



EU actions to prevent IUU activities in the Black Sea

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EU actions to prevent IUU activities in the Black Sea

- A global and coherent approach for fisheries control system
- Specific control plans and actions regarding turbot fishery in the Black Sea
- European Union IUU regulation: scope, main components and expected benefits



A global EC Fisheries control system

- EC Fisheries control system is composed of 3 pillars:
 - **Control Regulation 1224/2009 ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy by EC vessels.**
 - **IUU Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008**
 - **Fishing Authorisation Regulation (EC) No. 1006/2008 of 29 September 2008 concerning authorisations for fishing activities of Community fishing vessels outside Community waters and the access of third-country vessels to Community waters.**
- This full system entered into force on 1 January 2010. The 3 pillars are complementary and will ensure that there is no discrimination between the EC and third country fisheries.



Coherent approaches to ensure equal and non-discriminatory treatment of all vessels

- Control Regulation, fishing authorisations and IUU Regulations follow the same philosophy and a global and holistic approach to control and verifications
- Aim is the drastic reduction of illegal fishing activities and a level playing field for all operators, ensuring full traceability and restoring consumer confidence
- Fishing sector not to be criminalised: create a culture of compliance and responsibility for the sector and the national administrations
- More efficient and less costly control system by using modern technologies
- Establish a global and integrated approach to control and inspection: Control from the net to the plate



Black Sea Turbot

- STECF advice (Nov 2012) used information from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine
- Conclusion: The stock is severely depleted and is being exploited at an unsustainable rate.
- Recommendation: An international MP plan should be initiated to restore spawning stock biomass to the level capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.
- The MP shall bring biomass to B_{pa} level and fishing mortality level consistent with MSY (by 2020)

EU Control Plans for Turbot

For 2013 these plans are based on pre-established benchmarks and include among other aspects:

- *Limited number of designated ports*
- *Minimum level of inspection at sea, in ports and in markets on the basis of risk assessment*
- *Continuous monitoring of quota uptake*
- *Reinforced control during the closure period (mid April-mid June)*
- *Joint operations between RO and BG with the coordination of the European Fisheries Control Agency*

The Agency will provide coordination and training

Scope of EU IUU Regulation

The scope of the Regulation applies to:

- all fishing vessels under any flag in all maritime waters; and
- all processed and unprocessed marine fishery products, (excluding products listed in Annex I of the Regulation, revised on a yearly basis)

Where there is a connection to the EU in form of:

- Trade to and from the EU
- Involvement of EU nationals operating under any flag in all maritime waters

Main components of the IUU Regulation

- Provisions on the inspection of third country fishing vessels in ports of a Member State
- The catch certification scheme
- The EU IUU vessel list
- List of non-cooperating third countries
- Provisions concerning EU nationals
- Harmonised system of administrative sanctions for serious infringements
- Sightings at sea
- Assistance to third countries
- System for mutual assistance and administrative cooperation

The catch certification scheme (I)

- All marine fishery products traded with the EU, including processed products, must be accompanied by validated catch certificates
- Appropriate flag State authority of the fishing vessel(s) which made the catches will validate the catch certificate
- The validation must certify that the catch was made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and international conservation and management measures

The catch certification scheme (II)

- It is up to the exporter to request a catch certificate for catches which are to be traded to the EU, complete it and transmit it to the competent flag State authority for validation
- The EU importer must ensure that the fish to be imported has been subject to a validated catch certificate to be communicated by the exporter prior to the importation to the EU
- The EU importer must submit the catch certificate to the competent MS authority three days prior to import. Special rules apply to fresh products and consignments imported by other means of transportation (air, rail, road)

Indirect importation of products processed in another third country

- Where products are processed in a country other than the flag State the importer shall submit a statement established by the processing plant:
- giving an exact description of the products;
- indicating that the products originated from catches accompanied by a catch certificate (and a copy of those catch certificates).
- Ensure traceability of processed products

The EU IUU vessel list

- The EU IUU vessel list may contain third country and EU vessels
- Vessels listed on IUU vessels lists adopted by RFMOs will automatically be included on the EU IUU vessel list
- Placement of a vessel on the EU IUU vessel list is a measure of last resort to hinder the vessel from continuing to benefit from its IUU activities
- Vessels will only be placed on the EU IUU vessel list if its flag State have failed to sanction the vessel in accordance with applicable law



Non-cooperating countries

- The European Commission will identify third countries that it considers non-cooperating in the fight against IUU fishing and the Council and EP will vote on the proposal
- The European Commission will notify countries that may be identified as non-cooperating and give opportunity to respond to the allegation
- Countries listed may not trade fish to the EU
- A country may be removed from the list if it can demonstrate that the situation which warranted the listing has been rectified
- This measure is inspired from measures already adopted by RFMOs which has proven to be an effective tool to fight IUU fishing

Expected benefits

- More sustainable management of fisheries
- Improved control over fishing activities carried out by a flag State's vessels
- Improved management and control over fishing activities occurring in a coastal State's waters
- Increased revenues for fishing activities which are normally exploited by IUU operators
- Improved welfare and the livelihood of fishing communities and local fishermen
- Establishment of fair trade of fishery products
- Improved cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing



Implementation

- The Commission is committed to assist third countries in the implementation of the IUU Regulation
- The Commission has organized regional seminars and held multilateral and bilateral meetings since 2008
- Agreed records have been signed with some countries which already have robust control systems
- DG MARE is collaborating with DG DEVCO for actions of assistance to developing countries and has two programs for 2010-2011 which has been extended for 2012
- Member States receive regular training on the IUU Regulation