



Resolution on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

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Preamble

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing poses significant threats to global marine sustainability, the economies dependent on fisheries, and the integrity of the seafood supply chain. To that end, the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) reaffirms its commitment to working with governments and industry stakeholders to eradicate IUU fishing through practical, targeted solutions that promote sustainable practices, protect marine resources, and support legitimate fisheries.

Resolution

Whereas IUU fishing continues to undermine sustainable fisheries management, deplete fish stocks, damage marine ecosystems, and harm the socio-economic well-being of communities relying on legal fishing activities;

Whereas IUU fishing presents significant risks to food security, distorts seafood markets, and damages the reputations of legitimate fisheries and the broader seafood industry;

Whereas effective collaboration among governments, international organizations, industry stakeholders, and consumers is essential to combat IUU fishing;

Therefore, ICFA calls for the following actions to eradicate IUU fishing:

- **Support for International Frameworks:** Support international efforts to combat IUU fishing, including the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, the Port State Measures Agreement, and the FAO's Global Record of Fishing Vessels.
- **Strengthening Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs):** Support efforts to strengthen RFMOs by enhancing science-based management recommendations and bolstering their authority to enforce sustainable practices. ICFA believes that robust RFMOs, with consistent enforcement and international collaboration, play a key role in combating IUU fishing across regions and maintaining healthy fish stocks.
- **Transparent and Accountable Supply Chains:** Advocate for transparent and traceable seafood supply chains to prevent IUU products from entering the market. Support international standards for traceability and promote the use of electronic monitoring systems.
- **Sustainable Consumption:** Consumers can reward the good performers by purchasing seafood that is certified as sustainable, produced by responsible harvesters, from jurisdictions with robust management regimes, and by looking at the label.
- **Collaborative Policy and Industry Efforts:** Encourage governments to work closely with industry stakeholders to develop effective policies and shared best practices that reduce incentives for IUU fishing. This includes harmonizing regulations and promoting information-sharing.

ICFA remains steadfast in its dedication to combat IUU fishing at every level, thereby contributing to the long-term sustainability of the world's oceans and ensuring a secure, transparent, and ethical seafood supply chain for all.

ICFA encourages consumers to visit the websites of ICFA members to find out more information about sustainable purchasing.