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IUU Fishing in the Southern Ocean Infographic

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ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED & UNREGULATED FISHING

IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

IUU FISHING

ILLEGAL: fishing activities operating in violation of laws applicable to the vessel & its flag state (the country of registration).

UNREPORTED: fishing with/without a licence, and not reporting to authorities, frustrating efforts at sustainable fishing.

UNREGULATED: fishing without heed to the regional management rules.

7000

At the peak of IUU fishing in the Southern Ocean, almost 7000 seabirds were killed per season by long lines.



TARGET SPECIES

PATAGONIAN & ANTARCTIC TOOTHFISH

Toothfish, the target IUU species, grow to over 2m, typically live for over 10 years & are slow to mature & reproduce.



In 1997, 90 IUU vessels were known to be operating in the remote waters of the Southern Ocean.

90

30,000

tonnes of toothfish were caught by IUU vessels at the peak of IUU fishing in 1997.

THE HIGH SEAS

Below the Antarctic Convergence Zone, parties to CCAMLR are bound by its rules. For vessels that are flagged to non-party countries, the UN Convention on Law of the Sea requires these vessels to fish responsibly & cooperate with the regional authority.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

Below 60 degrees South, Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty puts on hold the territorial claims of countries. Therefore, the seas become the high seas, despite their vicinity to the coast, for the life of the Treaty.

EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMS

A country is able to submit a report to the UN's Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in order to have sovereignty over the natural resources of the seabed. It does not apply to fisheries.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES

These areas fall under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. 200nm from a country's coast is for the exclusive use & control of that nation. Fishing within the EEZ without a country's authority is illegal fishing.

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

Flags of Convenience refers to a vessel that flags itself to a country that does not control its vessels well. This means IUU fishing vessels can avoid much of the regulation faced by vessels flagged by responsible (or capable) fishing nations.

The border of CCAMLR is the Antarctic Convergence Zone to the coast of the Antarctic continent.

ANTARCTIC CONVERGENCE ZONE



CCAMLR AREA

THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES CAME INTO FORCE ON THE 7 APRIL 1982

CCAMLR MEMBERS & ACCEDING PARTIES



COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES: HOBART, AUSTRALIA. The Commission was established to conserve the marine resources of the Southern Ocean.

CCAMLR MEASURES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

a brief summary!

Increased patrols & surveillance cooperation between CCAMLR parties. This includes joint patrols between France & Australia.

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS

SURVEILLANCE



The CDS ensures legally caught toothfish are traceable throughout the trade system. Those without the CDS are usually caught outside of the auspices of CCAMLR, and therefore outside the carefully controlled fishery.

Black-listing IUU vessels in order to gather further intelligence on their re-flagging & renaming actions.

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION



Working with INTERPOL to alert cooperating authorities of IUU fishing activities. This has led to Purple Notices being issued for several vessels.

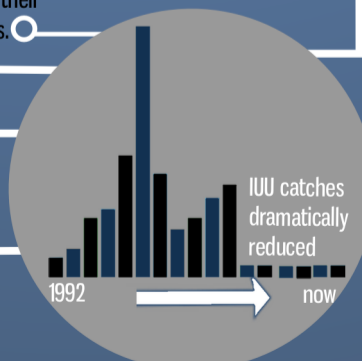
RESEARCH

Increased & ongoing research into preventing bycatch & more sustainable fishing practices.



PORT STATE CAPACITY

Ensuring that ports where IUU vessels most easily land their catches are ready & able to refuse entry or identify illicit catches. This includes education & provision of assistance.



THE FUTURE...

IUU fishing is still a problem in the Southern Ocean. However, with broader international movements & consumer awareness towards closing the net around IUU fishing operations, CCAMLR's already notable efforts will likely stamp out this insidious practice completely.

For more information, see the following publications & websites:

- Watson, R et al. 'Primary Productivity Demands of Global Fishing Fleets' Fish and Fisheries 15(2) 2014 pp 231-241
- Constable, A et al 'Managing fisheries to conserve the Antarctic marine ecosystem: practical implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)' ICES Journal of Marine Science 57(3) 2000 pp 778-791
- Agnew, DJ 'The illegal and unregulated fishery for toothfish in the Southern Ocean, and the CCAMLR catch documentation scheme' Marine Policy 24(5) 2000 pp 361-374
- CCAMLR website: www.ccamlr.org
- Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators: www.colto.org

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