

UNCHARTED WATERS

Evaluating fisheries transparency in Liberia



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EJF works internationally to inform policy and drive systemic, durable reforms to protect our environment and defend human rights. We investigate and expose abuses and support environmental defenders, Indigenous peoples, communities and independent journalists on the frontlines of environmental injustice. Our campaigns aim to secure peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures.

EJF is committed to creating effective co-management associations to secure legal and sustainable fisheries. Our investigators, researchers, filmmakers and campaigners work with grassroots partners and environmental defenders across the globe.

Our work to secure environmental justice aims to protect our global climate, ocean, forests, wetlands, wildlife and defend the fundamental human right to a secure natural environment, recognising that all other rights are contingent on this.

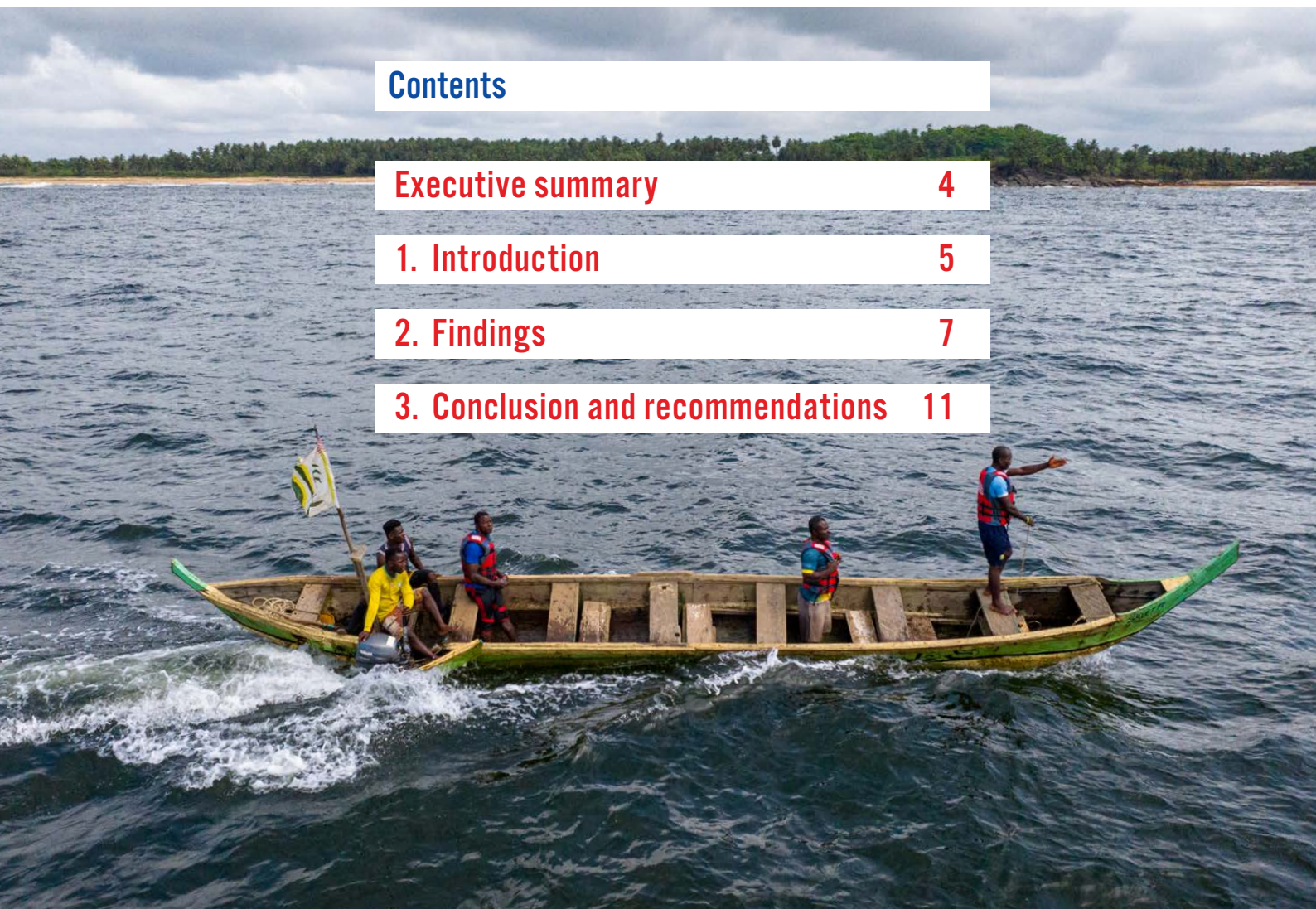
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The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) are working in partnership on the European Union-funded Communities for Fisheries project to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improve the sustainability of Liberia's fisheries.

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Contents	
Executive summary	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Findings	7
3. Conclusion and recommendations	11

Abbreviations

AIS	Automatic Identification System	FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
CMA	Collaborative Management Association	FoC	Flag of Convenience
CTA	Cape Town Agreement	ILO	International Labour Organization
EJF	Environmental Justice Foundation	IMO	International Maritime Organization
EU	European Union	IUU	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	NaFAA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority
FCWC	Fisheries Committee for the West and Central Gulf of Guinea	NPOA-IUU	National Plan of Action to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative	PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
		VMS	Vessel Monitoring System



Executive summary

Liberia's marine fisheries play a critical role in the national economy, food security, and livelihoods of coastal communities. The sector provides direct employment and income to over 75,000 people, with 80% of the population depending on fish as a primary source of protein. However, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities threaten the sustainability of fish populations and the sector's viability. In 2017, the European Union (EU) pre-identified Liberia as a non-cooperating country in the fight against IUU fishing (a so-called 'yellow card' issued by the European Commission).

For Liberia to effectively combat IUU fishing, it is essential to enhance fisheries transparency by adopting and implementing the principles outlined in the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency (The Charter). This charter comprises a set of low- or no-cost, internationally recognised steps designed to ensure sustainable, legal, and ethical fisheries. Liberia has demonstrated its commitment to enhanced transparency by endorsing the Charter both before and at the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) in Nice, France.

The gap analysis aims to assist Liberia in moving from commitment to the Charter to implementation, ensuring the positive benefits of fisheries transparency are secured for Liberian livelihoods, food security, and the national economy. This report presents the findings of an evaluation of fisheries transparency in Liberia, based on the principles outlined in the Charter. The evaluation found that Liberia fully implements Principles 5 and 6 and partially implements Principles 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10, while Principle 4 remains unimplemented. This suggests that the country needs to intensify its efforts to promote fisheries transparency to combat IUU fishing and protect the livelihoods of local fishers.

To achieve this, EJP recommends that the government of the Republic of Liberia fully implements the principles of the Charter, with a particular focus on: requiring an IMO number as a precondition for registering a fishing vessel; publishing information on fisheries-related infringements and sanctions; requiring operators to submit information on beneficial ownership (the individuals who ultimately profit from a given vessel's activities), including records on the destination of profits from fishing activities, when applying for a licence; making beneficial ownership information publicly available; prohibiting vessels with a foreign controlling interest registering under the Liberian flag; and ensuring that data elements for the traceability of fish products across the supply chain are sufficiently thorough and consistently collected. We also recommend that Liberia ratifies key ILO Conventions, including C188 concerning decent work in fisheries, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (Po29) and the Convention and Promotional Framework on occupational safety and health (C155 and C187), as well as the IMO Cape Town Agreement on fishing safety.



1. Introduction

Liberia's marine fisheries play a critical role in the national economy, food security, and livelihoods of coastal communities. The sector provides direct employment and income to over 75,000 people, with 80% of the population depending on fish as a primary source of protein.¹ There are currently six foreign-flagged industrial trawler vessels operating in Liberia's waters, and over 100 foreign-owned fishing transport vessels operating outside Liberia's waters while registered under the Liberian flag. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities threaten the sustainability of fish populations and the sector's viability. In 2017, the European Union (EU) pre-identified Liberia as a non-cooperating country in the fight against IUU fishing (issuing it a so-called 'yellow card' trade warning from the European Commission). Liberia was identified as lacking sufficient measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing, which led to the listing of Liberian-flagged vessels on international "black lists".²

To curtail these threats and lift the yellow card, Liberia has made progress by establishing the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) in 2017, and consolidating and updating Liberia's legislation on fisheries and aquaculture with the enactment of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law in 2019.³ The country also operates a Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) to monitor vessels fishing in Liberia, as well as Liberian-flagged vessels fishing on the high seas and in other countries' waters, for compliance with fishing regulations. Additionally, Liberia promotes a participatory fisheries management approach with Collaborative Management Associations (CMAs), which allows local fishers to be involved in monitoring, control, and surveillance, and recently joined the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI).⁴ The country also endorsed⁵ The Charter⁶ before and at the UNOC-3 in Nice, France.⁷ This is a positive development signalling Liberia's commitment to improving transparency in its fisheries.

Liberia is a signatory to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), a key international instrument aimed at detecting and preventing IUU fishing through inspections of third-country fishing vessels in port. It has also developed a National Plan of Action to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) in line with the International Plan of Action to Deter, Prevent and Eliminate IUU fishing and is a member of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), which aims to facilitate cooperation in fisheries management among its member countries. However, Liberia has not yet ratified two further international agreements that are critical in the global fight against IUU fishing and associated labour abuses, namely the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2012 Cape Town Agreement to enhance fishing safety and the International Labour Organization (ILO) 2007 Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188) to ensure decent working conditions on fishing vessels.

The Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency

Transparency is crucial for ensuring accountability in the fisheries sector. It guarantees that information regarding vessels, fishing activities, and fisheries governance is readily available, accessible, and usable by all stakeholders involved in fisheries. It facilitates informed interactions and paves the way for several benefits, including improved fishing and labour practices, reduced corruption, strengthened law enforcement, and enhanced participatory decision-making processes.

In 2022, EJF and international NGO partners established the global Coalition for Fisheries Transparency. The Coalition is working to enhance transparency and accountability in fisheries around the world through the implementation of the Charter.⁸ The Charter is centred around 10 low- or no-cost, realistically achievable policy principles, pinpointing the most essential transparency priorities needed to improve equity in fisheries and combat illegal fishing and human rights abuses at sea. The Charter focuses on three key areas: vessel information (Principles 1-4), fishing activities (Principles 5-7), and fisheries governance and management (Principles 8-10). It serves as a guiding framework for governments to implement fisheries transparency policy reforms in both law and practice.⁹





















To manage fisheries sustainably, stakeholders need to be able to access all relevant information: where and when fishing vessels are operating, for what and how they are fishing, who is working on board, and under what conditions. Delivering transparency across all aspects of seafood production and supply chains, through improved legal requirements and operational practices within fisheries management regimes, would be transformative in achieving sustainable, legal, and ethical global fisheries.

This analysis evaluates fisheries transparency in Liberia against the principles of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency.¹⁰ The aim is to provide an overview of Liberia's progress to date in implementing key transparency principles in its fisheries sector and identify the main gaps and priorities for action to bring the country's legal and policy frameworks into line with global best practice as outlined in the Charter. This gap analysis also aims to assist Liberia in moving from commitment to the Charter to implementation, ensuring the positive benefits of fisheries transparency are secured for Liberian livelihoods, food security, and the national economy.



2. Findings

Summary – Implementation status of the key principles of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency by Liberia:

VESSEL INFORMATION	1		Require unique identification numbers for all fishing vessels.		Partially implemented
	2		Publish lists of licenses, authorisations, and sanctions.		Partially implemented
	3		Make public the beneficial ownership of vessels.		Partially implemented
	4		Stop the use of flags of convenience by fishing vessels.		Not implemented
FISHING ACTIVITY	5		Make vessel position data public.		Fully implemented
	6		Ban or closely monitor at-sea trans-shipment.		Fully implemented
	7		Mandate seafood traceability from boat to plate.		Partially implemented
GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT	8		Ratify international agreements that set standards for fishing vessels and trade.		Partially implemented
	9		Ensure public and equitable access to fisheries data and participation in fisheries management and decision-making.		Partially implemented
	10		Collect data on the conditions of fishing vessel crews and publish it in aggregate form.		Partially implemented



PRINCIPLE 1: Require unique identification numbers for all fishing vessels.

Liberian law does not require Liberian-flagged vessels to have an International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number. However, a foreign vessel applying to fish in Liberian waters is required to provide an IMO number as a condition for obtaining a licence.¹¹

Status: **Partially implemented**



PRINCIPLE 2: Publish lists of licences, authorisations, and sanctions.

NaFAA publishes the list of vessels licensed to fish in Liberia's waters on NaFAA's website. Some information is submitted to the FAO for inclusion in the Global Record. However, this falls short of providing all the required information, particularly historical details of vessels, authorisations, inspections, surveillance data, and information on beneficial ownership. NaFAA does not disclose the identities of perpetrators involved in IUU fishing activities or the penalties imposed upon them.

The register is required to include any record of non-compliance with the licence or authorisation, and action taken.¹² The Director General is further required to maintain and make publicly available a record of the outcome of any legal or administrative action taken for any offence or violation resulting in a judgment or administrative determination.¹³ However, these provisions do not appear to be implemented in practice.

Status: **Partially implemented**



PRINCIPLE 3: Make public the beneficial ownership of vessels.

There is no requirement under Liberian law for vessel owners or operators to provide beneficial ownership information when applying for vessel registration. Nor is there such a requirement in the provisions governing licensing and authorisations. However, the fishing licence application form has a field to report the vessel's beneficial owners, and provisions on the issuance of licences in the framework of access agreements, as well as licence suspension and cancellation. This suggests that beneficial ownership information should be collected by the authorities.

Information about beneficial owners is not publicly available.

Status: **Partially implemented**



PRINCIPLE 4: Stop the use of flags of convenience (FoC) by fishing vessels.

The Maritime Law allows any foreign entity to establish a legal presence in Liberia to register and operate a fishing vessel under the Liberian flag.

Status: **Not implemented**



PRINCIPLE 5: Make vessel position data public.

All vessels licensed to fish in Liberia's waters are mandated to install, maintain and operate a VMS,¹⁴ however VMS information is required to be kept confidential.¹⁵ Installation of AIS is also a condition of all industrial licences for fishing or related activities. AIS must be operated continuously at all times while the fishing vessel is operating in Liberian waters and areas beyond national jurisdiction.¹⁶

Status: **Fully implemented**



PRINCIPLE 6: Ban or closely monitor at-sea trans-shipment.

All trans-shipments are required to be pre-authorised and supervised by an authorised inspector or observer.

Status: **Fully implemented**



PRINCIPLE 7: Mandate seafood traceability from boat to plate.

For all fish products landed in Liberia, the packaging must indicate the identity of the vessel that caught the fish, as well as the vessel owner or operator. In addition, basic requirements for the traceability of fish products apply across the supply chain, yet the data elements to be recorded are neither thorough enough nor collected consistently enough.

Status: **Partially implemented**



PRINCIPLE 8: Ratify international agreements that set standards for fishing vessels and trade.

Liberia is a party to the PSMA and to most fundamental ILO conventions (C029, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138, and 182). Furthermore, Liberia has enacted the Decent Work Act of 2015. However, the country has yet to ratify C188, which promotes decent work for workers in the fishing sector, as well as the IMO Cape Town Agreement (CTA) to enhance fishing safety.¹⁷

Status: Partially implemented



PRINCIPLE 9: Ensure public and equitable access to fisheries data and participation in fisheries management and decision-making.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law aims to enhance understanding and encourage broad and accountable participation by stakeholders in the conservation, management, development, and sustainable use of fisheries resources. However, this goal is hindered by limited access to fisheries data, which is not readily available to promote active public involvement in fisheries management and decision-making. NaFAA's data repository is not accessible to all fisheries stakeholders, including fishers in remote communities with limited internet connectivity. Although NaFAA has County Fisheries Inspectors, there are limited sub-offices in fishing counties or regions where this information can be accessed. However, NaFAA has supported the establishment of eight CMAs in six of Liberia's nine coastal counties to promote participatory fisheries management and decision-making.

Status: Partially implemented



PRINCIPLE 10: Collect data on the conditions of fishing vessel crews and publish it in aggregate form.

NaFAA's fisheries inspectors and the Liberia Maritime Authority collect and maintain data on the working status and conditions of fishing crews. However, this information is not publicly accessible.

Status: Partially implemented

3. Conclusion and recommendations

This evaluation of Liberia's legal and policy framework against the principles of the Charter highlights significant gaps in transparency, which undermine Liberia's ability to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in its waters and by its vessels.

To address these gaps, EJF recommends that the government of Liberia commits to implementing the principles of the Charter, with a focus on the following measures:

VESSEL INFORMATION (Principle 1-4)

- Make obtaining an IMO number a precondition for registering a fishing vessel.
- Create and implement a unique vessel identifier scheme for fishing vessels that are not eligible to obtain an IMO number.
- Publish updated data on fisheries-related infractions and sanctions, including IUU and human and labour rights abuses, at least once a year. This publication should specify the date of the infraction, the name, IMO number and owner of the vessel, the nature of the offence and the sanction adopted.
- Submit all required data for eligible vessels, including beneficial ownership, authorisations, inspections, and surveillance data, to the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels.
- Require operators to submit information on beneficial ownership, including records on the destination of profits from fishing activities when applying for registration under the Liberian flag or for a fishing licence or authorisation, and verify the accuracy of the information provided. Information submitted on beneficial ownership should be published in the list of fishing licences and external fishing authorisations.
- Prohibit fishing vessels owned by foreign controlling interests from registering under the Liberian flag as a flag of convenience.

FISHING ACTIVITY (Principles 5-7)

- Share all transshipment information with relevant authorities and fisheries stakeholders.
- Require processing facilities to record all key data of fish processed and specify the data elements to be recorded by supply chain actors, including vessel information, fishing location and methods, catch date, landing location, processing steps and dates, packaging details, and distribution records.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (Principles 8-10)

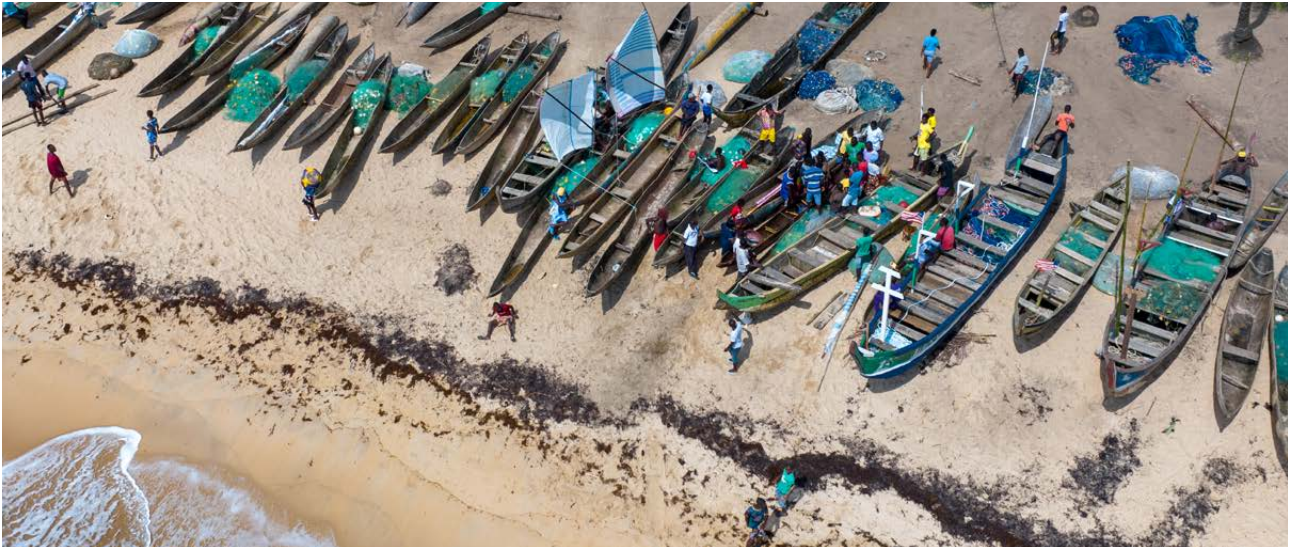
- Make it a priority programme for NaFAA to provide regular data and information, such as scientific assessments, vessel lists, crew information, subsidies, and traceability schemes, on NaFAA's website and related platforms to enhance transparent and participatory fisheries management in Liberia.
- Ratify or accede to the ILO Convention no. C188 concerning decent work in fisheries, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (PO29), the Convention and Promotional Framework on occupational safety and health (C155 and C187), and the IMO Cape Town Agreement on fishing safety.
- Strengthen existing legislation in accordance with good practices to protect crew from human rights and labour abuses.
- Collect and publish aggregated information about crew working on board industrial fishing vessels and their working conditions.

Annex

GCFT requirement	status	legal provisions / source	notes
Principle 1: Require unique identification numbers for all fishing vessels (including transport and supply vessels).			
Mandate IMO numbers for all eligible vessels.	Partially implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Law, Section 10.6(1)(d)	Foreign-flagged vessels are required to provide an IMO number to obtain a fishing licence. There are no provisions mandating an IMO number for Liberian-flagged vessels. The published list of vessels licensed to fish in Liberia in 2025 ¹⁸ includes the vessels' IMO numbers.
Implement a national unique vessel identifier scheme for non-eligible vessels.	Partially implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Law, Sections 10.19(1)(b) and 10.22(1)	Since there are no provisions requiring Liberian-flagged industrial vessels eligible for an IMO number to obtain one, there are also no provisions requiring non-eligible vessels to get a UVI. NaFAA issues registration numbers to all licensed semi-industrial, artisanal and recreational fishing vessels. However, Section 10.14(a) suggests that registration numbers may change, which, by definition, is incompatible with the definition of a UVI.
Maintain a vessel registry.	Fully implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Law, Sections 8.4(1)(b)	NaFAA is required to establish and maintain a register recording details of all fishing vessels, licences and authorisations.
Principle 2: Publish lists of licences, authorisations, and sanctions.			
Publish up-to-date lists of fishing licences and authorisations.	Fully implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 8.4(2) and 8.12(4) NaFAA - List of licensed vessels ¹⁹	The registers must be made available for inspection by the public. Lists of licensed vessels are regularly published on NaFAA's website, but do not include Liberian-flagged vessels authorised to fish outside Liberian waters.
Ensure public access to vessel registries.	Partially implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 8.4(2) and 8.12 NaFAA - Vessel registry ²⁰	NaFAA is required to maintain and operate a publicly available vessel registry. NaFAA's website includes a 'vessel registry' but the documents available on this webpage do not include all the information required to be recorded in the registry, and are outdated (last updated in December 2022).
Provide all information to the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels (including all eligible vessels over 12 metres in length overall).	Partially implemented	FAO - Global Record of Fishing Vessels ²¹	Liberia has been listed as a data contributor to the FAO Global Record on Fishing Vessels, but falls short of providing all the required information, particularly beneficial owners, historical details of vessels, authorisations, inspections, and surveillance data.
Publish information about arrests and sanctions imposed on individuals and companies for IUU fishing activities, human trafficking, and other related crimes.	Partially implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 8.5(1)(e) and (f) in conjunction with Section 8.4(2), and Sections 8.6 and 8.12 National Plan of Action to Deter, Prevent and Eliminate IUU fisheries ²²	The public register is required to include all records of non-compliance with the licence or authorisation, and action taken as a result. NaFAA is also required to maintain and make publicly available a record of the outcome of any legal or administrative action taken for any offence or violation resulting in a judgment or administrative determination. However, no such records have been published on government websites. Limited and outdated information about sanctions is available in Liberia's NPOA-IUU, and Sea Shepherd has published isolated reports of arrests made within the framework of a government-NGO joint operation. ²³

Principle 3: Make public the beneficial ownership of vessels.			
Require companies to provide information on true beneficial ownership when applying for a fishing licence, fishing authorisation or registration.	Partially implemented	Maritime Law, Chapter 2 Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 5.1(2)(c)(i), 10.6(3), 10.11(1)(b)(ii)	There is no requirement under Liberian law to declare the beneficial owners of a vessel when applying for registration under the Liberian flag. The registration form does not contain a field for beneficial owners. ²⁴ As far as licensing is concerned, the law mentions beneficial ownership in several provisions pertaining to the issuance of licences in the framework of access agreements, as well as licence suspension and cancellation, which presupposes that beneficial ownership information is known to the authorities. The licence application form ²⁵ contains a section to report beneficial owners. But there is no provision in the law or regulations requiring applicants to do so.
Publish information about beneficial ownership in all public lists.	Not implemented	NaFAA - List of licensed vessels ²⁶ FAO - Global Record of Fishing Vessels ²⁷	Information on beneficial ownership is not publicly available.
Principle 4: Stop the use of flags of convenience by fishing vessels.			
Close open registries to fishing vessels.	Not implemented	Maritime Law, Sections 51(5)(c) and 85 Liberian Maritime Vessels, Registration, and Control Laws (Amending Title 22), Section 368	Liberian law allows foreign entities to establish a legal presence in Liberia to register and operate a fishing vessel under the Liberian flag, provided they acquire a waiver of the nationality requirement and appoint a qualified registered agent.
Stop the use of flags of convenience by vessels fishing in national waters.	Partially implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Law, Section 10.4(2)	No legal provision prohibits the use of flags of convenience by foreign-flagged vessels fishing in Liberian waters. However, when issuing or renewing licences, NaFAA and the licensing committee are required to consider the ability of the relevant flag state to ensure compliance by fishing vessels flying their flag with the laws of coastal states and international conservation and management measures. ²⁸
Maintain a register of vessels owned by nationals but flagged to other countries.	Unable to assess	Liberian	Unable to find provisions that address this.
Principle 5: Make vessel position data public.			
Require automatic identification systems for fishing vessels.	Fully implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Section 10.17(d)	Vessels are required to install, maintain, and ensure the continuous operation of AIS.
Make unedited vessel monitoring system data public with regular transmission intervals sufficient to ensure vessels can be effectively tracked.	Not implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 8.8(4)(b) and 11.27(4)(c)	Vessel monitoring data are designated as confidential information, and NaFAA does not make vessel monitoring data public.
Principle 6: Ban or closely monitor at-sea trans-shipment.			
Implement a ban on trans-shipments at sea unless pre-authorised, subject to robust and verifiable electronic monitoring, and covered by a human observer scheme appropriate to the fishery.	Fully implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Section 10.25 Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulation 2020, Section 25	Transshipment can be authorised under strict conditions. A vessel is only allowed to tranship at an authorised time, place, and port after providing 72 hours' prior notice, which must include specific information required by law. The process is also required to be monitored by an authorised inspector or observer that NaFAA may require. NaFAA is not mandated by law to publish records of at-sea trans-shipment that have been pre-approved and monitored.

Principle 7: Mandate seafood traceability from boat to plate.			
Mandate the recording of standardised key data elements (vessel identification, identification of exporter and importer companies, product type, species name, weight, date of catch, area of catch, catch method or fishing gear, port of landing, and processing location).	Partially implemented	<p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Sections 7.8(1)(b)(ii), 7.10, and 8.11</p> <p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations 2020, Section 45</p>	<p>For all fish products landed in Liberia, the packaging must indicate the identity of the vessel that caught the fish and the vessel owner or operator.</p> <p>Fish processing facilities are required to keep and provide records of information on fish processed, including the identification of the vessel, species, time and location of harvest. However, not all key data elements are required to be recorded.</p> <p>In addition, all actors in the supply chain are required to identify their suppliers and batch numbers, and to maintain traceability records; however, data elements to be recorded are insufficiently specified.</p>
Principle 8: Ratify international agreements that set standards for fishing vessels and trade.			
Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing	Fully implemented	FAO - Ratification status of PSMA ²⁹	Liberia acceded to the PSMA in 2019.
ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work	Partially implemented	ILO - Ratifications of fundamental instruments by country ³⁰	Liberia is a party to most fundamental ILO conventions, but not to Po29, C155 and C187.
ILO Convention (No. 188) Concerning Work in the Fishing Sector	Not implemented	ILO - Ratifications of C188 ³¹	Despite efforts to ratify ILO Convention no. 188 through the FCWC, Liberia has yet to do so.
IMO Cape Town Agreement	Not implemented	IMO 2019 Torremolinos Declaration ³²	Liberia has committed to ratifying the Cape Town Agreement but has yet to do so.
Principle 9: Ensure public and equitable access to fisheries data and participation in fisheries management and decision-making.			
Publish all collected fisheries data and scientific assessments to facilitate access to information for small-scale fishers, fish workers, indigenous communities, industry associations, and civil society in developing fisheries rules, regulations, subsidies and fisheries budgets, and decisions on access to fisheries resources.	Partially implemented	<p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Section 8.12</p> <p>NaFAA Research and Statistics Division, 2018 Annual Report³³</p>	<p>NaFAA is required to facilitate public access to all fisheries-related information.</p> <p>However, there is only limited information (frame survey, fish workers, subsidies) on small-scale fisheries published on NaFAA's website. Most of NaFAA's annual reports, which contain landing statistics, are not publicly available.</p>
Make the processes, policies, and decisions relating to participatory fisheries management easily accessible to the public and enforcement agencies.	Fully implemented	Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development Law, Section 3.2	Gradual efforts towards inclusive and participatory fisheries decision-making processes are being made by establishing CMAs in six of the nine coastal counties. ³⁴ In areas where CMAs have been established, decisions made in meetings are broadly communicated to local fishers and stakeholders.
Principle 10: Collect data on the conditions of fishing vessel crews and publish it in aggregate form.			
Collect and verify data on the nationality, age, race and gender of crew, as well as contractual terms, recruitment agencies, location and means of joining vessels, and conditions on vessels.	Fully implemented	Liberia Maritime Regulations, Sections 10.292(7)(c), 10.296(2), and 10.318	The Liberia Maritime Authority and NaFAA's fisheries inspectors collect and maintain data on the employment, working status and conditions of crews, including documentation and data on their experience, training and medical fitness.
Ensure information about crew is publicly available in an aggregated form.	Not implemented	-	There is no publicly available information on the crew of fishing vessels.



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- 3 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, An Act to Amend the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority Law by Adding Thereto the Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Development, 2019, <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/lbr192628.pdf>
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- 5 Front Page Africa (2025) 'Liberia: Vice President Koung to Unveil New Fisheries Transparency Measures at UN Ocean Conference', <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-vice-president-koung-to-unveil-new-fisheries-transparency-measures-at-un-ocean-conference/> (accessed 9 July 2025)
- 6 CFT (2024) *Global Charter for fisheries transparency*, <https://fisheriestransparency.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Coalition-for-Fisheries-Transparency-Global-Charter-2024-EN.pdf>
- 7 Front Page Africa (2025) 'Liberia Pledges Action Against Hidden Owners of Criminal Vessels', <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-pledges-action-against-hidden-owners-of-criminal-vessels/> (accessed 9 July 2025)
- 8 CFT (2024) *Global Charter for fisheries transparency*, <https://fisheriestransparency.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Coalition-for-Fisheries-Transparency-Global-Charter-2024-EN.pdf>
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Law, Section 10.6(1)(d).
- 12 Ibid., Section 8.5(1)(e) and (f).
- 13 Ibid., Section 8.6.
- 14 Ibid., Section 11.27.
- 15 Ibid., Section 8.8.
- 16 Ibid., Section 10.7(d).
- 17 International Labour Convention no. 188: it is a convention that is applicable to all types of commercial fishing and establishes minimum standards that protect fishers in all aspects of their work (human rights, minimum wages, industrial relations, employment policy, social dialogue, social security). It sets international standards for safety on board fishing vessels, food accommodation and medical care.
- 18 Liberia National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (2025) 'Vessels listing', <https://nafaa.gov.lr/liberia-support-vessels-listing/> (accessed 29 May 2025)
- 19 Liberia National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (2025) 'Vessels listing', <https://nafaa.gov.lr/liberia-support-vessels-listing/> (accessed 29 May 2025)
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