



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

4th International Advisory Group meeting
of the
Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

15 June 2016, Madrid/Spain

Preparatory Information

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Summary

This document outlines key recommendations for the upcoming 4th International Advisory Group Meeting (15 June 2016, Madrid). These recommendations focus primarily on the **scope of the FiTI Reporting**, while some areas for discussions are also provided regarding the **process of the FiTI Reporting**.

In summary, this document covers the following major proposals:

- The scope of the FiTI Reporting should include information on **4 major reporting components**: tenure arrangements, large-scale-fisheries, small-scale fisheries, and contextual information.
- Information for tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries should be provided every **12 months**, whereas contextual information should be provided every **24 months**.
- In addition to activities within a coastal state's Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with regards to access to marine fisheries, the mandatory reporting should also include **information on nationally flagged vessels operating in a third country or on the high seas**.
- Regarding large-scale fisheries, FiTI countries should be requested to publish **disaggregated data** regarding authorizations, payments and catches on a per vessel basis (some information will not be applicable for vessels active outside of the country's EEZ).
- Reporting on fishing authorizations should include authorizations provided to **recreational and scientific fishing activities**.
- Reporting requirements for the **small-scale sector** have been refined to allow for information to be captured on vessel types, gear types and for designated fisheries based on specific target species. FiTI reports should therefore contain more detailed information on the small-scale fisheries than has been considered in previous FiTI discussions.
- The scope of **mandatory contextual information** should contain several categories, including information on the post-harvest sector, fish stock assessments, fisheries management activities, labour standards, subsidies and development aid. Such contextual information should be mainly provided in a narrative style.
- Participant countries should meet certain **basic requirements** in relation to transparency, beyond supplying the data requested for tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries and contextual information. Countries that fall short of meeting these basic requirements should not be considered eligible to be part of the initiative.
- National Multi-Stakeholder Groups (MSG) will require operational support. Mindful of potential financial cost implications, current discussions consider the provision of such operational support through regional FiTI Secretariats, which would cover multiple countries within a region. This regional approach should be discussed by the International FiTI Advisory Group.

Background

After the 3rd International FiTI Advisory Group meeting in Nouakchott (4 February 2016), a variety of activities were agreed to be conducted by the FiTI Secretariat and members of the two Working Groups to further define the FiTI's reporting elements and the related process of providing and reviewing such information. These included:

- *1st FiTI Feasibility Study (7-15 April 2016, Seychelles),*
- *2-Day Technical Workshop (22-23 April 2016, Berlin/Germany)¹,*
- *additional input from members of the Working Groups on Small-Scale Fisheries and Large Scale-Fisheries, and*
- *2nd FiTI Feasibility Study (23-27 May 2016, Mauritania).*

This document summarizes the discussions and recommendations stemming from these activities for the upcoming 4th International Advisory Group Meeting (15 June 2016, Madrid).

Section 1 of this document provides a summary of discussions and key recommendations on the mandatory reporting elements for FiTI candidate countries. This section is divided into 4 components:

- A) Reporting elements for tenure arrangements,
- B) Reporting elements for the large-scale fisheries,
- C) Reporting elements for the small-scale fisheries, and
- D) Reporting elements for contextual information.

Section 2 of this document covers the proposal that countries should meet basic conditions in order to be considered as a FiTI candidate country (in addition to mandatory reporting elements).

Section 3 provides discussion points on the FiTI Reporting process, as well as on the dissemination of FiTI information.

Detailed information on reporting elements for large-scale as well as small-scale fisheries are provided in **Annex I and II**.

1 The following participants from the two Working Groups attended this 2-day workshop: Mr. Jean-Louis KROMER, Mr. Alexander BIRYUKOV, Mr. Gaoussou GUEYE, Ms. Mechthild KRONEN, Mr. Rolf WILLMANN, Mr. Philippe MICHAUD, Ms. Gunilla TEGELSKÄR GREIG (only 2nd day), Mr. Xavier VINCENT, Ms. Tatjana GERLING (only 1st day), Mr. André STANDING, and the FiTI Secretariat (Mr. Sven BIERMANN, Ms. Andréa DURIGHELLO, Mr. Sebastian WEGNER).

1. Recommendations on Mandatory Reporting Elements

At the 3rd meeting of the FiTI International Advisory Group², provisional lists of mandatory reporting elements were agreed on. These distinguished between reporting elements applicable to the large-scale sector, and reporting elements applicable to the small-scale sector. However, it was understood that these provisional lists of reporting elements were incomplete and therefore additional work was required to elaborate on them. The outcome of the work conducted by the FiTI Secretariat and the members of the two Working Groups is summarised below for each of the two categories of fisheries, including specific recommendations. Furthermore, lessons learned from the two FiTI Feasibility Studies (in the Seychelles and in Mauritania) are included as well.

During the 3rd Advisory Group meeting, participants reemphasized also that while the initial focus of the FiTI Reporting should target “access to marine fisheries”, additional information may be provided as part of a FiTI Report’s contextual information. However, the participants did not cover this aspect in detail. Moreover, the Advisory Group required further guidance on whether contextual information should be considered mandatory or optional.

Tenure Arrangements

Transparency of tenure arrangements is an important aspect of responsible fisheries management, as established through the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. However, it is recognised that such information is often not in the public domain, including on the terms and conditions of foreign access agreements that can deviate from national fisheries laws and regulations.

A recommendation from the two Working Groups is to provide comprehensive information on tenure arrangements as part of the FiTI mandatory reporting elements. This includes a description of the terms and conditions applied to different types of fishing vessels involved in specific fisheries, as well as a description of the process involved in awarding and managing these authorisations.

An option was explored to include information on tenure arrangements as part of the contextual information of FiTI Reporting (proposed to occur every two years). However, providing this information as a standalone mandatory reporting element was considered preferable, because information on tenure arrangements provides the necessary framework for presenting the statistical data on the activities of large-scale and small-scale fishing (see below).

Recommendation 1: FiTI Reporting should include up-to-date information regarding the country’s tenure arrangements for marine fisheries covering both national laws and international agreements.

FiTI implementing countries will therefore compile a narrative report that describes the tenure arrangements, including the terms and conditions set for authorised fishing vessels and information on

2 3rd International Advisory Group meeting (4 February 2016, Nouakchott/Mauritania); for more information, please refer to www.fisheriestransparency.org → Conceptual Phase → Advisory Group → Meeting February 2016

international access agreements, if these exist. It should be noted that the person responsible for writing a country's FiTI report would collate this information. Having done this for the first FiTI report, subsequent reports will require updating information if there have been any changes to national laws and policies, or if a new access agreement has been negotiated. Either the government or the country's National Coordinator will compile this information and present it to the National Multi-Stakeholder Group for review.

The following indicates what will be included in this reporting element, although the FiTI standards will provide more detailed guidance.

National fishing authorisations

The FiTI will require information on:

- The system used for granting access rights to fisheries (i.e. a licensing system or catch share) and details of what categories of fishing authorisations are provided. This information should cover all types of fishing authorisations granted to both large-scale and small-scale fisheries, and should also include information on other fishing authorisations given for recreational fishing and scientific research.
- The authority that grants fishing access rights and fishing authorisations, and any details on the role and composition of an oversight body or advisory committee.
- The duration of individual fishing access rights and fishing authorisations for fishing vessels.
- Any criteria or policy used in the decision-making process for providing a fishing access right and fishing authorisation, including any eligibility criteria (i.e. vessel or individual must be registered on a national registry, restrictions on foreign ownership, professional qualifications, capitalisation, no previous records of illegal fishing etc.)
- The payment structure used for granting access rights and categories of fishing authorisations and how these are calculated (i.e. vessel size, weight, value of catch etc.).
- Conditions applied to individual fishing authorisations, covering:
 - I. *Fishing effort and impact*, which may include: Target and by-catch limitations; rules on discards; gear restrictions or prohibitions; protected fishing areas; closed seasons/months; obligation to use by-catch reduction devices; rules on the use of Fish Aggregating Devices, etc.
 - II. *Landings*, including rules on transshipment at sea and the use of designated ports.
 - III. *Catch reporting*, including information on the scope, frequency and methods of reporting.
 - IV. *Enforcement*, including information on VMS, observer programmes, etc.
- How fishing access rights or authorisations can be transferred or shared, including details of rules for charter arrangements.
- The grounds and processes involved for fishing access rights and fishing authorisations to be suspended or revoked.
- Any rules and procedures for granting authorisation to a national fishing vessel to fish in a third country.

International access agreements

The FiTI will require information on:

- List of current access agreements, providing the name of the legal entity with whom the agreement is signed (country, multi-lateral organisation, fishing firm or association), including the date on which the agreement came in to force and when it is due to expire or be renewed.
- The types of fishing authorisations issued under each access agreement.
- The national authority that is the signature for the access agreement and any details of a committee or group involved in the negotiating process.
- The payment structure, including information on the costs of fishing authorisations and details of any other payments (in cash and in kind) that forms part of the access agreement (this may include, for example, investment in fisheries sectoral support, technical assistance or capital investment for fisheries development). Additional information relating to taxes should be included, such as reduced taxes for fishing firms operating under the agreement.
- The conditions applied to fishing vessels, covering fishing effort and impact, landings, catch reporting and enforcement.
- The grounds and processes involved for the fisheries access agreement to be suspended or revoked.

The National Multi-Stakeholder Group may wish to include additional information on tenure arrangements and the allocation of licenses in the FiTI Report, including commentary on the efficiency and effectiveness of licensing procedures and reference to on-going debates in the country for reforming fisheries rights allocations, or details of disputes and conflicts concerning tenure rights. The National Multi-Stakeholder Group may also request information on what measures are in place by the government to record and respect informal or customary tenure rights for those engaged in small-scale fishing, including any information on safeguard and grievance mechanisms for those that have been denied fishing access or for those whose legitimate tenure rights have been infringed on by others.

Recommendation 2: Information for tenure arrangements should be provided every 12 months, complementing information on large-scale and small-scale fisheries.

Large-Scale Fisheries

Following the discussions of previous Advisory Group meetings, it was suggested that information for large-scale fisheries (as well as small-scale fisheries) is broken down according to three categories of information:

- *Fishing authorizations*
- *Payments, and*
- *Catches.*

This categorization continues to be used and provides the overall structure to the expanded table of proposed reporting elements drafted by the two Working Groups below (see also Annex 1).

It should be noted that the FiTI Advisory Group has already agreed that the definition of small-scale fisheries (and thus derived also for large-scale fisheries) should be determined by the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups on the basis of Article 2.4 of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and should be consistent with the national law.

In refining the draft list of reporting elements for the large-scale sector several key issues have been discussed, leading to various recommendations for the International Advisory Group.

1. Nationally flagged vessels operating outside of EEZ

A proposal from the 3rd meeting of the FiTI Advisory Group was to include information on the activities of nationally flagged vessels operating in a third country or on the high seas. Previous drafts of the reporting elements did not include this information, and therefore FiTI was focused entirely on the activities of licensed vessels in the country's EEZ (and territorial waters). This issue was explored in the 1st Feasibility Study (Seychelles) and discussed at the workshop in Berlin. There was unanimous agreement among the participants at the workshop in Berlin that nationally flagged vessels should be included in FiTI Reporting, and that there should be information on the catches and payments made by these vessels outside of the country's EEZ.

Recommendation 3: In addition to large-scale fisheries information regarding their access to marine fisheries within a state's own EEZ (and territorial waters), FiTI Reporting elements should include information on the fleet of nationally flagged vessels operating in a third country or the high seas. Information on ownership (rights holder and vessel owner), vessel characteristics as well as catches and payments should be reported by the country.

2. Disaggregated information and the challenges of confidentiality clauses

The 1st FiTI Feasibility Study (Seychelles) revealed difficulties in reporting certain information on a per vessel basis. In particular, confidentiality clauses contained in certain bi-lateral fisheries agreements, as

well as rules adopted on confidentiality of information by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, were interpreted as prohibiting national governments publishing information on annual catches made by vessels.

The participants at the Berlin workshop agreed unanimously that disaggregated data is important for the FiTI. Without this, FiTI will not provide the level of information that enables strong accountability and oversight of the fisheries sector. Various rationales for disaggregated information on a per vessel basis were given:

- Reporting payments on a per vessel basis may allow others to spot underpayments or other deviations, which otherwise could be obscured by reporting only aggregated values.
- Reporting on per vessel catch data is necessary for FiTI to identify cases of non-reporting of catches by vessels, as aggregated data would obscure this.
- Per vessel data on catches could highlight instances of under-reporting catches by vessels (either erroneous or fraudulent) and allows for the possibility of comparing catch data with landing data.
- Per vessel data on by-catch and discards is important in fisheries to understand socio-economic impacts and also levels of fishing on stocks that might be poorly managed.
- Per vessel data may be beneficial for supporting efforts at establishing traceability in fisheries.

It was also noted that in other transparency initiatives, the scope of reporting is evolving into disaggregated information. For example, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative requires natural resource companies to disclose payments to governments over a certain threshold on a project-by-project basis. EU and US legislation is also requiring a project-by-project information to be reported for oil, gas, mining and logging companies.

Nevertheless, it was also agreed that FiTI should not attempt to publish information that could pose a legitimate threat to the commercial interests of fishing companies. Specifically, data on annual catches will not be joined with detailed spatial information on where these catches were made, and FiTI Reporting will only require data on annual catches, and will not be disaggregated further to include data on catches per week/month.

There are differing opinions on whether the existing confidentiality clauses contained in either access agreements or rules of some RFMOs do indeed prohibit the publishing of annual catch data of vessels by governments. The wording of these confidentiality clauses is ambiguous. It was therefore recommended that the FiTI Secretariat should seek the advice of a suitable lawyer to provide further clarification. It should be noted that not all contractual partners in fisheries, as well as RFMOs, adopt confidentiality clauses on catch or payment data. Nevertheless, if it is established that governments have agreed to confidentiality clauses that are legally binding, it is recommended that to be part of the FiTI, governments must rescind such clauses before joining the FiTI.

Countries that seek to implement the FiTI must therefore:

- Review existing tenure arrangements regarding potential harmful confidentiality clauses and, in case of existence of such clauses, seek to remedy such clauses before commencing with FiTI Reporting;
- Ensure that no tenure arrangements signed after their intention to join the FiTI contains confidentiality clauses that prohibit the publication of information as requested by the FiTI.

Recommendation 4: FiTI reports should include large-scale fisheries information on annual payments and catches per species, including discarded and retained by-catch, on a per vessel basis. Any legally binding impediments to doing so for certain vessels should be resolved before commencing with FiTI.

3. Data on landings and transshipment

The participants of the Berlin workshop discussed the need to include information on local landings and transshipment in FiTI reports. This was considered important information for the FiTI as it describes the contribution to local economies, including the post-harvest sector, made by large-scale fishing vessels. It was agreed unanimously that this data should be included.

Recommendation 5: Within the reporting category “Catches” for large-scale fisheries, FiTI reports should include information on a per vessel basis on the amount of catch landed locally, including by-catch, and what amounts are transshipped in port or transshipped at sea within the country’s EEZ (or territorial waters).

4. Approach to non-reporting of information by vessel owners

It was established in the 1st FiTI Feasibility Study (Seychelles) that certain information that should be reported by vessels to coastal states is not reported. Most importantly this relates to information on catches. This presents a challenge to coastal states that want to be engaged in FiTI, as certain per vessel information may not be available to them. In such cases the process of gathering information for the FiTI will involve a request for this information from the vessel owners (for more information, see chapter “3. Considerations on the FiTI Reporting process”). Participants at the Berlin workshop discussed the scenario where vessel owners do not comply with this request, and they considered whether a failure to include catch information on certain vessels would be cause to deny the status of being FiTI compliant for the coastal state.

There was no clear consensus among participants of the Berlin workshop on the way to approach this scenario. However, three options are provided for consideration by the International Advisory Group:

Option 1: A failure to report on catch data for an authorised vessel will invalidate the country’s status as compliant with the FiTI. This is based on the view that reporting catch data is an obligation for vessels and must be enforced by the coastal state.

Option 2: A failure to report on catch data for an authorised vessel will be permitted. However, the vessel cannot be issued a subsequent authorisation if it has not been sanctioned for non-reporting of catches. A country will lose its status as being FiTI compliant if a vessel who has not reported catches in one reporting cycle appears in subsequent FiTI reports as a vessel (again) not providing catch data.

Option 3: Countries signing up to the FiTI will be provided a grace period of twelve months to insure there is complete reporting of catch data by authorised vessels. Within this grace period, FiTI reports should clearly indicate which authorised vessels are not providing catch data.

This rule would be applicable to both vessels fishing in a country's EEZ and nationally flagged vessels fishing in a third country or on the high seas.

Recommendation 6: The recommendation on approaches to non-reporting catch data by vessels will be finalised by the International Advisory Group.

5. Other fishing licenses

Participants of the Berlin workshop recommended that FiTI countries must provide all data contained in the mandatory reporting elements for those vessels that have been provided a recreational (including sports) or scientific and research (or similar) license for fishing. The reason for this is that such licenses contribute to fishing effort and can be open to abuse, including being used to circumvent laws and regulations that limit or prohibit certain fishing activities. It is therefore recommended that all licenses should be specified in "Type of authorization" of the reporting category "Authorization" (see Annex 1). However, for recreational and sport fishing, it may be more appropriate for these to be included within small-scale fisheries, so this should be added to that reporting component.

Recommendation 7: Mandatory reporting elements for large-scale fisheries will be applicable to vessels provided with any type of fishing licenses, including recreational as well as non-commercial scientific or research licenses.

6. Fishing Agents

A proposal from the 3rd meeting of the International Advisory Group was to include the name of the agent used by fishing vessel owners to obtain fisheries authorizations and/or manage its relation with the coastal state. The rationale for this was that in some countries fishing agents play an important role in facilitating fishing authorization and operations, and that this role can be abused. In particular, there has been concern that unauthorized agents are used by fishing vessel owners, and that agents may have conflicts of interests, i.e. holding positions in government.

In the Berlin workshop it was noted that countries have differing approaches to the regulation of fisheries access in terms of the use of agents. In some countries (such as the Seychelles) it is mandatory for vessel owners to use a registered fishing agent, whereas in other countries the use of fishing agents is considered optional. Nevertheless, there was unanimous agreement that this information should be included in the list of mandatory reporting elements for FiTI.

Recommendation 8: FiTI should include the name of fishing agents paid by vessel owners to secure fishing licenses. FiTI reports should indicate for each vessel if this information is not applicable due to vessel owners not using a fishing agent.

7. Information on infringements, penalties and fines

A proposal from the 3rd meeting of the International Advisory Group was to include on a per vessel basis, information on any penalties or fines that have been administered by the government. This information was considered important to include in FiTI as it increases public knowledge on the management of illegal fishing, and can raise awareness on repeat offenders.

The participants at the Berlin workshop noted that FiTI should not include information on on-going cases that were yet to be resolved in court or through the fishing authority. This is because including alleged offences may be detrimental to companies if the offence was later found to be untrue. Furthermore, including this information in the list of FiTI's mandatory reporting elements for the large-scale sector may be difficult as there can be a long delay in resolving court cases. It was therefore recommended that information on offences and fines and penalties is included in the contextual information for FiTI, which would make it easier to collate historical information for vessels (see below). This aspect can be reviewed after a certain period in FiTI implementation.

Recommendation 9: FiTI should collate information on known offences by fishing vessels, as well as information on penalties and fines that have been administered by the relevant authority or law court. FiTI reports will only include resolved cases, and not information on on-going cases. However, this information will be presented in the contextual information part of FiTI Reporting and not necessarily on a per vessel basis.

8. Information on beneficial ownership

Lack of transparency on the beneficial owners of fishing vessels is now widely raised as a problem in the fishing sector. This situation may facilitate illicit behaviours in the sector, including tax avoidance, transfer pricing as well as conflicts of interests. Furthermore, confidentiality of beneficial owners acts as a significant barrier to establishing criminal liability.

The inclusion of beneficial ownership as one reporting element under the FiTI was therefore discussed during the Berlin workshop. Among the participants, there was agreement that more transparency on beneficial owners is important. This is also supported by international developments in this area (e.g. priority area of the G20, Registers in UK and other European countries, mandatory under EITI Standard February 2016). However, it was also appreciated that the implementation of beneficial ownership transparency may be challenging for many countries. Owners may not supply this information, and they are not legally obliged to in certain jurisdictions. It would therefore be impractical to include this as a mandatory element from the very beginning under the FiTI.

Participants at the Berlin meeting considered the option of including mandatory reporting on beneficial owners for the start of FiTI, or establishing a time frame (i.e. 5 years) when this reporting obligation will

be introduced. Given differing opinions, it was agreed that more in-depth research on this topic is needed to inform a dedicated discussion on this topic at the 5th Advisory Group meeting, when a final decision can be taken on how this aspect is incorporated into the FiTI standard.

9. Reporting frequency for large-scale fisheries

A key objective of the FiTI is to increase transparency and participation for responsible fisheries. During the Berlin workshop, all participants agreed that regular information on the country's large-scale fisheries is needed to manage its resources responsibly.

Recommendation 10: Information for large-scale fisheries (as based on the tables shown in Annex I) should be provided every 12 months.

Small-Scale Fisheries

Previous International Advisory Group meetings³ have established the importance of including small-scale fisheries in the FiTI. It has been agreed that the level of reporting on small-scale fisheries should reflect the practical difficulties facing coastal states in collating information on this sector, and that existing information held by coastal states may be dated or based on estimates only. FiTI countries will therefore be expected to publish the best available information, as verified by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. However, in cases where data on small-scale fisheries is considered unreliable or absent, National Multi-Stakeholder Groups should indicate a proposal for rectifying this over a reasonable time frame (for more information, please refer to the approved recommendations at the 3rd International Advisory Group meeting).

1. Scope of FiTI Reporting regarding small-scale fisheries

Participants at the Berlin workshop agreed that the sub-categories of information for FiTI Reporting for the small-scale fisheries were valid, namely: number of fishers and vessels, payments and catches. However, the draft template for reporting elements for the small-scale fisheries circulated previously required additional work. Most importantly the participants of the Berlin workshop agreed that some level of disaggregated data is needed. It was recommended that FiTI reports should include data that is disaggregated for fishing units (vessel types, gear types, following FAO guidelines) and for designated fisheries based on target species identified through the reporting on tenure arrangements, otherwise FiTI reports would be too general.

Recommendation 11: FiTI Reporting elements for the small-scale fisheries sector should provide information broken down for vessel types, gear types and for designated fisheries based on target species.

To accommodate this recommendation, FiTI Reporting elements must be adaptable to the coastal state context, given that there can be considerable differences between coastal states in terms of the categorisation of small-scale fishing. A basic reporting template is displayed and explained in Annex 2 below.

It was further noted that in some cases, the National Multi-Stakeholder Group can request disaggregated information on vessel ownership in parts of the small-scale sector. Such information is considered important in countries where ownership of fishing vessels commonly referred to as small-scale, is increasingly concentrated among a few wealthy individuals. The option to include this level of reporting for FiTI should therefore be available to National MSGs.

3 For more information, please refer to www.fisheriestransparency.org → Conceptual Phase → Advisory Group

2. Reporting frequency for small-scale fisheries

Similar to the rationale of providing information on large-scale fisheries every 12 months, all participants of the Berlin workshop agreed that an identical reporting cycle is needed on a country's small-scale fisheries to manage its fisheries responsibly.

Recommendation 12: Information for small-scale fisheries (as based on the tables shown in Annex 2) should be provided every 12 months.

3. Post-harvest sector

Previous discussions by the International Advisory Group have highlighted the importance of capturing data on the post-harvest sector, as this is often where small-scale fisheries make a considerable contribution to livelihoods and food security. An option was to include reporting elements on the post-harvest sector for the small-scale sector. However, it is now proposed to include information on the post-harvest sector under "Contextual information", as described next.

Contextual information

The International Advisory Group discussed that FiTI country reports should include contextual information. This is important as the quantitative information specified on the large-scale sector and small-scale sector may not be sufficient to understand the management of fisheries. Moreover, there are several important aspects of fisheries governance that are often lacking transparency.

The 3rd meeting of the International Advisory Group did not establish a detailed list of such contextual information, although several proposals were put forward on subjects that should be included. Furthermore, it was not agreed whether this information should be mandatory for FiTI implementing countries, or whether the inclusion of some or all of the contextual information should be decided on by National Multi-Stakeholder Groups.

1. Scope of FiTI Reporting regarding contextual information

In the Berlin workshop, a majority held the view that a list of contextual information should be mandatory for all countries implementing the FiTI. The argument in favour of this recommendation was that an optional approach could lead to disagreement among members of the National Multi-Stakeholder Groups, which may be difficult to resolve. It was further suggested that the role of the

National Multi-Stakeholder Group would be strengthened if FiTI would provide a more consistent approach applicable to all countries.

Discussions at the Berlin workshop established the challenges facing implementing countries in compiling contextual information. Some information may be time consuming to collate, and might not be easily available. This needs to be considered in developing guidelines for the FiTI Reporting.

Recommendation 13: FiTI should provide mandatory contextual information on six categories, as outlined below.⁴ Such information will be primarily provided in a narrative form.

While detailed definitions and explanatory information will be provided during the drafting of the FiTI Standard document, the six mandatory contextual categories identified for the FiTI are briefly described below.

I. Post-harvest and trade data

Information should include data on production of fish and fish products, employment numbers (including in commercial and informal sector), as well as information on import and export statistics. Information should describe the number of men and women working in specific sub-sectors, and country reports are encouraged to include any further information on wages that may be accessible through government or non-government research.

II. Fish stock assessments

Information should include the most recent reports on stock status, indicating where possible recommendations on permissible catch volumes and fishing effort. Information should clearly state for what areas/species are fish stock assessments absent, as well as any further information on efforts to update and expand fish stock assessments.

III. Fisheries management activities

Information should identify existing fisheries policies and legislation, as well as a list of current fisheries management plans with links to these documents. Information should also include details of fisheries offences, as established through Fisheries Acts and regulations, and information on what measures are in place for monitoring fisheries and vessels in complying with fisheries laws (on-board observer, VMS, patrols etc.). In addition, information should include a list of specific offences in the large-scale sector that have been resolved by the fishing authorities, as well as information on any fines and penalties issued in relation to these offences (including out of court settlements). Information on rates of detected offending in the small-scale sector can be included if reliable data is available.

4 Once these categories are agreed in principle by the International Advisory Group, more detailed information will be provided for each category.

IV. Labour standards

Information should include information on the applicable labour laws for fisheries and on whether these laws are in compliance with ILO Labour Conventions, including what is applicable for expatriates or foreign crews. FiTI reports should indicate what measures are in place to monitor compliance with labour laws and provide any information on violations and subsequent penalties relating to labour laws.

V. Subsidies

Information should include the types of subsidies provided to the fisheries and fish production sectors. Reports should include the aggregated value of these subsidies, while there would be an option to include disaggregated data for vessels and fish producing companies if this data is accessible from existing government information systems and/or is requested by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. If no information is available on the aggregated value of any subsidies, this must be clearly stated in the report.

VI. Development aid

Information should include a list of current public sector fisheries and marine conservation projects funded by donors (multi-lateral, bi-lateral and private), including information on project values, purpose and outcomes. In addition, reporting could be included for project documentation and performance audits/reviews, with links to these reports. The definition of development aid used for FiTI will follow that established by the OECD.

2. Reporting frequency on contextual information

It was recommended that the frequency of reporting on contextual elements should be less frequent than reporting the information on tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fishing.

Recommendation 14: Contextual information should be provided every 24 months.

2. Recommendations on basic transparency requirements

Discussions at the 3rd meeting of the International Advisory Group led to the proposal that FiTI participant countries ought to meet certain basic requirements in relation to transparency, beyond supplying the data requested for tenure arrangements, large-scale fisheries, small-scale fisheries and contextual information. Countries that fall short of meeting these basic requirements should not be considered eligible to be part of the initiative. A list of basic requirements was established for the 3rd meeting of the International Advisory Group, but it was agreed this list should be considered a provisional one and could be modified.

The overall recommendation for basic requirements for the FiTI was discussed among participants of the two Working Groups, including at the workshop in Berlin. It was agreed unanimously that this was a positive aspect to the FiTI, and therefore should be established in the rules governing its participation (the FiTI Standards).

Recommendation 15: FiTI should have basic transparency requirements for all participating countries included in the FiTI Standards. A failure to meet these basic transparency requirements would exclude a country from participating.

Using the provisional list of these basic transparency requirements established by the International Advisory Group, the participants in Berlin discussed the following potential criteria:

Publication of current fisheries laws, regulations and official policy documents

Laws and regulations relevant to fisheries are still inaccessible in some countries. The texts of the laws and regulations may not be freely available through government websites, and what information is published may be out of date. The same is true for official fisheries policy documents, including strategic plans and fisheries management plans. In agreement with the proposal, the participants of the Berlin workshop agreed unanimously that this situation is incompatible with transparency. Therefore, it recommended that any country wanting to participate in the FiTI must ensure that the government maintains an up-to-date and easily accessible, public repository of all relevant national laws and regulations on fisheries, as well as current fisheries policy documents and strategies and management plans.

Recommendation 16: Participating countries should provide and maintain an up-to-date, easily accessible, public repository of all national legislation and official policy documents relevant to fisheries⁵. This should also include other related areas, such as shipping (navigation, vessel registration, tonnage measurement, etc.), trade in fish products, investments, etc. Such information should be made publically available immediately, i.e. when a country submits its FiTI Candidate application.

5 A detailed definition of the term “relevant to fisheries” will be provided as part of the FiTI Standard.

Publication of all access agreement contracts

Confidentiality of access agreements, including multi-lateral, bi-lateral and private agreements, represents a key issue among those advocating for improved transparency in fisheries. It has therefore been proposed that participating countries in the FiTI agree to make public the texts of these agreements.

Participants of the two Working Groups agreed that access agreement contracts should be made public, and that the FiTI should make this a basic requirement for participating countries. However, it was noted that publishing access agreement contracts can be prohibited where contract confidentiality has been agreed to by both parties. Moreover, because some agreements are used for many years on an ongoing and renewable basis, FiTI countries may therefore have to gain the approval of a third party to publish these texts, which may take time. FiTI should therefore request that all existing access agreements should be published by countries *where possible*, and that FiTI participating countries ensure that the publication of all new agreement contracts is agreed to with third parties. For existing long term contracts, it is requested that FiTI countries make a commitment to ensure all current agreements are published within 3 years of submitting its application to become a candidate country for FiTI.

It was also noted that some long-standing agreements are modified through additional communications between parties. It was therefore further recommended that FiTI countries commit to publishing any amendments to agreements, either through the relevant fisheries website, and included in the contextual information of FiTI reports (under the proposed 'rights allocation' chapter, for example).

Recommendation 17: Participating countries must ensure that texts and amendments of new access agreements are made public⁶, and must further ensure that the texts of all existing access agreements are made public within 3 years from initial adhesion to FiTI.

Finally, an unresolved issue was whether FiTI countries should commit to publishing draft agreements before they are finalized or ratified. This would be a stronger commitment to transparency as it allows for public debate on the content of proposed agreements before they are concluded. However, no firm recommendation was reached on this issue.

Publication of national registry of fishing vessels

It was requested during previous discussions that countries must publish a list of all vessels authorized to fish in waters under its national jurisdiction as well as a list all of its flagged vessels irrespective of where they operate. This is referred to as a national registry of fishing vessels.

The proposal to make this a basic transparency requirement for FiTI was discussed by participants of the Berlin workshop. One view is that this requirement is redundant, as the mandatory reporting for

⁶ There is potential to strengthen this recommendation by including a provision that FiTI countries publish draft texts prior to their conclusion.

large-scale fisheries achieves the same end, given that the modified version includes information on nationally flagged vessels that may not be fishing in the country's EEZ. It is therefore not necessary to include this in the list of basic requirements.

Another view is that the publication of the national registry should be included as a basic requirement, as this registry may also contain information on 'sleeping vessels'

No final recommendation has been made, so the International Advisory Group should decide on whether to make the publication of a national fishing vessels registry a basic requirement for engaging with FiTI.

Publication of stock assessment data and fisheries management plans

A final proposal was to include the publication of stock assessment data as a basic transparency requirement. The participants of the Berlin workshop agreed that this was an important issue, however it has now been proposed under contextual information, which will be mandatory for FiTI countries.

3. Considerations on the FiTI Reporting process

In the following, key aspects of a FiTI Reporting process are described. These key aspects stem from previous discussions during International Advisory Group meetings as well as feedback from the case studies and discussions during the Berlin workshop. This section does not include any recommendations to be discussed during the upcoming 4th Advisory Group meeting. However, various participants raised the point that the discussion on reporting elements benefits from an understanding of how the FiTI Reporting process is roughly envisioned.

The FiTI Reporting is based on the principle that the benefits of transparency are increased when the published information is perceived as credible. A key feature of the FiTI Reporting is therefore its provision and verification based on multi-stakeholder participation, involving government, companies and civil society organizations. This process allows all stakeholders to help ensure that data is reliable.

The design of the FiTI Reporting process needs to balance the need for providing reliable information with considerations to cost aspects and resource availability. For example, while the use of audit professionals in data gathering and verification would typically result in a high degree of acceptance, it will also be among the mostly costly options.

One option to increase the level of credibility is the so-called **double reporting approach**. Under this option, information is requested simultaneously from the government and companies (e.g. rights holders), based on predefined reporting templates. Afterwards, the originally submitted data is reconciled and initial discrepancies are clarified, for example between disclosed license fees received by the government and license fees paid by a particular access rights holder. Based on this information, an initial report is drafted and presented to the National Multi-Stakeholder Group, where also the Civil Society Stakeholder Group contributes their information. The main rationales for such a simultaneous data provision approach are:

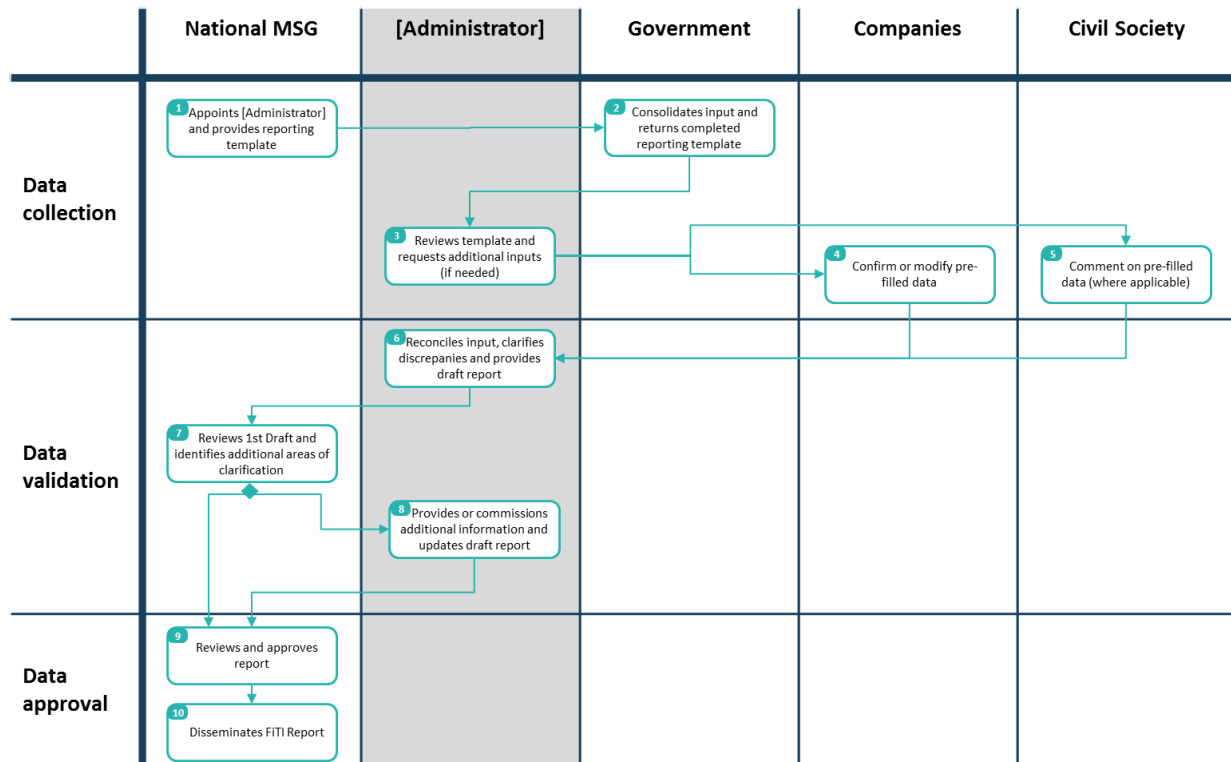
- to ensure that the data is **comprehensive**, as gaps in reporting through various parties are immediately visible;
- to support the **ownership** of the provided information (and thus for the overall initiative); and
- to enable the clarification of discrepancies in a **'friendly, operational setting'**.

In fisheries however, some of the data that would be requested from the government originates from the companies. For example, large-scale vessels are required to send their catch data to the government. Thus, requesting this data from companies again as part of the FiTI Reporting process generates double reporting efforts.

On the other hand, requesting information on large-scale fisheries, small-scale fisheries as well as contextual information solely from the government may not always be perceived as reliable, and would in fact be contrary to the multi-stakeholder nature of the FiTI. All participants of the Berlin workshop agreed that the process of the FiTI should clearly emphasize its multi-stakeholder nature. Therefore, the

National MSG should have a leading role within the process and should not be seen as solely the final instance of approving an Independent Administrator’s pre-written report.

Based on discussions during the Berlin workshop as well as the country studies, and taking cost considerations as well as already established reporting processes into account, the FiTI Reporting process may look as follow:



In the following each process step is briefly described:

Data collection

- (1) The National Multi-Stakeholder Group (consisting of representatives from government, companies (large-scale and small-scales) as well as civil society (incl. academia and media) consists typically of senior representatives from these three groups. Therefore, experience shows that such a Multi-Stakeholder Group requires some kind of operational support to conduct its key activities. One option is to appoint an Independent *Administrator* to oversee the operating terms of the FiTI Reporting process. Such an Administrator is typically an external consultant⁷. However, it was discussed during the Berlin workshop that a “lighter” reporting process should be established for the FiTI than other transparency initiatives are currently using. One idea was to

⁷ It was discussed whether the Administrator may also be part of the National Secretariat. Issues were raised regarding the independence of an Administrator that is employed by a National Secretariat. However, this aspect requires further considerations, also with regards to a Regional Secretariat approach.

establish a Regional Secretariat (see below) in order to achieve synergy effects over multiple countries in supporting the countries' dedicated Multi-Stakeholder Groups.

Either way, the Administrator must be perceived by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group to be credible, trustworthy and technically competent. Detailed Terms of Reference for this Administrator should be defined and published.

The National Multi-Stakeholder Group defines a country-specific reporting template for government (e.g. based on templates provided by the International FiTI Secretariat). This template comprises primarily of information requests regarding tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries as well as contextual information (depending on the reporting frequency). The National Multi-Stakeholder Group then sends a letter with the reporting template to the government's FiTI Focal Point⁸ and requests the completed template to be sent to the Administrator by an agreed date.

- (2) The government's FiTI Focal Point disseminates the reporting template to the relevant government agencies⁹ and coordinates the inter-governmental reporting process. From a cost point of view, it is recommended that a comprehensive reporting template (containing all government information) is returned to the Administrator, instead of each government agency providing their own share of information to the Administrator. The government's FiTI Focal Point may request coordination support from the National FiTI Secretariat. The consolidated reporting template should be attested by the FiTI Focal Point that the data submitted is complete.
- (3) The Administrator reviews the completed government template and (if needed) requests additional information. In reporting periods where contextual information needs to be provided, the Administrator may research and collect this information as well. The Administrator then sends a complete package of information to the identified rights owners/vessels owners, fisheries association (for small-scale fisheries) as well as civil society organizations (including academia and media).
- (4) The identified rights owners/vessel owners (for large-scale fisheries) as well as fisheries association (for small-scale fisheries) review the pre-filled information and confirm or suggest modifications. It was discussed whether attestation by a senior company official or certification by the company's external auditor that the data submitted is consistent with the company's audited financial statements should be required. No consensus was reached on this matter yet. The template will then be send back to the Administrator.
- (5) In addition to information provided by the government and companies, civil society (including academia and media) should be able to provide information as well. Civil Society, while typically not in the position to provide comprehensive data on the same level of detail, can review the pre-filled data by identifying gaps or discrepancies in (e.g. through observations in practice of unrecorded access arrangements, vessel activities).

8 The government appoints a FiTI Focal Point, who coordinates the FiTI-related activities among the various government agencies.

9 Ministries, central bank, agencies etc.

Data validation

- (6) The Administrator then reconciles the information and clarifies initial discrepancies (e.g. objections from companies on payment or catch data). Afterwards, the Administrator drafts the 1st FiTI Draft Report.
- (7) The 1st FiTI Draft Report will be reviewed by the National Multi-Stakeholder Group. Based on the information provided by the Administrator, the Multi-Stakeholder Group is required to check the information against their own knowledge, experiences and observations. As the report will provide disaggregated as well as aggregated data (especially for large-scale fisheries), the National Multi-Stakeholder Group needs to decide whether additional clarifications are needed.¹⁰
- (8) In case further clarifications are needed, the National Multi-Stakeholder Group should either request additional information from the Administrator or commission further research from other organizations (e.g. research institutes). Afterwards, the Administrator will update the draft report.

Data approval

- (9) The National Multi-Stakeholder Group needs to review the updated draft report and approve the information. Only when a consensus is reached *on the substance* of this information within the Multi-Stakeholder Group, this information can be published as part of the FiTI Country Report.
- (10) Finally, the information must be disseminated by all participants of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group (see also next chapter).

In summary, this FiTI Reporting process needs to be conducted for each reporting cycle, i.e.

- every 12 months for information on tenure arrangements, large-scale as well as small-scale fisheries, and
- every 24 months for information on tenure arrangements, large-scale fisheries, small-scale fisheries and contextual information.¹¹

10 The National Multi-Stakeholder Group should also provide advice to the Administrator on how validation processes could be improved over time, in particular of individual vessel data through, for example, regular spot checks of individual vessels.

11 It is noted that in addition to the FiTI Reporting process, there should also be a **FiTI Validation process**. Validation is an essential feature of the FiTI process, holding all FiTI countries to the same global standard. It serves primarily to assess the applied procedures on information collection, verification, the country's enabling environment, etc. An external Validator, approved by the International FiTI Secretariat, may e.g. review that all material rights holders have been covered, and address, amongst others, any concerns stakeholders have expressed, and recommendations for future implementation of the FiTI. In addition to consulting with stakeholders, the Validator must carefully analyze the FiTI Reports and meet with the Independent Administrator to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the reporting process. Such a validation process will be conducted within a certain time period (e.g. once every three years), consistent with the regular reporting periods.

National vs. Regional Secretariats

During the Berlin workshop it was acknowledged that the National Multi-Stakeholder Group require operational support in order to perform its work. Therefore, either a dedicated individual or a group of individuals (Secretariat) should be appointed for the purpose of facilitating the day-to-day functioning of a National Multi-Stakeholder Group. This supporting role is important for the proper implementation of the national FiTI process because it can have substantial impact on the integrity and quality of the process as a whole. For example, it is important to schedule meetings well in advance in order to allow all MSG members to plan their attendance, especially those based in remote regions. Similarly, timely circulation of draft materials allows members of the National Multi-Stakeholder Group to solicit input from their respective constituencies and participate in the decision-making processes in an informed way.¹²

Considering cost and management implications for every country as well as for the entire initiative, the participants of the Berlin workshop discussed the possibility of **Regional Secretariats**, rather than National Secretariats within each FiTI country. Such Regional Secretariats may perform activities for a group of countries.

One view that was expressed was that this may not only be favorable from cost implications as well as for coordinating purposes, but may also increase the overall quality of the information, as regional grouped countries may deal with similar aspects/challenges or even with the same rights holders/vessels. Such Regional Secretariats could then also perform the work of Administrators, reducing the support of external consultants.

Another view that was expressed was that such an approach has to be mindful of potential lack of ownership by individual countries and that each country nevertheless needs its own dedicated country manager (with the relevant network within the country).

It is therefore suggested that further in-depth discussions need to be conducted by the International Secretariat to provide a recommendation to the International FiTI Advisory Group. This topic should be discussed during the 5th International Advisory Group meeting.

12 The functions of the dedicated individual / Secretariat may include, but are not limited to, administrative support to the National MSG, including coordination, preparation and follow-up of Multi-Stakeholder Group meetings; maintaining an up-to-date FiTI communication channels; providing support with drafting Multi-Stakeholder Group work plans and other documents; providing support with the procurement and administration of consultant services (e.g. assurance consultant/company); arranging meetings for consultation and dissemination of information; implementing the communications/outreach strategy for the National Multi-Stakeholder Group; managing the FiTI budget, maintaining up-to-date financial records, preparing annual financial reports, and seeking further funding; maintaining liaison with the International FiTI Secretariat.

4. Considerations on the dissemination of FiTI information

Format of FiTI reports

As part of this document, it is recommended that the FiTI process covers two different reporting cycles:

- Every 12 months information regarding large-scale fisheries (Annex I) and small-scale fisheries (Annex II) will be published.
- Every 24 months this data is complemented by additional contextual information.

The main rationale for this was that FiTI's overarching objective is to identify information gaps which make it difficult to manage the sector responsibly. Consequently, information on tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries must be provided more frequently than more generic information on the overall sector.

It is envisioned that the information on tenure arrangements, large-scale and small-scale fisheries – which is mostly quantitative – will be provided every 12 months and will be uploaded and displayed through a dedicated (central) FiTI website. Only every two years will there be a standalone report with additional contextual information that will be published in hard copy. This contextual information will also be replicated on the central website under dedicated country pages. By publishing stand-alone reports every two years, this will also help reduce dissemination costs (e.g. layout, printing).

Increased information utilization

Feedback from the 1st Feasibility Study (Seychelles), as well as discussions during the Berlin workshop, highlighted the importance of making information provided by FiTI as accessible as possible. The use of a central website (with infographics) contributes to this. However, there is still a concern that relevant national actors, such as individuals, NGOs, media and parliamentarians, will not use the information to its full extent. If this is the case, then FiTI may fail to improve public debates and accountability in fisheries.

Although it is difficult to predict how information provided by FiTI will be used in countries, several ideas have been put forward that may help strengthen the use of FiTI reports and data at the national level.

First, National MSGs could be encouraged to link the publication of FiTI data and information to a wider platform or event, thereby increasing publicity. In the case of the Seychelles, for instance, national stakeholders interviewed for the FiTI feasibility study thought there could be synergy between FiTI and the work of the government on the Blue Economy.

Second, to assist with the use of data contained in FiTI reports and displayed on various communication channels (such as a central FiTI website, regular publications in national press, etc.), the FiTI Secretariat could produce easy-to-understand “How To” guides, outlining how the information provided by FiTI can help answer some of the most pressing questions.

Third, there will be opportunities for providing national stakeholders with training workshops (perhaps initiated on a regional basis) about the FiTI, including on data analysis and interpretation. An important role of such capacity building exercises could be to provide briefings to parliamentarians, for example.

Fourth, the FiTI Secretariat and the International Advisory Group could encourage research projects led by third parties, such as research institutes, universities, media groups and NGOs to undertake data analysis from the FiTI, thereby producing further publications that would support national debates.

Duplication of existing fisheries reports

During the workshop in Berlin, discussions were held on whether a dedicated FiTI report (currently proposed for every two years) may duplicate existing efforts. For example, the Feasibility Study in the Seychelles showed that the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) already publishes substantial information through its website and annual report. The SFA has also started publishing comprehensive information through its Fisheries Statistical Report, much of which complements the information requested through the FiTI. It was noted that in such cases the publication of a stand-alone FiTI report may be confusing and potentially undermine the government's own publications.

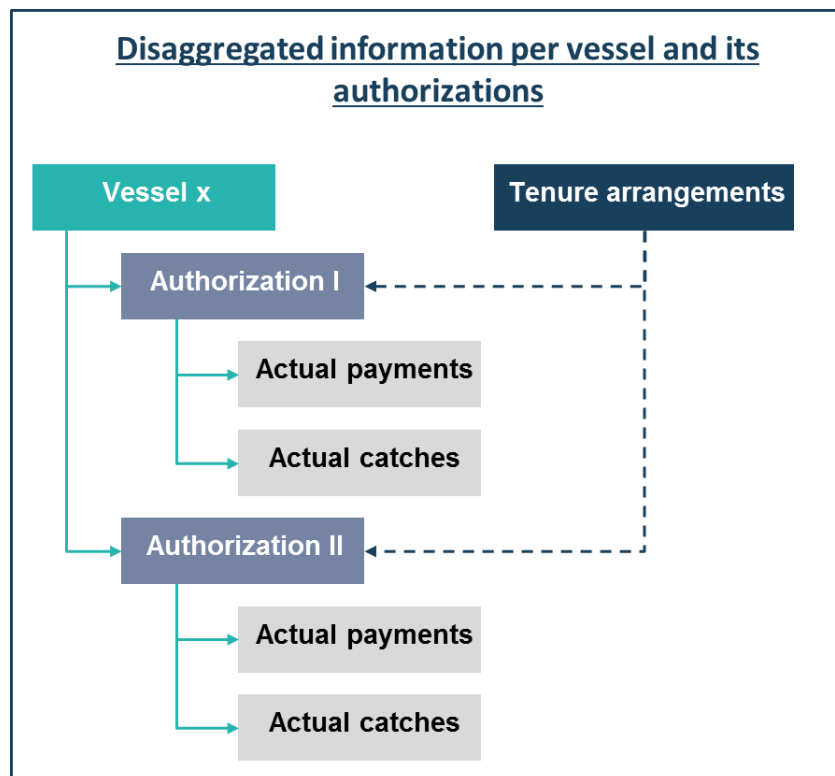
A potential remedy for this situation is that a government's fisheries report (such as an annual report from the fishing authority), could form the basis for the information published through the FiTI. Such reports would be considered FiTI compliant if they contain all of the reporting elements and are verified through the National MSG. The use of the FiTI logo would demonstrate this to the wider public.

Annex 1: Mandatory reporting elements for large-scale fisheries

It is recommended that information on large-scale fisheries will be provided on a per vessel basis. In addition to the vessel's relevant parameters, three reporting categories need to be reported for each vessel:

- its authorization(s),
- actual payments, and
- actual catches.

Information on actual payments and actual catches will be linked to the vessel's authorization (as shown below).¹³ Therefore, the following reporting hierarchy will be used.



It is recommended that in addition to information on vessels authorized to fish in the country's EEZ (and territorial waters), information on the fleet of nationally flagged vessels operating in a third country or the high seas should also be provided.

The above shown reporting hierarchy would be identical for vessels authorized for fishing in the EEZ, as well as for nationally-flagged vessels fishing outside the EEZ.¹⁴ The main difference is that there are less reporting elements within each category for vessels fishing outside the EEZ. The detailed reporting elements within each reporting category are outlined below in a table format.

¹³ Actual payments and actual catches per authorization will be provided in values that are aggregated over the reporting period. It is therefore not possible to link for example catch data to catch periods (e.g. months).

¹⁴ Also, in case a vessel holds more than one authorization within the same reporting period, the information is broken down by each authorization, as shown below.

Reporting categories for vessels with authorization for fishing in EEZ

Category	Reporting elements
Vessel	1. Name of vessel
	2. [Legal vessel owner] ¹⁵
	3. Registered port of vessel
	4. [Beneficial ownership of vessel owner]
	5. Flag state of the vessel
	6. [Vessel identification number(s)] ¹⁶
	7. Type of vessel ¹⁷
	8. [Vessel characteristics] ¹⁸

Category	Reporting elements
Authorization(s)	9. Type of authorization
	10. Authorization-determining access regime
	11. [Name of Authorization/Rights holder] ¹⁹
	12. [Beneficial ownership of authorization/rights holder]
	13. Date & duration of authorization
	14. Name of local agent
	15. Pre-determined cost of authorization ²⁰
	16. Payment recipient ²¹

Category	Reporting elements
Actual payments	17. Authorization fees
	18. Payments, penalties and asset forfeiture
	19. Additional payments
	20. Name of local agent
	21. Pre-determined cost of authorization ²²
	22. Payment recipient ²³

Category	Reporting elements
Actual catches²⁴	23. Catches by target species
	24. Retained by-catch by species
	25. Discards by species
	26. Catches landed locally
	27. Catches transhipped in port
	28. Catches transhipped at sea

15 Name, address, and country.

16 Vessel identification number may include IMO number.

17 Defined by law and fishing gear or fishing method; National Multi-Stakeholder Group needs to define categories. *To be clarified, whether the FITI Standard should provide standard categories from which the National MSG can choose from.*

18 Length of vessel, width of vessel, tonnage, engine(s') power as per applicable license payment rules / management measures, etc.

19 Name, address, country

20 Cost of license fee as stated in national legislation or access agreement

21. Name of government agency and bank account for payments

22 Cost of license fee as stated in national legislation or access agreement

23. Name of government agency and bank account for payments

24 Reporting elements shaded in yellow require further discussions during 4th International Advisory Group meeting in Madrid.

Reporting categories for nationally flagged vessels operating outside of EEZ

Category	Reporting elements
Vessel	1. Name of vessel
	2. [Legal vessel owner] ²⁵
	3. Registered port of vessel
	4. [Beneficial ownership of vessel owner]
	5. Flag state of the vessel
	6. Vessel identification number ²⁶
	7. Type of vessel ²⁷
	8. [Vessel characteristics] ²⁸

Category	Reporting elements
Authorization(s)	9. Authorization-issuing country
	10. Type of authorization
	11. Authorization-determining tenure arrangement
	12. Date & duration of authorization

Category	Reporting elements
Actual payments	13. Authorization fees
	14. Payments, penalties and asset forfeiture
	15. Additional payments

Category	Reporting elements
Actual catches ²⁹	16. Catches by target species
	17. Retained by-catch by species
	18. Discards by species
	19. Catches landed locally
	20. Catches transhipped in port
	21. Catches transhipped at sea

25 Name, address, and country.

26 Vessel identification numbers may include IMO number.

27 Defined by law and fishing gear or fishing method; National Multi-Stakeholder Group needs to define categories. *To be clarified, whether the FITI Standard should provide standard categories from which the National MSG can choose from.*

28 Length of vessel, width of vessel, tonnage, engine(s) power as per applicable license payment rules / management measures, etc.

29 Reporting elements shaded in yellow require further discussions during 4th International Advisory Group meeting in Madrid.

Annex 2: Mandatory reporting elements for small-scale fisheries

Key considerations on reporting elements for small-scale fisheries:

- Countries have to fill in all data. If data is not collected, then this should be indicated (i.e. “unknown”).
- National Multi-Stakeholder Group must agree that data is the best available.
- Data sources, including the date, must be recorded.
- The person responsible for collating the data will define columns fields, in collaboration with the National MSG and based on any relevant national fisheries regulations or policies.
- There should be an option for the National MSG to report on a per vessel basis for specific sub-sectors (requested by CSOs in Senegal, for example).
- Recreational fishing should be included under estimates of total number of fishers
- Commercial Sport fishing vessels should be included in table 1, and also included in payments and catch data.

Table 1: Number of fishers and vessels:

Number of fishing vessels.	Vessel type 1.	
	Vessel type 2.	
	Vessel type 3.	
	etc.	
Number of fishers according to gear type	Gear type 1.	
	Gear type 2.	
	Gear type 3.	
	etc.	
Number of fishers according to designated target species	Species	
	Species	
	Species	
	Non-specified (open access)	
	etc.	
Total number of fishers	Full time	
	Part time	
	Occasional	
	Recreational	

Table 2: Payments

Payments for fishing permits/ licenses to central state		<u>Central state</u>	<u>Local authority</u>	<u>Others</u>
	Total			
<i>Category 1</i>				
<i>Category 2</i>				
<i>Category 3</i>				
<i>etc.</i>				
Payments for landing fees	Total			
	<i>Category 1</i>			
	<i>Category 2</i>			
	<i>Category 3</i>			
	<i>etc.</i>			

Table 3: Catches

		<u>Species</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Non- specified (demersal)</u>	<u>Non- Specified (pelagic)</u>	<u>Etc.</u>
Catches	Total						
	Vessel type 1						
	Vessel type 2						
	Gear type 1						
	Gear type 2						
	<i>etc.</i>						