

SHINING A LIGHT ONTO THE DARK SIDE OF EU FISHERIES



Transparency is critical to stop illegal fishing practices

Member States receive millions of euros to monitor and control whether the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy are properly implemented.

But we do not know how this money is spent nor how many fishing trips are inspected. We do not know how many illegal fishing activities are uncovered, and how many instances of illegal activities are penalised. Worse still, *Member States can veto the release* of this fisheries control information without having to give any justification.

This violates the EU transparency principles and is out of step with similar policies in farming and food production, where public access to data drives a culture of compliance and accountability.

Members of the European Parliament, as well as national control authorities or decision makers, are thus kept in the dark about how effectively EU governments implement fishing rules. It prevents them from defending the interests of their citizens, including fishers and seafood consumers.



We urge the EU to agree to more transparency for fisheries control during the negotiations for the new Fisheries Control Regulation:

- 1. Requiring Member States to publicly and annually report on national control programmes** with aggregated information on the number of: fishing trips inspected, illegal activities detected and environmental crimes penalised (Art. 93a).
- 2. Removing the right of Member States to veto the release of environmental data** without having to give any reason (Art. 113 paragraphs 2 and 3).
- 3. Allowing the European Commission to publish the findings of its audits** of the fisheries control systems of Member States (Art. 101).
- 4. Requiring Member States to report every two years** on how they implement the Control Regulation, in line with the IUU Regulation biennial reporting, and make these publicly available on the European Commission's website (Art. 118).

EU FISHERIES CONTROL COALITION

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