



AFRICAN UNION

HARMONIZED FISHING VESSEL REGISTER – AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL

*Strengthening Regional Fishing Vessel Registers for
effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems in Africa*



AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



CapMarine
Capricorn Marine Environmental

**HARMONIZED FISHING VESSEL REGISTER –
AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL**

*Strengthening Regional Fishing Vessel Registers for effective
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems in Africa*

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1. Introduction

This work was commissioned by the African Union –InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), as part of the overall effort towards the implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa but specifically towards strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capability in effectively combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing at national and regional levels in Africa. Strengthening institutional arrangements for effective MCS systems in combating IUU fishing is major provision in the pan African fisheries policy framework. The primary intent for this work was to develop a simple database system that could be used as regional or subregional levels to harmonise and track vessels. The underlying motive is to be able to track vessels that are registered, flagged, licensed or even active in the region in order to help IUU fishing activity. Developing such a database on a global scale, or even a regional scale is a significant challenge. It is therefore not the intent to create a tool that captures fine scale detail on registered vessels in each country.

Most countries with active fisheries have vessel registers. In countries with significant industrial commercial fisheries sectors there are formal data bases – these are normally comprehensive integrated systems that incorporate many different fields. In many developing countries (such as many of the African coastal states) vessel registers are poorly populated – the primary reason being that they may not have many industrial (or semi-industrial) fishing vessels under their own flag. In these countries, focus is on artisanal fisheries which presents a very different problem.

In the context of these artisanal fisheries, the implications of IUU fishing are quite different from the large-scale industrial fisheries, in particular the high seas tuna fleets (longline and purse seine). Historically most coastal states in developing world fisheries have adopted the FAO methodology with the principle purpose of trying to estimate catch and effort. This methodology relies on subsampling the fishery and raising the catch to the fishing effort i.e. using catch assessment surveys and frame surveys. While this is a practical methodology it does not provide a register of fishing effort – that is a tool for the tracking of individual vessels that might move between areas or even between countries. The Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa stressed the importance of conservation and sustainable uses of fisheries resources and therefore incorporate the strengthening of national and regional MCS systems as a key strategic action.

National fishing registers are normally confidential registers that are the domain of the individual countries. They are systems that have evolved over time for the purposes of the specific country. Data base design is complex and has many nuances, in particular coding (such as species and fishing gear) and data fields. In the African context, this work does not attempt to replace such systems. We use a simple ACCESS data base which is probably the most universally used data base system. It is available as a Microsoft, product and is user friendly. Most computer literate persons can use it and it facilitates integration of other data sets such as those used in EXCEL format or comma-separate text (CSV). The simplicity is the key – it then facilitates the broader tracking of vessels flagged or registered in different countries in the region into a central point e.g. Regional or subregional levels, or at the African Union level. Such a system however can only work if the data bases populated by each country are integrated effectively and regularly.

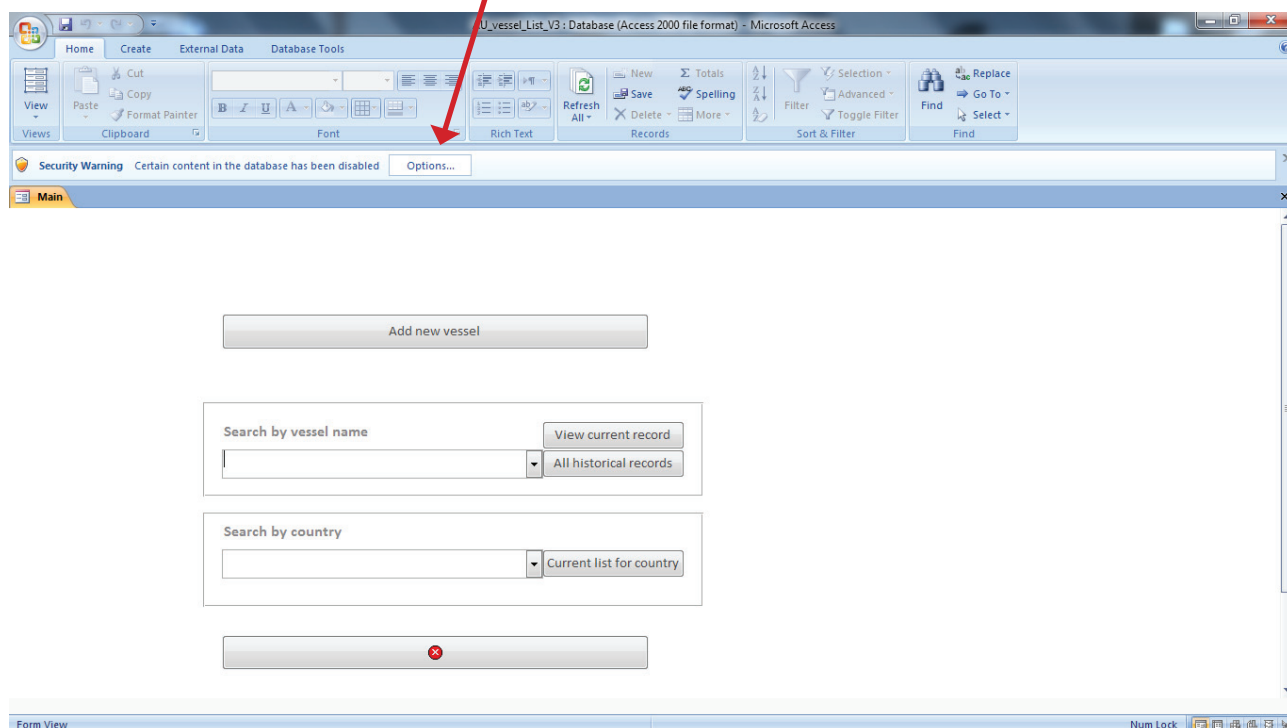
2. Methodology

For obvious reasons this data base is not populated with full country registers – the population of the register and the types of vessels remains at the discretion of the individual countries. The data fields are generic and incorporate the fundamental parameters needed to identify a vessel and then to track movements e.g. flag change. The regional fisheries management organisations (ICCAT, IOTC) have existing vessels registers to track member country vessels. These vessel registers have been imported into ACCESS to demonstrate the simple functionality. It should be stressed that this certainly does not mean that every vessel active in the high seas is captured on the data base. The intent is that each country can populate the data base with their own licensed vessels and submit these to, for example, the regional or subregional institutions, regional MCS centres, AU for consolidation as the case may be. Each country can also see the vessels registered by the other and where there are conflicts, discrepancies etc. between countries queries as needed can be raised.

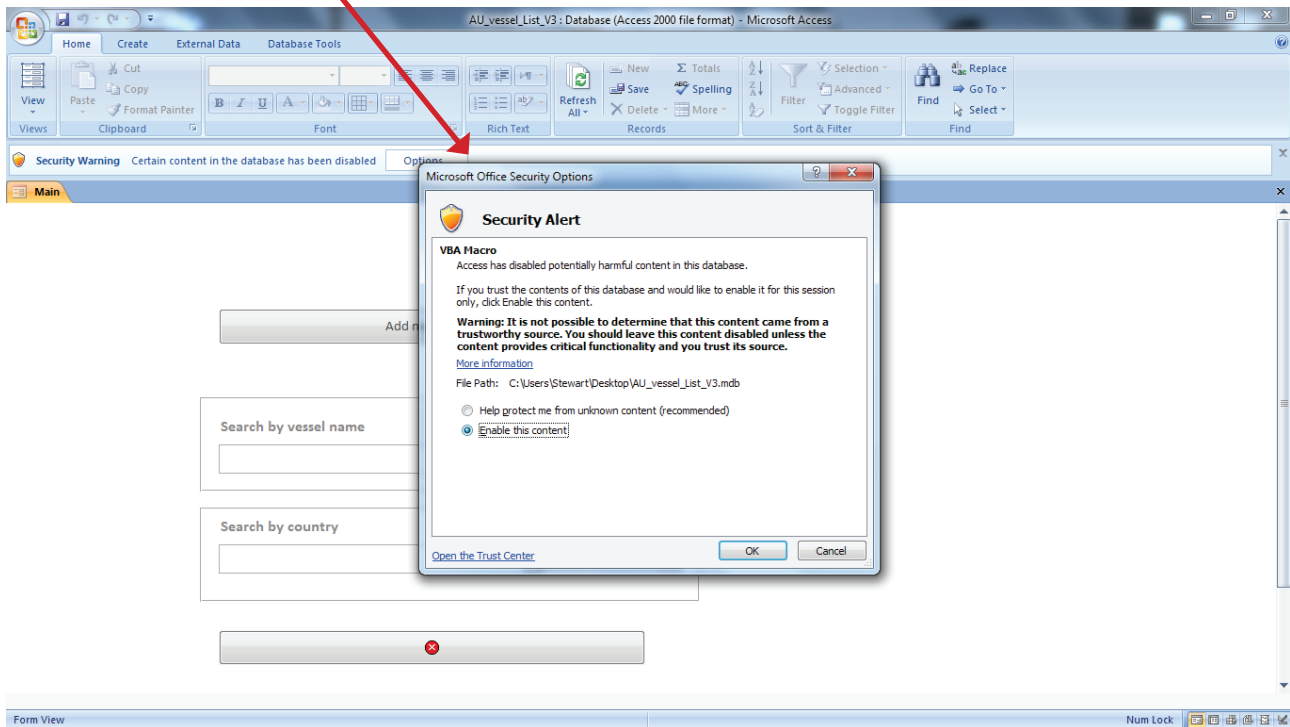
3. Accessing the Vessel Register

We provide a step by step guide to using the register.

1. Open file **AU_Vessel_List** in Microsoft Access
2. Enable Macros by clicking the **Options** button. A pop up window will appear.

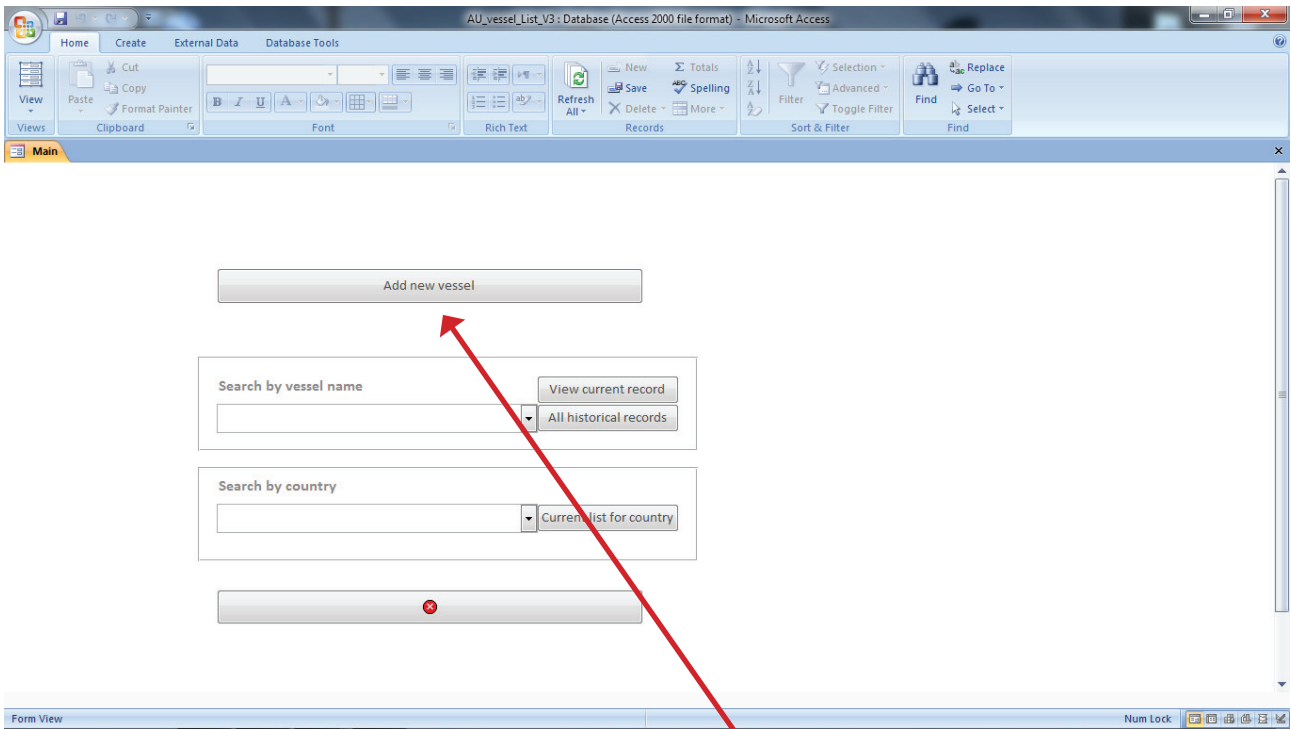


3. Select **Enable this content** and then click OK



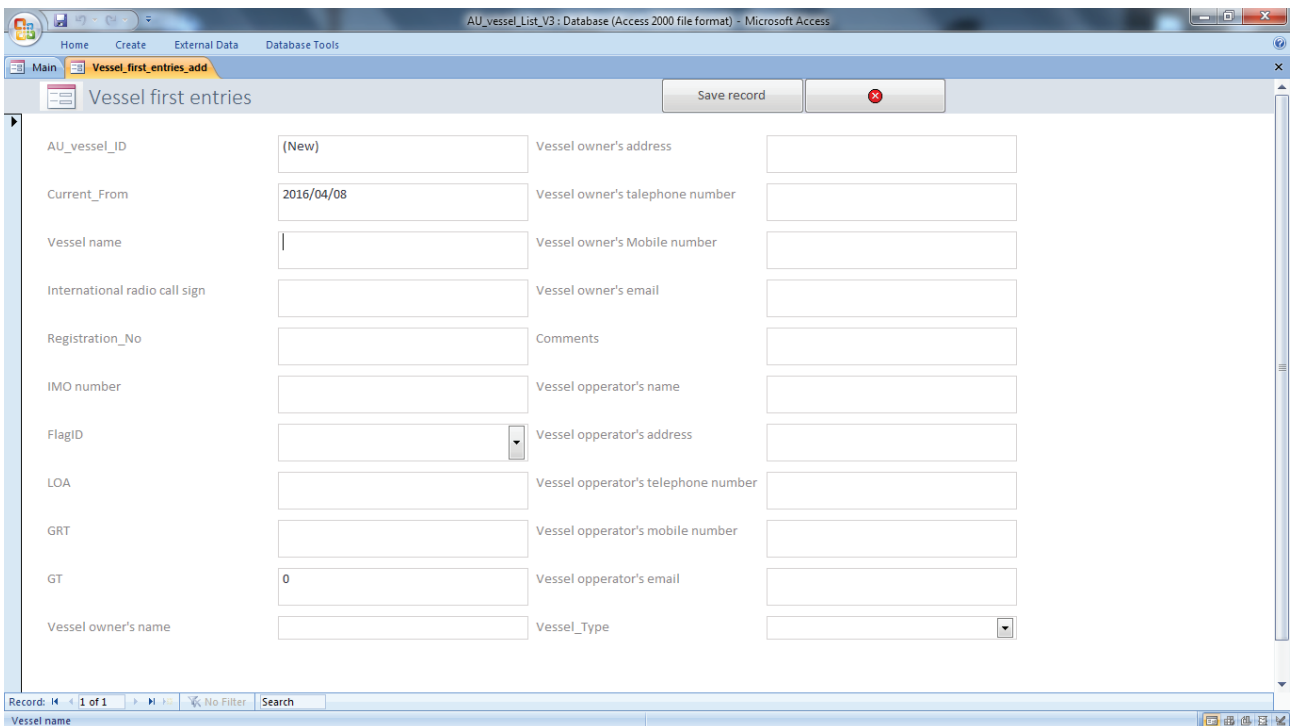
4. Once Macros is enabled you will be returned to the **Main** window below. This window provides the options to:

- add new vessels to the register;
- Search the register by vessel name from the drop down menu or by typing the vessel name;
- View either the current or historical records for a vessel; and
- Search for all vessels registered to a particular country by selecting from the drop down menu.



4. Adding a new vessel to the register

- I. A new vessel entry can be created by clicking on the **Add new vessel** button in the “**Main**” tab. A new tab will open, “**Vessel_first_entries**”, in this window there are 22 information fields that describe the vessel. Certain fields cannot be altered, others are obligatory and the remainder can be filled in if the information is available.



2. Fields that **cannot be altered** are circled in red. These are :

AU_vessel_ID - A unique number allocated to fishing vessels in the AU vessel register

Current_From - The date and time that the entry is made

3. **Obligatory** fields are circled in green and must be completed in order to create a new vessel record

Vessel name - Enter the name of a vessel that is not already in the vessel register

FlagID - Select from the drop down menu the country/flag to which the vessel is registered

Vessel_Type - Select from the drop down menu the type of vessel according to the FAO vessel type descriptions

The remaining fields can be completed by typing in the information if it is available for a fishing vessel:

- International radio call sign
- Registration No.
- IMO number
- LOA
- GRT
- GT
- Vessel owner's name
- Vessel owner's address
- Vessel owner's telephone number
- Vessel owner's mobile number
- Vessel owner's email
- Comments
- Vessel operator's name
- Vessel operator's address
- Vessel operator's telephone number
- Vessel operator's mobile number
- Vessel operator's email

Once the information for a vessel has been entered then click on **Save record** and the new vessel will be incorporated into the register.

5. Search by Vessel name

- Existing individual vessel records can be viewed from the drop down menu or by typing in the vessel name; once the name is selected the record can be viewed by clicking the **View current record** button.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Access window titled 'AU_vessel_List_V3: Database (Access 2000 file format)'. The main area contains a search interface with a table of vessel records. A red arrow points from the 'View current record' button in the search results to the 'View current record' button in the search interface.

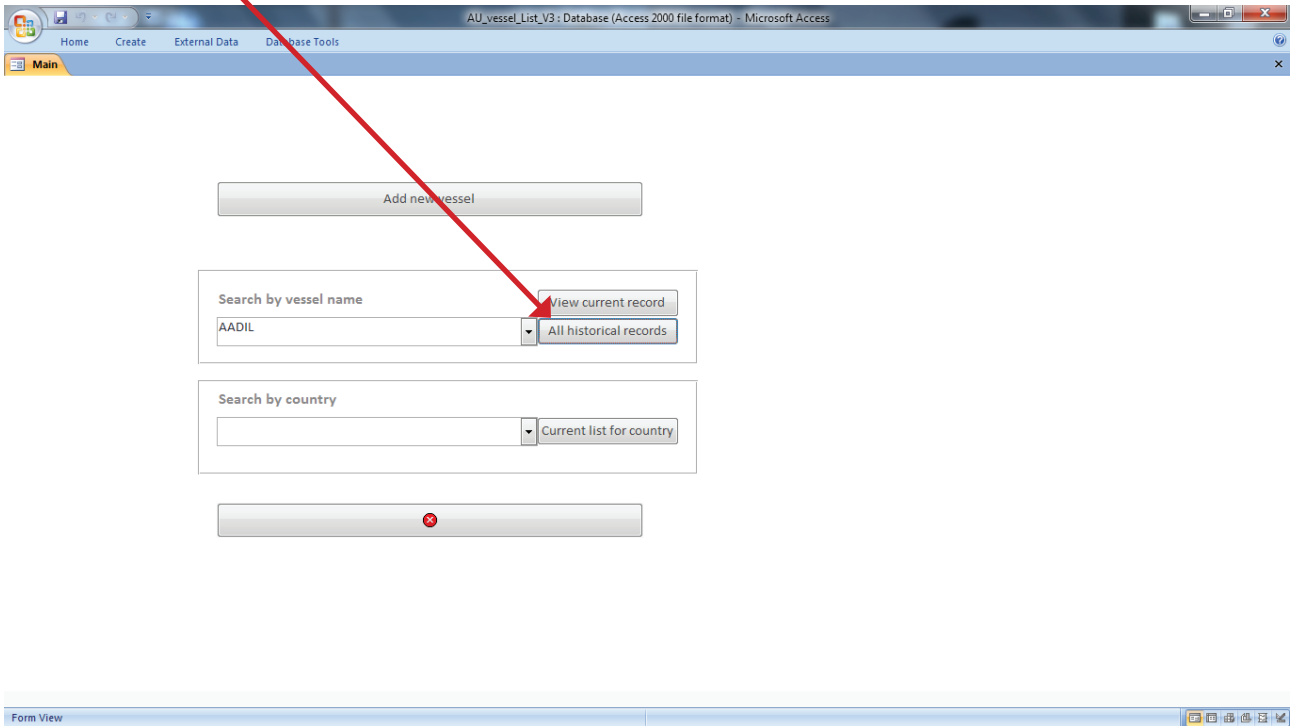
Vessel name	Internation	FlagID
AADIL	(blank)	MAR
AALAE-EDDINE - 2	(blank)	MAR
AAMOR	(blank)	MAR
AARAFATE - 4	(blank)	MAR
AARAFATE-5	CNA4374	MAR
AASSAL	(blank)	MAR
Abbes Sabrina	(blank)	DZA
ABDEL GHAFAR	(blank)	MAR
ABDEL HAKIM	(blank)	DZA
Abdelaziz	(blank)	DZA
ABDELBARI	(blank)	MAR
Abdelhadi	(blank)	DZA
ABDELHADI	(blank)	MAR
Abdelhak	(blank)	DZA
Abdelhakim	(blank)	DZA

- The window below will open and the information for the selected vessel will appear. In this window there is an option to **Update vessel details**, this allows for the information fields to be edited, i.e. if the vessel name changes or additional information such as the IMO number can be added.

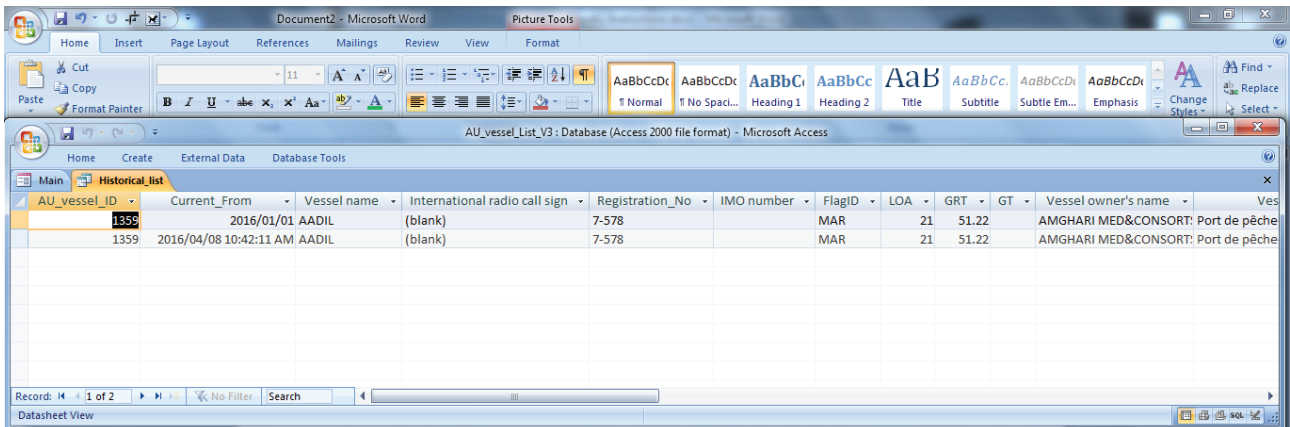
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Access window titled 'AU_vessel_List_V3: Database (Access 2000 file format)'. The main area displays the 'Vessel_Historical_View' form, which is titled 'Vessel current record'. A red arrow points from the 'Update vessel details' button in the form to the 'Update vessel details' button in the search results.

AU_vessel_ID	1359	Vessel owner's address	Port de pêche-Safi- Maroc
Current_From	2016/01/01	Vessel owner's telephone number	
Current_To		Vessel owner's Mobile number	
Historic_Vessel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel owner's email	
Vessel name	AADIL	Comments	
International radio call sign	(blank)	Vessel operator's name	AMGHARI MED&CONSORTS
Registration_No	7-578	Vessel operator's address	Port de pêche-Safi- Maroc
IMO number		Vessel operator's telephone number	
FlagID	MAR	Vessel operator's mobile number	
LOA	21	Vessel operator's email	
GRT	51.22	Vessel_Type	LLO
GT		IOTC_No:	
Vessel owner's name	AMGHARI MED&CONSORTS	ICCAT No:	AT000MAR00576

- A historical record will automatically be created if at any time the information for a vessel has been **updated/changed**. To view if this is the case for a particular vessel then click the **All historical records** button after selecting the vessel name.

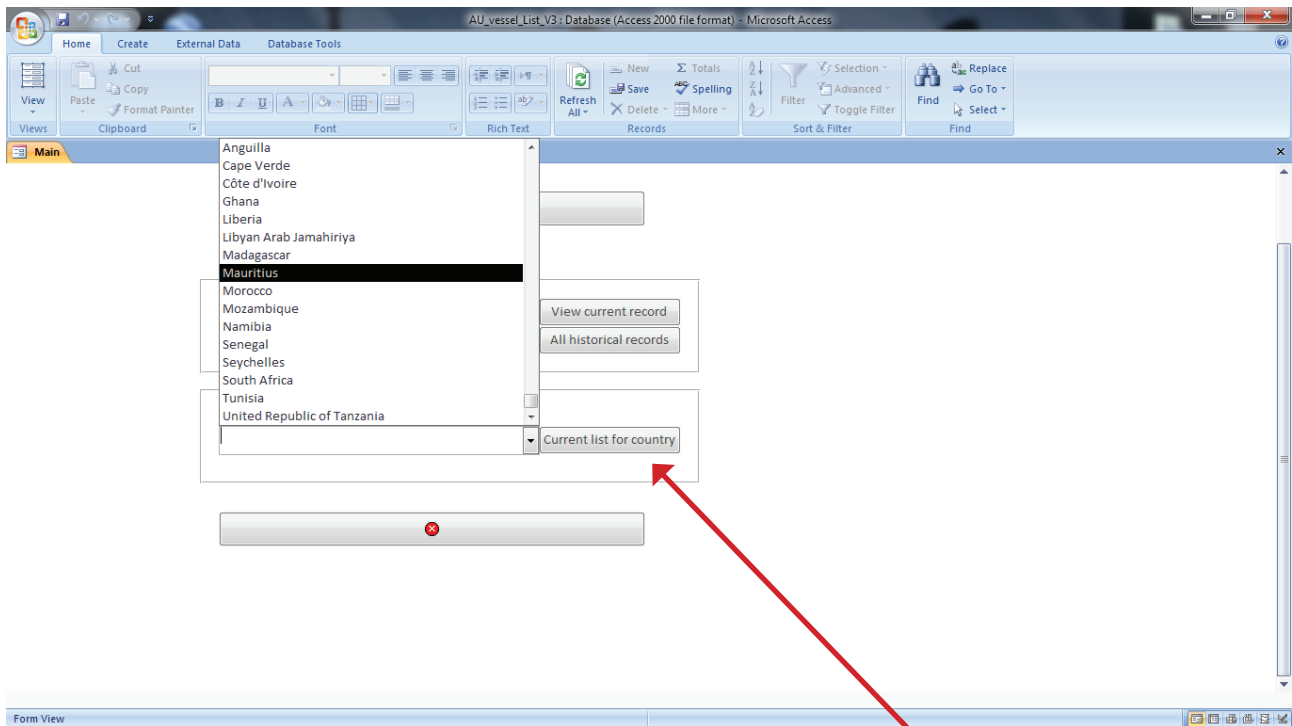


- If, for example, the vessel name has been changed at some point then the original record (old name) and the current record (new name) will both appear in a table format. This will be the case if any of the information is updated, not just the vessel name.



6. Search by Country

The vessel register has been populated using the ICCAT and IOTC vessel databases for vessels currently registered in African countries. The image below shows the countries whose vessels can be searched using the register.



Select a country from the drop down menu and then click the **Current list for country** button. All vessels registered to that country will appear in a table format as well as any vessel historical records. The window below shows the vessels currently registered by **Madagascar** according to the IOTC database.

The screenshot shows the 'Country_current_list' table in Microsoft Access. The table contains the following data:

AU_vessel_ID	Current_From	Vessel name	International radio call sign	Registration_No	IMO number	FlagID	LOA	GRT	GT	Vessel owner's name	
34	2004/01/01	ALBATROS	5RUM	TM 05.039		MDG	21.6	99.82		SOCIÉTÉ MAD OCEAN	Antetezan
35	2012/01/13	BIRMA	5 RYU	TM 10.010		MDG	11.25		19.76	SOCIÉTÉ DE PÊCHE DE SAIN	BP 4 Ilot M
36	2002/01/01	NEREIDES	5 RYK	TM-07-039		MDG	15.3		23	SOCIÉTÉ DE PÊCHE DE SAIN	BP 4 Ilot M
37	2013/01/01	SEBAE IX	5 RYL	TM 09.025		MDG	16.23		30.31	SOCIÉTÉ REFRIGEPECHE	BP 450 Tan
38	2013/01/01	SEBAE VI	5 RYC	TM 09.011		MDG	13.78		24.89	SOCIÉTÉ REFRIGEPECHE	BP 450 Tan
39	2013/01/01	SEBAE VII	5 RYD	TM 09.012		MDG	13.78		24.89	SOCIÉTÉ REFRIGEPECHE	BP 450 Tan
40	2013/01/01	SEBAE VIII	5 RYM	TM 09.016		MDG	13.78		24.89	SOCIÉTÉ REFRIGEPECHE	BP 450 Tan
41	2013/01/01	SEBAE X	5 RYO	TM 10.033		MDG	16.23		30.31	SOCIÉTÉ REFRIGEPECHE	BP 450 Tan



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