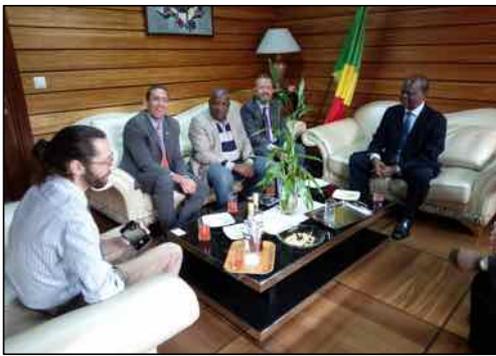
Two meetings with the General Directorate of the Ministry in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire strengthened collaboration on the revision of the Fisheries Act, the reinforcement of measures to combat Illegal Fishing and the sustainable management of fisheries resources.



STRENGTHENING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND MARITIME MONITORING

In close collaboration with Renatura, WCS participated in a workshop to review the sectoral laws organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) in Kintélé from 17 to 19 April. This workshop brought together all of the main actors of the fishing sector. Technical support was provided to the Ministerial Committee in charge of strengthening the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the protection of marine biodiversity. The concepts of Admissible Catch Rate (ACR), quotas, the right to monitor industrial fishing vessels and the status of fishery observers were reinforced.





Presentation of the Industrial Fisheries observer program in Congo in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Henri Djombo.



Visit to the Artisanal Fisheries Support Center in Libreville (CAPAL) during the Congo / Gabon exchange mission.



Visit to the industrial fisheries landing site in Pointe Noire to improve catch monitoring..

STRENGTHENING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND MARITIME MONITORING

In June, a meeting was held on the 5th between the Minister and sector stakeholders to reaffirm the Ministry's willingness to regulate illegal fishing; reduce the industrial fishing fleet; and strengthen follow-up and control measures through the installation and operationalization of VMS tags by the company CLS.

An exchange of experiences mission was held in Libreville from June 10th to 16th, 2018 organised by WCS Congo, to strengthen cross-border collaboration. The mission allowed the Departmental Director and General Director of the Ministry to capitalize on the lessons learned by the Gabon Bleu initiative in terms of monitoring artisanal and industrial fisheries, law enforcement, and the fight against illegal fishing.

On the 4th of June WCS Congo attended the inauguration of the Pointe Noire Artisanal Fisheries Support Centre (CAPAP) by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, which has improved the work and commerce conditions for fishermen and customers.

Fisheries monitoring was strengthened through: training of 15 officers in systematic data collection, training of 18 officers on the use of GPS, and training of 8 agents on the use of SMART. In order to continue training the teams, a mission by expert, Richard Parnell, made it possible to evaluate the capacity building needs and to design 2 training modules.



A mission from July 28th to August 9th by fisheries experts, Emmanuel Chartrain and Godefroy De Bruyne from WCS Gabon, assessed the requirements for improvement of monitoring of artisanal and industrial fisheries, and provided training for agents of the Departmental Direction of Fisheries. A feasibility study for the establishment of a program of independent observers for industrial fishing in the Congo was carried out and presented to the Minister of Fisheries on 4 July in Brazzaville, while the strengthening of surveillance in the high seas through a collaboration with the NGO Sea Shepherd was also discussed.

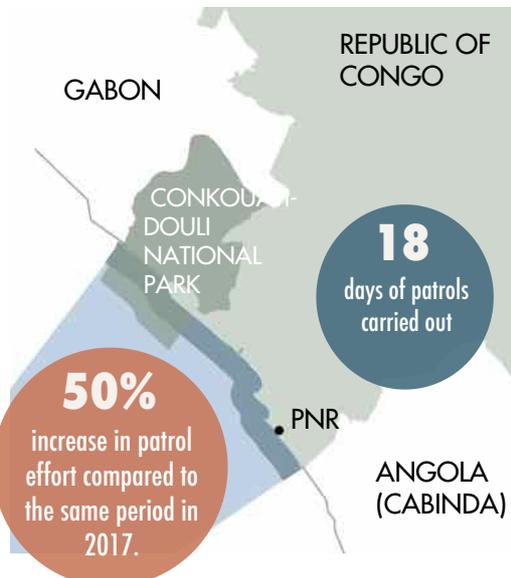


63 industrial fishing boats checked
> 79% breaking laws

41 officers of the Directorate of Fisheries trained, **35 hours of training provided**



From **April to August 2018** the enforcement of fishing laws could have generated **465 000 000 FCFA (708,888 EUROS)** if a minimum penalty had been applied for each offense committed.



Infractions:

50%



of attempts to check vessels were obstructed

15%



AMP of fishing was carried out in protected areas/outside of the fishing season/with non-compliant fishing gear/fishing of protected species