



IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

UNITED KINGDOM - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **United Kingdom (UK)** 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 to comments, and revisions will be made upon submission of documentary 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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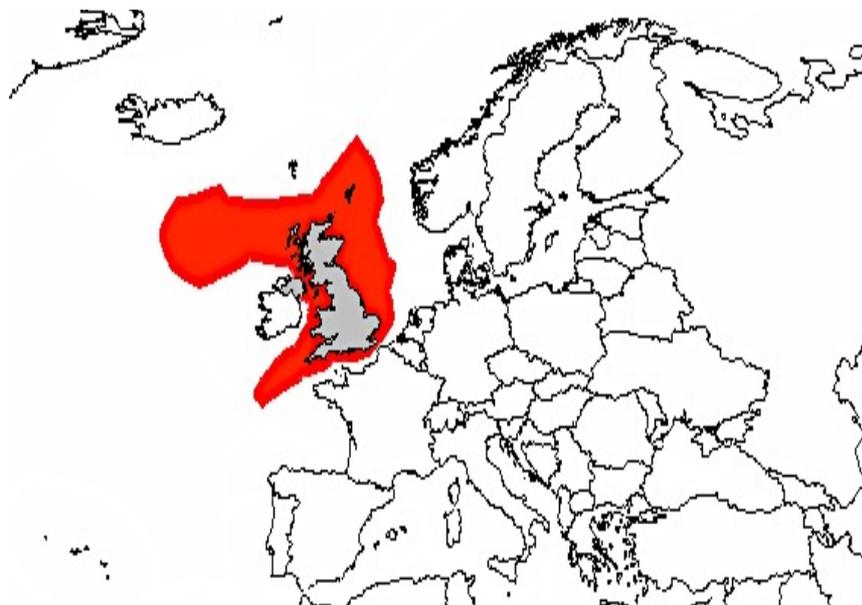
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UNITED KINGDOM – COUNTRY REPORT



FAO landings (2013): 630,064 tonnes

Fisheries contribution to GDP (2012): 0.5%

Law of the Sea (Ratification): 25th July 1997

Coastline: 12,429 km

RFMO Membership: CCAMLR, IOTC & other RFMOs through EU membership

Patrolling Agencies: Royal Navy, MMO, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Protection of Oil installations
2.	Human 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

Score Range: 7-8

Adequate to a large extent (Jane 2012; IISS 2013; Martin 2016) but recent reports (BBC 2016; BBC 2017) indicate that only three patrol boats are available to monitor 7000 miles of coastline. Industrial fisheries are well monitored although some coastal fisheries have reported limited monitoring of fish stocks. Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) are responsible for fisheries management and conservation in 0-6 nm inshore waters, while MMO enforces fisheries regulations beyond 6 nautical miles.

The Royal Navy allocates significant patrolling effort to tackle illegal fishing and has one of the best fisheries protection squadrons in EU waters (Royal Navy 2012; MMO 2015). In 2018, Royal Navy received *HMS Forth* (P222), the first of five new Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV). *HMS Medway* (P223) and *HMS Trent* (P224) second and third of the five new Royal Navy offshore patrol vessels (likely to replace river-class patrol vessels) are under construction. The Fishery Protection Squadron of Royal Navy has two River-class offshore patrol vessels (*HMS Tyne*, *HMS Mersey*) for monitoring British waters (Royal Navy 2009; Royal Navy 2013). Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) has three marine protection vessels of which *MPV Minna* operates largely in inshore waters, while *MPV Jura*, and *MPV Hirta* are used for offshore patrols (SFPA 2015). Number of patrols is likely to be affected by budget cuts in Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron (Anon 2008).

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

MMO has 250 staff for managing UK's fisheries quotas and licensing system (MMO 2012). Recent budget cuts by up to 30% since 2010-11 has seen MMO staff numbers fall nearly 10% (MMO 2015; Carrington 2016). SFPA Compliance employs 273 staff, with 134 personnel in Marine Surveillance, 124 personnel in

¹ This MCS evaluation only covers British EEZ waters in Europe and exclude other 14 U.K. Overseas Territories in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Coastal Inspection, and 27 staff at its headquarters (MMO 2015; Scotland Government 2010a).

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

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

Yes, to a considerable extent. UK is a signatory to the FAO Compliance Agreement through European Union regulations. Since 2014, all fishing vessels operating outside British limits are also required to provide advance notice before every trip to the UK Border Agency.

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

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

327 of the 3078 British registered fishing vessels are tracked using VMS devices (DEFRA 2018) complying with existing EU regulations governing monitoring of fishing vessels above 12 metres (*landing 83% of overall tonnage caught in 2017*). MMO in association with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) is also planning a rollout of I-VMS for fishing vessels less than 12 metres in length between 2019-2021 onwards.

In the United Kingdom, FMC responsibilities are jointly managed by Marine Scotland (responsible for Scotland based vessels and all non-UK vessels operating in Scottish waters), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO – for England) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD – responsible for Northern Ireland waters). Fishing vessels above 12 metres are covered through VMS under EC Regulation 2244/2003 and must send position data every 2 hours (Pramod *et al.*, 2006). 31 inshore fishing vessels have also been equipped with VMS since January 2011 (Anon 2011). See Breen *et al.*, (2015); Shelmerdine and Leslie (2015); Campbell *et al.*, (2014); Witt and Godley (2007); MRAG (2004) for more information on UK's vessel tracking system.

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

Score: 1

Score Range: 1-4

0.3% of fishing trips by UK fishing vessels were accompanied by an observer in the year 2015 (UK Parliament 2017). Limited observer coverage is also reported for stock assessment purposes for fishing vessels operating on the high seas and RFMO waters.

	2013	2014	2015
Observed trips	610	755	595
Total trips	228,359	228,413	222,015
% observed trips	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

See Coull and Bernie (2013); Cruickshank (2015); Pramod *et al.*, (2006); DEFRA (2007); Cotter *et al.*, (2006); Cotter and Pilling (2007) for more information on observer schemes in UK fisheries. To supplement the existing observer scheme, Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) has also been implemented through trials on 21 fishing vessels in Scotland (Needle *et al.*, 2015; Dirnsdale *et al.*, 2013).

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

Precise data is lacking for recent years. The number of fishing vessels inspected at sea has declined over the years. For the year 2013/14, Royal Navy conducted 567 inspections at sea resulting in identification of 99 infringements in British waters (MMO 2015). Inspections at sea were also conducted through Joint Deployment Plans (JDP) under the European Fisheries Control Agency. BBC (2017) report suggests that fewer patrol vessels were available to enforce fisheries regulations in UK waters.

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Marine Scotland and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) currently have maritime patrol aircraft that fly a total of around 1200 hours a year in the British EEZ (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2011).

Budget cuts have reduced flexibility of aerial maritime patrols by at least 20-30% in British waters (IISS 2013). Scottish Fishery Protection agency (SFPA) has two light Reims Cessna Caravan II F-406 aircraft (Watchdog Alpha and Watchdog Bravo) for fisheries enforcement activities (SFPA 2015). See MFA (2009); Anon (2003) for more information on aerial patrols within British fishery limits. During the financial year 2009-10, around 8763 sightings of fishing vessels took place through aerial surveillance in British waters (MFA 2010).

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

Score: 8

Score Range: 7-8

Both domestic and EU fishing vessels are inspected on a regular basis. See DEFRA (2015); MFA (2010); Catchpole *et al.*, (2014) and Pramod *et al.*, (2006) documents for more details. The European Community (including the UK) is a party to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing. See MMO (2014); DEFRA websites for more details on this aspect.

During any particular year, around 35,000 consignments of raw fish with an approximate market value of £2 billion enter UK markets through its ports. MMO authorities conduct occasional investigations and seize shipments after consultation with Russia, Morocco, Thailand and China, esp., for shipments that do not comply with EU - IUU legislation. During the 2011-2012 period, MMO conducted 2682 vessel inspections resulting in detection of 396 infringements, 83 written warnings and 22 cases were referred to the courts (MMO 2012).

UK is among a few EU member states to double-check shipments originating from West African waters, with a very thorough inspection of documents and shipments to ensure landings of IUU origin do not enter its markets. UK has also withheld several shipments of tuna from Ghana in 2013, with checks on documentation to verify legitimacy of imported seafood arriving at its ports on a regular basis. (See Tallaksen 2013 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: 7

Score Range: 5-7

Yes, to a significant extent in most commercial fisheries. See Harvey (2019); Scottish Government (2018); Scottish Government (2016); Carrington (2016); MMO (2015); MFA (2009); MFA (2010); Pramod *et al.*, (2006) documents for more details.

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

European Commission regulations prohibit transshipments at sea, and transshipments are only allowed in designated ports of the EU member countries. However, very little data is available about transshipments monitored within British ports. United Kingdom is signatory to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Fish imports from EEA/EFTA countries are required to submit IUU catch certificates (Scottish Government, 2010b).

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

Score: 7.5

Score Range: 7-8

Rigorous checks are in place during inspections at sea for gear violations; although minor landing ports in many locations do not receive the same attention throughout the year. Recent budget cuts at MMO have also contributed to reduced interception of land-based maritime crimes at minor ports (Anon, *pers. comm.*, 2017).

However, UK is given a higher score in this question as fishing gears are regularly inspected during patrols at sea (for mesh size compliance and use of blinded nets) and any infringing national or foreign vessel is heavily penalized. In fact, fishing gear violations are among the most common fisheries offences detected by Royal Navy patrols at sea. See Carrington (2016); Pramod *et al.*, (2006); Harvey (2019); MMO website 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

Score Range: 6-7

Fisheries Act of 1981 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in British waters. The country has adopted a NPOA on IUU Fishing through EU regulations on IUU fishing. The Sea Fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing) Order 2009 came into force on January 25, 2010 has detailed guidelines for fishing vessels in British waters. UN Fish Stocks Agreement, FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Port State Measures Agreement are also applied through membership to the European Union. According to ClientEarth (2017) fisheries prosecutions have declined and fines for IUU infractions are low in UK (ECA 2017; Edwards 2018; Scottish Government 2018).

See UK Parliament (2019); Harvey (2019); Edwards (2018); ECA (2017); Scottish Government (2016); BBC (2016); Martin (2016); Le Floc'h *et al.*, (2015); Smith *et al.*, (2015); Breen *et al.*, (2015); Condie *et al.*, (2014); EU (2014); Smith (2015); Pascoe and Tingley (2010); Pramod *et al.*, (2006); Hatcher and Gordon (2005) documents for more information.

Flag of Convenience	No	Source: ITF (2015)
Vessels on the RFMO - IUU vessel list	No	

RFMO	Year of the assessment	Compliant	Partially Compliant	Not Compliant	Source
CCAMLR	2013	Yes			CCAMLR

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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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