



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION SUBMITTED BY THE SUB-REGIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION (SRFC) REGARDING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES

TRIBUNAL TO DELIVER ITS ADVISORY OPINION ON 2 APRIL 2015 AT 1 P.M.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will deliver its Advisory Opinion on the Request submitted to the Tribunal by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission at a public sitting on 2 April 2015 at 1 p.m. The Advisory Opinion will be read by Judge Shunji Yanai, who presides over the case.

On 28 March 2013, the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) submitted its request to the Tribunal for an advisory opinion on the following questions:

1. What are the obligations of the flag State in cases where illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities are conducted within the Exclusive Economic Zone of third party States?
2. To what extent shall the flag State be held liable for IUU fishing activities conducted by vessels sailing under its flag?
3. Where a fishing license is issued to a vessel within the framework of an international agreement with the flag State or with an international agency, shall the State or international agency be held liable for the violation of the fisheries legislation of the coastal State by the vessel in question?
4. What are the rights and obligations of the coastal State in ensuring the sustainable management of shared stocks and stocks of common interest, especially the small pelagic species and tuna?"

22 States and 8 intergovernmental organizations submitted statements in two rounds of written pleadings. Hearings in the case were held in September 2014 with the participation of 9 States and 4 intergovernmental organizations. The history of the proceedings may be found in Press Releases ITLOS/Press 190, 194 and 215.

Attending the reading of the Advisory Opinion

The Advisory Opinion will be read in the main courtroom of the Tribunal and the sitting is open to the public. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps wishing to attend the reading are requested to contact the Tribunal's [Protocol Office](#). Members of the general public are requested to register with the [Press Office](#). Members of the press are requested to register using the [accreditation form](#) that is available on the website of the Tribunal.

The reading of the Advisory Opinion will be transmitted [live](#) on the website. The text of the Advisory Opinion will be available shortly after its delivery on the [website](#) and a recorded webcast of the reading of the Advisory Opinion will be available thereafter under [Webcast Archives](#).

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org