



What is IUU fishing?

Fishing is illegal if:

- In a State's waters without permission
- Against conservation and management measures (CMMs) by a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO), national laws or international obligations

Fishing is unreported if:

- Not reported or misreported to the relevant national authorities, or RFMO, in contravention with international or national laws and regulations (e.g. misidentification of target species)

Fishing is unregulated if:

- the fishing vessel has no nationality or is not a member of the relevant RFMO
- the fishing activity is in contravention to the responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources under international law

Impact of IUU fishing in the Pacific:

US\$333.49 million annually between 2017- 2019

(based on the volume of harvest/ transshipment involving IUU fishing)

Damages the marine environment

Affects socio-economic conditions



The majority (89%) of IUU fishing related to misreporting, whereas unlicensed fishing accounted for only 5%



Serious threat to the sustainable fisheries management and food security

Distorts market, disadvantaging legitimate fisheries.



Opportunities and challenges for the Pacific region to combat IUU fishing



Challenges

Concurrency risk that New Zealand assets may not be available to support regional fisheries surveillance operations to attend a higher priority task/emergency e.g. disaster response

Increasing geopolitical competition and activities inconsistent with existing regional architecture and processes

Uneven monitoring and surveillance of fisheries (e.g. 5% observer coverage for long line fleets compared to purse seine fisheries (100%))



International legal and regional regulatory framework on IUU fishing

Global instruments:



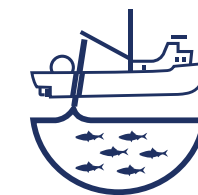
- Legally binding instruments (e.g. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, UN Fish Stocks Agreement 1995)
- Related instruments (e.g. International Maritime Organisation, International Labour Organisation agreements) and non-binding instruments (e.g. FAO guidelines)
- Other rules (e.g. WTO rules to eliminate subsidies for IUU fishing)

Regional rules:



RFMOs (e.g. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for the Pacific): establish detailed rules (CMMs) for sustainable fisheries management and set up systems for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) to promote compliance with CMMs (including Vessel Monitoring System, observer programme)

Aotearoa New Zealand plays an active role to combat IUU fishing in the Pacific



Supports monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in Tokelau's EEZ

Actively participates in Pacific regional rule-making processes, and supports MCS systems and compliance monitoring processes of RFMOs (primarily WCPFC)

Provides international development assistance to Pacific partners including core funding for Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Pacific Community (SPC) and project funding for strengthening port state measures, catch documentation and crew labour standards as well as capacity building (Te Pātui)

Deploys NZDF assets (offshore patrol vessels and airplanes with MPI support) to support regional fisheries surveillance operations, including high seas boarding and inspections (e.g. FFA, Pacific QUAD – NZ, US, Australia and France) and support regional vessel monitoring

Supports the implementation of the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement and the FFA Niue Treaty Information System for cooperation amongst FFA members on MCS, including information sharing, monitoring and prosecution

Regulates fisheries within the EEZ as a coastal state, NZ-flagged vessels as a flag state, port activities as a port state (including inspection of foreign vessels entering NZ ports)

NZ supports Pacific-led regional coordination, involving key regional organisations



Opportunities

Amendments to the Fisheries Act relating to international fisheries to strengthen New Zealand's compliance with international obligations

Emerging MCS technologies

Enhanced partnership and cooperation on maritime security among regional organisations such as FFA (e.g. info sharing, regular meetings and training)

US Tuna Treaty – opportunities for enhanced cooperation on IUU fishing

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee inquiry into IUU

External Partners' initiatives to support the Pacific's work on IUU fishing (e.g. US-led Partners in the Blue Pacific initiative, IUU Fishing Action Alliance) and the regional Maritime Domain Awareness ecosystem

IUU surveillance and enforcement framework

