

# Joint Statement

## 52 organisations worldwide urge EU Member States to combat illegal and unsustainable fishing practices: “Require cameras also on vessels below 24 metres”.

**A large number of NGOs from across the globe urgently call on EU fisheries ministers to reject** proposals, which could be adopted at the end of June 2021, that would mandate cameras on board only for certain vessels above 24 metres. Such vessels make up less than 3.2% of the EU fleet. Requiring broader uptake of REM is crucial to combat illegal and unsustainable fishing practices inside the EU, and for the EU to call on other countries to require the use of REM. Only then can we ensure that the vast majority of legitimate operators who follow the rules are protected from unfair competition by those who do not.

Remote electronic monitoring (REM), including on-board cameras, is urgently needed in EU waters. To reliably prevent discarding, to know how much fish and sensitive species - like dolphins - are actually caught, and to protect crew in unsafe working conditions. Moreover, it can ensure that seafood caught in European waters is accurately and easily traced.

But the widespread adoption of this technology in the EU could also have a global impact. The EU imports 60% of all its seafood. In order to protect European fishers from unfair competition, it frequently works with other countries to require stronger measures to combat illegal fishing. The use of REM in countries around the world has proven that it can combat unsustainable, illegal or unethical fishing practices. REM technologies are also [key](#) to protect the human rights of migrant workers on-board vessels of long-distance fishing fleets.

Widespread adoption of REM in the EU could be a crucial step in the battle to save marine ecosystems and the hundreds of millions of people who depend on them. It will bolster the EU's role as a global leader in the fight against illegal fishing and push countries across the world to adopt the same, critical technology. Wide adoption of robust electronic monitoring will help curtail unsustainable, cruel and illegal fishing practices, such as [discarding](#), using [dolphins as shark bait](#), and [forced labour](#) in the global fishing sector.

**The undersigned NGOs urge EU fisheries ministers to require the use of cameras on-board on:**

- 1. All EU fishing vessels above 12 meters length or more**

2. Small-scale vessels at high risk of non-compliance with the rules of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, and those at risk of catching sensitive species, like dolphins and seabirds.

**Signatories**

**Drafters**

<p><b>Advocates for Public Interest Law</b></p> 	<p><b>An Taisce</b></p> 	<p><b>Association BIOM</b></p> 
<p><b>Birdlife Europe and Central Asia</b></p> 	<p><b>BirdWatch Ireland</b></p> 	<p><b>Blue Resources Trust</b></p> 
<p><b>Blue Ventures - Beyond Conservation</b></p> 	<p><b>CEMLAWS Africa</b></p> 	<p><b>CERATH Development Organisation</b></p> 
<p><b>Citizens Institutes for Environmental Studies</b></p> 	<p><b>ClientEarth</b></p> 	<p><b>Coast Watch</b></p> 

<p><b>Cork Nature Network</b></p> 	<p><b>Danmarks Naturfredningsforening</b></p>  <p>Danmarks Naturfredningsforening</p>	<p><b>Destructive Fishing Watch - Indonesia</b></p> 
<p><b>Earthworm Foundation</b></p> 	<p><b>Edinburgh Ocean Leaders</b></p> 	<p><b>Eesti Ornitoloogiaühing</b></p>  <p>EESTI ORNITOLOOGIAÜHING</p>
<p><b>Environment &amp; Animal Society of Taiwan</b></p> 	<p><b>Environment and Natural Resource Research Initiative (ENRRI-EfD Ghana)</b></p> 	<p><b>Environmental Justice Foundation</b></p> 
<p><b>Fisheries Secretariat</b></p> 	<p><b>Friends of the Irish Environment</b></p> 	<p><b>Friends of the Nation</b></p> 
<p><b>Global Labor Justice - International Labor Rights Forum</b></p> 	<p><b>Global Tuna Alliance</b></p> 	<p><b>Hellenic Ornithological Society</b></p> 

<p>Hen Mpoano</p> 	<p>Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative</p> 	<p>Irish Seal Sanctuary</p> 
<p>Irish Whale and Dolphin Group</p> 	<p>Irish Wildlife Trust</p> 	<p>Koalisi Rakyat untuk Keadilan Perikanan</p> 
<p>Korea Federation for Environmental Movement</p> 	<p>Migrant Working Group</p> 	<p>Misión Tiburón</p> 
<p>The Nature Conservancy</p> 	<p>NGO Biosfera 1</p> 	<p>Oceana</p> 
<p>OceanCare</p> 	<p>Our Fish</p> 	<p>Sciaena</p> 

<p><b>Seal Rescue Ireland</b></p> 	<p><b>Seas at Risk</b>  </p>	<p><b>Serve the People Association</b></p> 
<p><b>Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves</b></p> 	<p><b>SpeSeas</b></p> 	<p><b>Sustainable Development Foundation</b></p> 
<p><b>Taiwan Association for Human Rights</b></p> 	<p><b>Whale and Dolphin Conservation</b></p> 	<p><b>World Wide Fund For Nature</b></p> 
<p><b>Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union</b></p> 		

**Endorsers**

*Handwritten signature or initials*