



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

COMBATting ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING THROUGH THE GLOBAL RECORD PROGRAMME

Addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is crucial as it undermines efforts at national, regional and global levels for effective fisheries management to achieve sustainable fisheries.

Over the years, an international framework has been developed to strengthen fisheries management since the adoption of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. This framework is comprised of both binding agreements and voluntary instruments, and a number of provisions and requirements to specifically address IUU fishing. Within this framework, States, along with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), need to collaborate to fulfil their international commitments, for which the availability and exchange of information is key.

The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) Programme was developed to promote data and information exchange standards and mechanisms in fisheries through an Information System, which was developed and launched under this project.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Supported by the project, a Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group (GRWG) and a subsidiary Global Record Specialized Core Working Group (GRCG) were established to provide guidance on the development of the Global Record Information System. The GRWG held a total of six meetings during the project's lifecycle, and the GRCG held one. These meetings were crucial in supporting the development of the Global Record Information System and its standards and specifications.

The System was established, piloted, launched and maintained under the project. Information was exchanged consistently through the System starting in 2016 and continued through the release of the second version in 2022. By the end of the project, nearly 13 000 vessels had been registered, accounting for approximately 50 percent of the eligible global fleet.

To facilitate the uptake and use of the Global Record Information System, a series of awareness raising and capacity building events were conducted, and several informative outreach products were developed and distributed. Presentations on the importance and use of the Global Record were carried out at events for national and international stakeholders.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 511 937

Duration

January 2015–December 2022

Resource Partners

Multilateral

Partners

FAO Members, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and S&P Global (formerly Information Handling Services [IHS] Maritime and Trade

Beneficiaries

Concerned national authorities of
FAO Members and RFMOs

IMPACT

The Global Record Information System together with the standards and mechanisms established are expected to lead to increased transparency and traceability in fisheries' sector operations through the dissemination of relevant information, thus contributing to a more effective implementation of international instruments, regional mechanisms and national measures that address IUU fishing.

ACTIVITIES

- A preparatory study for the System was carried out, technical discussions were held on data exchange mechanisms, and these standards and requirements were defined.
- System specifications were compiled, and the System was developed.
- Eleven pilot countries to test the System were selected, and they provided data to be uploaded and feedback.
- Technical assistance missions were carried out in pilot countries. The missions supported agreement on the standards for the uploading of data and data-exchange mechanisms, as well as the launch of the pilot phase.
- The Global Record Information System was refined, and a second version was launched in 2022.
- Technical backstopping was provided for FAO Members to facilitate their participation in the Global Record.
- Awareness-raising initiatives and events were held through various high-level organizations, including the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), International Labour Organization of the United Nations (ILO), International Maritime Organization of the United Nations (IMO), the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the United Nations General Assembly, and the World Trade Organization.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title
Global Record Programme to Combat IUU Fishing

Project Code
FAO: GCP/GLO/595/MUL

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