

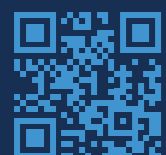
The EU IUU Fishing Coalition – The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Oceana, The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF – are working together to promote EU leadership in improving global fisheries transparency and governance to end illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The European Union (EU) has the biggest maritime territory, the biggest seafood market in the world and one of the biggest fishing fleets. The fish on our plates (70% of which is imported!) comes from all over our blue planet. Yet, the ocean is vast, fishing activities are difficult to monitor and supply chains and ownership structures are so complex that ensuring the legality and sustainability of our seafood is a challenging task. But with an estimated **one out of five** wild caught fish coming from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, it is imperative for the EU to fight these activities and ensure that no illegal fishing products end up on our plates, and that no European is involved in, or benefits from, IUU fishing activities.

IUU fishing happens out of greed or out of necessity. Unscrupulous operators seek to maximise profits by cutting costs to a minimum, disregarding the law or exploiting loopholes, while others revert to IUU fishing activities to make ends meet, often because the resource they use to live from has been depleted. This comes not only at a huge environmental cost but also at a human cost, as illegal fishing is often associated with severe human rights abuses including forced labour and slavery. **Fighting IUU fishing is about protecting people and nature, and supporting law-abiding operators and communities whose livelihoods depend on a healthy, abundant ocean.**

To achieve the EU's renewed ambition towards zero-tolerance for IUU fishing, it is essential that Member States fully implement their obligations under current EU fisheries laws and for the European Commission to hold them accountable in case of non-compliance. Efforts for improved implementation of existing laws will need to be supported by allocating sufficient resources to relevant Commission services and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and taking a strong stance against any roll-back of the current EU environmental standards. In parallel, the EU should continue to promote transparency, traceability and accountability in all international fora, including regional fisheries management organisation (RFMOs) and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).

The European Union has the right legal framework, technologies, and diplomatic and market levers to achieve its zero-tolerance approach to IUU fishing. But IUU fishing persists, spreads, and will worsen as climate change disrupts our ocean and its governance. The EU IUU Fishing Coalition therefore calls on EU decision makers to maintain the political will to keep IUU fishing as a priority throughout this mandate.



Find more information here:
www.iuuwatch.eu



ACHIEVING THE ZERO TOLERANCE AMBITION

What can the EU do to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing?

EU IUU FISHING COALITION



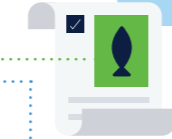
WHAT CAN THE EU DO TO FIGHT IUU FISHING?

Traceability from net to plate

EU citizens must have the guarantee that their seafood was caught legally and sustainably

Ensure that all imported seafood has a valid and accurate catch certificate

Promote digital tools to collect, verify and communicate key information



NO ENTRY

Watertight EU market

When in doubt, it's out

Enforce strict import controls to prevent seafood sourced from IUU fishing from entering the EU market

Promote harmonised import control rules globally

Fight at-sea slavery and human rights abuses in the seafood sector, including through an ambitious implementation of the Forced Labour Regulation

Ensure that there are no environmental or human rights abuses in seafood supply chains, including through an ambitious implementation of the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive

Responsible businesses

Do your due diligence

Propose ambitious anti-IUU fishing measures in regional and international fora such as better monitoring of vessel activity and high seas boarding and inspection schemes

Support other countries in their fight against IUU fishing and encourage reforms through dialogues and the existing carding system

Global leadership and collaboration

Global challenge = global response

Ratify and implement international agreements aimed at tackling IUU fishing, labour abuses and unsafe conditions onboard

Support collective efforts to fight IUU fishing like the Global Charter on Fisheries Transparency and the IUU Action Alliance

Fully use global fisheries transparency and information sharing tools such as the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels and the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and encourage all EU Member States to submit more information

Transparent and effective fisheries management

Control and monitor what happens at sea, and who profits from it

Require better consumer information on seafood products

Advocate for expanded traceability and catch documentation schemes internationally

Enforce identification and sanctioning of EU citizens or companies benefiting from illegal fishing activities

Enhance monitoring on EU-flagged vessels, even in international waters, by integrating electronic monitoring tools, human observers, and regular inspections

Track and monitor all EU fishing vessels and activities at sea

Improve transparency in the EU's Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) to ensure informed stakeholder participation, sustainable fishing, and proper use of financial support

SFPA

