



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Overview of the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

Status on PSMA Ratification, Accession and Implementation in the Region

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- The 2009 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, commonly known as the **Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)**, represents a significant international effort to combat illicit fishing activities.
- The PSMA provides the first legally binding international framework specifically designed to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through targeted port controls.
- Its significance lies in establishing a set of minimum standards that signatory states agree to implement.
- The PSMA contributes to fisheries conservation and management globally by preventing the trade of illegally caught fish and protecting marine ecosystems and livelihoods.
- While the PSMA is a significant step in combating IUU fishing, challenges remain in its full implementation, such as the need for robust monitoring, control, and surveillance measures, as well as the development of effective information exchange systems.



Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing



Fishing and fishing-related activities conducted in contravention of national and international law, including other international obligations



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



Fishing by “Stateless” vessels

Fishing in convention areas of RFMOs by non-party vessels

Fishing activities which are not regulated by States

Fishing in areas or for fish stocks for which there are no conservation or management measures

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



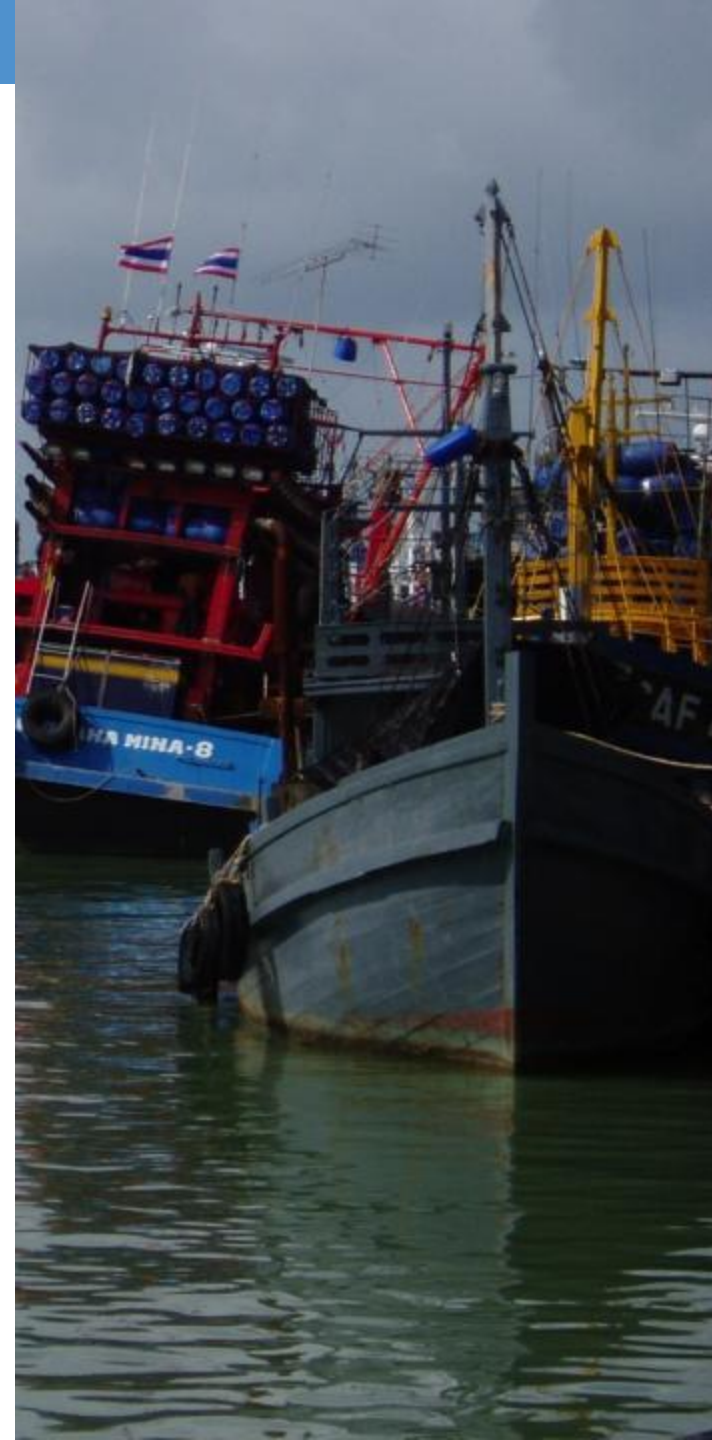
Typical IUU activities – with focus on “illegal” or ‘non-compliance’ dimension

- 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



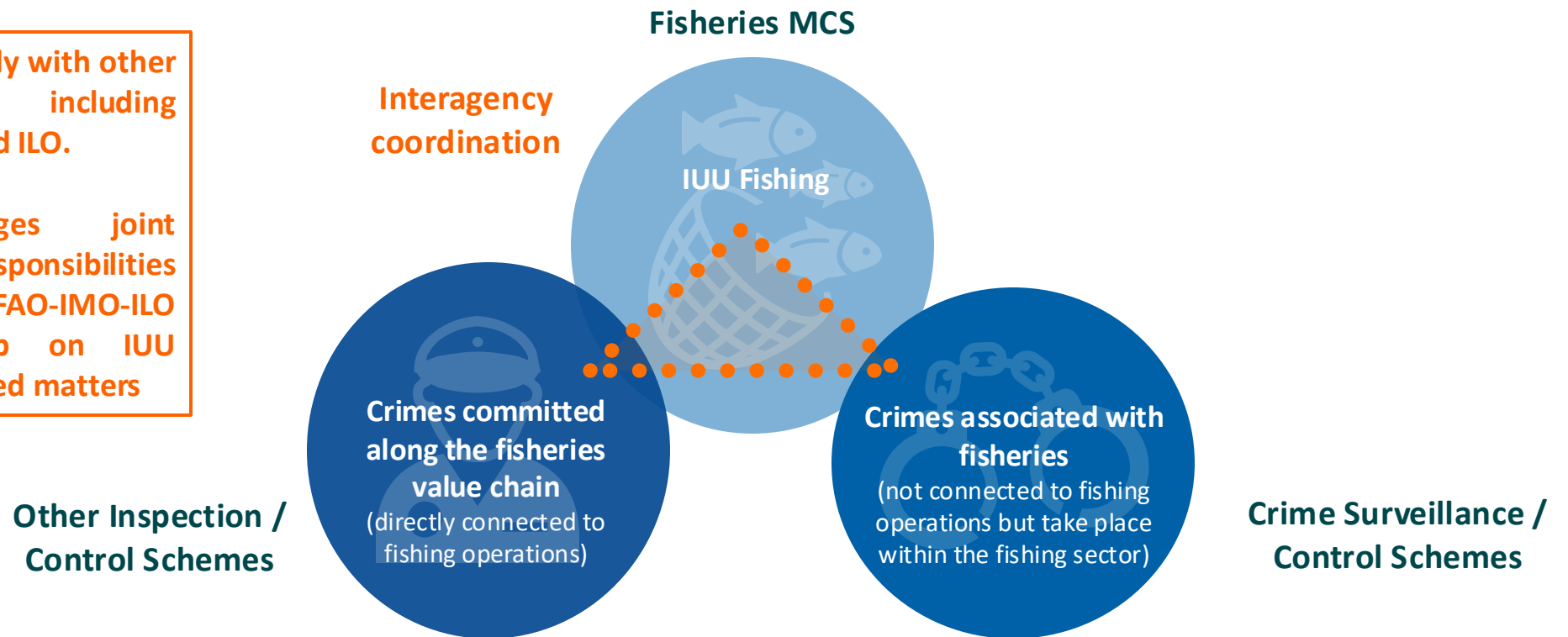
IUU fishing is opportunistic as well as calculated/deliberate

- 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 not viewed as a serious criminal activity (not worth paperwork)
 - How to get evidence to the courts?
 - Hard to prosecute across provincial boundaries

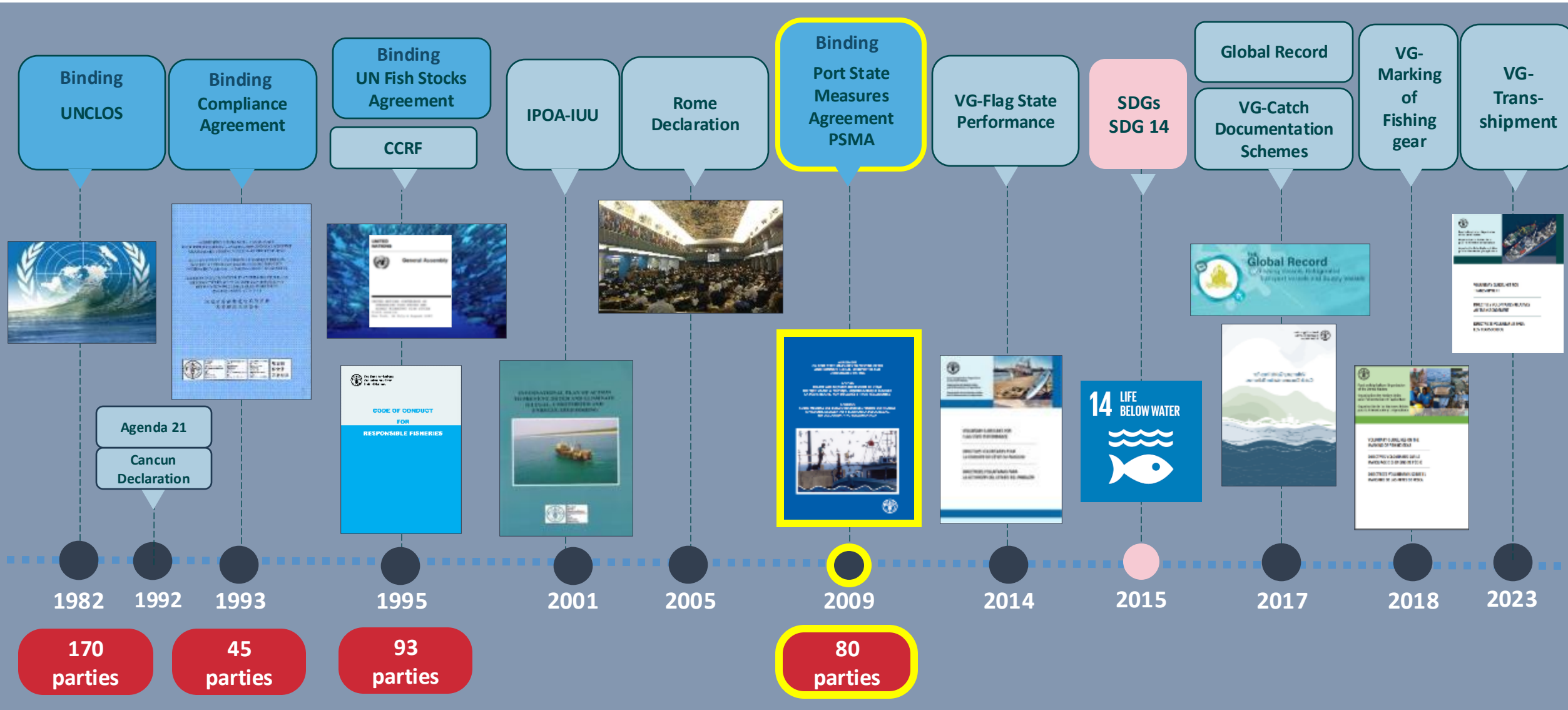


Differences between Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and crimes in the fisheries sector

- ❖ **FAO works closely with other UN agencies, including UNODC, IMO and ILO.**
- ❖ **FAO discharges joint Secretariat responsibilities for the FAO-IMO-ILO Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters**



Timeline of International fisheries instruments and tools to combat IUU fishing



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

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:

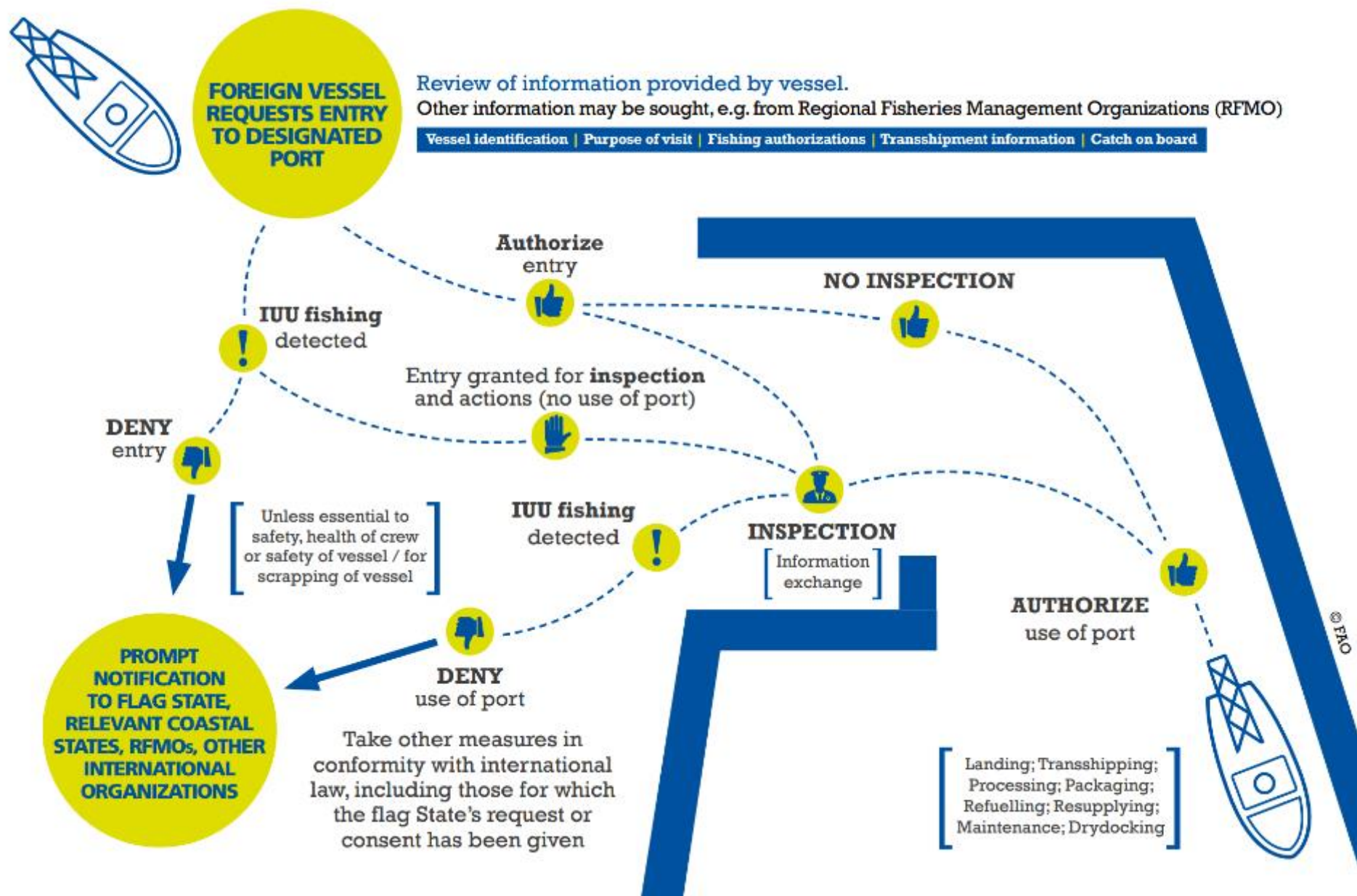
- foreign vessels when seeking entry to port entry or when they are in the port –
- Exceptions include:
 - **artisanal fishing vessels** of neighboring countries, provided the port State and the flag state cooperate to ensure not engaged in IUU fishing or related activities.
 - **containers vessels** 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.

How do Port State Measures work?



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

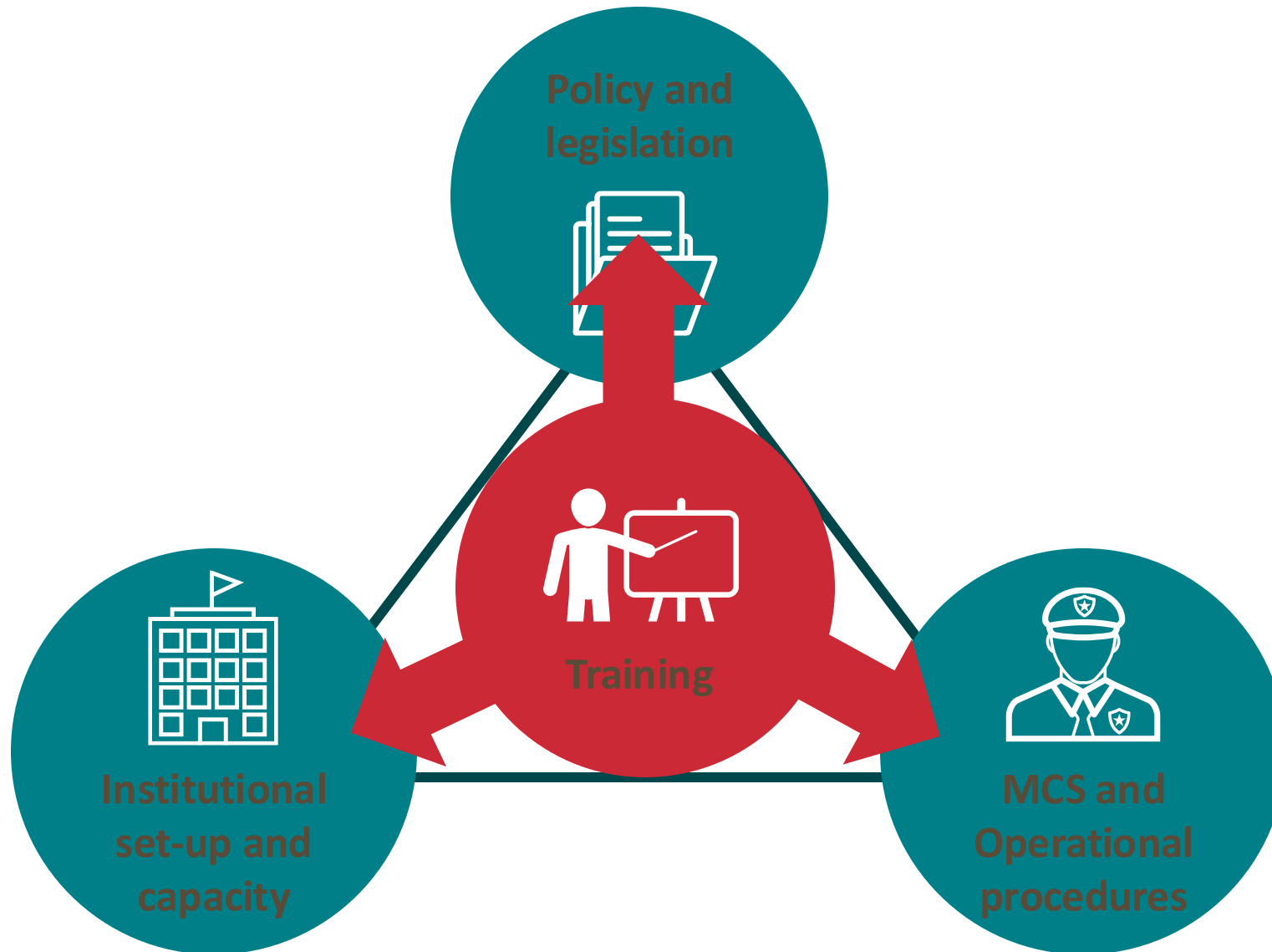
Target 14.4

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 (...)

Capacity Development for Combatting IUU fishing



Overview of SEAFDEC countries PSMA and FAO's Capacity Development Programme

	Party to PSMA	National Strategy and Roadmap	Legal and/or policy assistance	MCS assistance	International training
Brunei D.	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	✓	-	✓	-	Fisheries law and port inspections
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fisheries law and port inspections
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-		✓		Port inspections
Myanmar	✓	✓	-	-	-
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	-	Fisheries law and port inspections
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	✓	✓	-	-	Port inspections
Viet Nam	✓	-	-	-	Port inspections

Overview of BOBLME-SEA countries PSMA and FAO's Capacity Development Programme

	Party to PSMA	National Strategy and Roadmap	Legal and/or policy assistance	MCS assistance	International training
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fisheries law and port inspections
Malaysia	-		✓		Port inspections
Thailand	✓	✓	-	-	Port inspections

Participants	Signature	Ratification: RAT, Acceptance: ACP, Approval: APP, Accession: ACS, Other means: OM	Mode of consent when by "Other Means"
Indonesia	2009-11-22	2016-06-23 RAT	-
Malaysia	-	-	-
Thailand	-	2016-05-06 ACS	-

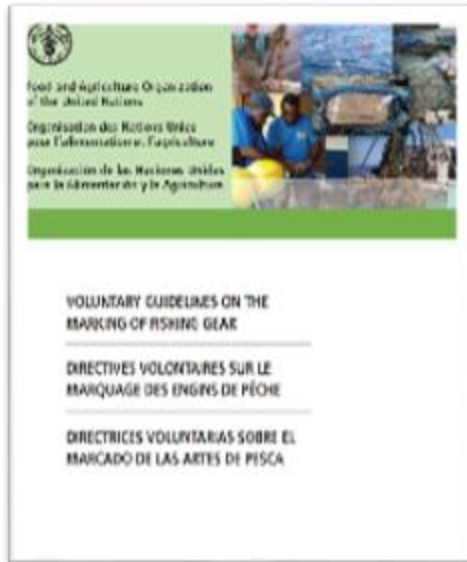
- **Ratification (RAT):**
 - The country's legislative body formally approves the treaty after signing it.
- **Acceptance (ACP):**
 - The country agrees to the treaty through a legal process that does not require full ratification.
- **Approval (APP):**
 - Similar to acceptance, it signifies a formal agreement without the need for legislative ratification.
- **Accession (ACS):**
 - The country was not an original signatory but later decided to join the treaty.
- **Other means (OM):**
 - Any other legally recognized method of commitment.



- **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

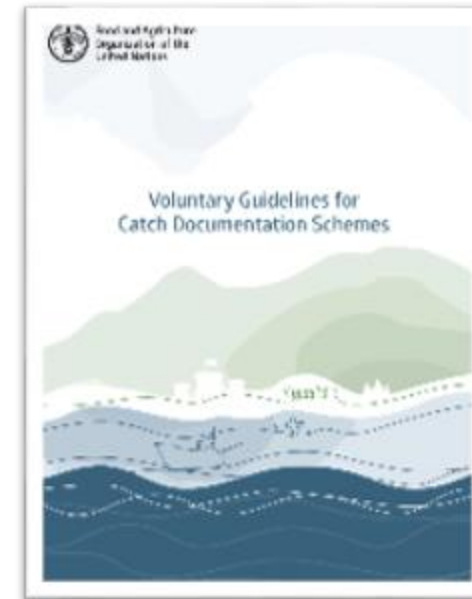
Marking of Fishing Gear



- 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



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;



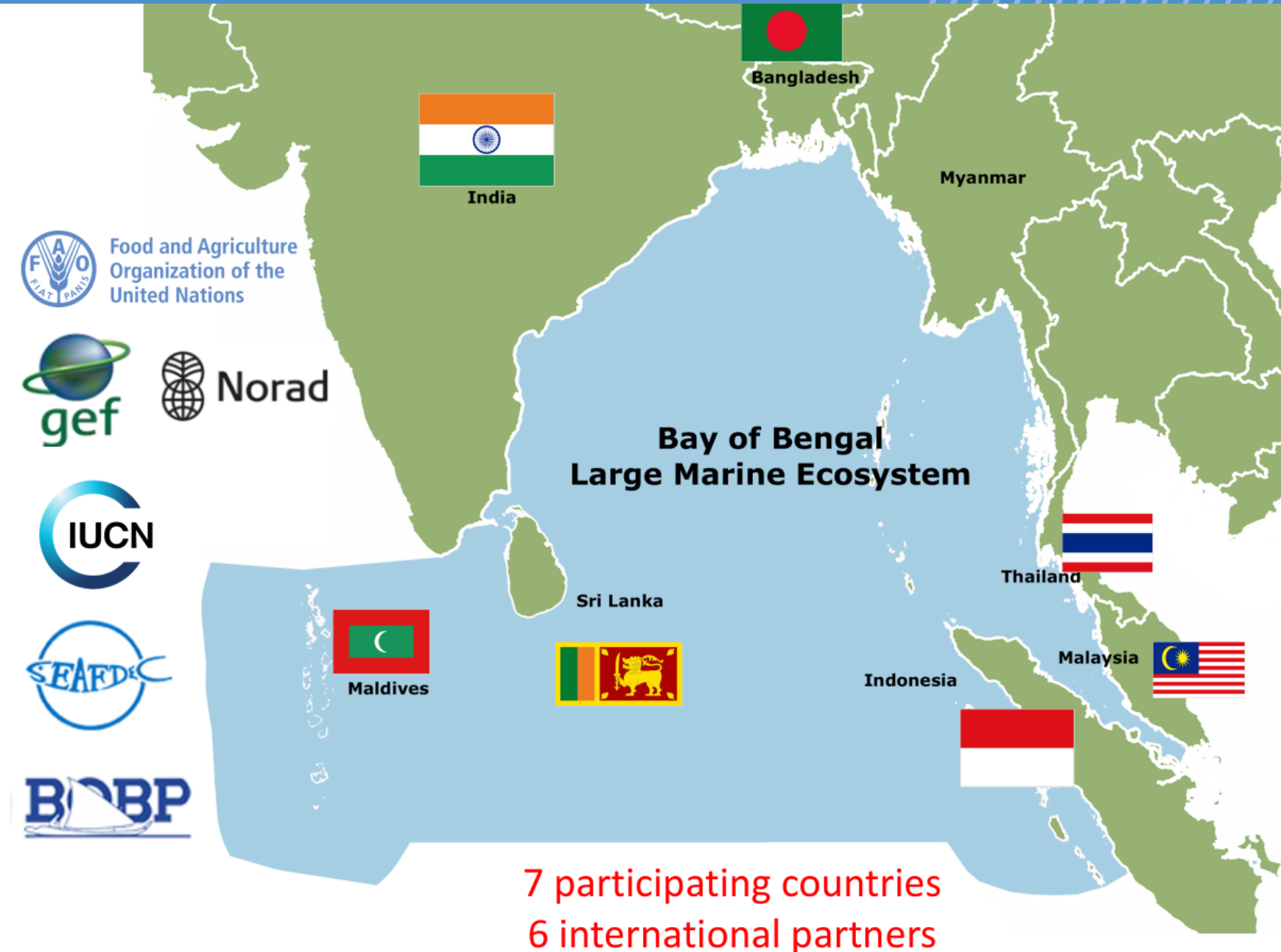
They consider specific needs of developing States in view of transshipment activities;



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

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

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme 2 (BOBLME II)



BOBLME II project targets on IUU fishing

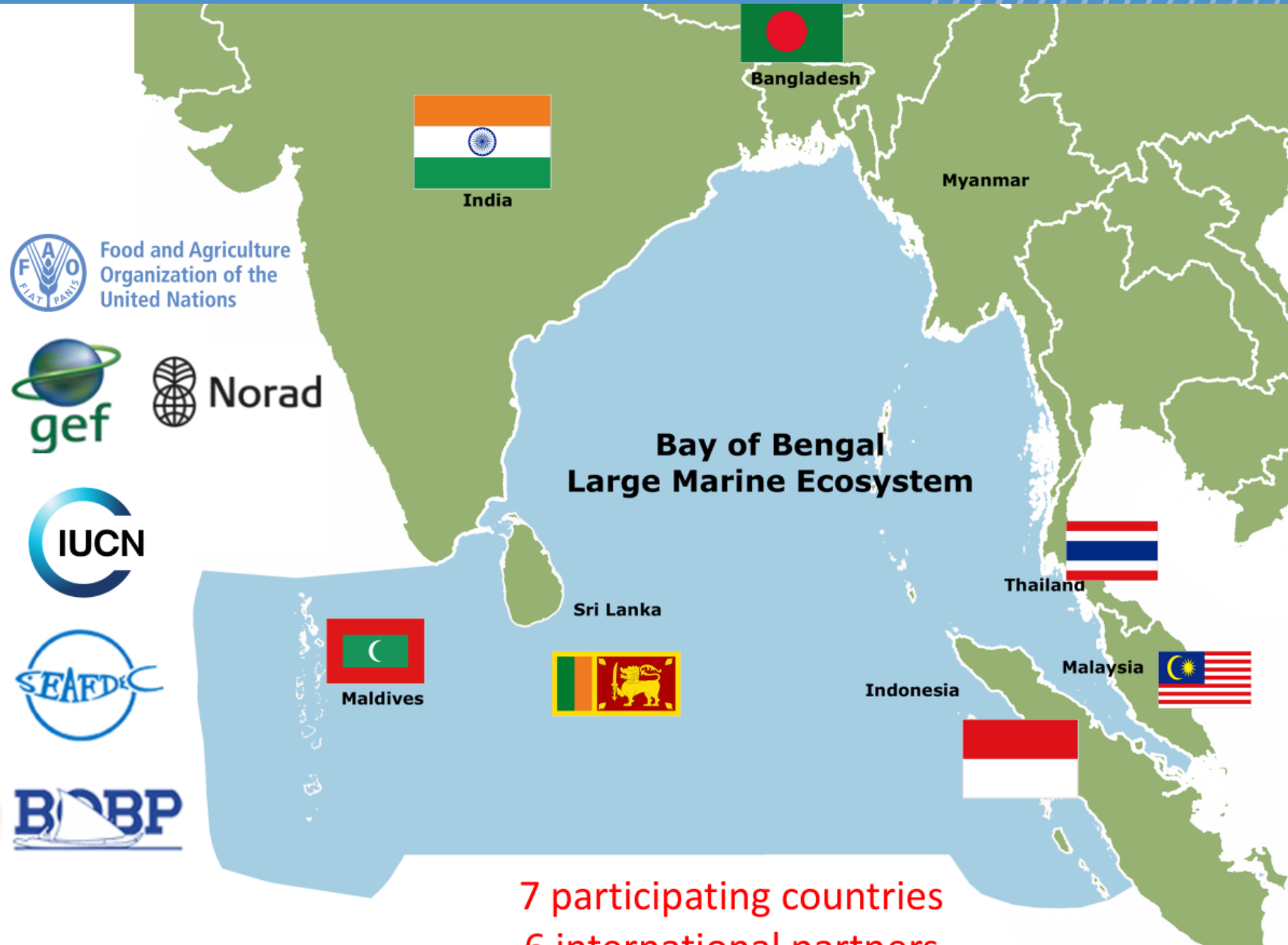
- 20% reduction in IUU fishing
- RPOA-IUU endorsed
- NPOA-IUU being implemented in 7 countries
- Regional training platform(s) operational



Food and Agriculture
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Norad



7 participating countries
6 international partners

FAO Websites on combatting IUU Fishing

IUU Fishing

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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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
Committee of World Fisheries Management

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In depth

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

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

PSMA

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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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.

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

Download here

Did you know?

- The PSMA entered into force in June 2016. By the first year and a half, more than 100 countries have joined.

In depth

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

Global Record

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Thank you



For further information please contact:
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