IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

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

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## GUYANA – COUNTRY REPORT

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## *SUMMARY*

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

### Suggested citation:

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# GUYANA – COUNTRY REPORT

**FAO landings (2013):** 48,468 tonnes
**Fisheries contribution to GDP (2018)**: 1.6%
**Law of the Sea (Ratification)**: 16th November 1993
**Coastline:** 459 km
**RFMO Membership:** None
**Patrolling Agencies:** Guyana Defence Force (Coast Guard Unit); Fisheries Department; Guyana Police Force

| Rank | Priority for maritime security tasks |
|---|---|
| 1. | Cross-border incursions and piracy |
| 2. | Narcotics 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?**
   Score: 4.5
   Score Range: 3-5

   No, minimal capability for law enforcement patrols in some jurisdictions (Ellis 2019). Guyana Defence Force has four Barracuda patrol boats and one patrol vessel (Essequibo) for offshore patrols (Military Balance 2020). In recent years, GDF's lone flagship patrol vessel "*Essequibo*" is faced with technical problems, while the other patrol boats cannot engage in long-range patrols (Chabrol 2020). Guyana Defence Force (GDF) has boosted procurement in recent years by acquiring three 31-foot Metal/shark aluminum fast patrol boats (*N28, N29* and *N30*) under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) from USA in 2014 (DPI 2014), and two 38-foot *Metal Shark 38V Defiant Class* vessels in early 2017 (DPI 2017). In 2020, Fisheries Department acquired a marine surveillance vessel "*Cavalli*" (worth $99 million Guyana dollars) to monitor to conduct research and MCS activities (DPI 2020). See Maison (2007); Anon (2010a,b); Jane (2010) documents for more information.

2. **Does the country have adequate trained officers to conduct MCS operations?**
   Score: 4.5
   Score Range: 3-5

   Available information suggests availability of limited manpower in Guyanese Defence Force and the Fisheries Department for land and sea-based enforcement (Maison 2007; Salas *et al.*, 2007; 2010b; FCI 2009; Macfadyen 2011; Fisheries Department 2016; GFD 2018; MSC 2019). Fisheries Department is under-resourced with minimal budget (FCI 2009; ACP-Fish 2013).

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 the country does not possess such capabilities (Macfadyen 2011). However, the reported range of national industrial fleet does not extend beyond its EEZ maritime limits. The current

VMS coverage for industrial shrimp fleet provides limited picture of any possible transgressions into neighbouring countries EEZs.

4. **What proportion of fishing vessels is equipped with vessel monitoring system (VMS) to monitor their movements on a continuous basis?**
   Score: 5
   Score Range: 3-5

   All trawlers are required to install VMS transponders before licenses are issued each year (Anon 2014). Recording of catches in logbooks is mandatory and VMS transponders with onboard cameras have been installed on 87 steel hulled twin-rig shrimp trawlers (22 metres) in the seabob fishery (MSC 2019). Seabob trawlers send position reports every 60 minutes (MSC 2019). In 2016 "*total number of infringements for the period under review was three hundred and ninety-six (396) of which two hundred and fifty-five (255) were No Trawl Zone Entry (NTZE) while one hundred and forty-one (141) No Beacon Signal Receive (NBSR) were recorded*" (Amsterdam 2016).

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: 0-2

   Available information suggests occasional observer missions were conducted by WWF in the seabob shrimp trawl fishery during some years (MSC 2019; Fisheries Department 2016). Steady observer coverage for MCS reconnaissance is not reported for the industrial fishing fleet on an annual basis.

## SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

6. **How often fishing vessels are inspected at sea (Identification by sight and boarding for inspections)?**
   Score: 4
   Score Range: 2-5

   *Such data is not reported for Guyana's fisheries sector*. Occasional patrols are reported using the lone offshore patrol vessel and four coastal patrol boats. Inshore patrols are not reported regularly with target of seven patrols/month for the lone offshore patrol vessel, which adds up to a total of 70-80 days of at-sea patrols each year (Macfadyen 2011). See Q.1 for information on lack of

patrol capability in recent years. DPI (2016) report suggests that Fisheries Department has limited capability to conduct inspections of fishing vessels at sea; However, routine inspections are reported at port for the seabob shrimp trawl fleet before and after completion of every fishing trip. In June 2020, Fisheries Department acquired a new research/surveillance vessel "*Cavalli*" which is likely to assist in conducting inspections at sea provided enough finances are allocated for fuel and maintenance of the patrol vessel. MSC (2019) report suggests that boarding's at sea are not conducted on a regular basis.

7. **How often fishing vessels are scrutinized through aerial patrols?**
   Score: 1.5
   Score Range: 1-4

   *Such data is scant for Guyana's fisheries*. Ellis (2019) suggests that GDF-Air Corps has no operational capability and its two BN-2 Islander aircraft procured from Brazil in 2018 have no surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) sensor packages for maritime patrol duties. Further, the same report suggests that "*To supplement the lack of aviation assets, the GDF periodically charters civilian aircraft and flies them over the nation's maritime exclusive economic zone and other areas, crewed with GDF officers manned with binoculars, in order to provide a minimal detection capability*" (Ellis 2019).

   Military Balance (2020) and Ellis (2019) reports suggests very limited aerial patrolling capacity for fisheries surveillance. According to Macfadyen (2011) due to low allocation of funds, only two aerial surveillance patrols of 2-3 hours duration were undertaken each month.

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

   TED fishing gear inspections are reported at all five main industrial landing sites; with minimal counterchecks of catches against logbooks reported in both industrial and artisanal sectors (Macfadyen 2011; DPI 2016). Foreign fishing vessels (mostly Venezuelan) are required under their license conditions to report their entry and exit from ports to the Customs authorities. A significant number of Surinamese (SK+BV) vessels land catches caught from Suriname EEZ in Guyana due to owners residing in Guyana (WWF 2017). Seabob shrimp trawl fishery is well monitored compared to other commercial and artisanal fisheries (GFD 2018). Only foreign flagged reefer made a port call in 2018 (James 2019).

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: 2
Score Range: 1-4

1315 fishing boats are reported in the artisanal sector of which 43% were operating illegally (WWF 2019). Few Management Plans are reported in the artisanal fisheries sector. Many fishing gear violations and conflicts reportedly occur between industrial and artisanal vessels in the inshore areas (GFD 2018; FAO 2017; Maison 2007; CARICOM 2001; GNDS 1997; GNDS 2006). Industrial trawlers (esp., seabob trawlers) are checked for regularly use of TEDs at all major ports (Macfadyen 2011; DPI 2016). Time closures are not enforced properly in the shrimp trawl fishery (FAO 2017). In 2016 "*total number of infringements for the period under review was three hundred and ninety-six (396) of which two hundred and fifty-five (255) were No Trawl Zone Entry (NTZE) while one hundred and forty-one (141) No Beacon Signal Receive (NBSR) were recorded*" (Amsterdam 2016). Unreported discards of commercially important species in artisanal fisheries also pose a problem for Fisheries Department officers (Kalicharan and Oxenford 2020).

10. **Are all the catches that are caught in this jurisdiction at sea accounted for (i.e., unreported Trans-shipments at sea)?**
Score: 4
Score Range: 2-5

*Data deficient*. Low capability for inspections at sea; hence the score is reduced here. Minimal, through inspections at sea using the lone offshore patrol vessel about 2-3 times per month. It is difficult to understand the extent of unreported transshipments as offshore waters in the EEZ are not patrolled adequately. Transshipments at sea are suspected to occur (GNDS 1997; GNDS 2006; DPI 2016a). MSC (2019) report suggests that at-sea transshipment is not permitted in the seabob fishery.

11. **Are vessels required to undergo inspection of equipment and fishing gear for every fishing trip?**
Score: 4.5
Score Range: 2-5

Periodic inspections after fishing trips are reported for industrial seabob shrimp trawlers to check for compliance with TED regulations (Macgadyen

2011) and small-scale vessels for license checks, vessel registration and illegal use of anchor seines (Anon 2014). Seabob trawlers are required to use Turtle Excluder Device (TEDs) and use of By-Catch Reduction devices is reported in the seabob trawl fishery. However, GFD (2018) report suggests there are significant monitoring gaps in other semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries. However, significant improvements in BRD and TED use is reported in the seabob fishery (DPI 2016a; Garstin *et al*., 2017; Garstin and Oxenford 2018).

**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: 4.5
Score Range: 3-5

The Fisheries Act 2002 (Cap 71:08) of 25 July 2003 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Guyana waters. Fisheries Act has integrated several measures for the implementation of regulations from the FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Guyana has implemented several new legal and regulatory policies to improve fisheries management and tackle IUU fishing in the industrial fisheries (FAO 2020). Some new measures include development of a robust Marine Fisheries Management Plan 2013-2018 and species specific fisheries management plans (e.g. seabob). The country has not adopted a NPOA on IUU Fishing. With the exception of seabob trawl fishery, all other semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries face IUU and catch reporting issues (GFD 2018).

Guyana is not a party to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Compliance Agreement. Guyana ratified the UN Port State Measures Agreement on 7 March 2016. See GFD (2018); WWF (2018); GNDS (2006); Salas *et al*., (2007); Anon (2016b); ACP-Fish 2013; Edeson and Pulvenis (2012); Macfadyen (2011) reports for more information on compliance and unregistered artisanal boats in Guyanese fisheries.

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

*Last Updated: 16 June 2020*

## 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://iuuriskintelligence.com/). (The author can be contacted at prammod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).



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