Tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

Fishing is illegal if:

- no authorisation
- against conservation and management measures by RFMOs
- against national laws or international obligations.

Fishing is unreported if:

- not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.

Fishing is unregulated if:

- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.

Pre-identification

A ban of all products for which the catch certificate is validated after the Decision enters into force.

Listing by the EU

Fisheries products caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of these countries cannot be imported into the EU while the countries remain listed.

Delisting

Continued dialogue can lead to restore the import of legally caught fishery products.

The EU’s fisheries control system:


Cooperation between the EU and non-EU countries:

The EU works closely with non-EU countries to promote compliance with international rules.

Why?

IUU fishing affects legitimate operators who are hit by unfair competition and threatens food security and socio-economic conditions.

Key tool

EU catch certification system for all fisheries products - imports, exports and re-exports to and from the EU.

If a third country has problems fulfilling international rules:

Pre-identification

The European Commission opens a formal dialogue during minimum 6 months.

If the country improves its situation, the 6 month period can be prolonged and ultimately the pre-identification can be removed.

Identification

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Thanks to this cooperation, more than 30 third countries have improved their systems to fight IUU