



COMBATting ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN FIVE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a serious issue in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It threatens marine ecosystems, negatively impacts livelihoods and undermines efforts to manage fisheries sustainably.

In 2009, the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) became the first international and legally binding treaty to target IUU fishing specifically. The Port State Measures Support Project (PSMSP) was formulated to support the development of strategies, policy, legal and institutional frameworks and operational mechanisms for the implementation of the PSMA and other complementary instruments in five SIDS: the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

In the Bahamas and Jamaica, new fisheries laws that are largely aligned with PSMA requirements, as well as those of other complementary instruments, were passed. A new fisheries bill was drafted in Trinidad and Tobago, and revised laws were drafted in Guyana and the Dominican Republic. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) regulations were drafted in the Dominican Republic. Existing MCS systems and procedures were assessed under the project in all five countries. Guidance was provided on formalized interagency coordination mechanisms for the Bahamas, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago; on the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Jamaica, and on the use of MCS tools, including on risk assessment, and information-sharing systems for all beneficiary countries. A virtual Regional Workshop on Flag State Performance was held for over 70 participants. The workshop allowed for the delivery of presentations by experts and the facilitation of practical exercises. Checklists for MCS and guidelines for the establishment of interagency mechanisms were developed as part of a toolkit that is expected to be published online in 2021 after it is piloted. Guidance documents were also drafted to assist in the development of interagency mechanisms and SOPs for the effective implementation of the PSMA.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 900 000

Duration

September 2017 – December 2020

Resource Partner

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Partners

Department of Marine Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Local Government of the Bahamas; Dominican Fisheries and Aquaculture Council; Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Guyana; National Fisheries Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica; Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce of the United States of America

Beneficiaries

Fisheries management entities in the targeted countries; other institutions operating in the areas of trade and industry, health and sanitary control and immigration and labour standards; fisherfolk

IMPACT

The capacities that were built and the support that was provided for the implementation of the PSMA and other instruments to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing are expected to increase the sustainability of fisheries in the beneficiary countries.



ACTIVITIES

- Four national workshops were held to identify gaps and constraints in existing legal and policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, operational procedures and regional information sharing and cooperation.
- Legal and MCS reviews were carried out, and national strategies and roadmaps were formulated for each country.
- Capacities were built to develop and adopt policy measures that address IUU fishing, to draft or amend legislation related to IUU fishing, to adopt relevant guidelines and tools, to effectively prosecute persons or entities engaged in IUU fishing, to undertake port inspections and report fishing violations and to implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance (VGFSP).
- National fishing vessel registration systems were reviewed and upgraded.
- Knowledge products were created and disseminated.



Project Code

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Project Title

Port State Measures Support Project

Contact

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)
FAO.RLC@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy