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REELING IN ILLEGAL, UNRECORDED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

An overview of the current initiatives in play to deal with Illegal, Unrecorded and Unregulated Fishing

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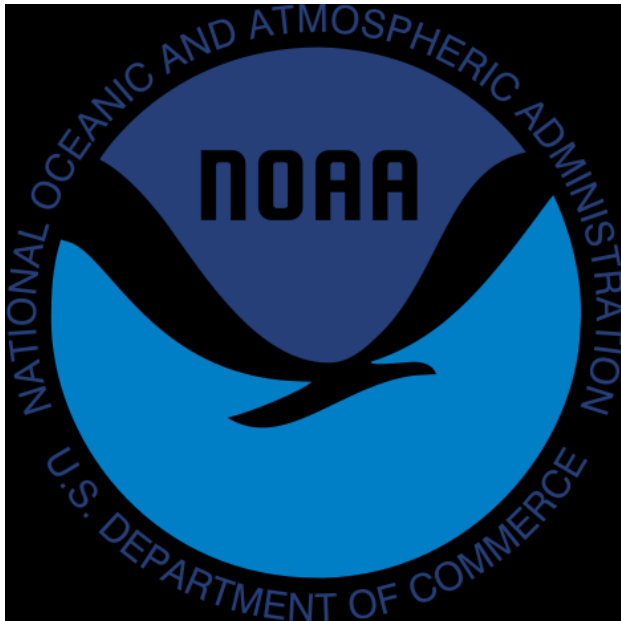
What I will cover in this presentation



- What comprises IUU activities and how extensive is the problem?
- Specific cases of IUU
- Institutional initiatives to combat IUU – is it too little too late?
- The creation of a global record of fishing vessels to aid transparency
- The varying estimates of the size of the fishing fleet
- What sort of challenges does IHS Maritime & Trade face in expanding the numbering schemes to cover fishing?
- NGOs involved in the fight to deal with this growing issue

The IUU environment

What is IUU?



- **What is IUU fishing?**

Generally refers to fishing conducted in violation of national laws or internationally agreed conservation and management measures in place around the world

- **What are some examples of IUU fishing activities?**

- IUU fishing can include fishing without a license or quota for certain species or areas
- Unauthorized transshipments to cargo vessels
- Failing to report catches or making false reports
- Keeping undersized fish or fish that are otherwise protected by regulations
- Fishing in closed areas or during closed seasons, and using prohibited fishing gear

The IUU environment

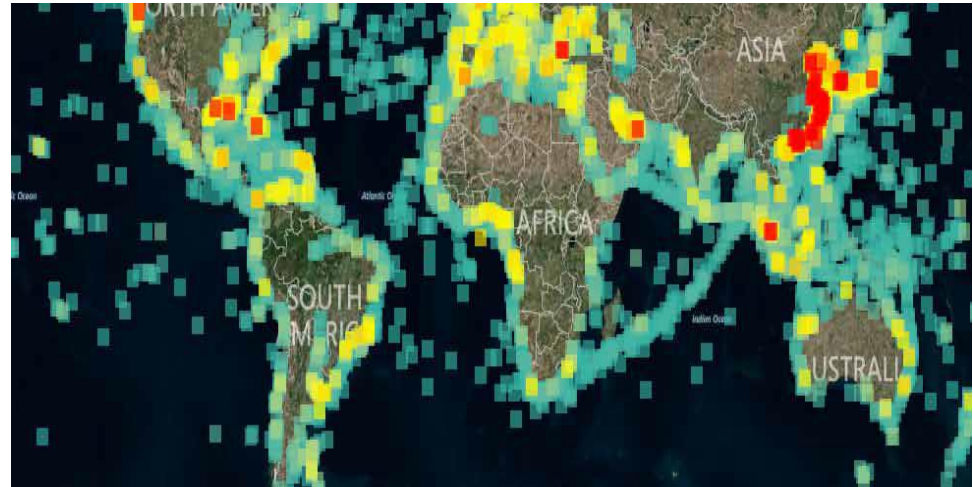
What is IUU?

- Ecologically conscious consumers and supermarkets increasingly want to know where their sea-food originates from
- Black market IUU activities undermine the economic and environmental sustainability of global fisheries and fish stocks and whole communities
- Abuses range from direct illegal fishing to associated document fraud, tax evasion and money laundering, the trafficking of people, human right abuses, and illegal working arrangements for crew members



The Extent of IUU

Globally, as much as 30% of fishery catches are illegal, unreported and unregulated (WWF)



- More than 1 billion people around the world rely on the oceans for their daily nutritional intake
- Worldwide an average of 17 kg of seafood is consumed annually according to the UN FAO
- The University of London estimates the economic cost of IUU to be in the region of US \$ 10-23 billion annually
- Fishing fleets have become larger and more advanced due in part to the US\$ 30 Billion in government subsidies available
- Fishing vessels can deploy lines up to 60 km long at depths of more than 2,000m, according to the Global Ocean Commission Report, 2014

The Extent of IUU

- The Commission estimates the sizes of the world's fishing fleet is two and a half times larger than necessary to match sustainable fish stocks
- An estimated 87% of the world's marine stocks are fully exploited, over exploited or depleted. Populations of some species such as swordfish and Tuna may never recover (GOC 2014)
- A bi-product of IUU is extensive damage to coral and other fragile habitats and the capture of tons of deep sea species where there is no commercial market



A Crisis of Governance

- Mainly due to poor management by governments
- Limited international collaboration by States which allows anyone to take advantage of the lack of policing
- Vessels often change names, company owners, flag state or flag to two or more registries thus allowing them to avoid what management arrangements do exist
- Coastal and Flag States control fishing rights in their EEZ. Corrupt officials sell rights under the table with no public record of which ships have legal rights to fishing in a given area – document fraud



U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

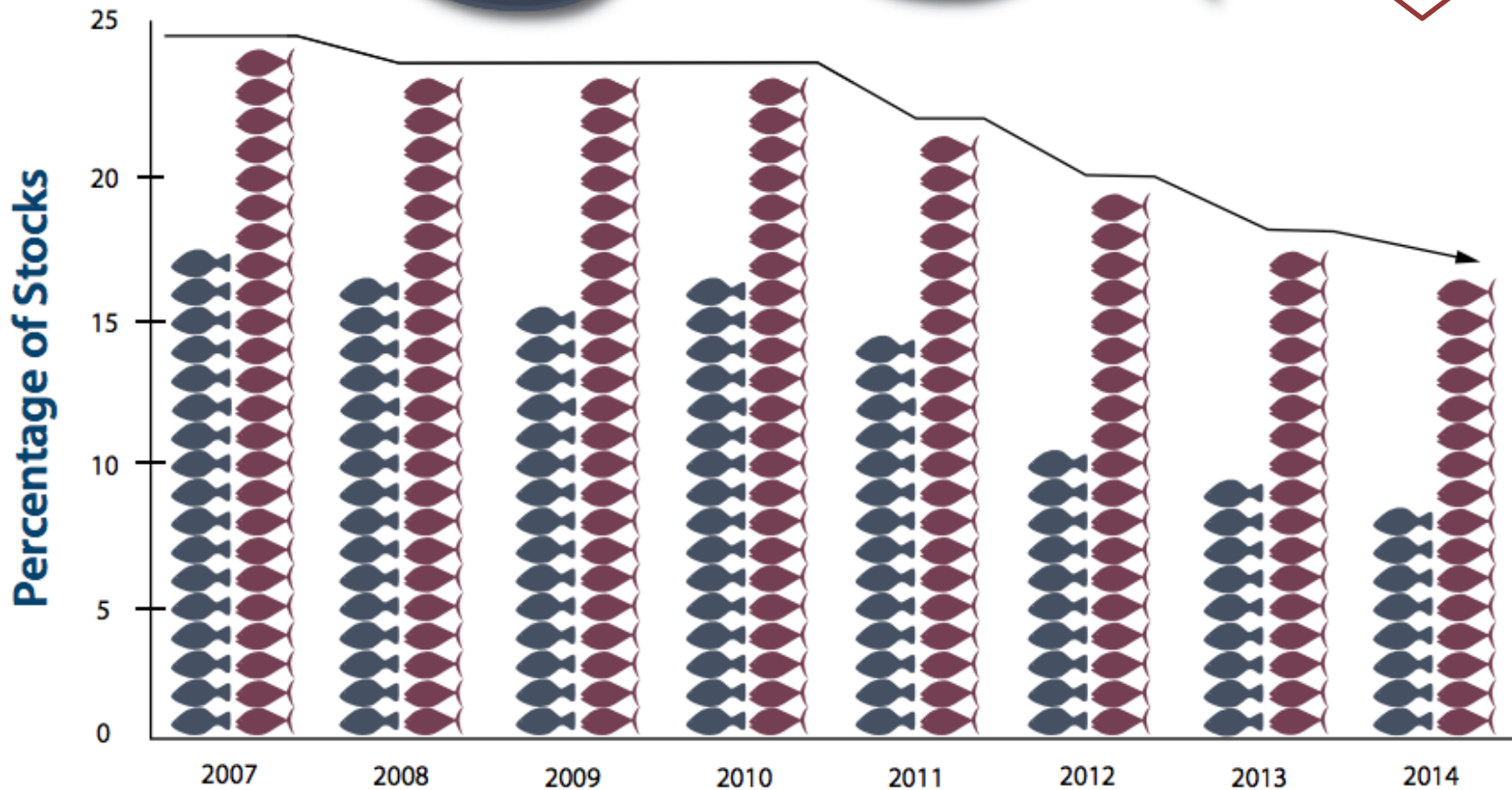
- USA imports more than 80 percent of its seafood but does not want to provide incentives for IUU activities
- They have careful processes for the monitoring of imports
- They work with other fishing nations to strengthen enforcement and data collection programs around the world
- Measures in place to restrict port entry and access to vessels included on the IUU lists of RFMOs
- Legislation that allows US to take action unilaterally when identifying countries that have fishing vessels engaged in IUU activities.
- Once identified as having vessels engaged in IUU fishing, the US consults with the nation to encourage appropriate corrective action
- Can impose trade restrictions on that nation
- Can also impose significant sanctions against individuals and companies engaged in trafficking

Source NOAA

Stock Trends 2007 - 2014



A slow but steady decline in the number of overfished and overfishing stocks, according to NOAA. (Source: NOAA)



Specific cases of IUU

Case 1

- The Australian government between 1997 to 2005 apprehended nine vessels engaged in IUU fishing within the Heard and McDonald Island EEZ
- However, in all nine court cases, the government was unable to identify or prosecute any of the beneficial owners
- In one case the address of the registered office of the company that owned the vessel was a vacant lot in Moscow
- The catch was forfeited and the Master's received nominal fines

Australian Customs and Border Patrol



A recent typical example a vessel arrested for having fish on board that they are not licensed to catch

- The fishing vessel *Taruman*, carrying 140 tons of illegally caught Chilean sea bass

Photo: Australian Customs Service

Specific cases of IUU

Case 2 - Activists rescue fish thieves from 'scuttled' pirate ship

Stephen Spark 08 04 2015

Source – IHS Maritime 360

- Conservation group 'Sea Shepherd', that had been pursuing a notorious illegal 'fishing pirate' ship called 'Thunder', came to the rescue when the trawler began to sink off São Tomé, West Africa
- Dutch-flagged Bob Barker, a 1950-built, 488 gt former whale catcher had been chasing 1,175 gt Thunder for 110 days when it received a mayday from the factory trawler
- Three life rafts were sent to the stricken vessel, which took off all 40 men on board. They were transferred to Sea Shepherd's 484 gt survey vessel Sam Simon and handed over to the São Tomé Coast Guard. The trawler's officers are believed to be Spanish and the crew mostly Indonesian

- During the long chase from Antarctic Ocean to the Gulf of Guinea, Thunder repeatedly tried to ram Bob Barker and the trawler's crew hurled missiles at the conservationists
- Three Bob Barker crew members boarded Thunder before it sank and found that hatches and watertight compartment doors had been left open, suggesting that the ship, which was thought to be running low on fuel, had been scuttled
- The Master stated that "I'm 100% confident that the captain of the Thunder destroyed his own ship," adding that he believed the reason was to destroy evidence, particularly a hold quarter-full of valuable toothfish (cod icefish).



“THUNDER”

- Thunder was identified as a vessel engaged in IUU fishing in 2006 and in December 2013 became the subject of an Interpol Purple Notice. The notice states, "Information is sought on the individuals and networks that own, operate, and profit from the illegal actions of the vessel."
- The last-known owner is listed as Lagos-based Royal Marine & Spares Nig Ltd, a corporate member of the Nigerian Chamber of Shipping. Other companies associated with the IUU vessel are headquartered in Panama, the Seychelles, and Spain.
- For the past decade removable plates were used so its name could be rapidly changed - sometimes twice in one month, to avoid identification while fishing illegally. It has sailed variously as Rubin, Typhoon I, Wuhan No 4, Thunder, and Kuko.
- Flag changes have been just as frequent, covering Belize, Mongolia, Nigeria, the Seychelles, and Togo. The latter country recently removed the vessel from its register for violations.
- Interpol said in a statement, "It is possible that the owners of Thunder have earned more than USD60 million from its illegal fishing activities since it was blacklisted by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in February 2006."

Case 3 – Indonesian Govt's drastic measures by blowing up vessels caught illegally fishing



The theft of fish from Indonesian waters is a problem, which is estimated to lose £15.3bn a year because of the practice (more likely £1-2b)

Indonesia begun to sink foreign ships found illegally fishing in its waters after its new president Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo took office pledging to crack down on the practice

It is mainly plagued by vessels flying the flags of Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and China

Two foreign fishing boats suspected of conducting illegal fishing activities are blown up by the Indonesian navy in Ambon bay, Indonesia, December 21, 2014

The destruction of the Papua New Guinea-flagged vessels follows a government ruling to sink almost all foreign ships which carry out illegal fishing activities in the waters of Indonesia

Specific cases of IUU

Case 4 – Greenpeace accuses Chinese joint-venture of committing Tonnage Fraud in Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Guinea

Source – Greenpeace Paper ‘Scam on the African coast’ May 2015

- The report accuses certain Chinese companies of under declaring the gross tonnage of their fishing vessels, where foreign flagged and joint owned and operated under joint ventures in West Africa
- This exploits marine resources closer to land and undermines local sustainable fishing. By under-declaring their GT they can hide a much higher capacity to catch fish and also get closer inland to exploit the fishing grounds of the local indigenous population resulting in more overfishing
- They claim this practice of under declaring gt is fraudulent as license fees are calculated based on the GT and so it also deprives the local coastal states of much needed revenue
- One Chinese company is quoted as under declaring the GT of its vessels fro 2000 – 2014 by as much as 43% to the Senegalese Authorities. Another by 68% in Guinea/Guinea Bissau

Institutional Initiatives

Progress is now being made on three fronts in global governance arrangements concerning FVs: fishing vessel safety, fishing operations and crew conditions which should help curtail IUU fishing



Institutional Initiatives

The WWF has stated ' The task of saving the global ocean is one that no government or company or individual can achieve alone'



- The IMO Adoption of an amendment to the voluntary Assembly Resolution A600 (15) which removed the exclusion of fishing vessels of 100 gt and above from the IMO Numbering scheme driving the demand for fishing vessels UVIs
- Adoption of IMO led Cape Town Agreement in Oct 12 brings fishing vessels within the same regulatory safety regimes that applies to merchant shipping. Expected to come into force within two years leads to new PSC inspection measures etc
- ILO improving seafarers conditions aiming for the same treatment of crew as on merchant ships
- RFMOs and individual member states can mandate the use of the IMO Number within their systems and certification, which would apply to high seas vessels

Institutional Initiatives

- FAO provision require foreign fishing vessels visiting international ports to provide advance notice and request permission for port entry. Ports have the authority to conduct regular inspections with the intention of preventing illegally caught fish entering international markets
- Additionally, in June, US President Barack Obama signed a presidential memorandum, “Comprehensive Framework to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud,” to unify US efforts against IUU fishing.
- EU setting quotas as do many others and requests fisherman to report the size of catches daily
- UK Govt. Has set up environmental protection zones



Shining the light on Transparency



- Global effort underway with the primary focus on creating a global record to increase transparency
- Requires a permanent unique vessel identifier (UVI) similar to that in place for merchant vessels
- UN FAO Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group building a consensus
- IHS M&T is building a database of small vessels below, 100 gt and above 100 and also high seas
- UN FAO sourced from official sources
- IHS M&T independent view, audited, and validated
- RFMOs are exploring and starting to utilise numbering schemes.
- Four regional bodies have recently have made the IMO No allocation for vessels in their fleets mandatory

Challenges for expanding UVIs and establishing a global record

- Scope of collection of data < 100 gt, above 100 gt, > 12m LOA, High Seas?
- Additional exchange sources (States, RFMOs etc)
- Pressure points on demand for IMO Numbers
- Official versus independent views
- Ownership is critical to the Global Record
- General classification of shiptypes e.g. ISSCVF categories
- Data and functionality that could be useful in the fight (design of the databases)
- Options for the management of the UVI



Example of success on the record front

- The CLAV has recently gone live - the Consolidated List of Tuna Vessels from the 6 tuna RFMOs.
- They will have already done a lot of deduplication (using the software that was developed at FAO), individual RFMO databases and supporting flag state sources. It will also contain the high seas tuna vessels that are < 100GT and non-steel hull.
- <http://tuna-org.org/GlobalTVR.htm>



Varying estimates of the size of the fishing fleet

- Only 22,000 vessels of 100 gross tons and above have voluntarily acquired an IMO number
- Industry estimates peg the quantity of fishing vessels of that size at anywhere between 50,000 and 185,000 vessels, with possibly three times as many smaller ones
- Some orgs want to monitor all vessels > 12m LOA could be as many as 500,000 vessels!
- Focus should be on High Seas vessels trading outside of their EEZs Another 6,000 vessels+

Fishing Vessels currently with an IMO Number

Vessel Types	No.	GT
Fishing Vessel	12,965	4,484,750
Stern Trawler	4,712	2,351,522
Trawler	3,064	823,822
Fish Carrier	531	336,815
Factory Stern Trawler	433	1,560,931
Fisheries Research Vessel	229	139,791
Live Fish Carrier (Well Boat)	186	127,354
Fisheries Patrol Vessel	173	109,760
Fish Factory	54	287,043
Fisheries Support Vessel	18	10,639
Fish Farm Support	17	7,564
Whale Catcher	6	3,720
Seal Catcher	6	3,078
Pearl Shells Carrier	3	868
Kelp Dredger	1	195
World Total	22,398	10,247,852

Main users...



- Port Authorities, coastal risk assessment
- The Market and States (be assured of the legal origin of fish products)
- Flag State Monitoring responsibilities
- RFMOs
- Public in general (consumers NGOs etc)
- Global supply chain wholesalers and logistics

NGOs and Pressure Groups



- The push for traceability has already started with governments, NGOs, and retailers
- Charities such as PEW and the WWF, and Greenpeace are very active in influencing stakeholders
- Their belief is that there is little real time shared information on fishing vessels and catches
- The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation requires members to purchase seafood only from vessels that have IMO numbers

NGOs and Pressure Groups



- Ultimately, *'can consumers be confident that they know where their seafood has been sourced from and that it has been caught legally and sustainably?'*
- Not at the moment but.....
- Major retailers can use IMO numbers within their supply chains to track the origin of seafood from the ocean to the grocery shelf.
- This information could be used on produce eco-labels as part of a vetting process to confirm that a vessel was fishing legally in a certain geographic area on the date presented on catch certificates

NGO's and Pressure Groups



The actress said she “truly bonded” with the 27kg big-eye tuna despite having a phobia of fish. The photoshoot was in aid of a Blue Marine Foundation campaign against over-fishing.

Greta Scacchi got naked with a cod last year, but her relationship with the fish didn't appear quite so intense.

Bonham Carter said:

“I'm actually very phobic about fish so when Greta asked me to be photographed naked with a 27kg tuna I was more worried about touching it than getting my kit off”

Source: [OK](#)

Blue Marine Foundation