



# IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

## GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

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### BENIN - COUNTRY REPORT

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## SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Benin** 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.*

### Suggested citation:

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## BENIN – COUNTRY REPORT



**FAO landings (2013):** 16,256 tonnes

**Fisheries contribution to GDP (2012):** 2.2%

**Law of the Sea (Ratification/accession):** 16<sup>th</sup> October 1997

**Coastline:** 121 km

**RFMO Membership:** None

**Patrolling agencies:** Benin Navy; Directorate of Fisheries



Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Piracy
2.	Armed Robberies
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: 4-7

Benin navy has six patrol boats. Capabilities have improved with the acquisition of three new 31.8 m long coastal patrol boats (*Alibori, Zou and Oueme* - FBP98 Mk1-class P110) from France (Anon 2012; ISS 2015; Anon 2016). There are two 25 metre Defender class patrol craft for patrolling Cotonou port. Patrolling appears to be moderately effective in some coastal waters, with limitations on offshore surveillance capacity (Jane 2011; IISS 2013; EU 2011; Adjimehossou 2018). In addition, navy has two coastal radar centers in Cotonou and Grand-Popo with a radius of 80 km primarily for anti-piracy reconnaissance. In recent years, an increase in piracy related incidents have been reported off Benin coast.

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

Score: 4.5

Score Range: 3-5

Available information suggests limited manpower availability in both Benin Navy and Ministry of Fisheries for MCS duties (EU 2011; ISS 2015; ATLAFCO 2014; Adjimehossou 2018). 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: 2

Score Range: 1-4

Existing information suggests that Benin does not have such capabilities. Further, in the past Benin had many flags of convenience vessels. See ATLAFCO (2014) report for more information.

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

Vessel monitoring system is not reported in Benin's fisheries sector. See ATLAFCO (2014); AU (2015) reports for more information.

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 no observer scheme in Benin's fisheries (FCWC 2010).

## SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 2.5

Score Range: 2-4

Limited inspections of foreign fishing vessels are reported, with 38 vessels caught in the act of illegal fishing and 3 vessels apprehended for fishing in the artisanal zone during the year 2010 (Anon 2011). See Adjimehossou (2018); ISS (2015); Gouchola (2013); Vogt *et al.*, (2010) reports for more information.

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

Score: 4.5

Score Range: 2-5

Moderate capacity since 2011 (frequency of aerial patrols is unknown). During the year 2011, Benin received two maritime surveillance aircraft (LH Aviation LH-10 Grand Duc) from France, which are equipped with digital cameras, GPS and advanced satellite communications (Anon 2012; ISS 2015).

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

Score: 3.5

Score Range: 1-4

Very poor dockside monitoring. See Vogt *et al.*, (2010); Anon (2011); FAO (2008); El Ayoubi and Failler (2013); ATLAFCO (2014); Adjimehossou (2018) documents for more information.

**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: 1.5

Score Range: 1-4

Catch monitoring appears to be effective in some jurisdictions only (FAO 2007; ATLAFCO 2014; AU 2015; El Ayoubi and Failler 2013; Adjimehossou 2018). Illegal trawling by foreign trawlers in artisanal zone is reported (Vogt *et al.*, 2010). Illegal trawling using canoes is also practiced by small-scale fishers near estuaries and mouths of rivers to target shrimps (Adjimehossou 2018).

**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

Benin is a signatory to the UN Fish stocks agreement, but its ability to enforce the regulation and natl. fisheries laws is still a challenge. Illegal fishing and misreporting of catches by foreign fishing vessels; incursions of foreign trawlers into artisanal zone; mesh size violations; and illegal transshipments are suspected due to limited enforcement (Anon, *pers.comm.*, 2018).

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

Score: 0

Score Range: 0-0

Benin is not reported to undertake such inspections on a regular basis. Mesh size violations are widespread in both small-scale and industrial fisheries (Voft *et al.*, 2010; Anon 2011; Adjimehossou 2018; El Ayoubi and Failler 2013).



**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: 3-5

La Loi-cadre N° 2014-19 of 7 August 2014 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Benin waters. The country has adopted NPOA on IUU Fishing to fight and end illegal fishing. Benin has ratified both the UN Fish Stocks Agreement on 2 November 2017 and FAO Compliance Agreement on 4 January 1999.

Illegal fishing in 5 nm coastal waters allocated to artisanal fishers by industrial trawlers; unauthorised trawling in IEZ at night damaging fishing nets of canoe fishers; and use of illegal fishing gear are reported. Shortage of worthy patrol boats and trained officers has led to weak surveillance that is exploited by both poor domestic fishers as well as illegal foreign trawlers intruding into EEZ from neighbouring countries (Adjimehossou 2018).

See Vogt *et al.*, (2010); EU (2011); Kouévi *et al.*, (2013); Sjöstedt (2013); Churchill (2012); Gouchola (2013); El Ayoubi and Failler (2013); ATLAFCO (2014); Houssa and Verpoorten (2015); ISS (2015); AU (2015); Anon (2016); Adjimehossou (2018) documents for more information.

<b>Flag of Convenience</b>	No
<b>Vessels on the RFMO - IUU vessel list</b>	No

*Last update: 05 May 2019*



## 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](mailto:pramod.raju@gmail.com) to provide any feedback).

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