

General overview on IUU fishing in Albania

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Establish and Strengthening of Monitoring Control and Surveillance system (MCS) is based in the Albanian National Plan for the SAA Implementation and is an important element to control fishing fleet activity in frame of Common Fisheries Policies

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IUU fishing undermines efforts to conserve and manage shared fish stocks and threatens of fisheries sustainability.

It puts unsustainable pressure on fish stocks, marine wildlife and habitats, subverts labor standards and distorts markets.

It thrives where governance is weak and where countries fail to meet their international responsibilities.

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The International guideline instruments:

- **International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (FAO);**
- **Port State Measures to combat IUU fishing** are of good denotation for Countries to build up a proper **National Plan of Action & Strong Monitoring, Control and Surveillance** in entire fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Building up the proper strategy to combat IUU fishing, like all illegal activities is prerogative of government willing of each country.

National Plan of Action & Strong Monitoring, Control and Surveillance embrace a complexity measures that should consider integrated; one devoid can destroy the entire system or never built it at all.

To describe the MCS system in Albania, we are describing some of basic elements

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A complete legal frame:

Law “On Fisheries” (Law Nr. 64, of date 31.05.2012 and drafted the new law “On Aquaculture” and four by-laws:

- Establishment of a National framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Albanian Fisheries Policy;
- Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the management fisheries policy;
- Management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Establishing a system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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- The Albanian legislation in fishery field, gives the opportunity for an effective control to entire fishery activities. Nevertheless, fishery and aquaculture laws are of dynamic ones, giving the opportunity in fully approach and being in line with UE directives and regional policies.

The legal frame should be complete, as soon as possible.

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A solid Institutional frame: Building human and institutional capacity for policy reform implementation and to operate systems.

- Fishery authority in Albania is fragmented, caused from the last 5 years regulatory reforms.
- Lately, fishery sector seems to be prioritized, the government is planning to re-unit all structures.

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A strong Fishery control/inspection Structure:

- **The financial and human constraints in the fisheries Control Sector have led to a small MCS organisation (with 23 inspectors and a small administrative body) which requires additional support, in human and infrastructure meaning.**

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- Although MCS is a key part of fisheries management, it is expensive and technically challenging. Technical cooperation take a higher priority.
- Albanian inspectorate structure should ensure compliance with conservation and management measures using effective mechanisms, as appropriate, to monitor and control enforcement to the activities of fishing vessels and fishing support vessels.

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VMS and a National Program on Fisheries and aquaculture

Data collecting/elaborating/analyzing/programming.

- The VMS system was built based on the document: “Politics and the procedures of functioning of Inter-institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IMOC)”.
- All vessel with LOA > 10 m are obliged to fulfill the logbook, respects the standards set by the EC Regulations and GFCM model. A blue-box has been installed to 223 fishing vessels.
- A Med-Stat software is available for the processing of data.
- An electronic logbook is foreseen to be incorporated in the VMS System.

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VMS and a National Program on Fisheries and aquaculture Data collecting/elaborating/analyzing/programming.

- **Ensuring reliable, systematic and improved collection of data on the fishing fleet, catches, landings and the biological status of the stocks in Albanian waters has been implemented using the newly developed CIDB, FISS and CVDB hoping to be soon operational.**

**CIDB=Catch Information Database, CVDB=Catch Validation Database
FISS=Fisheries Inspector Information Support System**

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International/Regional Collaboration

- **Developing effective mechanisms for operational cooperation to succeed on : the sustainable and responsible fish resource management.**
- **Creating new knowledge and new understanding ~ this involves building a better knowledge of the issues around illegal fishing and a better understanding of the impacts of illegal fishing on individuals, group, countries and Mediterranean region.**

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Priorities for MCS implementing and supporting:

- Strong Fishing system, legal, responsible, sustainable and coo managed;
- Strong capacities; professional staff and proper infrastructure and communication;
- Strong system on Data Collection and data processing for an adequate information and analyses.
- A solid and discouraging system towards law violation;
- Strongly law application from fishermen in all fishing and aquaculture categories.
- bilateral, sub regional and regional cooperation .

Thank you for the
attention!

