

SHINING A LIGHT ONTO THE DARK SIDE OF EU FISHERIES

The EU needs to do more to stop illegal fishing practices

Member States receive significant EU resources to monitor and control whether the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy are implemented.

But we do not know how many fishing trips are inspected, we do not know how many illegal fishing activities are uncovered, and we do not know how many instances of illegal activities are penalised. What is worse, *Member States can veto the release* of this fisheries control information without having to give any justification.

This means that the European Parliament is not informed about the implementation of sustainable fishing rules and that it cannot defend the interests of EU citizens.

This violates the EU's 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.

We urge Members of the European Parliament to vote for more transparency in the revision of the Fisheries Control Regulation:

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

EU FISHERIES CONTROL COALITION

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