

Organized Crimes and Impacts Associated with IUU Fishing

Drug Trafficking

Smuggling cocaine loads in artisanal fishing vessels, often with the help of satellite-tracked buoys known as "fish aggregating devices" (FADs).

Wildlife Trafficking

Bringing intentionally caught protected marine wildlife into port, such as shark fin, sea cucumber or fish maw.

Fuel Smuggling

Fishers running and selling gasoline, which is often state subsidized, to domestic or foreign fishing vessels at sea.

Human Trafficking

Operating with underpaid or unpaid foreign workers whose labor rights are systematically abused.

Fraud

Underreporting catch to evade taxes, illegitimately obtaining a permit, using transshipment to launder illegally caught fish.

Illegal Fishing

Using banned gear, surpassing catch quotas, 'high-grading', fishing in prohibited areas or targeting undersized or protected species.



NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Economic
Loss in tax revenue (for exports, licensing, ports), undercutting of legal prices, likely reduction in future catch profits.

Political
Reduced trust in government, and public dissatisfaction with the influence of special interests, including both domestic and foreign industrial fishing fleets.

Environmental

Damage or destruction of marine habitats, fall in species numbers, fall in species' reproductive rates, plastic pollution through the discarding of nets.

Social

Food insecurity within coastal communities, unemployment or forced turn to illegal activities for fishers and ensuing labor migration.

