



How IUU Fishing impacts small-scale fishers' lives

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Mundus maris

Sciences and Arts for Sustainability asbl



What is IUU fishing?

- Fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of a state without permission or in violation of applicable laws
- Fishing conducted by vessels flying the flag of states that are parties to a relevant regional fisheries management organisation, but are operating in contravention of its conservation and management measures
- Fishing that has been unreported or misreported to the relevant national authority or regional authorities, in contravention of applicable laws
- Fishing conducted by vessels without nationality, flying the flag of a state not party to the regional organisation governing the relevant fishing area or species, or fishing on stocks with no applicable conservation or management measures in place



Method underlying the IUU fishing index

The IUU Fishing Index comprises a suite of 40 indicators, with each indicator related to both a 'responsibility' and a 'type'.

Coastal responsibilities relate to a state's management of its exclusive economic zone.

Flag responsibilities are things states should do to manage vessels they flag.

Port responsibilities relate to control of fishing activity in ports.

'General' indicators are those not specific to coastal, flag or port state responsibilities.

Types of indicators relate to vulnerability – the risk of exposure to IUU fishing, prevalence – known or suspected IUU fishing, and response – actions by a state to reduce IUU fishing.

Data for the indicators are derived from both secondary sources and expert opinion.



IUU fishing index for Nigeria

Coastal: Vulnerability 3.17
Prevalence 3.2
Response 1.0

Flag: Vulnerability 1.0
Prevalence 2.0
Response 3.0

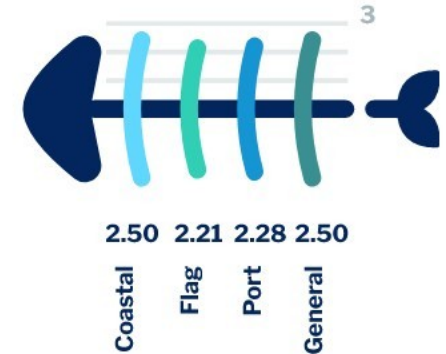
Port: Vulnerability 4.0
Prevalence 1.5
Response 2.5

General: Vulnerability 3.22
Prevalence 2.29
Response 2.14

Nigeria

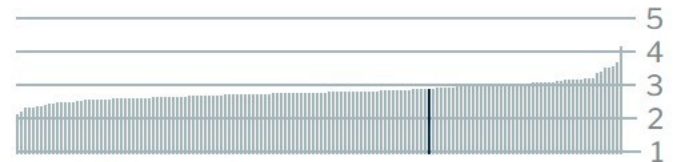
Country scores for responsibilities

IUU score
2.39



World ranking

World overall IUU score is 2.29



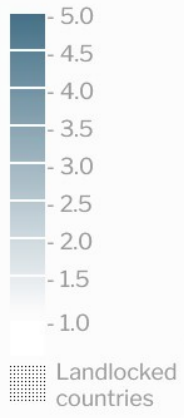
49 of 152 countries



Global IUU Score Map

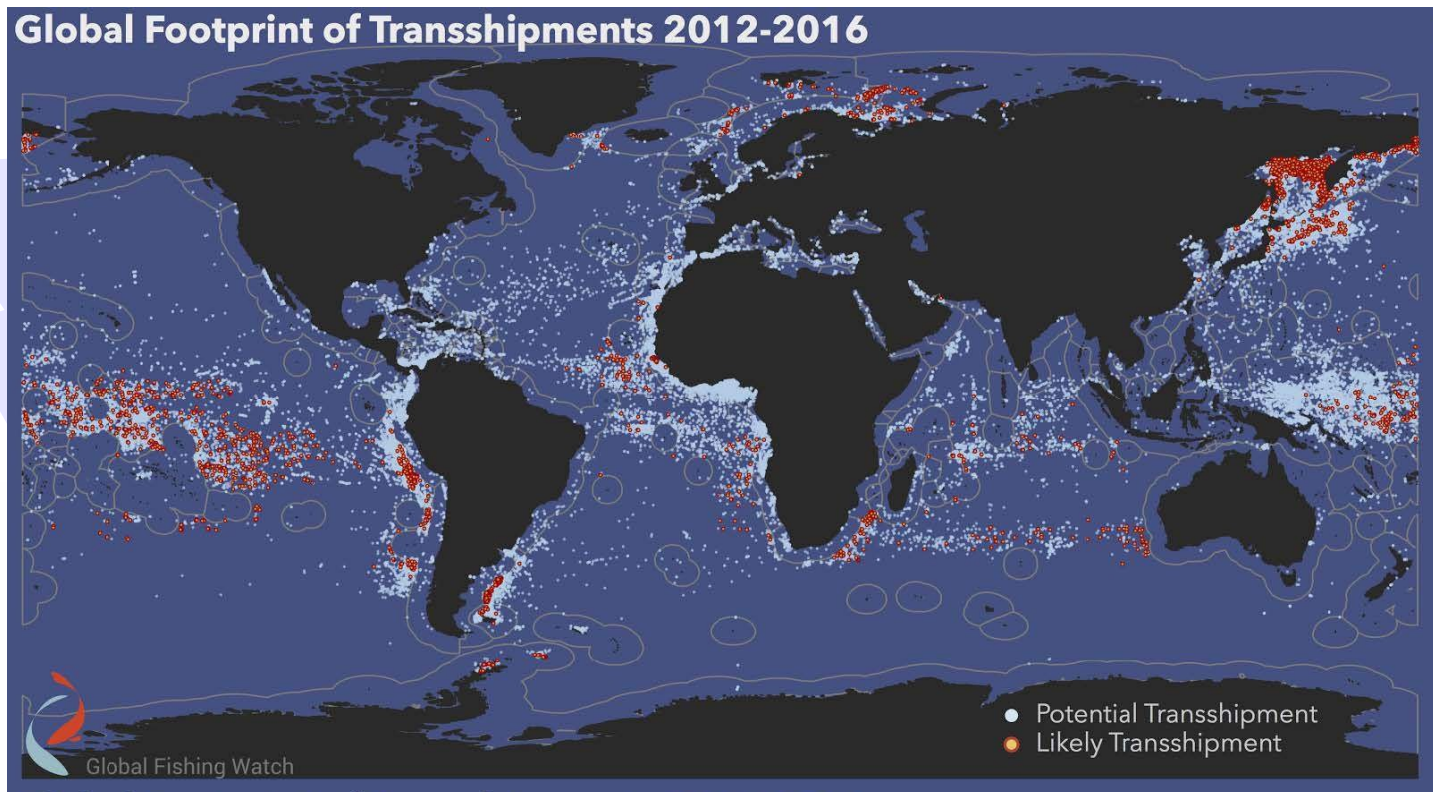
2.29

World overall
IUU Score





Dubious or criminal practices...



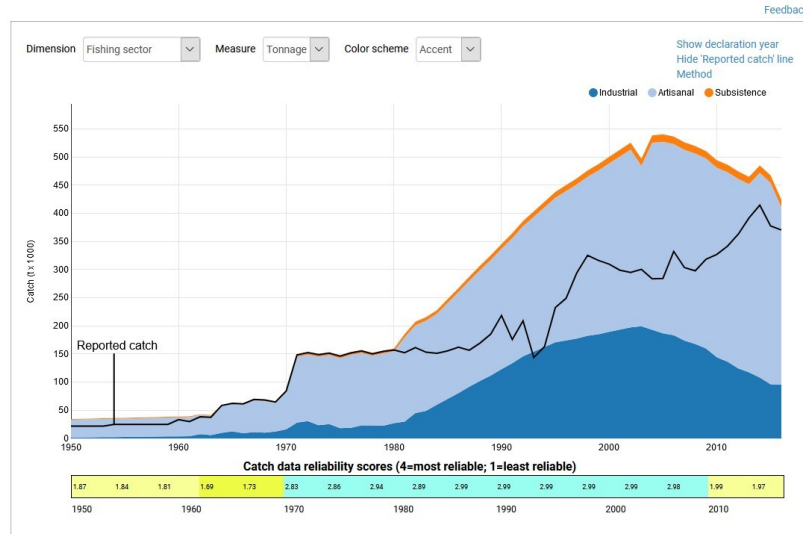
New observation methods facilitate searching dubious or criminal practices – e.g. transshipment at sea, prohibited in many countries, often associated with fiscal fraud, IUU fishing, human trafficking etc. (courtesy: Global Fishing Watch)



Reconstructions by SAU

Catches by Fishing sector in the waters of Nigeria

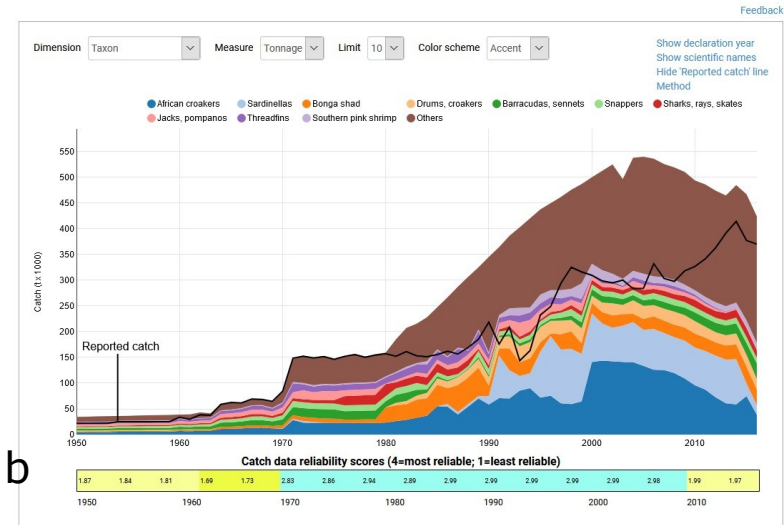
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a

Catches by Taxon in the waters of Nigeria

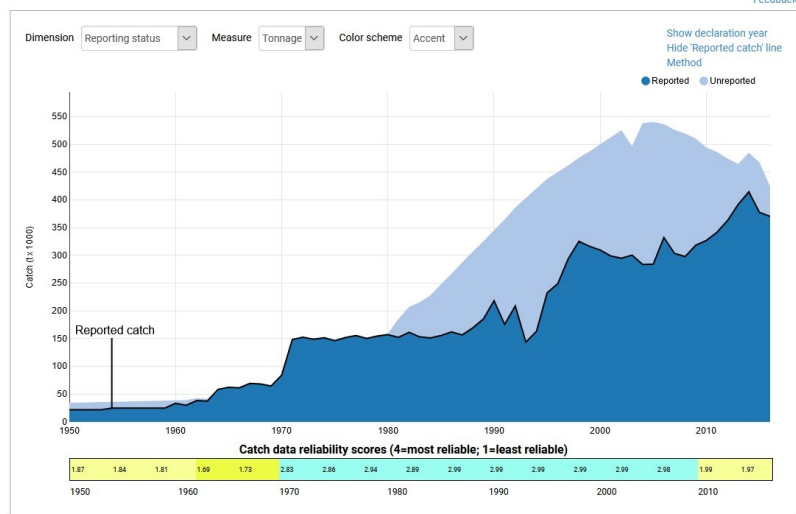
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b

Catches by Reporting status in the waters of Nigeria

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c

a. Artisanal catches dominated marine landings, but all started declining in the new millennium.

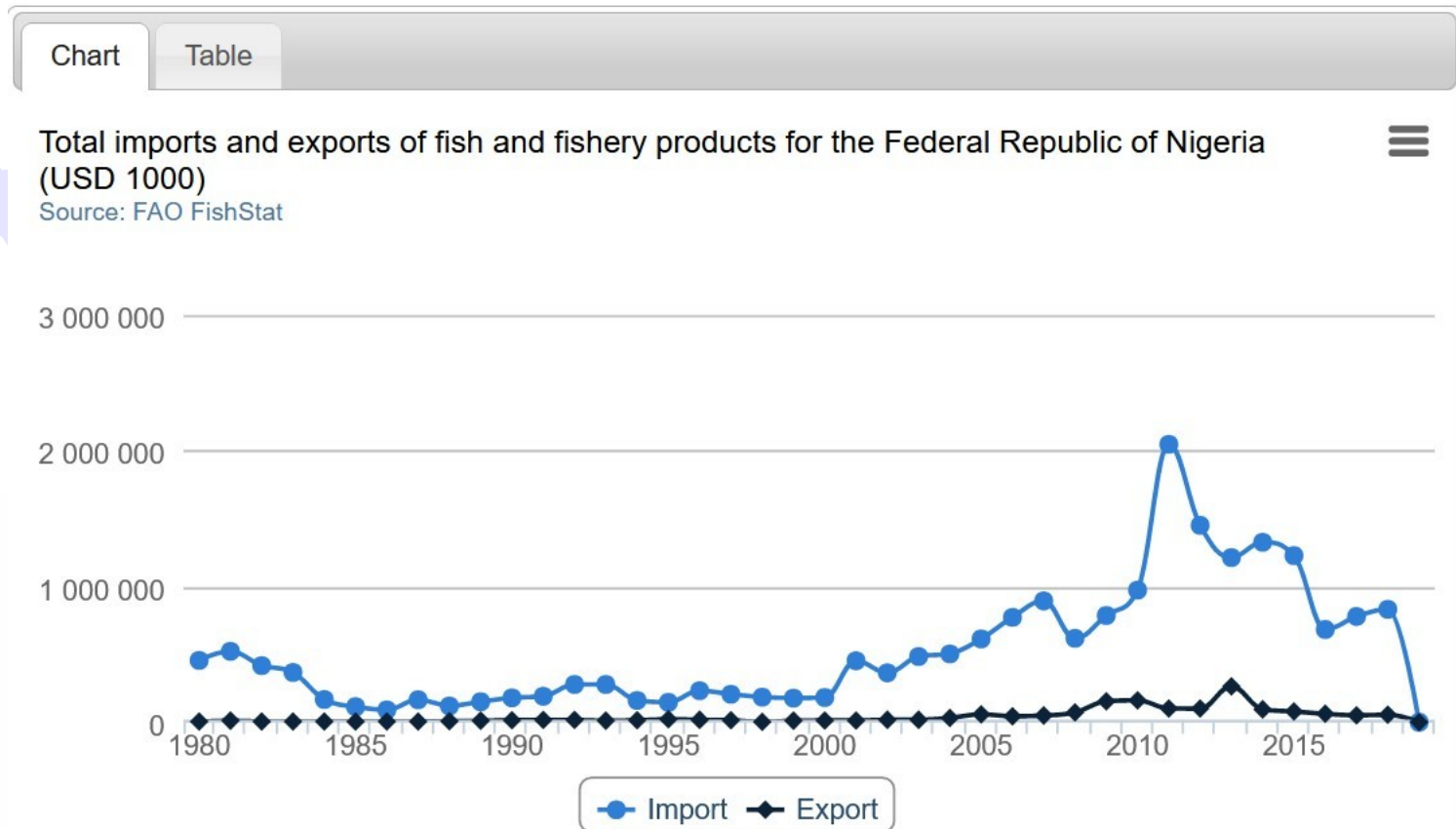
b. Small pelagics down from overfishing, squeeze for traditional women fish processors

c. Under-reporting of domestic catches was high, but became less important after 2010.

Source: Sea Around Us in cooperation with Nigerian researchers



Availability of fisheries products



Imports partially compensated for lower domestic marine catches.

In 2015, the total fisheries production was estimated at 1 027 000 tonnes, to which marine catches contributed 36%, inland waters catches contributed 33% and aquaculture 31% (Source: FAO).



Employment in the SSF value chain

Table 2 – Fisheries statistics – Federal Republic of Nigeria

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014	2015	2016
EMPLOYMENT (thousands)	469.07	490.00	1177.31	1519.64	1477.65	1565.36	1190.50
Aquaculture	...	...	...	0.01	...	...	...
Capture	469.07	490.00	1177.31	1519.63	1477.65	1565.36	1190.50
<i>Inland</i>	...	...	716.62	831.54	713.04	782.75	652.60
<i>Marine</i>	469.07	490.00	460.69	688.08	764.62	782.61	537.90
FLEET (thousands boats)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Source: FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics							
1) Due to roundings total may not sum up							

Fishing is a major source of livelihood. In 2014, 713 000 were reported as engaged in inland fisheries with 21% of this total women. 15% of the total 764 600 people engaged in other fisheries were women in 2014. Women are dominant in postharvest activities. Most of the value generated was from small-scale fishing operations.



Tales of multiple challenges (1)

On the marine side, small-scale fishers mostly work in the coastal lagoons and coastal marine areas, where they face competition of industrial vessels, including foreign ones, which operate freely for lack of effective monitoring, control and surveillance by the coast guard.

Widespread overfishing leads to declining catches and triggers more migration, change of species composition, e.g. more crustaceans than fish, loss of gear, even lives as some venture further afield to feed their families, kids dropping out of school.



(Photo courtesy SIPANEWS)



Tales of multiple challenges (2)

The challenges at least largely provoked by IUU fishing, including loss of fishing livelihoods are compounded by others, e.g.

- disturbance / destruction of fishing grounds and settlements from port construction and urbanisation by expansion of Lagos
- extirpation of local fish species and introduction of alien species into fisher-managed net cages for grow out and sale (high demand particularly in Lagos State, positive effects on nutrition security & education

(Photo courtesy SIPANEWS)





Tales of multiple challenges (3)

- imports of small pelagics keep at least some traditional processing and marketing channels of women going, but is in short supply.

- Makoko women in the outskirts of Lagos have thus turned to catfish farming which is in high demand. That feeds their families and keeps the kids in school.

Downside: catfish is carnivorous.



(Photo courtesy SIPANEWS)



Tales of multiple challenges (4)

Turning food grade small pelagic fish into fishmeal and oil for animal and aquafeed is a huge problem all over West Africa. It is often associated with IUU fishing by foreign industrial vessels, at the expense of livelihoods of small-scale fishers, men and women. Here, the case of cat fish feed by Israeli Raanan Fish Feed Company with a subsidiary in Ghana.



(Photo courtesy SIPANEWS)



Mundus maris highlights (1)

What are features to look out for in relation to IUU fishing?

- IUU fishing starts in ports with shipping agents, corruption, ...
- busy port, easy to hide illicit landings
- atmosphere of lax rule enforcement
- offshore reefer activities
- weak monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of EEZ

What are key effects of IUU fishing?

- illicit gains stoking corruption, fiscal fraud, human rights abuses,
- overfishing, poor data for resource assessments & investments,
- direct competition for men and women in SSF value chains, threats to their livelihoods, risk of unsustainable coping strategies



Mundus maris highlights (2)

So, what future do we want? Our answers:

- recover the lost productivity of marine and coastal ecosystems,
- collaborate to stop harmful subsidies in the WTO (China, EU, US, Korea, Japan = top 5) for a level playing field in Africa as many long-distance (IUU) fleets are uneconomical without subsidies
- invest in management and MCS to enable prosperous small-scale fisheries creating jobs and providing people with different purchasing power
- implement the SSF Guidelines and SDGs
- invest in women and men through an SSF academy that empowers them to improve their wellbeing and strengthens their capacity for collective action.





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Thanks for your attention

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