

FACTSHEET

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING



ILLEGAL

Violations of international and national law. Fishing without a license in prohibited areas, with prohibited gear, on prohibited species, or over the quota.



UNREPORTED

Any catch that is not recorded or that is misreported to proper authorities. Any withholding of catch type, size, and location.



UNREGULATED

Catch from areas of the sea, particularly the high seas, not under jurisdiction of a state or management organization.

IUU fishing accounts for 20% of the world's fisheries, and up to 40% in some locations.

EFFECTS OF IUU FISHING

Overfishing

Stock assessments do not include IUU catches, resulting in quotas set too high to be sustainable, threatening food security.

Collapse of Vulnerable Fisheries

Endangered bluefin tuna on the black market sell for \$4 billion annually.

Slowed recovery of depleted stocks

3 to 4 sharks finned illegally for every 1 shark caught legally.

Exploitation of developed countries

Illegal foreign vessels remove \$300 million from Somalian waters alone each year, threatening local livelihoods.

Seafood fraud

Illegal fish mixed with legal catches and often mislabelled (so they can be sold as a higher valued fish) to boost profits.

Exploitation

Human trafficking, drug smuggling, physical and sexual abuse, child labor, dangerous working conditions, and forced labor.

Food Safety

Poor sanitation, disease, and unsafe food handling endangers the health of consumers.

CAUSES OF IUU FISHING?

- **Ineffective Management:**
Low risk of detection and mild penalties.
- **Overcapacity:**
Too many vessels fishing too few "legal" fish.
- **Legal vs. Illegal Profit:**
(\$10-23 billion in IUU) Drives down the cost of fish and unfairly outcompetes honest fishers.
- **Flags of Convenience:**
Legal loopholes allow vessels to circumvent international law.
- **Poverty:**
Provides labor pool with options that are easily exploited.



SOLUTIONS

- ✓ Better monitoring and enforcement capacity, especially in developing nations.
- ✓ Reduce subsidies and institute traceability from boat to plate.
- ✓ Social and economic incentives that discourage IUU fishing.
- ✓ Establish global registry and tracking of fishing vessels.
- ✓ Establish no-take marine reserves that protect spawning aggregation sites.
- ✓ International legal framework covering all fishing areas that increases costs and risks, but lowers value of IUU fish.



If international efforts to combat IUU fishing are successful, there are good prospects that further progress will be made in moving towards long-term sustainable fisheries."

Dr. David J. Doulman



KEY WEBSITES

The Pew Charitable Trusts | *IUU Fishing*

www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/ending-illegal-fishing-project

World Wildlife Foundation | *IUU Fishing*

www.worldwildlife.org/threats/illegal-fishing

The Black Fish | *Working for the Oceans*

www.theblackfish.org/

Richard Conniff | *Unsustainable Seafood: A New Crackdown on Illegal Fishing*

e360.yale.edu/feature/unsustainable-seafood_a_new_crackdown_on_illegal_fishing/2758/

The Washington Post | *Clamp down on illegal fishing to curb human trafficking*

www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/clamp-down-on-illegal-fishing-to-curb-human-trafficking/2014/01/09/527645b2-725b-11e3-8def-a33011492df2_story.html



VIDEO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | *Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6j-4jvJkH0

The PEW Charitable Trusts | *Ending Illegal Fishing*

www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/video/2013/ending-illegal-fishing

Environmental Justice Foundation | *Pirate Fishing Exposed*

vimeo.com/51133202

Environmental Justice Foundation | *The Abuse of Human Rights on IUU Vessels*

vimeo.com/10753990

PEW | *Project Eyes on the Seas*

www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/video/2015/project-eyes-on-the-seas



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Available: WaaittInstitute.org/factsheets