

Welcome by World Maritime University



**Professor
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MSC Nordic Seafood Futures

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden
7 October 2026



WMU, FISHERIES STUDIES AND TACKLING ILLEGAL FISHING THROUGH THE CAPFISH PROJECT

MSC Nordic Commercial Meeting, 7 October 2026

Prof. Francis Neat



Welcome and a little background to WMU

- WMU is part of the United Nations
- Set up in 1983 - IMO recognized the need for capacity building in maritime and ocean affairs for global implementation of its instruments.
- Masters Program in Maritime Affairs: 7 Specializations (MSEA, MLP, MEM, MET, PM, SLM, OSGM)
- Approx. 140 students each year from all over the world
- Students are mainly mid-career professionals from government administrations – gender parity since 2025. > 6000 alumni
- Fisheries is currently a limited part of the curriculum - OSGM, MSEA and MLP.
- But, is a growing area with a major capacity building project underway for the past 5 years and plans for a new Masters in the future.



Fisheries Sustainability and IUU Fishing

- Sustainable fisheries management is severely undermined by illegal fishing.
- ~ 20 % of all seafood is derived from IUUF
- Industrial fleets and small scale fisheries
- Developing States worst affected.
- Complex multifaceted problem that needs capacity building for those countries worst affected
- UN agencies (FAO, IMO, ILO) have been attempting to deal with IUUF for over 25 years
- In 2019 at the IMO, ILO, FAO joint working group, WMU was tasked with developing a capacity building program



CAPFISH

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM TO PROGRESS THE IMPLANTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO TACKLE IUU FISHING (CAPFISH)



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries

- 2019 develop proposal
- 2021 - Korea MOF commit to support a program through Korea Maritime Institute
- Connect the UN Agencies
- RFMOs and regional bodies
- Enforcement agencies
- Maritime Administrations
- Fisheries Departments
- Labour Departments
- Independent Expertise
- Industry Representatives
- Academics
- NGOs





PHASE 1: 4 WORKSHOPS (2021-2023)

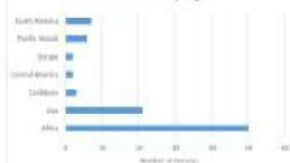
- 2021-2023: short educational and capacity-building workshops: 3 hosted by WMU in Sweden and one by KMI in Korea.
- Interdisciplinary program of teaching
- Identify key issues, approaches and instruments
- 91 maritime and oceans professionals in person.
- Streamed online to a further ~ 50 delegates.

Gender Breakdown of Alumni



> 30 % women

CAPFISH Alumni by Region



Mainly African and Asian States

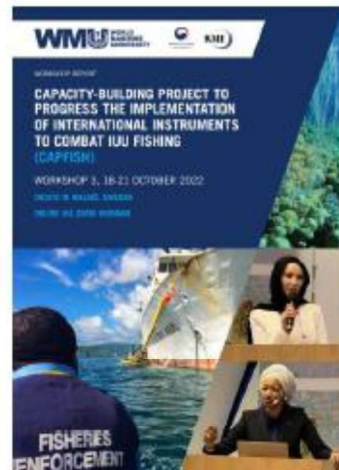
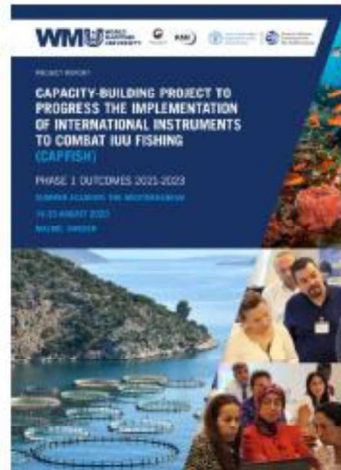
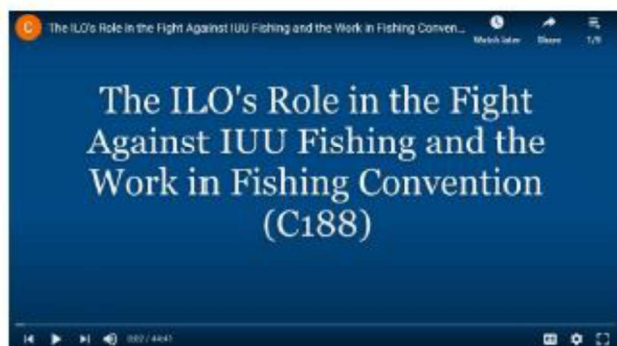


Phase 2: series of REGIONAL SUMMER ACADEMIES (2023-2028)

- 2023: Mediterranean (in Malmo, Sweden)
- 2024: Pacific Islands (in Suva, Fiji)
- 2025: West Africa (In Accra, Ghana)
- 2026: SE Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 2027: Indian Ocean (Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- 2028: Latin America (TBC)



EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL AND ACADEMIC OUTPUTS



www.capfish.wmu.se



Phase 3: A Masters in Sustainable Fishery Systems (begin 2028)

- A full 1 year Masters at WMU
- System Thinking in Fisheries
- Fisheries Science
- Fisheries Management
- Fisheries Communities
- Fisheries Law and Enforcement
- Fisheries Governance
- Labour and Safety in Fisheries
- Fisheries Trade and Economics
- Field Studies
- Dissertation research





People. Development. Impact.

Thank you and happy to take any questions

Please get in touch: fn@wmu.se
or find me on LinkedIn

