



A Call for Action to Combat IUU Fishing in the Pacific

May 2023

In recent years, there has been a heartening series of international agreements and commitments to address IUU fishing. But implementation has often lagged. The crucial and urgent need now is to turn agreements and commitments into action.

As leaders in the seafood sector, we are working with our supply chain partners to identify and combat IUU fishing. Member coalitions are acting to identify and remove IUU from their operations ([SeaBOS](#), [ISSF](#), [GSSI](#), [Sea Pact](#)); to establish full traceability across their supply chains ([GDST](#), [GTA](#), [ISSF](#)); to achieve 100% observer coverage of all transshipments at sea ([ISSF](#), [GTA](#)); and to pilot and adopt electronic systems to ensure the legality of harvested fish ([Sea Pact](#), [SeaBOS](#), [ISSF](#), [GTA](#)).

But we need governments to do their part – to ensure that all vessels can be reliably identified and that effective controls are in place. We are not calling for new international agreements. We are calling on governments to ratify and implement the [Port State Measures Agreement](#) (PSMA), and fully implement the [Global Record](#), and the [Voluntary Transshipment Guidelines](#) agreed in FAO; and the [Roadmap for Combatting IUU Fishing](#) adopted by the Economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Now is the time for governments to lead and show their collective commitment to implementation of these instruments, enabling industry members to be more effective in their own efforts. Specifically:

WE ASK APEC ECONOMIES TO COMMIT TO ROBUST, COORDINATED AND CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF PSMA. SPECIFICALLY, EACH ECONOMY SHOULD:

1. Share information through established global and regional platforms:
 - a. Providing information on all qualifying vessels to the **Global Record** - including, at a minimum, Registration and Authorizations, Ownership, Identification, and Activity Overview
 - b. Register all designated ports through the PSMA **Designated Ports** and Contact Points portal
 - c. Move quickly to use the FAO **Global Information Exchange System** (GIES), adopted at the May 2023 meeting of the Parties to the PSMA, to exchange information.

2. Ensure that the PSMs and other measures applied to prevent their flag vessels from engaging in or supporting IUU fishing are at least as effective as PSMs applied to foreign vessels.
3. In each Pacific RFMO, work with other members to ensure that PSM Conservation Measures meet the operating standards of the PSMA and are consistent (in terms of standards and application) across all Pacific RFMOs.
4. Implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment at sea and in port, requiring that every vessel involved in a transshipment is (1) listed on the Global Record, (2) is not listed on any IUU list, and (3) provides a complete VMS track for the interaction; and (4) that each transshipment is independently verified via the presence of an observer, electronic monitoring, or equivalent sensor technologies.
5. Invest in building the capacity that APEC and non-APEC Pacific economies need to effectively and consistently implement PSMA.

Fully implemented, these actions will enable ports around the Pacific to identify, inspect, and deny entry to vessels that are involved in IUU fishing. As countries join together to implement these measures, we stand ready to reinforce their actions and initiatives by working with our supply chain partners to identify and combat IUU fishing and accelerate the implementation of the FAO Global Record, FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment, and robust Port State Measures.

Together, we can make 2023 an inflection point in the fight against IUU fishing.