



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

IRAN - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for Iran 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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IRAN – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 470,539 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2014): *Figures not available*

Law of the Sea (Ratification / Accession): *Signed but not ratified*

Coastline: 3180 km

RFMO Membership: IOTC

Patrolling Agencies: Iran Navy

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Protection of Oil installations
2.	Contraband Smuggling
3.	Illegal entry of foreign vessels

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: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Yes, Iran has sufficient patrol vessels to guard its waters in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. The Government has invested significant monetary assets to enhance maritime patrol capability in recent years. See IISS (2013) report for more information. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) has 37 coastal patrol boats (17 *Peykaap I*, 10 *Pashe*, 10 *Ghaem*) and 150 inshore patrol craft (100 *Ashura I*, 30 *Murce* and 20 *Boghammar*) (Codesman and Toukan 2014).

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

Score: 5

Score Range: 3-5

Available information suggests that Iran has sufficient manpower for regular sea-based fisheries surveillance but there is shortage of inspectors for small-scale landing centers and market inspections. See Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO); Bushehr Fisheries Organization (2014); Sistan and Baluchestan Fisheries Organization (2015) websites for more information.

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

Score: 3.5

Score Range: 2-4

Existing information suggests that the country does not possess such capabilities. All vessels operating on the high seas are required to carry logbooks and submit reports after returning to ports in Iran. Although, the country has stipulated several national laws for fishing vessels operating in the IOTC; vessels flagged to Iran have a poor compliance record and several vessels have been detained for illegal fishing in Indian Ocean countries.

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-2

A few fishing vessels operating in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman are equipped with VMS tracking devices. However, most of the tuna vessels, shrimp trawlers, and drift netters are not equipped with vessel tracking devices. Inspections for most commercial fishing vessels are only reported during the license renewal or extension of existing permits. See IOTC (2015a) report for more information.

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Available information suggests that there is no observer scheme in Iran's fisheries. See IOTC (2015) report for more information.

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 5

Score Range: 3-5

Shrimp trawlers and driftnet vessels are occasionally inspected at sea. Data gathered from interviews reveals that 10-12 patrols were reported during the whole year. Although patrols differ by each maritime province, at sea enforcement is fairly low compared to dockside inspections during closed season. Foreign fishing vessels illegally operating in Iranian waters are given more emphasis during patrols at sea and many fishing vessels from neighbouring countries have been detained for illegal entry & illegal fishing in Iran's maritime zone (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-5

No finding. Such data is not available for Iran's fisheries. Iran has three Orion P-3F and three DA-20 Falcon Elint maritime patrol aircraft (IISS 2013).

Sources from national and regional management organizations suggest that aerial surveillance is not utilized for monitoring fishing fleet in Iran controlled waters. illegal incursions of foreign fishing vessels from neighbouring countries has been met with immediate arrests largely due to surge in patrols at sea over the last decade (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

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

Score: 4

Score Range: 2-4

Logbooks are used to collect data for commercial fishing vessels operating in Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. However, most of the data is never crosschecked with VMS or GPS records to verify legality of catches. Officers from Iran Fisheries Organization are mainly engaged in biological sampling rather than inspecting legality of the tuna catches onboard. Several hundred violations have been identified during closed season where landing of some prohibited commercial fish species caught in the Persian Gulf were checked (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

Iran Fisheries Organization is in-charge of port state control for tuna landings at its domestic ports. Entry-exit of tuna vessels operating in IOTC waters is achieved through online data verification (IOTC 2015b).

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: 4

Score Range: 3-5

Officers from the Iran Fisheries Research Institute conduct periodic inspections at landing centers during closed seasons to prevent landing of prohibited species (Gerami and Dastbaz 2013). Violation of fisheries regulations is relatively high in southern provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Hormozgan

along the Persian Gulf (Karimi *et al.*, 2008; Choobchian *et al.*, 2015; Daliri *et al.*, 2016a; Daliri *et al.*, 2016b; Daliri *et al.*, 2015).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-4

Such data is scarce (*Data deficient*). Transshipments at sea are not reported for Iran flagged dhows and purse seiners operating in the Indian Ocean. However, it is difficult to rule out unreported transshipments at sea due to frequent arrests & poor compliance record for Iran flagged dhows in the Indian Ocean countries.

IOTC (2015a) states that Iran “*Has not submitted the report on import, landing, transshipment of tuna and tuna-like fish products in ports, as required by Res. 10/10*” violating IOTC regulations on conservation and management of tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean. IOTC (2015b) report suggests that Iran flagged vessels did not engage in transshipments at sea; however, no details are provided on how compliance with IOTC Resolution 10/10 was achieved.

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Regular inspections of fishing gear are conducted at landing sites for small-scale fishing vessels operating in the Persian Gulf during the closed season (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017). See Ansari (2013) report 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: 4

Score Range: 2-4

Law concerning Exploitation and Protection of Aquatic Resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted in 1976 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Iran waters. The country has not reported a NPOA on IUU Fishing. Iran is not a party to UN Port State Measures Agreement, and the FAO Compliance Agreement. Iran has ratified the UN Fish Stocks Agreement on 17 April 1998.

Iran has not complied with some of the major IOTC resolutions such as observer scheme; VMS requirements and two vessels flying its flag have been recently identified for illegal fishing in the IOTC region. Iran flagged dhows have also been intercepted for illegal fishing in the EEZs of Indian Ocean countries hence a lower compliance score is assigned here.

See Daliri *et al.*, (2016a,b); Cordesman and Toukan (2014); Vincent (2013); Masoumi *et al.*, (2015); FAO (2011); Fao (2016); Moussalli and Feidi (2009); Esmaeili (2009); Karimi *et al.*, (2008); Pramod and Picher (2006); Taghvaei *et al.*, (2015) documents for more information.

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

RFMO	Year of the assessment	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Not Compliant	Source
IOTC	2014	Yes			IOTC (2015a)

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

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