

# DOALOS and UNNF Alumni Training Programme



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Photo: [UN World Oceans Day Photo Competition](#)

## Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in the Era of COVID-19



DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA  
**UNITED NATIONS**



## Programme

### **Welcome and opening**

9:30 am - 9:40 am

Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer  
(Programme Advisor), DOALOS

### **Global developments in combatting IUU fishing and the implications of COVID-19**

9:40 am – 10:10 am

Dr. Matthew Camilleri, Head, Fishing and Operations and Technology Branch,  
Fisheries Division, FAO

### **COVID-19 Challenges for Regional Fisheries Management, Compliance and Enforcement**

10:10 am – 10:40 am

Ms. Judith Swan, Legal, Institutional and Policy Expert

### **UNNF Alumni - national case studies**

10:40 am 11:00 am

#### *The implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement in the Era of COVID-19: The Uruguayan Experience*

Dr. Gonzalo Rodríguez Prado, Legal Consultant for the National Fisheries Office

#### *Small-scale fisheries and Covid-19 (TBC)*

Ms. Tricia Lovell, Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Antigua and Barbuda

#### *IUU Fishing Problems Aggravated by the COVID-19 Pandemic in Sierra Leone*

Mr. Sheku Sei, Ag. Senior Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone

### **Q&A session**

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Moderated by Ms. Jessica Howley, Associate Legal Officer, DOALOS

DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

**UNITED NATIONS**







Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



**DOALOS/UNNF on-line training sessions**  
**Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in the Era of COVID-19**

**22 October 2020**

**Matthew Camilleri, Ph.D.**  
Head  
Fishing Operations and Technology Branch

**Global developments in combatting IUU fishing  
and the implications of COVID-19**

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## *PRELUDE*

*Whilst the cure for the COVID-19 pandemic is still unknown, the cure for the IUU fishing “pandemic” is known but to what extent is it being used?*

# Sustainable Development Goals

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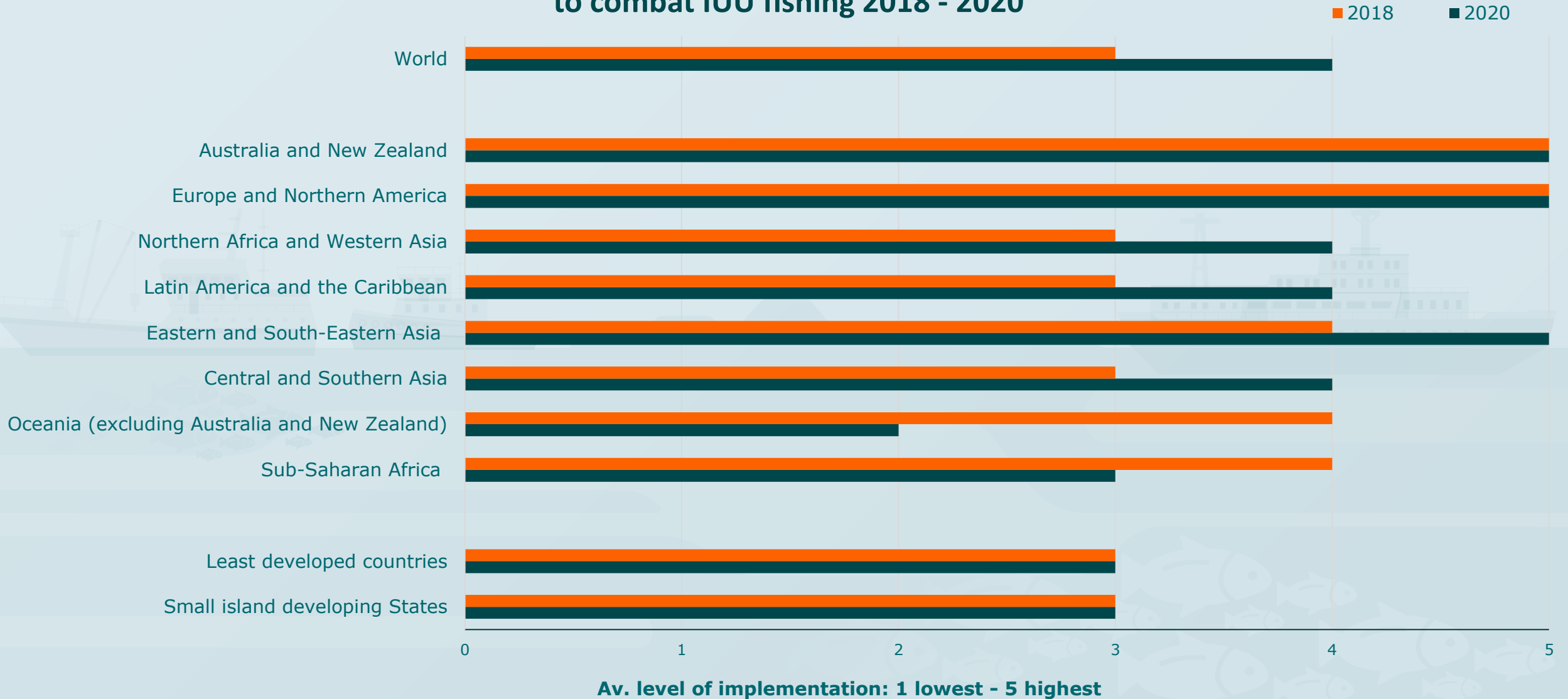
contribute to



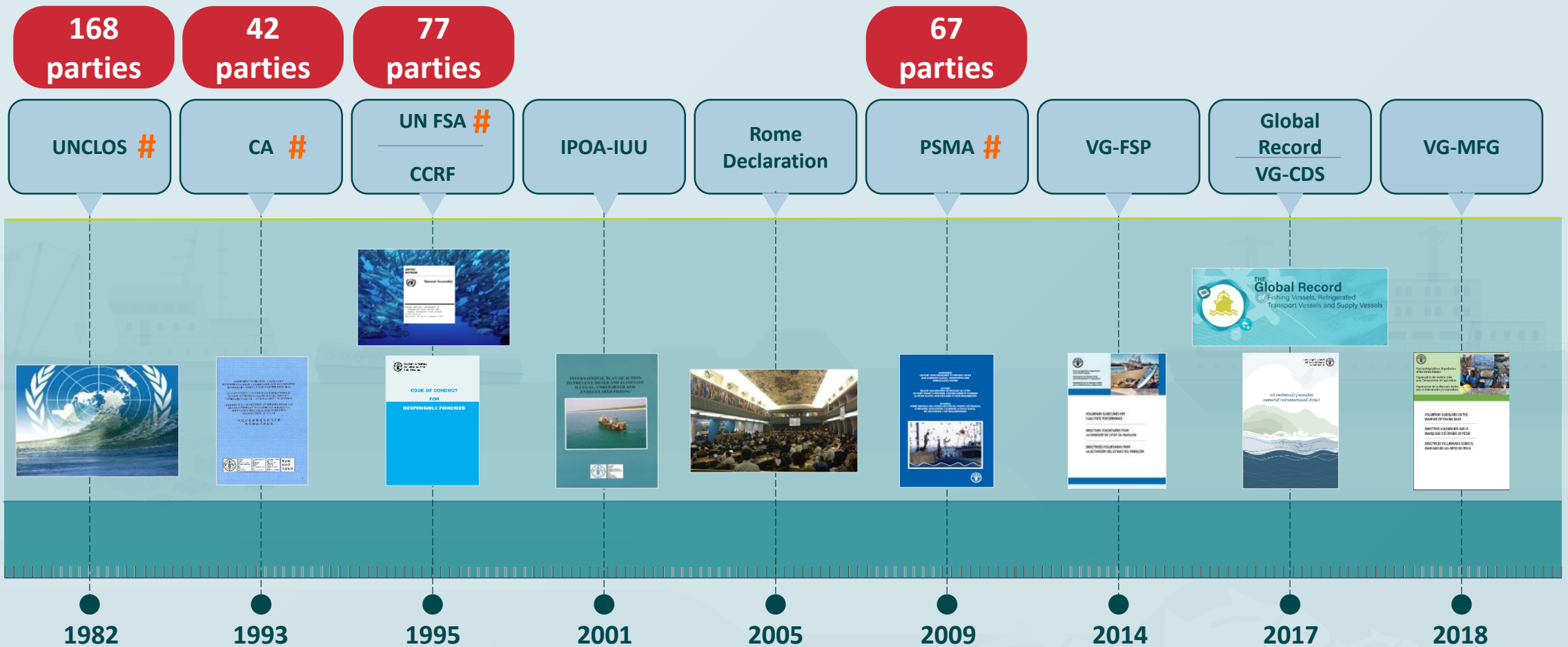
contribute to achieving these Targets

# SDG Indicator 14.6.1

## Progress in the degree of implementation of instruments to combat IUU fishing 2018 - 2020



# International Fisheries Instruments and Tools to combat IUU Fishing

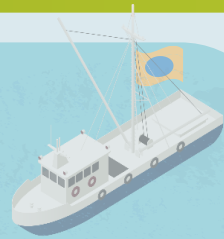


# Binding

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

# Flag, Port, Coastal, Market State Responsibilities

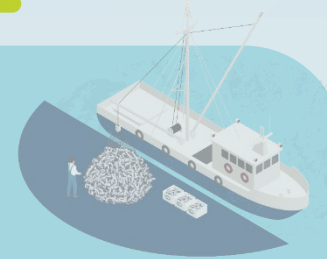
## Flag State



Has the responsibility to:

- exercise effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying its flag wherever they operate (areas under national jurisdiction, in ABNJ and other States' waters)
- ensure that their flagged vessels comply with CMMs

## Port State



Has the responsibility to:

- implement effective measures to verify that foreign flagged vessels entering its ports have not engaged in IUU fishing or related activities
- deny port entry or take other inspection / enforcement measures to prevent fish caught from IUU fishing from reaching the market

**Information-sharing  
and  
cooperation**

## Coastal State



- Has the sovereign right to explore, exploit, conserve and manage the resources in areas under its national jurisdiction
- has the responsibility to adopt and effectively implement appropriate measures to conserve and manage those resources

## Market State



Has the responsibility to:

- prevent fish caught by vessels identified to have been engaged in IUU fishing being traded or imported
- cooperate, including through RFMOs, to adopt multilaterally agreed trade-related measures (e.g. CDS)
- improve transparency and ensure traceability of fish or fish products



# Combating IUU Fishing

- **Strong political will and concerted action, including through RFMOs, by:**

- Flag States
- Port States
- Coastal States
- Market States

- **Capacity and resources to:**

- Detect IUU fishing
- Enforce regulations
- Take action and prosecute

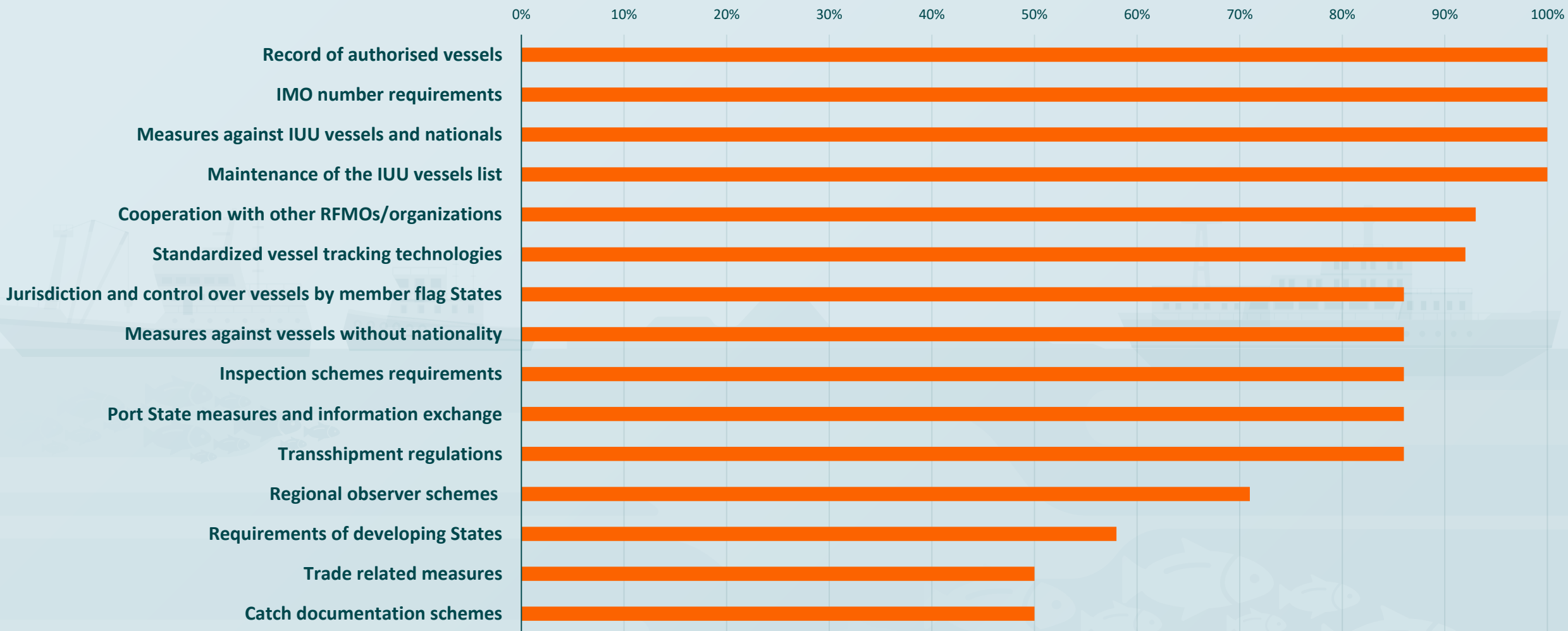
MCS

Enforcement



# RFMO Conservation and Management Measures – IUU fishing

% RFMOs that adopted the CMM (global: based on 14 RFMOs)



\*As at 15.10.2020

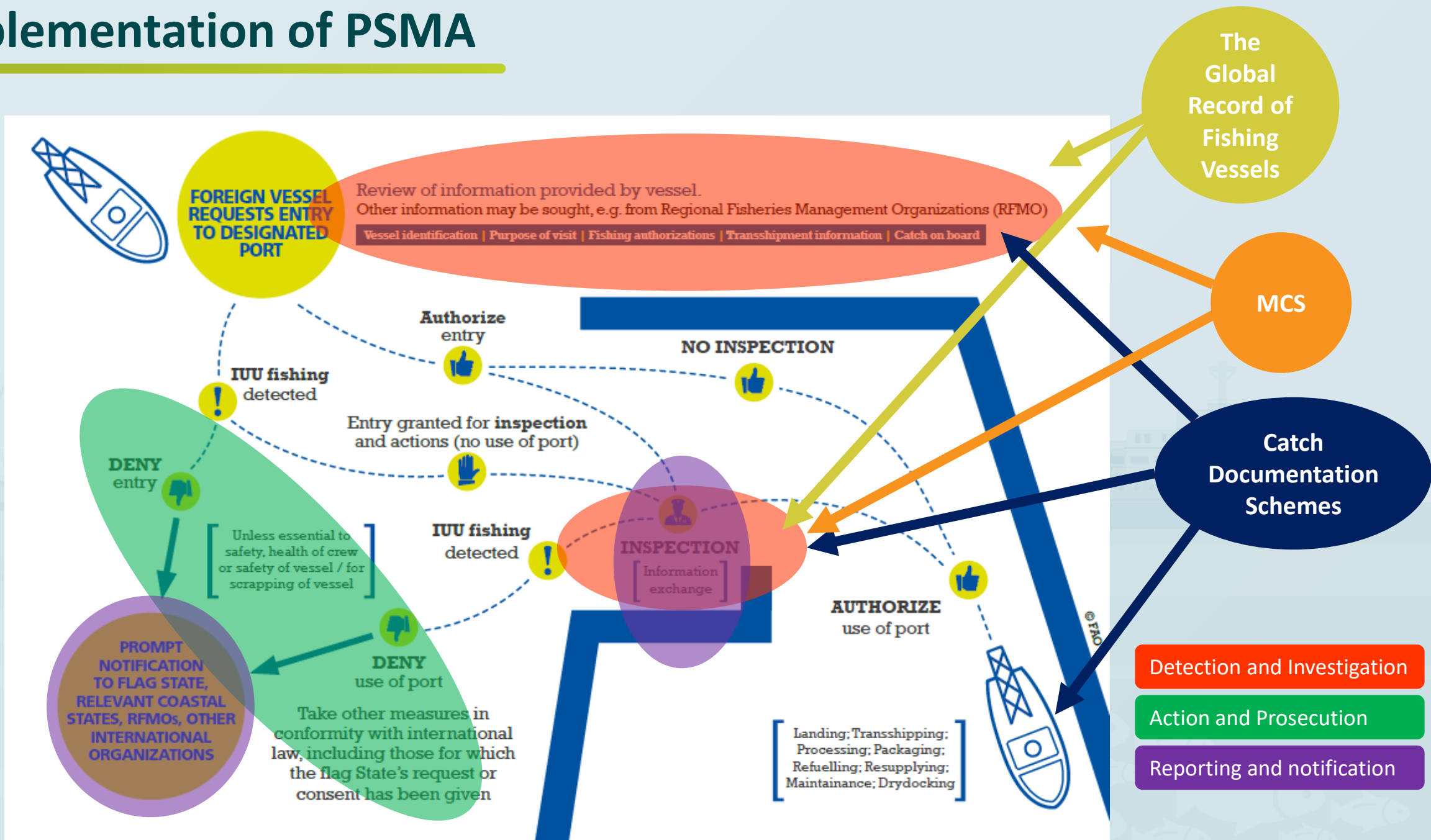
# Port State Measures Agreement



## Objectives of the Agreement:

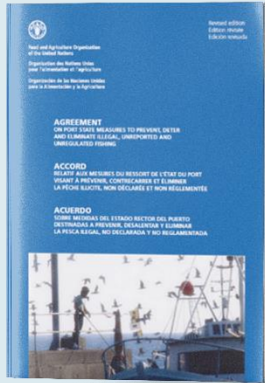
- First binding international agreement to specifically target IUU fishing
- Main objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches
- Reduces the incentive of IUU fishing vessels to continue to operate
- Blocks fisheries products derived from IUU fishing from reaching national and international markets

# Implementation of PSMA



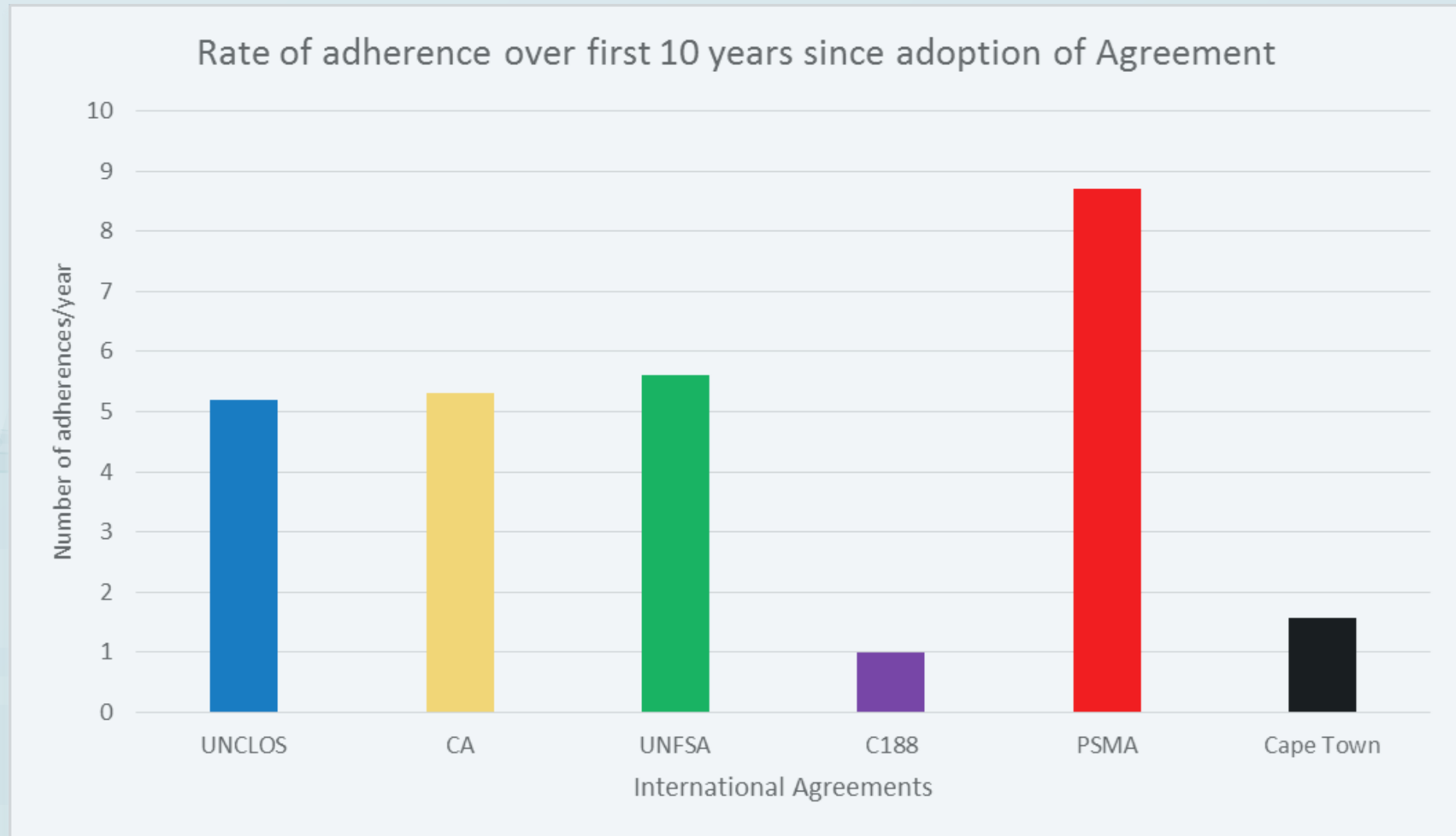


# Status of the PSMA

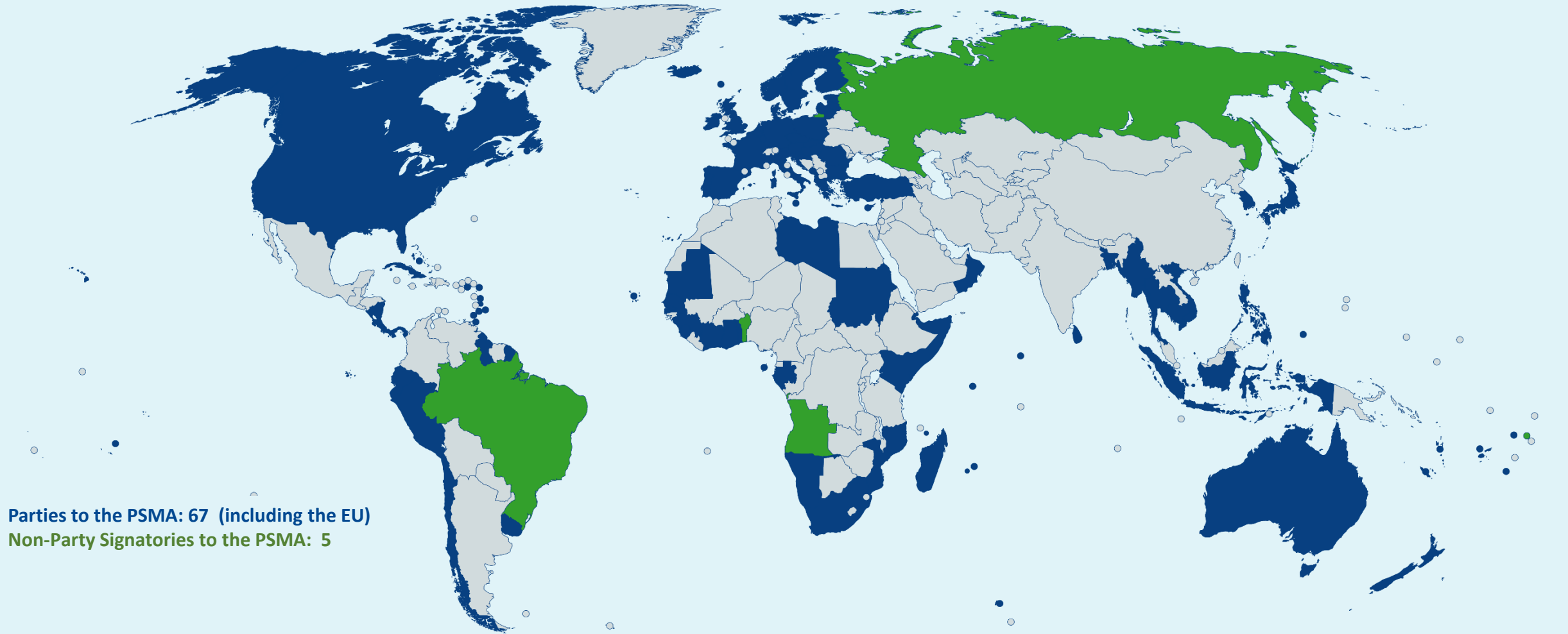


The PSMA entered into force on **5 June 2016**

(30 days after deposit with FAO DG of the 25th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession)



# Status of the PSMA



**Parties to the PSMA: 67 (including the EU)**

**Non-Party Signatories to the PSMA: 5**

*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*

# Putting the PSMA into Action

**PSMA**  
Regional Coordination  
Meetings for  
Asia and Pacific

**Postponed to 2021**

## Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the PSMA

MOP 1: Oslo, Norway, 29 – 31 May 2017

MOP 2: Santiago, Chile, 3 – 6 June 2019

MOP 3: Brussels, Belgium, postponed to May 2021 (Covid-19)

- Review and assess the effectiveness of the Agreement in achieving its objectives
- Information exchange

## PSMA Open-Ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange

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

2nd meeting: Seoul, Korea, 15 – 17 May 2019

3rd meeting: Date and venue TBD

## PSMA Part 6 Working Group – Requirements of Developing States

1st meeting: Oslo, Norway, 1 – 2 June 2017

2nd meeting: Rome, Italy, 5 – 6 July 2018

3rd meeting: Santiago, Chile, 7 June 2019



# The Way Forward

## FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS TO ELIMINATE IUU FISHING

- Cooperation
- Transparency
- Compliance

## KEY CHALLENGES

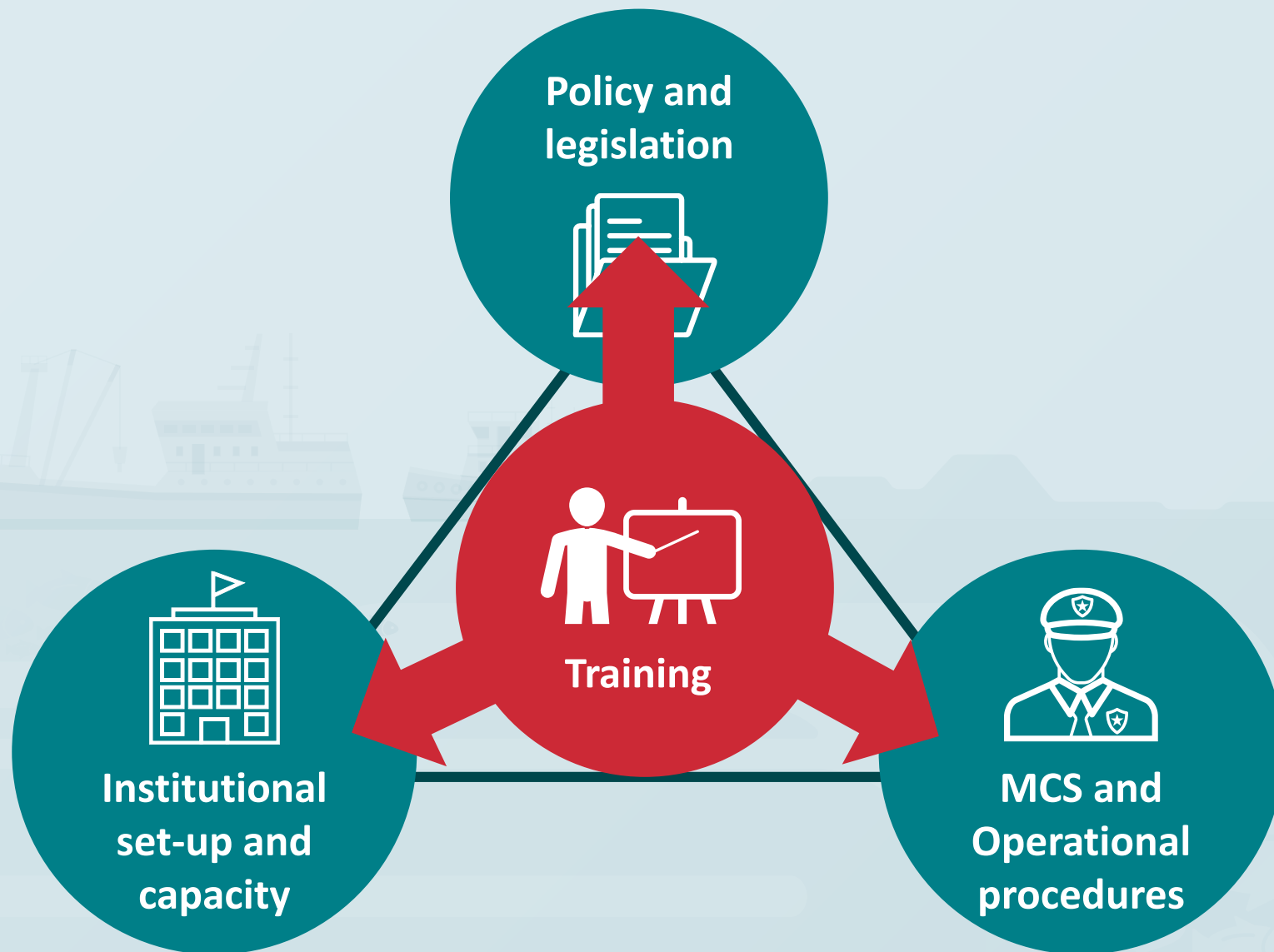
- Stronger political will and commitment
- Operational implementation and enforcement
- Capacity development needs
- Inter-agency coordination
- COVID-19 impacts on MCS, markets, economic development, political dynamics and priorities

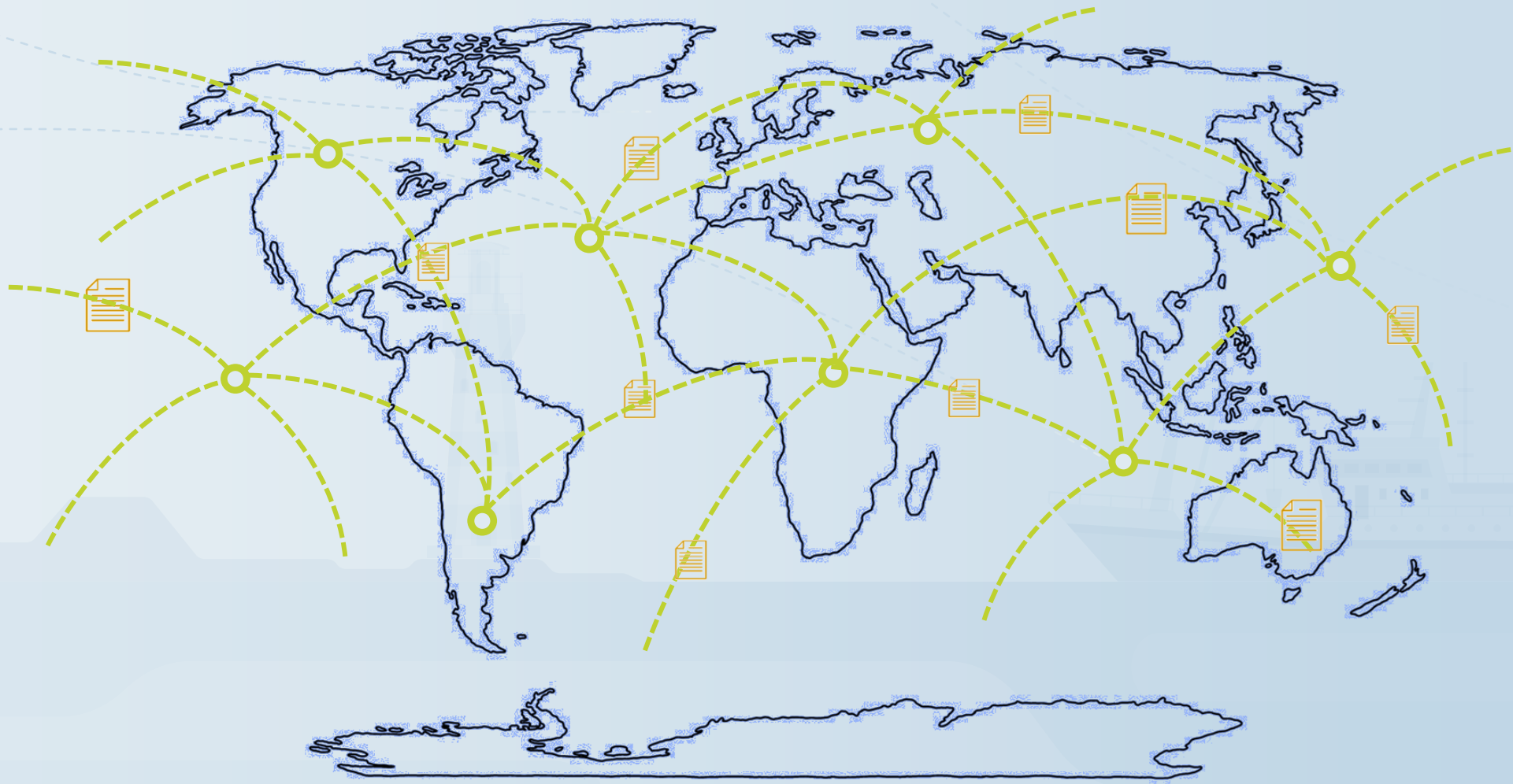
## NEXT CRITICAL STEPS

- Development of the PSMA Global Information Exchange System and links to regional systems
- International standards for the regulation, control and monitoring of transshipment practices
- Strengthened regional and global information sharing networks and cooperation



# Capacity Development for Combatting IUU fishing





**Information exchange at national (interagency), regional and global level, is essential to combat IUU fishing**

# FAO Global Information Exchange Systems



## PSMA Information Exchange

### 1. PSMA Apps to share data on Designated Ports and National Contact Points (Article 7 and 16)

Currently:

- 433 DSPs
- 50 NCPs

### 2. Global Information Exchange System (GIES) (Article 15 and 16)

- Prototype under development

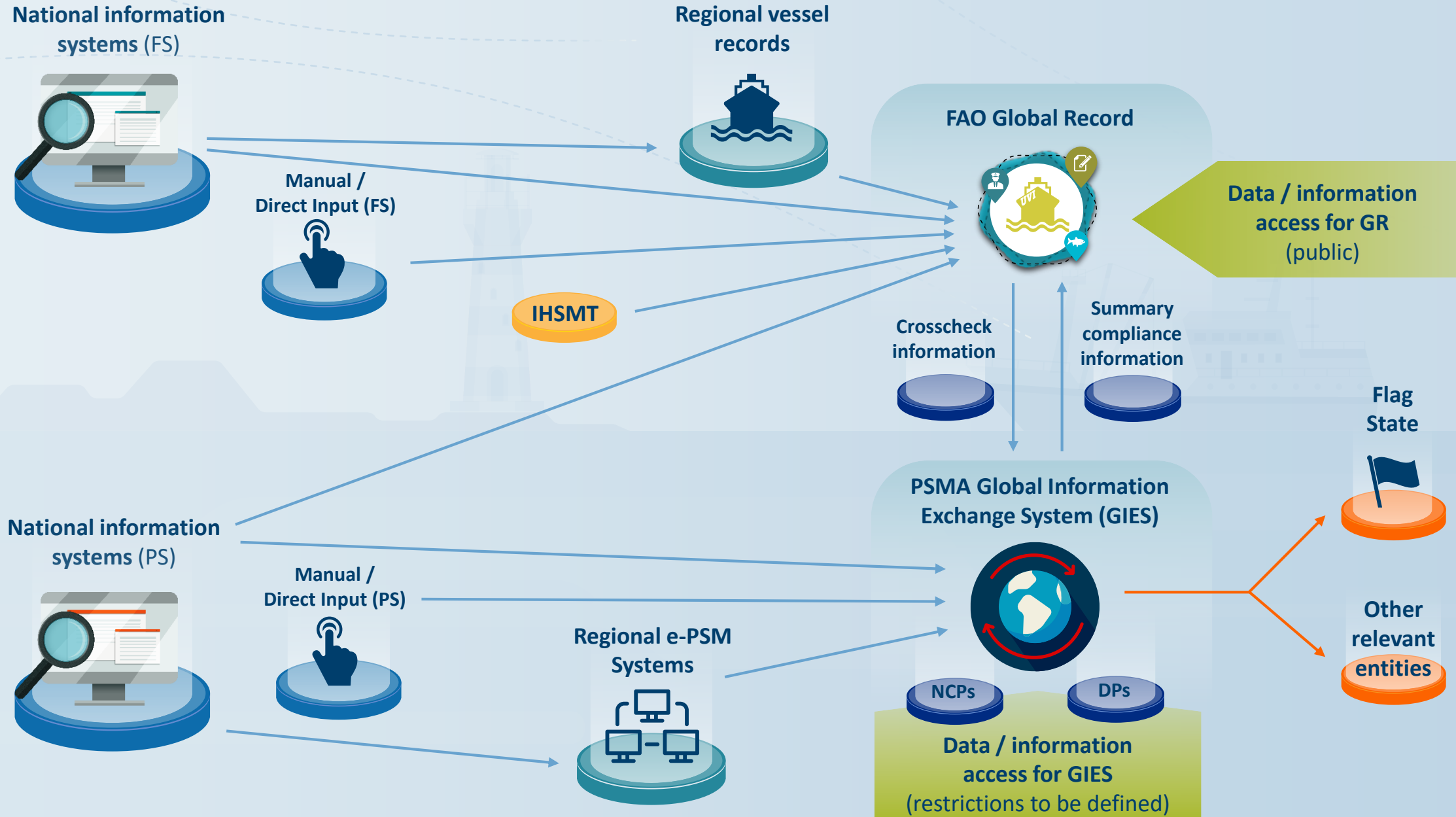


## Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

Supporting the implementation of the PSMA and other instruments to combat IUU fishing:

- Verification of vessel and authorisation information
- Risk analysis from historical and compliance information
- Linkage between vessel and port State inspection information and results
- Parties and non-parties to international instruments
- Other surveillance information (Coastal State)

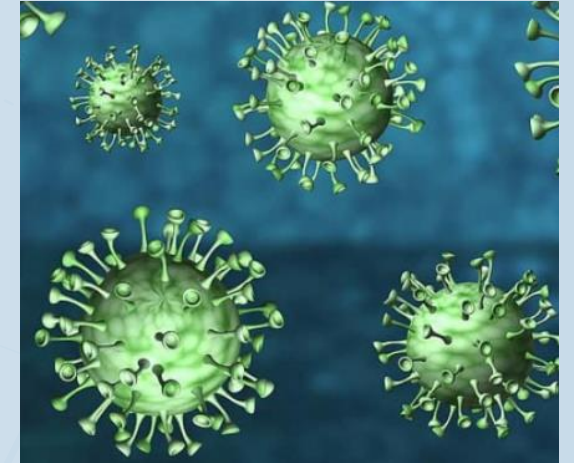
# The PSMA Global Information Exchange System





# Implications of COVID-19 on combatting IUU fishing

- Reduced MCS and enforcement at sea and in ports
- Reduced capacity for operation of fisheries monitoring centres
- Reduced capacity for interagency coordination
- Drop in demand for fish and / or prices, leading to deterioration of responsible fishing behavior
- Reduced accessibility to fish products, leading to illicit trade and sales
- Decision making processes for fisheries management / measures stalled
- The economic impact of IUU fishing on bona fide fishers is exacerbated
- Capacity development programmes delayed
- International and regional processes delayed
- Shifting of economic priorities and resources by governments



# FAO Web sites on combatting IUU Fishing

## IUU Fishing

**Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**

Background | International Framework | Regional Mechanisms | Tools & Initiatives | News & Events | Resources

**Key points identified to assist Ghana's PSMA implementation after launch of several initiatives**

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems due to its severe ability to undermine national and regional efforts to manage fisheries sustainably as well as an endeavour to conserve marine biodiversity. IUU fishing takes advantage of corrupt administration 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, to occur 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 local fishers are reduced by IUU fishing, which can lead to the collapse of local fisheries, with significant fisheries in developing countries proving particularly vulnerable. Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into overseas trade markets thus threatening local food supply. IUU fishing therefore threatens livelihoods, exacerbates poverty, and augments food insecurity.

**5 June 2018**  
International Day  
For the Fight against  
Illegal, Unreported and  
Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

**In depth**

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

**Did you know?**

- IUU fishing represents up to 26 million tonnes of fish caught annually, valued at USD 10 to USD 23 billion
- 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

## PSMA

**Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)**

Background | Operational Resources | Meetings | Capacity Development | News and events | Resources

**The IMO International Maritime Law Institute hosts the first FAO-IMLI International Fisheries Law Training Course**

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 provision of the PSMA apply to fishing vessels seeking entry into a designated port of a State which is different to their flag State.

**Did you know?**

- The PSMA entered into force in June 2016. By the first year and a half, more than a third of world countries were Parties to it.
- The PSMA applies to fishing vessels seeking entry into a port other than those of their own State.
- One in every five fish caught around the world every year is thought to originate from IUU fishing, valued at \$10-\$23 billion annually. Implementing the PSMA is one of the most cost-effective means to curb IUU fishing.

**In depth**

- PSMA Parties
- Capacity Development

**Latest**

Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (as at May 2018)  
This document, continuously updated by the FAO's Legal Office, provides information about the Status of each Party to the PSMA. The document was last updated in May 2018. Access the document here: [...]

**Events**

04.07.2018  
Thirty-third session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI)  
**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy**

05.07.2018  
Second Meeting of the Port S. Working Group  
**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy**

16.04.2018

## Global Record

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

Background | Information System | Capacity Development | News & Events | Resources | Partners

**Latin America is closing the net on IUU fishing**

**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 some 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.

**In depth**

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

**Latest**

1st meeting of the Global Record Working Group

**Events**

1st meeting of the Global Record Working Group

**Related Links**

- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Port State Measures Agreement
- Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance
- Sustainable Development Goal 14

**Contact us**

Global-Record@fao.org

**Thank You**



*any questions?*



**2020 United Nations – Nippon Foundation Alumni Network Virtual  
Training Series**

**Responding to the impacts of COVID-19**

**IUU fishing in the era of COVID-19**

**COVID-19 Challenges for  
Regional Fisheries Management, Compliance and  
Enforcement**

**Judith Swan**

*International consultant, Fisheries Law, Policy and Institutions*



# SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

- RFMOs
- IUU fishing

## RFMOs in the Covid-19 era

- Meetings
- Secretariats
- Compliance and enforcement activities
- Covid-19 impacts on compliance activities
- Contingency measures to address IUU fishing

## FISHING FLEETS – COVID-19 IMPACTS

## STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES

## CONCLUSIONS

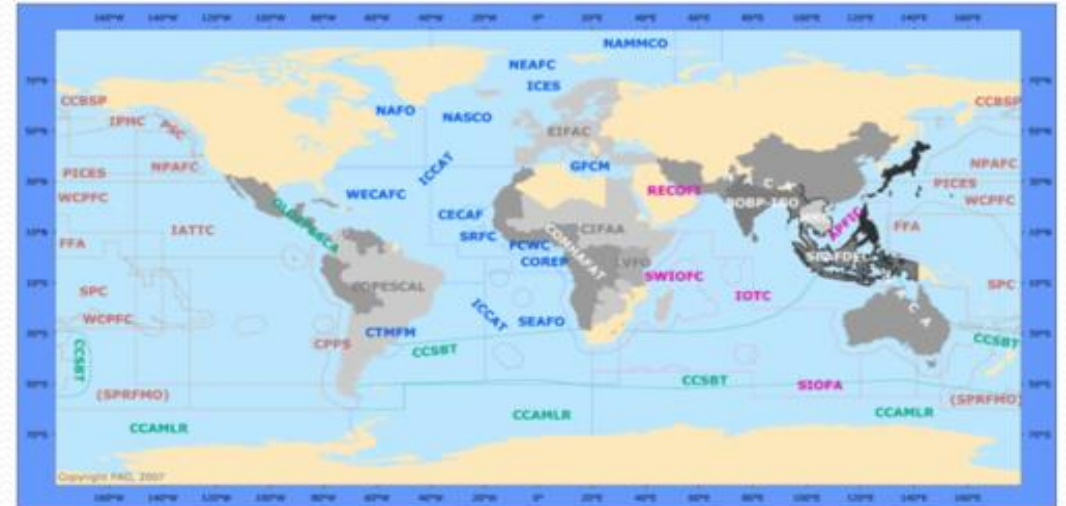


# INTRODUCTION

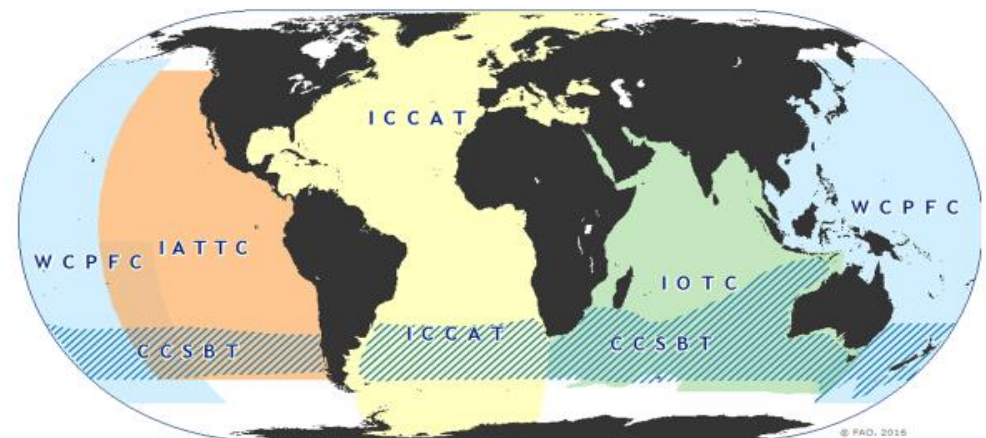


# RFMOs

- Around 50 RFMOs/RFABs worldwide
  - Management Mandate
  - Advisory Body
- 5 “t-RFMOs”
- Based on international instruments
  - 1982 UNCLOS
  - 1995 UNFSA
  - 2009 PSMA
  - 2001 FAO IPOA-IUU (*Voluntary*)



Global tuna fishery management





# RFMOs

## MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- Agreed at (annual) Sessions
- Legally binding
- Aimed at:
  - Managing fish stocks
  - Monitoring, control and surveillance
  - Statistical information
  - Trade and traceability

## EXAMPLES OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- *Catch limits, allocations*
- *Ban on Discards of Bigeye, Skipjack etc tuna*
- *Record of Authorized Vessels*
- *IUU Vessel List*
- *Observer Programme*
- *VMS requirements*
- *Data reporting*

# RFMOs

## SECRETARIATS

- Secretariats' duties include administering the RFMO and providing support to members
- RFMOs are funded mainly by members' contributions and donor assistance

## EXAMPLES OF SECRETARIATS' ACTIVITIES

- *Scientific - Research*
- *Compliance (MCS)*
- *Legal*
- *Economic*
- *Information and publications*
- *Training*
- *Administration and finance*



# RFMOs

## PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

- Useful indicators of RFMO trends in addressing IUU fishing appear in the reports of their performance review panels.
- The first RFMO performance review was conducted in 2006.
- In the next 11 years
  - 15 RFMOs have had a performance review
  - of these, six had a second performance review

## RFMO Performance Review Framework

- *Analysis of the Agreement/International instruments*
- *Conservation and management*
- ***Compliance and enforcement***
- *Decisionmaking and dispute settlement*
- *International cooperation*
- *Finance and administration*



# IUU FISHING

- Fishing and fishing-related activities conducted in contravention of national, regional and international laws (*illegal*).
- Non-reporting or misreporting of information on fishing operations and their catches (*unreported*).
- Fishing by Stateless (unregistered) vessels (*unregulated*).
- Fishing in the areas of competence of RFMOs by non-party vessels (*unregulated*).
- Fishing activities that are not fully regulated by States and cannot be easily monitored and accounted for (*unregulated*).

Global Fishing Watch









# RFMOs in the Covid-19 era



# RFMO MEETINGS

Annual Sessions and meetings of subsidiary bodies (science, management, compliance) are virtual or cancelled

- No new CMMs
- Limited review of management and compliance

Virtual Sessions:

- Rules of procedure must allow virtual sessions
- Limited discussion time
- Time zone constraints

Information and reporting by members

- Reduced

Virtual IOTC 24<sup>th</sup> Session  
2-6 November 2020  
2 hours/day for five days

*Entry to the meeting will be by password, and only provided to credentialed individuals.*

*Depending on video performance, entry may have to be restricted*



# RFMO SECRETARIATS

- Secretariats may have reduced staff or are closed and working remotely.
- Some countries may not be able to pay their membership contributions because of the economic consequences of Covid-19.
- The result is a weakened ability to address management and MCS operations.

## ICCAT Website

*“Due to COVID-19 the 2020 SCRS and Commission annual meetings have been cancelled.*

*The Secretariat has been closed and the staff has been working remotely since mid-March 2020.”*

*KEEP SAFE !*

# RFMOs – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

## Performance review criteria for compliance and enforcement

- Flag State duties
- Port State measures
- MCS
  - a) high seas boarding and inspection scheme, procedures
  - b) Vessel Monitoring Systems
  - c) observers
  - d) catch documentation and trade tracking schemes
  - e) restrictions on transshipment
  - f) obligations and implementation of measures by RFMO members and CNMs
- Follow-up on infringements
- Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter noncompliance
- market-related measures

*How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected the RFMO Secretariats' and Members' ability to discharge their duties and address IUU fishing?*



# RFMOs – COVID IMPACTS ON COMPLIANCE

## Possible impacts of COVID-19 on criteria for evaluating RFMO compliance and enforcement

### Flag State duties

- Ability to undertake fisheries patrols, overflights compromised
- Reduced human capacity to effectively control flag vessels

### Port State measures

- Port calls by foreign vessels not possible
- Reduced capacity for inspections in port (including for flag vessels that have fished in ABNJ)
- Reduced number of inspections in port

*How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected the RFMO Secretariats' and Members' ability to discharge their duties and address IUU fishing?*

# RFMOs – COVID IMPACTS ON COMPLIANCE

## Possible impacts of COVID-19 on criteria for evaluating RFMO compliance and enforcement

### MCS

- high seas boarding and inspection schemes *suspended*
- satellite remote monitoring *unchanged*
- Vessel Monitoring Systems *risk of tampering*
- observers *suspended*
- transhipments *temporary measures*  
*strong suspicion of non- or underreporting, laundering fish*
- obligations and implementation of measures by RFMO members  
*affected by suspension of meetings or virtual meetings of RFMOs*

*How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected the RFMO Secretariats' and Members' ability to discharge their duties and address IUU fishing?*



# RFMO CONTINGENCY MEASURES

- A number of RFMOs have adopted contingency measures that strike a balance between health concerns and ensuring a minimum level of data submission, monitoring and control.
- Certain principles have been proposed as a basis for the contingency measures.

## Principles

*Contingency measures should:*

- *be developed by States/RFMOs in a transparent, collaborative way;*
- *relate specifically to the COVID-19 situation;*
- *be consistent with international law;*
- *be temporary and subject to periodic review;*
- *be proportionate and not unnecessarily undermine existing measures or the wider management regime.*



# RFMO CONTINGENCY MEASURES

## CCSBT

- Members were requested to report on any departures from the usual operation of Compliance measures resulting from COVID-19.
- A Compliance Policy Guideline will be prepared with principles and actions to be taken in relation to exceptional circumstances.

## IATTC

Adopted procedures for the Regional Observers Programme in line with principles.

## Principles

*Contingency measures should:*

- *be developed by States/RFMOs in a transparent, collaborative way;*
- *relate specifically to the COVID-19 situation;*
- *be consistent with international law;*
- *be temporary and subject to periodic review;*
- *be proportionate and not unnecessarily undermine existing measures or the wider management regime.*



# RFMO CONTINGENCY MEASURES

## IOTC

- Deployments of observers under the Regional Observer Programme (ROP) were suspended 19 March until further notice, and/or such time that the dangers of COVID-19 have abated and travel becomes workable.
- This exceptional circumstance, considered to be a *force majeure*, did not prevent the continuation of at-sea transhipment activities under the ROP. The fleets:
  - were to continue to submit their requests/revised requests for their fishing vessels which will tranship at sea to the IOTC Secretariat which will notify approval/acknowledgement;
  - authorising their fishing vessels to tranship at sea must ensure that the masters of carrier vessels continue to submit completed transhipment declaration forms to the IOTC Secretariat.

## IOTC ROP

- *During 2018, the IOTC ROP monitored a total of 1,370 transhipments from Large Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels within the IOTC Area.*
- *63% were from the fleet of Taiwan, Province of China, others were Seychellois, Chinese, Malaysian, Japanese, Korean and Omani LSTLVs.*
- *There was a total of 63 deployments.*
- *After 2020 suspension, there were fewer reports*



# RFMO CONTINGENCY MEASURES

## WCPFC (*fifth decision, 23 July 2020*)

### A. Purse Seine Observer Coverage

- Requirements for observer coverage on purse seine vessels are suspended until 31 October 2020.
- Applies to new trips after a vessel operator has met any requirement for repatriation of observers currently on board a vessel.
- Repatriation must to be expedited by the vessel operator and the relevant flag State.
- The observer's costs will continue to be met by the vessel operator until repatriation.
- During the period of suspension certain VMS requirements and procedures will apply to purse seine vessels which are not carrying observers.

## WCPFC Decisions

- *The Secretariat has been fielding queries as to how the COVID-19 related measures imposed by CCMs affect obligations under WCPFC CMMs.*
- *The Secretariat's response was that until the Commission decides otherwise, obligations under those CMMs as agreed remain unchanged.*
- *From 8 April - 23 July 2020, the Commission has taken five decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*



# RFMO CONTINGENCY MEASURES

## WCPFC (*fifth decision, 23 July 2020*)

### B. At-sea Transhipment for Purse Seine Vessels

- Until October 31, 2020, if it is not feasible for a purse seine vessel to tranship in port despite its best effort due to port closures and relevant access restrictions related to the prevention of COVID-19, it may tranship at sea in an area under the jurisdiction of a Port State under certain conditions.

### C. At-sea Transhipment Observers

- Rules are given where a vessel tranships without an observer, including reporting to WCPFC and complying with reporting requirements and the laws of the coastal State where the transhipment takes place.

## WCPFC Decisions

- *The Secretariat has been fielding queries as to how the COVID-19 related measures imposed by CCMs affect obligations under WCPFC CMMs.*
- *The Secretariat's response was that until the Commission decides otherwise, obligations under those CMMs as agreed remain unchanged.*
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# FISHING FLEETS – COVID-19 IMPACTS

# FISHING FLEETS – COVID IMPACTS

## LONG PERIODS AT SEA

- Crew changes, port calls suspended

## GLOBAL MARKET DISRUPTION

- Tourism suspended
- Drop in market demand - food service sectors closed (restaurants, hotels, etc.), but increase in retail sales
- Processing sectors affected
- Trade affected by flight cancellations, border closures







# STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES



# STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES

## WIDE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS

- e.g. global tuna alliances, NGOs

## OBJECTIVE

- Sustainability of fish stocks
- Protection of health/safety of observers, crew, inspectors, communities
- Mitigate loss of scientific and compliance information

## RESPONSES

- Recommending to RFMOs and CPCs measures and actions, “to-do” lists of priorities

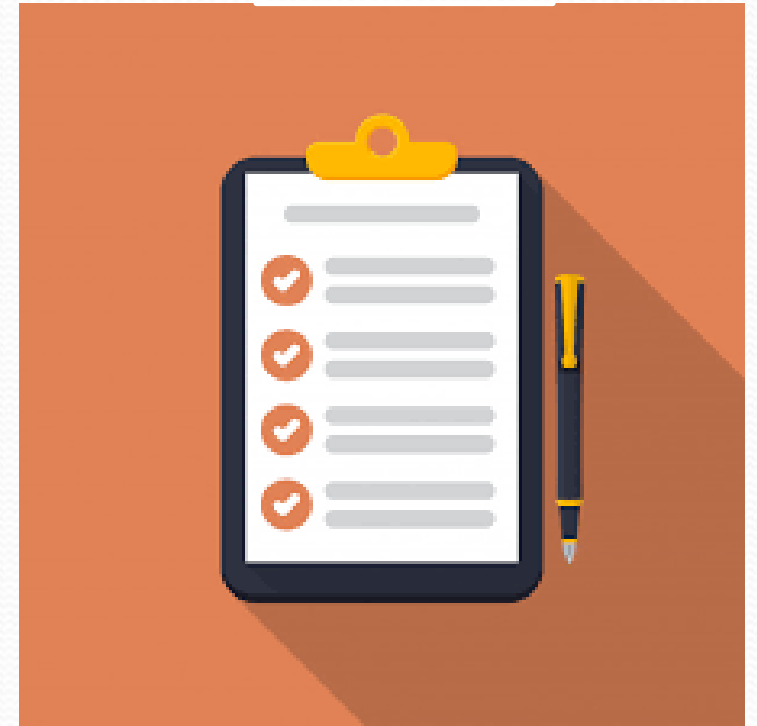
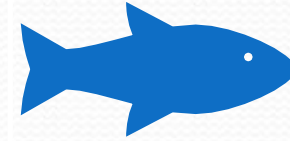




# STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES

## SOME ACTIONS ON THE “TO DO” LISTS

- Ensure that suspensions of ROPs are temporary and reviewed.
- Where ROP is suspended, require vessels to collect, record and report all the observer-provided data.
- Prioritize the development of electronic reporting and electronic monitoring technologies, standards, and programs for use on fishing and carrier vessels to complement or replace human observers.
- Various actions to strengthen reporting through VMS and AIS systems, and the analysis of the data.





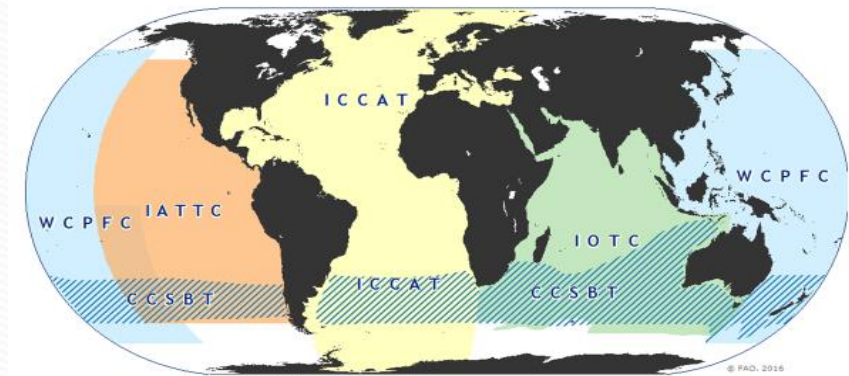


# CONCLUSIONS

# CONCLUSIONS

- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the operations RFMOs and the fishing industry alike. It has resulted in constraints to:
  - RFMOs - fisheries management, compliance and enforcement;
  - Industry – operations, markets, profitability.
- RFMOs, their members and global stakeholders are responding to the need to control IUU fishing operations under the circumstances, but face many challenges.

Global tuna fishery management

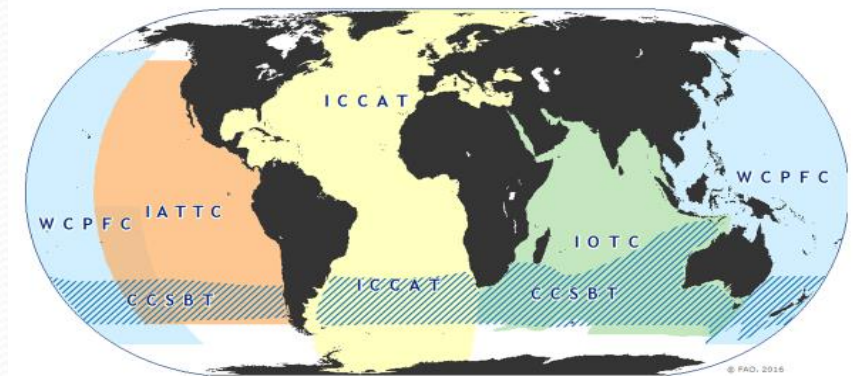




# CONCLUSIONS

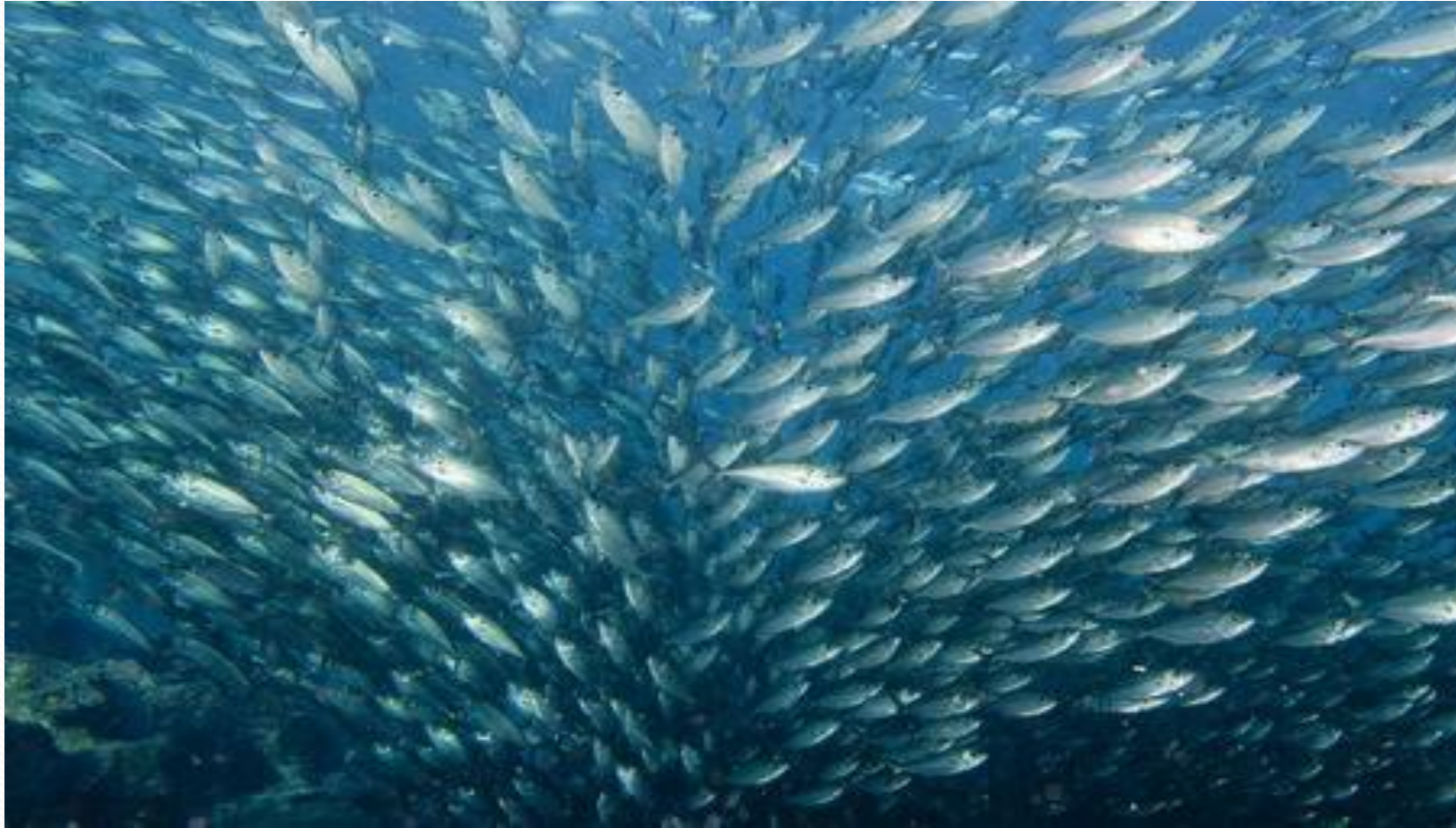
- With cooperation and forward thinking at international, regional and national levels, the outcomes of the challenges in this COVID-19 era could be to strengthen cooperation and measures to combat IUU fishing in the future.

Global tuna fishery management





THANK YOU.





# Alumni interventions

- ❖ Dr. Gonzalo Rodríguez Prado, Legal Consultant for the National Fisheries Office  
*The implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement in the Era of COVID-19: The Uruguayan Experience*
- ❖ Ms. Tricia Lovell, Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Antigua and Barbuda  
*Small-scale fisheries, IUU fishing and COVID-19*
- ❖ Mr. Sheku Sei, Ag. Senior Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone  
*IUU Fishing Problems Aggravated by the COVID-19 Pandemic in Sierra Leone*



DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA  
**UNITED NATIONS**

# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES IN THE ERA OF COVID-19. THE URUGUAYAN EXPERIENCE.

Dr. Gonzalo Rodríguez Prado.  
United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellowship  
Programme Alumni.  
Legal consultant for the National Fisheries  
Office of Uruguay.





## Objective of the presentation:

Describe and analyze the current challenges in relation to IUU fishing in Uruguay, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and potential approaches to addressing these challenges.



<https://www.elpais.com.uy/informacion/salud/asi-momento-desembarco-segunda-persona-crucero-australiano.html>



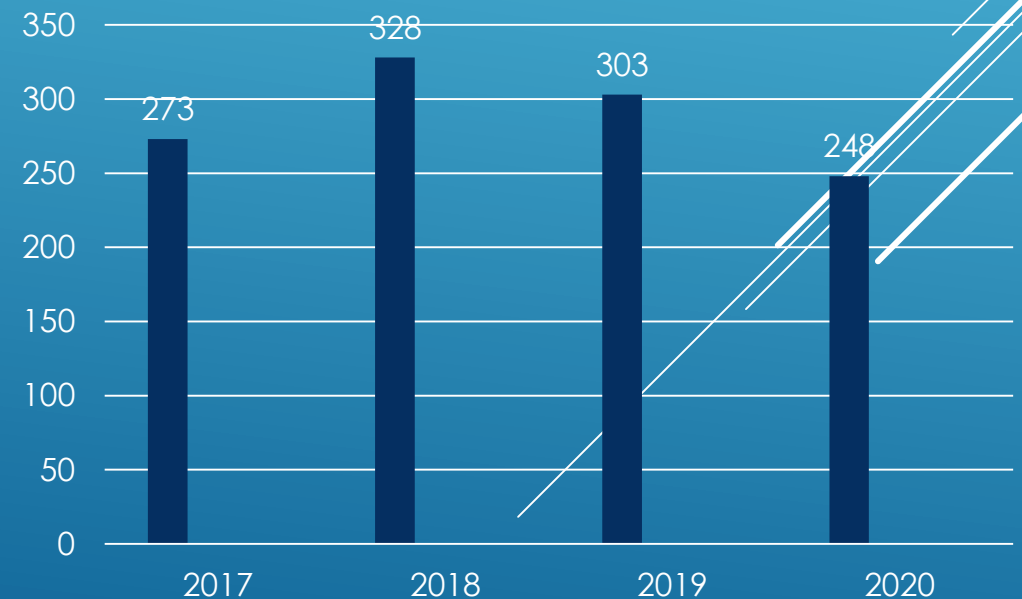
2008-05-22 - Singapore - Source: Shipfax / Mac Mackay / Shipspotting  
<https://iuu-vessels.org/>

## Current situation.

- Uruguay ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures on 30 November 2012, UNCLOS, CCAMLR, ICCAT, Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement.
- High level of foreign flag fisheries vessels entries in Montevideo port.



Foreign flag fisheries vessels entries in Montevideo port.





## Challenges and responses in relation to IUU fishing

1) Institutional weakness → Improve the inter-agency coordination.

2) General regulation of the Agreement on Port State Measures.



Creation of an specific standard operating procedure for foreign flags vessel control and inspection under APSM.



## Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

Reduction of port State inspections on board at the beginning of pandemia



Implementation of the sanitary action protocol created by the Ministry of Public Health (12/10/2017), in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005) World Health Organization:

- 1) Authorization of port vessel entry prior granted the free passage certificate:
  - Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/Ship Sanitation Control Certificate issued by the MPH of the port appointed to the WHO.
  - Maritime declaration of health.
  - List of latest ports.
  - Medical record or medication used during the voyage.
- 2) Exit authorization to ports outside of Uruguay.
- 3) On-Board Sanitary Control Certificate.

Ministerio de SALUD  
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE LA SALUD  
DIVISIÓN EPIDEMIOLOGÍA  
DEPARTAMENTO DE VIGILANCIA EN FRONTERAS

UNIDAD DE SANIDAD MARÍTIMA Y FLUVIAL Montevideo, 07/09/2017

BUQUE: AAAAAA  
MATRÍCULA/Nº OM: 7000786

SE OTORGA LIBRE PLÁTICA

OBSERVACIONES:

FECHA DE VENCIMIENTO: 09/09/2017

Firma del Funcionario: *gm*

Aclaración de Firma: BBBBBB



## Impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Responses.

Implementation of an action protocol by the National Fisheries Office to the inspections on board:

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR PORT STATE CONTROL INSPECTIONS IN RELATION TO COVID-19 (SECRETARIAT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE CONTROL OF VESSELS, Viña del Mar, 1992):

- Before boarding a ship, Port State Control Officers will confirm with the ship's master that there are no ill persons on board indicating COVID-19 infection.
- Port State Control Officers have appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Contamination reduction by reducing on-board time.
- Contamination reduction hazard when boarding / on board.
- Contamination reduction whilst inspecting.



## Recomendations

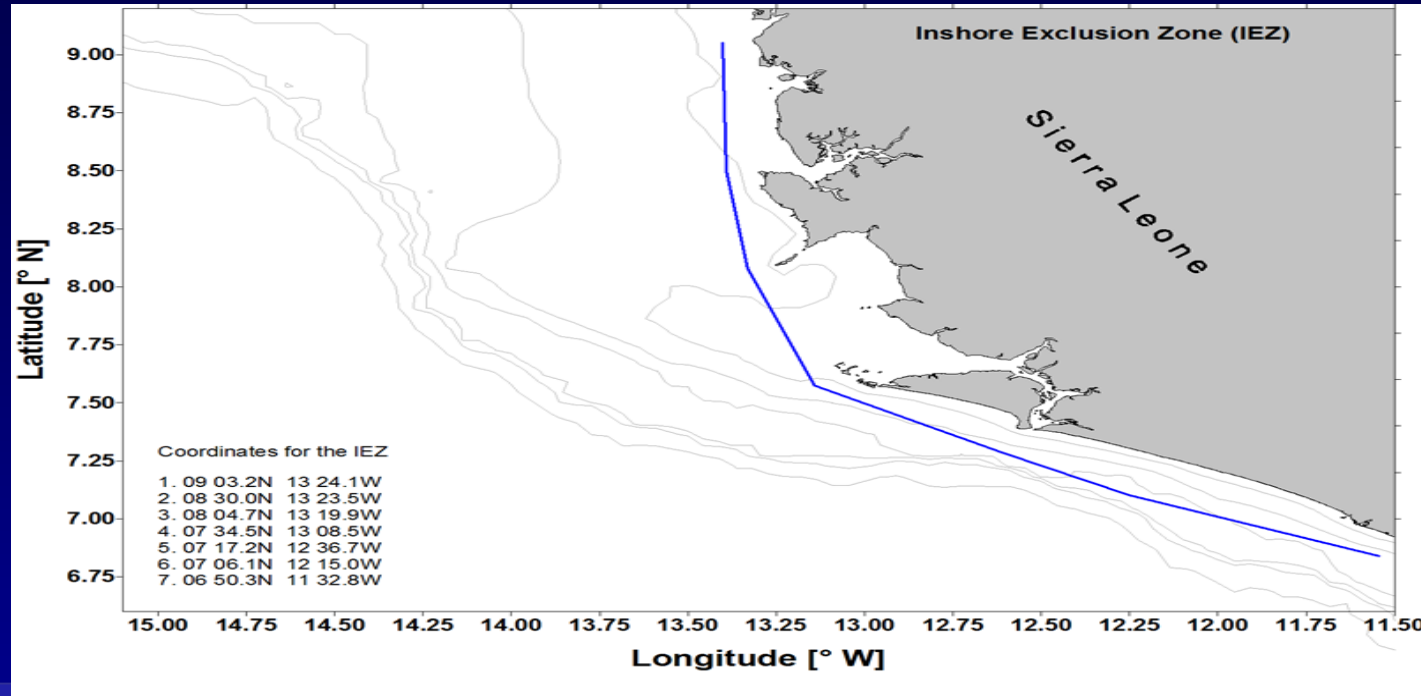
- Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) World Health Organization.
- Follow the RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR PORT STATE CONTROL INSPECTIONS IN RELATION TO COVID-19 “Viña del Mar” Agreement 1992.
- Strengthen the coordination and cooperation between national and international stakeholders.
- Review the domestic legislation to improve the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures.



Thank you for your attention!



# IUU FISHING PROBLEMS AGGRAVATED BY COVID-19 IN SIERRA LEONE



UN-DOALOS UNNFF ALUMNI TRAINING PROGRAM ON IUU FISHING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

Sheku Sei

Ag. Senior Fisheries Officer/PhD Candidate, UTAS  
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sierra Leone





# CONTENTS

- **LOCATION OF COASTAL SIERRA LEONE**
- **FISHERIES SECTOR OVERVIEW**
- **FISHERIES OBSERVER RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID-19**
- **IUU FINANCING CONSTRAINED BY COVID PANDEMIC**
- **FISHERIES COMPLIANCE UNDERMINED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**
- **CONSTRAINTS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF USER RIGHTS AND AREA RESTRICTIONS**
- **THE WAY FORWARD**



# LOCATION OF COASTAL SIERRA LEONE





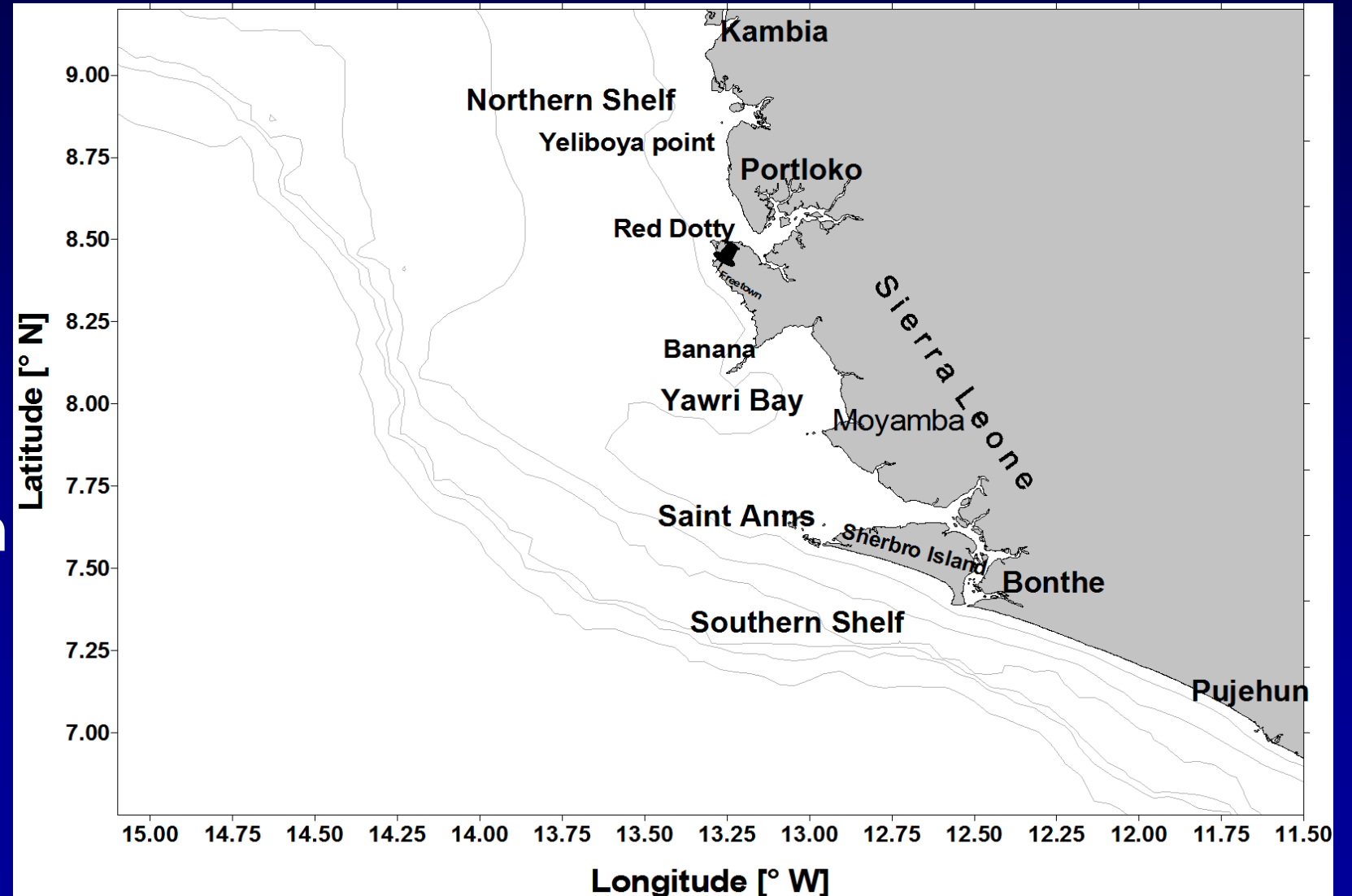
# FISHERIES SECTOR OVERVIEW

- Industrial sub-sector is highly mechanised and vessels are mostly foreign owned – main source of income for Govt.
- Artisanal Sector is the main source of protein
- For local people






# Continental Shelf of Sierra Leone Showing Major Fishing Grounds

- Major fishing Grounds are Within rivers and bays and Offshore in the North and southern Shelf








# FISH STOCK STATUS




Fish Stock	Status	
Pseudotolithus elongatus (Bobo Croaker)	Overexploited	 A side-view photograph of a Bobo Croaker (Pseudotolithus elongatus) against a yellow background. The fish has a silver, shimmering body with a prominent dorsal fin and a slightly open mouth.
<i>Pseudotolithus spp</i> (Other Croakers)	Fully Exploited	
<i>Galeiodes decadactylus</i> (African Threadfin)	Overexploited	 A side-view photograph of an African Threadfin (Galeiodes decadactylus) against a yellow background. The fish has a silver, shimmering body with a prominent dorsal fin and a slightly open mouth.
<i>Arius spp</i> (Sea Catfish)	Fully Exploited	 A side-view photograph of a Sea Catfish (Arius spp) against a white background. The fish has a brownish, mottled body with a prominent dorsal fin and a slightly open mouth.

# FISH STOCK STATUS

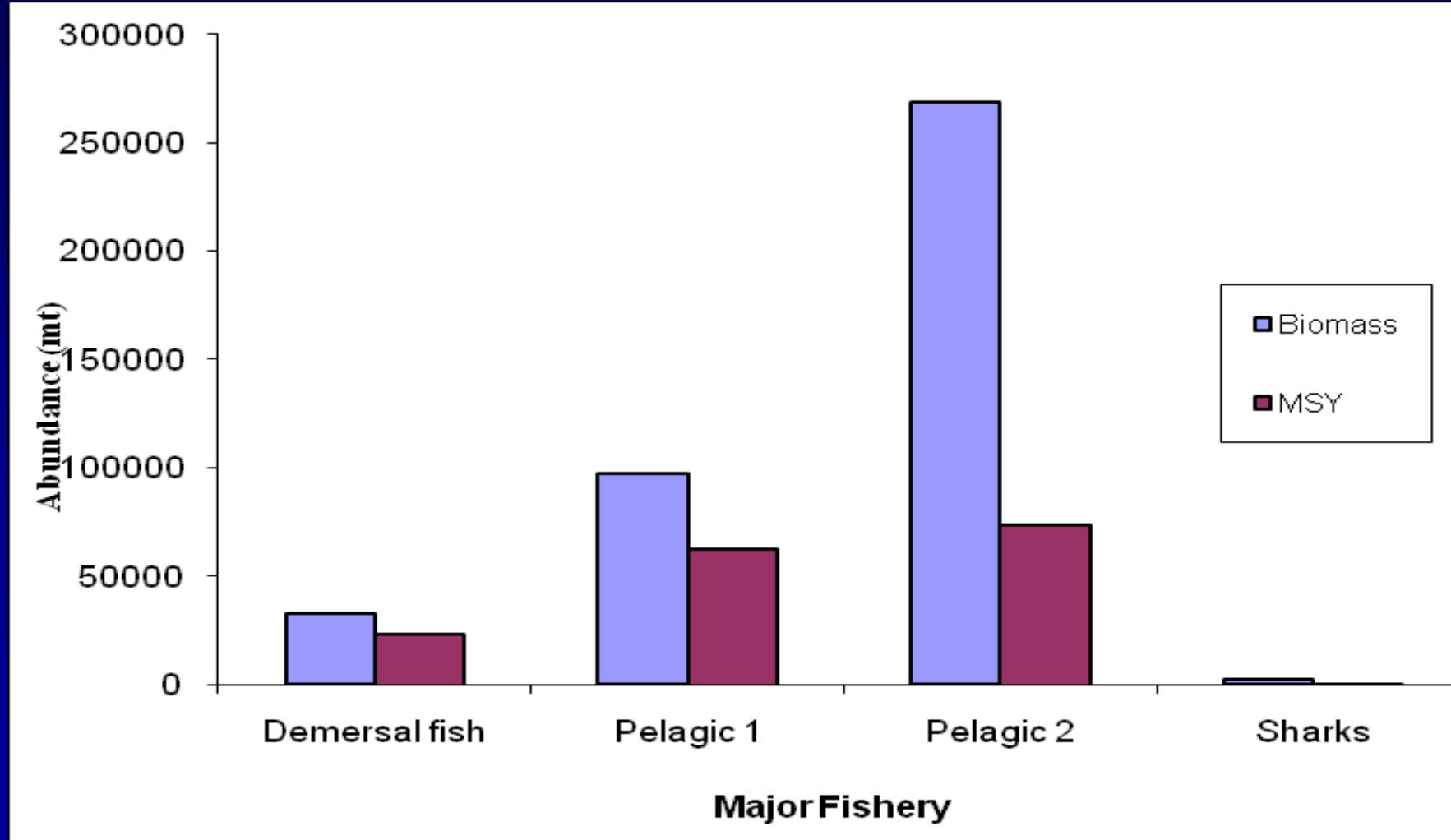
Fish Stock	Status	
Sparidae (Dentex and Sea Breams)	Overexploited	
<i>Sardinella aurita</i> (Round Herring)	Fully Exploited	
<i>Sardinella maderensis</i> (Flat Herring)	Overexploited	



# FISH STOCK STATUS

Fish Stock	Status	
<i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i> (Bonga Shad)	Overexploited	
<i>Cynoglossus spp</i> (Soles)	Overexploited	
<i>Pomadasys spp</i> (Grunts)	Overexploited	

# ...MSY is nearing biomass for demersal fish and Pelagic clupeids





# FISHERIES OBSERVER AND TRANSHIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

- Under the Government rules for COVID compliance, All Fisheries Observers require Covid-19 Test prior to deployment.
- This sometimes caused delays in observer deployment and affects the fishing time, thereby reducing the the license period.
- The process of transshipment of Fish catches in the Port of Sierra Leone has been slowed down as every personnel onboard reefer (carrier) vessels are required to quarantine for 14 days



# IUU FINANCING CONSTRAINED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Due to Covid-19 Pandemic which started in Sierra Leone in March 2019, Fisheries surveillance Patrols have been affected due to Reduced financing.
- Government provided only 25% of the annual budget allocated to the Ministry of Fisheries as 75% of the National budget was allocated to the National Corona Virus Action Center. This prevented the normal patrols usually done twice in a month

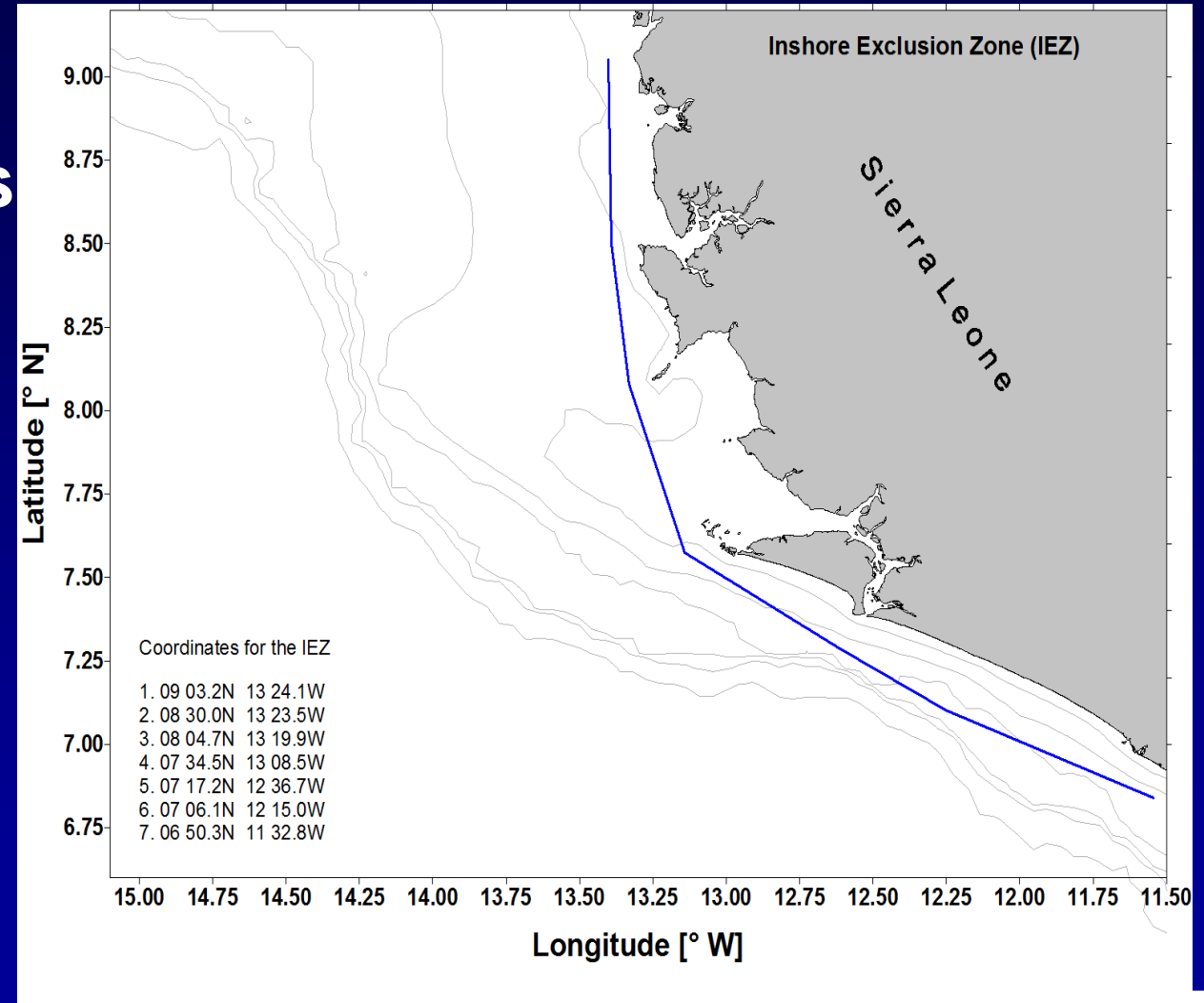




# INSHORE EXCLUSION ZONE COMPLIANCE AFFECTED

- The IEZ is currently the only MPA where fishing is Prohibited for Industrial Fishing vessels.

- However, trawlers still
- Compete with artisanal crafts for fishing grounds Within the IEZ and Enforcement has been Slowed due to COVID-19



# **FISHERIES COMPLIANCE UNDERMINED BY COVID-19**

- **JIANMEI 1&4 AND HONG CHANG 1 –Demersal Fishing Vessels were arrested for violation of IEZ Regulations which carries a fine a fine of US\$1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand each)**
- **Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, many of the Naval Personnel who are part of the Joint Maritime Committee had been deployed to various fishing wharfs to enforce Covid-19 hygiene regulations. The delay in mobilizing Naval Personnel to secure the arrested vessels provided room for the vessels to escape without paying the fine**



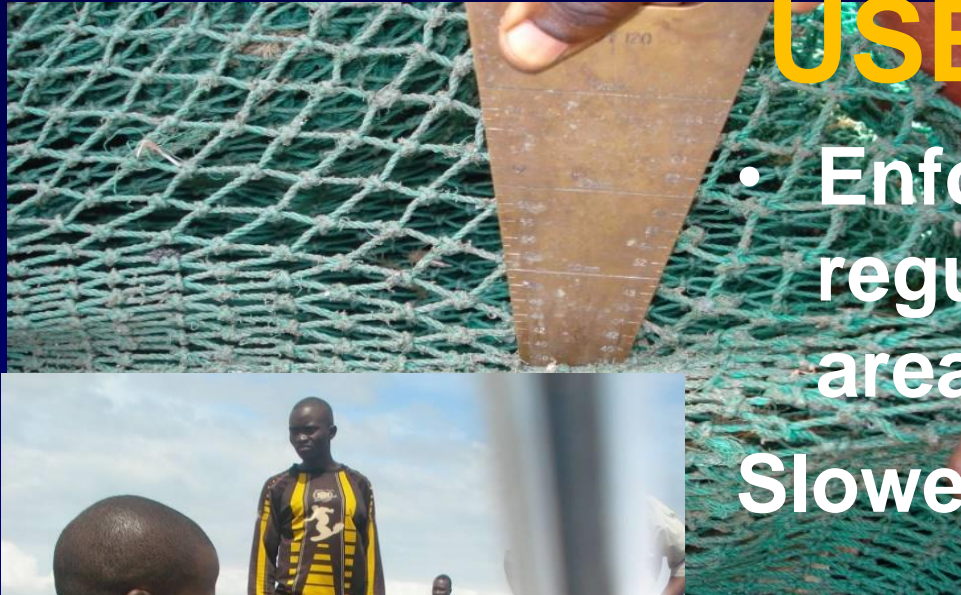
# FISHERIES COMPLIANCE UNDERMINED BY COVID PANDEMIC

- **Bunkering activities and monitoring has being affected due to Covid-19 restrictions which do not permit many personnel to be deployed to oversee the fueling of fishing vessels by oil and fuel tankers at sea**
- **The number of tankers to fuel vessels have reduced and some fishing vessels have left the fishery waters of Sierra Leone. This has affected revenue generation from the fisheries sector**





# CONSTRAINTS IN ENFORCEMENT OF USER RIGHTS



- Enforcement of Mesh size regulations in marine protected areas of artisanal fisheries has been Slowed down due to COVID



- Sensitization meetings for regulation of rules for introduction of territorial Use rights in artisanal fishing sector has also been affected as meetings for crowds of people over 100 is not allowed



# THE WAY FORWARD

- Sierra Leone urgently requires donor funding to support fisheries monitoring control and surveillance, since the national budget has been reallocated to contain the Covid-19 Pandemic
- This will support the activities for the fight against Illegal, Unregulated and unreported fisheries
- The effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on fisheries compliance in Sierra Leone will affect the efforts in meeting the benchmarks of the Sustainable Development Goal 14. Int. cooperation is required



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**





# Q&A session

Moderated by Ms. Jessica Howley  
Associate Legal Officer, DOALOS



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