



Brussels Rural Development Policy Briefings
A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

**Briefing n°38: Fighting against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU):
Successes from for ACP countries**

Organised by: CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission (DGDEVCO/DGMARE), Concord

27th October 2014 – 8h45-13h00
ACP Secretariat, 451 Avenue Georges Henri, 1200 Brussels, room C
<http://brusselsbriefings.net/>

Glossary¹

Active fishing days

Time extrapolating factor used in the estimation of total fishing effort. It is boat/gear specific and defined as the number of days in a reference period (e.g. a calendar month) during which fishing activities are "normal". Usually this variable is defined in reverse manner that is by subtracting from the calendar days those days known for zero or negligible activity. Definition of active days is in itself a sample-based survey involving several sites and boat/gear types, but it is often specified at minor stratum level by means of empirical knowledge and/or information from the enumerators.

Allowable catch

The catch allowed to be taken from a stock, by a fishery during a specified time period. Often defined as the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), it is often allocated explicitly amongst those having a right of access to the stock. See: Quota.

Artisanal fisheries

Traditional fisheries involving fishing households (as opposed to commercial companies), using relatively small amount of capital and energy, relatively small fishing vessels (if any), making short fishing trips, close to shore, mainly for local consumption. In practice, definition varies between countries, e.g. from gleaning or a one-man canoe in poor developing countries, to more than 20 m trawlers, seiners, or long-liners in developed ones. Artisanal fisheries can be subsistence or commercial fisheries, providing for local consumption or export. Sometimes referred to as small-scale fisheries. See: Subsistence fishery.

Base port

The port from which fishing units operate, irrespective of where they are registered (homeport). The differentiation between base ports and homeports occurs when fishing units migrate from the locations indicated by the frame survey to other sites, usually on a seasonal basis.

Bio-economic model

An analytical tool to facilitate management decisions. Bio-economic models establish functional relationships between specific characteristics of the natural resource base, (e.g. a fishery resource), and the activities of man to make use of such resource. The formalization of such relationships require certain abstractions from reality, as well as assumptions about the biological processes and human behaviour. To the extent that these assumptions may be partially violated in a specific fishery under study, the results of models should be considered as theoretical and potentially biased. While the reliability of models increases with the validity of the assumptions, there are limits to formalizing and to interpreting the results of highly complex systems.

¹ Sources : Pew Charitable Trusts, FAO, EC
FAO Fisheries Glossary: <http://www.fao.org/fi/glossary/>

Biomass

1) The total weight of the living organisms concerned, whether in a system, a stock, or a fraction of a stock: e.g. plankton biomass in an area, biomass of spawners or of newly recruited fish. 2) Total weight of a resource, a stock, or a component of such stock. Examples: the biomass of all demersal fish on the Georges Bank; the biomass of the cod stock; the spawning biomass (i.e. the weight of mature females) (also standing stock).

Boat day

A measure of fishing effort; e.g. 10 vessels in a fishery, each fishing for 50 days, would have expended 500 boat-days of effort.

By-catch: Part of a catch of a fishing unit taken incidentally in addition to the target species towards which fishing effort is directed. Some or all of it may be returned to the sea as discards.

Canal passage

A recorded movement through a canal by a vessel on the combined IUU vessel list.

Catch

1) Any activity that results in killing any fish or bringing any live fish on board a vessel. 2) The component of fish encountering fishing gear which is retained by the gear.

Census

A fisheries census is a survey in which the value of each variable for the survey area is obtained from the values of the variable in all reporting units that are usually fishing households. The primary objective of fisheries censuses is to provide a detailed classification of the fisheries structure of the country. It provides estimates for each household, and therefore, aggregate data for the smallest administrative, political or statistical subdivisions of the country and for classifications of households by size or other subgroups of interest

Combined IUU vessel

A compilation of data on IUU vessels listed by RFMOs.

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO). Objective is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimal utilisation of the global Southern Bluefin Tuna.

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

The Committee is an inter-governmental forum (U.N. body) of member governments and other organizations where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations developed to address these issues.

Common Fisheries Policy

The fisheries policy of the European Union (EU). It sets quotas for which member states are allowed to catch what amounts of each type of fish.

Compliance Agreement

1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance With International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas.

Conservation and Management Measure

Conservation and Management Measure adopted by an RFMO. Some RFMOs also call them conservation measure (CM) or conservation and enforcement measure (CEM).

Contracting Party (CP)

A country that has signed, or otherwise agrees to abide by the terms of, an international agreement

Cooperating Non-Member (CNM)

Cooperating Non-Member – includes Cooperating Non-Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and Cooperating Fishing Entities.

Entry into force

The point at which an international agreement become binding.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

1) A zone under national jurisdiction (up to 200-nautical miles wide) declared in line with the provisions of 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, within which the coastal State has the right to explore and exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, the living and non-living resources. 2) The area adjacent to a coastal state which encompasses all waters between: (a) the seaward boundary of that state, (b) a line on which each point is 200 nautical miles (370.40 km) from the baseline from which the territorial sea of the coastal state is measured (except when other international boundaries need to be accommodated), and (c) the maritime boundaries agreed between that state and the neighbouring states.

FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures

The Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – endorsed by COFI in 2005.

Fish stocks

The living resources in the community or population from which catches are taken in a fishery. Use of the term fish stock usually implies that the particular population is more or less isolated from other stocks of the same species and hence self-sustaining. See: **Fishery resource**

Fisher

A person (male or female) participating in a fishery (in preference to the previously used term 'fisherman'). An individual who takes part in fishing conducted from a fishing vessel, platform (whether fixed or floating) or from the shore.

Fisheries support vessels

A vessel which support fishing activities, it includes fish carriers, bunker vessels, motherships and net boats.

Fishery

1) The sum (or range) of all fishing activities on a given resource (e.g. a hake fishery or shrimp fishery). It may also refer to the activities of a single type or style of fishing (e.g. beach seine fishery or trawl fishery). The fishery can be artisanal, or/and industrial, commercial, subsistence, and recreational, and can be annual or seasonal. 2) Activity of catching fish, from one or more stocks of fish, that can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and that is identified on the basis of geographic, scientific, technical, recreational, social or economic characteristics, and/or method of catch. See: Fishing.

Fishery-independent

Characteristic of information (e.g. stock abundance index) or an activity (e.g. research vessels survey) obtained or undertaken independently of the activity of the fishing sector. Intended to avoid the biases inherent to fishery-related data.

Fishery management

The integrated process of information gathering, analysis, planning, decision-making, allocation of resources and formulation and enforcement of fishery regulations by which the fishery management authority controls the present and future behaviour of interested parties in the fisheries, in order to ensure the continued productivity of the living resources.

Fishery resource: Any stock of aquatic living animals (except those specifically prohibited by law) which can be caught by fishing, and their habitat.

Fishing

Any activity, other than scientific research conducted by a scientific research vessel, that involves the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish; or any attempt to do so; or any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of fish and any operations at sea in support of it (Modified from US Department of Commerce, 1996).

Fishing industry Includes both recreational, subsistence and commercial fishing, and the harvesting, processing, and marketing sectors.

Fishing vessel

Any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type that is normally used for the exploitation of living aquatic resources or in support of such activity. This definition may include any vessel aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of any activity relating to fishing, including, but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation, or processing (e.g. mother ships).

Flag or flag State

The State where a vessel is registered and flagged./ State having registered a vessel under the national flag

Flag of convenience (FOC)

Also known as Flag of Non Compliance. Pertains to cases in which a vessel is registered in a State other than its country of beneficial ownership. This could be for reasons of cost or convenience and possibly, in the case of fishing vessels, for lower levels management and enforcement of domestic and international arrangements.

Fleet: The aggregation of units of any discrete type of fishing activity utilising a specific resource. Hence, for example, a fleet may be all the purse seine vessels in a specific sardine fishery, or all the fishers setting nets from the shore in a tropical multispecies fishery.

Foreign fishing vessel

Any fishing vessel other than a vessel of the coastal State.

Gear

Any tools used to catch fish, such as hook and line, trawls, gill nets, traps, spears, etc.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

An information system that stores and manipulates data which is referenced to locations on the earth's surface, such as digital maps and sample locations.

Geo-referenced data

Data which is connected to a specific location on the earth's surface.

High seas

Areas of ocean beyond national jurisdictions, up to 200 miles wide.

Highly migratory species

Marine species whose life cycle includes lengthy migrations, usually through the EEZs of two or more countries as well as the high seas. This term usually denotes tuna and tuna-like species, marlins and swordfish.

Home port

Refer to **base port** described above. Boat and gear activities are sampled from homeports or base ports, in contrast to catches and species composition, prices, etc. that are sampled at **landing sites**.

Illegal fishing

Fisheries conducted by national or foreign vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of a State but without the permission of that State (or in contravention of its laws and regulations). This also applies to fisheries flying the flag of States operating in contravention to the conservation and management measures adopted by an RFMO.

Incidental Catch

See: By-catch.

Index of abundance: A relative measure of the abundance of a stock; e.g. a time series of catch per unit of effort data.

Indicator

A variable, pointer, or index. Its fluctuation reveals the variations in key elements of a system. The position and trend of the indicator in relation to reference points or values indicate the present state and dynamics of the system. Indicators provide a bridge between objectives and action (FAO, 1999. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Development and Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development of Marine Capture Fisheries, in press).

Information system

A structured set of processes, people and equipment for converting data into information.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) responsible for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas including the Mediterranean.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) responsible for the conservation and management of fisheries for tuna and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

International Radio Call Sign

Issued by the flag State to a vessel.

Illegal fishing, unreported fishing and unregulated fishing-IUU-fishing

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a group of fisheries activities that respect neither national boundaries nor international attempts to manage high seas resources. These usually thrive where governance is weak and where countries fail to meet their international responsibilities and put unsustainable pressure on fish stocks, marine wildlife and habitats, subverts labour standards and markets.

International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU)

Voluntary instrument developed by the FAO within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) that manages tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

A specialized agency of the United Nations. Its objective is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping; its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping. It has a limited role with respect to fishing vessels.

Landing price

Price for a product at the landing point, not taking account of any transportation or handling costs. Equivalent to the "farm gate" price for aquaculture.

Landing site

Location at which boats land their catch. A landing site may be the same as the homeport or base port but it can also be different. Boat and gear activities are sampled from homeports or base ports, in contrast to catches and species composition, prices, etc. that are sampled at landing sites.

Landings

Weight of the catch landed at a wharf or beach.

Logbook

A record of the fishing activity registered systematically by the fisher, including catch and its species composition, the corresponding effort, and location. In many fisheries completion of logbooks is a compulsory requirement of a fishing licence.

Longliner

A fishing vessel that uses a single line (sometimes up to 30 kilometers long) with baited branch lines at regular intervals to catch fish – often tuna and other pelagic fish.

Lloyd's MIU

An online provider of global maritime information, with detailed and up-to-date data on the movement and ownership of some 120,000 vessels. Also known as Sea-searcher.

Lloyd's Register – Fairplay (LRF)

LRF manages the IMO ship identification numbering scheme on behalf of the IMO and maintains details of ships on order and under construction, the current trading fleet and ships that are in casualty, lost or broken up. It also provides online information services for the shipping industry, including Sea-web.

Management authority

The legal entity which has been assigned by a State or States with a mandate to perform certain specified management functions in relation to a fishery, or an area (e.g. a coastal zone). Generally used to refer to a state authority, the term may also refer to an international management organisation.

Management objective

A formally established, more or less quantitative target that is actively sought and provides a direction for management action. For example, achieving a 40% reduction in fleet capacity, or ensuring a competitive income for individual fishers.

Merchant vessel

A commercial vessel used to transport goods.

Monitoring

The collection of information for the purpose of assessment of the progress and success of a land use (or fishery management) plan. Monitoring is used for the purpose of enforcement and of revising the original plan, or to gather information for future plans.

Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

Defined by the FAO as activities undertaken by the fishery enforcement system to ensure compliance with fishery regulations.

Movement

The recorded movement of a vessel on the combined IUU vessel list in visiting a port or passing through a canal or strait.

Movement file

A database of the movement of all vessels on the combined IUU vessel list over the period of the study.

Nationality of catch

The flag of the vessel performing the essential part of the operation catching the fish, should be considered the paramount indication of the nationality assigned to the catch data and this indication overridden only when one of the following arrangements between a foreign flag vessel and the host country exists: (a) the vessel is chartered by the host country to augment its fishing fleet; or (b) the vessel fishes for the country by joint venture contract or similar agreements (as opposed to the *ad hoc* practice of a vessel selling catches to a foreign vessel or landing catches at a foreign port) and the operation of such vessel is an integral part of the economy of the host country. When governments negotiate joint ventures or other contracts in which vessels of one country land their catches at ports of another country or unload their catches to vessels of another country and the one of the above-mentioned criteria is applicable, the assignment of nationality to such catches and landings data should be specified in the agreement.

Nominal catch

The sum of the catches that are landed (expressed as live weight equivalent). Nominal catches do not include unreported discards and may differ considerably from the actual catch.

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) that manages demersal fisheries (species that live on the seabed) in the Northeast Atlantic.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) that manages fish stocks that are outside Canada's 200-mile limit, straddle the line or are of mainly foreign interest.

Observer

Any certified person serving in the capacity of an observer employed by the Management Authority, either directly or under contract. Usually embarked on large fishing vessels (principally but not exclusively foreign vessels), observers are responsible for monitoring fishing operations (e.g. areas fished, fishing effort deployed, gear characteristics, catches and species caught, discards, etc.). They may or may not be part of the enforcement system.

Observer data

Fisheries information collected on-board fishing vessels by independent observers.

Performance

Accomplishment; fulfilment; functioning, usually with regard to effectiveness. Indicators of performance will be interpreted in relation to reference points and objectives.

Port State

A State with maritime boundaries and ports that allow access to foreign vessels.

Port State Measures

Requirements established or interventions undertaken by port States which a foreign fishing vessel must comply with. Among these are measures against IUU-listed vessels such as denial of entry into port, denial of transshipment and/or landing, and denial of provision of port services which we have focused on in this study.

Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; being negotiated during 2008 and 2009 under the auspices of the FAO and was adopted by the FAO Conference in November 2009.

Port visit

A visit by a vessel to a port, including a foreign fishing vessel or a merchant vessel flagged to another country.

Precautionary approach

1) Set of measures taken to implement the precautionary principle. 2) A set of agreed cost-effective measures and actions, including future courses of action, which ensures prudent foresight, reduces or avoids risk to the resource, the environment, and the people, to the extent possible, taking explicitly into account existing uncertainties and the potential consequences of being wrong.

Purse seiner

A fishing vessel that uses a purse seine net (a large net that is set around a school of fish, then drawn together at the surface and underneath the fish to trap them). Frequently used to catch high-volume fish, such as skipjack tuna.

Quota

A share of the **Total Allowable Catch (TAC)** allocated to an operating unit such as a country, a vessel, a company or an individual fisherman (individual quota) depending on the system of allocation. Quotas may or may not be transferable, inheritable, and tradable. While generally used to allocate total allowable catch, quotas could be used also to allocate fishing effort or biomass.

Recreational fishing

Any fishing for which the primary motive is leisure rather than profit, the provision of food or the conduct of scientific research and which may not involve the sale, barter, or trade of part or all of the catch.

Reefer

A vessel used to transport perishable commodities that require temperature control, such as fruit, meat, fish, vegetables and dairy products.

Reference point

1) An estimated value derived from an agreed scientific procedure and/or model, which corresponds to a specific state of the resource and of the fishery, and that can be used as a guide for fisheries management. Reference points may be general (applicable to many stocks) or stock-specific. 2) A reference point indicates a particular state of a fishery indicator corresponding to a situation considered as desirable (**Target Reference Point**) or undesirable and requiring immediate action (**Limit Reference Point**).

Refrigerated cargo vessel

Similar to a reefer but may also include refrigerated container vessels designed to carry containerized loads in which each container is a refrigerated unit.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO)

Inter-governmental organisation that co-ordinates efforts to manage fisheries in a particular region.

Resources

Biological resources include genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use of value for humanity. Fishery resources are those resources of value to fisheries.

Responsible fisheries

The concept "encompasses the sustainable utilisation of fishery resources in harmony with the environment; the use of capture and aquaculture practices which are not harmful to ecosystems, resources and their quality; the incorporation of added value to such products through transformation processes meeting the required sanitary standards; the conduct of commercial practices so as to provide consumers access to good quality products" (International Conference on Responsible Fishing, Cancun, Mexico, 1992).

Sea-web

Online database that provides comprehensive global port visit data, including real-time reports from 165 countries, as well as coverage of ship and ownership details. Part of Lloyd's Register – Fairplay.

shipspotting.com

Online database that contains the world's largest ship photo library, with some 700,000 images submitted by members. Images of vessels include the date and place the image was taken, as well as who submitted the image.

South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) that oversees the management of fisheries in the Southeast Atlantic.

Stakeholders

A large group of individuals and groups of individuals (including governmental and non-governmental institutions, traditional communities, universities, research institutions, development agencies and banks, donors, etc.) with an interest or claim (whether stated or implied) which has the potential of being impacted by or having an impact on a given project and its objectives. Stakeholder groups that have a direct or indirect stake can be at the household, community, local, regional, national, or international levels.

State of the stock

An appreciation of the situation of a stock, usually expressed as: protected, under-exploited, intensively exploited, fully exploited, over-exploited, depleted, extinct or commercially extinct.

Stock

1) In theory, a *unit stock* comprises all the individuals of fish in an area, which are part of the same reproductive process. It is self-contained, with no emigration or immigration of individuals from or to the stock. On practical grounds, however, a fraction of the *unit stock* is considered a "stock" for management purposes (or *management unit*), as long as the results of the assessments and management remain close enough to what they would be on the *unit stock*. 2) A group of individuals in a species occupying a well-defined spatial range independent of other stocks of the same species. Random dispersal and directed migrations due to seasonal or reproductive activity can occur. Such a group can be regarded as an entity for management or assessment purposes. Some species form a single stock (e.g. southern bluefin tuna) while others are composed of several stocks (e.g. albacore tuna in the Pacific Ocean comprises separate Northern and Southern stocks). The impact of fishing on a species cannot be determined without knowledge of this stock structure

Stock assessment

The process of collecting and analyzing biological and statistical information to determine the changes in the abundance of fishery stocks in response to fishing, and, to the extent possible, to predict future trends of stock abundance. Stock assessments are based on resource surveys; knowledge of the habitat requirements, life history, and behaviour of the species; the use of environmental indices to determine impacts on stocks; and catch statistics. Stock assessments are used as a basis to assess and specify the present and probable future condition of a fishery.

Straddling stock

Stock which occurs both within the EEZ and in an area beyond and adjacent to EEZ (Article 63(2) of UNCLOS).

Strait passage

A recorded movement through a strait by a vessel on the combined IUU vessel list.

Subsistence fishery

A fishery where the fish caught are consumed directly by the families of the fishers rather than being bought by middle-(wo)men and sold at the next larger market.

Sustainable use

The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Sustainable yield

The number or weight of fish in a stock that can be taken by fishing while maintaining the stock's biomass at a steady level from year to year, assuming that environmental conditions remain the same. Sustainable yields can take all sorts of values from very low in underexploited or overexploited fisheries to very high in properly exploited ones. Difficult to achieve in practice due to environmental fluctuations.

Target Reference Point (TRP)

Corresponds to a state of a fishery and/or a resource which is considered desirable. Management action, whether during a fishery development or a stock rebuilding process should aim at bringing and maintaining the fishery system at this level. In most cases a TRP will be expressed in a desired level of output for the fishery (e.g. in terms of catch) or of fishing effort or capacity and will be reflected as an explicit management objective for the fishery. See: **Limit Reference Point, Reference point.**

Target species

Those species that are primarily sought by the fishermen in a particular fishery. The subject of directed fishing effort in a fishery. There may be primary as well as secondary target species.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Total catch allowed to be taken from a resource in a specified period (usually a year), as defined in the management plan. The TAC may be allocated to the stakeholders in the form of quotas as specific quantities or proportions.

Transshipment

The transfer from one vessel to another of fish products, whether at sea or in port. A transshipment point is where fishery products are brought together for onward shipment.

Trash fish

Fish with little or no commercial value and not sorted by species before landing. Usually part of the trawlers' by-catch. It can be used for aquaculture, fishmeal production and in many developing countries, for human consumption.

Trawler

A fishing vessel that uses a trawl net (a large net, held open by trawl doors, that skims across the seabed herding fish into the net as it passes). This method typically targets demersal fish species but can also be used to target fish in the water column, where it is known as midwater trawling.

U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment and the management of marine natural resources. Adopted in 1982, came into effect in 1994.

U.N. Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA)

The Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Vessel journey

Information on the movement of a vessel on the combined IUU vessel list.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

VMS provides monitoring agencies with accurate locations of fishing vessels that are participating in the VMS. It tells the monitoring agency see new guidelines.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) that oversees management of fisheries for tuna and similar species in the Western Pacific.

Yield

Catch in weight. Catch and yield are often used interchangeably.

Acronyms

AAFC	Atlantic Africa Fisheries Conference
ACFR	Advisory Commission on Fisheries Research
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
APFIC	Asia Pacific Fishery Commission
AU	African Union
CARPAS	Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for Southwest Atlantic
CCAMLR	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Convention on the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	Catch documentation scheme
CECAF	Fishery Commission for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CEPTFA	Council of the Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Agreement
CIFA	Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa
COFI	FAO Committee on Fisheries
COMHAFAT	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Co-operation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean
COREP	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea
CPPS	South Pacific Permanent Commission
DWFS	Distant Water Fishing Fleets
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FCWC	Fishery Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea
FFA	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
FFV	Foreign fishing vessel
FOC	Flags of convenience
FONC	Flag of Non Compliance
FPZ	Fisheries Protected Zone
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GRT	Gross Registered Tonnage
GSP	Generalised System of Preference
GT	Gross Tonnage
HSTF	High Seas Task Force
HSVAR	High Seas Vessel Authorization Record
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICSEAF	International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
ILO	International Labor Organization of the United Nations
IMMARBE	International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
IMO	International Maritime Organization of the United Nations
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
IPOA	International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing
ISEAL	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRAG	Marine Resources Assessment Group
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
n.m.	Nautical Miles
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NPOA–IUU	National Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
OPRT	Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries
PONC	Ports of Non Compliance
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
RMB	Regional Management Bodies
RoO	Rules of Origin
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAG	Stock Assessment Group (CCSBT)
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SCRS	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (ICCAT)
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAFO	Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SIOFA	South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SOLAS	The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SRFC	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission
SWIOFC	Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission
TAC	Total Allowable Catches
TDS	Trade Documentation Scheme
TIS	Trade Information Scheme (CCSBT)
TRAFFIC	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNFSA	United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WIOTO	Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund