

Canadian IUU-AA Chair Critical Path – 2025

Context

Canada is a founding member of the [IUU Fishing Action Alliance \(IUU-AA\)](#), a coalition of government and civil society Members and Supporters committed to ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. At the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in 2022, a collection of actors came together and committed to tackling IUU fishing by supporting the IUU Fishing Action Alliance Pledge. Canada took leadership of the IUU-AA in 2024, and our leadership term will culminate with the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, where the IUU-AA will stock take progress of the group's actions.

In 2025, Canada will lead critical discussions, host collaborative sessions, and guide the IUU-AA's progress toward tangible deliverables. We will leverage key events, such as the second and third Deep Dive sessions, member meetings, and high-profile international conferences, to advance the IUU-AA's objectives. Central themes of discussion will include supply chain traceability, monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) strategies, and enforcement mechanisms to deter IUU fishing.

Canada's leadership will emphasize transparency, accountability, and collaboration among IUU-AA Members and Supporters. By coordinating working-level meetings and facilitating cross-sectoral engagement, Canada aims to showcase the IUU-AA's progress while setting the stage for future membership expansion. The 2025 critical path underscores Canada's leadership in advancing sustained international cooperation and driving decisive action to combat IUU fishing.

Critical Path for 2025

March 20, 2025 – Second Deep Dive: Supply Chain Traceability

- The second Deep Dive session will be held virtually and will focus on supply chain traceability. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO), traceability refers to “the ability to trace the food, feed, food-producing animal or substance to be included in food back through all stages of production, processing and distribution.” Potential sub-topics include technology and innovation; regulatory frameworks; supply chain management; and/or data management and sharing.

May 2025 – Meeting with IUU-AA Members and Supporters

- A working-level meeting will be held with all IUU-AA Members and Supporters to review the outcomes of the second Deep Dive, and to discuss plans for the upcoming UN Ocean Conference. This meeting also offers an opportunity to discuss continuing the IUU-AA post-UN Ocean Conference and to strategize the future direction of the group.

June 2025 – Potential IUU-AA Side Event at the UN Ocean Conference (France)

- A high-level roundtable discussion of the IUU-AA. This will be an opportunity to present a review of the highlights and progress made at the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France.
- Further themes and agenda items to be discussed at May 2025 meeting.

Fall 2025 – Deep Dive Session 3: Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) and Enforcement

- To be held after *Operation North Pacific Guard* (taking place summer 2025), which is a mutational effort to coordinate fisheries enforcement to protect global fish stocks in the North Pacific region. Led by Canadian fishery officers and supported by personnel from the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), Operation North Pacific Guard includes high seas patrols, air surveillance, and satellite monitoring.
- Deep Dive discussions should focus on what benefits exist regarding MCS and how to optimize/better focus MCS and enforcement action to deliver results.
- Potential sub-topics include High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) schemes; observer programs; and/or IUU vessel lists.

Fall/Winter 2025 – Meeting with IUU-AA Members and Supporters

- A working-level meeting will be held with all IUU-AA Members and Supporters to review the outcomes of the third Deep Dive and to wrap-up Canada's Chairship of the IUU-AA. Canada may co-lead this meeting with the incoming IUU-AA Chair country.