
IUU Fishing Action Alliance (IUU-AA)

Deep Dive Planning Session - Meeting Summary

July 24, 2024, 07:00-08:30 (Eastern Daylight Time)

The IUU-AA convened a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 07:00 EDT. Chaired by Canada, the meeting including representatives from members: Canada, Chile, European Union, France on behalf of its overseas territories, Iceland, United Kingdom, and United States (U.S); and supporter organizations: Environmental Justice Foundation, FishWise, Global Fishing Watch, Oceana, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Skylight, the World Wildlife Fund, and Sailors for the Sea - Japan.

This meeting served as an initial planning session for the first IUU-AA “deep dive” on data transparency, and to consolidate ideas based on the enclosed and previously circulated draft concept note (**Attachment A**). A summary of the meeting, including action items, is included below.

1. Roll Call

- A roll call was conducted by the Stimson Center (Stimson) to confirm attendance.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair provided an introduction, goals for the meeting, and an overview of the meeting agenda. The Chair also welcomed new supporter organizations; World Wildlife Fund; FishWise; and Sailors for the Sea – Japan.
- The Chair provided an overview of Canada’s Committee on Fisheries (COFI) “Speaker’s Corner” presentation on July 9, 2024, and highlighted follow-up questions from the Speakers Corner for the IUU-AA membership to keep in mind as it plans the deep dive sessions:
 - (1) Are there specific policies supported by the IUU-AA;
 - (2) How the IUU-AA supports/engages with the issue of small-scale fisheries; and
 - (3) How human rights issues are addressed by the IUU-AA.

3. Discussion – Deep Dive Session

- The discussion began with the Chair providing an overview of the four different potential focus areas the first “deep dive” session (see Attachment A). These focus areas included:
 - (1) Flag-state responsibilities – Facilitated discussion on how states control their vessels, and identifying gaps in capacity building.

- (2) Transparency and monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) activities – Associated compliance of RFMOS, options that exist within RFMOs on how to improve data transparency, how RFMOs manage sensitive data.
 - (3) Data Information Systems and Capacity Building – Identifying where assistance may be required for information management, and identifying initiatives aligning with the IUU-AA (e.g., [the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency](#))
 - (4) IUU Vessel Lists – Linked to the MCS process, different methods to developing and maintaining IUU fishing lists.
- Next, the Chair posed four questions to guide the discussion:
 - (1) Do members and supporters have a preference for one of the four potential topics?
 - (2) What kind of action items do we want to come from this deep dive?
 - (3) Are there any specific challenges in dealing with any of the proposed topics?
 - (4) What preferences exist on when / how the Deep Dive is conducted?

Deep Dive Topics

- The IUU-AA membership expressed that the first deep dive session should focus on Flag State responsibilities, but should also include discussions of data interoperability and information sharing.
- Specifically, the session should focus on the linkages between Flag State responsibilities and data interoperability, as well as identifying what the current needs are so that the IUU-AA might close those gaps. There will be a spectrum of needs for Flag States, as well as very specific challenges.
 - For example, Iceland already has all vessel information publicly available and so can share its successful experience.
 - In Canada, individuals are licensed not vessels, posing a privacy barrier.
- Additionally, by focusing on Flag State responsibilities, the discussion can be oriented towards how specific IUU-AA members can take action to reach and enhance collective goals and capacity building, reinforced by IUU-AA supporters.
- Meeting participants expressed privacy of data as a limitation/concern, focusing too heavy on data interoperability. There was general agreement that discussions about data transparency should include not only data transparency between and among international organizations and RFMOs, but also domestically available fisheries data. Since privacy is a concern and a specific challenge for several IUU-AA members, this issue could be raised as a current limitation during the deep dive. The Chair also noted that focusing fully on data interoperability would be difficult given its challenging nature.

Deep Dive Structure

- Participants decided on a general structure for the first deep dive session. Members and supporters will share best practices, current challenges, and what systems exist now that can be leveraged to close gaps and build capacity. Meeting participants suggested that a supporting organization affiliated with the Global Fisheries Transparency Initiative could speak to current project/initiatives that could be highlighted as a best practice.

Deep Dive Outcomes

- Members and supporters expressed a need for tangible action items to come out of deep dive sessions. The discussion centered around how deep dive sessions can be used to collectively identify strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses in how IUU fishing-relevant data is currently shared.

Deep Dive Date and Time

- October 2, 2024 was selected for the first deep dive session. Meeting participants agreed that two hours would be too short for ample discussion. Therefore, the deep dive session will be upwards of two hours and potentially broken into multiple sessions to accommodate different time zones.

4. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Stimson provided a summary of the discussion, including proposed next steps:

Action Item 1: IUU-AA members and supporters will review and provide feedback of the draft concept note (Attachment A), **by Friday, 9 August.** Canada and Stimson will adapt the concept note based on member/supporter feedback and future planning session(s).

Action Item 2: Canada and Stimson will develop an agenda for the first Deep Dive session based on feedback and requests for more than one session to accommodate time zone differences.

Action Item 3: Canada and Stimson will schedule a second planning session in late August or early September to offer the IUU-AA members and supporters another opportunity to share input and feedback.

Action Item 4: IUU-AA members and supporters with any useful resources (e.g., the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency) should please share with Canada and Stimson so that they might be more broadly circulated within the IUU-AA.