INTERPOL

HOW INTERPOL NOTICES SUPPORT FISHERIES-RELATED CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

Information note for law enforcement agencies

INTERPOL Notices for fisheries-related crime

INTERPOL Notices help member countries detect, track, and prosecute individuals and vessels involved in fisheries and other associated transnational crimes, including human trafficking, document fraud, money laundering, and environmental crimes. These Notices facilitate real-time intelligence sharing on criminal networks, modi operandi, and repeat offenders, thereby strengthening global marine law enforcement.

	Purpose	Fisheries-related crime scenario
INTERPOL RED NOTICE	Locate and arrest wanted persons with a view to extradition.	The CEO of an illegal tuna-exporting company who fled the country after authorities uncovered falsified catch documentation and forged export permits.
INTERPOL BLUE NOTICE	Collect and share information on wanted persons, suspects, witnesses or victims.	Tracking a vessel captain suspected of coordinating illegal transshipment operations across multiple Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).
INTERPOL GREEN NOTICE	Warn member countries about repeat offenders.	A known illegal fishing operator with multiple prior convictions relocating vessels and flags to evade enforcement and re-enter fisheries markets.
INTERPOL PURPLE NOTICE	Warn about criminal methods and concealment tactics.	Use of vessel identity manipulation (e.g. IMO number tampering), falsified catch documents, and mid-sea transshipment to launder IUU-caught fish into legal supply chains.
INTERPOL BLACK NOTICE	Identify unidentified human remains.	An unknown dead body recovered from fatalities occurring aboard illegal fishing vessels due to unsafe labor conditions, human trafficking, or violent incidents at sea.
INTERPOL ORANGE NOTICE	Warn of serious and imminent threats.	Hazardous vessel operations (e.g., unlicensed explosives used in fishing) or illegal chemical use in aquaculture (e.g., banned antibiotics or pesticides).
INTERPOL SILVER NOTICE	Identify, locate, obtain information and monitor criminal assets.	Proceeds linked to an individual subject to investigation for fisheries related crime, seafood fraud, and the use of associated shell companies used to launder income through offshore financial networks.



Issuing an INTERPOL Notice

Identification and evidence gathering

Through its National Central Bureau (NCB), a law enforcement agency identifies a suspect, vessel, or criminal pattern linked to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and gathers supporting evidence: legal documents, vessel details, timestamps, locations, and witness statements.

Submission via I-24/7

The NCB submits the request through I-24/7, INTERPOL's global encrypted communication system, selecting the appropriate Notice type based on the purpose of the alert and the nature of the case.

Review and compliance

INTERPOL reviews the submission to ensure quality and legal compliance, in accordance with its Constitution and regulatory framework. The review assesses:

- Accuracy and completeness
- Compliance with international law and human rights principles; and
- Adherence to the principle of neutrality

Publication and dissemination

Once approved, the Notice is published and distributed to NCBs in all 196 member countries and their authorized law enforcement agencies. NCBs remain responsible for updating, extending, or canceling the Notice at any time as new information emerges.



Why this matters

Fisheries-related crime undermines global food security, devastates marine ecosystems, and fuels organized crime. INTERPOL Notices are a critical tool in closing legal loopholes and ensuring that criminals cannot evade justice by crossing national borders.