

IUU fishing: Combatting and eradicating unlawfull fishing practices

Context

- IUU fishing focus of SDG Target 14.4 – proven adverse impacts of IUU fishing on sustainability pillars
- International instruments provide adequate framework for fight against IUU fishing (e.g. UNCLOS, Compliance Agreement)
- International law recently completed by the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (into force since 2016) – ratified so far by 27 ACP States, other in the process of joining
- According to ITLOS (case # 21, 2015), flag States may be held liable for IUU fishing activities if they do not take appropriate measures to meet their « due diligence » obligations to ensure compliance by own vessels
- High burden on coastal States for monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in the area under jurisdiction

Main challenges for ACP States

- Difficulties for some State to discharge their duties as evidenced by the carding process implemented under the EU IUU Regulation
- Main causes : inadequate legal frameworks and partial fulfilment of international obligations – also issues with fleet registration systems
- Preventing IUU fishing by domestic artisanal fleets
- New challenge ahead : implementation of FAO Port State Measure Agreement
- Engaging in international cooperation with support of (sub)regional fisheries organisation for mutualisation of control resources (patrol vessels, inspectors, observers) and exchange of information, including intelligence
- Implementation of traceability systems to detect illegally caught fisheries products along the value chain.

Number of countries subject to the different stages of the EU carding process

	Pre-identification	Pre-identification revoked	Identification	Delisting	Still identified
Number of third countries concerned	24	10	6	3	3
<i>Of which ACP States</i>	16	6	4	2	2

Source: adapted from DG MARE web site