

UE, New standard devised to boost fisheries management

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) has developed an open and global standard that allows the electronic exchange of fishery data designed to improve the timely acquisition and exchange of information on fishing locations, gear used, species and quantity caught, among other facts.

It is a tool called Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX), which provides a harmonized message standard that allows Fishery Management Organizations (FMOs) to automatically access the electronic data from fishing vessels, such as vessel and trip identification, fishing operations (daily catch or haul-by-haul) or fishing data (catch area, species and quantity, date and time, and gear used).

With this standard, FMOs around the world have for the first time a communication tool to automate the collection and dissemination of the fishery catch data needed for sustainable fishery management and for detecting and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

In addition, the development of a reliable and up-to-date database on fish catch will improve research on science-based fishery management, informed UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).

The FLUX Standard was presented at the 27th UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, where experts from government, regional and international organizations, regional FMOs, industry, research, and control and enforcement authorities agreed on its importance as a standardized tool to exchange fisheries information in an effective, transparent and efficient manner.

A FLUX User Community was also set up to exchange best practices and lessons learned.

UN/CEFACT recognizes that world fish stocks are being depleted by overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which threatens not only the fish, but also the coastal communities that rely on fisheries for economic survival and a dependable food source.

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