



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for Democratic Republic of Congo 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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DEM. REP. OF CONGO – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 3818 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2012): 3.8%

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): 17th February 1989

Coastline: 37 km

RFMO Membership: None

Patrolling Agencies: DRC Navy

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Protection of oil installations
2.	Illegal maritime traffic
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: 1

Score Range: 1-2

No, the country does not have surveillance resources and infrastructure to patrol 37 km long coastline (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

The country reportedly has one patrol boat, which is in a state of disrepair and rarely used for coastal patrols. See Parnell *et al.*, (2007); Jane (2011); IISS (2013) documents for more information.

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-2

In the Directorate of Fisheries, some officers have already been trained on control and surveillance of fisheries and catches, but we still lack the means to deploy them (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

No information is available on compliance or enforcement competence of these authorities in the marine fisheries sector. See Njock *et al.*, (2014) for more information.

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

The country does not hold such capabilities (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

None. The country has not licensed industrial or semi-industrial fishing vessels in its EEZ, and there is no unit for monitoring fisheries and catches particularly

in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Currently fishing activity in all waters is exclusively artisanal (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

There is no observer scheme in DRC's fisheries (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

The DRC's Navy does not have the infrastructure to conduct patrols at sea (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

Illegal fishing by Chinese trawlers and fishing canoes operating from neighboring countries is a persistent complaint, but navy does not have patrol boats to board or detain them. A recent estimate based on vessels detected illegally operating in coastal frontier indicate that nearly 15,000 tonnes is illegally taken from territorial waters off the coast every year (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2017).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

The country does not have maritime patrol aircraft to conduct aerial patrols within the EEZ (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

The country does not have the port infrastructure and officers to conduct fisheries inspections at its ports (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Such patrols are non-existent in DRC's fisheries (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

The country does not have the financial resources, officers or patrolling infrastructure to conduct such inspections (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Existing infrastructure is not conducive for conducting such inspections (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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: 1

Score Range: 1-2

The Decree of 21 April 1937 on fishing and hunting is the main national legislation for fisheries management in DRC waters. The country has not adopted a NPOA on IUU Fishing. The Dem. Rep. of Congo is not a party to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Port State Measures Agreement. See Inogwabini (2014); Breuil and Damien (2014) reports for more information.

Partial encounters with poachers has failed to deter illegal trawling by foreign trawlers. There has been a consistent failure to upgrade existing patrol boats



and conduct meaningful sea-based responsibilities or attain land-based controls as such illegal seafood is offloaded in foreign ports (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

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

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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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