

Tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

Fishing is illegal if:

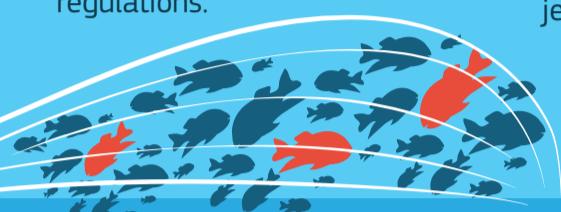


- no authorisation
- against conservation and management measures by RFMOs
- against national laws or international obligations.



Fishing is unreported if:

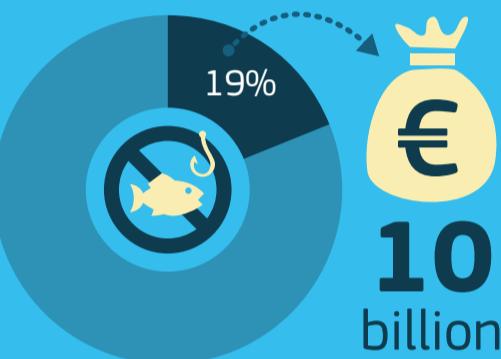
not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.



Fishing is unregulated if:

- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.

IUU fishing practices:



- €10 billion every year worldwide
- 19% of the worldwide reported value of catches
- serious threat to sustainable fishing
- damages the marine environment
- affects socio-economic conditions

The EU's fisheries control system:



1. The "IUU Regulation": establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - Council Regulation (EC) N°1005/2008

2. The Regulation concerning authorisation for fishing activities - Council Regulation (EC) N°1006/2008
3. The Regulation establishing a Community Control System for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy - Council Regulation (EC) N° 1224/2009

Cooperation between the EU and non-EU countries:



The EU works closely with non-EU countries to promote compliance with international rules.



Why?

IUU fishing affects legitimate operators who are hit by unfair competition and threatens food security and socio-economic conditions.



Key tool

EU catch certification system for all fisheries products – imports, exports and re-exports to and from the EU.



Thanks to this cooperation, more than 30 third countries have improved their systems to fight IUU

If a third country has problems fulfilling international rules:

Pre-identification



The European Commission opens a formal dialogue during minimum 6 months.

If the country improves its situation, the 6 month period can be prolonged and ultimately the pre-identification can be removed.

Delisting



Continued dialogue can lead to restore the import of legally caught fishery products.

Identification



If the country does not address the problems, it will be identified by the European Commission as non-cooperating.

Listing by the EU



Fisheries products caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of these countries cannot be imported into the EU while the countries remain listed.

The Decision triggers further measures, including a fishing ban for EU vessels in these countries' waters.

