

Recommendation n° 71

Roadmap for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Outermost Regions by 2030

The Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is recognised by the European Union (EU) as one of the greatest threats to the sustainability of marine resources, contributing to the overexploitation of fish stocks, unfair competition, and the loss of public revenue¹.

The European Outermost Regions (ORs) — Saint Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, Mayotte and La Réunion — encompass vast Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and a wide geographic dispersion, which make the control and monitoring of fishing activities particularly challenging and render them especially vulnerable to IUU fishing. Artisanal and small-scale fisheries of the ORs, conducted with selective and low-impact fishing gears, represent the main source of income for many local communities. Their survival depends on the protection of fishery resources as well as on eliminating the unfair competition caused by operators engaged in illegal, unreported and/or unregulated fishing.

The EU and Member States dispose of legal and operational instruments, however, the application of these mechanisms in the ORs faces severe constraints in terms of human, financial, and technological resources.

Considering that [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1139](#), establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), provides specific financial support for control activities and the fight against IUU fishing; and considering that [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1522](#) establishes that, as from 2026, catch certification will be carried out exclusively through the CATCH system - a single electronic register that digitalises the current paper-based certification scheme - thereby requiring regional authorities to adapt their procedures and technological capacities to improve the traceability of imported products and to verify their compliance with EU rules prior to their entry into the European market.

Furthermore, an effective fight against IUU fishing in the Outermost Regions requires an integrated approach focused on prevention, detection and rapid response.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). *Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing*. FAO.

Therefore, in order to enable the quantification of the effectiveness of IUU fishing control in the Outermost Regions, **the CCRUP recommends to the European Commission and the Member States concerned** take into account, by 2030, the following guidelines in their actions:

1. Develop an IUU fishing risk map per region, identifying sensitive areas, peak seasons, and main target species, as a basis for defining annual priorities, objectives and management plans for inspection and control;
2. Ensure adequate funding, through the EMFAF and other EU instruments, to strengthen the human, financial and technological capacities of the competent authorities, with a view to achieving more effective monitoring, control and surveillance;
3. Guarantee the necessary adaptation to enable full implementation of the CATCH system by authorities and operators in the Outermost Regions;
4. Strengthen cooperation between Member States, regional authorities and third countries to improve prevention, detection and response to IUU fishing in the ocean basins of the Outermost Regions.

The President of the Executive Committee of the CCRUP,

(Ruben Farias)