



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

SEAFDEC UNCLOS Training

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International Agreements to combat IUU fishing

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Asian fisheries very diverse

- Rapid expansion of fisheries during 1960s.
- With the adoption of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982, the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) were established.
 - EEZ defines national jurisdiction within 200 nautical miles
 - Increased transboundary fishing and access agreements
 - Foreign access more rare – with an increase in joint ventures
- High number of medium and commercial scale vessels –
- Higher number of small-scale fishers and small-scale fishing vessels



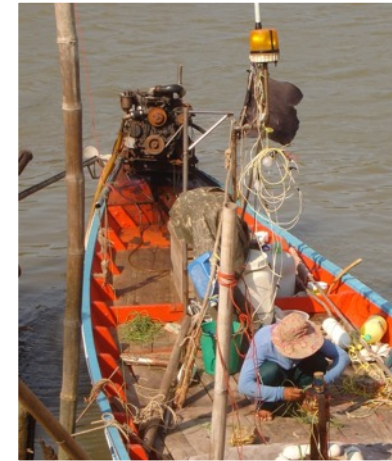
Type of fishing operations

- **Large-scale fishing operations**
 - long distance multi-day trips
 - Trawling, purse seining, long lining
 - May operate outside of EEZ or in waters of neighbouring countries
 - Large crews (reliance on migrant workers)
- **Medium size fishing operations**
 - Closer to shore
 - Employ crew, youth, migrant workers
 - May lack adequate equipment, or in poor condition
- **Small-scale fishing operations**



Small-scale fishing operations

- Small vessels: powered unpowered
 - Short trips, rarely long distance
 - Gears deployed by hand , limited mechanization
- Drivers of risk and hazards in fishing
 - Fishers often low income & vulnerable
 - Vessels may not be well constructed or maintained
 - Erratic income
 - Severe debt cycles
 - Family members take part in operations
 - Youth and children



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

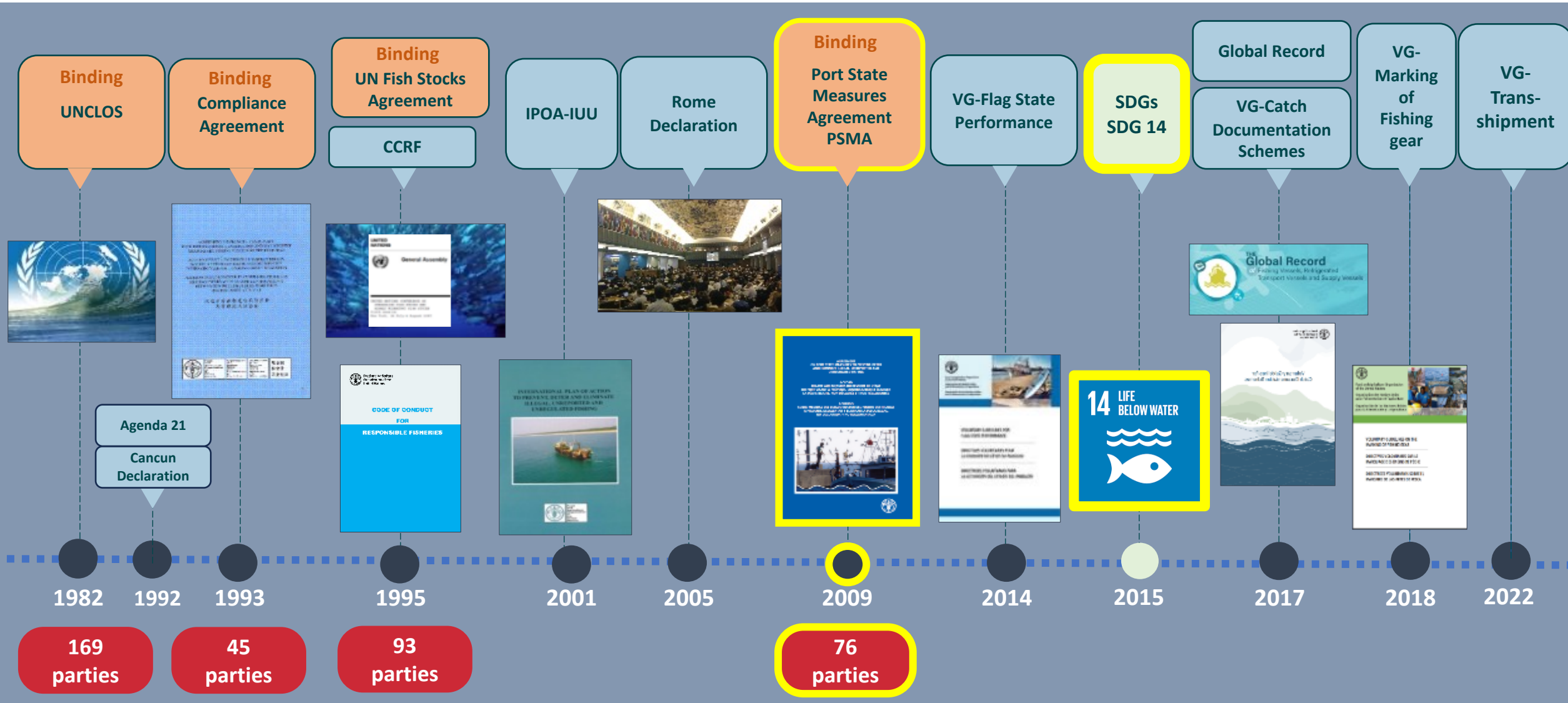
Target 14.4

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

1992

DECLARATION OF CANCUN

Declaration of the International Conference on Responsible Fishing

Cancun, Mexico, 6-8 May 1992

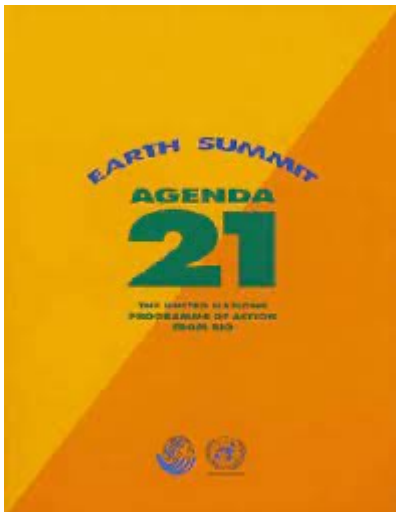
May 1992 – Cancun (Mexico)

- Conference on Responsible Fishing
- Discussion on the development of an international code of conduct on **responsible fishing** – address overcapacity, fishing in the **high seas** and other issues.
- Recommendations to be shared at the Rio Summit

June 1992 – Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

The Earth Summit

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – *also known as the Rio Earth Summit* – some the outcomes of the Earth Summit include:
 - *Agenda 21* – Comprehensive Plan of Action to be taken globally, nationally and locally
 - **Agenda 21** – Chapter 17 on Protection of the Oceans (includes protection, rational use and development of their living resources)
 - *The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
 - *The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*



1993

- **The FAO Compliance Agreement**
- Negotiated in 1990s and adopted on **24 November 1993**, entering into force 24 April 2003.
- The main objectives are:
 - Promote responsible and sustainable fishing practices on the high seas
 - Provisions related to flag state responsibilities, port state measures, and control and monitoring of fishing activities in the high seas.
 - Exchange of information (name, flag, ownership, length, type, etc.)
- Main elements integrated into other mechanisms (PSMA, Global Record, etc.)

AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE
WITH INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
MEASURES BY FISHING VESSELS ON THE HIGH SEAS

ACCORD VISANT À FAVORISER LE RESPECT PAR LES
NAVIRES DE PÊCHE EN HAUTE MER DES MESURES
INTERNATIONALES DE CONSERVATION ET DE GESTION

ACUERDO PARA PROMOVER EL CUMPLIMIENTO DE LAS
MEDIDAS INTERNACIONALES DE CONSERVACION Y
ORDENACION POR LOS BUQUES PESQUEROS
QUE PESCAN EN ALTA MAR

促进公海渔船遵守国际养护
及管理措施的协定



Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
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Unidas
para
la
Alimentación
y
la
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

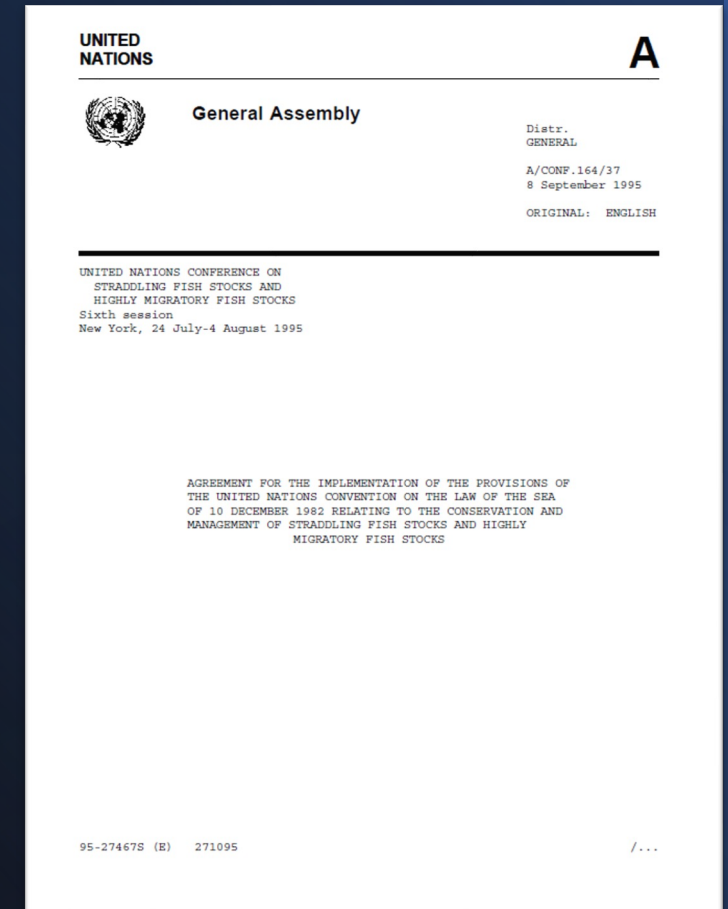
1995 - Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Agreement

General principles

- adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability for Straddling and Highly Migratory fish stocks
 - based on the best scientific evidence available (MSY, etc.)
 - apply the precautionary approach
 - assess the impacts of fishing
 - adopt, conservation and management measures as required
 - minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, bycatch, etc.
 - protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
 - prevent or eliminate overfishing and overcapacity
 - take into account the interests of artisanal and subsistence fishers;
 - data collection and sharing
 - promote and conduct scientific research
 - implement effective monitoring, control and surveillance.

Application of the precautionary approach

Compatibility of conservation and management measures

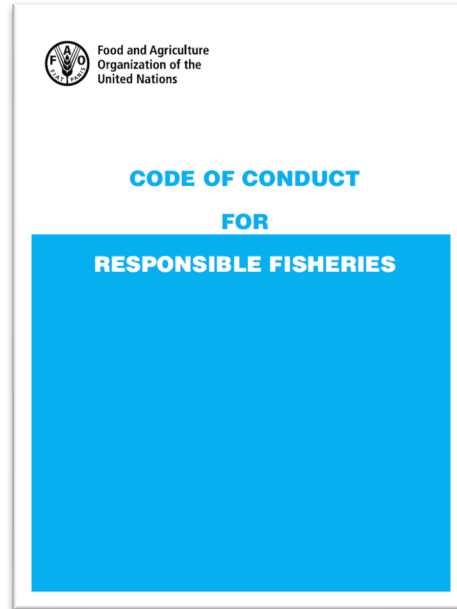


Objective –

“to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the UNCLOS”.

1995 – The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)

- Consistent with the previous instruments – but **voluntary**
- Recognition that fisheries, including aquaculture, provides a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being.
- Sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices (conservation, management and development)
- Recognition of the interests of all those concerned with the fishery sector.
- Considers the biological characteristics of the resources and their environment and the interests of consumers and other users.



Main Sections

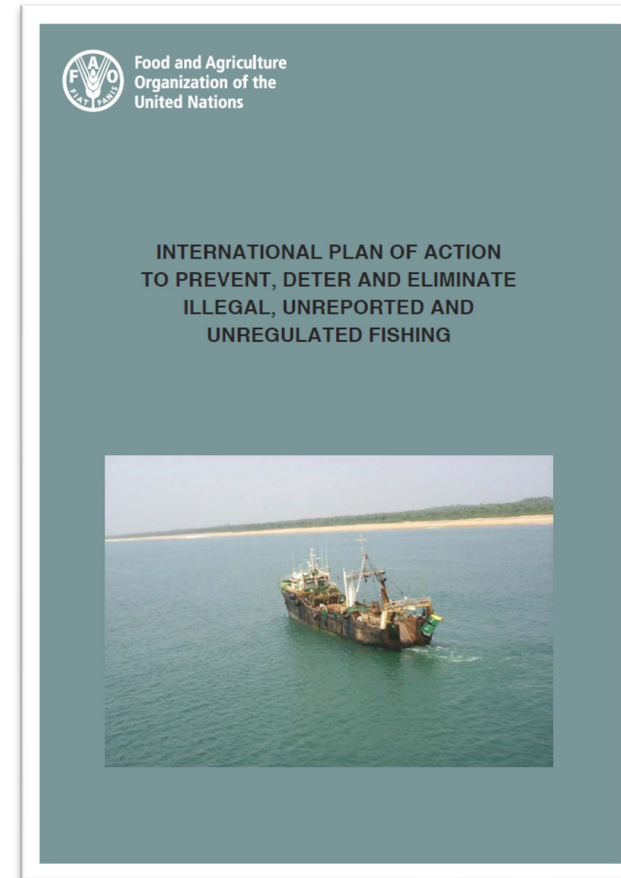
1. Introduction
2. Objectives
3. Scope and application
4. Fundamental principles
5. General principles
6. Fisheries management
7. Fishing operations
8. Aquaculture development
9. Integration of fisheries into coastal area management
10. Post-harvest practices and trade
11. Fisheries research
12. Human element
13. International cooperation and coordination
14. Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation
15. Review and revision

Global estimates indicate that **IUU fishing** is responsible for annual catches of up to **26 million tonnes**, with a value of up to **US\$ 23 billion**.

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.



Definitions of IUU Fishing

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a broad term which includes:



Fishing and fishing-related activities conducted in contravention of national, regional and international laws.



Non-reporting, misreporting or under-reporting of information on fishing operations and their catches.



Fishing by “Stateless” vessels.



Fishing in convention areas of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations by non-party vessels.



Fishing activities which are not regulated by States and cannot be easily monitored and accounted for.

2005 – The Rome Declaration on IUU Fishing

- The Meeting addressed Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and the Promotion of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance as Key Components in the Sustainable Development of Fisheries.
- Call to:
 - Address economic incentives and drivers leading to IUU fishing and overcapacity
 - Prevent transfer of IUU fishing problems from one area to another when trying to address them .
 - Develop a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels within FAO,
 - Work within RFMOs and share (as appropriate) VMS and observer data,
 - Strengthen MCS schemes



2009 – Port State Measures Agreement

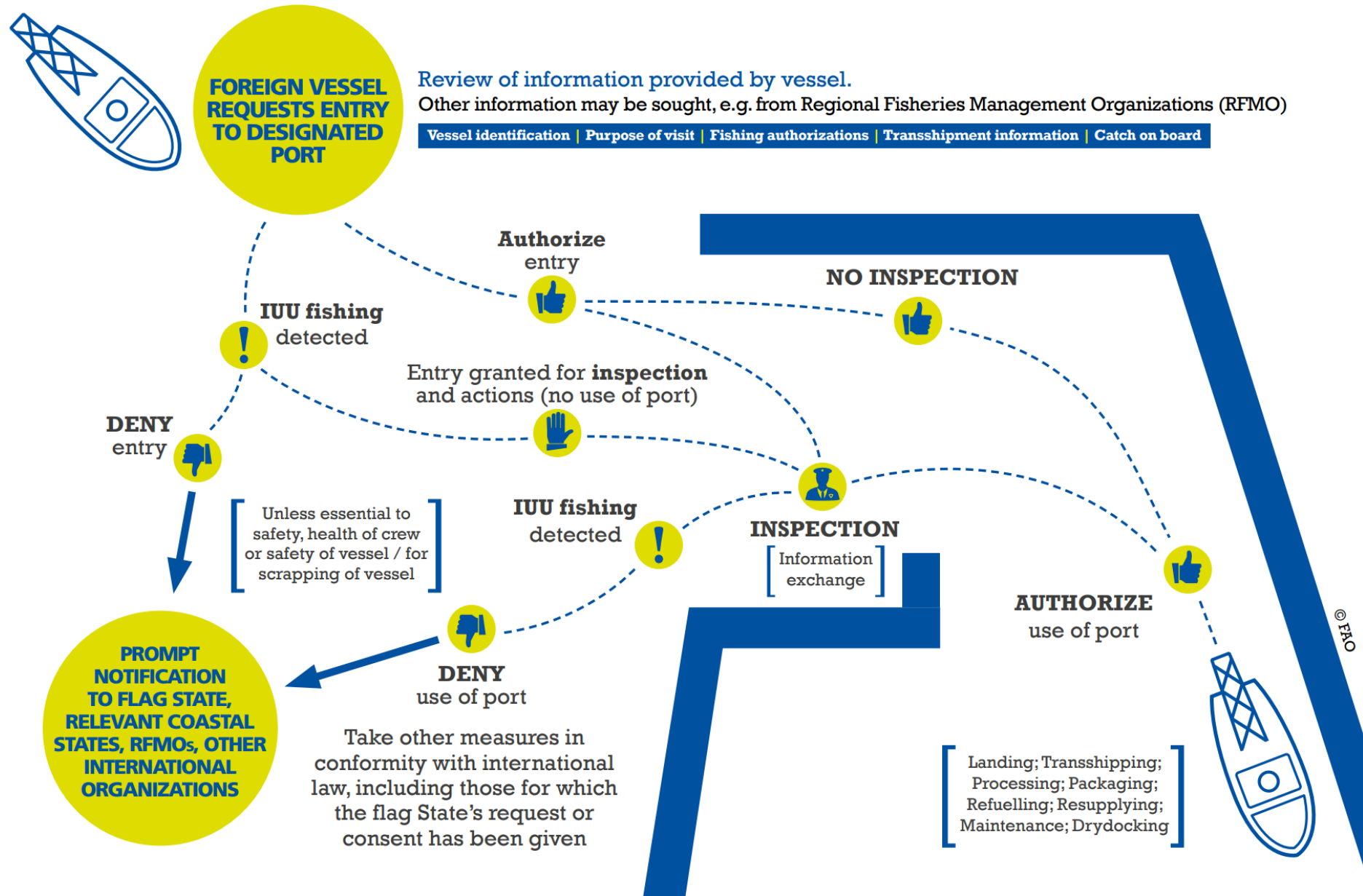


Adoption of effective port State measures as a means to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.

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?



2015 – SDGs and SDG 14



TARGET 14-1



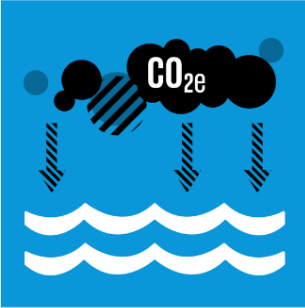
REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION

TARGET 14-2



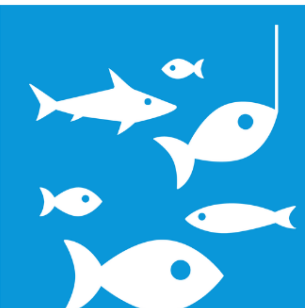
PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

TARGET 14-3



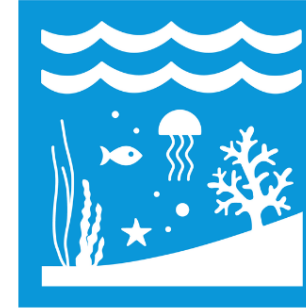
REDUCE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

TARGET 14-4



SUSTAINABLE FISHING

TARGET 14-5



CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

TARGET 14-6



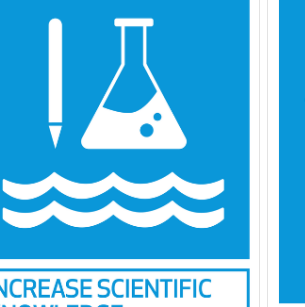
END SUBSIDIES CONTRIBUTING TO OVERFISHING

TARGET 14-7



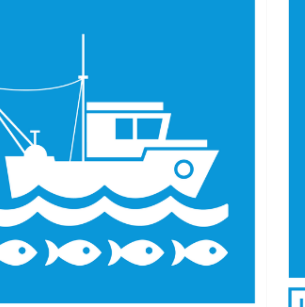
INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES

TARGET 14-A



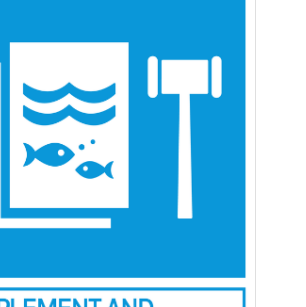
INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN HEALTH

TARGET 14-B



SUPPORT SMALL SCALE FISHERS

TARGET 14-C

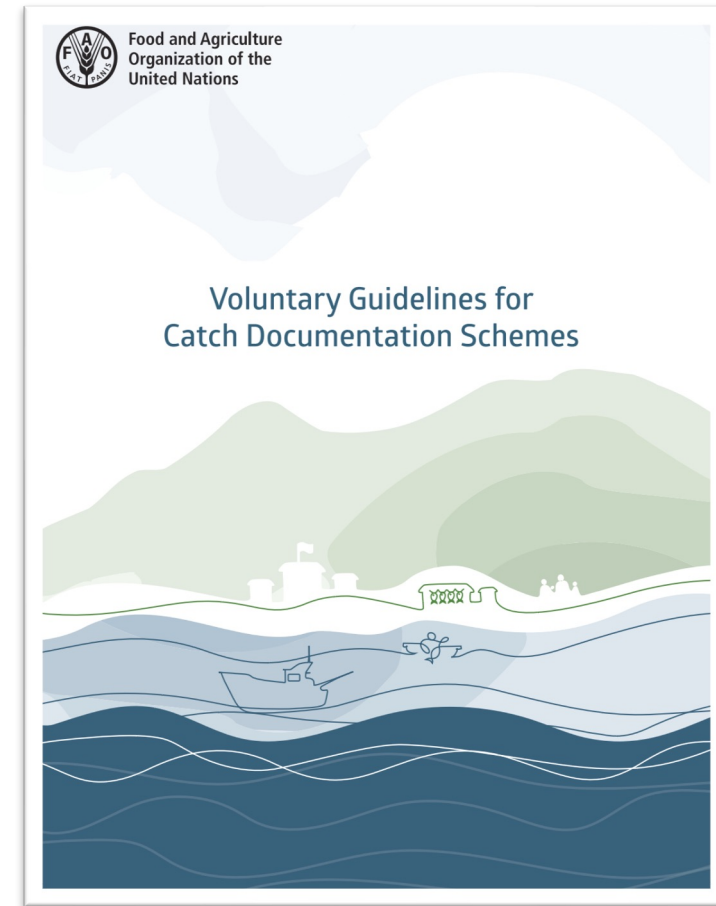


IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL SEA LAW

2017



- **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

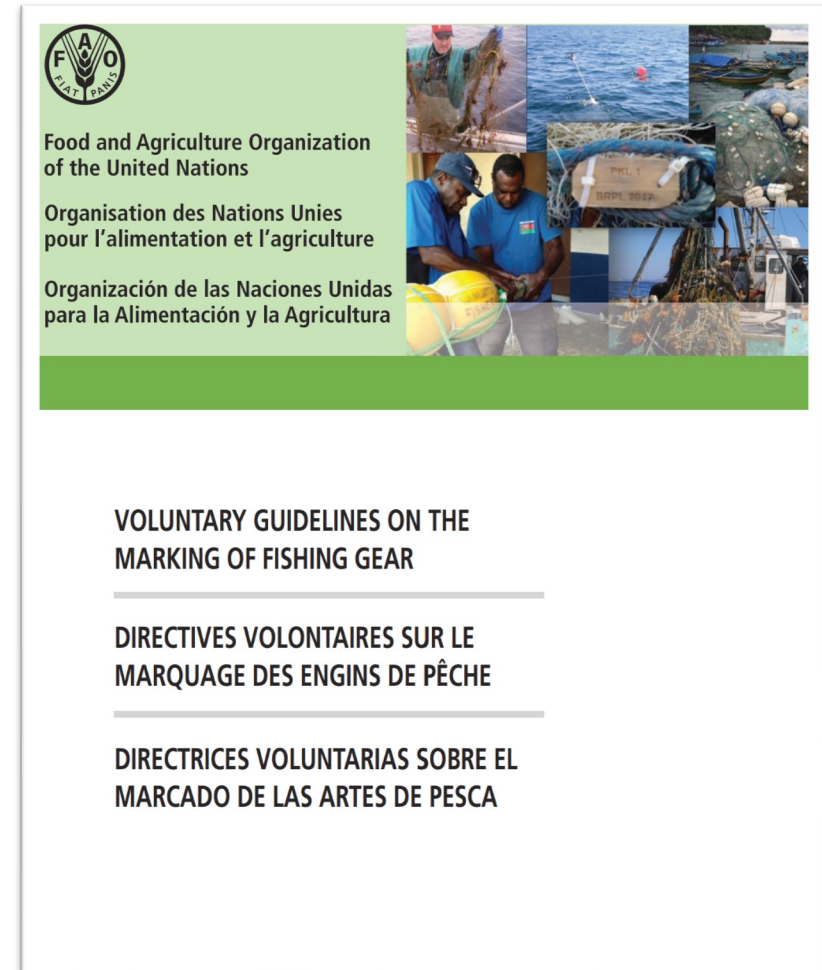


VG on **Catch Documentation Schemes**


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

2018 - VG on 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
- Address the purpose and principles, the scope of application and the **implementation of a gear marking system** and its associated components, including reporting, recovery and disposal of ALDFG or unwanted fishing gear and commercial traceability of fishing gear.
- Special considerations for developing states and SSF – focus on capacity development and using risk-based approach to implementing gear marking .




2022 – VG for Transshipment



Food and Agriculture Organization
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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.

Voluntary Instruments

- Global Record - <https://www.fao.org/global-record/en/>
- VG on Catch Documentation Schemes - <https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/resources/detail/en/c/1132200/>
- VG on Marking of Fishing Gear - <https://www.fao.org/responsible-fishing/marketing-of-fishing-gear/voluntary-guidelines-marking-fishing-gear/en/>
- VG for Transshipment - <https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/resources/detail/en/c/1638082/>

Thank you!!

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