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United Nations

International instruments and complementary tools to combat IUU fishing

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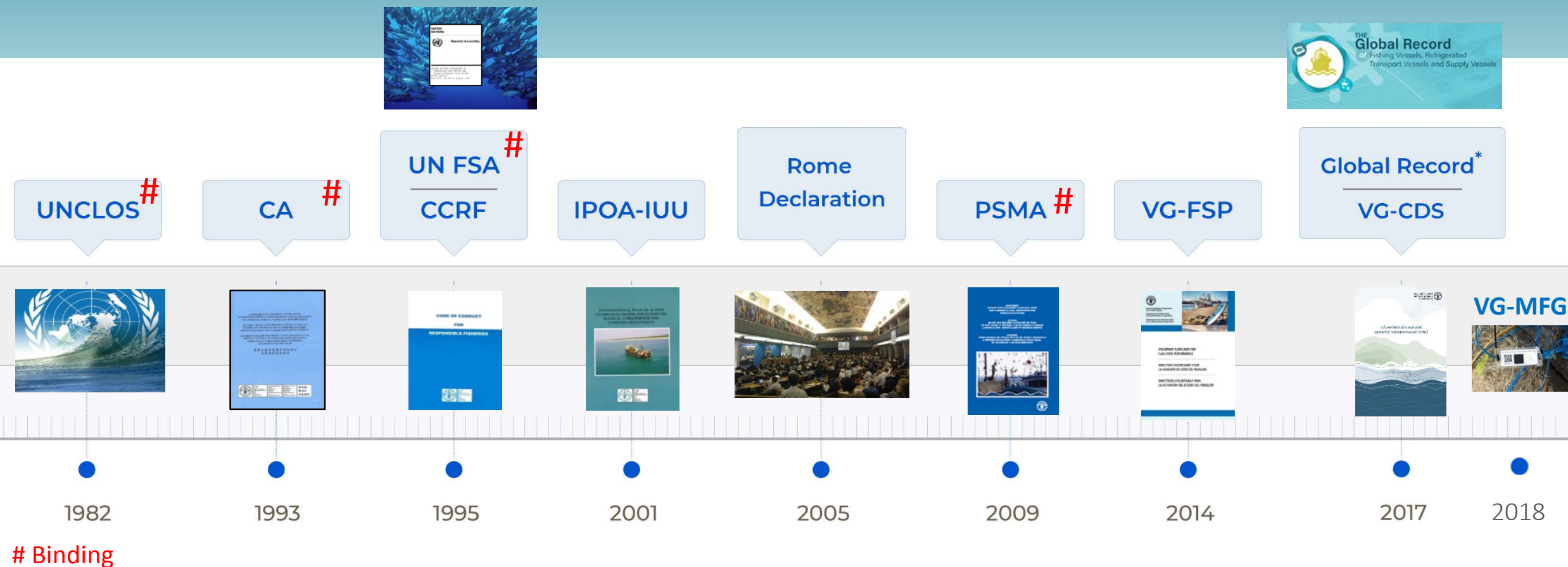
Head

Fishing Operations and Technology Branch

SEAFDEC, 12-13 December 2018

Timeline of global instruments and initiatives to combat IUU fishing

Overview



Flag State, Port State, Coastal State, Market State RESPONSIBILITIES



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International instruments

- **Agreement on Port State Measures**
- **VG for Flag State Performance**
- **VG for Catch Documentation Schemes**
- **VG on the Marking of Fishing Gear**

Tools

- **Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels**
- **Technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing**
- **Guidelines for regulating, monitoring and controlling transshipment**
- **Global Capacity Development Portal**



Port State Measures

- Port State measures are **potent and cost-effective** means to combat IUU fishing by preventing **foreign fishing vessels** engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches, thereby reducing the incentive of such vessels to continue to operate and **blocking fishery products derived from IUU fishing from reaching national and international markets.**
- The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures lays down a minimum set of standard procedures, measures and actions to be applied by Port States.
- The Agreement entered into force on 5th June 2016
(30 days after deposit with FAO DG of the 25th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession)
- As at 10 December 2018, there are 57 Parties (including the EU as 1) to the Agreement





Contents of the PSMA

Part 1

- Interpretation and application of the Agreement
- Fundamental international law, instruments and practices

Parts 2-4

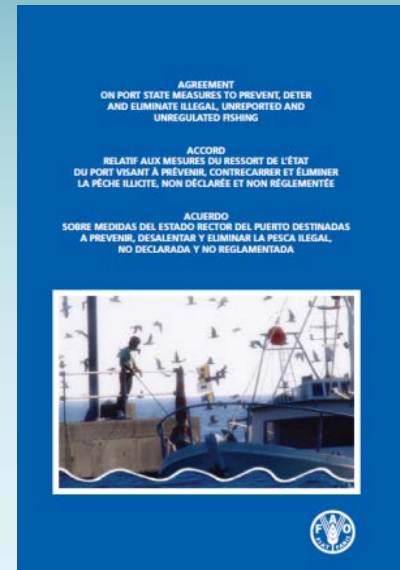
- Step-by-step requirements and procedures for vessels and port States, from the point of prior to entry into port of vessels
- Inspections and follow-up actions

Parts 5 and 6

- Considerations regarding the role of flag States and the requirements of developing States

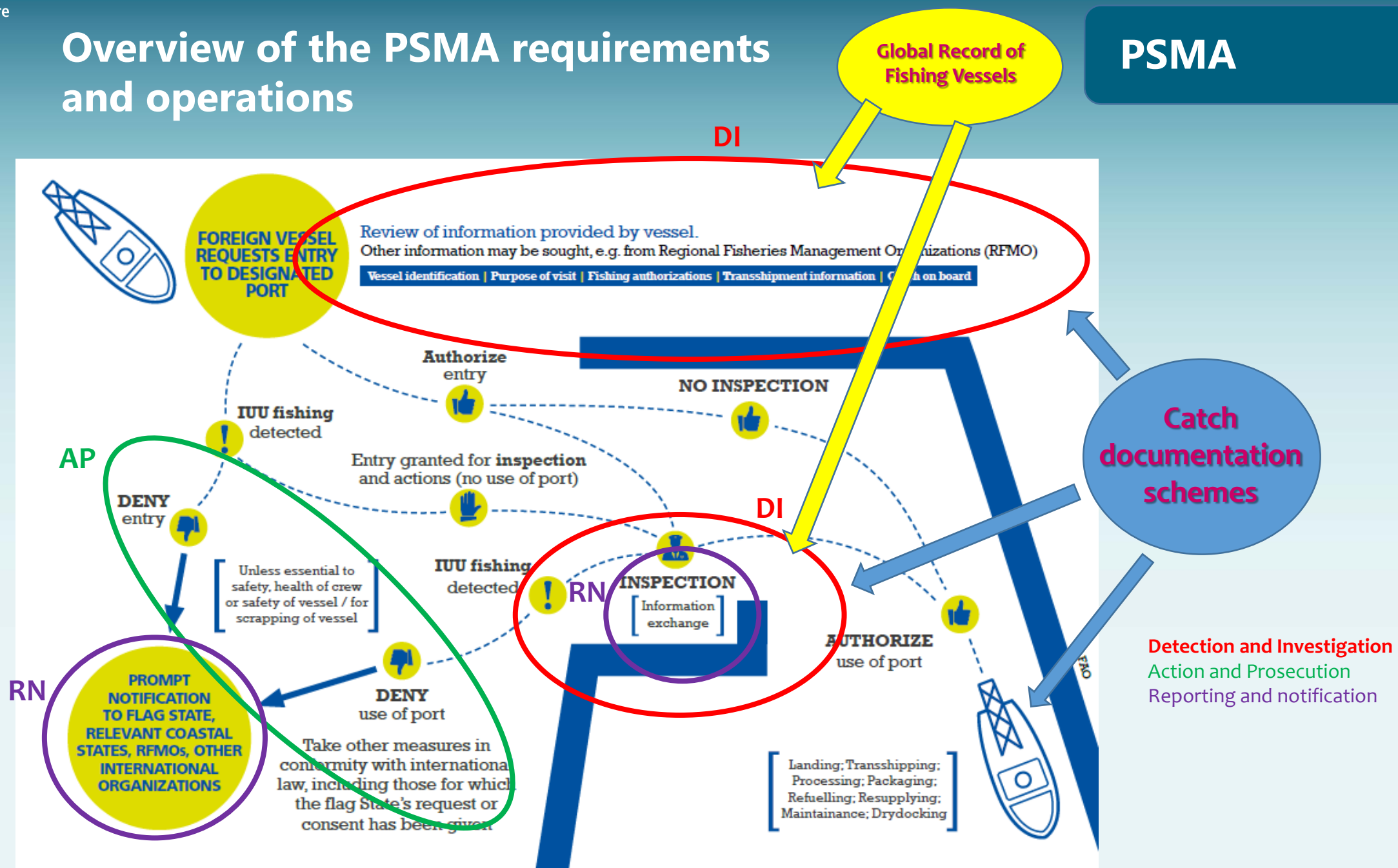
Parts 7-10

- Dispute settlement, non-parties, monitoring, review and assessment of final provisions, including entry into force



Overview of the PSMA requirements and operations

PSMA





Putting the PSMA into action

First Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA

Oslo, Norway 29-31 May 2017

- Review of requirements for the implementation of the PSMA
- Transmittal, electronic exchange and publication of information
- Requirements of developing States
- Monitoring, review and assessment of implementation of the Agreement



PSMA Open-Ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange

1st meeting: London, United Kingdom, 16 April 2018 – 18 April 2018

2nd meeting: Korea, 2019 (tbd)

PSMA Part 6 Working Group

Oslo, Norway, 1-2 June 2017

Rome, Italy, 5 – 6 July 2018

Second Meeting of the Parties to the PSMA

Chile, 2019 (tbd)





VG-Flag State Performance

- Provide guidance to strengthen and monitor compliance by flag States with their international duties and obligations regarding the flagging and control of fishing vessels
- cover the relevant responsibilities of flag States on the basis of elements contained in international law, including binding and non-binding international fisheries instruments
- adopted by COFI in 2014





Central components

General

Fisheries management

Information, registration and records

Authorisations

Monitoring, control and surveillance, and enforcement

Cooperation between flag States and coastal States

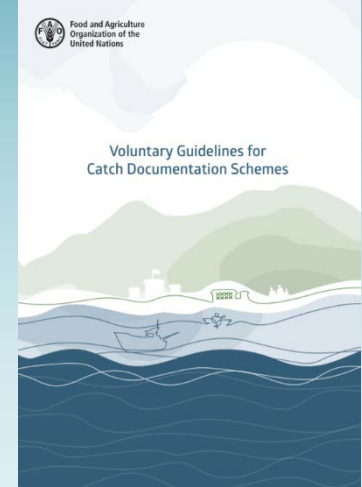
Encourage self-assessment of performance, examples can be found on FAO webpage





VG-Catch Documentation Schemes

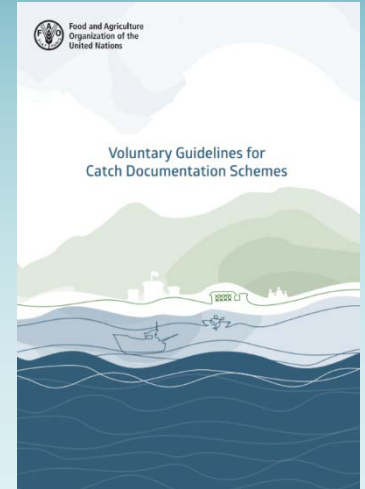
- **Catch Documentation Scheme:** a system with the primary purpose of helping determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from catches taken consistent with applicable national, regional and international conservation and management measures, established in accordance with relevant international obligations.
- VGCDS adopted by FAO Conference in July 2017 after extensive negotiations
- Objective is to provide assistance to States, RFMOs, IGOs in developing and implementing CDS





Basic Principles and Applications

- Conformity with international Law (WTO Agreements, UNCLOS and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries).
- CDS should not create Technical Barriers to Trade.
- CDS could be recognised as equivalent for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the guidelines if they result in equivalent outcomes.
- Only be implemented in the situation when they could be an effective means to prevent IUU fish entering the value chain, should be implemented from within the context of an effective fisheries management regime. Should be designed and implemented based on proper risk assessment.
- To ensure accurate and verifiable information along the supply chain.





Objective:

To assist states in meeting their existing obligations
Contribute towards sustainable fisheries by helping to:

- Support responsible fishing gear ownership and management
- Prevent ALDFG and its harmful impacts including environmental impacts, navigational hazards and economic, biodiversity and fish stock impacts of 'ghost fishing'.
- Aid the detection and ability to address IUU fishing activities





Key provisions

- Global in scope and apply to all fishing gear types
- A gear marking system should enable identification of the ownership, and where relevant the position, of fishing gear, and its link with the vessel(s) and/or operators undertaking the fishing operations.
- A gear marking system should also provide for the reporting, recovery and disposal of gear
- Gear marking should be considered in the context of broader fisheries management measures including those which address ALDFG
- Gear marking should, as appropriate, be a condition of fishing authorisation or licence.
- When gear is associated with a registered fishing vessel the mark for the gear should match vessel registration details e.g. port letters, IMO number, if available.



A global information system to fight IUU fishing through increased transparency and traceability

- 'Single access point' for vessel and vessel-related info *used for*
 - Verification of information (FS, PS, CS, MS)
 - Risk assessment (PS, CS, MS)
 - Public dissemination of information (consumers, industry...)
- Certified, relevant & up-to-date information from official sources (States)
- Fishing vessels + transport + supply
- More than a list of authorized vessels





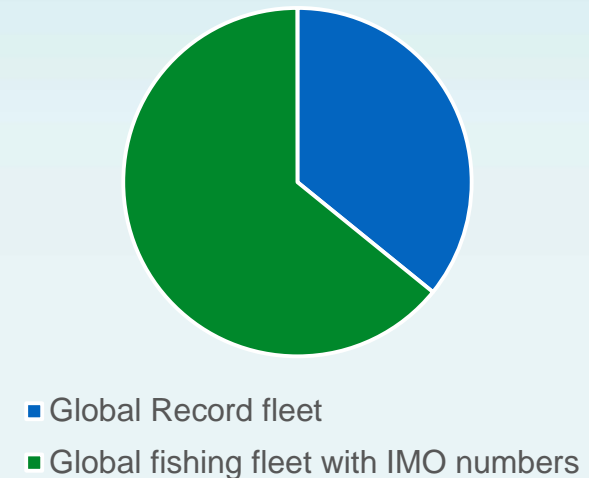
Key component: UVI – IMO number

- 2017 **IMO Resolution A.1117(30)** to include all fishing vessels of 12 m and above that are authorized to operate in waters outside national jurisdiction and vessels above 24 m of wooden hull
- Stays with the vessel despite changes of flag, name, ownership, etc. Numbers are not reassigned, even after sinking or decommission
- Linkage of information modules, systems and instruments
- Traceability of fish products

Current Status

- 1/3 of global eligible fleet
- All sizes (even below 12 m LOA)
- Transport vessels and supply (around 1/3 of global fleet)
- Mainly vessel details, but not only
- Almost 1/3 of countries with fleets (North America, Latin america, Europe)

Eligible fishing fleet





Data sharing mechanisms

Global Record

Manual data submission mechanisms	Automated data submission mechanisms
Input through a web form	<i>Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX)</i>
CSV File upload through website (currently in use)	<i>RFBs, IHSM data links</i>

Connection from a Regional Vessel Register

1. One-time connection from a regional register to the Global Record
 - Use a common language (FLUX – Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange, UN/CEFACT)
 - Setup a physical connection through transportation layer (open source software)
2. Countries define data sharing protocol and validate exchange
 - Define what information fields will be shared with GR through RVR
 - Validate information exchange at a click within GR system





Technical guidelines to support systematic studies

- Guidelines to apply consistent, robust and systematic approaches to IUU fishing estimation
- Strengthen quality and consistency of studies, irrespective of methodology used or nature/scale of study
- Improve comparability between studies, tracking of IUU fishing
- Recognise that individual studies will differ substantially
 - Scale of investigation
 - Types of I, U and U being estimated
 - Type and quality of information/data available
 - Expertise of study team





Technical Guidelines: a suite of products

- **Review** (“study of studies”) of the most comprehensive IUU studies for guidance on specific technical aspects of studies
- **Principles and approaches** for producing comprehensive, robust IUU studies
- **A practical guide** for practitioners
- **A set of case studies** applying the Technical Guidelines
- **A guide for producing and using indicators** of IUU fishing



State of affairs

COFI32 – Global study on Transshipment

- Regulations, Practices and Monitoring and control

Work carried out

- Regulation review
- Cases Studies
- Global Stakeholder Survey
 - States (90+ EU), RFMOs (14), NGOs (4) and Private sector (3)
- Expert Workshop





Main conclusions so far

- Transshipment at-sea might be a loophole to IUU fishing if not adequately controlled
- Overall good regulations but nature and extent of illicit transshipment still unknown
- Ineffective control

Next steps

A more in-depth study (quantitative) at global level, as the basis for work on developing guidelines





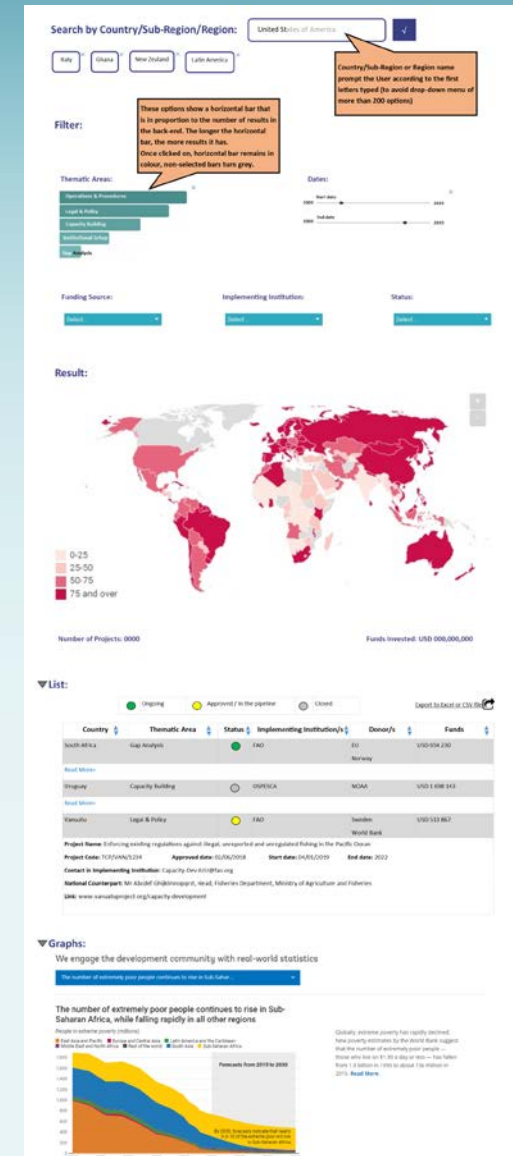
A common portal for all capacity development work to combat IUU fishing

- International institutions, Countries, IGOs, NGOs...

Aims to:

- Disseminate information
- Raise awareness on existing initiatives
- Promote collaboration between different actors
- Avoid duplication

Currently in early phases of development





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO websites on combatting IUU fishing

IUU Fishing

The screenshot shows the FAO website's main navigation bar at the top. Below it, the page title 'Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing' is displayed. A large image of a fishing vessel is featured. The main text area contains a headline: 'Key points identified to assist Ghana's PSMA implementation after launch of several initiatives'. Below this, there is a section titled 'In depth' with icons for 'PSMA', 'Global Record', 'Catch Documentation Schemes', and 'Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Did you know?' section with bullet points about IUU fishing's impact and a '5 June 2018' news item about the fight against IUU fishing.

PSMA

The screenshot shows the FAO website's main navigation bar. The page title is 'Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)'. A large image shows a group of people in front of a building. The main text area contains a headline: 'The IMO International Maritime Law Institute hosts the first FAO-IMLI International Fisheries Law Training Course'. Below this, there is a section titled 'In depth' with icons for 'PSMA Parties' and 'Capacity Development'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Did you know?' section with bullet points about the PSMA's objectives and a 'Latest' section with a link to the 'Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing'.

Global Record

The screenshot shows the FAO website's main navigation bar. The page title is 'Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels'. A large image shows a map of the world. The main text area contains a headline: 'Latin America is closing the net on IUU fishing'. Below this, there is a section titled 'In depth' with icons for 'Who is it for', 'IUU Fishing', and 'Unique Vessel Identifier'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'Did you know?' section with bullet points about the Global Record's objectives and a 'Latest' section with a link to the 'Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels'.



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Thank you for your attention

