



**DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES COMMITTEE**

AGR/FI/IUU(2004)14
Unclassified

**POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN IUU FISHING AND THE STATUS OF SAFETY-RELATED
INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS APPLICABLE TO FISHING VESSELS AND FISHERS**

19-20 April 2004

This paper has been prepared by Mr. Brice Martin-Castex of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

This paper has been submitted to the IUU Workshop, 19-20 April 2004

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JT00162110

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POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN IUU FISHING AND THE STATUS OF SAFETY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS APPLICABLE TO FISHING VESSELS AND FISHERS¹

1. This presentation aims at highlighting the potential link between the lack of international instruments in force addressing the safety of fishing vessels and the training of fishermen, and the conduct of illegal fishing activities, in the factual context of little control and inspection measures both on the maritime safety and fisheries management aspects.

2. The specific experience of IMO will be used to identify the substantial differences which exist between merchant marine activities and fishing activities as far as the international legal framework is concerned.

3. The following issues will be addressed in order to illustrate the areas where specific efforts are being done to improve compliance with international regulations and standards:

- harmonization of port State control activities;
- search and rescue;
- self-assessment of flag State performance;
- Code for the implementation of [mandatory] IMO instruments;
- IMO Voluntary Member States Audit Scheme;
- non-convention ships;
- increased collaboration between flag States and port/coastal States; and
- transparency.

4. These areas of particular interest for the IMO will be assessed *vis-à-vis* the identified specificities of the fishing industry.

5. The key aspects of the recommended future activities aiming at deterring IUU fishing will be considered in the context of identified bottlenecks preventing the entry into force and implementation of international standards and will highlight the areas where increased co-operation and partnership may be needed.

¹ Paper prepared by Mr. Brice Martin-Castex of International Maritime Organisation (IMO).