



# FCWC

Fisheries Committee for  
the West Central Gulf of Guinea



FCWC  
Factsheet 02  
JUNE 2019

# THE PORT STATE MEASURES AGREEMENT

The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement designed to prevent trade in illegally caught fish. It sets out the minimum controls a state should use when foreign fishing vessels enter, or apply to enter one of its ports, and to verify that all fish landed are legally caught.



The 'Port State' designates which of its ports can be used by foreign vessels and follows a set of standardised procedures to decide whether to allow the vessel to enter, to inspect the vessel and to report and share the results of the inspection with other states. Follow-up actions to be taken, settlement of disputes, and the role of the vessel's flag State are also included in the PSMA.

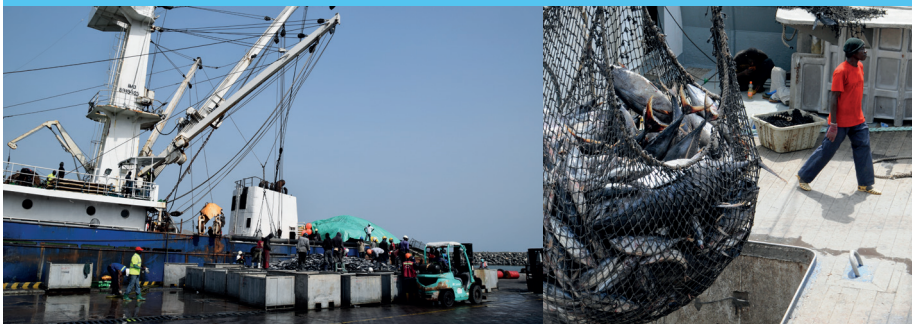
Officials may deny foreign vessels access to a port and services such as refuelling and repairs if they are suspected of illegal activities. Vessels can be turned away or subjected to immediate inspection on arrival and prohibited from landing their fish if there is evidence that it was caught illegally.

The PSMA is aimed at controlling foreign-flagged fishing vessels who are seeking to land catch or use port services. It has an implicit requirement for national, bilateral and regional cooperation with respect to sharing information and reporting.

# HOW DOES THE PSMA WORK?

The PSMA implementation and operation is led by fisheries authorities, but cooperation with allied national agencies is required for effective risk analysis, the identification of high-risk vessels, and decision making on whether to allow port entry for a foreign flagged fishing vessel.

Implementing PSMA is one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools open to developing countries to end illegal fishing.



Increased control over foreign flagged vessels who must:

- Use designated ports.
- Submit an AREP before entering port allowing time for due diligence checks.
- Allow inspections in port and provide required information.

## WHAT DO FCWC MEMBER STATES NEED TO DO?

The FCWC region is home to many significant ports that play a critical role in the landing, processing and trade of fish.

- Become a party to the PSMA — demonstrates political commitment to fighting illegal fishing.
- Adapt national legal and policy frameworks — to fulfill PSMA obligations.
- Develop national interagency cooperation agreements and information sharing.
- Build national capacity to conduct due diligence and inspections.

The PSMA will have most impact if a regional approach is adopted. With all FCWC members implementing port State measures illegal operators will be effectively blocked from the region.

### DENY PORT ENTRY

Unless this poses a risk to the safety or health of the crew, the safety of the vessel, or if the vessel is to be scrapped.

Known or suspected illegal fishing vessels can be denied access to the port.

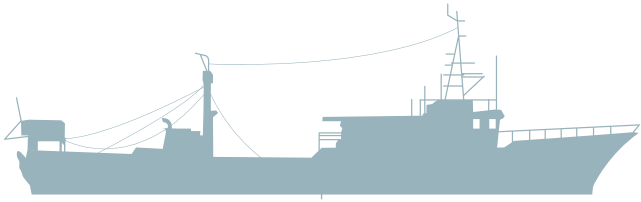
Alerts are sent to relevant regional and international States.

#### INFORMATION SHARING WITH NATIONAL AGENCIES:

- Police
- Coastguard
- Navy
- Foreign Affairs

#### REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

- Flag States
- Port States in the region
- RFMO, Regional Task Forces



Vessel communicates to Port Authority

## ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PORT ENTRY

Sharing of information bilaterally with relevant agencies or through interagency cooperation mechanism

### INFORMATION CROSS-REFERENCING AND RISK ANALYSIS BY RELEVANT AGENCIES:

- Fisheries
- Navy
- Police

Outcomes communicated to PSMA National Focal Point

## DECISION BY PORT STATE

### SUSPICION OF IUU FISHING

**GRANT PORT ENTRY**  
Deny all facilities

### INSPECTION REQUIRED

#### COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AGENCIES:

- Customs
- Immigration and Labour
- Health, Sanitary, Veterinary
- Police
- Navy
- Foreign Affairs

#### REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

- Flag States
- RFMO, Regional Task Forces

#### REFUSE LANDINGS AND USE OF PORT SERVICES

Undertake additional investigations and initiate enforcement action in cooperation with:

- Department of Public Prosecution
- Police
- Flag State

Targeted inspections make best use of limited capacity and resources.

### NO SUSPICION OF IUU FISHING

**GRANT PORT ENTRY**  
All port facilities

### INSPECTION POSSIBLE

Compliant vessels are rewarded with more efficient port controls.

#### INFORMATION SHARING AND COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL AGENCIES

- Customs
- Immigrations and Labour
- Health, Sanitary, Veterinary
- Navy

### INSPECTION

**IUU FISHING DETECTED**

### NO INSPECTION

**NO IUU FISHING DETECTED**

**ALLOW LANDINGS, PORT SERVICES ETC**

### KEY

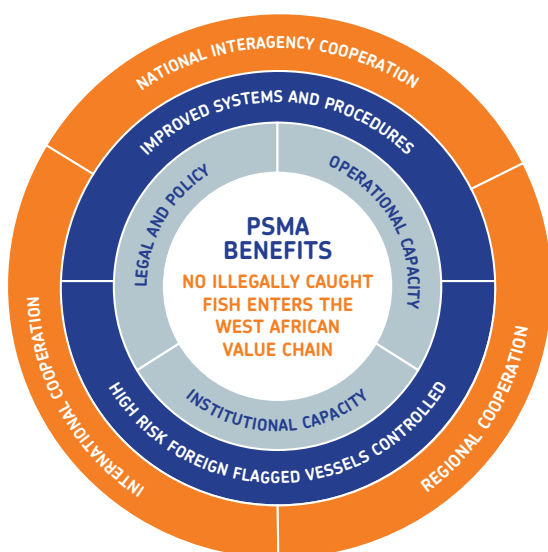
- Information sharing
- Benefits of the PSMA
- IUU fishing confirmed
- IUU fishing suspected
- No suspicion of IUU fishing

## THE FISHERIES COMMITTEE OF THE WEST CENTRAL GULF OF GUINEA

FACILITATES COOPERATION IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BETWEEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES: BENIN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA AND TOGO. THE COUNTRIES HAVE SEVERAL SHARED FISH STOCKS AND HAVE IDENTIFIED A NEED FOR COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE RESOURCES.

Sub regional and regional cooperation is a strategic policy objective for enhanced governance capacity, particularly for shared fish stocks, in the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. The FCWC process focuses on the coordination, development and support to the implementation of national and regional fisheries plans that are coherent with the African Union's integration agenda and support the objectives of the United Nations sustainable development goals.

The FCWC countries have made significant progress towards regional cooperation and harmonization in the fisheries sector, and in developing responsible fisheries in the West Central Gulf of Guinea. The effective adoption and implementation of the PSMA will grow this important work, and support the urgent need to end illegal fishing, create sustainable fisheries and support blue growth.



FCWC Member States will benefit from effective port State measures through increased control of foreign flagged fishing vessels, reefers and support vessels. Sharing of information between port States and coordinated action to block high-risk vessels from the region will help to end illegal fishing.



Find out more about the FCWC at:  
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