

FAO Geneva Trade Talks IUU Fishing

Fishing industry perspective

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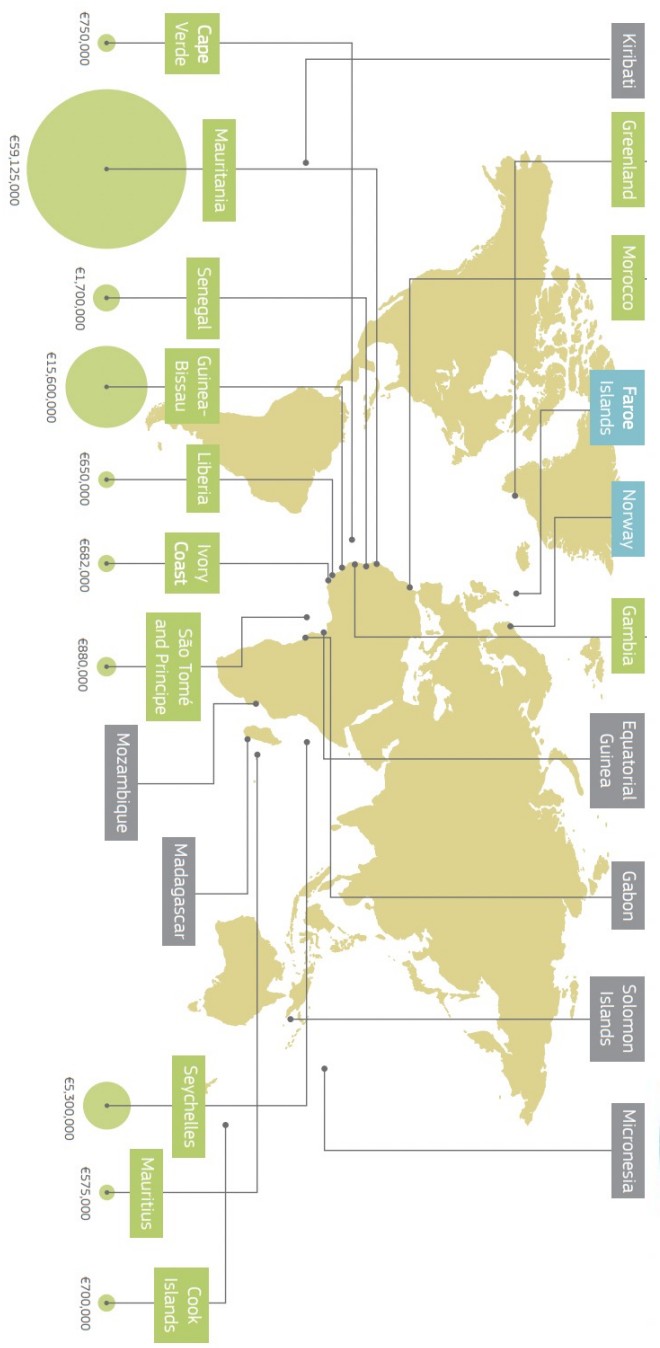
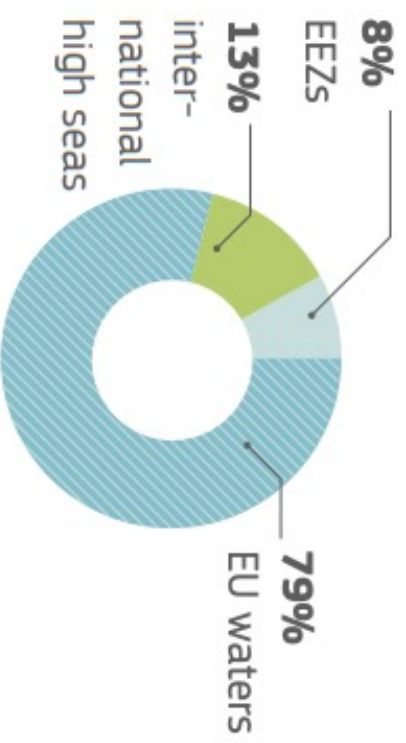
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Setting the scene: facts and figures

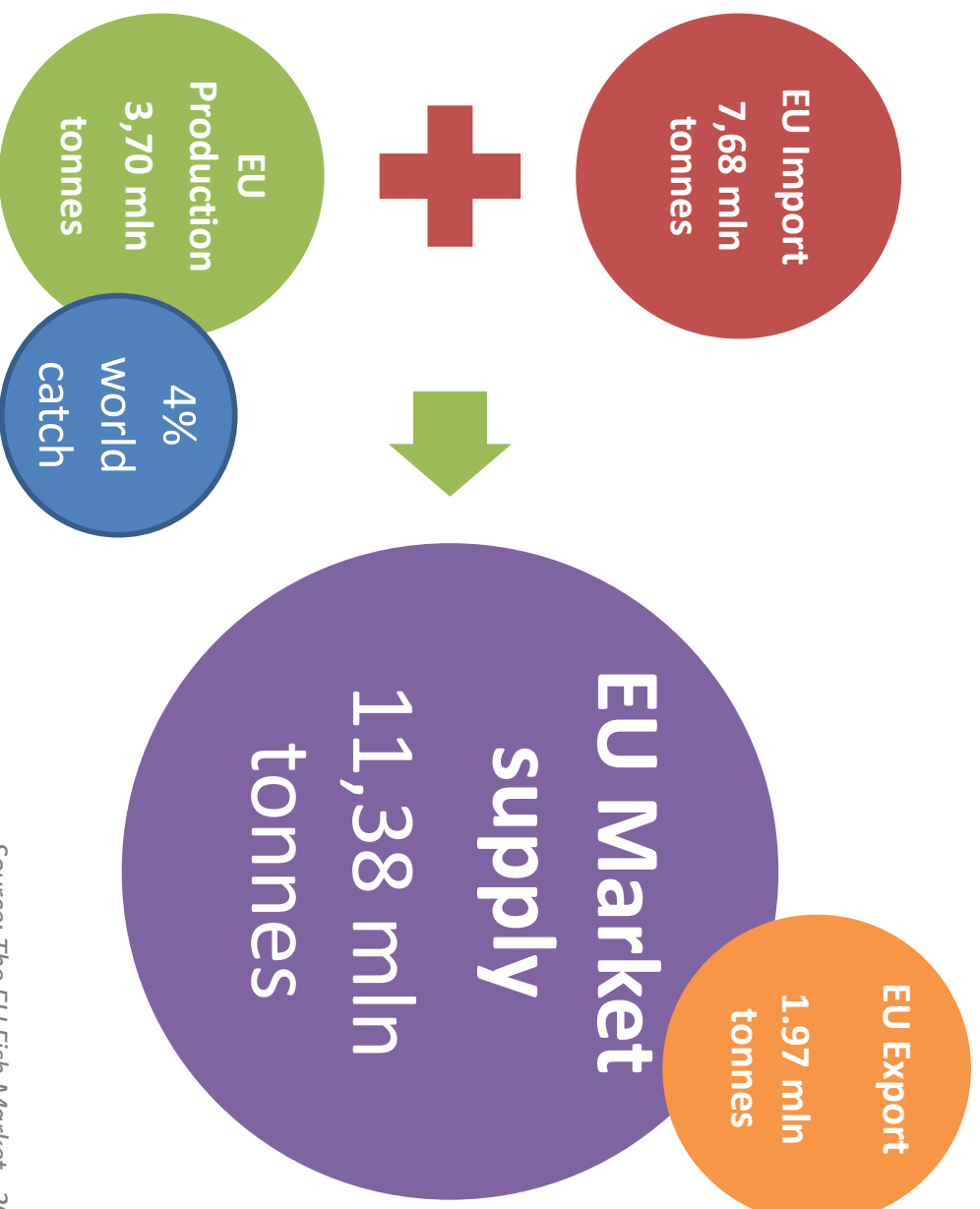
79% of all EU catches are taken in EU waters, **13% come from the international high seas, and 8% are caught in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs)** within 200m of the partner countries' waters.



- Bilateral fisheries agreements (countries with exclusive zones to which EU vessels have access)
- Northern agreements (joint management of shared stocks)
- Dormant bilateral agreements (countries with fisheries agreements but without a protocol in force)

Setting the scene: facts and figures

The EU is the world's largest market for fisheries products, absorbing >20 % of total global imports in 2020, and is **dependent on imports for over 65 %** of its consumption of such products



- Top five species**
consumed in the EU:
- tuna
 - cod
 - salmon
 - Alaska pollock
 - shrimps

IUU consequences

Environmental

- Damages to marine biodiversity, protected species and habitats
- Undermines efforts for better governance and sustainable fisheries
- Jeopardizes efforts to rebuild fish stocks
- Distorts the scientific assessment of the stocks

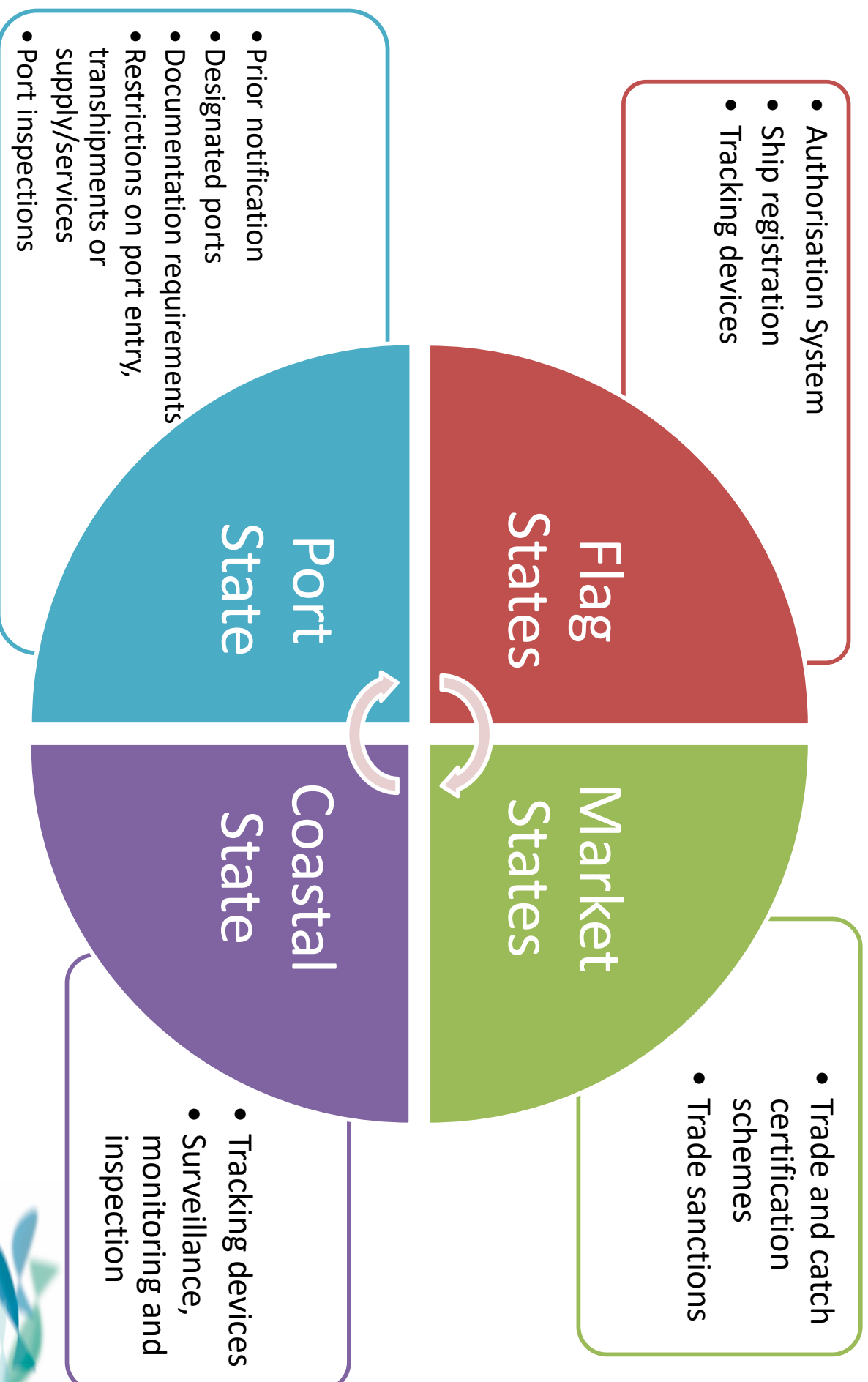
Economic

- Loss of market shares – unfair competition
- Decrease of market prices due to the sale of cheap IUU products
- Financial loss for public authorities via licenses and taxes
- Harms the image of the fishing industry – need for private certification

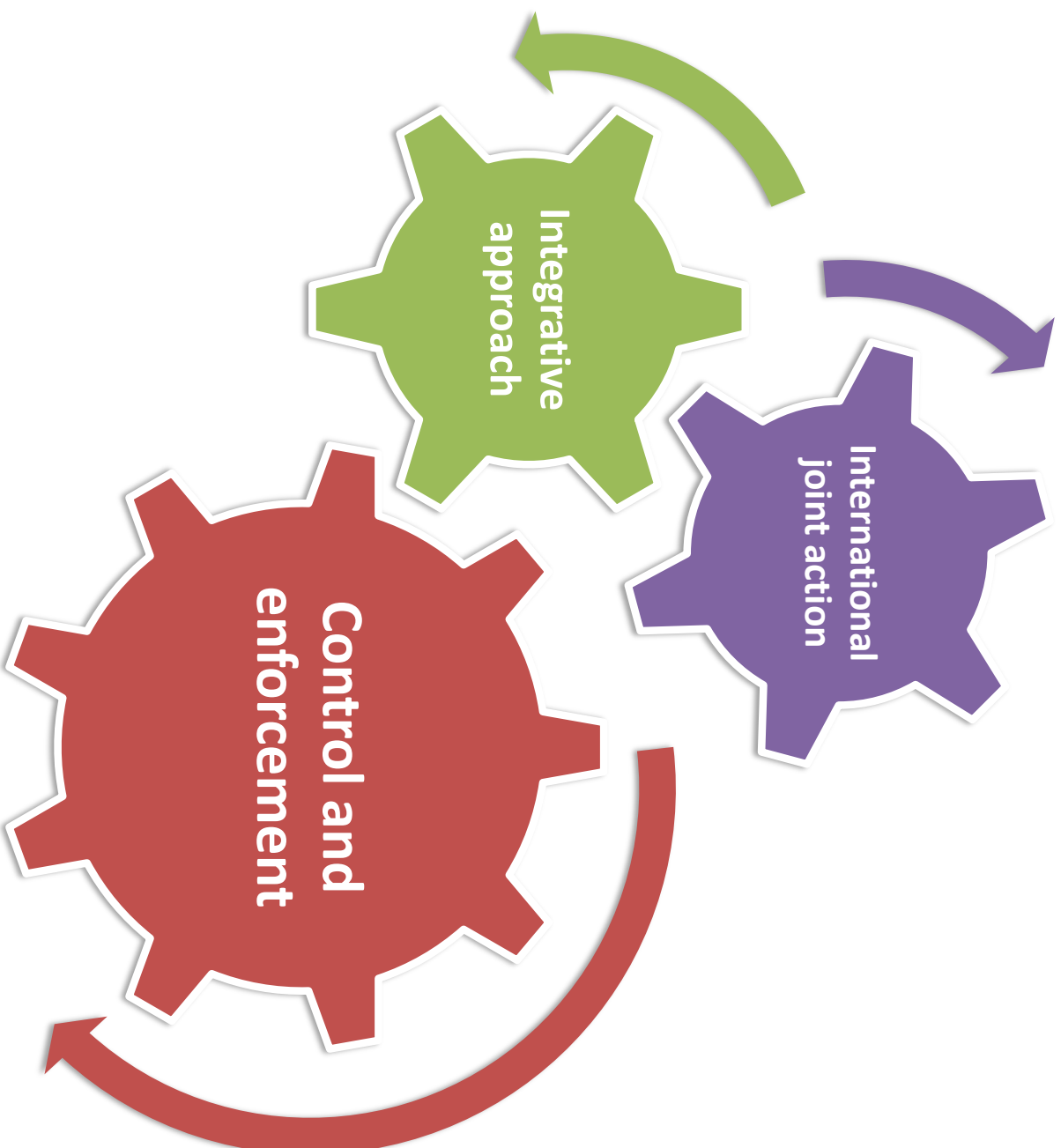
Social

- Job losses for legal fishermen facing competition from IUU operators
- IUU inextricably associated with very poor level of social standards
- Developing countries particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing, with limited capacity for control and surveillance of their waters
- Threatens the livelihoods of small-scale fishers: food security and poverty alleviation

How to tackle IUU fishing



How to tackle IUU fishing



Necessary first step against IUU fishing



- Adoption 2009
- Entry into force 2016
- Port State control
- Legally binding
- 70 ratifications

EU response to IUU fishing

IUU Regulation 1005/2008

- Entered into force in January 2010
- Complemented by:
 - ✓ “Control Regulation” (2009) (under revision)
 - ✓ “Regulation on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets” (2017)



Tackling **illegal, unreported and unregulated** (IUU) fishing

Fishing is illegal if:

- no authorisation
- against conservation and management measures by RFMOs
- against national laws or international obligations.



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Fishing is unreported if:

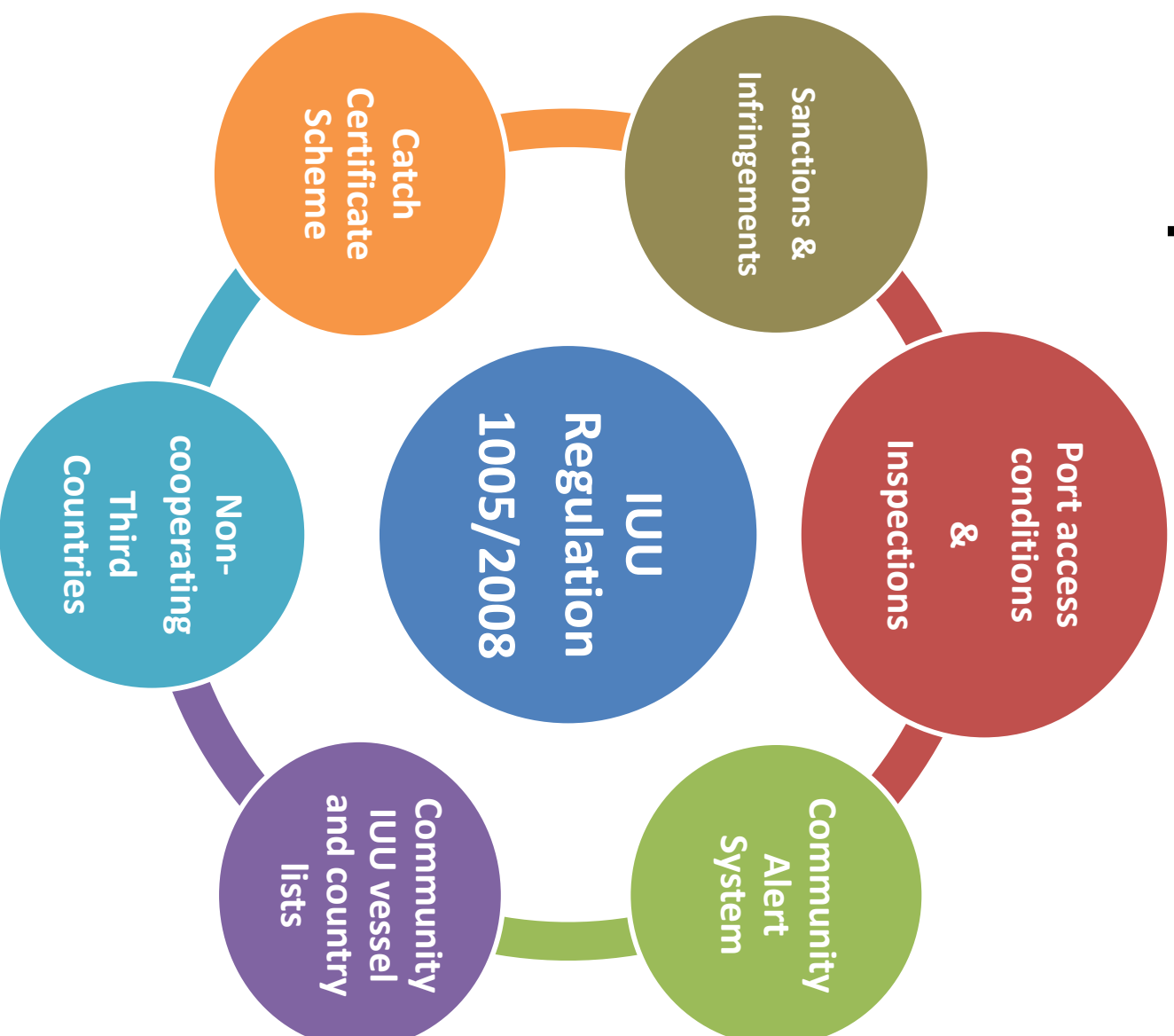
not reported, or the reporting contravenes international, RFMO or national laws and regulations.

Fishing is unregulated if:

- the fishing vessel has no nationality
- fishing activities jeopardise fish stocks.



EU response to IUU fishing



Impact Assessment of EU IUU Reg.

Governments

- Allocate adequate human resources (Inspection Border Posts, department cooperation, training)
- Compliance costs for third countries
- Technical and financial assistance to developing countries

Fishing Fleet

- Loss of fishing grounds (carding system)
- Certification of origin from the EU flag State (landings&processing in third countries)
- Higher level of bureaucracy
- Face higher penalties & legal consequences
- May lead to long distance fleet reflagging
- **Loss of access to subsidies**

Processors&Retailers

- Short term reduction of products placed on the market
- Forced to concentrate supplies on secure, certified-sources of supply
- Cost increases due to certification requirements & security of supply
- Short term first sale price increases for fish
- Strong internal demand enables to pass, at least, part of the cost increases further down the distribution chain

Private Labels

- Not affected since catch certification scheme addressed to operators not consumers
- IUU Reg. certifies legality not sustainability
- The existence of a certification scheme guaranteed by public authorities would remove the uncertainty pertaining to the legality of the products

Acceptance of IUU Regulation

CONS

Bureaucracy

Administrative costs

PROS

Alleviate pressure on fishing resources

Remedy market vulnerability to IUU products

Sanction vessels and States engaged in or supporting IUU

Compliance costs are outweighed in the long run by the advantages resulting from implementation of the IUU Regulation, which would ensure:

- Reduction of IUU fishing across the globe
- Elimination of competitors using illegal and unfair practices
- Attractiveness of the sector for new generations of workers

IUU & WTO fish subsidies

- ✓ **No Member shall grant or maintain any subsidy to a vessel or operator engaged in IUU fishing**
 - EU funding already conditional upon compliance with strong IUU policy. No serious infringements:
 - 1 year prior to the date application
 - 5 years after the final payment to the beneficiary
 - Temporary or permanent ban on access to public assistance or subsidies if found guilty
 - Affirmative determination – final decision (Flag, coastal or RFMO authorities)
 - Balance between Flag & Coastal states in the determination process

IUU & WTO fish subsidies

- **Extension of the prohibitions** to the entire ocean without excluding specific geographic areas (e.g. territorial sea)
- **Geographical limitations** (DC & LDC) could present obstacles for the conservation and sustainable use of straddling and migratory fish stocks
- **Transition period** to LDC to have laws, regulations and/or administrative procedures in place (including PSMA)

→ **International level playing field:** all WTO members must follow and respect the WTO disciplines on IUU fisheries subsidies!

Next Steps

- Promote ratification/implementation of UN fisheries conventions (**PSMA, C188, STCW-F, CTA, WTO disciplines on fish subsidies**)
- Make use of EU fisheries & trade agreements to encourage/assist third countries to actively tackle IUU fishing - **Capacity Building**
- Mirror and promote **EU IUU Regulation standards** which remain the most advanced and strong anti-IUU law globally
- **Catch certification Schemes - full digitalisation and interoperability of the IT systems** between Member States and third countries
 - Promote accurate **recording, documentation and reporting** of total catches
- Combined use of **electronic systems** (AIS, VMS, ERS...)

Next Steps

- Promote mandatory use of **IMO Number** as Vessel Identification System helping the Global Record of Fishing Vessels
- Support the establishment of an **international register of fishing vessels**
- Publish lists of fishing **licences and authorisations** (external fleet)
- Ban / strongly restrict **transhipments in the high seas**
- **Inter-institutional cooperation (FAO/ILO/IMO IUU WG) + WTO**
- **Inter-governmental coordination of IUU controls** across countries to avoid shifts in port access / trade flows



Thank you

QUESTIONS?



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