

IUU Fishing policy adoption in Pakistan: An overview

Author: Ghazi Salahuddin^{*}, Neil Bellefontaine^{**}, Nazia Qamar^{***}

Abstract

Several initiatives have been taken to fight against IUU fishing globally. In a recent development FAO has developed a new agreement to prevent IUU fish catch reaching to the ports. In this context, Regional Fisheries Organizations have a key role in the fight against illegal fishing in their territorial waters. However, many east African and southwest Indian Ocean states do not pay attention to adopt IUU prevention measures. They should have no history of IUU activities and are subject to inspections during the arrival and amp; landing of fish. In this research, we provided three types of forms for the various measures are prescribed in the model scheme. The Application (form A) for Port Access for foreign fishing vessels should be submitted 72 hours before the arrival of the Vessel. Information on fishing trips, vessel characteristics, VMS, quantities of fish on board, and other documentation should be provided. The name of the vessel is verified to ensure that it does not appear on the list of IUU. For tuna and tuna-like species, the name of the vessel is checked against the positive list of the Indian Ocean Tuna.

1. Introduction

Despite several initiatives taken to fight against IUU no significant achievement made to address the issues properly and implement regulations. The efforts for ensuring traceable and transparent fishing mostly exist at all times governed by global directives e.g FAO Compliance Agreement (1993)¹, The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 relating to

^{*} Senior Manager, WWF/ World Maritime University. Email: gsalahuddin@wwf.org.pk

^{**} Professor, World Maritime University

^{***} National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Bahria University, dr.naziaedu@yahoo.com

¹ <https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/international-framework/fao-compliance-agreement/en/>

the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (in force since 2001). However, the problem of illegal fishing mainly started when many more corrupt people quested for short-term gains at the stake of sustainable fishing and environmental practices. To arrest the situation and its global impact, FAO initially presented the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU). Nevertheless, IPOA-IUU was developed as a voluntary instrument, within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The IPOA-IUU identifies responsibilities for all States (flag States, coastal States, port States), in applying agreed market measures. The plan called for bilateral, regional, and international cooperation² to deal with IUU fishing. This was especially the case for shared fisheries that required coordination in between countries.

Subsequently, FAO adopted a new agreement to prevent IUU fish from entering ports through an effective mechanism in the form of the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU fishing. It is firmly believed that if the parties, in their respective capacities as port States, apply the Agreement in true letter and spirit then things can be improved considerably by Sustainability Foundation.

2. Methodology

The methodology employed in this study is based on a comprehensive literature review, analysis of international agreements, and examination of regional initiatives. Case studies from Mozambique and Mauritius were included to provide practical insights into the implementation of anti-IUU measures. The data for trends and capacities in IUU fishing were obtained through a survey conducted by WWF-Pakistan in 2013, focusing on monitoring, surveillance, and control capabilities in Indian Ocean countries.

² Personnel communication with SFI team at SFI HQs(Hamburg,Germany) on14 September2015.

3. Regional initiatives

RFMOs, mostly referred to as Regional Fisheries Organizations, have a key role in the fight against IUU fishing. As regional or sub-regional organizations responsible for the sustainable management of fishery resources in a particular region of international waters, RFMOs maintain lists of IUU vessels thus enabling them to take enforcement action when required. Different countries have different obligations due to countries' dynamics or due to the RFMOs they are a party to, certain gaps are created that are then exploited by IUU operators. The main loophole is that the regional focus of port state measures allows IUU-listed vessels to move to other regions to avoid sanctions. RFMOs also have problems concerning their consensus approach.³ Figure 3 indicates the geographical location of respective RFMOs and regional fisheries bodies (RFBs).

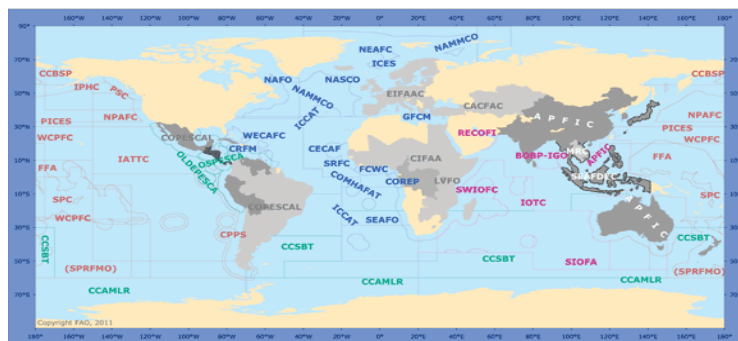


Figure 3: Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Bodies (Source: FAO)

In 1948 the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, now the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), was set up under the FAO Constitution. Since then, other regional bodies or arrangements have been established within and outside the framework of FAO. According to the FAO, currently, there are 44 regional fishery bodies worldwide, 20 of which are Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).⁴

³ J. H. (2011, February 10). The Piracy-Illegal Fishing Nexus in the Western Indian Ocean. Retrieved July 1, 2015, from http://www.academia.edu/6737362/The_Piracy_3Illegal_Fishing_Nexus_in_the_Western_Indian_Ocean Indian Ocean Research Programm

⁴ Personnel communication with Piero Mannini Senior Liaison Officer Fisheries and Aquaculture Department during field study trip to FAO (Rome) in April 2015

The functions of RFBs vary but the difference between a "regional fishery body" and a "regional fishery arrangement" is that the former has established a Secretariat that operates under a governing body of member States and the later does not have.⁵ Two main regional initiatives, such as SEAFDEC and the IOTC, have played pivotal roles in implementing IUU measures. Additionally, the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) of the FAO is analyzed for its significant impact on combating IUU fishing.

4. Fish-i-Africa

Most East African and southwest Indian Ocean states do not pay sufficient attention to growing maritime threats, including IUU. Their response mechanism to maritime safety and security is immature mainly due to weak governance, a lack of maritime domain awareness a lack and most importantly the political will to undertake this gigantic task. Although most of the nations are signatories to various International Maritime Organization conventions and protocols, however, many have failed to take concrete measures to ratify these truly⁶.

To address the issue of IUU in the Western Indian Ocean region of South-eastern Africa, a regional partnership has been made recently. The initiative has been developed through a partnership between the five coastal States of Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles, and the United Republic of Tanzania, the Stop Illegal Fishing working group of the NEPAD (The new partnership for Africa's development) Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), and the Pew Environment Group. These partners will work to build cooperation, information- sharing and analytical systems between the key Southeast African coastal states to prepare them for targeted enforcement actions against IUU fishing operators in the Western Indian Ocean. Further cooperation with regional partners such as the

⁵ FAO. (2013, October 17). FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture - What are RFBs? Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/16800>

⁶ J. H. (2011, February 10). The Piracy-Illegal Fishing Nexus in the Western Indian Ocean. Retrieved July 1, 2015, from http://www.academia.edu/6737362/The_PiracyIllegal_Fishing_Nexus_in_the_Western_Indian_Ocean Indian Ocean Research Programme

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is also committed. The partner countries have agreed to establish a platform for real-time data sharing of sensitive information about vessels, their movements, catch, and owners, intended to enable nations to take timely action against suspected illegal operators. ("Stop Illegal Fishing," n.d.).

5. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has been successful in recent years (IOTC). The IOTC has adopted several new resolutions initiated by the EU. For example, the adoption of a Port State Control and Inspection Scheme that reflects the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing. The Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) provides support to the Commission, its members, and cooperating non-contracting parties in several ways. The requirement for providing support may stem directly from obligations elaborated directly into specific Conservation and Management Measures or maybe more general, as the Commission or its Committees may find necessary ("The Commission," n.d.)

The IOTC adopted a positive record-keeping method for Authorized vessels in 2002. The IOTC also maintains a record of active vessels. This includes all vessels that the flag state has determined to have been active in the previous year. This record contains additional information (to the IOTC record of authorized vessels) from the port and licensing states on vessels that have used their port or requested a license. The record of active vessels can be useful in obtaining information regarding IUU vessel movements and their subsequent activities.

According to the framework of the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels, there is an explicit requirement for the IOTC Executive Secretary to maintain the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels (RAV) and to take necessary measures to ensure publicity of the Record through electronic means, including placing in the IOTC website (Mr Umair, personal communication). To meet the requirements of this responsibility, the Compliance Section of the Secretariat has the

responsibility for maintaining and publishing the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels.

Members and Cooperating non-contracting Parties that authorize their vessels under the requirements for creating the IOTC Record of Authorized Vessels are responsible for providing information on their vessels, which includes vessels 'particulars and periods of authorization, to the Executive Secretary. Following the first entry of a vessel into the Record, Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, are also required to communicate any changes in the particulars of their vessels to the Executive Secretary, for updating the Record. Following any update of the Record, Members or Cooperating non-contracting Parties are routinely advised to verify the record for their respective vessels. It is, therefore, incumbent on the flag State to keep the Executive Secretary informed of changes in the status of their authorized vessels⁷

The RAV faces many challenges. These are:

- Completeness of information – no vessel details are provided or are available.
- Vessels with expired authorizations may continue to operate.
- Vessels in operation with back-dated authorization periods.
- Vessels may be exporting controlled species, but not listed in the RAV.
- The existence of the major Taiwanese fleet, but Taiwan is not a member of the IOTC thus considered a major difficulty.

Various authorities may consult the RAV:

- Flag States to ensure the veracity of information for their fleet.
- Coastal States for licensing purposes
- Port States to investigate port calls by foreign vessels and.
- Market States to review access to the markets.

⁷ Personnel Communication M.K.DG(Retd) Marine Fisheries Department, Pakistan, January, 2015).

6. Salient Analysis of Port State Measures

The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing had its origins in the 2005 FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing that was endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at their 2005 session. The 2005 FAO Model Scheme was non-binding and intended for their enforcement of the implementation of the IPOA-IUU.

The PSM Agreement indicated several dynamics that include many irresponsible States operating open registries, offering “flags of non-compliance”. It also reflected the International intolerance of flag States over their failure or reluctance to employ active governance over vessels flying their flags under international law. Further, the agreement comprehended that port State measures in respect of fishing vessels should be expanded given their lack of existence in international law.

Table 4: Status of Ratification of the 2016 FAO Port States Agreement

No.	Country	No.	Country	No.	Country
1	Albania	26	Grenada	51	Panama
2	Angola	27	Guinea	52	Peru
3	Australia	28	Guyana	53	Philippines
4	Bahamas	29	Iceland	54	Republic of Korea
5	Bangladesh	30	Indonesia	55	Russian Federation
6	Barbados	31	Japan	56	Saint Kitts and Nevis
7	Benin	32	Kenya	57	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
8	Cabo Verde	33	Liberia	58	Sao Tome and Principe
9	Cambodia	34	Libya	59	Senegal
10	Canada	35	Madagascar	60	Seychelles
11	Chile	36	Maldives	61	Sierra Leone
12	Costa Rica	37	Mauritania	62	Somalia
13	Cuba	38	Mauritius	63	South Africa
14	Côte d'Ivoire	39	Mexico	64	Sri Lanka

15	Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands - Associate Member)	40	Montenegro	65	Sudan
16	Djibouti	41	Morocco	66	Thailand
17	Dominica	42	Mozambique	67	Timor-Leste
18	Ecuador	43	Myanmar	68	Togo
19	Eritrea	44	Namibia	69	Tonga
20	European Union – Member Organization	45	New Zealand	70	Trinidad and Tobago
21	Fiji	46	Nicaragua	71	Türkiye
22	France (in respect of overseas territories)	47	Nigeria	72	United Kingdom
23	Gabon	48	Norway	73	United States of America
24	Gambia	49	Oman	74	Uruguay
25	Ghana	50	Palau	75	Vanuatu
			76	Viet Nam	

Source: FAO, Rome Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (Last update: June-2016)

The 2016 Agreement embodied the deeply concerned, conscious, and well-recognizing material, with an explicit intent to avert, discourage, and eradicate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures. In its General Provisions, it defines its use of terms, its Objective and Application, the relationship with international law and other international instruments, Integration and coordination at the national level, Cooperation and exchange of information, etc. It also defines the desired conditions for a vessel's entry into the Port, the designation of ports, and advance requests for port entry.⁸

The role of Flag States and requirements of developing states are discussed and the process of dispute settlement including the peaceful settlement of disputes. The responsibilities of non-parties and

⁸ F. (2010). FAO/UNEP Expert Meeting On Impacts of Destructive Fishing Practices, Unsustainable Fishing, And Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on Marine Biodiversity And Habitats (Rep. No. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report. No. 932.). Retrieved June 30, 2015.

several other general issues are also discussed. The Agreement has five Annexes addressing requirements for Port inspection, measures, and guidelines for the training of inspectors.

The status of Ratifications and progress toward entry into force are shown in the following table 4.

The efforts for achieving sustainable development in fisheries are rooted to a greater or lesser extent in all international fisheries instruments concluded to date. While the 1982 UN Convention does not refer specifically to port State measures as a fisheries management tool in respect of fishing vessels.

Therefore, since 1992 these measures have been seen as a means to enhance fisheries conservation and management and combat IUU fishing. Commencing with the introduction of port State measures as a management tool in the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, they evolved and strengthened progressively to the point where an internationally binding agreement on port State measures was concluded in 2010.⁹

7. Trend and Capacity Analysis in IUU

To examine the trend and capacity in IUU fishing in some of the Indian Ocean countries WWF- Pakistan undertook a survey monkey in Dec-2013. The objective of the survey was to gain updated information and knowledge about intrinsic monitoring, surveillance, and control capabilities in the Indian Ocean and to identify resource needs, support, and action for dealing with unregulated fishing. The survey also focused on the current status of the management of fishing capacity and how countries in the region are addressing IUU fishing. The purpose of the survey was to identify and adequately address core components of transparent and traceable fishing in the Indian Ocean, and through the common lens while looking at survey findings participants could determine the commonalities (challenges and

⁹ Doulman, D. J., & Swan, J. (2012, January). A guide to the background and implementation of the 2009 FAO agreement on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture Circular, (1074), 1. Retrieved September 9, 2015, from Edb.

solutions) to counter IUU fishing. The survey was built on current and past studies undertaken by WWF on the following:

- Monitoring fishing vessel AIS data
- Mapping Trade Flows from Selected East African Fisheries
- Mapping study of initiatives and organizations in Africa involved in fisheries MCS work
- Transparency Gap Analysis for selected Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) countries and
- Trade Data Analysis to identify possible IUU trade flows

The survey analysis chalked out various areas for a concerted and coordinated approach to be adopted to fight against the problem of IUU. These included the capacities of coastal states to deter IUU at

a) the national level, and b) the regional level. The survey identified that if benefits are to be gained it has to come from strengthening regional cooperation, communication, and information, in particular to pool resources while aiming to deter IUU to coastal states that have limited MCS capacities. A detailed monkey survey is placed in Appendix C

8. Measures to curb IUU- Mozambique Case Study in Regional Perspectives

Mozambique became a full member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in 2012.¹⁰ Since then, has been actively taking part and contributing to the implementation of all the IOTC resolutions to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU fishing activities in the region such as:

- Resolution 05/03 – on the establishment of an IOTC program of inspections in port
- Resolution 06/03 – on the establishment of a vessel monitoring system and
- Resolution 10/11 – on Port State Measures.

¹⁰ <https://www.fao.org/3/bg894e/bg894e.pdf>

All foreign vessels are obliged to send an entry request that shows their entry point, date, time, catch onboard by species, and weight to <entryexitcatchmoz@gmail.com> 48 hours before entering the Mozambican EEZ. The same procedure is required when the vessel leaves the Mozambican EEZ. The information sent by the vessel is cross-checked with VMS data and other information sources if needed. Catch reports showing reported position, species, and weight are required every three days for cross-checking against logbooks and VMS of reporting positions. Licenses are only given in port after a satisfactory inspections. The vessel cannot fish until the inspection at the port is complete. The Ministry of Fisheries has designated Maputo, Beira and for pre-fishing inspections: all vessels must report to one of these ports. After inspection, inspection reports are scanned and sent to the IOTC Secretariat within three days, according to the IOTC Resolution 10/11 and relevant countries. Vessel briefing and inspection in port involves:

- The ship's Agent
- Immigration
- Customs
- Health
- Port Authority and the
- Ministry of Fisheries – National Directorate of Fisheries Law Enforcement

Pre-fishing inspection in Mozambican ports is mandatory for all fishing vessels (domestic and foreign) to check the technical characteristics of the vessel, log books, catch onboard, and fishing gear and for briefing the master on rules and procedures for fishing in Mozambique EEZ and issuing of the fishing license. It is the Mozambican view that this largely contributes to reducing IUU fishing. In 2012, 32 foreign tuna vessels were inspected in Mozambican ports - five European Union purse seiners in the Port of Nacala, six Seychellois purse seiners (Nacala), and 21 Japanese longliners in Maputo.

This program presents some challenges. Some vessels ship private armed security guards, and Mozambique is designing a strategy for the entry/exit of these vessels. Not all fishing vessels agree to enter in ports allegedly because of the cost, rather they request that inspectors are sent for pre-fishing inspections to a third country or sea. There is a need to share inspection reports through the Southern African Development Community region and to promote joint inspections. There are no inspectors in Nacala, and they must be sent from other regions when required. (Maria Eulalia.National Deputy Director Maputo, Personal communication, August 5, 2015).

The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) which currently has twelve Members: Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen, was moved from Harare to Maputo. The transfer was based on the commitment that Mozambique has shown to the sustainable use of resources in the Western Indian Ocean region. The Mozambique Minister of Fisheries, Mr Víctor Manuel Borges, and the Food and Agriculture Organization's Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mr Árni Mathiesen, have signed a Host Agreement of the SWIOFC Secretariat. At the ceremony, on behalf of the Government, Víctor Manuel Borges said that the signature of this Agreement is "an important step that shows Mozambique's commitment towards the regional cooperation in fisheries".¹¹

9. Mauritius -Case Study in Regional Perspectives

Mauritius has amply demonstrated to the international community its willingness to combat IUU fishing, and capacities to implement a relevant sectoral policy. There are powers for control over international fleets calling at Port Louis and over the fishing zone given with the adoption in 2010 of a National Plan of Action against IUU fishing. Under the EU/IOC MCS program, Mauritius has since

¹¹ Fish-i- Africa. (2014). Fish-i-Africa Media Summary-November 2014 (Rep.). Retrieved August 6, 2015, from <http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/24573/south-west-indian-ocean11fisheries-commission-moves-to-mozambique>

2007 positively contributed to combatting IUU fishing through regional surveillance and sea patrols including Port State Control.

The Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (RFSP) for the South Western Indian Ocean is considered to be the main tool of the regional strategy for fisheries monitoring of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), an organization comprising the Comoros, Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The tuna regional fisheries are vital to the economies and food security of IOC countries, but they span a wide area of ocean, making MCS a challenge.¹²

The fundamental principles underlying the RFSP are political will, regional commitment, and international support. First, in 2005, IOC Heads of State decided to strengthen efforts to fight against IUU fishing. In 2007, the five IOC fisheries ministers signed a regional agreement reflecting the common wish to fight IUU in their EEZs. The Agreement incorporated into a framework partnership with the European Union (Member Organization), under which the latter committed to providing financial and technical support for six years. For their part, the ministers made commitments to share existing facilities to monitor and track licensed fishing vessels in EEZs. They also agreed to board and inspect non-licensed fishing vessels in EEZs, by aerial and sea patrols, as appropriate. Four action plans were developed, encompassing joint patrols, data exchange, regional VMSs, and extension to East Africa.

Subsequently, results of the RFSP as of February 2014 include 39 MCS joint patrols, deployment of 350 inspectors at sea, and more than 420 inspections at sea, mainly of fishing vessels that never come to port and are suspected of transshipment. Ten suspects have been arrested and 40 infringements detected. A 2013 report revealed a high number of inspections of vessels from the Taiwan Province of China. These vessels are targeted because they are engaged in transshipment, not because of their origin; there is no discrimination among flag States. On account of these enforcement actions, authorized and

¹² FAQ: What is a Regional Fishery Management Organization? (2012, February 23). Retrieved June 12, 2015, from <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fac12sheets/2012/02/23/faq-what-is-a-regional-fishery-management12organization>

licensed fleets are now taking confidence in how IOC countries are managing their EEZs and enabling economic development. Some MCS activities also contribute to fight against piracy. These types of concrete results concerning data exchange, capacity building, trust, and efficiency were unimaginable before 2007.¹³

10. International and Regional Measures adopted by Mauritius

Measures to reduce and curb IUU in Mauritian waters are commendable. Some of the measures adopted by the Mauritian government are discussed in the ensuing paragraph. The information has been gathered from the scientific officer Port Louis (Hansdhwazsing, Bhudoye. Personal communication, July 2015).

The Mauritian Government adheres to the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and the Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of the United Nations Law of the Sea (Fish Stocks Agreement) of 1995.¹⁴ It observes the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and has ratified the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SOFA). Mauritius is also a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The Mauritian Fisheries and Marine Resources Act (FMRA) has been updated with provisions for international instruments that enable the implementation of resolutions of RFMOs.

There is a Port State Control Unit based in the Port with trained staff that provides a mechanism for monitoring fishing vessels consistent with the FAO Model. Officers have received training on boarding and inspections sponsored by the IOTC and the Smart Fish of the IOC. The VMS scheme is consistent with IOTC regulations and South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) recommendations.

¹³ FAO. (2015). Fourth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (Rep. No. R1078). Retrieved August 7, 2015, from [tps://www.google.se/url?url=http://www.fao.org/3/a](https://www.google.se/url?url=http://www.fao.org/3/a)

¹⁴ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/Background%20paper%20on%20UNFSA.pdf

11. Dealing with IUU Vessels

Access to IUU-listed vessels is denied as vessels involved in any fishing activity in violation of any international fishery conservation and management measures are prohibited from landing or transshipping catches in any Mauritian port. Provision is made in the FMRA banning the transshipment of fish in the maritime zones of Mauritius. Foreign fishing boats or vessels entering or leaving the EEZ have to be informed 24 hours in advance, and fishing vessels should give 72 hours' notice before entering the port. Fishery control officers have to enforce applicable international fishery conservation and management measures to boats and vessels, irrespective of whether they are licensed to fish in the Mauritius maritime zones.

Mauritius has procedures to ensure that fishing vessels calling at Port Louis are not involved in IUU activities and that resolutions of RFMOs are complied with. It undertakes to ensure that services, e.g. landing & departure clearances, for visiting vessels are efficient, convenient, and in line with the FAO Model Scheme. Mauritius monitors local and foreign fishing vessels licensed to operate in the Mauritius EEZ through a Vessel Monitoring System.

Penalties for contravention now range from \$1500 to \$1,000,000 depending on the offense that has been committed. Sections on "Photographic Evidence" and "Observation Devices" have been included in the FMRA to be in line with the IPOA- IUU for evidence and admissibility in court proceedings. All local and foreign licensed vessels must report their positions, speed, and direction every two hours to the FMC at the Albion Fisheries Research Centre. Vessels should be appropriately marked as per FAO Standard Specifications for marking and identification of fishing vessels. The FMRA also provides for enacting regulations specific to combat IUU fishing activities.

A Port State Control Unit has been set up with a trained staff of one Divisional Scientific Officer, one Scientific Officer, one Senior Technical Officer, one Technical Officer, one Clerical Officer, and five officers of the Fisheries Protection Service. They are assisted by officers of other relevant departments. The main activities are:

- Inspection of all fishing vessels and issue authorizations for unloading of fish both from foreign and local vessels;
- Authorization for vessels entry and leaving.
- Landing Permits for imported fish and fish products; and
- Authorizations of export.

A mechanism in line with the FAO Model Scheme on Port State measures has been set up for vessels so that they must provide advance notification of intention to enter port. They should have no history of IUU activities and are subject to inspections during the arrival & landing of fish.

Three types of forms for the various measures are prescribed in the model scheme. The Application (form A) for Port Access for foreign fishing vessels should be submitted 72 hours before the arrival of the Vessel. Information on fishing trips, vessel characteristics, VMS, quantities of fish on board, and other documentation should be provided. The name of the vessel is verified to ensure that it does not appear on the list of IUU. For tuna and tuna-like species, the name of the vessel is checked against the positive list of the Indian Ocean Tuna.

12. Conclusion:

In conclusion, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing demands a comprehensive, collaborative approach that spans international, regional, and national levels. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), exemplified by successes like Fish-i-Africa and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), play a pivotal role in managing fisheries, maintaining IUU vessel lists, and coordinating enforcement actions. The effectiveness of such regional initiatives underscores the importance of fostering cooperation and information-sharing among nations to address the transboundary nature of IUU fishing. The Port State Measures Agreement by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) represents a significant global effort to curb IUU fishing by establishing robust port State measures. While the increasing number of ratifications reflects a global commitment, challenges persist, including incomplete

information and vessels with expired authorizations. Overcoming these challenges requires sustained efforts and continued international cooperation to strengthen the implementation of the agreement and address evolving dynamics in the fight against IUU fishing. At the national level, case studies from Mozambique and Mauritius offer tangible examples of successful measures to curb IUU fishing. Mozambique's mandatory pre-fishing inspections, denial of access to IUU-listed vessels, and regional information-sharing exemplify a proactive approach. Similarly, Mauritius' Port State Control Unit, stringent entry notification requirements, and penalties for contravention showcase effective national-level strategies. These examples underscore the importance of local implementation to supplement broader international and regional efforts, creating a comprehensive framework to combat IUU fishing and protect global fisheries resources.

13. Recommendations

To effectively combat IUU fishing in Pakistan, it is imperative to focus on key recommendations. Firstly, the government should prioritize building knowledge and technical capacity through comprehensive training programs. Secondly, advocating for the ratification of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) and Northern Indian Ocean (NIO) region is crucial for enhanced regulatory control. Thirdly, promoting information sharing and learning from successful Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) practices of other RFMOs can significantly improve regional strategies. Additionally, efforts should be directed towards improving and scaling up existing initiatives, such as Fish-i-Africa, by identifying opportunities for additional funding and partnerships. Lastly, establishing short loan schemes for local fishermen to install MCS on their vessels can address immediate implementation challenges, with a focus on seeking international support for sustainable fisheries management.

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