

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

November 15, 2022 • vajiramandravi.com



About Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:

- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to rise beyond India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Chinese fishing vessels, fishing vessels from European Union countries and other countries from outside the region were observed to be fishing in the Indian Ocean.
- Chinese deep sea trawlers have been a matter of concern for countries in the region, including India, as they are operating far from the Chinese coast and impacting local marine ecology.
- Most of the illegal activity is found in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

IUU fishing:

- IUU fishing depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, puts fishermen at disadvantage and impacts coastal communities, especially in developing countries.

Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC):

- The presence of extra-regional distant water fishing fleets has been monitored by Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC).

- The **Quad, comprising India, Australia, Japan and U.S.**, in May 2022 announced a major regional effort under the ambit of **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**.
- It aims to provide a more accurate maritime picture of “near-real-time” activities in the region.
- It is expected to catalyse joint efforts of India and other Quad partners towards addressing IUU in Indo-Pacific region.
- All vessel movements on the high seas are monitored by the **Indian Navy’s IMAC in Gurugram and the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** which is co-located with it.
- **IFC-IOR** has been collaborating with other regional monitoring centres across the globe to enhance maritime safety and security, including efforts to monitor IUU.

Regional fisheries management organisations:

- As per **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, coastal nations are responsible for addressing IUU fishing issues within their respective EEZ.
- There are **regional fisheries management organisations** such as the **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement operating under the mandate of UNCLOS as regulatory bodies to monitor IUU fishing on the high seas.**

Global Regulations:

- There are **two main regulations globally on IUU fishing**:
 - **the Cape Town Agreement and**
 - **the Agreement on Ports State Measures.**
- So far, **India is not a signatory of either agreement.**

Vehicle management systems:

- Fishing vessels across the world are supposed to have **vehicle management systems** installed which not only identify their position, but also requires them to record the volume and location of their catch, helping to tackle the issue of IUU fishing.
 - For instance, the European Union has made it mandatory to provide this information for all fish imports.
- In India, while larger vessels, over 20 metres in length, have such **Automatic Identification Systems installed**, similar efforts for sub-20 metre vessels have been delayed.

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-iuu-fishing/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.