

INTERVENTION OF ARGENTINA ON **ITEM 9**: *“Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing”*

In Argentina, the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture as a fishery authority, the Naval Prefecture and the Navy, coordinate surveillance and control activities of jurisdictional maritime spaces by deploying their respective resources, being part of the Integrated System for the Control of Fisheries Activities (SICAP) in its National Action Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing.

The control of the 200 mile and the adjacent zone is focused on preventing the entry of fishing vessels in our Economic Exclusive Zone to fish illegally. The fleet that operates at the 201 mile is mostly constituted by jigging vessels dedicated to fishing Illex Squid, and also by trawlers, and according to that, the deployment of aircraft and surface coast guard units is coordinated for the patrol of the entire Argentine maritime coastline, in parallel with the permanent electronic monitoring of the area. The Argentine Naval Prefecture has the innovative “Coast Guard System”, which allows to know the position and movements of vessels 24 hours a day, during 365 days a year by AIS signals, where satellite images are added, which allows recognize independently vessels of the positioning systems they have onboard, and thus, detect non-collaborative vessels that do not provide data on their position and identity.

Regarding the incursions of illegal fishing in the Argentine Economic Exclusive Zone, it should be pointed out to the year 2020 as a remarkable year in recent history of fighting against illegal fishing in the Southwest Atlantic, based on the following facts:

The detection, persecution and capture were achieved, and THREE (3) foreign vessels that entered in AEEZ were sanctioned.

In the month of May 2020, an Interministerial Working Group was created composed of the Ministry of Defense, Security, Chancellery and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, led by the Chef de Cabinet of Ministries, whereby actions are articulated among the various State agencies in order to deepen and strengthen control and surveillance mechanism on AEEZ. Also, work is going on the revision and update of the National Action Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing.

On the other hand, on October the Federal Fisheries Law was modified, expanding sanctions and increasing fines.

On the other side, together with the Argentine Chancellery, constant conversations are held with countries of the flag vessels that fish in the adjacent area of our jurisdictional waters, in order to achieve cooperating that results from the proper conservation of fishery resources, and to combat IUU fishing.

It should be noted that the aforementioned SICAP integrates satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) for the national fleet identifying the position, course and travel speed of vessels **every 15 minutes**, verifying management areas, closed seasons and restricted effort zones practically in real time. Moreover, on its website, the vessel position is published and updated every 12 hours, in order to give publicly transparency on the compliance of measures.

The inspection system on land and on board, whose assignment is made through a computerized draw, controls the fishing gear, species captured and creates the corresponding discharge record, among other functions. This control system has allowed the emission of certificates that ensure catches legality of Argentine fishery products for all exports that require it.

Argentina would like that international cooperation to be deepened in order to end the scourge that represents illegal fishing.