













Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency

This Charter sets out 10 principles that constitute the advocacy priorities for civil society groups in the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency. They are designed to be implemented by states so that information about vessels and fishing activity is widely available to support fisheries management regimes that ensure seafood is free from illegal fishing practices and human rights abuses. While intended for the entire fisheries sector and readily implementable in industrial fisheries, the coalition acknowledges that some principles require further adaptation before they can be effectively applied to all small-scale fisheries.

Vessel information	1		Require all fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels (hereafter 'fishing vessels') to obtain unique identification numbers and also provide them to the FAO Global Record, RFMOs and other relevant bodies.
	2		Publish comprehensive and up-to-date lists of fishing vessel licenses (including key vessel information), authorizations, subsidies, official access agreements and sanctions (for fisheries and labor offenses) and also supply this information to the FAO Global Record.
	3		Make public the information on beneficial ownership of vessels.
	4		Stop the use of flags of convenience by fishing vessels by enforcing the UNCLOS Article 91 requirement for a genuine link between vessels and their flag state, and prevent vessels from engaging in illegal fishing and associated crimes regardless of their flag and punish the vessel(s) that do.
Fishing activity	5		Require vessel position to be public (by sharing VMS, or sharing other non-public systems or mandating AIS).
	6		Ban transferring fish between boats at sea – unless pre-authorized, carefully monitored and publicly logged.
	7		Mandate the adoption of robust control systems that ensure seafood is legal and traceable from boat to plate, conforming to relevant catch management measures whose key data elements are made publicly available.
Governance and management	8		Ratify and comply with international instruments that set clear standards for fishing vessels and the trade in fisheries products, including FAO PSMA, ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and ILO C188, and IMO Cape Town Agreement.
	9		Publish all collected fisheries data and scientific assessments in order to facilitate access to information for small-scale fishers, fish workers, indigenous communities, industry associations, and civil society in developing fisheries rules, regulations, subsidies and fisheries budgets, and decisions on access to fisheries resources. Make these processes, policies, and decisions easily accessible to the public and enforcement agencies.
	10		Collect and verify robust data on crew identification and demographics (including nationalities, age, race, and gender), contractual terms, recruitment agencies, location and means of joining vessels, and conditions on vessels as well as publish this information in aggregate form.