ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

*Protecting People and Planet*

# THE TEN PRINCIPLES FOR GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY

## PRINCIPLE THREE
### Publish lists of fishing licences and authorisations

While there are many aspects to eradicating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fisheries crimes, the public availability of credible information on fishing vessels' identities and activities is essential. In addition, this is virtually cost-free and can be undertaken quickly.

**EJF recommends that:**
- Coastal states publish details of access agreements and lists of vessels licensed to fish within their waters;
- Flag states publish the list of vessels registered to their flag;
- Flag states publish lists of vessels authorised to fish outside their EEZ.



A tuna vessel offloads its catches at Tema port in Ghana.

As a minimum, information about the following should be made publicly available:

## Coastal state licence list

- Name, tonnage and length of the vessel
- Flag of the fishing vessel and authorising country
- Vessel and/or gear type and target species
- Details of any quota allocated to vessels, if applicable
- Registration number and IMO number
- Details of the vessel legal owner and operator, including beneficial owner (if available)
- Period of the licence
- Licence fee
- Crew manifest



Crew member holding the Panama flag of a fishing vessel.

## Flag state registry

- Name, tonnage and length of the vessel
- Vessel and/or gear type and target species
- Registration number and IMO number
- Details of the vessel legal owner and operator, including beneficial owner
- Crew manifest

## Flag state list of external fishing authorisations

- Details required above in the flag state registry
- Details of any quota or other limits allocated to vessels, if applicable
- Period of the authorisation
- The areas where the vessel is authorised to fish (coastal state EEZs, RFMO areas, high seas)
- The type of access agreement (private, chartering, RFMO, bilateral agreement, etc.)

To achieve greater transparency states can go a step further by making the following information publicly available:

## Going a step further by making additional information public

- Previous essential ship's particulars (names, flags, etc.)
- Additional ship's particulars (international radio call sign, maritime mobile service identity number, external marking, port of registry, etc.)
- Engine power
- Total volume of fish hold(s) and number of fish hold(s)
- VMS details
- Colour photographs of the vessel

## Tips and Hints

There is no standard way of publishing lists of fishing licences and authorisations.

Some countries have opted for simple, cost-free and effective solutions like publishing the relevant information as documents on their official websites. This is the case of the Maldives which regularly publishes, in Portable Document Format, its list of fishing licences on the website of the Maldivian government[1]. Others have built IT-systems that can be queried such as the EU Fleet Register[2] which contains information on fishing-vessels registered to the Member States of the European Union.

For all states and relevant actors to see their ability to identify at-risk situations and illegal activities along the supply chain enhanced, it is key to ensure that information made publicly available is credible and kept up to date. This means that authorities must double-check the information they intend to publish and, once online, update it whenever necessary. The information made public must also include data on fishing-related vessels such as refrigerated cargo vessels which often play an important role in the supply chain.

Making sure it is easily accessible is also essential. This can be achieved by publishing it on websites optimised for search engines which are now often the norm but more importantly, by raising awareness amongst the relevant stakeholders about how and where it can be found.

Put simply, **it is not so much the way the information is published that is important –simple and cost-free solutions can be as effective as high-tech systems– but rather its comprehensiveness, credibility and accessibility.**

In addition, these lists should be consistent with and feed into information made available through the FAO Global Record.

To read detailed information about principle three of EJF's Charter for Transparency go to www.ejfoundation.org/reports/

A fishing port.

1    Gov.mv, 4.4.2020, 'License fishing vessel list update (April 4, 2020)', accessed 15.4.2020, https://www.gov.mv/en/publications/license-fishing-vessel-list-update-april-4-2020

2    European Commission, 'Fleet register', accessed 15.4.2020, https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fleet-europa/index_en