



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

EGYPT - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Egypt** 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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EGYPT – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 106,661 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2014): 0.4%

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): 26th August 1983

Coastline: 2900 km

RFMO Membership: GCM, ICCAT

Patrolling Agencies: Egypt Coast Guard, Egypt Navy

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Human Trafficking
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: 5

Score Range: 5-7

Yes, to a moderate extent for effective patrolling in the Mediterranean Sea. Egyptian navy has 113 patrol and coastal combatant vessels for maritime security operations (IISS 2014). See Shelala (2014); IHS (2014) reports for more information. Although navy has adequate patrol vessels they are seldom used for fisheries enforcement.

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

Score: 4

Score Range: 2-4

Available information suggests limited manpower is available for MCS duties in both Egyptian Coast Guard and GAFRD (EC 2015). No information is available on compliance or enforcement competence of these authorities in the marine fisheries sector.

- 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 (EU 2011).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-2

Two purse seiners flying the Egyptian flag have VMS tracking devices and send signals during the Bluefin tuna fishing season each year (ICCAT 2015; GFCM 2015). Currently there is no reported satellite tracking for other fishing vessels operating within its territorial waters and foreign countries.

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-2

There are two observers for monitoring compliance with ICCAT and GAFRD resolutions during the Bluefin tuna season each year. There is 100% observer coverage for both towing and catcher (purse seine) vessels to comply with ICCAT requirements during this period. In addition, there were also permanent observers at ports to crosscheck landings for the two authorized tuna vessels during this period (ICCAT 2015).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 3.5

Score Range: 3-5

Egyptian Coast Guard undertakes patrols 3-4 times each month (EU 2011).

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-5

No finding. Such data is not available for Egyptian fisheries. Egypt has four light wing maritime surveillance aircraft (IISS 2013). Aerial patrols are not reported for fisheries enforcement (EU 2011).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-2

Most of the current problems largely pertain to inspection of Egyptian flagged fishing vessels, as foreign tuna vessels are not allowed to land or transship in Egyptian ports. GAFRD inspectors are also reported to conduct inspections of purse seiners at ports during the Bluefin tuna season each year. See ICCAT (2015); EU (2011); Mabrouk (2015) for more information. Minimum Landing

Size (MLS) regulations are not enforced in the trawl sector (Alsayes 2009; Lucchetti *et al.*, 2016; EC 2015)

Fishing vessels are not obliged to land their catches in designated ports leading to very low control on the fishing fleet operating in Red Sea and the high seas. There are three GAFRD inspectors at major fishing ports, but they are not reported to undertake in-depth inspections or sufficient control on landings in domestic ports (EU 2011).

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: 2

Score Range: 2-4

Limited patrols are reported in artisanal landing sites and major ports. Compliance is very poor for small-scale and semi-industrial fishing fleet operating in the Mediterranean and Red Sea (Abdel Razek *et al.*, 2008; Ammar 2011; McGrath 2013; Mahmoud *et al.*, 2014; Marshall *et al.*, 2010; Sabrah and El-Cranainy 2013; Samy *et al.*, 2011; McGrath 2011; Mehanna and El-Gammal 2007; Ashworth and Ormond 2005; Alsayes 2009; Charbel 2010). See EU (2011); EC (2015); Lucchetti *et al.*, (2016); El-Sayed (2016); Mabrouk (2015) 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: 4

Score Range: 2-4

Transshipments at sea are prohibited under Egyptian law. However, it is difficult to rule out transshipments that might take place in waters beyond navy's control as many Egyptian flagged vessels and motherships have been apprehended for illegal fishing and transshipments in Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen waters. See EU (2011); Charbel (2010) documents for more information.

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-2

Use of illegal fishing gear is widespread in artisanal and industrial fisheries. Minimum Landing Size (MLS) regulations are not implemented in gillnet, trawl and purse seine fisheries (GAFRD 2013; Alsayes 2009; Abdel Razek *et al.*, 2008; Charbel 2010; EU 2011; McGrath 2011; Mabrouk 2015; Samy *et al.*, 2011; EC 2015; Lucchetti *et al.*, 2016).

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: 3.5

Score Range: 2-4

Act No. 124 on Fishing, Aquatic Life and Aquaculture of 18 August 1983 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Egypt waters. The country has not adopted a NPOA on IUU Fishing to fight and eliminate illegal fishing. Egypt is not a party to UN Port State Measures Agreement, and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The country has ratified the FAO Compliance Agreement on 14 August 2001.

Egypt has demonstrated limited compliance with national and international laws signed till date hence a low score is assigned here. Egyptian fishing vessels also have low regional compliance; with Government agencies failing to curtail illegal incursions into neighbouring countries. Egyptian fishing vessels have been detained for illegal fishing within territorial waters of countries along the Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. See Sowers (2013); Charbel (2010); EU (2011); Pramod and Pitcher (2006); Tabet and Fanning (2012); FAO (2014); McGrath (2013); Mabrouk (2015); Samy-Kamal (2015); El-Sayed (2016) reports 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
GFCM	2013		Yes		FAO (2015)
ICCAT	2013		Yes		ICCAT (2014a) ICCAT (2014b)

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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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