



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

Australia's Measures to Combat IUU Fishing



ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
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Combatting IUU Fishing

Two key components:

- Strong domestic legislation
- International and regional cooperation

Fisheries Management Act 1991

- Strong deterrent against Australian vessels from undertaking IUU fishing and allows action to be taken against vessels fishing illegally in Australian waters
- Strong deterrent against international vessels from landing or transshipping fish without prior ministerial approval
- Consistent with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement
- Regulates the sale of fish and fish products

Update to fisheries legislation

Planned updates to legislation to:

- increase penalties and introduce enforceable undertakings to make them more effective disincentives
- clarify certain aspects of the offence and penalty regime, including the seizure and destruction of illegal vessels
- investigate options to create new offences to prevent illegal fishing by stateless vessels and allow Australia to take action against these vessels

Other relevant legislation:

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

- Assessment of the impacts of fishing on the broader marine ecosystem

Maritime Powers Act 2013

- Provides for the administration and enforcement of Australian laws in maritime areas

Customs Act 1901

- Prohibits the import of illegal goods, for example illegal catches of toothfish.

Monitoring, control and surveillance

- Minimum reporting requirements to the relevant government authority, including details of the type and level of fish that are caught
- E-monitoring and observer programs
- Vessel monitoring system required for all Commonwealth operators
- National Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Ongoing surveillance of Australian waters

National Plan of Action on IUU Fishing:

- First released in 2005
- Updated Plan released November 2014
- Consistent with the FAO International Plan of Action

International and Regional Collaboration

- Continued RFMO engagement, including on the introduction and strengthening of regional monitoring, control and surveillance activities
- Ratification of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement
- Ratification of Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement progressing – expected in 2016
- Support for the Forum Fisheries Agency in the Pacific



International and Regional Collaboration contd.

- Regional Plan of Action in SE Asia – success against IUU operators in the Southern Ocean
- International forums including FAO, IMO and UNGA



Thank You