



Global perspective on fisheries governance frameworks

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Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology
Integration to
Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
17–19 March 2026

Why is IUU fishing a problem?

- **It undermines sustainable resource management:**
 - Prevents the effective fisheries management contributing to overfishing and ecosystem loss
- **It impacts food security and livelihoods:**
 - Depletion of resources, jeopardizing food security and sustainable livelihoods
- **It is fueled by harmful economic practices:**
 - Certain fisheries subsidies may contribute to overcapacity and overfishing leading to IUU fishing
- **It threatens global development goals and bypasses international frameworks**
 - Hinders achievement of SDG14 and other established global instruments (e.g. the FAO Compliance Agreement).

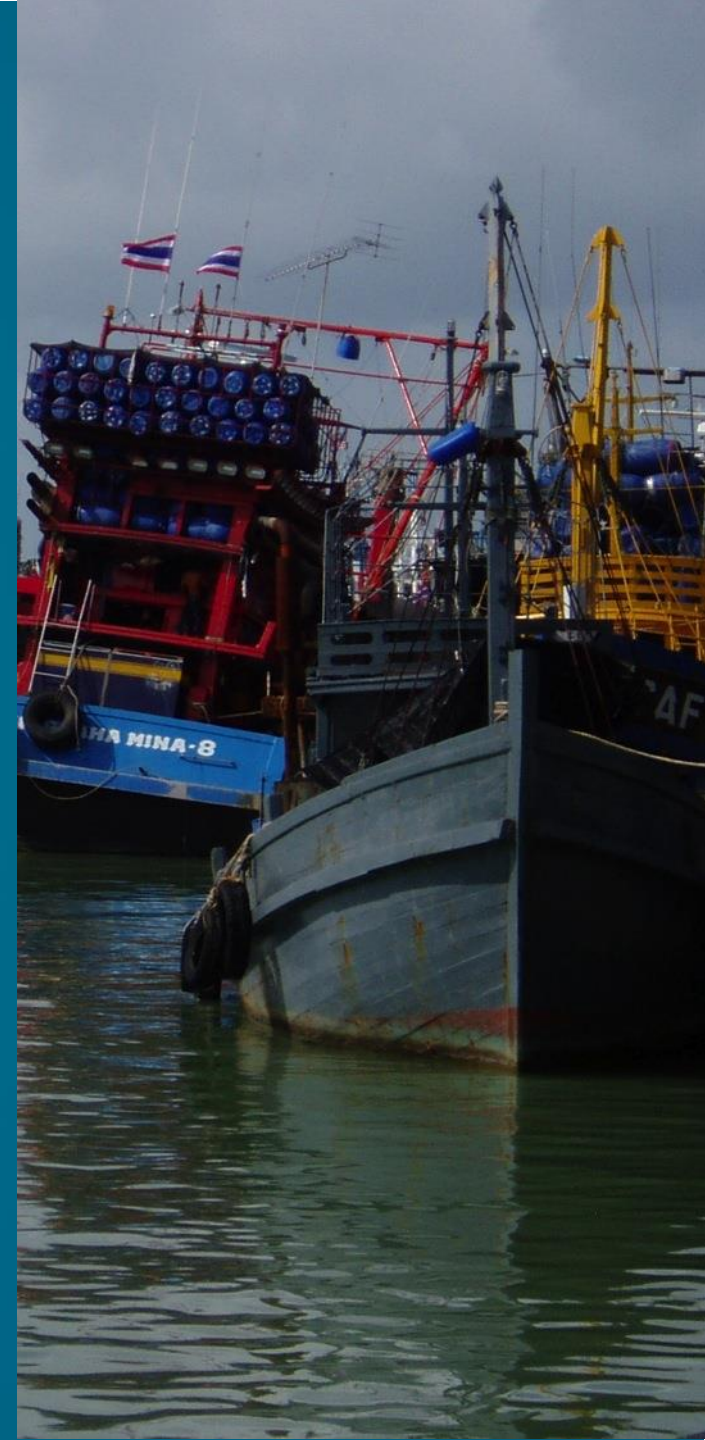


What types of IUU fishing do we have in the Asian region?



Types of IUU fishing (1)

- **Vessel and operational documentation**
 - Fishing without a valid license or using a with falsified/duplicated license
 - Dual-flagging: Registering vessel in two countries to avoid regulations
 - Falsifying vessel identity or registration details to bypass size-based restrictions
- **Catch reporting**
 - Non-reporting: Complete failure to log catches.
 - Misreporting/Under-reporting: Deliberately recording lower volumes or different species to stay within quotas or avoid taxes.



Types of IUU fishing (2)

- **Landings and transshipment**
 - Unauthorized landings: avoiding designated ports to bypass inspections.
 - Unauthorized transshipment
- **Destructive Methods and Prohibited species**
 - Use of explosives (blast fishing) or chemicals (cyanide) highly destructive of aquatic ecosystems
 - Targeting or bycatch of protected and vulnerable species (e.g. corals, marine mammals, etc.)



Types of IUU fishing (3)

- **Encroachment**
 - Commercial vessels encroaching on nearshore zones reserved for Small-Scale Fishers (SSF).
- **Transboundary “Straying”**
 - SSF or commercial vessels crossing maritime borders, often in disputed or poorly monitored jurisdictions.
- **Governance Disconnects**
 - Poor coordination between provincial (local) and national licensing authorities,



What drives IUU fishing?

- 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
- **Economic opportunity vs Risk**
 - **Large-Scale:** Calculated risk to maximize profit against low access fees.
 - **Small-Scale:** Driven by the "need to make a basic income" (subsistence) where the likelihood of capture is low.
 - **Low Deterrence:** Even when caught, the risk of capture/fines are relatively low – difficult to prosecute



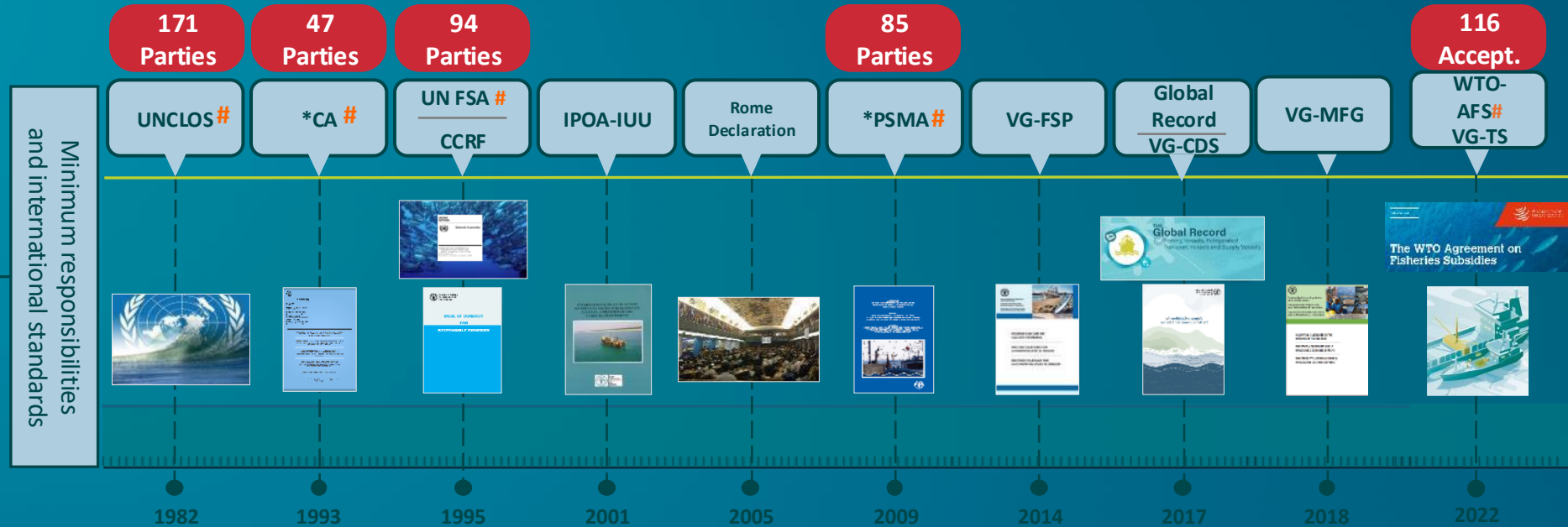
International framework to combat IUU fishing

Binding

* FAO executes Secretariat responsibilities



Regional Fisheries Bodies



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** (...)

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.

Key responsibilities of Parties

- Deny access to port, except for inspection purposes, to foreign flagged vessels 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.

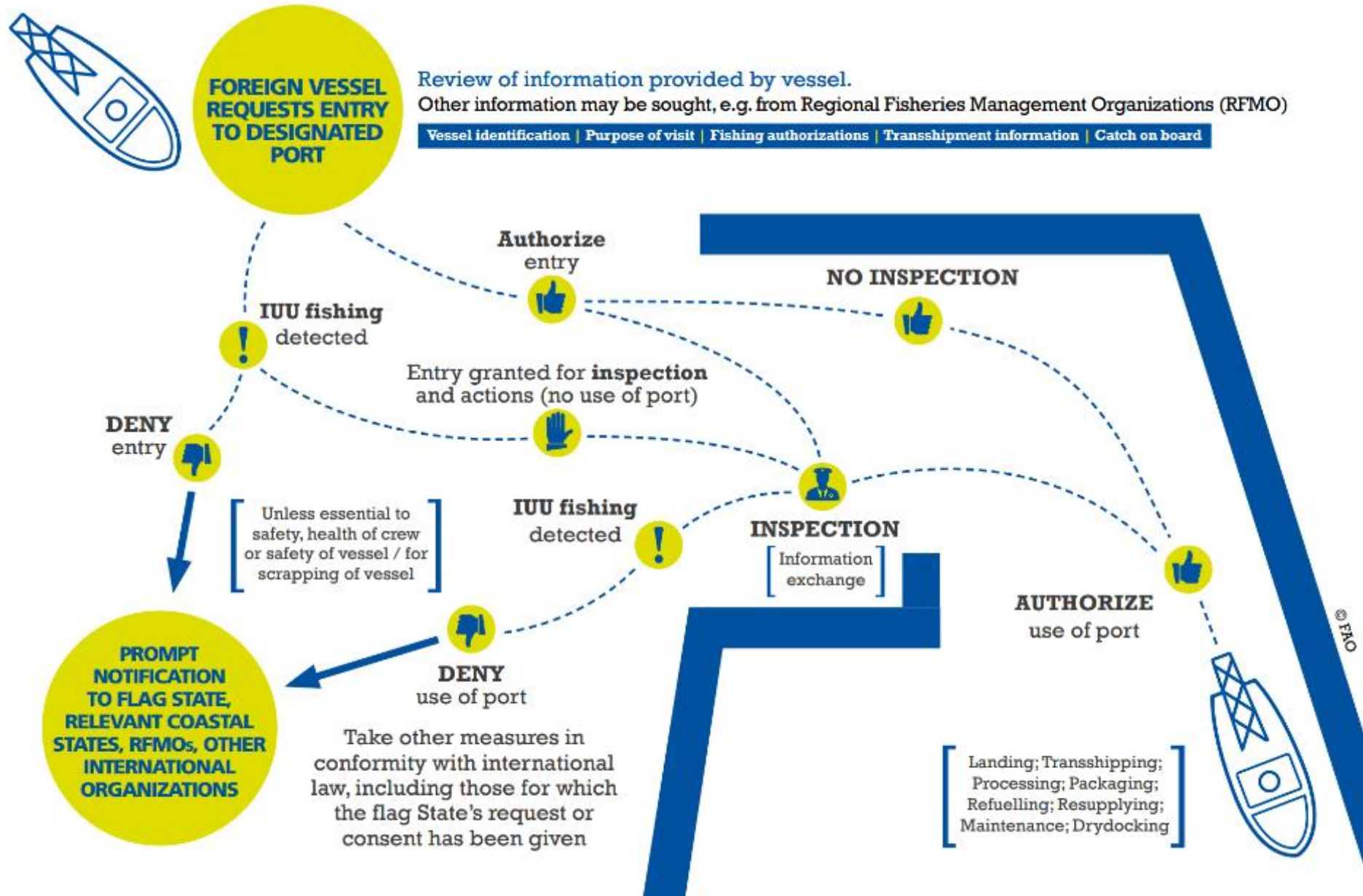


Status of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)



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*

How do Port State Measures work?




Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Information Exchange System
Agreement on Port State Measures

English

Dashboard



Parties to the PSMA around the world

201 92 States

Watch on YouTube

Watch Later Share

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.

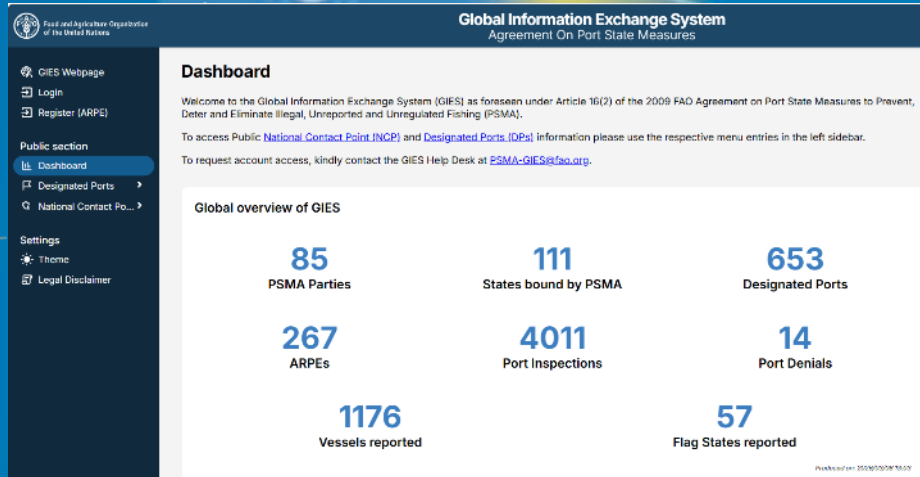
At the request of Parties, a test environment was made available to allow users to safely trial the system without exchanging information with other States or relevant stakeholders. This environment is accessible to all States and regional fishery bodies.

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)

PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)



Port States
Flag States
Coastal States
RFMOs
FAO

States of Captains' nationalities



- Designated ports
- National Contact Points

- Advance Request for Port Entry

- Port denials
- Port inspections
- Actions by:
 - port State
 - flag State

- Declaration forms:
 - Transshipment
 - Landing

- Vessel profile

- Connections to RFMOs e-PSMs

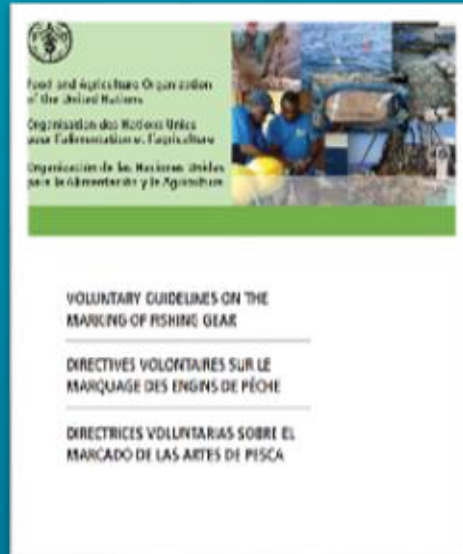
Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels



- Global Record

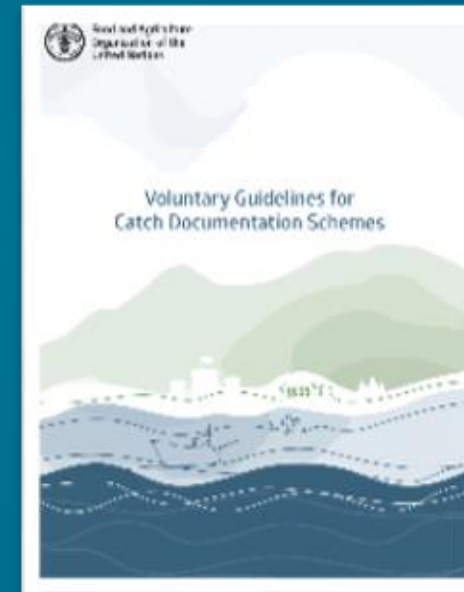
- Combat IUU fishing by gathering and sharing certified information about the world's fleet of fishing (and related) vessels.
- It closes the global information gap on vessels involved in IUU fishing
- Promotes **transparency, traceability and dissemination** of on the global fishing fleet and its operations

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



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;

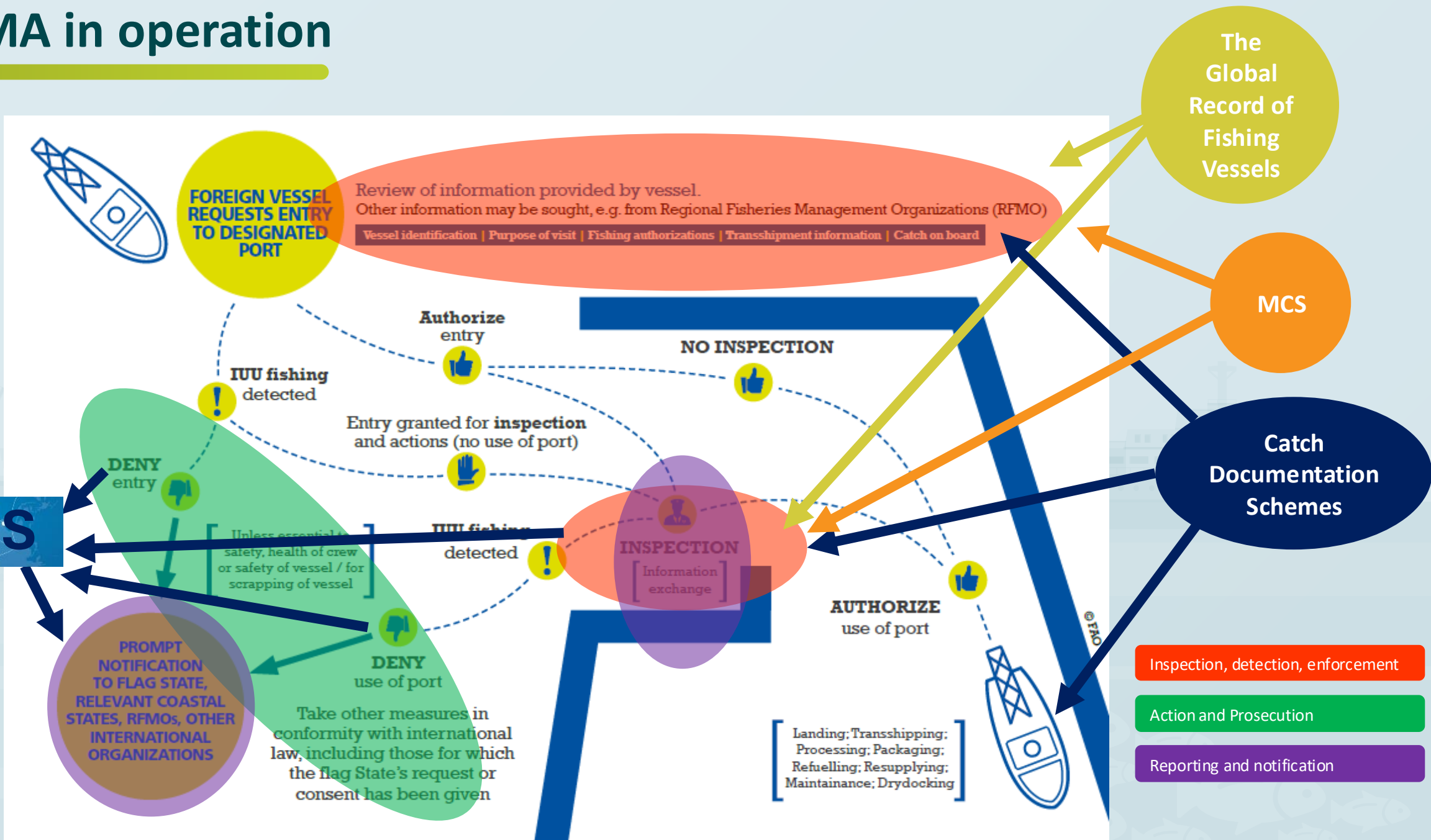


They consider specific needs of developing States in view of transshipment activities;



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

PSMA in operation



PSMA10 in numbers...

Membership

- ✓ $\frac{3}{4}$ of coastal States are now Parties

Functioning

- ✓ 13 decisions in 5 Meetings of the Parties

Operations

- ✓ >22000 inspections by Parties annually

Information exchange

- ✓ 653 Designated Ports
- ✓ 105 National Contact Points
- ✓ >4000 inspections in GIES
- ✓ ~1200 vessel profiles

Capacity Development

- ✓ 80 States assisted
- ✓ 39 mill USD from 10 donors
- ✓ >400 officers trained in 21 international courses
- ✓ 3 Training Hubs

Key results so far

- Enhanced cooperation among States
- Unique information exchange system
- Strengthened control of fisheries
- Enhanced culture of compliance



Looking ahead

- Monitoring implementation by Parties
- Measuring impact in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing
- Supporting the implementation of other ocean Treaties

FAO is developing methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

1. Methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

1.1 Principles and approaches



Principles and Approaches



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

1. Methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

1.2 A practical guide to delivering an estimate



A practical guide to delivering an estimate



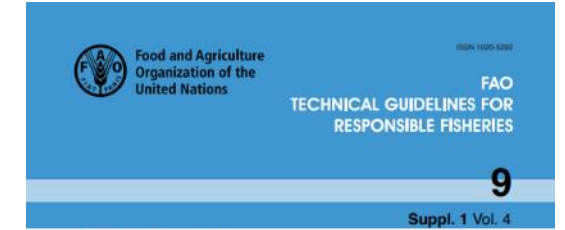
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1.3 A catalogue of examples



A catalogue of examples



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

1. Methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

1.4 Developing and using indicators of performance



Developing and using indicators of performance in fighting IUU fishing

Checklists and Technical Guidelines to Combat IUU Fishing



CHECKLISTS AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Volume I: a **consolidated checklist** of coastal, flag and port State responsibilities to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing



CHECKLISTS AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Volume II: a **legal checklist** of the main duties and responsibilities of coastal, flag and port States, and internationally agreed market-related measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing



CHECKLISTS AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

Volume III: **Checklist of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)** systems, operations, procedures and tools



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

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

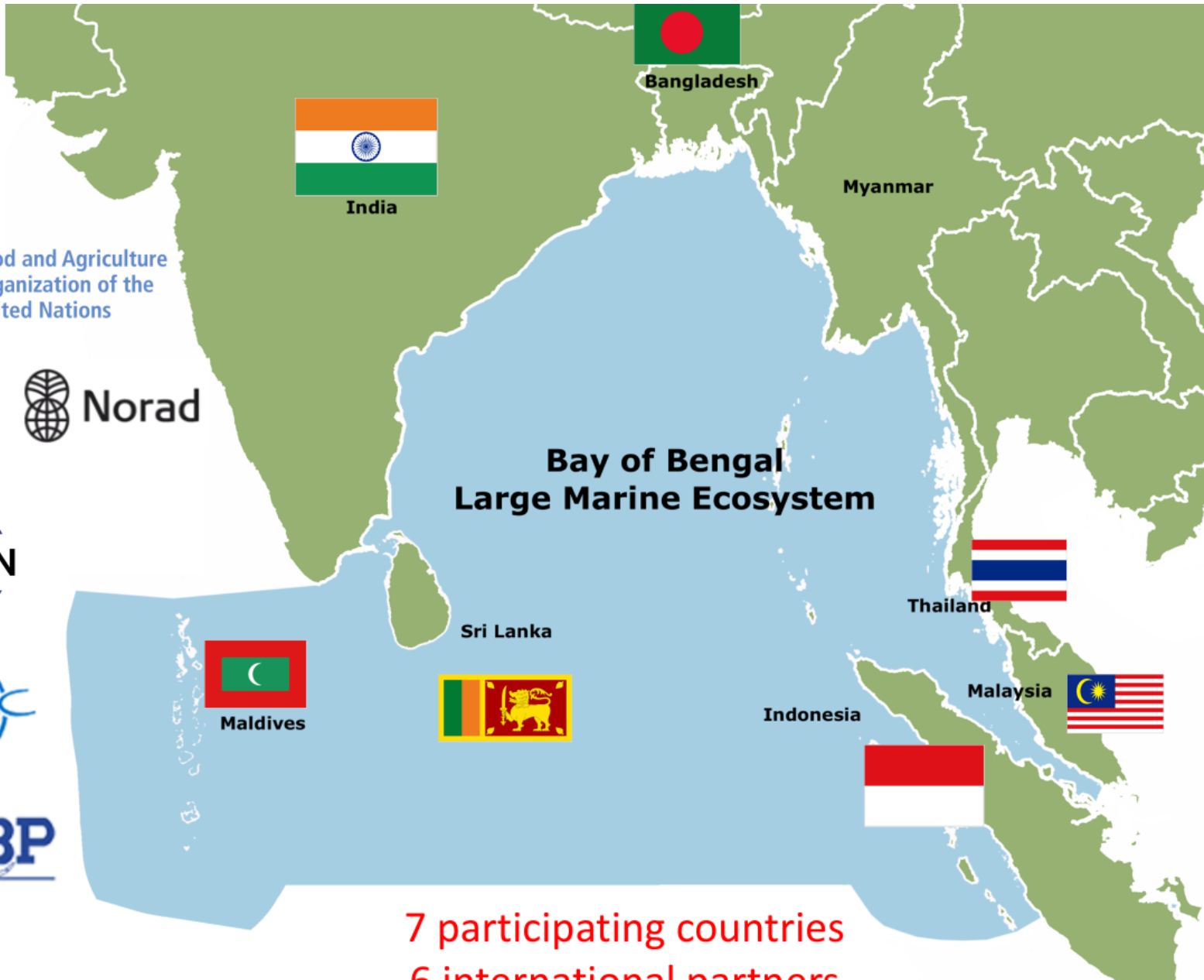
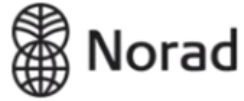
Transshipment

FAO website on IUU fishing

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

BOBLME II project targets on IUU fishing

- 20% reduction in IUU fishing
- RPOA-IUU endorsed
- NPOA-IUU being implemented in 7 countries
- Regional training platform(s) operational



7 participating countries
6 international partners

FAO Websites on combatting IUU Fishing

IUU Fishing

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

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

FAO participates in the RPOA-IUU workshop on flag State responsibility and the FAO High Seas Compliance Agreement

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5 June International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing

In depth

- PSMA
- Global Record
- Catch Documentation Schemes
- Joint Working Group on IUU Fishing

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PSMA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)

Background Meetings Operational Resources Capacity Development News and events Resources

National PSMA awareness raising workshop held in India

The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches. In this way, the PSMA reduces the incentive of such vessels to continue to operate while it also blocks fishery products derived from IUU fishing from reaching national and international markets. The effective implementation of the PSMA ultimately contributes to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems. The provisions of the PSMA apply to fishing vessels seeking entry into a designated port of a State which is different to their flag State.

In depth

- PSMA Parties
- Capacity development
- The Global Information Exchange System (GIES)
- The PSMA Questionnaire

Did you know?

- The PSMA entered into force in June 2016. By the first year and a half, more than a third of member

Compendium of decisions made by the Parties to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures

Download here

Global Record

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

Background Meetings Information System Capacity Development News & Events Resources Partners

Seventh meeting of the Global Record Working Group held in Panama

Welcome to the Global Record

The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) is a phased and collaborative global initiative to make available, in a rapid way, certified data from State authorities about vessels and vessel-related activities. The programme aims towards providing a single access point for information on vessels used for fishing and fishing-related activities with the primary objective being to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by enhancing transparency and traceability. The programme's long-term goals are to strengthen the fisheries' sector in terms of management and its sustainability, to enhance food security and the livelihoods of populations depending on fisheries including rural coastal populations.

COFI Code of Fisheries Management

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Did you know?

- Annually, the worth of fish caught by IUU fishing methods is estimated at US\$ 10 - US\$ 23 billion.
- The number of fishing vessels around the world has reached 4.6 million.
- IMO Numbers, which serve as Global Record UIVs, have now been allocated to more

In depth

- Who is it for
- IUU Fishing
- Unique Vessel Identifier



Contacts

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Thank you!

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