IUU Vessel Listing

What Is the IUU Vessel List?

An RFMO’s IUU vessel list identifies vessels that have operated contrary to the rules of that RFMO and/or contrary to the rules of a coastal State within the RFMO’s area of competence, thereby undermining the effectiveness of the RFMO Convention and its conservation and management measures. IUU – illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing – is defined in the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. It defines Illegal as including violation of laws on the high seas or waters under national jurisdiction. Unreported includes not reporting or misreporting; Unregulated includes vessels without nationality or not flagged to an RFMO member where there is an RFMO in place, or fishing where there is no RFMO in place.

Benefits of IUU Vessel Lists

IUU fishing poses a considerable threat to the sustainability of global fisheries resources. It contributes to overexploitation, impedes the recovery of fish stocks and ecosystems, deprives coastal States of the benefits of the fisheries resources over which they have jurisdiction, and undermines the economic viability of legal fishing operations. RFMO IUU vessel lists are designed to identify those vessels that operate outside of the international legal framework and undermine conservation and management measures and then to sanction them by depriving access to ports and markets, thus removing their ability to profit from IUU activities.

How Do They Work?

IUU vessel lists are developed through an annual structured process.

1. A party (or parties) notifies the Secretariat of the alleged IUU fishing by a specific vessel and seeks assessment of the allegation by that RFMO membership.

2. Both the nominating State and the vessel’s flag State can provide information regarding the vessel’s activities and/or actions taken by the flag State against the vessel.

3. Other RFMO parties review the information and make a determination based on that information to either list or not list the vessel as being engaged in IUU fishing.

The IUU vessel list works in tandem with other monitoring, control and surveillance measures — for example, VMS and port State measures.

For a comprehensive review of the tuna RFMOs’ IUU vessel list measures and the suggested best practices, please refer to ISSF Technical Report 2020-02.
Assessment of IUU Vessel Listing by RFMO

Recommended Best Practices

The following table shows the level of progress in each tuna RFMO in implementing the recommended best practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFMO</th>
<th>Definitions &amp; Scope</th>
<th>Listing criteria</th>
<th>Listing procedures</th>
<th>Delisting procedures</th>
<th>Inter-sessional listing / delisting</th>
<th>Cross listing</th>
<th>Punitive measures</th>
<th>Info &amp; Publish</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSBT</td>
<td>Define fishing and fishing vessels</td>
<td>Apply to all vessel types</td>
<td>Harmonized criteria</td>
<td>Include common ownership and vessels without nationality</td>
<td>Info from 3rd parties</td>
<td>Prohibit info being submitted &lt; 7 days before meeting</td>
<td>Flag State cannot block decision</td>
<td>Info on case provided even if resolved</td>
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Color Coding Key

- Element(s) are consistent with the suggested best practices.
- Some element(s) are present, but amendments or a change in procedure is needed to be consistent with best practices.
- Element(s) are missing or inconsistent with best practices.

Continued on next page
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<td>IATTC</td>
<td><img src="green-check.svg" alt="Green Check" /> <img src="green-check.svg" alt="Green Check" /></td>
<td>Except fishing without or after reaching quota/effort limits</td>
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<td>Not include fishing or related activities having intentionally falsified or concealed identity, registration or markings</td>
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WCPFC

- Define fishing and fishing vessels
- Apply to all vessel types
- Harmonized criteria
- Include common ownership and vessels without nationality
- Prohibit info being submitted < 7 days before meeting
- Flag State cannot block decision
- Info on case provided even if resolved
- Define “adequate severity” & “effective actions”
- Require all sanctions & 2 or more conditions be met
- Only apply to vessels not previously IUU listed or considered
- Process exists
- Harmonized across RFMOs
- Include info on master, beneficial ownership, common ownership & date/location of new sightings

- Not include fishing without or after reaching quota/effort
- Not include fishing or related activities having intentionally falsified or concealed identity, registration or markings
- Includes only master’s name and nationality