



MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

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IUU FISHING - CONTRARY TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERY DON'T TRADE IN ILLEGALLY CAUGHT REDFISH

Reykjavik, January, 2006.

The Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries urges all companies engaged in trade and distribution of seafood products to take actions against illegally caught redfish in the Irminger Sea.

The Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries expresses its concern about trading and distribution of fish that are caught on the high seas outside national exclusive economic zones by vessels registered in states that are not contracting parties to the respective Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. This fishery is illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) and undermines attempts to manage fisheries on the high seas in a sustainable way.

In the North Atlantic the problem of trade and distribution of redfish caught illegally in the Irminger Sea, south and south west of the Icelandic EEZ, is acute. Several vessels have been engaged in this fishery without being registered in one of the states that are contracting parties to the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) which regulates this fishery in accordance with international law. These vessels don't have any legal fishing rights in this area and operate totally out of line with the management regulations set by NEAFC.

The contracting parties to the NEAFC are now stepping up their efforts to stop illegal fishing in the Irminger Sea. This includes stepped up surveillance of the area and registration of the illegal activities and vessels. Attempts are being made to convince suppliers not to service these vessels and contact harbours authorities in order to prevent the landing of illegally caught fish. Discussions will be opened with the respective flag states that accept these vessels on their registrars in order to get their assistance in the campaign against the vessels' illegal operations.

Furthermore the contracting parties to the NEAFC are studying ways to detect the routes that this illegally caught fish finds its way to the market. Governments of the NEAFC contracting parties are aware that companies in their jurisdictions may be trading in illegally caught fish and that this trade is one of the factors making the illegal fishing operations feasible.

The trade and distribution of fish is ever more subject to traceability requirements that originate in the needs of consumers for food safety and their concerns for the environment. Traders and distributors of fish or seafood products in whatever form are therefore now equipped with means to trace the origins of what they source and sell.

The Icelandic Ministry of Fisheries will be stepping up its efforts to co-operate with the corresponding authorities in many other nations to trace the illegally caught redfish through the whole supply chain and raise the awareness of everyone concerned about the problem and its grave consequences for management of the resource.

All operators engaged in trade, distribution, transportation, financing or services to the illegal fishery of redfish in the Irminger Sea are strongly encouraged to avoid participation in this activity in any direct or indirect way. No company that wants to be a part of a sustainable and responsible fishery with the long term interests of the market in mind should aid or contribute to the illegal fishery in any way.

It must also be pointed out that the falsification of documents related to this trade is not only damaging the credibility of traceability for those involved but is also in most instances in breach of various national laws.



Einar K. Guðfinnsson
Minister of Fisheries

LIST OF ILLEGAL OPERATORS REPORTED TO THE NEAFC 2005

Vessel's name	IRCS:	MO No:	Ext. Reg;	Flag-State	Comments
FONTENOVA	HO2933			Panama	
IANNIS				Panama	
LANNISI				Panama	
LISA	J7AG4	8606836	50052		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
KERGUELEN				Togo	
OKHOTINO	J7AC2	8522169	50013		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
OLCHAN	J7AC7	8422838	50018		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
OSTROE	J7AC5	8522042	50016		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
OSTROVETS	J7AC3	8522030	50014		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
OYRA	J7AC4	8522119	50015		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
OZHERELYE	J7AI3	8422876	50070		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
SUNNY JANE	V3KG2	7347407		Belize	
PAVLOVSK	J7AJ1	8326319	50079		Ex-RUS, Ex-BLZ, Ex-DMA
DOLPHIN	4LEQ			Georgia	
ICE BAY	XUW9	8028424		Cambodia	
TURICIA	HP8520	7700104		Panama	
GRAND SOL	HO3738			Panama	
MURTOSA	ZDLB1 (5VMAO)	7385174		Togo	