



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 vessels 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.

RFMO	Definitions & Scope		Listing criteria			Listing procedures			Delisting procedures	Inter-sessional listing / delisting	Cross listing	Punitive measures	Info & Publish
	Define fishing and fishing vessels	Apply to all vessel types	Harmonized criteria	Include common ownership and vessels without nationality	Info from 3rd parties	Prohibit info being submitted < 7 days before meeting	Flag State cannot block decision	Info on case provided even if resolved	Define "adequate severity" and "effective actions"	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
CCSBT	✓	✓	✗	✗	Does not have 100% third party information in its measure	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Includes beneficial owners and date and locations of relevant sightings
IOTC	✓	✓	✓	Not include common ownership	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Includes beneficial owners

Continued on next page

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.
--	--	--	--	--	--

RFMO	Definitions & Scope		Listing criteria		Listing procedures			Delisting procedures		Inter- sessional listing / delisting	Cross listing	Punitive measures	Info & Publish	
	Define fishing and fishing vessels	Apply to all vessel types	Harmonized criteria	Include common owner- ship and vessels without national- ity	Info from 3rd par- ties	Prohibit info being submitted < 7 days before meeting	Flag State cannot block de- cision	Info on case pro- vided even if resolv- ed	Define “adequate severity” & “effective actions”	Require all san- ctions & 2 or more condi- tions 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
IATTC	✓	✓	Except fishing without or after reaching quota/ effort limits	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
			Not include fishing or related activities having intentionally falsified or concealed identity, registration or markings											
ICCAT	✓	✓	Not include fishing or related activities having intentionally falsified or concealed identity, registration or markings	Not include common owner- ship	✗	Has tightened reporting dead- lines and artic- ulated a prefer- ence for the in- formation to be presented before Annual Comm- ission Meeting	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓ Includes non-tuna RFMOs	✓	Includes information on beneficial owners

RFMO	Definitions & Scope		Listing criteria			Listing procedures			Delisting procedures		Inter- sessional listing / delisting	Cross listing	Punitive measures	Info & Publish
	Define fishing and fishing vessels	Apply to all vessel types	Harmonized criteria	Include common own- ship and vessels without national- ity	Info from 3rd parties	Prohibit info being submit- ted < 7 days before meet- ing	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
WCPFC			Not include fishing without or after reaching quota/effort											Includes only master's name and nationality
			Not include fishing or related activities having intentionally falsified or concealed identity, registration or markings											



iss-foundation.org

1440 G Street NW
Washington D.C. 20005
United States

Phone: + 1 703 226 8101
E-mail: info@iss-foundation.org

