



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

FRANCE - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **France** 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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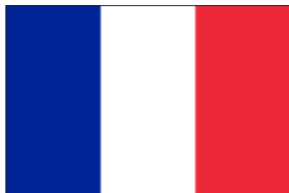
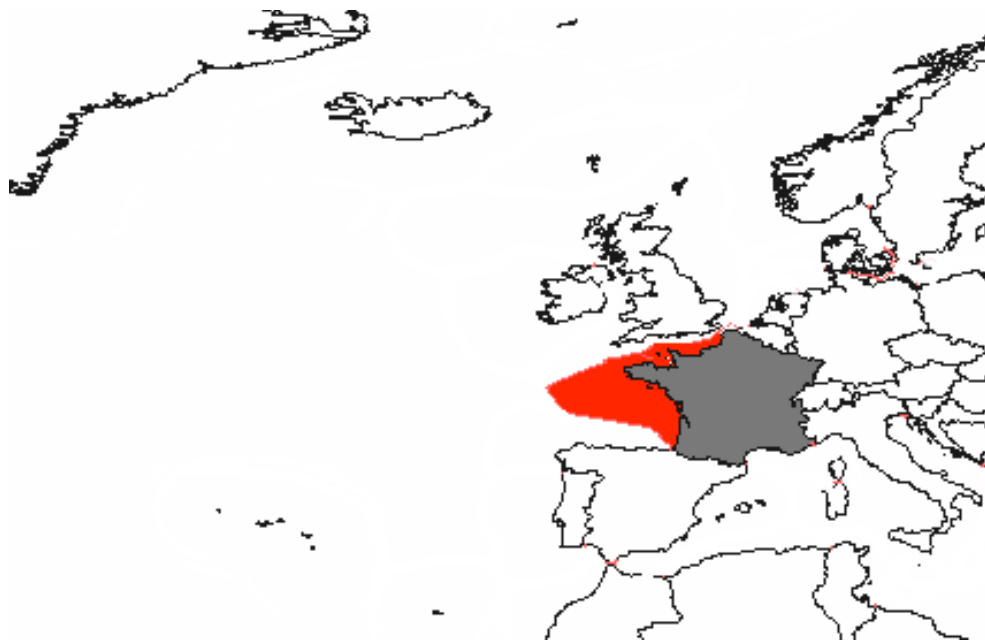
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FRANCE – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 491,623 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2014): 2% (This figure is inclusive for Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries)

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): 11th April 1996

Coastline: 3427 km

RFMO Membership: CCAMLR, ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC, WCPFC

Patrolling Agencies: French Navy, EFCA

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Illegal Migration
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?¹**

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Yes, France has sufficient surveillance infrastructure to patrol its fishing fleet within EU maritime limits (Jane 2012; IISS 2013; OECD 2013). See French Navy website for more information on patrolling infrastructure. Further, in coordination with European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCA) France also undertakes regular surveillance of regional and national fishing fleets through exchange of VMS and surveillance data with other EU member states. See CFCA (2010c); OECD (2013) documents for more information.

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

France has adequate manpower to monitor its fishing fleets operating within EU waters. See OECD (2013) report for more information.

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

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

France is signatory to FAO Compliance Agreement (through membership to European Union). All EU vessels above 15 m in length are required to be equipped with VMS and transmit signals to FMCs continuously within national waters and beyond. See OECD (2013); Norris (2015) for more information.

¹ The current MCS evaluation is limited to French maritime zone in the European Union. Offshore islands and Overseas Territories (TAAF) in Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Ocean do not form a part of the current evaluation.

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

1023 French fishing vessels are equipped with vessel monitoring system (75% of the fleet is monitored through Inmarsat C; 25% is monitored through Argos with regional FMC getting position reports on an hourly basis (Perret 2007). See OECD (2013) for more information. Decree of 10 January 2012 lay down rules for carrying and use of electronic recording equipment and reporting of data on fishing activities on vessel flying the French flag and foreign flag vessels that are in waters under French jurisdictions.

It is pertinent to note that the EU control regulation (logbooks and VMS requirements) applies to vessels greater than 10 metres and around 62% of the French fleet in EU waters is less than 10 metres in overall length.

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Varied coverage in commercial fisheries within EU & RFMO waters (See Rojo-Diaz and Pitcher 2006; Rochet *et al.*, 2002; Allain *et al.*, 2002 for more information). 10% of the tropical tuna purse seine fleet is monitored through observer scheme (Pianet *et al.*, 2007).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

Activities of both French and other EU flagged fishing fleets are monitored through VMS, surveillance data, dockside inspections, and boardings at sea on a regular basis (CFCA 2010c; EU 2007; OECD 2013). In 2015, out of the 4775 fisheries inspections reported in Metropolitan France 2547 included inspections by air or sea and 2228 inspections were conducted at landing ports (ClientEarth

2017). In the 2010 year, 1710 fisheries controls were carried out at sea; French vessels had 11% violation rate while foreign fishing vessels had 8% violation rate (Anon 2011).

For the period 25 Jan-05 Feb 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 01/2010 of the North Sea, 49 patrols over 22.5 patrol days were completed in ICES Divisions IVb, IVc and VIIId, in Belgian, Dutch, French and UK ports to the adjacent area (CFCA 2010a). For the period 28 Feb-6 Mar 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 04/2010 of the North Sea, 19 patrols over 3.5 patrol days were completed in ICES Divisions IVc and VIIId, in Belgian, Dutch, French and UK ports to the adjacent area (CFCA 2010b).

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Aerial patrols are strategically deployed based on intelligence from VMS data, port inspections and European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCA) regional surveillance picture. France has adequate aircraft for undertaking regular maritime patrols within its EEZ in EU waters (2 sqn with Atlantique 2 aircraft; 1 sqn with Falcon 20H Guardian aircraft; and 1 sqn with Falcon 50M aircraft) (IISS 2013).

In 2015, out of the 4775 fisheries inspections reported in Metropolitan France 2547 included inspections by air and sea and 2228 inspections were conducted at landing ports (ClientEarth 2017).

For the period 25 Jan - 05 Feb 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 01/2010 of the North Sea, "a total of four flights were carried out by aircraft from BE (1), FR (1), NL (1) and UK (1) resulting in 123 sightings" (CFCA 2010a). For the period 28 Feb - 6 Mar 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 04/2010 of the North Sea, "a total of four flights were carried out by aircraft from BE (1), FR (1), NL (1), and UK (1) resulting in 192 sightings" (CFCA 2010b). See CFCA (2010c) for more information.

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Yes, effective to a large extent. See OECD (2012, 2013); CFCA (2010c); EU (2007) for more information. During the year 2010, a total of 959 ships were inspected,

of which 12.5% French and 11% foreign fishing vessels committed fishing violations (Anon 2011). In 2015, out of the 4775 fisheries inspections reported in Metropolitan France 2547 comprised inspections by air or sea and 2228 inspections were conducted at landing ports (ClientEarth 2017).

PSMA Status: FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Ratified on 11 July 2016).

For the period Jan 25 - 05 Feb 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 01/2010 of the North Sea, out of a total of 83 shore inspections were conducted in EU member states ports of Belgium (14), France (24), NL (27), and UK (18); Further 17 inspections were carried out by French vessels at sea (CFCA 2010a).

For the period Feb 28 - 6 Mar 2010, under the CFCA Joint Campaign 04/2010 of the North Sea, out of a total of 48 shore inspections were conducted in EU member states ports of France (20), NL (12), and UK (16); Further 14 inspections were carried out by French vessels at sea (CFCA 2010b).

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: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Effective largely in inshore fisheries. See Q.8 for more information. See OECD (2012); OECD (2013); CFCA (2010a,b); EU (2007) 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: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

France is signatory to UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Majority of fish catches in French national waters are landed in ports and landing inspections are fairly routine. European Commission regulations prohibit transshipments at sea, and transshipments are only allowed in designated ports of EU member countries. However, more information is needed on frequency of these inspections at French ports before arriving at any concrete conclusions in this aspect. See OECD (2013) for more information.

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

Score: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Yes, vessels are inspected regularly in fishing ports and at sea to check for compliance with EU fishing equipment and gear regulations. See Q.8; EU (2007) report for more information on the nature of infringements in French waters. However, no information exists on whether vessels need to undergo inspection before leaving on each fishing trip. See OECD (2013) for more information.

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: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

The Loi n° 97-1051 d'orientation sur la pêche maritime et sur les cultures marines (18 November 1997) is the main national legislation for fisheries management in French waters within the European Union. The country has adopted a NPOA on IUU Fishing through EU regulation on IUU fishing. Decree No. 2014-54 of 24 January 2014 define grave breaches of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and establish a penalty points system for masters of fishing vessels. France is a party to UN Fish Stocks Agreement, FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Port State Measures Agreement (ratified on 11 July 2016). According to ClientEarth (2016) report the number of fisheries inspections has decreased in recent years.

See Le Floc'h *et al.*, (2015); Raakjær (2011); Gascuel *et al.*, (2011); Da Rocha *et al.*, (2012); Jackson (2013); Basse-Normandie (2014); OECD (2017); EU (2014); EU (2017); ClientEarth (2017) 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
CCAMLR	2013	Yes			CCAMLR (2014)
ICCAT	2013	Yes			ICCAT (2014 a,b)
IOTC	2014		Yes		IOTC (2015)
IATTC	2013	Yes			IATTC (2014)

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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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