

# HOW TO MAKE ENFORCEMENT IN EU FISHERIES FAIR



## The EU needs to do more to fight illegal fishing

Enforcement of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) remains uneven in Member States, as the European Court of Auditors warned. Sanctions are not always dissuasive, proportionate and effective.

This reality encourages illegal fishers to target the waters where the sanctions are the lowest. Across the EU, fishers feel they are treated unequally and unfairly, and a culture of compliance is missing.

To deter non-compliance with the CFP and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the EU needs a stronger, more standardised enforcement and sanctioning system – not a weaker one.

The EU is revising its fisheries control rules, and instead of strengthening them, key proposals would weaken the list of serious infringements! This will undermine not only compliance with the CFP. It will cripple the EU's ability to fight illegal fishing, including via EU actions against IUU fishing around the world.

We urge the EU to agree to more robust fisheries enforcement during the negotiations for the new Fisheries Control system by:

- 1. Maintaining fishing without a licence a serious infringement**, which protects fishers that play by the rules and avoids jeopardising the EU's zero-tolerance approach to IUU fishing (Art. 90 paragraph 2.a and Annex IV).
- 2. Making benefitting from, supporting or engaging in IUU fishing a serious infringement**, including for logistics and service providers like insurers or banks to cut the lifeline to IUU fishing (Art. 90 paragraph 2.h).
- 3. Empowering immediate enforcement action if a serious infringement is suspected** by authorities in conformity with their national law (Art. 91 paragraph 1).
- 4. Prioritising administrative measures and sanctions**, as these are more effective for dealing with CFP infringements (Art. 89 and 89a).
- 5. Putting in place a minimum level of sanction** for serious infringements that is deterrent to create a level playing field (Art. 91a).

### EU FISHERIES CONTROL COALITION

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