Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

The Pew Charitable Trusts
Ending Illegal Fishing Project
“Tell the Truth and Trust the People.” - J N Pew Jr 1946

Pew is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today’s most challenging problems.

Improve public policy | Inform the public
Invigorate civic life
The Global Cost of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

up to 1 in 5 wild caught fish are estimated to be caught outside of regulations

= 11-26 million tons of fish/year

Up to $23.5 billion revenue lost

Knowing WHERE to look
The global threat of illegal fishing

• Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing
  o Fishing and fishing-related activities conducted in contravention of national, regional and international laws. (*illegal*)
  o Non-reporting, misreporting or under-reporting of information on fishing operations and their catches. (*unreported*)
  o Fishing by “Stateless” vessels. (*unregulated*)

• Undermines sustainable management of fish stocks, threatens security

• Associated with other crimes including corruption, tax crime, drugs, human trafficking

Photo credit: CCAMLR
It is more than just fish .....

[Image links to various reports and publications, including one from RUSI and another from UNODC on transnational organized crime in the fishing industry.]
International Agreements

• FAO Port State Measures Agreement* (2009)
• FAO Compliance Agreement* (1993)
• FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
• UN Fish Stocks Agreement* (1995)

*(Legally binding agreement)
Why Illegal Fishing Persists

• Vast area of ocean to monitor - Limited national capacity for fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance
• Overlapping jurisdictions – who is responsible
• Weak or nonexistent laws in place
• Lack of strong port controls
• Nations unwilling or unable to control fleets; do not always share information
• Easy to conceal identity and offload catch

= High profit / Low risk
Ending Illegal Fishing Project

A comprehensive approach including policy, technology, information sharing and enforcement

- Robust legal and policy framework
- Market education and risk
- Utilize technology
- Effective enforcement
- Coordination and collaboration
Thank You

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