

Unregulated Fishing as a Threat for a Viable Ocean Economy

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21 September 2022 – Despina Symons



Presentation outline

- ▷ Challenges in fisheries resulting from lack/poor of sustainable management
- ▷ IUU fishing
- ▷ Overfishing
- ▷ Other challenges in fisheries
- ▷ Focus on the Mediterranean Sea

Sustainable fisheries key enabler for a Viable Ocean Economy

- IUU fishing
- Overfishing

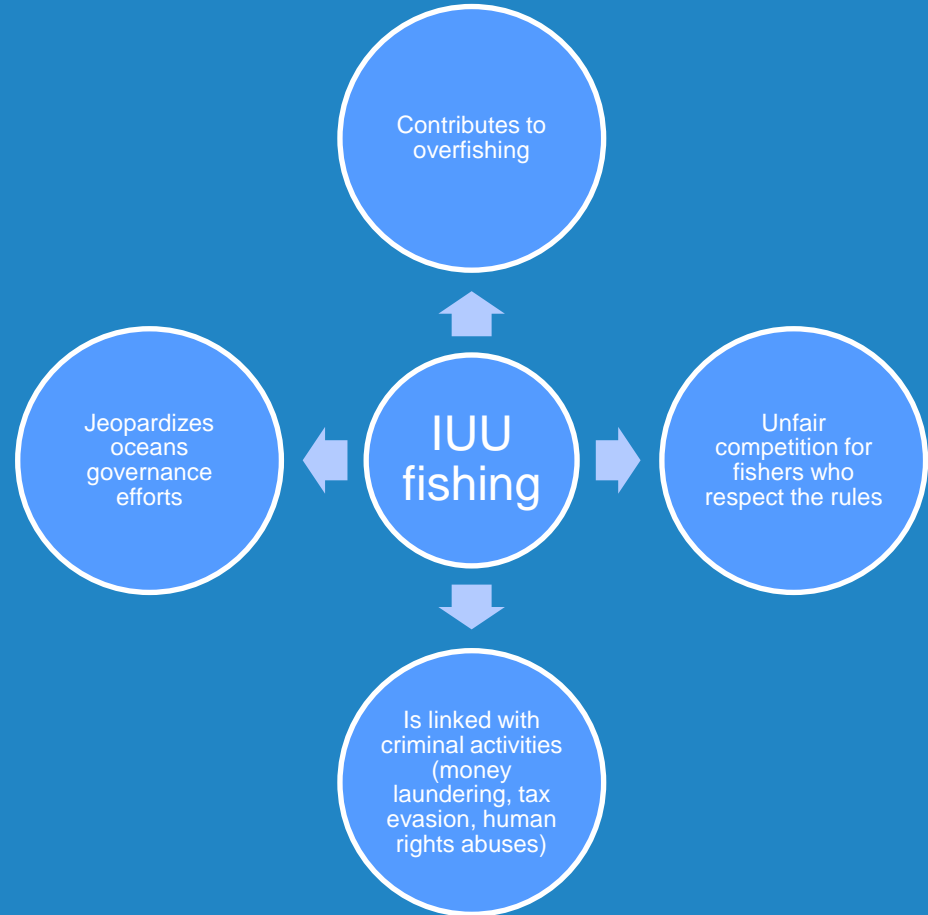
Common challenge: lack of enforcement and implementation

IUU fishing

- **Illegal:** the vessel has no authorization to operate in the area or operates against conservation and management measures by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) or operates against national laws or international obligations.
- **Unreported:** the activity has not been reported or has been misreported or the reporting contravenes international RFMO, or national laws and regulation.
- **Unregulated:** the vessel has no nationality and is subject to no rules or regulation.

Why is IUU fishing a threat for a Viable Ocean Economy?

Increasing political attention:
It has become the main focus
of global and regional policies
(FAO, EU...)



Overfishing

- Removing fish from a stock at a rate that does not allow the fish population to replenish that results in a stock to decrease.
- Lack or poor sustainable management and policies are primarily responsible for overfishing.
- Enforcement and implementation of existing policy instruments remains an obstacle

Why is overfishing a threat for a Viable Ocean Economy?

FAO SOFIA Report: Some regional progress, but overall an ever-lasting problem



Other challenges in fisheries

- Climate change → ocean acidification, temperatures increase, sea level rise, invasive species, etc.
- Pollution → plastic, chemical, inland activities have consequences on the state of the fish stocks.
- Invasive alien species → enter into competition with native species affecting the whole ecosystem
- Policy coherence: environmental, development, tourism and other relevant policies

Focus on the Mediterranean Sea

- **Overfishing:** the Mediterranean and the Black Sea were in 2019 the world's second most overfished fishing area: only **36.7%** of the assessed stocks in the area were fished within biologically sustainable levels.
- **IUU fishing** is partly responsible for this situation and hinders efforts made by the fishers who comply with the rules.
- Illegal fishing reported in 11 Mediterranean countries (WWF Report)
- It is particularly difficult to tackle IUU fishing and other issues in the Mediterranean Sea as it is **shared between the EU and third countries** that have different rules.
- **FAO PSMA:** Several Mediterranean countries have not yet ratified the Port States Measures Agreement.
- ➔ **GFCM:** Regional Fisheries Organisations is a key organisation for fisheries management in the Mediterranean.

Thank you!

