

International promotion of strengthening MCS implementation for combating IUU fishing

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**Regional Training Course on Strengthening Capacity of Implementation for
Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) in Southeast Asia**

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SEAFDEC/TD, Thailand



International promotion of strengthening MCS implementation for combating IUU fishing

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Why prioritize combatting IUU fishing?

IUU fishing has been identified as a priority for action in marine fisheries governance across the Asian region:

1. Weakens efforts towards sustainable fisheries management
 - Existence of IUU fishing undermines efforts to effectively manage capacity and effort and disincentivizes compliance.
 - Contributions to overfishing, impacts on resources and lost rents
 - Conflicts also within national fisheries, particularly between large and small-scale sectors, but also between different gear segments.
2. Commitments taken on by countries to tackle IUU fishing as part of:
 - NPOA-IUU
 - SDG target (14.6)
 - Obligations for those countries that have acceded to the PSMA
 - WTO disciplines (most recently)
3. Responding to trade pressure or trade barriers that are applied by market countries
 - Most notably the European Union carding of several countries in the RAP region
 - Those importing seafood from Asian countries

What forms of IUU fishing do we have in the Asian region?



Typical IUU activities – with focus on “illegal” or ‘non-compliance’ dimension

- Vessel/operational documentation
 - Fishing without a license, with falsified license
 - Falsified vessel registration
 - Duplicate (dual flag), falsified registrations
- Catch reporting
 - Non-reporting, misreporting, under-reporting of catch
- Landings and transshipment
 - Unauthorized landing of fish, or landing other than authorized port
 - Unauthorized transshipment
 - Transshipping to country port of beneficial ownership
- Use of destructive fishing gears and methods (e.g cyanide/ blast-fishing)
- Catching of prohibited/protected species (e.g. grouper, reef fish, coral etc.) non compliance (shark finning)



IUU fishing between Asian countries

- Fishing in waters without permission, or in areas where fishing is restricted/prohibited
 - Large -scale/commercial vessels operating in restricted (e.g. SSF/nearshore zone)
 - SSF vessels 'straying' across borders
 - Deliberate or accidental encroachment across maritime boundaries, or fishing in areas of disputed or uncertain jurisdiction
- Access arrangements with neighboring countries are now increasingly rare
 - Access arrangements may be established at sub-national level between adjoining provinces/jurisdictions
- Poor coordination between national and provincial regulatory mechanisms



What has driven these different forms of IUU?

- Expansion of effort & capacity
 - Post 1945 expansion
 - 1970's intensification (trawling & motorization of SSF)
 - 1990's improved technology & globalization of markets
- Led to over-capacity in fisheries & processing
- Enormous numbers of vessels in the region (>1.9 million, 80% <12m)
- General failure of centralized fisheries management measures
 - Limitations on capacity to regulate
 - Political or commercial interference
 - Inappropriate, inflexible measures



IUU fishing is opportunistic as well as calculated/deliberate

- Taking a risk for economic opportunity (LSF)
- Taking a risk for likelihood of income against the likelihood of penalty or capture (SSF)
 - partly driven by a need to make a basic income
- Opportunity of uncertain maritime boundaries in the region
 - most coastal fisheries have limited MCS
 - risk of capture/fines are relatively low
- Limited number of successful prosecutions (low deterrence)
 - Even if caught, limited prosecution
 - IUU fishing not viewed as a serious criminal activity (not worth paperwork)
 - How to get evidence to the courts?
 - Hard to prosecute across provincial boundaries



Study	IUU catch Tonnes		Value (million USD)		% of annual catch reported to FAO	Area/location
	Lower	Upper	Lower	Upper	%	
MRAG, UBC 2008 cited in APEC (2008)	3,400,000 – 8,100,000		-		8 – 16%	Asia-Pacific. Case studies and examples. Did not make an aggregated estimate (Area 71)
Agnew et al 2009	467,865	970,589	421	874	8 – 16%	Eastern Indian Ocean (larger than BOBLME)
Agnew et al 2009	785,897	1,729,588	707	1,557		Western Central Pacific
APFIC review 2015 (Un-published Presented at APFIC 34 th Session)	716,071	745,814	1,128	1,854	10%	Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea and Malacca Straits. Focused on illegal activity, primarily by foreign vessels. No extrapolation.
	777,478	940,498	935	1,810	8 – 10%	South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand, Arafura-Timor Sea, Banda Sea, Savu Sea, Sulu-Celebes, Sulawesi Sea, Makassar Strait, Molucca Sea, Halmaheras Strait
MRAG 2015	2,169,766	6,540,997				Asian region. Whole of country EEZ so includes large areas outside of BOB. The figure is the estimate of illegal catch for the countries in Bay of Bengal. The study also estimated unreported catch. Data was extrapolated.
CSIRO 2019	1,363,000		4,921.3		21%	Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. Focused on illegal activity, primarily by foreign vessels . Data was extrapolated.
CSIRO 2023	1,320,921		1,301.1		28%	East and West Indian ocean. Use similar methodology to CSIRO 2019

FAO-CSIRO study

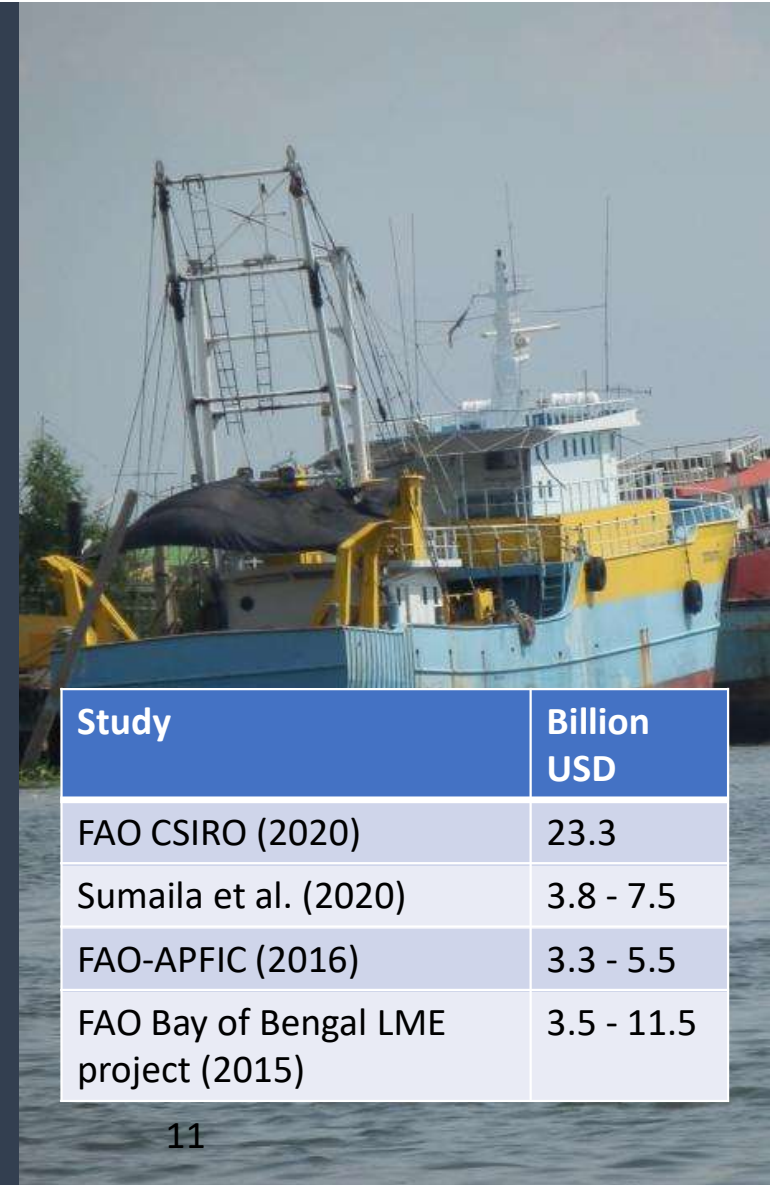
- Used national government respondents to indicate known IUU activity
- Media analysis of IUU-type reports
- Types of infraction, species, locations, estimates of volume, regularity etc.
- Incorporated prices
- Mapped
- Modelled



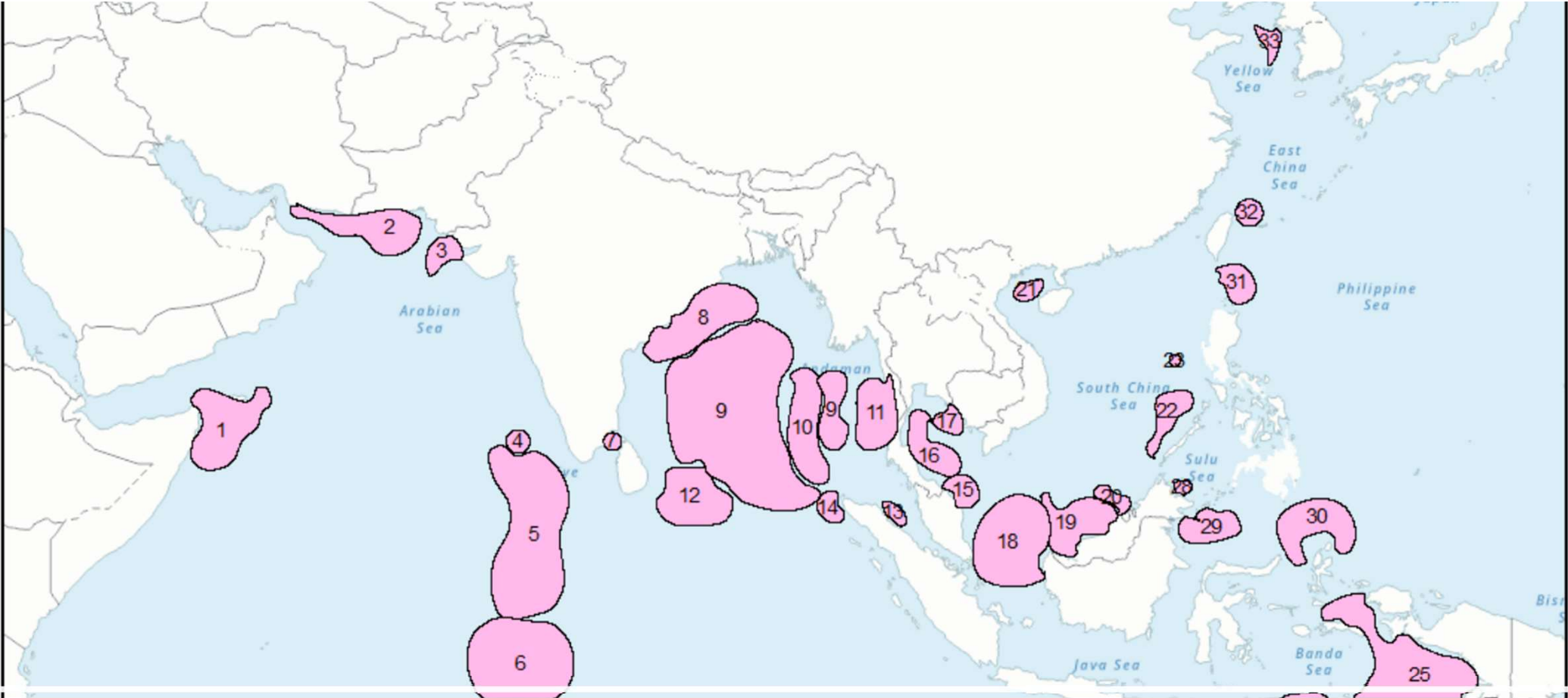
<http://www.fao.org/3/cb2640en/cb2640en.pdf>

Results: Estimate of volume and costs of IUU fishing in Asia

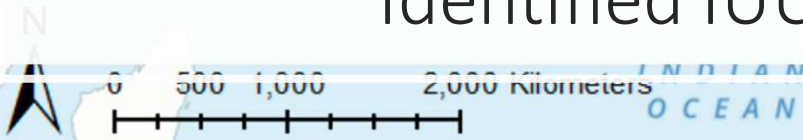
- Hotspots found across Asia region
 - 33 identified
 - Almost every country in the region has some sort of IUU issues with foreign or foreign beneficially owned vessels.
- Estimated illegal-fishing landings across EEZ and high seas in 'APFIC area'
 - Totalled catch 6.6 million tonnes (MT) in 2019
 - The value estimated was USD 23.3 billion
- IUU catch results broadly consistent with previous studies
 - But other studies covered IUU (this study only the "I")
- Key differences on values due to prices used



Study	Billion USD
FAO CSIRO (2020)	23.3
Sumaila et al. (2020)	3.8 - 7.5
FAO-APFIC (2016)	3.3 - 5.5
FAO Bay of Bengal LME project (2015)	3.5 - 11.5



Identified IUU fishing hotspots in 2015



Type of illegal activity identified

- Typically a mixture of several inter-related issues
 - Crossing boundaries
 - Lack of documents/authorization
 - Transshipping
 - Misdeclaration of landings
- This means that effectively combatting IUU will require a combination of actions.

Category	Number of Case examples	% of Total Case examples
Encroachment	33	100
Absence of Authentic Documentation	29	88
Non-compliance with technical measures	28	85
Illegal Trans-shipment	13	39
Illegal ETPs	19	58
Degree of premeditation	26	79



Domestic or foreign vessels?

- Bilateral violations most common
- For around half the countries in the region, >25% up to 100% of the IUU activity was undertaken by vessels flagged by other countries
- This may be higher if we consider domestically flagged, but foreign-beneficial ownership vessels



Regional and international cooperation is essential for combatting IUU fishing

- Builds consensus and enables the development of common norms and standards
- Provides a framework for sharing information and agreeing on action
- Sets out obligations of states and other actors
- Binding and non-binding
- Brief overview of some of the international processes which contribute to combatting IUU fishing



Why cooperate?

Cooperation on eliminating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing contributes directly to national commitment on Sustainable Development Goal 14



Implementation of international fisheries instruments, mechanisms and tools directly contribute to achieving both of these SDG 14 Targets

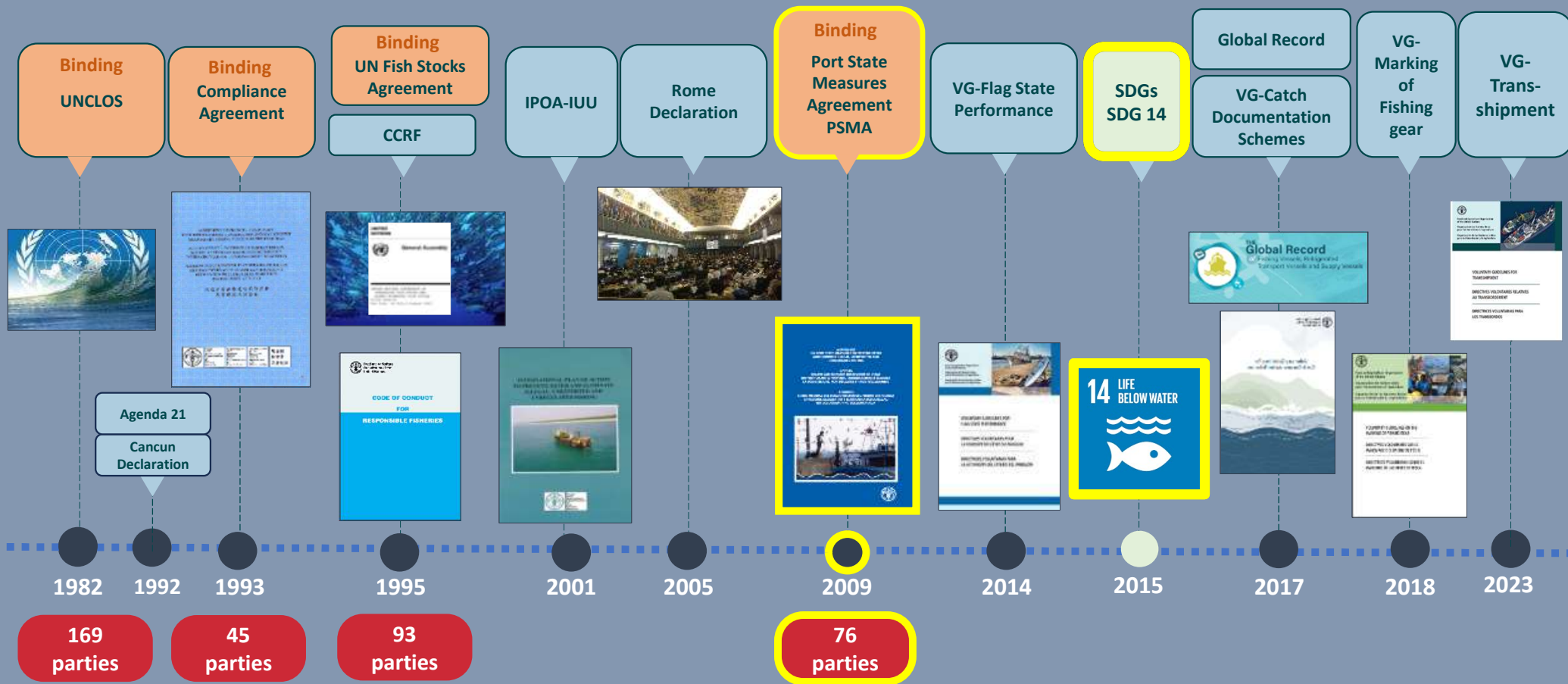
Target 14.4

By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices (...) to restore fish stocks (...) to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (...)

Target 14.6

By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (...)

Timeline of International fisheries instruments and tools to combat IUU fishing

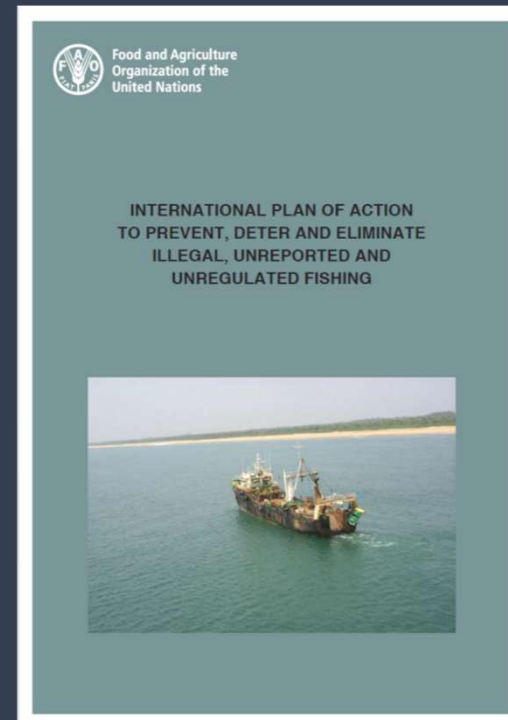


Respectively instruments outline **Flag State, Port State, Coastal State, Market State** responsibilities

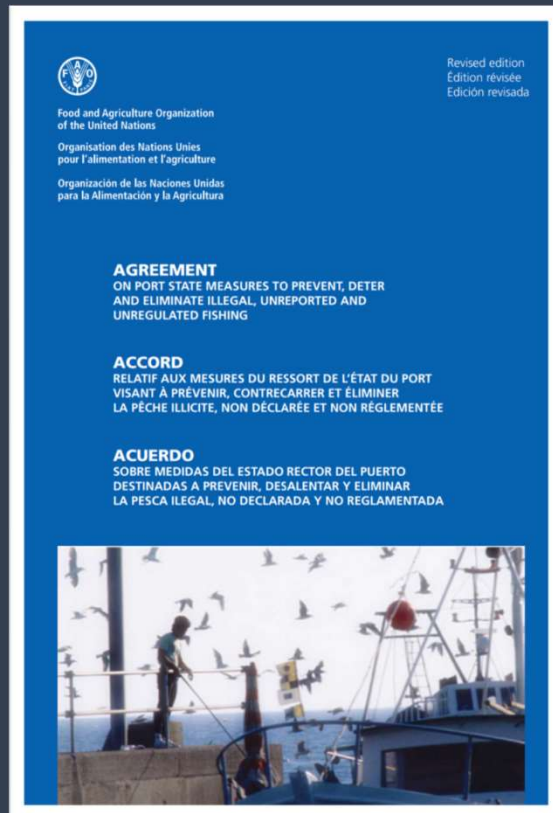
2001 IPOA-IUU

IPOA-IUU

- Global initiative developed by FAO to address the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- Strategies for preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing, including:
 - improving monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities,
 - strengthening legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, and
 - promoting sustainable fishing practices.



2009 – Port State Measures Agreement

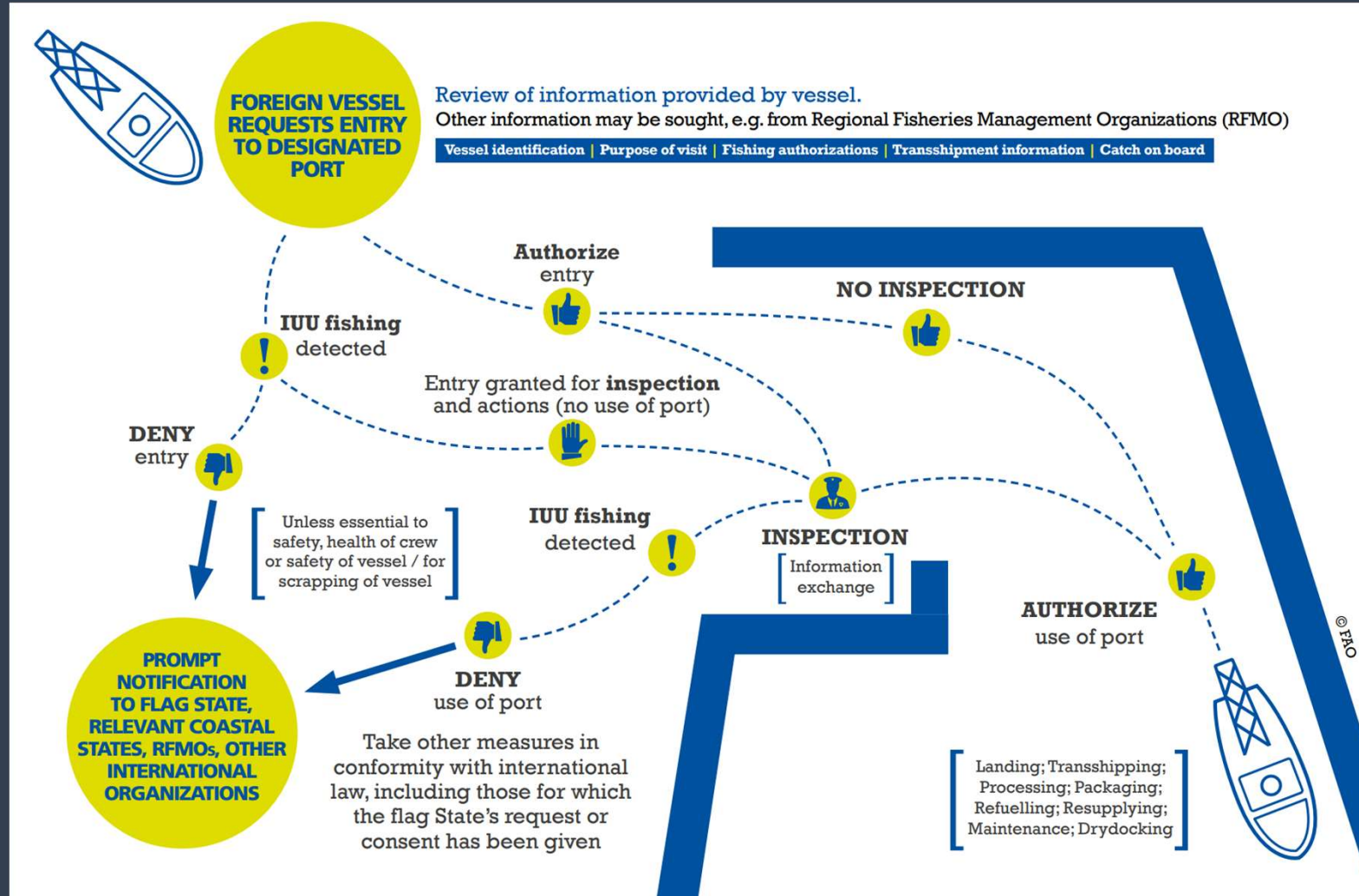


Adoption of effective port State measures as a means to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.

Applied to:

- foreign vessels when seeking entry to port entry or when they are in the port –
- Exceptions include:
 - **artisanal fishing vessels** of neighboring countries, provided the port State and the flag state cooperate to ensure not engaged in IUU fishing or related activities.
 - **containers vessels** that are not carrying fish, and if they are, it has been previously landed, and no suspecting they are involved in IUU fishing or related activities.

How do Port State Measures work?

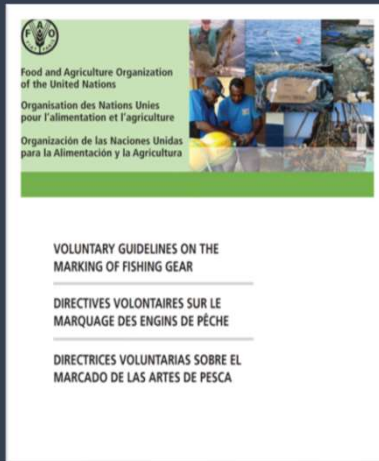




- **Global Record** of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels
 - Combat IUU fishing by gathering and sharing certified information about the world's fleet of fishing (and related) vessels.
 - It closes the global information gap on vessels involved in IUU fishing
 - Promotes **transparency, traceability and dissemination** of on the global fishing fleet and its operations

VG

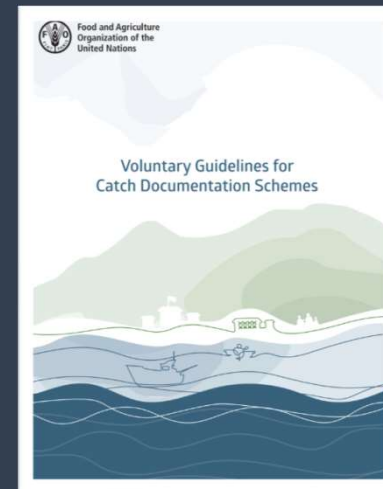
Marking of Fishing Gear



- Address issues related to **abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)** and facilitating the identification and recovery of such gear.
- Assist fisheries management and help address IUU fishing activities


VG

Catch Documentation Schemes




- System to help determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from “legal and sustainable” catches

2023 – VG for Transshipment



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Organisation des Nations Unies
pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
Organización de las Naciones Unidas
para la Alimentación y la Agricultura



**VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR
TRANSSHIPMENT**

**DIRECTIVES VOLONTAIRES RELATIVES
AU TRANSBORDEMENT**

**DIRECTRICES VOLUNTARIAS PARA
LOS TRANSBORDOS**

In short:



The Voluntary Guidelines provide minimum international standards for transshipment operations;



They establish definitions, processes and responsibilities for transshipment activities to be regulated, monitored, and controlled;



They consider specific needs of developing States in view of transshipment activities;



States and RFMO/As can transpose the guidelines into national and regional regulations.

Dashboard



Welcome to the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) as foreseen under Article 16(2) of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

The fourth Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA agreed on having the GIES operational by the end of 2023, noting its initial use as a voluntary system until decided otherwise. Access to the system is limited to the Parties of the PSMA.

At the request of Parties, a test environment was made available to allow users to safely trial the system without exchanging information with other States or relevant stakeholders. This environment is accessible to all States and regional fishery bodies.

To request account access, kindly contact the GIES Help Desk at PSMA-GIES@fao.org.

To start using the GIES, click on the 'Login' button in the sidebar and enter your credentials. Should you have any issues accessing or using the system, kindly contact the GIES Help Desk.

2023 – Global Information Exchange System -
<https://psma-gies.fao.org/> (only for accredited users)

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

Background International Framework Tools & Initiatives Capacity Development News & Events Resources



MCS review held in the Comoros

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems due to its potent ability to undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably as well as its endeavours to conserve marine biodiversity. IUU fishing takes advantage of corrupt administrations and exploits weak management regimes, in particular those of developing countries lacking the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). IUU fishing is found in all types and dimensions of fisheries; it occurs both on the high seas and in areas within national jurisdiction. It concerns all aspects and stages of the capture and utilisation of fish, and it may sometimes be associated with organized crime. Fisheries resources available to bona fide fishers are removed by IUU fishing, which can lead to the collapse of local fisheries, with small-scale fisheries in developing countries proving particularly vulnerable. Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into overseas trade markets thus threatening local food supply. IUU fishing therefore threatens livelihoods, exacerbates poverty, and augments food insecurity.



5 June
International Day for the
Fight against IUU Fishing

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Did you know?

- IUU fishing represents up to 26 million tonnes of fish caught annually
- IUU fishing occurs on the high seas and in other areas within national jurisdiction, especially affecting coastal rural populations in vulnerable areas
- IUU fishing may sometimes be associated with other crimes
- FAO is working closely with IMO, ILO and UNODC to counter IUU fishing and associated illicit activities

In depth

PSMA	Global Record
Catch Documentation Schemes	Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing
Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance	Transshipment

Latest

Events

FAO website on IUU fishing

<https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/en/>

Thank you!!

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