



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

TIMOR LESTE - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Timor Leste** (East Timor) 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.

Suggested citation:

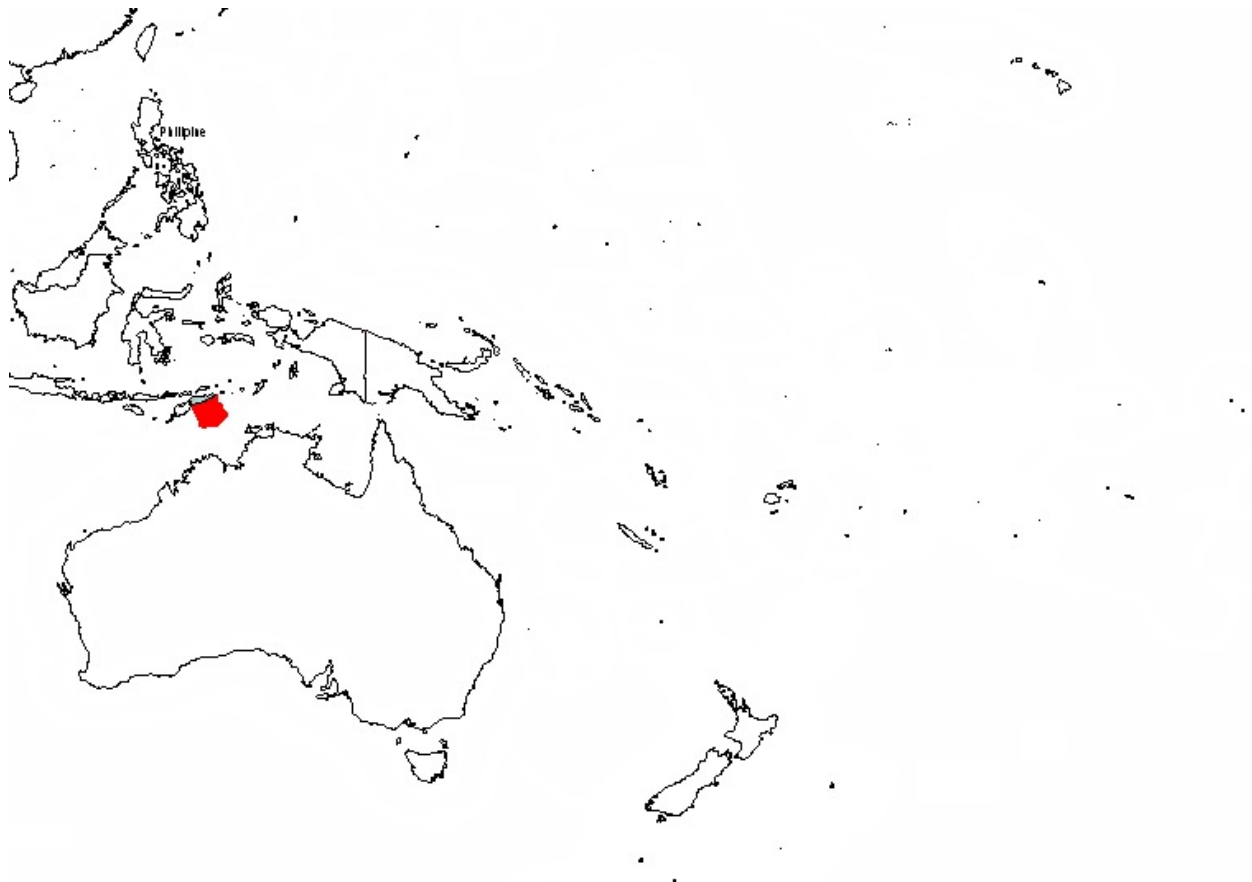
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TIMOR LESTE – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 3199 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2010): 2.1%

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): 8th January 2013

Coastline: 706 km

RFMO Membership: None

Patrolling Agencies: Timor-Leste Navy, National Police (Marine Unit)

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Protection of Oil Installations
2.	Narcotics Trafficking
3.	Illegal Fishing

SECTION 1: MCS INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1. Does the country have adequate surveillance infrastructure (patrol aircraft, sea based patrol vessels and coastal patrols) to effectively patrol fisheries resources within its EEZ?**

Score: 4.5

Score Range: 3-5

No, only to a limited extent for short-duration patrols in some jurisdictions. Gusmao (2014); Strating (2013); ATSEA (2011); Fundasaunmahein (2010); Mahein Nia Lian Nú (2011); IISS (2013); Anon (2013) reports suggest poor surveillance capability.

F-FDTL (Navy) has 2 Albatros class patrol vessels (*Atauro* and *Oecussi*) and 2 Type 2 Shanghai class patrol boats (*Jaco* and *Betano*); 2 Dili class patrol boats and 1 *Sea Dolphin* (ROK *Chamsur* class) for patrolling operations in the maritime zone (IISS 2013).

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 2-4

Available information suggests availability of very limited officers for MCS duties in both Navy and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (ADB 2010). The Fisheries Directorate has 115 staff members (SPC 2010). See Fernandez *et al.*, (2011); Fundasaunmahein (2010) reports for more information. No information is available on compliance or enforcement competence of these authorities for fisheries surveillance.

86 officers are engaged at district level in various data enumeration duties; number of officers engaged in actual MCS duties remains low (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2015).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Existing information suggests that the country does not possess such capabilities.

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 2-4

Decree-Law No. 21/2008 requires foreign fishing vessels and industrial fishing vessels to install VMS satellite receiver for control and surveillance purposes. Exact number of foreign vessels covered through this scheme remains to be specified. Frequent power outages at the FMC result in very little monitoring on a day-to-day basis (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2016).

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 0-1

Available information suggests that there is limited observer scheme (~10 observers) for foreign tuna longliners (SPC 2010).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 1-2

Limited patrols are undertaken on the northern side of the EEZ (Fundasaunmahein 2010; Strating 2013; Anon 2015).

Patrol vessels are facing frequent breakdown and are not capable of operating on the rough seas. Only a few zones are subjected to patrols due to shortage of seaworthy vessels and operational budget. In the post-independence period, Navy relied on Australian assistance for surveillance in the Timor Sea. Staff in the surveillance division and navy are undergoing training and acquiring necessary skills to make the most of existing assets. On the positive side, even with limited resources the country has developed a “Community based IUU Reporting System” where SPOT tracker devices with GPS locators

are used by fishers to send SMS messages to Maritime Police when illegal fishing is detected. This system has provided valuable information on location of foreign poachers active within the EEZ (Anon *pers.comm.*, 2016).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

No finding. Such data is not available for Timor-Leste's fisheries. According to Bateman and Bergin (2011) the country lacks aerial surveillance capabilities in its maritime zones.

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-2

Limited measures through national laws for fishing vessels using its ports (Low capability to conduct dockside inspections). See Fundasaunmahein (2010) report for more information.

Monitoring and collection of catch statistics has improved in recent years. However, there is relatively little patrolling in inshore community based fisheries esp., exposing border posts to prolific illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels mostly from Indonesia, Vietnam (target reef-fish and other commercial fishes using motherships) and foreign longliners (Taiwanese, Chinese) targeting offshore fish (tuna and pelagic fish). Timor-Leste largely relies on voluntary compliance for its domestic fishing boats, so inspections in both small-scale and commercial fishing segments are low-key at both ports and landing beaches (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2015).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-2

Coastal patrols are few and prolific illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels is reported in shallow waters (SPC 2010; FAO 2009; Población 2013). There are ~3113 registered small-scale fishing boats in Timor-Leste (2013 National Census of Fishing Boats Report). See Q.8 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: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Nil capability. Transshipments at sea are not monitored due to logistical difficulties and lack of staff. Timor-Leste does not have the arrangement to monitor such events at ports either. Once the VMS is operational for foreign fishing vessels there will be some enforcement in this direction provided there is enough electricity. Fish caught by even licensed foreign vessels is transshipped at sea and sold in foreign markets and not landed in Timor-Leste. Actual quantities caught in Timor-Leste waters remains to be determined for foreign fishing vessels and significant pilferage and under-reporting is suspected (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2016).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

No, such inspections are rare and not reported in Timor-Leste's fisheries sector.

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: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Fisheries Decree Law No 6/2004 of 21 April 2004 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Timor-Leste waters. In 2013, the country adopted NPOA on IUU Fishing to fight and eliminate illegal fishing.

Timor-Leste is not a party to the FAO Compliance Agreement, UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the UN Port State Measures Agreement. See Bateman (2016); Gusmao (2014); Anon (2015); ADB (2014); Strating (2013); Fundasaunmahein (2010); Andrew *et al.*, (2011) reports for more information.

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



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://iuriskintelligence.com/>). (The author can be contacted at pramod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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