



# IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

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

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### ALGERIA - COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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## SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Algeria** 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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## ALGERIA – COUNTRY REPORT



**FAO landings (2013):** 100,058 tonnes

**Fisheries Contribution to the GDP (2013):** -

**Law of the Sea (Ratification /accession):** 11<sup>th</sup> June 1996

**Coastline:** 998 km

**RFMO Membership:** GFCM, ICCAT

**Patrolling agencies:** Algeria Coast Guard

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Human Trafficking & Terrorism
2.	Narcotics Trafficking
3.	Illegal Fishing

## 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

Score Range: 5-7

Yes, to a moderate extent for effective patrolling in waters up to 24 nautical miles from the shore. Algeria Coast guard has 6 fast patrol boats (*Bablietto 20*), 49 patrol boats and 2 squadrons of Beech 200 & Beech 300 King maritime patrol aircraft. See IISS (2013); Anderson (2014); Zoubir and Dris-Aït-Hamadouche (2013) reports for more information.

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

Score: 5

Score Range: 3-5

There are adequate trained officers for fisheries inspection at commercial ports, but inspections have been rather muted in artisanal fisheries with the exception of closed seasons. Small-scale vessels targeting pelagic fish and trawlers commit extensive zone and mesh size violations due to absence of inspectors at sea and landing beaches.

- 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. However, during the two-month Bluefin tuna season, tuna vessels are required to carry logbooks and report catches after unloading at the nearest port. See EU (2011) for more information.

Algeria fishing vessels do not venture beyond territorial limits and currently none of the vessels are reported to operate on the high seas.

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

Score: 5

Score Range: 3-5

VMS is mandatory for all tuna vessels. Algeria has 813 fishing vessels above 15 m OAL operating in the Mediterranean Sea (451 trawlers; 299 Purse seiners; 13 Drift netters using gillnets and entangling gears; 3 hook and line vessels and 47 other vessels exploiting other species). Algeria has installed 12 land stations along the entire coast to receive VHF signals from more than 1000 fishing vessels that have been equipped with transponders which have an inbuilt GPS device that transmits information such as the vessel unique identification number, speed, its position, and catches. The VHF system has limited range of 30-50 nautical miles and the system has faced technical problems (GFCM 2015).

Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels 15 days before the Bluefin tuna authorization period and must continue for another 15 days after the fishing period. Each vessel is required to poll every 4 hours in accordance with ICCAT recommendations (ICCAT 2015).

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 1-2

Available information suggests that there is limited observer scheme to ensure compliance with quotas during the Bluefin tuna fishing season each year. Two observers are deployed on tuna vessels during the Bluefin tuna season to monitor all fishing & at-sea transfers; recording catches in logbooks and submits report after each trip (ICCAT 2015).

## SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

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

Score: 4

Score Range: 3-5

Occasional boarding's are documented for fishing vessels during closed periods to prevent use of banned fishing gear and implement closures in restricted areas. Illegal coral fishing, tuna poaching and unauthorised harvesting of reef fish and invertebrates pose threats all along the coast.

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 2-4

Aerial patrols for fisheries surveillance is not reported and only used when suspected illegal fishing or transfers at sea are reported by fishing boats. In the past, illegal tuna transshipments were detected at regional fishing ports and alleged fishing owners were prosecuted through courts.

See Q.1 for some information on availability of maritime patrol aircraft.

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

Score: 4.5

Score Range: 2-5

Department of Marine Affairs (DMA) of the Coast Guard National Service (CGNS) in Algeria exercises Port State control. There are 27 inspectors dispatched along 24 marine stations (with up to 31 fishing ports). Azaouraou *et al.*, (2014) report suggests that very few foreign fishing or seafood container vessels are inspected in Algerian ports each year. Monitoring of tuna catches is achieved through logbooks; catch declarations supplemented by on-board observer programs and implementation of VMS in the Bluefin tuna fishery. All these tools are designed to identify all active vessels and evaluate landings (indirect assessment) to combat illegal fishing. Monitoring of landings is also recorded by data collection officers under the Fisheries Administration (at landing points) or through sampling surveys at landing sites. In 2013, four Algerian tuna vessels were detained for such violations (ICCAT 2014).

All Bluefin tuna catches are required to be landed in six designated ports (port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Béjaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran and port of Ténès) for inspections by Fisheries and other agencies. 15 tuna vessels (12 purse seiners and 3 longliners) were authorized to catch Bluefin tuna in the current year (ICCAT 2015).

**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: 2-4

There is a high occurrence of illegal fishing infractions during closed seasons for swordfish, and Bluefin tuna. Illegal fishing is also reported during Biological rest period for major commercial species (Anon 2013). Trawlers and purse seiners are major offenders of zonal regulations at sea (Dahou 2013); when vessels are caught for violations penalties have been low allowing such practices to continue unabated. Illegal landing and sale of undersized fish in local markets has depleted fish stocks to historic lows (APS 2017). See Kacher (2010); Boubekri and Djébar (2016) reports for more information.

Implementation of fisheries laws has been largely inexistent in coastal fisheries as Government observers are not well qualified or in most instances lack enforcement capability within jurisdictional confines of the municipal waters.

**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: 3-5

Some transshipments are conducted at ports and checked before seafood is exported overseas. Foreign fishing vessels are normally not allowed into Algerian ports and although some transshipments at sea are authorized for national fleet, the extent to which such transfers are monitored remains a tad low. Bluefin tuna caught by Algerian vessels is landed in local ports and domestic vessels are prohibited from landing such catches in neighboring countries. Article 58 of Law 01-11 prohibits transshipment of Bluefin tuna at sea. Nevertheless, local fishermen report illegal transshipments between fishing vessels at sea in coastal waters. With the crackdown in 2009, such events are increasingly witnessed away from the main fishing ports. Moreover, transfer of cargo between fishing vessels has not been addressed until now.

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

Score: 2

Score Range: 1-2

Such requirements were not legislated for Algerian fishing vessels using local ports. Less than 5% of total landing sites are monitored by fisheries inspectors.

**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

Law No. 01-11 on Fishing and Aquaculture of 3 July 2001 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Algerian waters. The country has not adopted NPOA on IUU Fishing to fight and eliminate illegal fishing. Algeria is not a party to UN Port State Measures Agreement, FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Algeria has put in place a system of monitoring, inspection and data collection to meet requirements of the ICCAT (ICCAT 2014a). See Bregazzi (2007); Kacher (2010); Dahou (2013); Boubekri and Djebar (2016); APS (2017) reports for more information.

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

RFMO	Year of the assessment	Compliant	Partially compliant	Not Compliant	Source
GFCM	2014	Yes			FAO (2015)
ICCAT	2013		Yes		ICCAT (2014a) ICCAT (2014b) ICCAT (2014c)

*Last update: 05 August 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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