



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

YEMEN - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for Yemen 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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YEMEN – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 209,975 tonnes

Fisheries Contribution to the GDP (2012): 1.9%

Law of the Sea (Ratification/accession): 21st July 1987

Coastline: 1906 km

RFMO Membership: IOTC

Patrolling agencies: Yemen Navy

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Piracy
2.	Contraband 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: 1

Score Range: 1-4

No, to a very limited extent¹. The Ministry of Fish Wealth and Yemen Navy have limited capacity for patrolling the whole EEZ. See Rowas and Cochrane (2015); IUCN (2013) reports for more information.

Yemen Navy has 1 offshore patrol craft *Tarantult*; 6 *Baklan* class fast patrol boats; 15 patrol boats; and Yemen coast Guard has 4 *Archangel* class fast patrol boats donated by USA, 2 maritime patrol boats and 8 patrol boats used for various purposes (IISS 2013; Jane 2011) but these vessels appear to be poorly equipped to monitor the extensive coastline (Anon 2005; Anon 2010; Anon 2012b,c; Anon 2013; Morgan 2006; Darem 2013).

In the past patrolling effort focused around Gulf of Aden, where fishing boats were occasionally checked for compliance with maritime laws. In recent years due to civil unrest and political crisis, very little funds were made available for patrols at sea or fishing ports, leaving maritime waters open to poaching by foreign fleets (mainly Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, Taiwan and Korean trawlers). Saudi embargo and closure of Yemeni maritime domain leaves very little space for patrols of Yemeni waters (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

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

Score: 1.5

Score Range: 1-4

Existing information suggests availability of limited manpower in Yemen Coast Guard, Navy and Ministry of Fish Wealth (MFW) to undertake MCS operations in the fisheries sector (Anon 2013; ISS 2012; MOFW 2012; Pramod and Pitcher 2006; Morgan 2006; Anon 2012b; FAO 2010; EU 2010). No information is available on

¹ Since February 2015 there is no fisheries enforcement at sea or landing centers due to lack of fuel, unpaid salaries, absence of federal government, and civil conflict in the maritime provinces. Due attention has been paid to this issue while scoring the Yemen country document, but overall scores reflect the fisheries management and governance over the past 3 years. It has also come to the attention that there are increasing reports of poaching by foreign trawlers in offshore waters since late 2014 due to political vacuum and lack of naval presence at sea.



compliance or enforcement competence of these authorities in the marine fisheries sector.

Yemen has shortage of trained manpower to conduct MCS operations. The Ministry of Fish Wealth has 40 personnel who were trained in MCS through a project funded by the EU during 2004-2005 (Hariri, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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. In fact, vessels have been reported to fish illegally in Eritrean and Somali waters on a regular basis, with most of these catches landed in Yemeni landing centres (Anon 2007; Anon 2012b; Moussalli and Haile 2001; Morgan 2006). Yemen is not a signatory to the FAO Compliance Agreement.

There are no management plans to monitor fishing vessels on the high seas (Hariri, *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

Total VMS coverage remains unknown. According to Anon (2013); Morgan (2006) use of vessel monitoring system is not reported in Yemen's industrial and artisanal fisheries.

Licensed vessels fishing in Yemeni waters are equipped with Vessel Monitoring System. The intention of the Government is to cut down licenses especially to foreign stern bottom trawlers (Hariri, *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

Available information suggests that there is a limited observer program in the demersal trawl and cuttlefish fishery (Morgan 2006).

All licensed fishing vessels have observers on board. However, how effective is their performance is questionable (Hariri, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 0-1

Until 2014, Coast Guard used to carry out identification by sight and boarded fishing vessels at sea and though most operations targeted weapons trafficking, maritime security and piracy; fisheries vessels were inspected sometimes but they do not pose a credible deterrent for illegal voyages into Somali and Eritrean waters. Fishing licenses have not been issued to foreign fleets for several years (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

See MOFW (2012); Rowas and Cochrane (2015); Q.1 for more information. Data from Anon (2012b); Daren (2013) suggest that a few patrols were undertaken every month mostly to control piracy, weapons and drug smuggling in the Gulf of Aden and beyond.

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Yemen does have any maritime patrol aircraft to conduct aerial patrols within its EEZ (ISS 2012).

There is no inspection by air for fishing vessels. There are no maritime patrol aircraft (Hariri, *pers. comm.*, 2012).

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 0-1

In the past, there were limited measures for national and international vessels using local ports; however, the same cannot be said this year. Saudi led air strikes have also destroyed fishing vessels berthed at fishing ports. Nowadays fishing is

rarely reported in close proximity to the coast and boats do not venture farther than 1 nm (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

20% of the artisanal fishing vessels are subjected to dockside monitoring (Hariri, *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: 1

Score Range: 0-1

There are many reports of illegal fishing by national as well as foreign fishing vessels inside the artisanal zone (Jabado and Spaet 2017; IUCN 2013; Van Damme and Banfield 2011; MOFW 2012; Wagenaar and D’Haese 2007; Anon 2005; Anon 2012a; Bonfiglioli and Hariri 2004; Rallis 2009) and illegal trade of sea cucumbers (PERSGA 2009) and shark fins (PERSGA 2010). In the past fishing vessels from Egypt were also reported to use explosives while fishing illegally in Yemeni waters (Anon 1998). See Scholete *et al.*, (2011) report for more information.

There are no adequate plans to monitor catches in coastal areas through coastal patrols. IUU fishing is often reported (Hariri, *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

There appear to be substantial problems in monitoring landings due to equipment and operational problems within Yemen Coast Guard; most of the patrol vessels can rarely operate in deeper waters. In fact, majority of the fish landed in Yemeni ports is caught outside its territory. Customs and Port authorities do report some inspections for shipments arriving in local ports but inspections to verify legality are very rare for seafood (Anon, *pers. comm.* 2013).

Not all catches caught within this jurisdiction were reported to the national authorities. Some fish are landed in neighbouring countries while catches from illegal foreign trawlers are never landed in local ports. Catches by illegal fishing trawlers and tuna seiners are landed in Oman, Iran and Kenyan ports. Taiwanese and Chinese longliners directly tranship their illegal catches at sea. Fresh as well as frozen fish were also transhipped illegally from artisanal boats in Somalia to Yemeni and Egyptian mother-boats at sea (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2016).



See Anon (2012b,c); Anon (2005); ISS (2012) documents for more information. Yemen is not a signatory to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Yemen does not have such procedures in the fisheries sector. *Sambouks* and commercial fishing boats use illegal fishing gear. Illegal gillnets are not seized, and lengthy court procedures have led to very few prosecutions in the past. Fishing gear violations targeting sharks and cuttlefish are also reported frequently in marine protected areas (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2017).

At present, no inspection is conducted for equipment and fishing gear (Hariri *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

Fisheries Law No. 20 of 1978 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Yemen waters. Yemen has not adopted NPOA on IUU Fishing to fight and eliminate illegal fishing. Yemen is not a party to the FAO Compliance Agreement, UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the UN Port State Measures Agreement.

See Geest (2017); Pramod and Pitcher (2006); Zajonz *et al.*, (2016); Hansen (2012); IUCN (2013); Jane (2013); Tesfamichael *et al.*, (2012); Scholete *et al.*, (2011); Moussalli and Feidi (2009) 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
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 (<http://iuriskintelligence.com/>). (The author can be contacted at prammod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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