

Tackling **illegal, unreported and unregulated** (IUU) fishing

Fishing is illegal if:



- no authorisation
- against conservation and management measures by Regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO)

- against national laws or international obligations.



Fishing is unreported if:

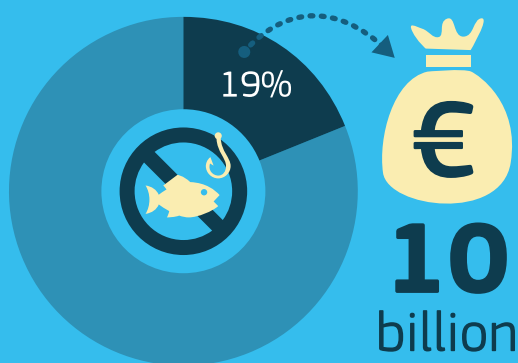
not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.

Fishing is unregulated if:

- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.



IUU fishing practices:



- €10 billion every year worldwide (estimate)
- 19% of the worldwide reported value of catches (estimate)
- serious threat to sustainable fishing
- damages the marine environment
- affects socio-economic conditions

The EU's fisheries control system:



Aims to ensure that only fish caught in accordance with applicable conservation and management measures reaches the EU market. This applies to all, EU and third countries producers.

- 1. The "IUU regulation":** establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - Regulation (EU) N°1005/2008
- 2. The regulation concerning sustainable management of external fishing fleets** - Regulation (EU) N°2017/2403
- 3. The regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy** - Council Regulation (EC) N°1224/2009

Cooperation between the EU and non-EU countries:



The EU works closely with non-EU countries to promote compliance with international rules.



Why?

IUU fishing affects legitimate operators who are hit by unfair competition and threatens food security and socio-economic conditions.



Key tool

All fishery products imported in the EU must be accompanied by an EU catch certificate confirming the legality of the fishing activity.

If a third country has problems fulfilling international rules:

Pre-identification



The European Commission opens a formal dialogue during minimum 6 months.

If the country improves its situation, the 6 month period can be prolonged and ultimately the **pre-identification can be removed**.

If the country does not address the problems, it will be **identified** by the European Commission as non-cooperating.

Identification

A ban of all products for which the catch certificate is validated after the Decision enters into force.



Delisting



Continued dialogue can lead to restore the import of legally caught fishery products.

Listing by the EU

Fisheries products caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of these countries cannot be imported into the EU while the countries remain listed.



The Decision triggers further measures, including a fishing ban for EU vessels in these countries' waters.



Thanks to this cooperation, more than 50 countries have improved their systems to fight IUU fishing

