The Port State Measures Agreement
Implementation Toolkit

PSMA
toolkit

The PSMA implementation toolkit provides a comprehensive set of practical materials that aim to support States to implement the UN Port State Measures Agreement which, once in force, will close ports to vessels involved in IUU fishing.

The Port State Measures Agreement Implementation Toolkit

Ports play a major role in the fishing industry. They give vessels and crews access to essential services and supplies and enable vessel operators to offload their catch and transport it to market. However, ports can also provide a lifeline for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, an activity that undermines the very essence of global ocean governance, threatens the sustainable use of marine resources and, consequently, the social and economic wellbeing of the coastal communities and countries that depend on them.

The United Nations Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures Agreement, or PSMA), adopted in November 2009 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), is an ambitious international agreement that aims to stop the use of ports by IUU fishing and support vessels. It provides port States with a set of highly cost-effective measures that, when implemented globally and effectively, will ensure that a country's ports are closed to IUU fishing fleets. For this to be possible, particularly in the ports of developing countries, a comprehensive set of tools is needed to support the practical implementation of the Agreement.

As part of its commitment to improve ocean governance, the Pew Environment Group is developing the *PSMA Implementation Toolkit*. The toolkit aims to help developing countries identify their capacity needs, provide them with key information, and guide them through the most technical and detailed elements of the Agreement.

The toolkit is an open and evolving set of practical materials, developed using on-the-ground experience. Input from potential users is a key element of the toolkit's evolution. To achieve this, we encourage collaboration with national and regional authorities in the ongoing development of these materials.

The first tools in the toolkit:
Capacity Needs Assessment Methodology

Implementation of the PSMA requires an adequate, well-trained fisheries inspectorate that has good levels of communication and coordination between domestic agencies, such as customs and port authorities, and cooperates with relevant regional and global bodies.

In collaboration with the Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and six African countries, the Pew Environment Group has developed a simple and robust methodology that can be used to determine a country's specific capacity-building needs. The methodology also provides a platform for the development of a capacity-building plan which, when implemented, would ensure that the country has adequate capacity to comply with its obligations under the PSMA.

The full Capacity Needs Assessment methodology report is available at **www.pewenvironment.org/IUUfishing**

The PSMA Implementation Handbook

The PSMA is an extensive instrument that provides a new set of technical measures to be implemented at the domestic and international levels. This requires greater coordination among countries, increased capacity in all relevant agencies (fisheries, customs, ports, etc), and, in many cases, new procedures for decision-making, vessel inspections and reporting, domestically, to flag States, and internationally.

The Pew Environment Group, in collaboration with experts in the field and government authorities, is currently producing the PSMA implementation handbook. The handbook will translate the PSMA's technical and legal text into clear and practical tools to help government agencies and their enforcement personnel implement the Agreement effectively.

The PSMA implementation handbook will be available in early 2011.

Combined IUU Vessel Database

IUU operators are skilled at disguising and hiding their activities and often remain undetected by port authorities. The Pew Environment Group's research on Port State Performance documented some alarming situations in apparently well-regulated ports. As called for in Article 16 of the PSMA, a global information-sharing mechanism is essential if domestic, regional and international authorities are to keep track of IUU activities.

As a first contribution, the Pew Environment Group has developed the combined IUU vessel database, which draws together all publicly available information on IUU vessels officially listed by Regional Fishery Management Organizations. On launch, the database will provide an up-to-date resource that will enhance information-sharing among relevant officials. The list will be made available to the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, which will host and maintain it.

The Combined IUU vessels database will be available in early 2011.

The Port State Performance Research can be found at **www.portstateperformance.org**

To find out more about the PSMA implementation toolkit, please contact Adriana Fabra: **AFabra-consultant@pewtrusts.org**