The Role of Policy and **Industry** in the fight against IUU Fishing

'Advancing seafood traceability and transparency in the EU'

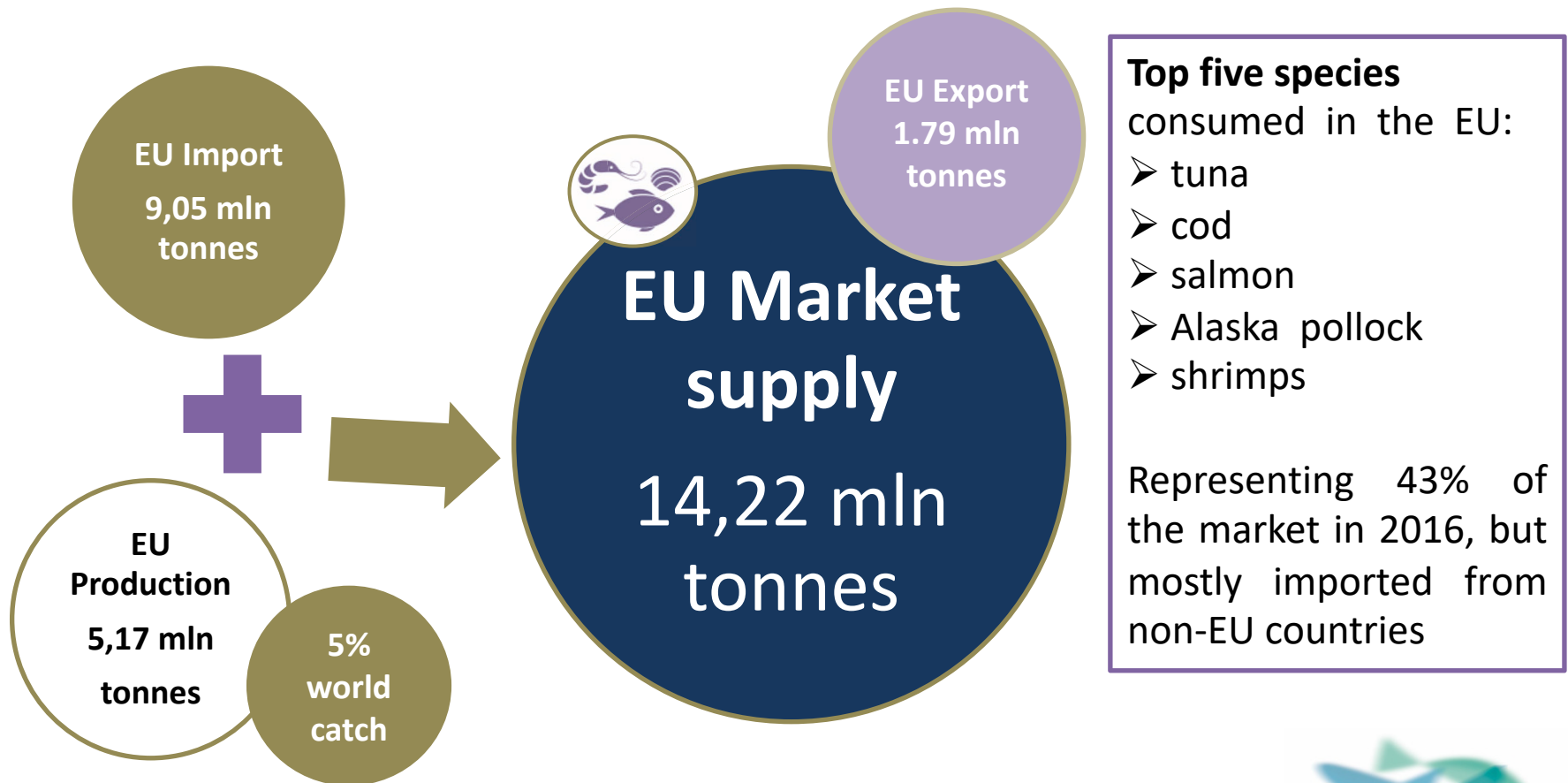Ivan Lopez

Europêche

April 21st, 2020

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Setting the scene

- The EU is the world's largest market for fisheries and aquaculture products, absorbing 24 % of total global imports in 2016, and is **dependent on imports for over 60 %** of its consumption of such products

EU Import

9,05 mln tonnes

EU Export 1.79 mln tonnes

EU Production

5,17 mln tonnes

5% world catch

EU Market supply

14,22 mln tonnes

Top five species consumed in the EU:
- tuna
- cod
- salmon
- Alaska pollock
- shrimps

Representing 43% of the market in 2016, but mostly imported from non-EU countries

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Setting the scene

- While 79% of all EU catches are taken in EU waters, 13% come from the High Seas, and 8% are caught in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of partner countries' waters.

- Access rights to the EEZ: licenses granted to 245 vessels in 2014

EU fishing fleet capacity by length category (2017)

	Length	Number of vessels	Gross tonnage	Engine power in kW	Average age
	< 12	70 709	176 329	2 516 081	24.7
	12-24	9 673	386 499	1 770 575	22.5
	> 24	2 735	1 013 600	1 979 313	17.1
	TOTAL	83 117	1 576 429	6 265 969	21.4

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IUU Consequences

Environmental

- Damages to marine biodiversity, protected species and habitats
- Undermines efforts for better governance and sustainable fisheries
- Jeopardizes efforts to rebuild fish stocks
- Distorts the scientific assessment of the stocks

Economic

- Loss of market shares – unfair competition
- Decrease of market prices due to the sale of cheap IUU products
- Financial loss for public authorities via licenses and taxes
- Harms the image of the fishing industry – need for private certification

Social

- Job losses for legal fishermen facing competition from IUU operators
- IUU inextricably associated with very poor level of social standards
- Developing countries particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing, with limited capacity for control and surveillance of their waters
- Threatens the livelihoods of small-scale fishers: food security and poverty alleviation

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Illegal fishing (IUU)

IUU fishing identified as a significant issue for seafood markets worldwide. Estimates from 2009 showed:

- 10-20 million tonnes of fish caught illegally every year (≈**15% world's catch**)

- Value of **US$10-23 billion**

- In the EU represented 9% (500,000 tons) and 10% of the value of the imports (€1.1 billion) (2008 estimates)

  ➢ No new estimates available globally nor for the EU
  ➢ Time to update EU & global estimates to assess the performance of the IUU policy?

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How to tackle IUU fishing

EU response to IUU fishing

IUU Regulation 1005/2008

- ➢ Entered into force in January 2010
- ➢ Complemented by:
  - ✓ "Control Regulation" (2009) (under revision)
  - ✓ "Regulation on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets" (2017)

European Commission

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.

NOT OK

Fishing is unreported if:
not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.

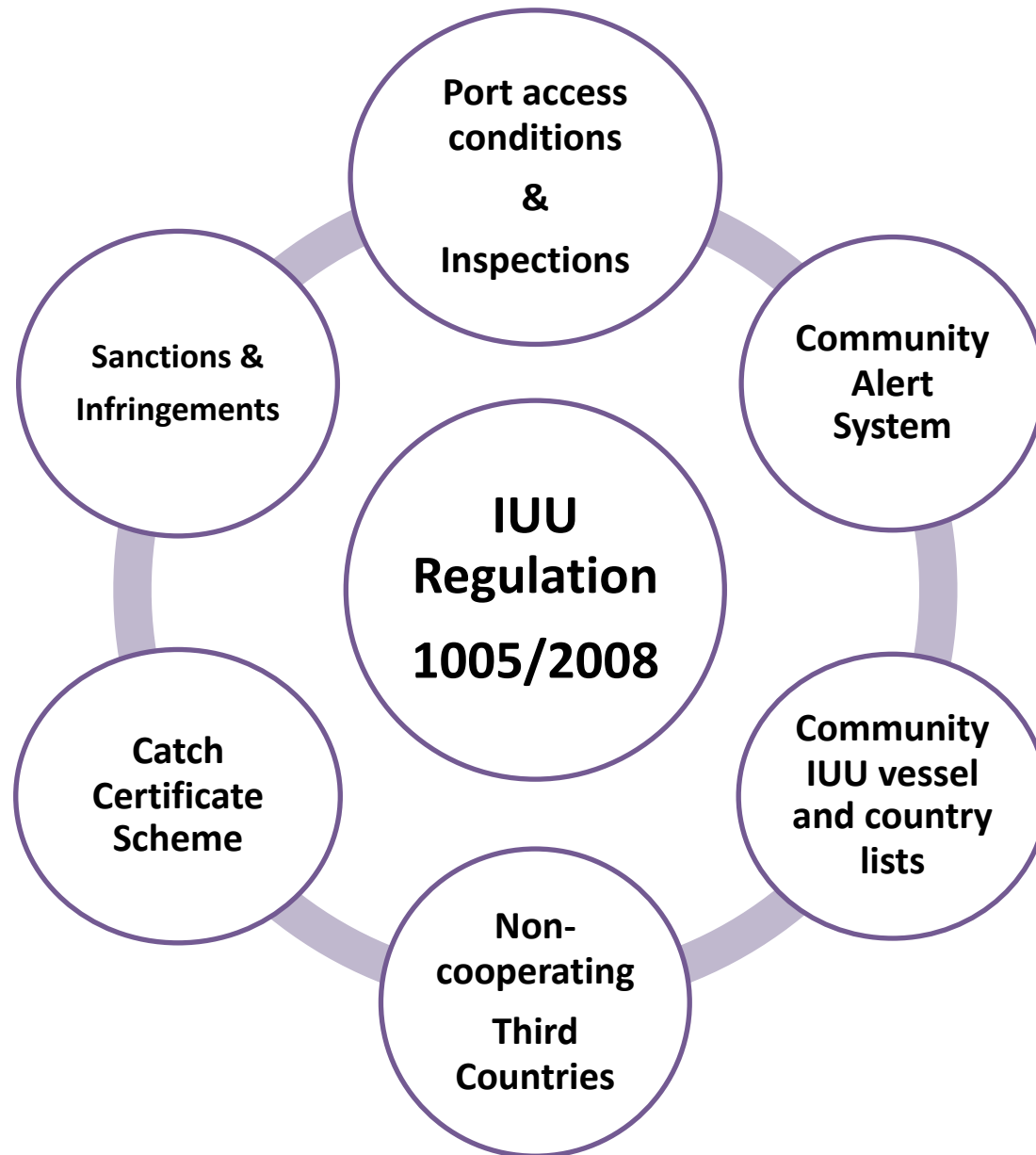**Fishing is unregulated if:**
- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.

EU response to IUU fishing

EU response to IUU fishing

(Updated January 2019)

- ➢ A total of **25 countries** have been given a yellow card
- ➢ Currently **7 countries** have a **yellow card**, and **3 countries** a **red card**
- ➢ More than **50 vessels** were fined by eight flag states and four coastal states
- ✓ More than **30 countries** have improved their systems to fight IUU
- ✓ More than **200,000 catch certificates** are processed annually in the Union

Impact of IUU Reg on fishing industry

Governments	Fishing Fleet	Processors & Retailers	Private Labels
• Allocate adequate human resources (Inspection Border Posts, department cooperation, training) • Compliance costs for third countries • Technical and financial assistance to developing countries	• Loss of fishing grounds (carding system) • Certification of origin from the EU flag State (landings & processing in third countries) • IUU-related employments will be lost • Face higher penalties and legal consequences • May lead to long distance fleet reflagging • Loss of access to subsidies	• Short term reduction of products placed on the market • Forced to concentrate supplies on secure, certified-sources of supply • Cost increases due to certification requirements & security of supply • Short term first sale price increases for fish • Strong internal demand enables to pass, at least, part of the cost increases further down the distribution chain	• Not affected since catch certification scheme addressed to operators not consumers • IUU Reg. certifies legality not sustainability • The existence of a certification scheme guaranteed by public authorities would remove the uncertainty pertaining to the legality of the products

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Acceptance of IUU Regulation

CONS

PROS

Bureaucracy

Administrative costs

Alleviate pressure on fishing resources

Remedy vulnerability of EU market to IUU products

Sanction vessels and States engaged in or supporting IUU

Compliance costs are outweighed in the long run by the advantages resulting from implementation of the IUU Regulation, which would ensure:

• Reduction of IUU fishing across the globe

• Elimination of competitors using illegal and unfair practices

• Attractiveness of the sector for new generations of workers

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Next steps

Control & IUU Regulation

Unique Vessel Identifiers (UVI) is a global unique number that is assigned to a vessel to ensure traceability through reliable, verified and permanent identification of the vessel. The **IMO Number** is widely recognised as the best available UVI for the global fishing fleet

All>100 GTs

All<100 GTs >12m operate outside national waters

IMO
(recommendation)

All>100 GTs or >24m fishing in EU waters

All>15m fishing outside EU waters

All 3rd country fishing vessels authorised to carry out fishing activities in Union waters (Brexit)

EU
(mandatory)

Mandatory in 11 major RFMOs for vessels above a certain size or GTs to fish within their jurisdictions

RFMOs
(mandatory)

Next steps – New Fisheries Control System

Control & IUU Regulation

- Opposite to EU vessels, IMO/UVI numbers are **not mandatory for non-EU vessels to supply their catches into the EU market** under the catch certification scheme established by the IUU Regulation

- IMO/UVI numbers must be strengthened according to global rules under the **catch certification scheme** established by the IUU Regulation

  - ✓ Assist Member States in checking and **verifying the legality** of fisheries imports into the EU;
  - ✓ Guarantee **compliance with RFMO measures** that require IMO numbers for vessels fishing within their Convention areas

- "**Type(s) of fishing gear**" as a data field on the catch certificate

- "**Catch area(s) and dates**" according to FAO area divisions and indicate whether caught in high seas, RFMO regulatory area or within an EEZ

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Next steps

IUU Regulation – ANNEX II
Catch Certificate

'ANNEX II – European Union Catch Certificate and Re-Export Certificate

(i) EUROPEAN COMMUNITY UNION CATCH CERTIFICATE					
Document number		Validating Authority			
1. Name	Address			Tel. Fax	
2. Fishing Vessel Name	Flag - Home Port & Registration Number		Call Sign	IMO/Lloyd's Number *or other unique vessel identification (if issued)*	
Fishing licence No. – Valid to	Inmarsat No. Telefax No. Telephone No. E-mail address (if issued)				
3. Description of Product	Type of processing authorised on board:		4. References of applicable conservation and management measures		
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and dates (*2)	Estimated live weight (net fish weight in kg)	Estimated live weight to be landed (net fish weight in kg)	Verified Weight Landed (net weight in kg)	*Type(s) of fishing gear*
5. Name of master of fishing vessel - Signature - Seal:					
6. Declaration of Transhipment at Sea Name of Master of Fishing vessel		Signature and Date	Transhipment Date/Area/Position	Estimated weight (kg)	
Master of Receiving Vessel	Signature	Vessel Name	Call Sign	IMO/Lloyds Number *or other unique vessel identification (if issued)*	

Footnote: same conditions as established in the Control Regulation

Next steps – New Fisheries Control System

- Support **full digitalisation of the IUU catch certificate** to facilitate fishery consignments import controls and verifications (CATCH) and **interoperability of the IT systems** between Member States and third countries

- Improved **coordination and harmonisation of import controls** across member states to avoid shifts in trade flows

- **Simplification, harmonisation and follow-up of sanctions** across the EU

- **Better coordination between Commission Services (IUU, Trade, SFPA)**

- Alignment of IUU policy with **labour policy -** ILO Convention 188 on Work in Fishing (yellow card – Thailand/Taiwan)

- Promote the establishment of an **international register of fishing vessels**

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Next steps – New Fisheries Control System

IntraFish   Aquaculture   **Fisheries**   Marketplace   Processor   Finance   Prices

US Customs flag Vanuatu tuna longliner for alleged forced labor

All products from the vessel are to be witheld at US ports.

by IntraFish Media
February 11th, 2019 12:06 GMT   Updated February 11th, 2019 13:26 GMT

- Use IUU "muscle" to combat labour abuse (often linked)

- Different legal background – Work in Fishing Convention ILO C188 transposed in the EU through Directive (EU) 2017/159

- Not many foreign vessels calling at EU ports…
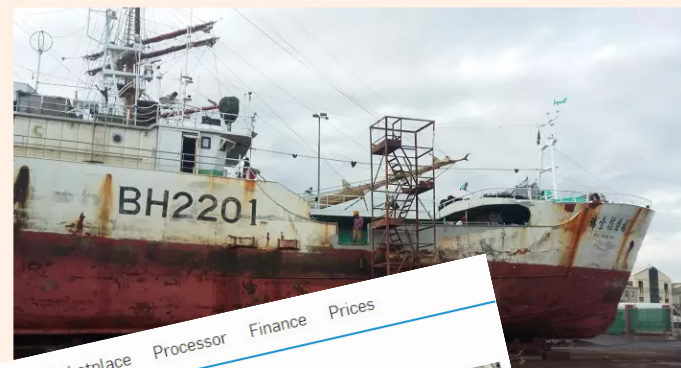
Next Steps – New Fisheries control system

- Need to find other ways to stop seafood imports caught using forced labour:
  - ✓ DG EMPL + DG TAXUD

- The **Union Customs Code** sets prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit when they are justified on grounds of:

  - ➢ public morality, public policy or public security,
  - ➢ the **protection of health and life of humans**, animals or plants,
  - ➢ the **protection of the environment**,
  - ➢ the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value and
  - ➢ the protection of industrial and commercial property

- Stop imports from fishing vessels blacklisted for labour abuse?

Do we want to market this fish in our country?
Can our fishermen compete with these fleets?

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By Louis Harkell   April 18, 2019 09:59 BST

A Chinese trawler pounds through rough seas as it crosses the South China sea. Credit: Igor Grochev/S

GOVERNANCE

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Fisheries expert who helped compile the index explains China's
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Gilles Hosch   April 16, 2019

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by IntraFish Media
February 11th, 2019 11:08 GMT   Updated February 11th, 2019 13:10 GMT

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Many thanks for listening
Over to you

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Europêche is the representative body for the fishing industry in the European Union

"Our mission is to promote responsible and sustainable fishing practices that not only ensures a healthy and diverse marine environment but preserves an economically and socially sustainable fishing sector able to contribute to the growing world demand for healthy seafood." Javier Garat, President of Europêche.

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