



International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network: Building Capacity to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

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Why Are Fisheries Important?

Provide a major source of food and employment:

- 16% of animal protein globally
- Fish = the most highly traded primary product
- Employ an estimated 35 million full and part-time fishers



What is IUU Fishing?

- Fishing that takes place outside of the regulatory environment
 - Illegal, Unregulated, and/or Unreported (IUU)
- IUU fishing jeopardizes fisheries sustainability
- Substantial IUU fishing takes place on the high seas and in the waters of developing countries
- IUU catches primarily enter the market in developed countries



Effects of IUU



- Unsustainable harvest of fish and other marine wildlife
- Additional unknown impact on stocks
- Destruction of marine habitats
- Undermines labor standards and makes use of child labor
- Unfair cost advantage in markets of legally harvested fisheries
- Most significant impacts are felt in the poorest countries with loss of food security, economic, and government stability



How Much Fish Gets Through the Enforcement Net?

- Figures are estimates only
- The total value of wild caught fish > \$90 Billion
- The initial estimate of IUU (2005) = USD \$4 - 9 billion
 - \$1.25 billion from high seas with the remainder from EEZs
 - > \$1 billion from Sub-Saharan Africa alone
- Revised global estimate (2008) = USD \$10 - 23 billion
- 176 vessels listed as IUU from 2004-2006 by 8 RFMOs
- 92 vessels listed as IUU on NGO sites
- 100, 000's of artisanal vessels that potentially are IUU



Global Response to IUU

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1994)
- FAO Compliance Agreement & Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1993 & 5)
- United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (2001)
- International Plan of Action to Combat IUU (IPOA-IUU) (2001)
- *The International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network (2002)*
- High Seas Task Force (2003 - 2006)
 - Recommendation to Strengthen the IMCS Network
- Model Port State Measures (2007)
- Legally Binding Port State Measures (200X)



What is the International MCS Network?

A voluntary network of member countries committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through:

- enhanced cooperation
- coordination
- information collection/exchange





The Composition of the IMCS Network

- Currently, the Network is composed of 49 member countries and six observers
- Membership is free
- Official/s from competent authorities
- NGO access under development





Why is an International MCS Network Needed?

- IUU fishing is a complex and global problem that requires countries to work together to find a global solution
- The Network provides a mechanism for such collaboration and cooperation by:
 - Encouraging and facilitating the exchange of information (cut through the red tape!)
 - Providing analytical support
 - Organizing trainings that increase capacity to implement MCS strategies



Current Capacity Building Efforts

- Information sharing: IUU fishing incidents, enforcement actions, vessel identifications etc.
- Facilitation of organizational contacts among key MCS Professionals
 - Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)
- Needs assessments and provision of training opportunities



What Is Needed to Strengthen the Network's Capacity Building Work?

- Maintaining flexibility, which allows for quick responses in varied circumstances
- Increased political and institutional willingness to cooperate including the sharing of global fisheries information, IUU incidents, enforcement actions etc.
- Increased resources, principally through operational funding, training support, and relevant expertise

A scenic view of a tropical beach with clear turquoise water and a blue sky. The water is crystal clear, revealing the sandy bottom and some dark rocks or coral reefs. The sky is a deep blue, and the horizon is visible in the distance.

Thank you

For any questions or comments, please contact:

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