



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

SAUDI ARABIA - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Saudi Arabia** 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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SAUDI ARABIA – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 71,946 tonnes

Fisheries Contribution to the GDP (2012): 0.2%

Law of the Sea (Ratification/accession): 24th April 1996

Coastline: 7572 km

RFMO Membership: -

Patrolling agencies: Saudi Coast Guard

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

SECTION 1: MCS INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1. Does the country have adequate surveillance infrastructure (maritime patrol aircraft, inshore and offshore patrol vessels) to effectively patrol fisheries resources within its EEZ?**

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Yes, adequate for effective patrolling in maritime waters within its jurisdiction (Cordesman 2009; IISS 2016). Saudi Coast Guard has 6 fast patrol boats (4 *Al Jouf* class; 2 *Sea Guard* class), 8 patrol boats (6 *StanPatrol 2606* class; 2 *Al Jubatel* class), 14 patrol and coastal combatant vessels and 100+ small patrol boats (IISS 2016).

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

Score: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Government agencies have adequate manpower for regular fisheries surveillance at small-scale landing centers, at sea, market inspections and fishing ports (Morgan 2006).

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Existing information suggests that the country does not possess such capabilities. None of the existing fishing fleet is reported to operate beyond Saudi Waters in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Vessel monitoring system is not reported for Saudi fishing fleet although some recreational boats are equipped with AIS transponders and monitored by Saudi Coast Guard to check entry and departure from local fishing ports. See Morgan (2006) 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 Saudi Arabian fisheries (Morgan 2006).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 7

Score Range: 7-8

No finding. Such data is not available for Saudi Arabia's fisheries. But existing information from Cordesman (2009); Al-Bisher *et al.*, (2011) suggests that the country is adequately equipped to patrol its maritime domain. Fishing vessels are regularly inspected at sea (Morgan 2006).

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

Score: 7

Score Range: 5-7

No finding. Such data is not available for Saudi Arabia's fisheries. See IISS (2016) report for information on maritime patrol aircraft.

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

Score: 4

Score Range: 3-5

Random dockside inspections are reported for the artisanal fleet (Morgan 2006), but frequency of illegal fishing violations remains high alluding to poor compliance. See Q.9 for more information.

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: 5



Score Range: 3-5

Coastal fisheries in Saudi Arabian waters of Red Sea and Persian Gulf include shrimp trawl fisheries, gillnet fishery, wire-trap fishery, hook and line fishery. Illegal fishing practices and non-compliance with fisheries regulations is reported in artisanal fisheries. See Hasan (2008); Kotb *et al.*, (2008); Spaet and Berumen (2015); Jin *et al.*, (2012) reports 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: 5

Score Range: 4-7

Transshipments at sea are not reported and all transfers of fresh & frozen seafood take place at designated ports for licensed national and foreign vessels calling its ports.

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Occasional inspections of fishing gear are reported at some fishing ports.

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: 5

Score Range: 3-5

Royal Decree 7/505M of 1988 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Saudi Arabia waters. Coast Guard collects data on entry and departure of licensed vessels using local ports. See Morgan (2006); Al-Bisher *et al.*, (2012); Spaet and Berumen (2015) for more information.

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

Last update: 20 March 2018



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 prammod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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