

A new generation of EU Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs):

Improving transparency to empower communities and prevent unsustainable and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

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EU IUU FISHING COALITION



OCEANA



Pew



MAY 2025

A joint briefing by the **EU IUU Fishing Coalition:**
The Environmental Justice Foundation, Oceana,
The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts
and WWF

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} x^{9478} = \frac{1}{1-x} \\ & D(x) = 2 + 3 + 4.31447 \\ & \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = x^2 \cdot x \\ & x^2 + y^2 = ab + 4c \\ & A \cap B, \quad 24 + \frac{x}{y} + \frac{a^2 + b^2}{c} + \frac{1}{x} \\ & \text{men} = 984 + n^{20} \quad (x^2 + 34x) \\ & X = 9.23 \quad \left(\sum_{x=2}^{n=14} N_{30} \cdot x - \frac{1}{2} [984 + x9] \right) \rightarrow x \leq 54 \\ & \begin{bmatrix} 010112 \\ 010002 \\ 011002 \end{bmatrix} \quad x=4 \end{aligned}$$

MAIN FINDINGS



Transparency clause

Many partner countries do not publish foreign access agreements, fishing effort and fishing licences, reducing transparency and hindering scientific evaluation.

Non-discrimination clause

Weak enforcement allows non-EU fleets to benefit from more favourable conditions and measures than EU fleets. Just 3 out of 12 SFPAs implement it.

Sectoral support

Almost total lack of transparency on EU-funded sectoral support and measurable benefits.

CASE STUDIES



Mauritania

Mauritania hosts one of the EU's largest SFPAs with €57.5 million in access payments but suffers from weak transparency about foreign fleets operations and conditions. Monitoring of catches also weak with EU vessels exceeding annual quotas.



Madagascar

Madagascar's sectoral support of €700,000 was poorly tracked with minimal benefits reaching artisanal fishers, signaling poor monitoring.



Seychelles

Seychelles publishes fishing licenses online and maintains transparent foreign access records, enhancing accountability and participation.



RECOMMEND ATIONS

PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SFPAS

Transparency

- ▶ Transparency clause (incl. meeting minutes)
- ▶ Sectoral support
- ▶ Catch data
- ▶ Beneficial ownership

Inclusivity and participatory process

Inclusivity ensures small-scale fishers, communities, local civil society actively participate in negotiations and implementation. Local ownership.

Non-discrimination clause

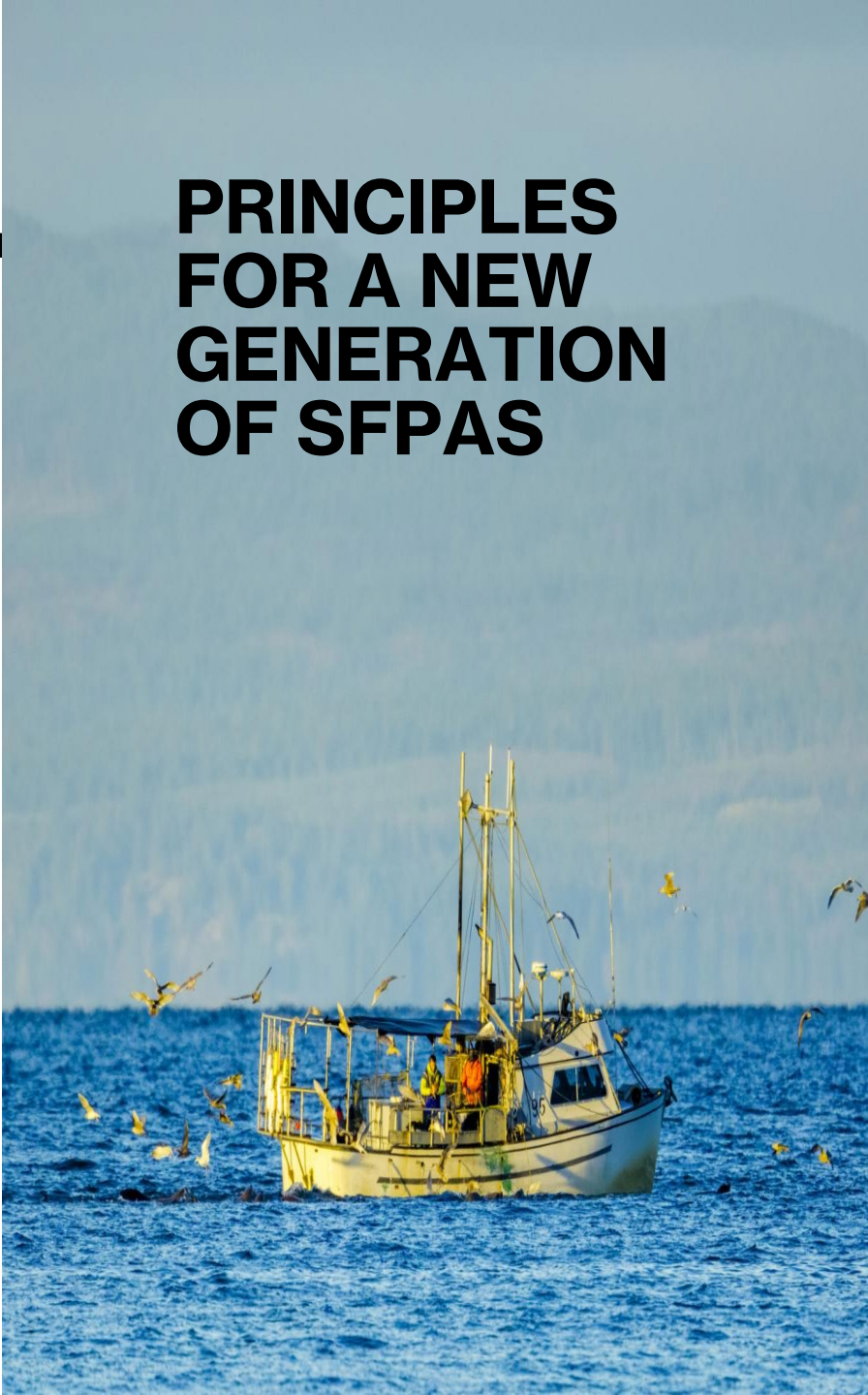
Fair treatment, level playing field and higher standards.

Compliance

Logbooks and fishing locations by EU vessels.

Combating IUU fishing and labour abuses

- ▶ Participatory monitoring
- ▶ Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency



TRANSPARENCY – CORNERSTONE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Publishing foreign access agreements

Publishing all foreign access agreements increases openness and strengthens accountability in fisheries management.

More information and open reporting on sectoral support

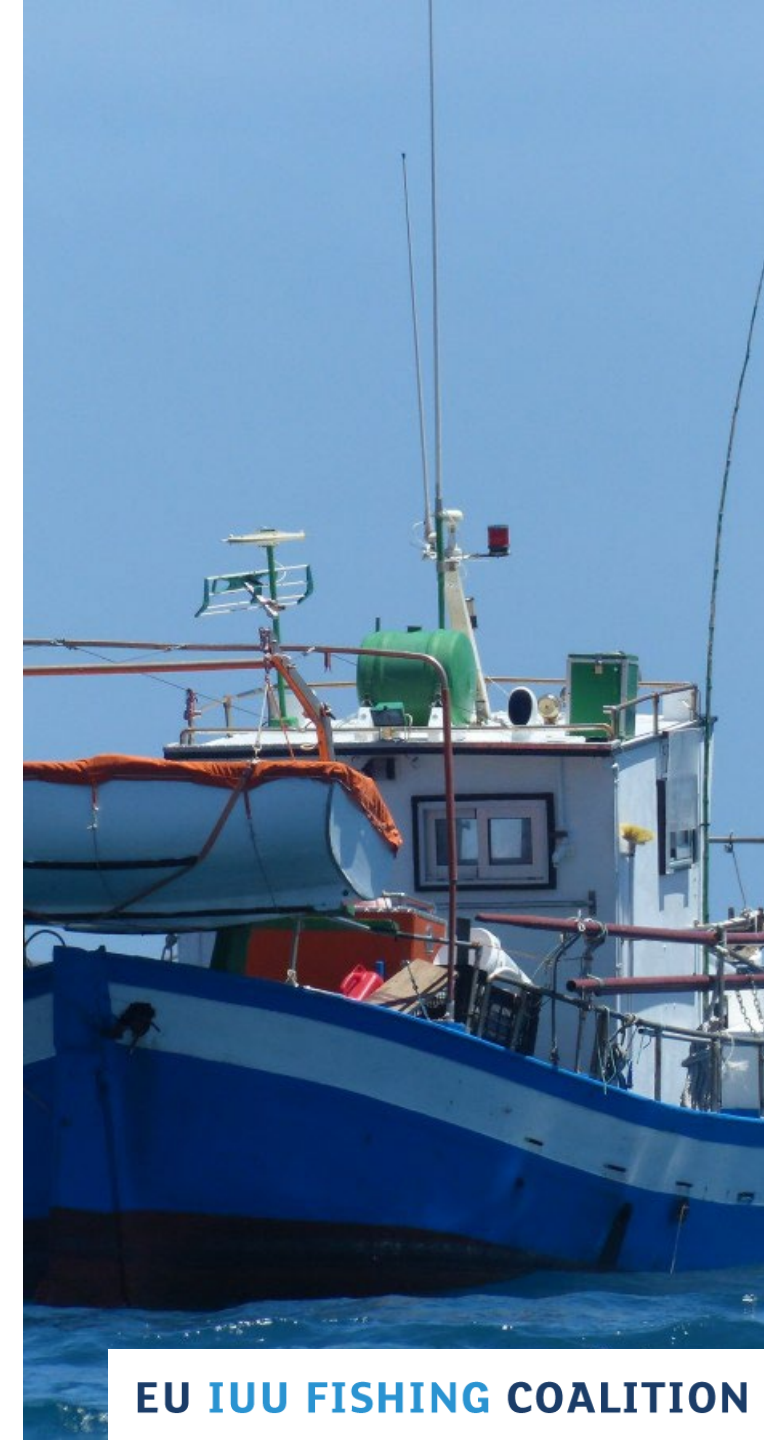
Transparent reporting on sectoral support funds ensures stakeholder scrutiny and responsible use of EU taxpayer money.

Access to catch and effort data

Improving access to catch and effort data supports scientific assessments and sustainable stock management.

Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership

Revealing beneficial ownership of fishing vessels helps prevent IUU fishing activities.



INCLUSIVITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Inclusive stakeholder participation

Involving small-scale fishers, local communities, and civil society is crucial for fair and equitable SFPAs and to ensure local ownership and engagement.

Structured dialogues

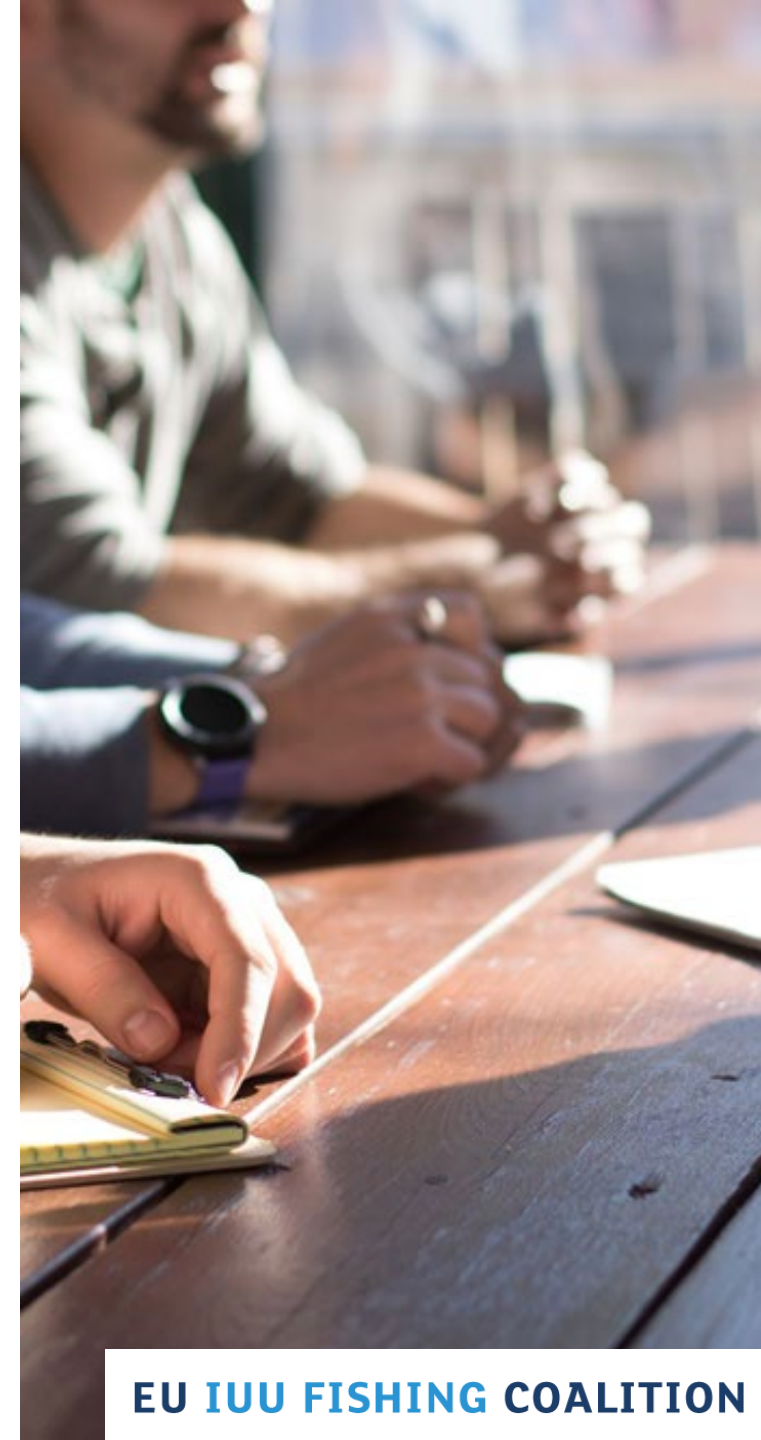
Coastal governments and EU institutions should host structured dialogues to enable transparent, inclusive decision-making.

Civil society observers

Greater involvement of civil society representatives as observers during negotiations strengthens trust and legitimacy.

Benefits of engagement

Inclusive engagement improves sectoral support relevance and fosters sustainable, socially responsible fisheries governance and local buy-in.





STRENGTHENING KEY CLAUSES

Non-discrimination clause

Ensures all fishing vessels operate under equal conditions, though implementation gaps favor some fleets.

Human rights and social clauses

Prevents labor abuses and promotes decent conditions through transparency and adherence to ILO standards.

Accountability through reporting

Publishing evaluations and annual reports enhances accountability and addresses non-compliance effectively.

COMPLIANCE

Real-time data sharing

Sharing electronic logbooks and vessel tracking data in real-time improves monitoring and enforcement of fishing activities.

Observer schemes

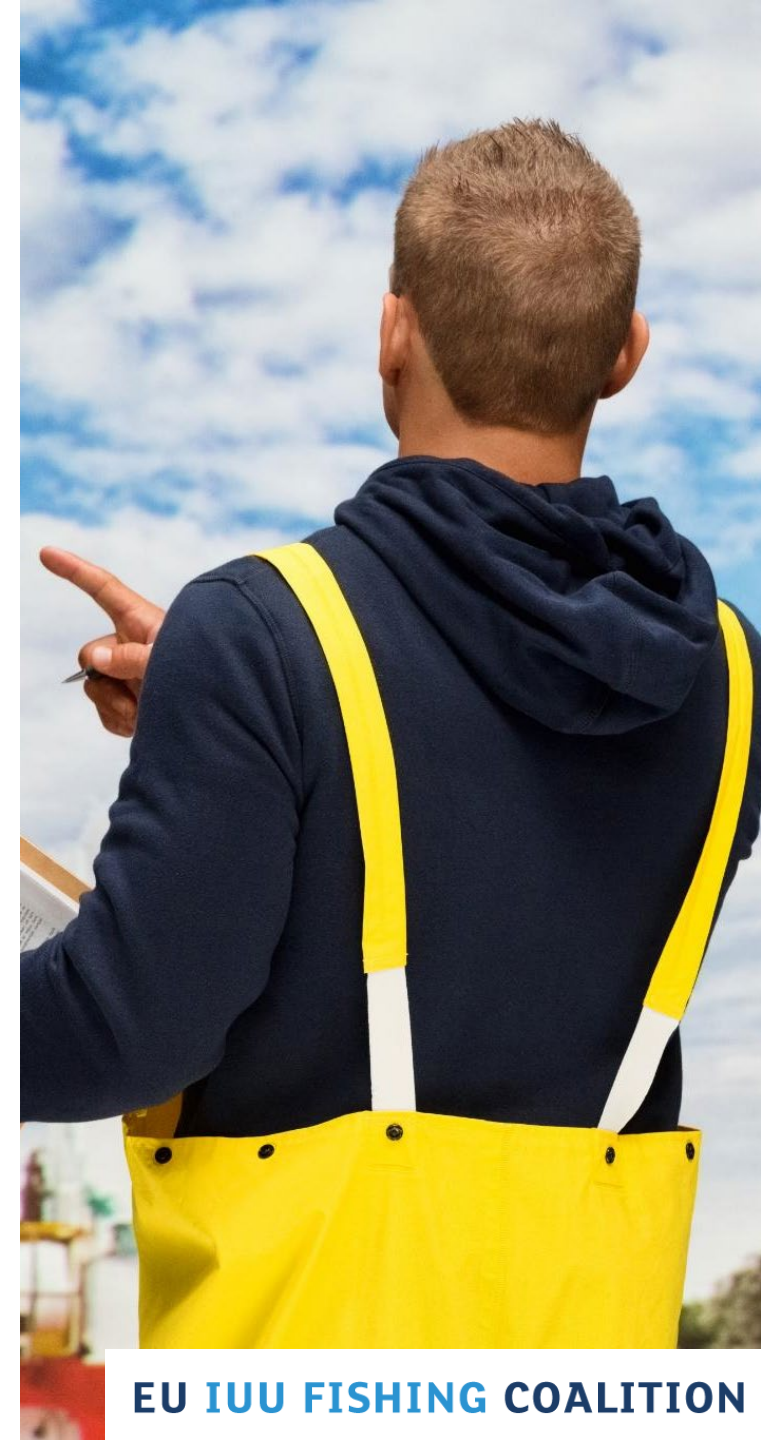
Effective observer programs collect detailed data on fishing practices, gear, and catch to ensure compliance.

Port inspections

Strengthening port inspections verifies compliance during fish landings and transhipments to deter illegal activities.

Enforcement and capacity building

Suspending authorisations for non-compliant vessels and supporting partner countries enhances compliance and marine protection.



FIGHTING IUU FISHING & LABOUR ABUSES

Combatting IUU fishing

SFPAs must actively combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing to ensure sustainable fisheries management.

Promoting international agreements

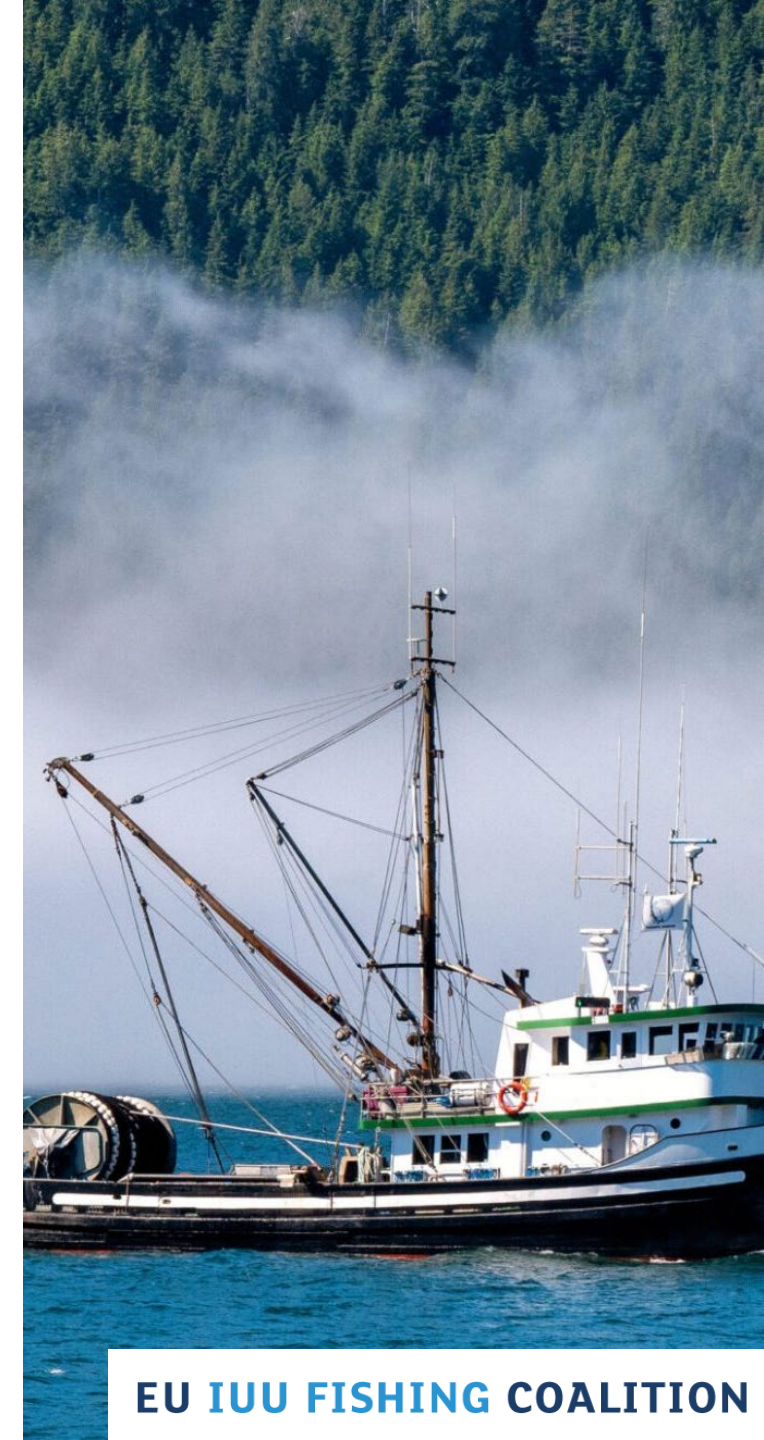
Encouraging ratification of key treaties like FAO PSMA and FSA, ILO C188, IMO Cape Town Agreement, WTO Fisheries Subsidies and the BBNJ.

Participatory monitoring and reporting

Mandating EU vessels to report suspicious activities improves transparency and accountability in fisheries.

Transparency and accountability

Publishing annual sanctions and infringement reports supports ethical fisheries and protects vulnerable communities.



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WHY STRENGTHEN SFPAS NOW?

Current challenges in SFPAs

Existing SFPAs suffer from transparency issues, weak enforcement, and insufficient protection against labor abuses and illegal fishing.

New Generation SFPAs

The new European Commission aims to develop new SFPAs focusing on sustainability, accountability, and alignment with EU regional strategies.

Goals of strengthening

Promote fair benefits for coastal communities and strengthen EU leadership in global fisheries governance.

CONCLUSIONS

Role of SFPAs

SFPAs set a benchmark for responsible fisheries management and are built on sound and positive principles. Implementation though lacking.

Need for strengthened SFPAs

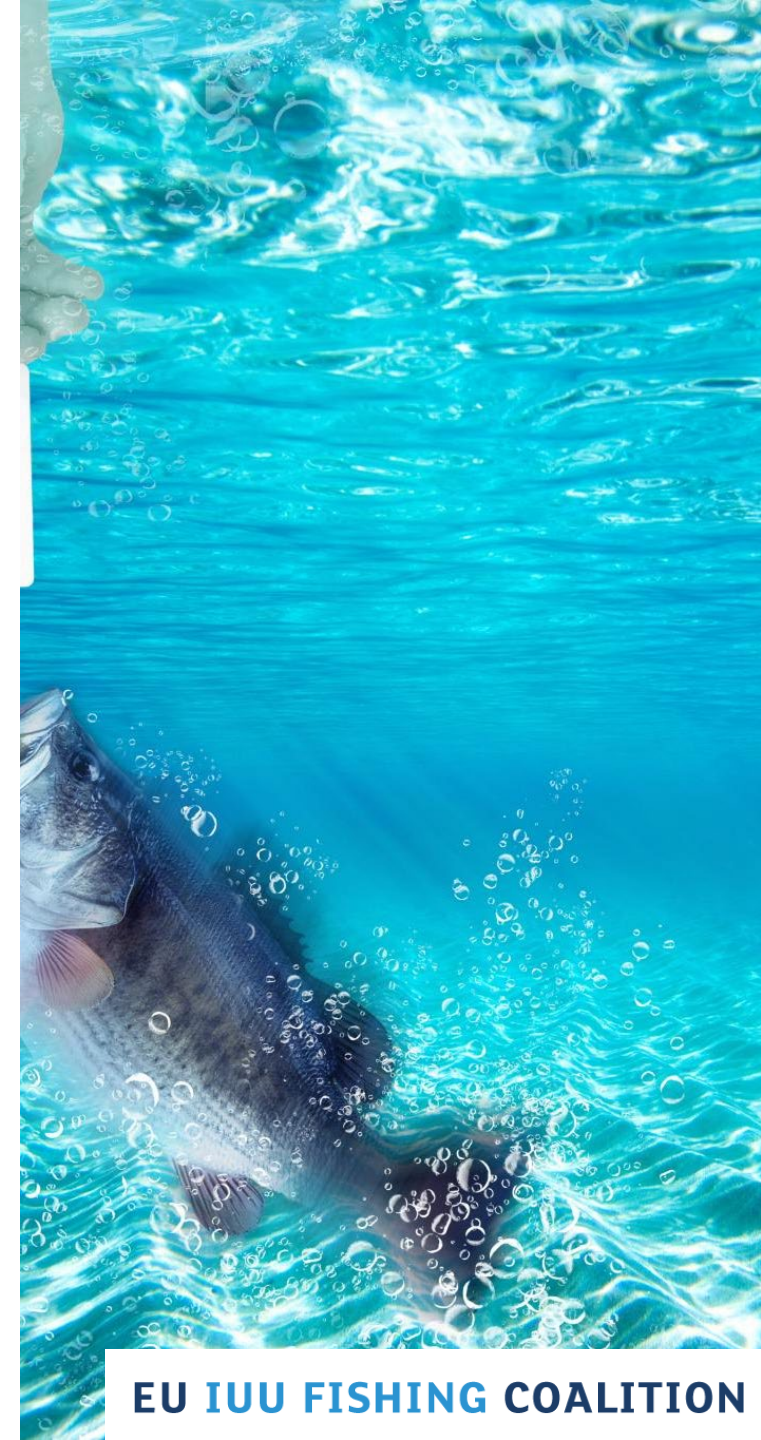
SFPAs risk losing legitimacy and cannot achieve sustainability and equity goals effectively.

Transparency

Priorities include transparency clause, equitable fleet treatment, stronger compliance, stakeholder involvement throughout and more information on sectoral support.

Implementation

Non-discrimination clause, sectoral support



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Thank you!

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A joint briefing by the **EU IUU Fishing Coalition**:
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