IUU Risk Intelligence

Putting Compliance First

GLOBAL EVALUATION OF FISHERIES MONITORING CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE IN 84 COUNTRIES

GUYANA – COUNTRY REPORT

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IUU RISK INTELLIGENCE

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SUMMARY

*This evaluation of Fisheries Monitoring Control and Surveillance report for **Guyana** is one of 84 such country evaluations that covers nations landing 92% of world's fish catch. Using a wide range of interviews and in-country consultations with both military and civilian agencies, the report exemplifies the best attempt by the author(s) at evaluation of MCS compliance using 12 questions derived from international fisheries laws. The twelve questions are divided into two evaluation fields, (MCS Infrastructure and Inspections). Complete details of the methods and results of this global evaluation would be published shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website.*

Over a five-year period, this global assessment has been subjected to several cross-checks from both regional and global MCS experts familiar with compliance aspects in the country concerned. Uncertainty in assigning each score is depicted explicitly through score range. However, the author(s) are aware that gaps may remain for some aspects. The lead author remains open to comments, and revisions will be made upon submission of documentary evidence where necessary. Throughout the report, extreme precaution has been taken to maintain confidentiality of individuals who were willing to share information but expressed an inclination to remain anonymous out of concern for their job security, and information from such sources was cited as 'anonymous' throughout the report.

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GUYANA – COUNTRY REPORT

FAO landings (2013): 48,468 tonnes
Fisheries contribution to GDP (2018): 1.6%
Law of the Sea (Ratification): 16th November 1993
Coastline: 459 km
RFMO Membership: None
Patrolling Agencies: Guyana Defence Force (Coast Guard Unit); Fisheries Department; Guyana Police Force

Rank	Priority for maritime security tasks
1.	Cross-border incursions and piracy
2.	Narcotics trafficking
3.	Illegal fishing

SECTION 1: MCS INFRASTRUCTURE

1. **Does the country have adequate surveillance infrastructure (patrol aircraft, sea-based patrol vessels and coastal patrols) to effectively patrol fisheries resources within its EEZ?**
   Score: 5.5
   Score Range: 4-7

   No, minimal capability for law enforcement patrols in some jurisdictions (Ellis 2019). The Guyana Defense Force has four Barracuda patrol boats of which one vessel is undergoing repairs (Military Balance 2021). GDF's lone flagship patrol vessel, "*Essequibo*," has been out of service in recent years, and the other patrol boats are unable to conduct long-range patrols (Chabrol 2021a). Guyana Defence Force (GDF) acquired three 31-foot *Metal /shark aluminium fast patrol boats (N28, N29, and N30)* from the United States under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) in 2014 (DPI 2014), and two 38-foot *Metal Shark 38V Defiant Class vessels* in early 2017 (DPI 2017). In 2020, the Fisheries Department purchased the "*Cavalli*" marine surveillance vessel (worth $99 million Guyana dollars) to conduct research and MCS patrols (DPI 2020). Guyana announced the purchase of a brand new US$11.5 million offshore patrol vessel from the United States in June 2021, with delivery scheduled for 2022 (Chabrol 2021b). For more information, see the documents Maison (2007), Anon (2010a,b), and Jane (2010).

2. **Does the country have adequate trained officers to conduct MCS operations?**
   Score: 5
   Score Range: 3-5

   According to available information, the Guyanese Defense Force and the Fisheries Department have limited manpower for land and sea-based enforcement (Maison 2007; Salas *et al.*, 2007; 2010b; FCI 2009; Macfadyen 2011; Fisheries Department 2016; GFD 2018; MSC 2019). The Fisheries Department is under-resourced, with a meagre budget (FCI 2009; ACP-Fish 2013).

3. **Does the country have adequate management plans to monitor their fishing vessels on the high seas?**
   Score: 2.5
   Score Range: 2-4

   According to available information, the country does not have such capabilities (Macfadyen 2011). The current VMS coverage for the industrial shrimp fleet

provides a limited picture of any potential transgressions into the EEZs of neighbouring countries (Keus *et al.*, 2021).

4. **What proportion of fishing vessels is equipped with vessel monitoring system (VMS) to monitor their movements on a continuous basis?**
   Score: 5
   Score Range: 3-5

   VMS transponders are required on all trawlers and some incursions are reported below the 8 fathom depth limits (Anon 2014; Keus *et al.*, 2021). Catches must be recorded in logbooks, and VMS transponders with onboard cameras have been installed on 87 steel hulled twin-rig shrimp trawlers (22 metres) in the seabob fishery (MSC 2019). In 2016 "*total number of infringements for the period under review was three hundred and ninety-six (396) of which two hundred and fifty-five (255) were No Trawl Zone Entry (NTZE) while one hundred and forty-one (141) No Beacon Signal Receive (NBSR) were recorded*" (Amsterdam 2016).

5. **What percentage of fishing vessels (>20 m OAL) is monitored through onboard observers at sea (for major commercial fish stocks)?**
   Score: 1.5
   Score Range: 1-4

   According to the available information, vessels in the seabob shrimp trawl fishery have observer coverage (Keus *et al.*, 2021; Brown 2021; Fisheries Department 2016).

SECTION 2: INSPECTIONS

6. **How often fishing vessels are inspected at sea (Identification by sight and boarding for inspections)?**
   Score: 4.5
   Score Range: 3-5

   Detailed patrol statistics are not reported for Guyana's fisheries sector. The lone offshore patrol vessel and four coastal patrol boats have been reported to conduct a limited number of patrols. Inshore patrols are not reported on a steady basis, with the lone offshore patrol vessel aiming for seven patrols per month, for a total of 70-80 days of at-sea patrols per year (Macfadyen 2011). See Q.1 for more information on the recent lack of patrol capability. According to the DPI (2016); Harris (2021) reports, the Fisheries Department has limited

capability to inspect fishing vessels at sea; however, routine inspections are reported at port for the seabob shrimp trawl fleet before and after each fishing trip. The Fisheries Department acquired a new research/surveillance vessel "*Cavalli*" in June 2020, which is expected to aid in conducting inspections at sea if sufficient funds are allocated for fuel and maintenance of the patrol vessel.

One recent source (Anon 2021) cites "*Lieutenant Commander David Shamsudeen stated that of Guyana's 54,000 square nautical miles of sea space, the Coast Guard was only able to patrol some 12 nautical miles. He said this was as a result of a lack of resources.*"

7. **How often fishing vessels are scrutinized through aerial patrols?**
   Score: 1.5
   Score Range: 1-4

   Exact information is not available for Guyana. According to Ellis (2019), GDF-Air Corps lacks operational capability, and the two BN-2 Islander aircraft purchased from Brazil in 2018 lack surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) sensor packages for maritime patrol duties. Further, the same report suggests that "*To supplement the lack of aviation assets, the GDF periodically charters civilian aircraft and flies them over the nation's maritime exclusive economic zone and other areas, crewed with GDF officers manned with binoculars, in order to provide a minimal detection capability*" (Ellis 2019).

   According to the Military Balance (2021); Anon (2021b), and Ellis (2019) reports, existing aircraft have a very limited range for fisheries reconnaissance. According to Macfadyen (2011), only two aerial surveillance patrols of 2-3 hours duration were conducted each month due to a lack of funds.

8. **How often are fishing vessels inspected at landing centers and docks for foreign and domestic vessels (Dockside monitoring)?**
   Score: 4.5
   Score Range: 2-5

   Exact figures are not available. TED & BRD fishing gear compliance inspections are reported at all five main industrial ports; although only a few counterchecks of catches against logbooks are reported in both the industrial and artisanal sectors (Macfadyen 2011; DPI 2016). Foreign fishing vessels (mostly Venezuelan) were required by their licence conditions to report their entry and exit from ports to Customs authorities. Because their owners live in Guyana, a significant number of Surinamese (SK+BV) vessels landed catches caught in the Suriname EEZ in Guyana (WWF 2017). In comparison to artisanal fisheries, the

seabob shrimp trawl fishery is closely monitored (GFD 2018). In 2018, only one foreign-flagged reefer called at a port (James 2019).

9. **Are there adequate plans to monitor catches in coastal areas through coastal patrols (beach patrols, small-scale fishing gear and catch inspections) on a regular basis?**
Score: 4
Score Range: 2-5

In the artisanal sector, 1315 fishing boats were reported, with 43 percent operating illegally (WWF 2019). In the artisanal fisheries sector, few Management Plans are reported. Inshore waters see a high number of licensing, gear, and zonal violations, and conflicts between industrial and artisanal vessels (Bumbury 2021; GFD 2018; FAO 2017; Maison 2007; CARICOM 2001; GNDS 1997; GNDS 2006; Inamdar *et al*., 2019). All major ports inspect industrial trawlers (particularly seabob trawlers) for the regular use of TEDs (Macfadyen 2011; DPI 2016). In the shrimp trawl fishery, time closures are not strictly enforced (FAO 2017; Harris 2021). In 2016 "*total number of infringements for the period under review was three hundred and ninety-six (396) of which two hundred and fifty-five (255) were No Trawl Zone Entry (NTZE) while one hundred and forty-one (141) No Beacon Signal Receive (NBSR) were recorded*" (Amsterdam 2016). Unreported discards of commercially important species in artisanal fisheries are another source of concern for Fisheries Department officers (Kalicharan and Oxenford 2020).

10. **Are all the catches that are caught in this jurisdiction at sea accounted for (i.e., unreported Trans-shipments at sea)?**
Score: 4
Score Range: 2-5

Partial tracking of transhipments is available for seabob trawl fleet via VMS coverage. Because offshore waters in the EEZ are not adequately patrolled, it is difficult to determine the extent of unreported transhipments. Transhipments at sea are suspected (GNDS 1997; GNDS 2006; DPI 2016a). According to the MSC (2019) report, at-sea transhipment is not permitted in the seabob fishery.

11. **Are vessels required to undergo inspection of equipment and fishing gear for every fishing trip?**
Score: 4.5
Score Range: 2-5

Periodic inspections are reported after fishing trips for industrial seabob shrimp trawlers to ensure compliance with TED regulations (Macfadyen 2011). illegal use of anchor seines is reported for smaller fishing vessels (Anon 2014). Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) are required for seabob trawlers, and the use of By-Catch Reduction devices is reported in the seabob trawl fishery. The GFD (2018); Harris (2021) reports, on the other hand, suggests that there are significant monitoring gaps in other semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries. Significant improvements in monitoring of fishing gears (BRD and TED use), have been reported in the seabob fishery (DPI 2016a; Garstin *et al*., 2017; Garstin and Oxenford 2018; Keus *et al*., 2021).

12. Has the country taken adequate measures to revise and implement national fisheries laws to curtail illegal fishing practices; and does it comply with national and international laws signed?

Score: 5

Score Range: 3-5

Fisheries Act 2002 (Cap 71:08) of 25 July 2003 is the main national legislation for fisheries management in Guyana waters. The Fisheries Act incorporates several measures for implementing regulations from the FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Guyana has put in place several new regulatory policies to improve fisheries management and combat IUU fishing in industrial fisheries (FAO 2020). These include the creation of a robust Marine Fisheries Management Plan for the period 2013-2018, as well as species-specific fisheries management plans (e.g., seabob). Apart from the trawl fishery, several semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries are plagued by IUU fishing and catch under-reporting (GFD 2018). Guyana is not a party to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Compliance Agreement. Guyana ratified the UN Port State Measures Agreement on 7 March 2016. See GFD (2018); WWF (2018); GNDS (2006); Salas *et al.,* (2007); Anon (2016b); ACP-Fish 2013; Edeson and Pulvenis (2012); Macfadyen (2011) reports for more information on compliance and use of unregistered artisanal boats in Guyanese fisheries.

Flag of Convenience	No	Source: ITF (2015)
Vessels on the RFMO – IUU vessel list	No	

Last Updated: 30 December 2021

Note:

Bibliography and other notes relevant to this country report including methods, results and discussion for the global evaluation of 84 countries would be released shortly through IUU Risk Intelligence website (https://iuuriskintelligence.com/). (The author can be contacted at prammod.raju@gmail.com to provide any feedback).

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