



The International Symposium on **FishCRIME**

12th to 13th October 2015

Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

Highly organised, well-financed transnational criminal activities are taking place in fisheries sectors around the world. The illegal harvesting, processing and trading of fish globally is now being linked to a wider black economy, a parallel economic system that detracts from sustainable and sound national economic growth and is frequently linked to complex webs of organised crime. Countries are being deprived of taxes, citizens of jobs, food and income, and fisheries and environments are being destroyed.

Intercepting criminal networks and prosecuting those in charge necessitates cooperation, both domestically and transnationally, between fisheries experts and the police, customs, tax, port, security and labour authorities to gather and share information and intelligence and bring the criminals to book.

The **International Symposium on FishCRIME** attempts to kick-start this process.

The International Symposium on FishCRIME is a joint initiative of the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Stop Illegal Fishing and PescaDOLUS.



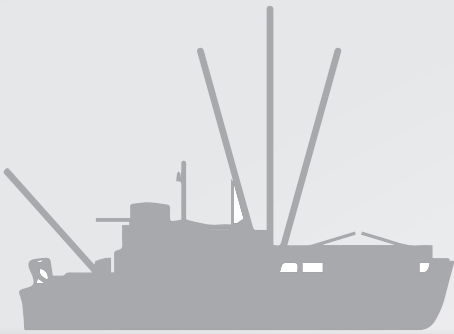
FishCRIME

Multi-million dollar businesses are being built through the theft of fish. The crimes do not stop there; **FishCRIME** involves a complete disregard for laws and regulations.

More information

For more information visit www.stopillegalfishing.com
or to register your interest to participate please contact:
fishcrime@stopillegalfishing.com

1 FISHING VESSELS.



Illegal fishing vessels are used as floating centres of lawlessness.

A fishing vessel provides the perfect hub for transnational organised crime. It's mobile, it has a reason to be on the seas and most of the time it is out of sight of the authorities.

Fishing vessels are built with huge storage areas. These are ideal for the smuggling of illicit goods, whether they be drugs, arms, blood diamonds, people or wildlife products.

Exempt from IMO ship identification numbers the identity of fishing vessels is easy to change and hard to track.

2 SERVICE VESSELS.



These are not single vessels acting alone. This is not opportunistic. This is organised crime.

Service vessels are used to deliver goods to and from fishing vessels –mixing legally caught fish with illegally caught fish. Providing supplies that enable the fishing vessels to stay at sea for years at a time.

3 HUMAN RIGHTS.

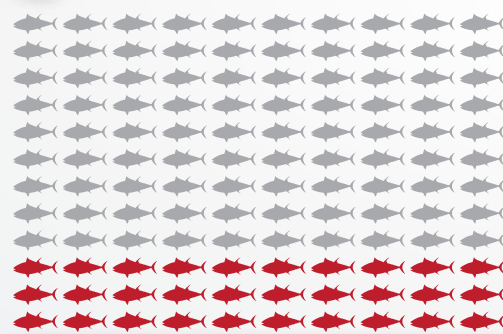


Tricked. Trapped. Trafficked.

Workers on fishing vessels frequently slip under the radar of the protection offered by labour and related laws. Often workers are tricked into working on fishing vessels: their wages are unpaid, they live and work in unsafe and unsanitary conditions and they are far from land for months and years at a time so there is no opportunity for escape.

Harsh and violent treatment of crew has been reported as widespread.

4 ILLEGAL TRADING.



1 out of 4 fish is caught and traded illegally.

Illegal fishing undermines sustainability, damages marine ecosystems and denies some of the neediest people in the world a livelihood.

5 CORRUPTION.



FishCRIME feeds the fat underbelly of corruption. Making the rich richer and denying the rest of us access to a fair system.

At every link in the illegal fishing supply chain, the potential for corruption exists.

- Negotiation of access agreements
- Licenses
- Flags of Convenience
- Mislabeling of fish
- Whitewashing
- Discards
- Intimidation & bribery of officials

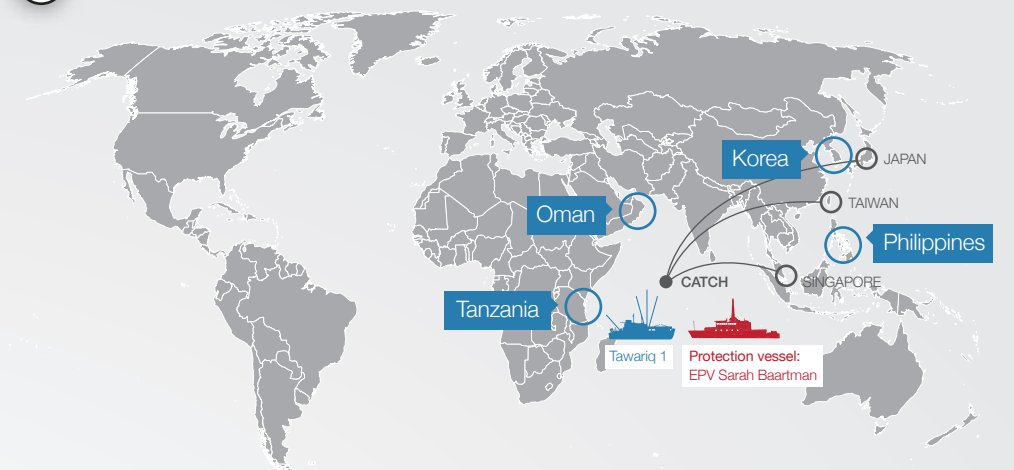
7 LAW.



FishCRIME respects no laws.

Crime affects all areas of illegal operations whether this is flouting hygiene regulations, tax evasion or document forgery.

6 GLOBAL BUSINESS.



These are commercial businesses. They operate transnationally: beyond national boundaries and outside of national jurisdictions.

THE CASE OF THE TAWARIQ 1:

On the 8th of March 2009, the *Tawariq 1* was intercepted 180 nautical miles off the Tanzanian coast, and arrested by a South African Environmental Protection vessel. The vessel had no flag visible or hoisted, the radar was switched off, no license or permit was produced and no port of registry was provided.

Investigations revealed the global nature of this fishing vessel:

At the time of prosecution an Omani company owned it. The vessel had a history of registered owners in Korea and the Philippines. It had been flagged in both Korea and Madagascar. The Captain was Chinese, the agent was Kenyan and the crew were from China, Indonesia, Philippines, Kenya, Taiwan and Vietnam. The catch had been sent to Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. The *Tawariq 1* had transshipped with vessels registered in Oman and Vietnam.

8 CONNECTED AGENCIES.



Connected agencies can crack FishCRIME.

Intercepting criminal networks and prosecuting those in charge necessitates cooperation, both domestically and transnationally, between fisheries experts and the police, customs, tax, port, security and labour authorities to gather and share information and intelligence and bring the criminals to book.

New tools are called for in the fight to combat transnational fisheries crime, and organisations such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime are taking a leading and critical role on this.





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This Symposium will provide both a space and a process for stakeholders to consider issues and options related to illegal fishing, fisheries crime and related crimes. It will bring around the table different African and non-African players and experts including fisheries, police, judiciary, customs, tax, port, security and labour authorities, policy-makers, industry groups, universities, research institutions and civil society to share experiences of and discuss challenges associated with addressing fisheries crime.

Participants will be able to speak and question freely without the constraints of formalised negotiations providing an opportunity to stimulate out-of-the-box thinking and an opportunity to explore thorny or tricky issues.

This approach will help to nurture networking as a basis for future cooperation as well as ensuring that different interests and experiences are heard and considered.

The symposium aims to:

- place transnational fisheries crime on the radar of governments internationally, including across Africa;
- create a network of international and African fisheries crime stakeholders;
- start a dialogue to explore fisheries crime in practice: what it is, its relationship to illegal fishing and general delinquency in the fishery sector and to start to draw out options for strengthening cooperative actions against fisheries crime; and
- map out recommendations on how to better address fisheries crime, based on lessons learnt.

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SYMPOSIUM THEMES

CASES

Illegal fishing and transnational fisheries crime – what are the links and where is the evidence?

Highlighting cases that demonstrate evidence of the links and interactions between various aspects of illegal fishing and transnational crime.

COOPERATION

Fighting transnational fisheries crime – who is doing it and what are they doing?

Considering the various processes and actions underway to fight transnational fisheries crime at international through to national levels. Via reference to existing processes, the aim is to highlight examples of successful processes and also identify the difficulties faced.

CHALLENGES

Prosecuting the criminals – what are the challenges and how do we overcome them?

Focussing on the particular challenges in overcoming transnational fisheries crime through three different lenses – from an operational, legal and political perspective. What hinders cooperation and action and prevents successful prosecutions? What changes are required to remove or reduce these challenges?

CHANGE

Getting organised for change – what else is needed and how can this process contribute?

Drawing together the main ideas developed in the previous sessions with a view to mapping out concrete suggestions for change.

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