

THE TEN PRINCIPLES FOR GLOBAL TRANSPARENCY

PRINCIPLE FOUR

Publish punishments handed out for IUU fishing and fisheries crimes

The availability of information about past fisheries-related offences and sanctions is another enabler for all actors in the fisheries sector to make informed decisions and to protect their fleets, waters, ports, markets, and supply chains. It also serves as a deterrent against illegal activities and gives the opportunity to better understand them. As for the publication of lists of fishing licences and authorisations such a measure is virtually cost-free and can be undertaken quickly.

EJF recommends that:

- All states publish information about arrests and sanctions imposed on individuals and companies for IUU fishing activities, human trafficking and other related crimes.

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

What minimum information should be published?

- Name of the vessel
- Flag of the vessel
- Unique vessel identifier (IMO number, etc.)
- Identity of the key legal and/or natural persons (beneficial owner, operator, captain (if applicable))
- Nature and date of the offence(s)
- Nature and date of the sanction(s)
- Amount paid and by whom (if applicable)



A fishing vessel inspection takes place off the coast of Sattahip in Thailand.

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

Going a step further making additional information public

Detailed information on the *modi operandi* of offenders.

Tips and Hints

There is no standard way of publishing information about arrests and sanctions imposed on individuals and companies for IUU fishing activities, human trafficking and other related crimes.

Taiwan, which is one of the few countries having made public such information, does it by publishing it in the form of tables in dedicated pages of the Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture's website¹. Guinea also formerly published information about arrests and sanctions imposed on the website of the Ministry responsible for fisheries in the form of downloadable Portable Document Format files².

These are simple and cost-free but effective solutions.

It is important for states to ensure that this information is kept up to date and easily accessible. The former means that authorities should promptly upload all necessary information on new cases. The latter can be achieved in publishing the information on a website optimised for search engines which are now often the norm.

This must be combined with its proactive circulation to the relevant international and regional bodies as well as to the pertinent national authorities, for example, those of the neighbouring countries, those of the flag state of the arrested vessel or the regional fisheries management organisation under the competence of which the illegal activities of the vessel took place.

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

¹ Fisheries Agency, Council of Agriculture, 14.4.2020, 'List of penalties for violations of the Ocean Fisheries Regulations (updated 27 March 2020)', accessed 15.4.2020,

<https://www.fa.gov.tw/cht/PolicyIUU/content.aspx?id=25&chk=7f7693a7-9186-4222-a5b5-a501870ca095¶m=pn%3d1>

² Ministère des Pêches, de l'Aquaculture et de l'Économie maritime, 'Les indicateurs liés au décaissement (ILD)', accessed 15.4.2020, <http://www.peches.gov.gn/index.php/pecheadmin/indicpeche/indicateurs#ild-2>