

# The use of trade and market information to assess IUU fishing activities



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- TRAFFIC is the world's largest international wildlife trade monitoring organisation
- Broad outcomes from analysis of IUU fishing activities:
  - increased understanding of nature, scope & extent of IUU activity
  - independent verification of extent of a known IUU problem
  - assess the effectiveness of an existing trade / market measure
  - demonstrate that a problem exists that may not have been previously documented or that trade demand is cause of problem
- Main methods: trade data, market surveys & literature research



## Use of Trade & Market information to assess IUU activity

Putting the issues into context

- Fisheries products are the 2nd most valuable wildlife commodity in trade after timber
  - 130.4 million tonnes in 2000
- Export value of US\$55.2 billion in 2000
- Smuggled wildlife is 3rd most valuable illicit product in trade
  - after narcotics & armaments
  - USD6 - 10 billion per annum





## Use of Trade & Market information to assess IUU activity

What useful information can be derived from trade & market analyses?

- **Comparison between estimated catch and level of trade**
  - higher trade volume may indicate IUU catch
  - e.g., Toothfish trade analysis indicated that IUU catch may have been up to 4 times previous estimates
    - prior to the Catch Documentation Scheme being broadly implemented
- **Identify discrepancies between export & import figures for a product that may indicate IUU catch**
  - e.g., reported sea cucumber exports from Ecuador up to 25% below recorded imports of that same product
  - trade recorded in years when fishery was closed



## Use of Trade & Market information to assess IUU activity

What useful information can be derived from trade & market analyses?

- Identify countries engaged in trade in a certain product
  - seek the co-operation of those countries in implementing management measures, particularly any trade-related measures
- Identify routes / avenues for disposal of IUU product
  - e.g., recorded imports of endemic South African abalone from land-locked countries
  - secure co-operation of other States, including importing States
- Evidence of adherence to regulatory measures
  - e.g., presence of undersized swordfish & Atlantic bluefin tuna in major European markets



## Use of Trade & Market information to assess IUU activity

### Main ingredients of robust trade & market analyses

#### Access to data

- 🐟 Data needs to be at a level enabling analysis
  - general lack of species- & product-specific customs codes
- 🐟 Transparency & public availability of information
  - little data available from some major trading countries
- 🐟 Lack of data on domestic trade and consumption

#### Ability to interpret data

- 🐟 Good information on the fishery
  - essential to interpret trade & market data
- 🐟 Understanding the dynamics of IUU activity
  - trade routes & product forms may vary in short-term
- 🐟 Knowledge of perverse incentives
  - all illegal trade is not ‘IUU’



- Adoption of species- & product-specific customs codes
  - highest priority for action should be those fisheries currently under most pressure from IUU fishing
- Greater transparency required in national trade data & that collected under RFO schemes
- Increased awareness of trade dynamics by fisheries management agencies
  - especially where IUU is considered to be a threat
- Increased engagement by legitimate industry in contributing to trade & market analyses



## Use of Trade & Market information to assess IUU activity

### Issues for further consideration

- Increased engagement by RFOs and government in global trade issues
- Consider potential synergies with the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Fauna (CITES)
- Recognise limitations of trade & market analyses
  - only provides data on species valued in trade
  - will not show where catch was taken
  - can not identify IUU-caught fish unless analysed in conjunction with other information



- 🐟 Fisheries products are the second most valuable wildlife commodity in international trade
- 🐟 Trade & market analyses are potentially powerful tools to assess IUU fishing activities
  - and so assist in combating IUU fishing
- 🐟 The potential for trade & market information to contribute to efforts to combat IUU fishing can be further strengthened



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