


The Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

(Global Record)

Steering the world fleet to stop IUU fishing



A voluntary, phased and collaborative global initiative which makes information available on vessel identification with the aim of providing a reliable and rapid way to contrast data with other sources

IUU Fishing

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing remains one of the greatest threats to sustainable fisheries and to those whose livelihoods depend on them. The scale of illegal fishing is huge and worth an estimated USD 10-23 billion annually. More troubling is that the amount of IUU fishing worldwide appears to be increasing as IUU fishers try to avoid stricter fishing rules being created to deal with declining catches in a growing number of fisheries.

One of the greatest obstacles to eliminating IUU fishing is the lack of access to information on fishing vessel identification, ownership and control. This lack of transparency means there is no ability to trace vessels as they change name, flag, registration, ownership and operators. With such a tool, companies and vessels acting illegally would find it much more difficult and costly to do business.

The international community has put forward several initiatives, instruments and tools to combat IUU fishing worldwide in a cooperative way. The International Plan of Action to Fight IUU fishing (IPOA-IUU), the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and the recently agreed Guidelines for Flag State Performance (FSP) are some examples.

The Global Record is one of the latest tools that is being developed to fight IUU fishing and it is closely related to other MCS initiatives.

The main objective of the Global Record is to provide a powerful tool to prevent, deter and eradicate the IUU fishing activities, making it more difficult for vessels operating outside the law.

✓ Traceability of fishing vessels and fishery products will be enhanced from “the net to the plate” through reliable identification of fishing vessels and inclusion of information on the origin of the fishery products in related documentation.

✓ Fisheries management will benefit from a more informed picture of the global fishing fleet and its operations.

✓ IUU fishing will be reduced or eliminated generating more food and income for local communities.

THE PROJECT

The Global Record was born as a voluntary, phased and collaborative MCS tool which aims to fight IUU fishing globally by making relevant information available. The key component of this information is the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), which ensures reliable and verified identification of each vessel so as to enhance traceability. The UVI will be with the vessel for its entire life, regardless of changes of flag, ownership, name etc.

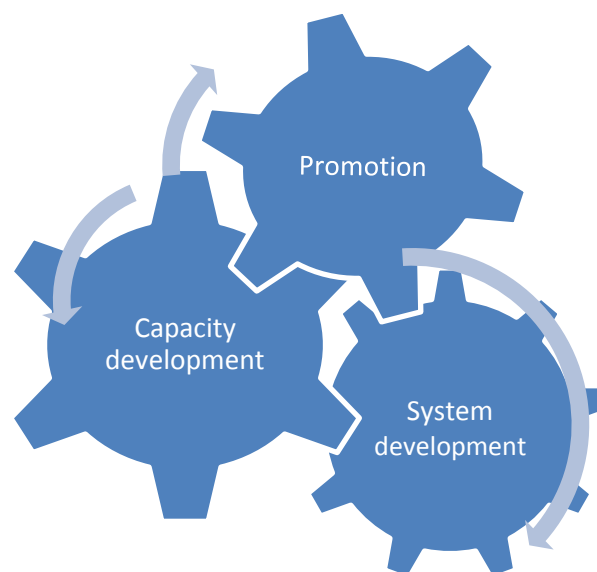
The Global Record includes not only fishing vessels, but also other vessels involved in fishing operations (refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels).

It is estimated that there are 4.3 million fishing vessels around the world (SOFIA 2012). As a realistic approach, the FAO Technical Consultation has recommended a phased development and implementation, in 3 phases:

- Phase 1: All vessels $\geq 100\text{GT}$ or $\geq 100\text{GRT}$ or $\geq 24\text{m}$.
- Phase 2: All vessels $< 100\text{GT}$ or $< 100\text{GRT}$ or $< 24\text{m}$ but $\geq 50\text{GT}$ or $\geq 50\text{GRT}$ or $\geq 18\text{m}$.
- Phase 3: All other eligible vessels, notably vessels $< 50\text{GT}$ or $< 50\text{GRT}$ or $< 18\text{m}$ but $\geq 10\text{GT}$ or $\geq 10\text{GRT}$ or $\geq 12\text{m}$.

THE PROJECT COMPONENTS

The Global Record is being developed by focusing simultaneously on three major areas: promotion, capacity development and system development.



- Most of the work is being addressed taking a regional approach. Different regions have different specificities and needs and thus the provision of capacity development has to adapt to these requirements.
- Vessel owners, national administrations, RFMOs and other stakeholders need to be aware of the benefits and requirements of the Global Record.
- The development of the system by FAO has to follow the regional/global pace, otherwise there is a high risk of discouragement, sense of failure and of being left behind.

Contributions to support system development, capacity development and awareness raising among FAO Members are crucial at this point to ensure effective implementation of the Global Record at national and regional levels. FAO will ensure that funds from different donors are optimally used for consistent support across regions and continuous development of the system. Should further details be necessary (including cost estimations for specific activities), the Global Record team would be pleased to provide a detailed proposal.

For any question or further information please Email: FI-GlobalRecord@fao.org and visit our website:

www.fao.org/fishery/global-record/en

