



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

ICELAND - COUNTRY REPORT

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Iceland** is one of 84 such country evaluations that covers nations landing 92% of world's fish catch. Using a wide range of interviews and in-country consultations with both military and civilian agencies, the report exemplifies the best attempt by the author(s) at evaluation of MCS compliance using 12 questions derived from international fisheries laws. The twelve questions are divided into two evaluation fields, (MCS Infrastructure and Inspections). Complete details of the methods and results of this global evaluation would be published shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website.*

Over a five-year period, this global assessment has been subjected to several cross-checks from both regional and global MCS experts familiar with compliance aspects in the country concerned. Uncertainty in assigning each score is depicted explicitly through score range. However, the author(s) are aware that gaps may remain for some aspects. The lead author remains open at any time to comments, and revisions will be made upon submission of evidence where necessary. Throughout the report, extreme precaution has been taken to maintain confidentiality of individuals who were willing to share information but expressed an inclination to remain anonymous out of concern for their job security, and information from such sources was cited as 'anonymous' throughout the report.

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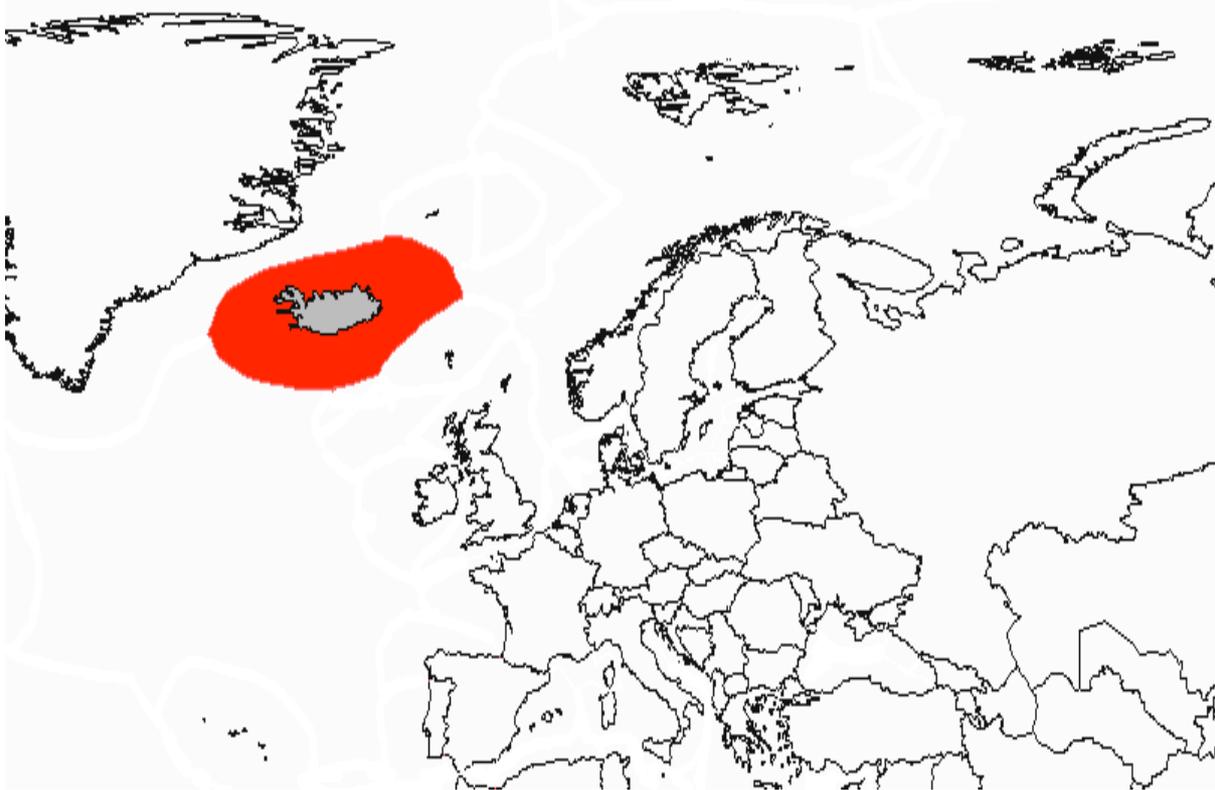
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ICELAND – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 1,365,074 tonnes

Fisheries Contribution to the GDP (2011): 10.1%

Law of the Sea (Ratification/accession): 21st June 1985

Coastline: 4970 km

RFMO Membership: ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC

Patrolling agencies: Iceland Coast Guard, Directorate of Fisheries

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Transportation Security
2.	Drug Trafficking & Organised Crime
3.	Illegal Fishing

SECTION 1: MCS INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1. Does the country have adequate surveillance infrastructure (maritime patrol aircraft, inshore and offshore patrol vessels) to effectively patrol fisheries resources within its EEZ?**

Score: 8.5

Score Range: 7-9

Iceland has one of the most advanced integrated Coast Guard centre to monitor fishing vessels operating within its EEZ (Geirsson 2011; OECD 2013; Jane 2011). Iceland Coast Guard has 4 patrol vessels (*ICGV ÞÓR* – *Multipurpose offshore patrol vessel*, *ICGV TYR*; *ICGV ÆGIR* & *ICGV Baldur*) for maritime patrol operations (ICG (2017). Icelandic Coast Guard has 2 Egir class Fisheries Protection ships and 1 Odin class protection ship for patrolling Iceland's EEZ and NEAFC waters (Wertheim 2007). In 2009, Iceland Coast Guard launched *Thor*, its first multipurpose offshore patrol vessel (Anon 2009b). The Coast Guard Command Centre monitors 1100 ships daily (Anon 2009c). Coast Guard also uses radar and satellite images to co-ordinate aerial surveillance (Anon 2007).

- 2. Does the country have adequate trained officers to conduct MCS operations?**

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

The Directorate of Fisheries has 70 staff and controls all aspects of fishing activities in cooperation with the Coast Guard. The Directorate of Fisheries aims to perform its administrative and control duties in such a way as to present consistent application of fisheries rules and norms and ensure compliance with them. See Fiskistofa (2012); MFA and Iceland Coast Guard websites for more information.

All surveillance officers at the Directorate of Fisheries and the Coast Guard have adequate education and training for monitoring major commercial fish stocks within the EEZ, as well as being specialized in different fields of surveillance for different fisheries (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

- 3. Does the country have adequate management plans to monitor their fishing vessels in the high seas?**

Score: 8.5

Score Range: 7-9

Yes, Icelandic fishing vessels are required to transmit their positions to FMCs both inside and outside the EEZ waters. See Geirsson (2008, 2011); OECD (2012); Fiskistofa (2012) documents for more information. Icelandic inspectors supervise catches onboard 25% of Icelandic vessels in fisheries managed by NAFO.

4. What proportion of fishing vessels is equipped with vessel monitoring system (VMS) to monitor their movements on a continuous basis?

Score: 9

Score Range: 8-10

All Icelandic fishing vessels are equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and are monitored by Icelandic Coast Guard. 1608 vessels are equipped with VMS (Anglers under 10 m: 950 vessels; Multipurpose 10-80 metres: 573 vessels; Stern trawlers 30-105 metres and above: 85 vessels) (FAO 2015). See Geirsson (2008, 2011) documents for more information.

5. What percentage of fishing vessels (>20 m OAL) is monitored through onboard observers at sea (for major commercial fish stocks)?

Score: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries conduct regular inspections and monitor fishing practices, incl. conducting weighing and length measurements of commercial fish on processing vessels and fishing vessels at sea. In 2012, surveillance officers attended 369 fishing trips, which consisted of 819 days. Furthermore, surveillance officers attended 48 fishing trips on board processing vessels, which consisted of 1060 days (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

20% of the annual trips targeting Bluefin tuna in Iceland's EEZ are monitored using observers for the lone longliner (ICCAT 2014a). See Fiskistofa (2012) for more information.

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

6. How often fishing vessels are inspected at sea (Identification by sight and boarding for inspections)?

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

In 2014, Coast Guard took part in 297 boarding's at sea. During 2013, inspectors from Directorate of Fisheries took part in 395 trips staying 1743 days onboard fishing vessels of which 40 trips were undertaken on processing vessels for a total of 823 days; and 355 trips were undertaken on other fishing vessels totaling 920 days (Global Trust 2015). In 2007, inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries spent 2050 days on fishing and processing vessels to monitor fishing practices; the Directorate's inspectors also visited 83 boats in the coastal inshore fisheries (Directorate of Fisheries, Iceland). In 2010, inspectors of the Fisheries Directorate spent a total of 1212 days at sea on fishing and processing vessels (Fiskisfota 2011). See Q.1, ICG (2014); Geirsson (2008); EU (2012) and OECD (2011, 2013) reports for more information.

The number of patrol days at sea has declined from 678 in 2004 to 360 patrol days in 2009 (ICG 2010). Patrol days in 2012 were 400 and 185 inspections were done at sea, some of them in cooperation with officers from Directorate of Fisheries (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

7. How often fishing vessels are scrutinized through aerial patrols?

Score: 7

Score Range: 7-8

The hours flown in 2012 were 287. The number is rather low due to the fact that the DASH-8 was deployed abroad for long period in 2012 (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

According to Iceland Coast Guard, inspections of fishing vessels are undertaken on a regular basis. In 2013, Icelandic Coast Guard spent 650 hours on fisheries control duties within the EEZ (ICG 2014).

Coast Guard has one Fokker F-27 Mk patrol aircraft and recently acquired 1 Dash-8 Q300 aircraft for fisheries patrolling duties (Wertheim 2007; Anon 2009a). See Q.1 for more information. The number of fisheries surveillance hours increased from 249 hours in 2008 to 422 hours (300 hours using

surveillance aircraft and 200 hrs. with the aid of helicopters) in 2009 (ICG 2010; MSC 2012).

8. How often are fishing vessels inspected at landing centers and docks for foreign and domestic vessels (Dockside monitoring)?

Score: 8.5

Score Range: 7-9

Number of foreign fishing vessels that made port calls to domestic ports in Iceland during 2012, for the purpose of landing fish, was 50 (The Directorate of Fisheries, statistics). Surveillance officers of the Directorate of Fisheries performed dockside monitoring of landings in 2011. Number of landings monitored were 2293, and 413 for domestic pelagic fisheries (*out of 1260 landings*). In addition, 13 landings of foreign pelagic fisheries vessels were monitored (out of total 68 landings in 2011) (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

Iceland has one of the most advanced system to track compliance with fish quotas (TACs). Landings are only allowed in designated ports, which have certified weighing system that checks landings of each vessel; information from vessel e-logbooks must be sent to Fisheries Directorate 6 hours prior to arrival at port and all the vessel's activities are required to be documented daily during each fishing trip. The Directorate undertakes regular audits of the utilization factors of individual vessels. IDF fisheries inspectors conduct inspections on land and at sea to crosscheck fish landed, catch, quotas and provide ship-owners, vessel operators and owners of Fish Processing Plants guidance on regulatory quota for each fishery. How much each ship catches and catch composition are tracked by Directorate of Fisheries to initiate any action if necessary. Catch composition and seafood landings data is submitted in real-time from every Icelandic port to the Directorate of Fisheries that offers enhanced traceability of catches and TAC by vessel and company concerned. The efficiency of the traceability system is much better than even European Union member states. See Geirsson and Snæbjörnsson (2016) for more information.

Electronic surveillance is carried out by the Ministry of Fisheries and can be cited as an ideal example where the comparison of data on catches landed in port also provide information according to reports of fish buyers. Moreover, the Fisheries Directorate performs back calculations by converting processed product weight into live weight to check if illegal catches have been sold to processors (Haraldsson and Carey 2011; OECD 2012; EU 2012; Fiskistofa 2009, 2011).

Inspectors of Directorate of Fisheries are present at all landings and transshipments. 305 foreign fishing vessels and support ships made port calls to domestic ports in Iceland during 2008 (Anon 2009d). According to Asgeirsson (2008) catches from all Icelandic vessels are landed and recorded at landing centres to check for compliance with quotas for respective fisheries. The port authorities in turn record the data and submit it electronically to Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) database. There are more than 51,000 landings registered in this system annually, with more than 50 landing ports sending data daily electronically to the DoF (Asgeirsson 2008). See OECD (2009) for more information.

PSMA Status: FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Signed on November 22, 2009; Ratified on 2 June 2015).

9. Are there adequate plans to monitor catches in coastal areas through coastal patrols (beach patrols, small-scale fishing gear and catch inspections) on a regular basis?

Score: 8.5

Score Range: 7-9

The Directorate of Fisheries has a built-in responsiveness to monitor catches in coastal areas as catches and fishing methods and gear can change. For example, freelance surveillance officers might be hired for a season for a specific type of fisheries. In 2012, surveillance officers covered 96% of all inshore fishing of Herring. For Lumpfish 336 licenses were issued thereof, 39 fishing boats were boarded in co-operation with the Coast Guard. In the summer time, coastal fishing is authorized in all 4 quarters of Iceland and the Directorate upholds electronic surveillance mainly for those coastal fisheries (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

As in recent years the Directorate of Fisheries in co-operation with the Coast Guard monitored coastal fisheries between July and August 2012 where two surveillance trips were made at sea in that time (22 days). Number of boats boarded during this project was 39 in total. (The Directorate of Fisheries, statistics) (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013).

The Directorate of Fisheries treats fisheries violations with utmost seriousness and most of the IUU violations recorded were related to weighing and recording of catches; with 107 cases recorded in 2008, and 310 cases recorded in 2009 (Fiskistofa 2009). See Q.8; Geirsson (2008); OECD (2012); EU (2012);

Haraldsson and Carey (2011); Fiskistofa (2009, 2011) documents for more information.

10. Are all the catches that are caught in this jurisdiction at sea accounted for (i.e., unreported Trans-shipments at sea)?

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

Iceland is a signatory to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Iceland Coast Guard monitors most of the transshipments through at sea inspections and aerial patrols (OECD 2012; Fiskistofa 2012). Further, fishing by foreign fleets on transboundary fish stocks off the EEZ periphery and NEAFC waters are also monitored using a wide-range of surveillance tools.

11. Are vessels required to undergo inspection of equipment and fishing gear for every fishing trip?

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Fishing vessels are monitored after every fishing trip through catch verification programme (OECD 2011; Knútsson *et al.*, 2011). Iceland Coast Guard also conducts checks on mesh size of the fishing gear during inspections at sea (Iceland Coast Guard 2011).

The Directorate of Fisheries also conducts mesh size measurements and conducted 292 such measurements in 2011 (Björnsson, *pers. comm.*, 2013). However, the frequency of fishing gear inspections at fishing ports before and after fishing trips is unknown.

12. Has the country taken adequate measures to revise and implement national fisheries laws to curtail illegal fishing practices; and does it comply with national and international laws signed?

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

Fisheries Management Act of 10 August 2006 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Iceland waters.

- Regulation no 698/2012 on commercial fisheries is issued every year with amendments.
- Regulation no 810/2011 on utilization of catch and by-products.
- Regulation no 557/2007 on logbooks.
- Regulation no 224/2006 on weighing of catch as subsequently amended.

Iceland has one of the toughest enforcement regimes in the world with extensive provisions for port state control and high accountability for vessels flying its flag and catches caught within its EEZ. Although, Iceland has not reported a NPOA on IUU Fishing it has one of the best enforcement performance and has transposed several RFMO regulations in its management plans to fight and eliminate illegal fishing within its ports and EEZ waters. Iceland has ratified the UN Port State Measures Agreement on 2 June 2015 and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement on 14 February 1997.

See Johnsen and Eliassen (2011); Knútsson *et al.*, (2015); Knútsson *et al.*, (2011); Kvalvik *et al.*, (2014); Woods *et al.*, (2015); Marchal *et al.*, (2016); Chambers (2016); Guðlaugsdóttir (2009); Bjarnason (2010) documents for more information.

Flag of Convenience	No
Vessels on the RFMO - IUU vessel list	No

RFMO	Year of the assessment	Compliant	Partially compliant	Not Compliant	Source
ICCAT	2013	Yes			ICCAT (2014a) ICCAT (2014b)
NAFO	2013	Yes			NAFO (2014)
NEAFC	2013	Yes			NEAFC (2014)



Note:

Bibliography and other notes relevant to this country report including methods, results and discussion for the global evaluation of 84 countries would be released shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website (<http://iuuriskintelligence.com/>). (The author can be contacted at pramod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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