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



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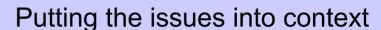




The TRAFFIC Network

- 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





- Fisheries products are the 2nd most valuable wildlife commodity in trade after timber
 - 130.4 million tonnes in 2000
- Export value of US55.2 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





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 domestictrade 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 formsmay vary in short-term
- Knowledge of perverse incentives
 - all illegal trade is not 'IUU'





Issues for further consideration

- 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





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



Conclusions

- 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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