

Deal with illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing: Minister

By Len Garae

THE AFRICA CARIBBEAN Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) Programme currently hosting a Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) Workshop in Port Vila, has been urged to deal with Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated fishing (IUU) now while the five Pacific ACP member countries discuss trade opportunities through eco-labelling for the next four days.

The five countries are Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu and Tonga.

The Minister for Fisheries, David Tosul, said the Programme has to do more towards overcoming technical barriers to trade in the Pacific Region particularly in the fish sector.

The Minister made the call in his official address when he launched the four-day EU/ACP TBT Workshop at Holiday Inn yesterday.

In order for the Pacific member countries of ACP to successfully trade their products and in particular fish products on the European market, they must comply with certain rules first.

The Minister says one of the rules is the European Union's



Many fishing vessels are suspected of fishing illegally in many parts of the Pacific Ocean, including the territorial waters of Vanuatu. Photo: U.S. Coast Guard

'yellow cards' which a number of countries have received since 2012 in the fight against IUU fishing.

Vanuatu received the yellow card in 2012 and it was a major wakeup call, and very

challenging to address both in terms of time and money.

"But thank God we eventually made it through, though the EU is still watching and following us up on implementation and other related issues," he

confirms.

The Minister specifically named former Director of Vanuatu Fisheries and now Director of the South Pacific Community's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine

Ecosystems Division, Moses Amos, for his leadership during the trying period Vanuatu went through.

"I am confident he will lend his full support in helping to tackle the same issue

regionally from within the Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystem Division at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community," he says.

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