# United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange

# UN/FLUX

UNITED NATIONS

# What is UN/FLUX?

The United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) is a way for fishing industry operators to exchange information in a single and globally standardised way. It can be used in all phases of fisheries operations – from catch to sale.

UN/FLUX gives automatic access to the electronic data needed for fish stock management. The data includes information on:

• vessels and their fishing trips;

• fishing operations (logbook data);

• catches (area, species, quantity, etc.);

• landing and sales;

• fishing authorisations and permits;

• inspection reports.

# How does it work?

UN/FLUX acts like an email – standardised messages are sent between the various actors involved in fishing operations. Harmonised codes exist and can be used in UN/FLUX messages for data concerning fishing operations; catches; landing and sales; fishing authorisations and inspections. Once collected, data can be shared globally with all actors using UN/FLUX.

# Who can use it?

UN/FLUX can be used by all actors involved in the fishing industry, including operators, control authorities, governments, international organisations and scientists.

# What are the benefits?

• **Harmonisation** – all fisheries information in one place: effective, transparent, efficient and timely.

• **Cost reductions** – using and maintaining one standard is more practical for operators and reduces the costs of data management.

• **Traceability** – tracking fish from fishing vessel to consumer prevents illegally caught fish from entering the market, reduces overfishing and promotes sustainable fisheries.

• **Free, open and global** – Fishery Management Organisations (FMOs) around the world can use it to harmonise and automate the collection and dissemination of data from different data suppliers.

• **Interoperability** – common approach to IT systems and compatible with other UN/CEFACT standards.

# Why it is needed

UN/FLUX provides a starting point for addressing a number of increasingly important global challenges, namely:

• **Illegal fishing** – harms fish stocks, livelihoods and costs economies billions each year.

• **Overfishing** – harms fish stocks leading to lower yields and less profits for fishermen.

• **Ocean biodiversity** – harmed by illegal fishing.

• **Food security** – threatened in countries relying on fish as a source of protein.

While not an immediate solution, access to timely, accurate and reliable fisheries data provided by UN/FLUX is vital in achieving sustainable fisheries management.

# UN/FLUX standard domains

Standard have been defined for the following data exchange domains:

### Vessel Domain

This domain aims to standardise the exchange of fishing vessel characteristics data, and more specifically the information directly related to fishing vessels and vessels supporting fishing operations.

### Fishing Activities Domain

The fishing activities domain refers to data exchanges on fishing activities performed by vessels during a fishing trip. They include data on vessels' activities, its logbook, departure and arrival into ports, entry and exit from specific fishing areas, and other movements related to a fishing trip. These data also include transshipments, relocations and landings of catches.

### Vessel positions domain

The objective of this domain is to provide a standard for the communication of vessel position information.

### Fishing licenses, authorisations and permits

The objective of this domain is to standardise the exchange of data between stakeholders in the context of fishing licenses, authorisations or permits.

### Aggregated catch data reporting

The objective of this domain is to standardise exchanging aggregated catch data between stakeholders. It includes data, amongst many others, on catch area, species, quantity.

### Electronic inspection reports

The objective of this domain is to standardise the exchange of electronic inspection and surveillance reports.

### Master data management

The domain concentrates on data exchanges on various code lists and other master data used in all UN/FLUX domains.

# Link to SDGs

The UN/FLUX standard is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. It supports the achievement of Target 14.4, which focuses on ending illegal and unreported fishing and overfishing, and destructive fishing practices and implementing science-based management plans by 2030. UN/FLUX also contributes to ensuring sustainable production (SDG 12) in the fishing industry through fisheries management based on reliable fishing data, which will help efforts to preserve biodiversity and support the sustainable use of fish stocks and overall fishing practices.

Furthermore, by supporting the sustainable management and exploitation of fish stocks, UN/FLUX helps to ensure that adequate animal protein will be available for current and future generations, thus contributing to ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition (SDG 2).

# Who developed UN/FLUX?

UN/FLUX is developed and maintained by UN/CEFACT, an intergovernmental body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Within the United Nations framework of the Economic and Social Council, UNECE serves as the focal point for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services.

## UN/FLUX promotion and support in implementation

UN/FLUX is promoted by the Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists (Team). The Team was formed in 2017, and now comprises over 80 experts from over 20 countries working in government, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, and industry. The Team is led by the Chair and supported by the UNECE Secretary.

The Team's current focus is to provide information and to support countries to implement the UN/FLUX.

## Other related standards by UNECE

Within UN/CEFACT, a group of experts develops messages for the simplification and automation of trade in agriculture and fishery products. The group has already developed, inter alia, the standard for:

• The electronic Sanitary and Phytosanitary certificate (eCERT);

• Electronic management and exchange of laboratory messages (eLAB);

• Tracking and Tracing of animals, animal products and fish (TT);

• Certificates to control the trade of protected and endangered species (eCITES toolkit).

## Download FLUX

Visit www.unece.org/cefact/brs/brs_index.html or scan this code:

UN/FLUX XML schemas: http://www.unece.org/cefact/xml_schemas/index

## More info and contacts

https://www.unece.org/tradewelcome/un-centre-for-trade-facilitation-and
-e-business-uncefact/about-us/team-of-specialists-on-sustainable-fisheries.html

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