Fisheries Transparency Initiative

Sustainable marine fisheries through transparency and multi-stakeholder collaboration



PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT

"Increasing transparency and participation must be feasible and introduced progressively in order to ensure the wide acceptance of this initiative."

Principle #7 of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative

The FiTI Standard, the global default framework for transparency in national fisheries management, defines what information should be published online by national authorities, how it can be verified and used more effectively to inform public debates.

Although the FiTI holds all countries to the same high standards, it recognises that national authorities may lack financial resources, technology, expertise or staff to fulfill all of the transparency requirements of the FiTI Standard. Therefore, FiTI countries are not expected to have complete data for every transparency requirement from the beginning.

National authorities must disclose the information that is available to them according to the following 12 thematic areas...

National Objectives
Goals, targets & timeframes

Legal Framework
Laws, access agreements & rules for fishing sectors

Small-Scale Fisheries
Identification & support

Vessels and Authorisations
Vessel record, licences & quotas

Catches
Landings, fishing effort & discards

Health of Fish Populations
Stock assessments, conservation measures & endangered species

Employment and Labour Standards
Formal and informal sectors & work at sea

Law Enforcement
Strategies, procedures & sanctions

Trade and Consumption
Exports, imports & food availability

Fiscal Management
Revenues, budgets & subsidies

Development Finance
Purpose, value & outcomes

Beneficial Ownership
Collection, verification & use of information

...and where data gaps exist, demonstrate progressive improvements over time.



It is the responsibility of a country's National Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) to agree jointly on such improvement recommendations and for the country's national authorities to act on these recommendations.

While national authorities are not obliged to implement recommendations from their National MSG they must, however, respond to each recommendation, even if the recommendation is rejected.

Categories of stakeholder recommendations for progressive improvements

Based on the annual transparency assessment - which evaluates the level of transparency of information across the 12 thematic areas of the FiTI Standard - the National MSGs stimulates progress in fisheries transparency and stakeholder participation by issuing recommendations across the following six categories:



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Recommendations to improve access to information held by national authorities that has not yet been disclosed online.



INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

Recommendations to collate or compile information that is currently unknown about the country's fisheries sector.



INFORMATION QUALITY

Recommendations to improve the accuracy, consistency or reliability of published information.



INFORMATION CLARITY

Recommendations to improve how published fisheries management information is more widely communicated, more easily understandable and usable by a non-expert audience, thereby facilitating public awareness and understanding.



STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Recommendations to improve public participation in the country's fisheries management and governance.



BEYOND THE FITI STANDARD

Recommendations to go beyond the minimum requirements of the FiTI Standard, which would enable the FiTI implementation process further to address national priorities for the country's fisheries sector.

Continuous monitoring of progressive improvements

As part of its annual FiTI Report, the National MSG reviews the status of prior recommendations, and publishes their implementation progress.

Furthermore, the FiTI International Secretariat documents the implementation progress of all applicable FiTI countries centrally through its Progressive Improvement Tracker. **Visit our website to learn more!**