

What is fisheries transparency, and why is it important?

Lack of transparency and accountability in fishery information, activities, and decision-making has enabled fisheries mismanagement, illegal fishing, human rights and labor abuses, unequal access to resources and associated benefits, and fraud and corruption. **The result is overexploited fisheries, threatened livelihoods, food insecurity in coastal communities, and the safety and security of crews put at risk.**

Fisheries transparency is a tool to support sustainable, healthy fisheries, maintain thriving coastal communities, protect crew onboard vessels, and encourage effective governance. **Transparency, in this context, means more and better, freely available, and directly accessible fisheries information**, which allows for informed decision-making and engaged public debate on the governance of fisheries sectors globally.

How does the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency promote fisheries transparency?

Many organizations and initiatives around the world are already engaged in hard work to improve transparency, but given the global nature of fisheries and the scale of the challenges facing our ocean, a framework that unites organizations is necessary to maximize collective impact.

The Coalition for Fisheries Transparency connects these efforts and provides a platform where members can share best practices and lessons learned, leverage and amplify each other's work, and build efforts in places still lacking in transparency.

The Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency provides a framework for member organizations to urge governments to implement fisheries transparency policy reforms.

United around the Global Charter, the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency will bring members together to identify priorities, leverage partnerships, and cooperatively develop strategic plans of action.



For further information about the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency, and to apply for Coalition membership, visit our website:
www.fisheriestransparency.net

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. For stakeholders seeking guidance on implementing individual principles, the Coalition advises consultation of globally recognized protocols, such as the FiTI Standard in the case of Principles 2 and 9.

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.

Policy Principles

	Policy Principles	
Vessel information	1	 Require unique identification numbers for all fishing vessels (including transport and supply vessels).
	2	 Publish lists of licenses, authorizations, and sanctions.
	3	 Make public the beneficial ownership of vessels.
	4	 Stop the use of flags of convenience by fishing vessels.
Fishing activity	5	 Make vessel position data public.
	6	 Ban or closely monitor at-sea transshipment.
	7	 Mandate seafood traceability from boat to plate.
Governance and management	8	 Ratify international agreements that set standards for fishing vessels and trade. (Including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures; International Labour Organization (ILO) Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; ILO C188; and International Maritime Organization (IMO) Cape Town Agreement.)
	9	 Ensure public and equitable access to fisheries data and participation in fisheries management and decision-making.
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