

**Greetings!**

With our major annual reports complete, FishWise is tying our laces and looking ahead to the finish line of our partners' 2015 commitment goals.

Meanwhile, we continue to stay abreast of the latest developments in policy and regulation as issues in human rights, IUU, and traceability continue to make headlines. And with new opportunities like the USDA Organic aquaculture standards, there will be plenty to discuss at our upcoming strategic planning retreat.

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**EU Formally Warns Thailand for IUU Fishing, Clears Korea and the Philippines**

After assessing Thailand's fisheries governance, control and sanctioning system since 2011, the European Commission (EC) has issued the Thai government a formal warning, or "yellow card", for failing to take sufficient measures to fight illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing.

Thailand now joins the following countries on the EC's list of yellow-carded countries:

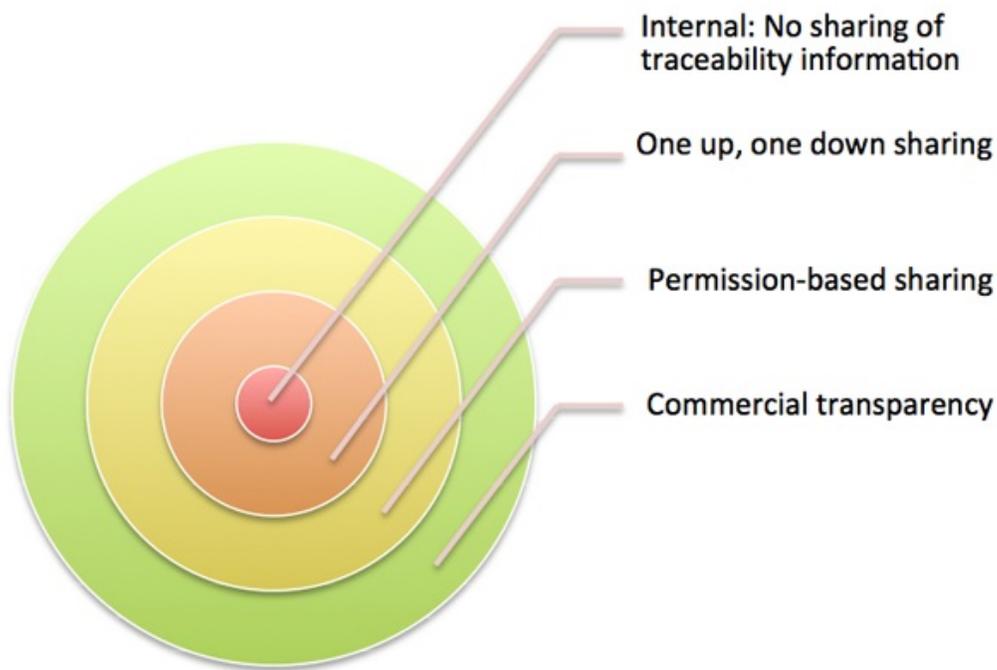
- Papua New Guinea
- Ghana
- Curacao
- Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu
- Saint Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Vincent & Grenadines



Now that Thailand has received a yellow card, the EC will work with Thai authorities to develop a time-bound action plan that will address key deficiencies with Thailand's management of its fisheries and fleets. Thailand will have 6 months to implement the corrective measures outlined in the action plan. If the EC decides that Thailand has made insufficient improvements after 6 months, Thailand could receive more serious sanctions and be demoted to a "red card" status, which could include a European Union (EU) ban on all Thai fishery products.

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**FishWise Proposes Seafood Traceability Definitions**



Seafood traceability is a complex topic, and without a common lexicon it can be difficult to advance the conversation. As part of our ongoing work in this area, FishWise has created a preliminary list of definitions to help all stakeholders use a common set of terms when discussing seafood traceability. These were first shared during our multi-stakeholder [Traceability and IUU Strategy Meeting in October of 2014](#).

[Continue reading this article on the FishWise blog](#)

## Let's Review the UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement

### The Leaders

First, let's begin with a big high-five to Chile, Gabon, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, and the EU which have ratified or approved this agreement (source: Pew Charitable Trusts).

### Now let's review why this is an important piece of legislation at the United Nations:

Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing is a serious problem. Estimates of fishing losses to illegal activity range from \$10-23.5 billion, representing 11-26 million tons of seafood (Agnew et al. 2009). Some countries suffer greatly (40% of West Africa's total catches may be illegal) and, in others, illegal fishing may double the documented harvest numbers (Agnew et al. 2009). Furthermore, developing countries often bear the brunt of IUU fishing through lost revenue, decreased food security, and loss of biodiversity (FAO, 2012).

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## USDA Organic Aquaculture Standards on the Horizon

The [United States Department of Agriculture](#) will soon release standards for Organic seafood, according to a [recent article](#) by the Associated Press. The scope of the standards is limited to farmed fish and shellfish, including salmon, tilapia, catfish, shrimp and mollusks such as mussels, oysters and clams.

The standards are being informed by recommendations from the [National Organic Standards Board](#) and are expected to be out of clearance stage by April or May, and published by late summer. Stay tuned for updates from FishWise on this topic.



## Surf Market Hosts 3rd Annual Sustainable Seafood Festival

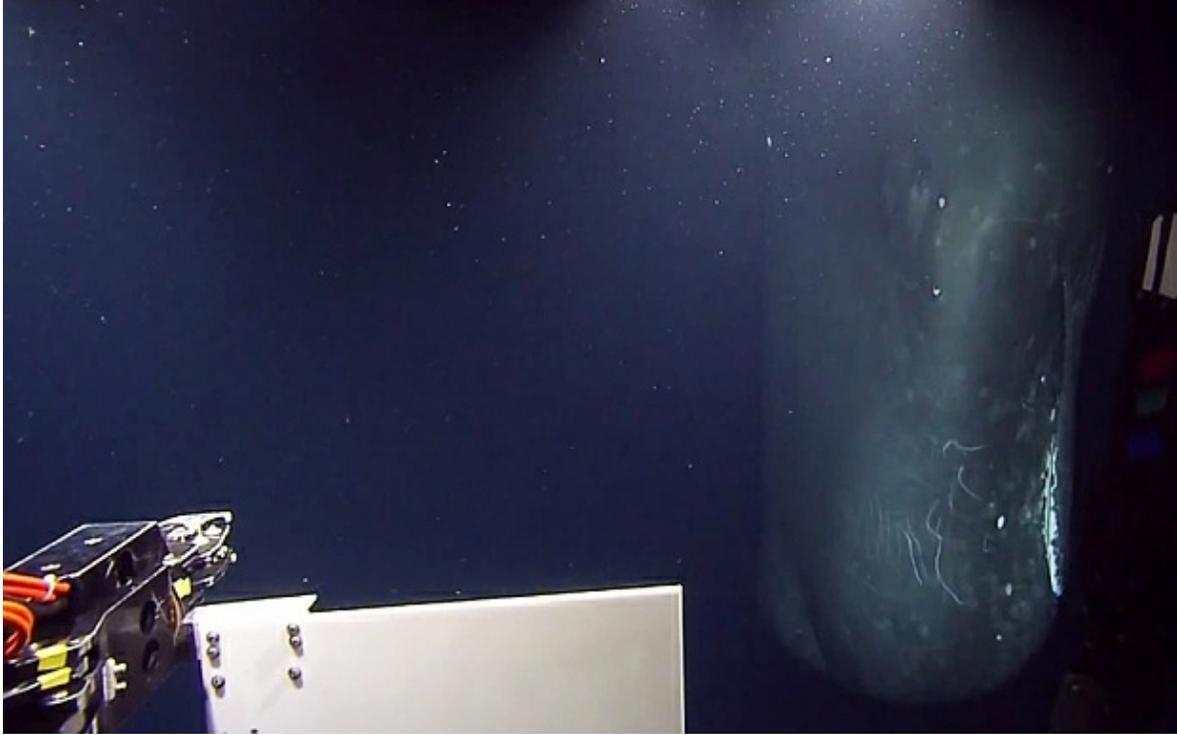


FishWise had the great fortune of being invited to participate in [Surf Market's](#) 3rd Annual Sustainable Seafood Festival in Gualala, located in Northern California's Mendocino County. This hidden gem is just north of San Francisco on scenic Highway 1 and is home to migrating whales, jazz festivals, and on a clear day, the illusive 'green flash sunset'.

The Sustainable Seafood Festival engages and educates the local community about sustainable seafood options. FishWise project managers Ethan Lucas, Marc de Giere, and FishWise intern Meg Songer spent the afternoon fielding questions regarding sustainable seafood, helping children to create their own FishWise hats and coloring pages and inviting passers by to play FishWise's educationally-themed beanbag toss game. Cooking demonstrations on how to prepare sustainably caught or harvested seafood items were also present at the festival. A fantastic time was had by all and we are eagerly anticipating the next collaboration with Surf Market.

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In Case You Missed It...



The Exploration Vessel Nautilus is visited by a rare sperm whale!

If you have questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the FishWise Newsletter please [contact me](#).

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