





Achieving sustainable fisheries goals

through legislating to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing









Combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The FAO Port States Measures Agreement¹

Part of FAO's mandate is to assist countries in developing laws that sustainably manage resources, preserve livelihoods and ecosystems, as well as the setting up of legal frameworks that include accountability and recourse mechanisms. We have unique expertise in enabling people across countries, regions and within institutions to work together to develop and implement laws, including for the implementation of international agreements such as the PSMA.

The PSMA is the first global agreement to combat IUU fishing. It provides a mechanism for:

- a minimum set of standard measures for port states to apply, blocking entry of fish and fish products caught through IUU fishing and thereby reducing incentives for such fishing;
- step by step requirements, procedures and roles and responsibilities for vessels, port and flag states to assess and verify whether IUU fishing has taken place;
- recognising and addressing special requirements of developing states so that they can implement the PSMA;
- monitoring, review and assessment of the effectiveness of port state measures and the PSMA as a whole.





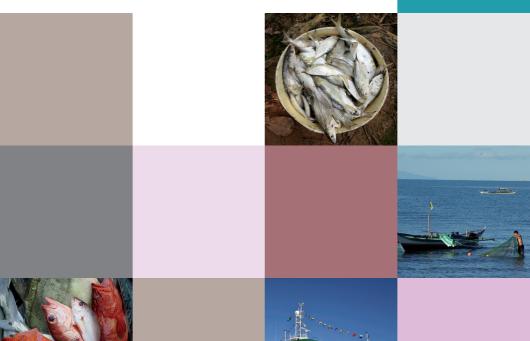
¹ The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Support

How FAO can assist in effective implementation of the Port States Measures Agreement and sustainable fisheries goals

Using the multidisciplinary and participatory approach of the Development Law Service, FAO can provide assistance to your country through:

- advice to bridge gaps in national legislation on sustainable fisheries, enabling effective implementation of tools and international instruments such as the PSMA:
- tailor-made recommendations for developing legislation with due regard to a country's current policy, legal and institutional frameworks and traditions;
- knowledge on aligning national laws with international agreements, obligations and normative guidelines;
- developing capacity for legislating on PSMA, engaging with regional and global bodies, including regional fishery bodies, and working with institutions, decision makers and enforcement officers.



Our capacity development training programme

We are experienced in partnering with countries and experts to deliver capacity development and technical assistance. Following the approval of the PSMA, FAO has focussed on supporting implementation. Assistance has been provided to over 100 developing countries and relevant organisations comprising of:

- practical and knowledge based training both in the classroom and in environments where the knowledge needs to be applied;
- comprehensive learning for participants by working alongside lawyers, decision makers and law enforcement authorities to understand respective roles and responsibilities and options for engagement with each other:
- knowledge that focusses on building capacity in the policy, legal, institutional and operational aspects of the PSMA.

Our aim is to enhance capacities of Member States on the requirements and operationalization of the PSMA to combat IUU fishing and support conservation and sustainability of marine ecosystems and fishers' livelihoods.

We are here to help

For more information contact:

LEGN-Chief@fao.org