



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Team
Fisheries and Aquaculture Division
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) as a countermeasure for IUU fishing

6-8 October 2025
Shelley Clarke

Video: FAO PSMA as a tool to Combat IUU Fishing



<https://www.fao.org/port-state-measures/resources/detail/en/c/1403196/>

Outline of this Presentation



- Overview of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
- Global Information Exchange System (GIES) under the PSMA
- Bali Strategy for effective implementation of the PSMA
- Indicators to quantify implementation and/or effectiveness of the PSMA



Overview of PSMA



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

Revised edition
Édition révisée
Edición revisada

AGREEMENT

ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER
AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND
UNREGULATED FISHING

ACCORD

RELATIF AUX MESURES DU RESSORT DE L'ÉTAT DU PORT
VISANT À PRÉVENIR, CONTRECARRER ET ÉLIMINER
LA PÊCHE ILLICITE, NON DÉCLARÉE ET NON RÉGLEMENTÉE

ACUERDO

SOBRE MEDIDAS DEL ESTADO RECTOR DEL PUERTO
DESTINADAS A PREVENIR, DESALENTAR Y ELIMINAR
LA PESCA ILEGAL, NO DECLARADA Y NO REGLAMENTADA



2016

International Fisheries Instruments and Tools to combat IUU Fishing



169 parties

UNCLOS #



1982

45 parties

CA #



1993

93 parties

UN FSA #
CCRF



1995

IPOA-IUU



2001

Rome Declaration



2005

82 parties

PSMA #



2009

VG-FSP



2014

Global Record
VG-CDS



2017

VG-MFG



2018

WTO-AFS#
VG-TS



2022

Binding

Flag, Coastal, Port and Market State Responsibilities



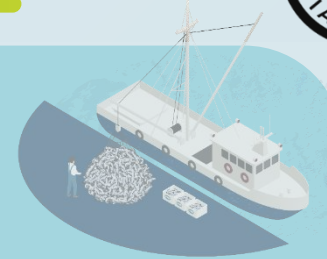
Flag State



Has the responsibility to:

- exercise **effective jurisdiction and control** over vessels flying its flag wherever they operate (in areas under national jurisdiction, in ABNJ and other states' waters)

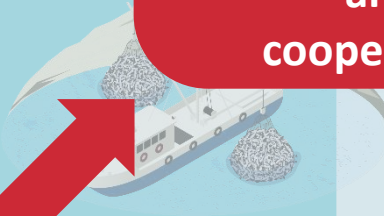
Port State



Has the responsibility to:

- **deny port entry** / take other inspection / enforcement measures to prevent fish caught from IUU fishing from reaching the market

Coastal State



Has the sovereign right to:

- explore, exploit, conserve and manage **the resources in areas under its national jurisdiction**

Market State



Has the responsibility to:

- **prevent fish** caught by vessels identified to have been engaged in IUU fishing **being traded or imported**

**Information-sharing
and
cooperation**

Status of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)



Parties to the PSMA: 82 (including the EU)

Non-Party Signatories to the PSMA: 2

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement

Scope of PSMA Application

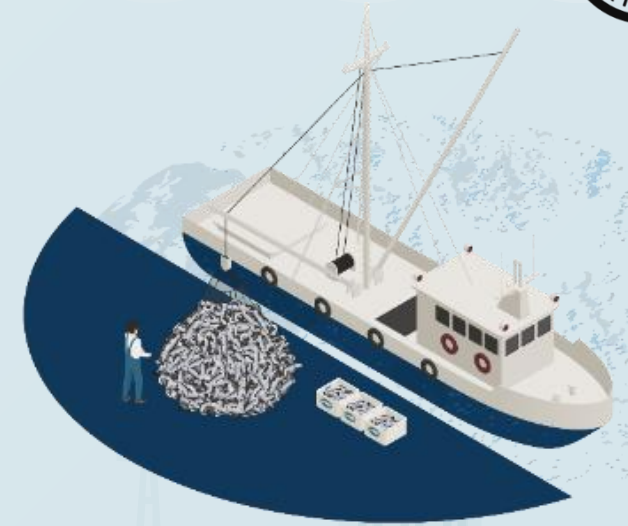
- Foreign flagged vessels that are seeking entry into, or are in, a port of a Party to the PSMA
- Applies to fishing conducted in **marine** areas, and to **fishing related activities** in support of such fishing
- Exemptions may include:
 - Vessels of a **neighbouring State** that are engaged in **artisanal fishing for subsistence**, provided they do not engage in IUU fishing
 - **Container vessels** that are not carrying fish or, if carrying fish, only fish that have been previously landed, provided that there are no clear grounds for suspecting that IUU fishing has taken place
 - **Vessels chartered by its nationals** exclusively for fishing in national waters



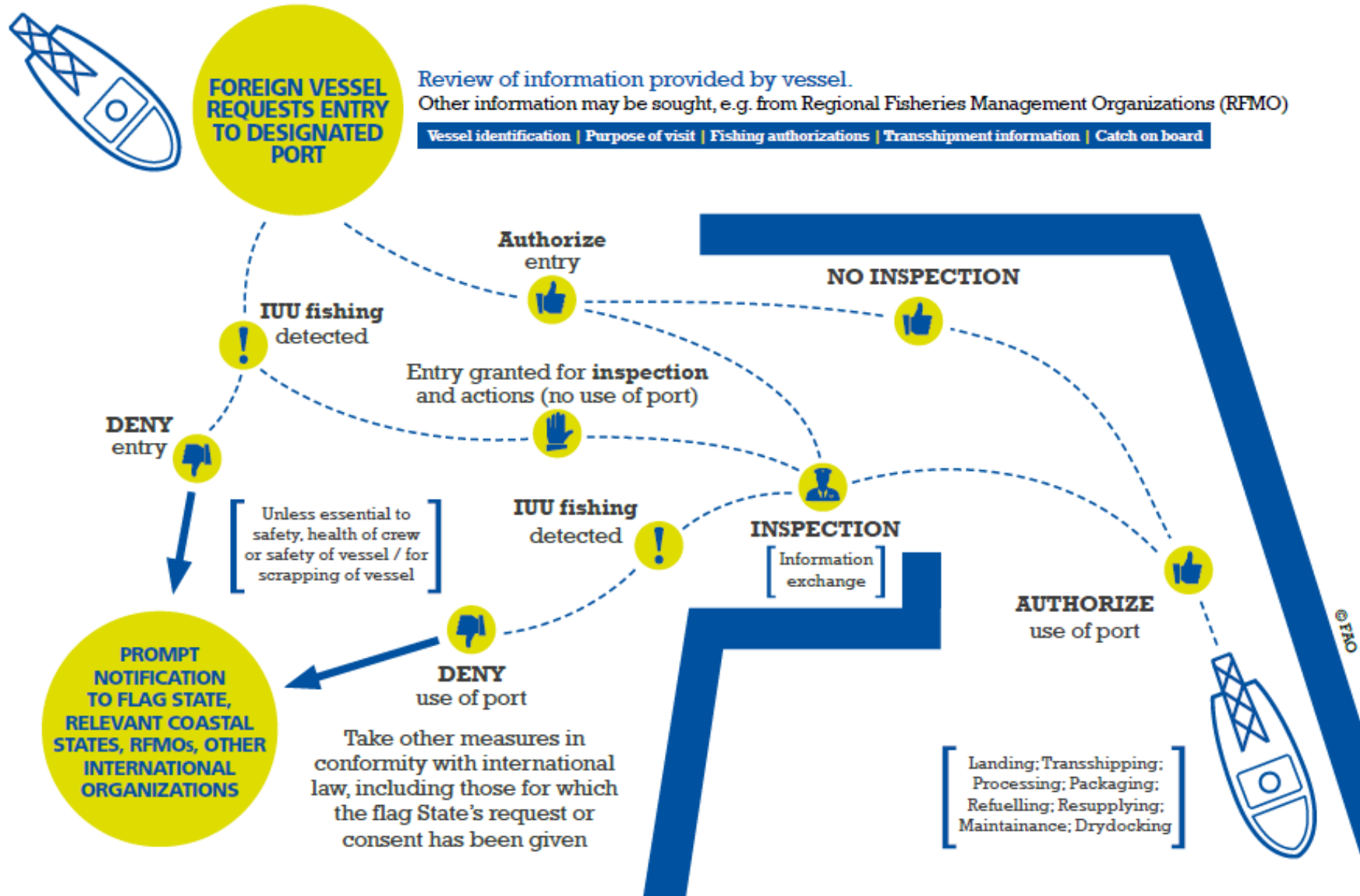
Key Requirements of the PSMA



- Deny access to port, except for inspection purposes, to foreign flagged vessels for which there is sufficient evidence of being involved in IUU fishing activities
- Deny use of port to foreign flagged vessels for which inspection results provide clear grounds to believe that the vessel has been engaged in IUU fishing
- Exchange information with flag and relevant coastal states, RFMOs, FAO and other international organizations
- Apply equally stringent measures to national vessels



Implementation of PSMA



Summary of Benefits of the PSMA



- Complements flag State measures
- Encourages cooperation and information exchange
- Deters operation of “ports of non-compliance”
- Cost-effective
- Improves fisheries management by helping to monitor compliance
- Protects markets from IUU fishing products



Pop Quiz



1. The PSMA provides a global framework for an effective implementation of port State measures as a mechanism for ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.

a. True

b. False

Pop Quiz



2. Port States can use less effective measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing when it comes to vessels entitled to fly their flags as opposed to measures applied to foreign vessels.

a. True

b. False

Pop Quiz



3. What should be considered inspection priorities for a port State? (select all that apply)

- a. Vessels that are suspected to have been engaged in, or supported, IUU fishing activities or upon request from other Parties, States and RFMOs.
- b. Vessels that have been denied entry into port or use of port.
- c. Vessels that have been engaged in, or supported, IUU fishing activities.

Pop Quiz



4. Which of these is not considered a port State responsibility?
- a. Exchange information with flag and relevant coastal States, RFMOs, FAO and other international organizations
 - b. Application of equally stringent measures to national vessels
 - c. Deny entry to port, except for inspection purposes, to foreign flagged vessels involved in IUU fishing activities
 - d. Authorize the use of port to foreign flagged vessels for which inspection results provide clear grounds to believe that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing

Pop Quiz



5. Which is not considered a responsibility of flag States to achieve an effective implementation of the PSMA?
- a. Determine the capacity of harvesting living marine resources in their waters.
 - b. Encourage flagged vessels to use designated ports.
 - c. Request the port State to inspect their flagged vessels suspected of IUU fishing.
 - d. Require flagged vessels to cooperate with the port State during inspection.

Global Information Exchange System (GIES) under the PSMA



PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)



A global tool that support the implementation of the PSMA and other relevant instruments

A system that facilitates cooperation and information exchange between States and allows them to fulfill their requirements under the PSMA

➤ History

- Pilot phase launched December 2021
- Became operational December 2023

Benefits of structured data

- Communication across languages (six FAO languages)
- Searchable, potential for processing and tailoring
- Facilitated workflow
- Use of standards and reference lists
- Interoperability

Data security to protect sensitive, private and/or commercial information

Information Types within the GIES



1

**National
Contact Points
(NCP) &
Designated
Ports (DP)**

Articles 16 & 7

Supplementary Features: Transshipment & Landing declaration forms, Vessel Profile & Chat function

National Contact Points (NCPs)



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of the United Nations

Global Information Exchange System
Agreement On Port State Measures

English ▾

 GIES Webpage

 Logout

Public section

 Dashboard

 Designated Ports ▸

 National Contact Po... ▾

• Search

Reporting

 Advance request ▸

 Port Denials ▸

 Port Inspections ▸

 State Actions ▸

Support functions

 Live chat

 Vessel Profile

Supplementary forms

 GIES Sandbox ▸

Country name

Authority name

Authority email

Photo

All PSMA Parties from Southeast Asia have designated their national contact points



All PSVIA Parties from Southeast Asia have designated ports

Information Types within the GIES



1

**National
Contact Points
(NCP) &
Designated
Ports (DP)**

Articles 16 & 7

2

**Advanced
Request for Port
Entry (ARPE)**

Article 8

Supplementary Features: Transshipment & Landing declaration forms, Vessel Profile & Chat function

Advanced Request for Port Entry (ARPE)



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

GIES Webpage

Logout

Public section

Dashboard

Designated Ports

National Contact Po...

Reporting

Advance request

Search & Edit

New

Port Denials

Port Inspections

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Global Information Exchange System

Agreement On Port State Measures

English

The ARPE report number for this form
which is a globally unique identifier

Form Identification

ARPE report number

ARPE-PAN MERP-00847

Data updates here will not be reflected in FAO Global Record

Vessel summary

The summary information provided
for this ARPE report

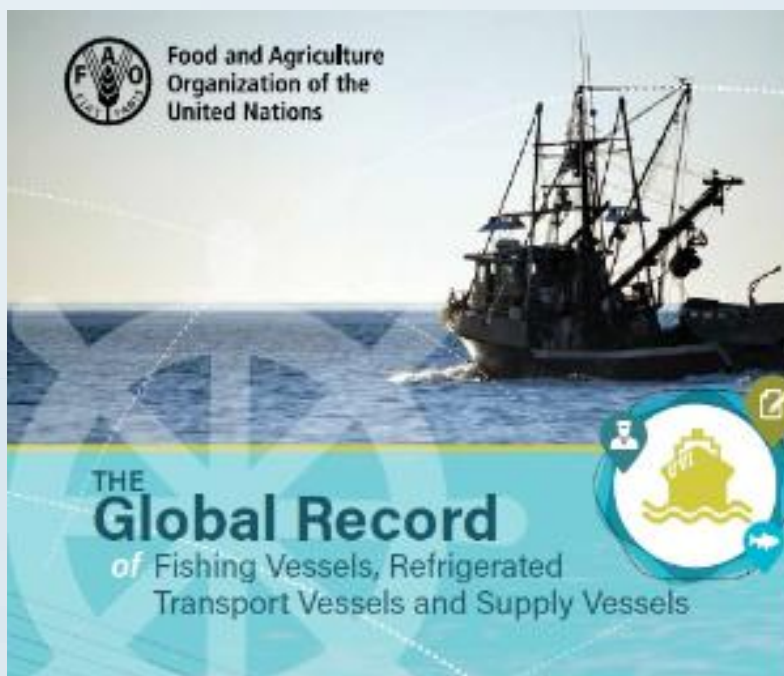
Attach Files

Live chat

Live chat



Global Record (GR) Data Summary



Region	Number of vessels	% of vessels	Average length	Total GT
Africa	553	5%	43	227,817
Asia	2,962	24%	44	1,703,562
Europe	4,357	36%	30	1,641,473
Latin America & Caribbean	1,170	10%	52	1,320,200
Near East	1	0%	29	294
North America	2,943	24%	26	656,884
Pacific	272	2%	42	97,662
GLOBAL	12,258	100%	36	5,647,892

Information Types within the GIES



1

**National
Contact Points
(NCP) &
Designated
Ports (DP)**

Articles 16 & 7

2

**Advanced
Request for Port
Entry (ARPE)**

Article 8

3

**Denial of Port
Entry/Use (DEN)
&
Port Inspection
Report (PIR)**

Articles 9, 11 & 14



Supplementary Features: Transshipment & Landing declaration forms, Vessel Profile & Chat function

Denial of Port Entry or Use (DEN)



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English ▾

GIES Webpage

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Designated Ports >

National Contact Po... >

Reporting

Advance request >

Port Denials ▾

• Search & Edit

• New

Port Inspections >

State Actions >

Support functions

Live chat

Vessel Profile

GIES Sandbox

Port Denials

Vessel name, IMO number,

Filters

+ Create

Port Inspection Reports (PIR)



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English ▼

GIES Webpage

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Designated Ports >

National Contact Po... >

Reporting

Advance request >

Port Denials >

Port Inspections ▼

- Search & Edit
- New

State Actions >

Support functions

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Vessel Profile

GIES Sandbox

Transshipment Decl... >

Findings and / or any apparent

Inspection Results

Signed by aforementioned inspector

Information Types within the GIES



1

**National
Contact Points
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Designated
Ports (DP)**

Articles 16 & 7

2

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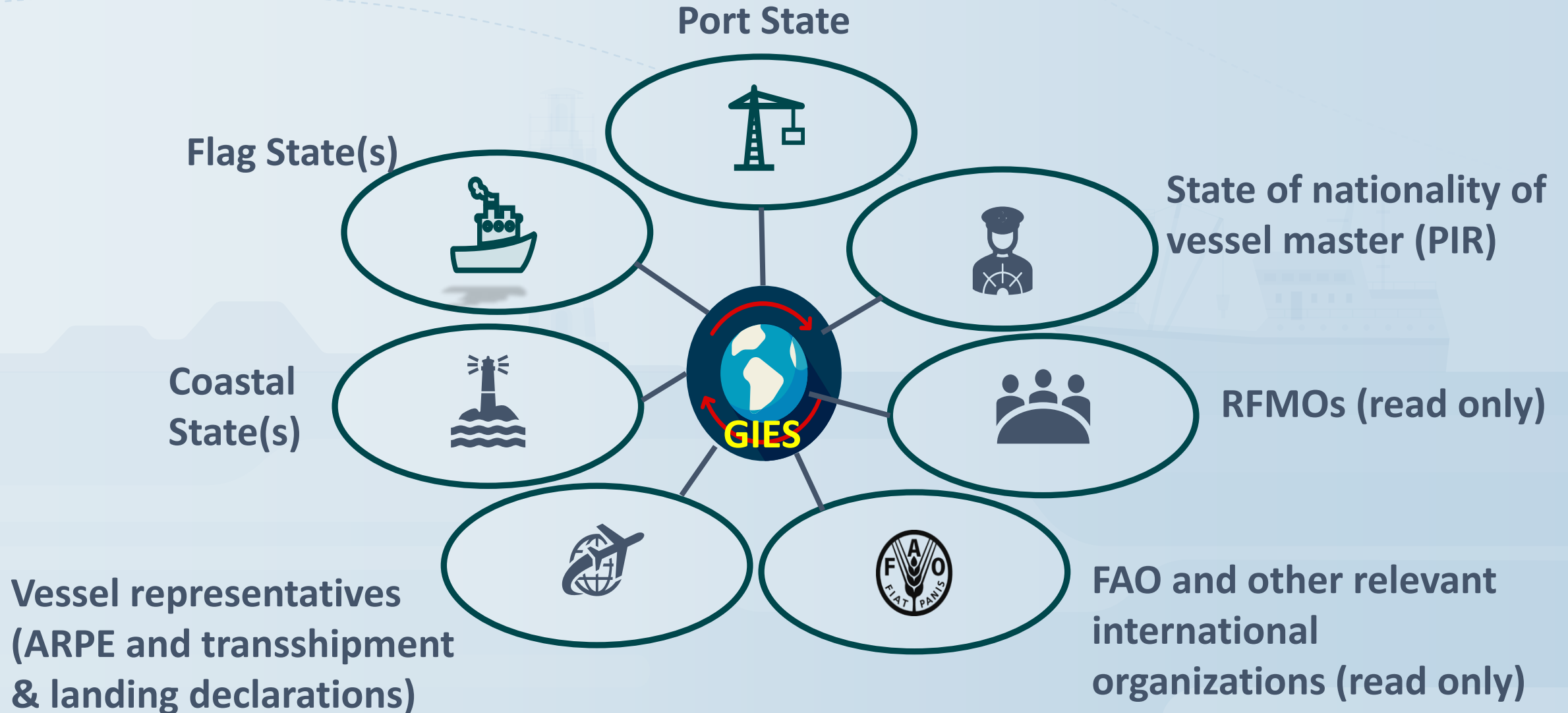
4

**Communicate/
Notify (DEN) &
Transmit (PIR)**

Articles 9, 11 & 15

Supplementary Features: Transshipment & Landing declaration forms, Vessel Profile & Chat function

Communicate, Notify and Transmit



Information Types within the GIES



1

**National
Contact Points
(NCP) &
Designated
Ports (DP)**

Articles 16 & 7

2

**Advanced
Request for Port
Entry (ARPE)**

Article 8

3

**Denial of Port
Entry/Use (DEN)
&
Port Inspection
Report (PIR)**

Articles 9, 11 & 14

4

**Communicate/
Notify (DEN) &
Transmit (PIR)**

Articles 9, 11 & 15

5

**State Actions
following
Inspections**

Articles 18 & 20

Supplementary Features: Transshipment & Landing declaration forms, Vessel Profile & Chat function

State Actions following Inspection



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English ▾

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National Contact Po... ▸

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Advance request ▸

Port Denials ▸

Port Inspections ▸

State Actions ▾

• Search & Edit

• New

Support functions

Live chat

Vessel Profile

GIES Sandbox

Actions Following Inspection

Filters

+ Create

Status ▾

State Actions report number ▾

Last update ▾

Vessel name ▾

Vessel flag ▾

Reporting ▾

Attach Files

GIES Usage Status



Connectivity to regional e-PSMs

IOTC (2221 reports)
FFA (2 reports)

Total Reports in
GIES: 3316
PIR: 3305
DEN: 11



Active Parties

33 out of 82
Parties (40%)



Top 5 port States submitting reports

Mauritius
Republic of Korea
Thailand
South Africa
Indonesia



Top 5 flag States in submitted reports

China
Panama
Japan
Seychelles
Russian Federation

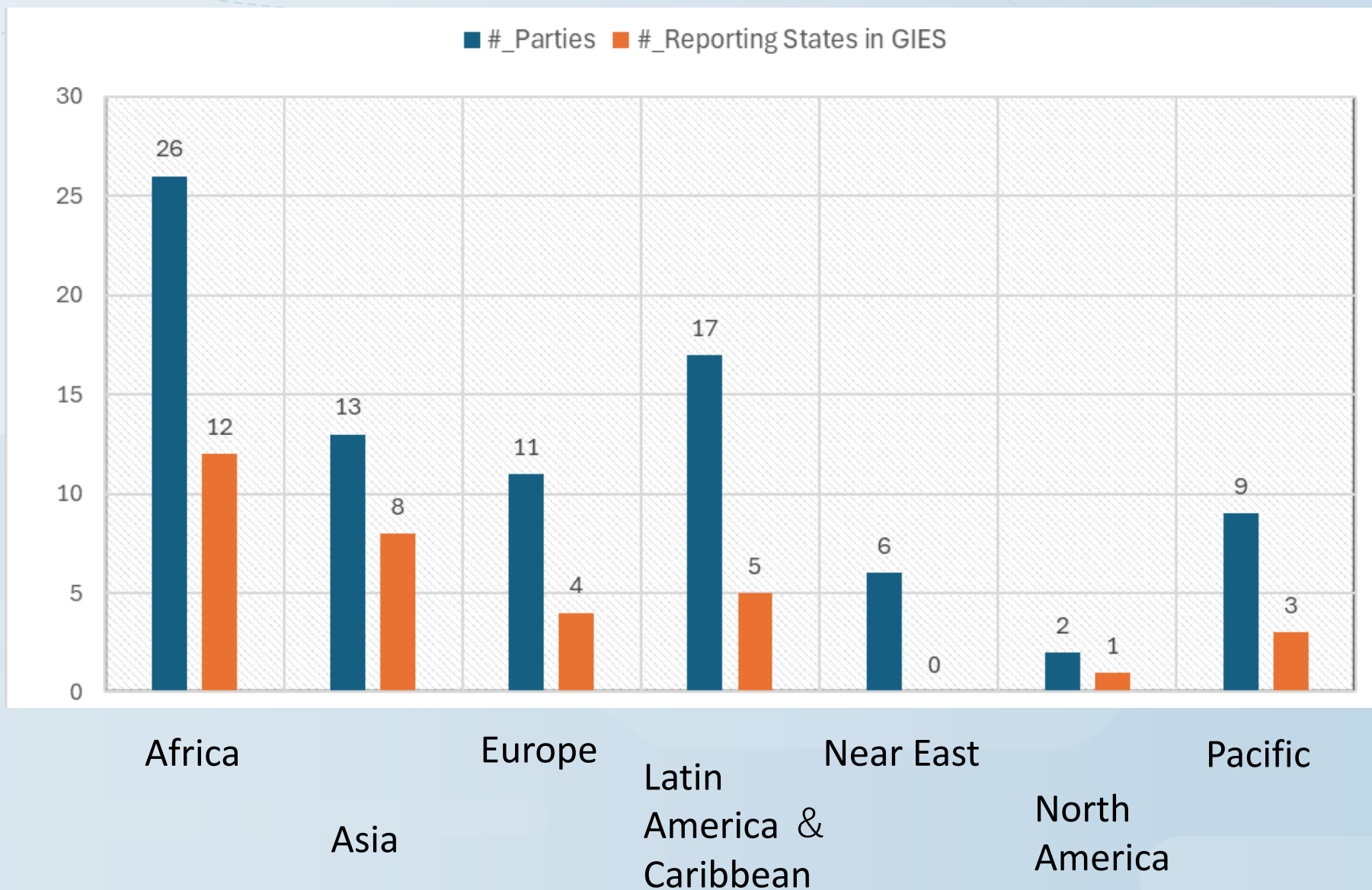


Top 5 vessel's master States in submitted reports

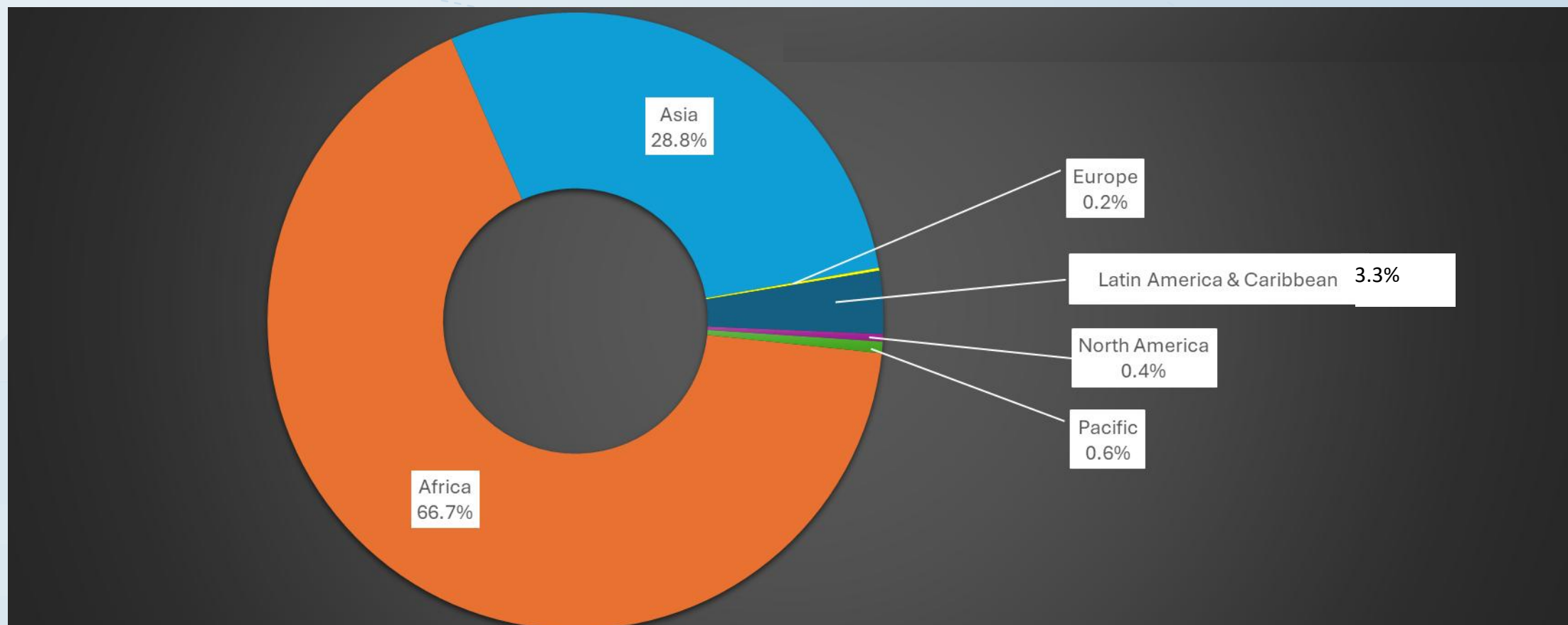
China
Japan
Spain
Russian Federation
France



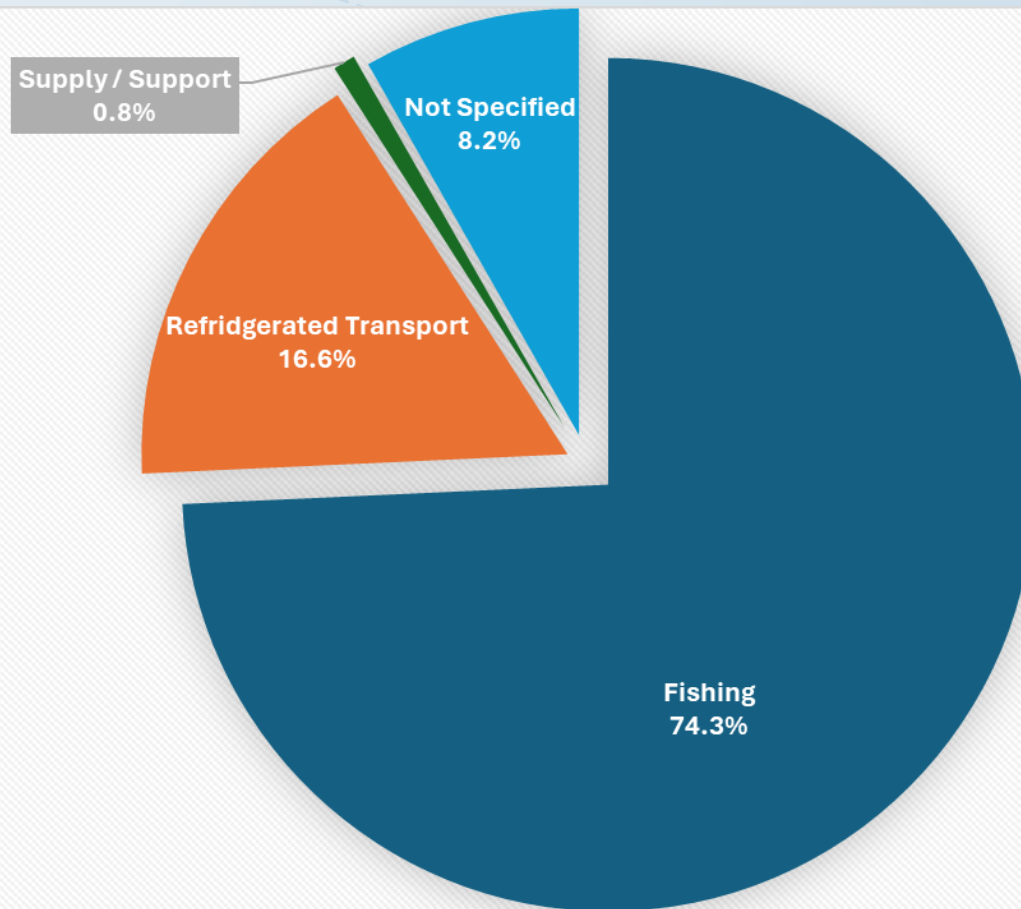
Regional Participation in GIES



Reports submitted to GIES by Region



GIES Reports by Vessel Type



Number of Reports and Flag States (by region) represented in the GIES to date



Region	Number of Flags Represented	Number of Reports for these Flags
Africa	13	291
Asia	8	932
Europe	9	429
Latin America & Caribbean	12	377
Near East	1	31
North America	1	3
Pacific	11	61

Bali Strategy



- A Strategy to improve the effectiveness of the PSMA to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing
- Adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) in Bali in May 2023

- Increasing adherence to and **participation** in the PSMA
- **Fulfillment of responsibilities** of the Parties for effective implementation of the PSMA
- Mechanisms for implementation of Part 9 (**monitoring of implementation**)
- Ensuring **efficient and sustainable functioning** of the Agreement
- **Monitoring and review of the strategy**

Progress on the Bali Strategy



- 5 regional coordination meetings were held in 2024
- Results were reviewed at the PSMA Strategy Working Group (SWG2) in Busan in October 2024

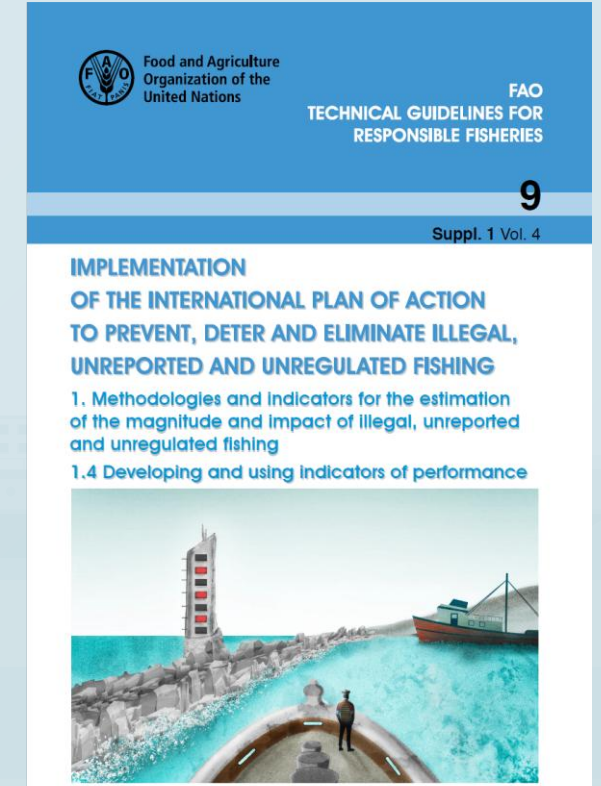
Highlights include:

- FAO and regional bodies to promote the benefits of joining the PSMA
- PSMA Secretariat (FAO) activities require ongoing financial support
- Regional dialogue and technical exchanges should continue to help harmonize operations
- GIES will be continuously enhanced to allow greater sharing of information
- Efforts to promote flag State responsibility are needed to balance the role of port States

Indicators – a tool for monitoring



- Indicators aim to measure several different signals of whether things getting better or worse
- Signals can be related to implementation of PSMA, effectiveness of PSMA or levels of IUU fishing in general



Volume 4
Indicators of Performance

<https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/tools-and-initiatives/quantifying-iuu-fishing/en/>

Examples of Types of Indicators for PSMA Monitoring (not actual data)

Dashboard Stats

(simple, rising counts showing progress)

- Number of PSMA Parties = 82 Parties
- Number of Designated Ports = 653 ports
- Number of inspection reports submitted = 3305 reports

Performance

(measures achievements within the control of a Party)

- Inspection rate by Port State(s) = 2 foreign FV inspected / 40 foreign FV calls at Port State DPs = 5%
- % inspection results transmitted by Port State = 1 of 2 reports transmitted = 50%
- % of received inspection reports with infractions responded to by Flag State = 1 response / 1 received = 100%

Reach

(extent to which PSMA includes all fishing activity)

- Tonnage of FV filing ARPEs / total tonnage of FV with IMO # = 976,211 / 10,834,307 = 9%
- Tonnage of FV receiving PSMA inspections / total tonnage of FV with IMO # = 160,834 / 10,834,307 = 1%
- % of flag FVs receiving PSMA inspections = 41 FV of Country X's fleet of 118 FV inspected = 35%

IUU Fishing Detections

(measures of potential IUU fishing incidents found by Parties)

- % ARPE that were DEN = 8 DEN / 200 ARPEs = 4%
- % inspections with infractions found = 4 inspections with infractions / 14 inspections = 28%

IUU Fishing Levels

(how much IUU fishing is occurring)

No good indicators available

