



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Fishing Global and Regional Processes Team
Fisheries Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Session 8.3 – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

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Introduction and Overview

What is IUU fishing?



Upstream and downstream impacts of IUU fishing



What market-related tools fight IUU fishing and what are the implications for trade?

Introduction and Overview



What is IUU Fishing?

Upstream and downstream impacts of IUU Fishing

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Definition of IUU Fishing

- International attention became focused at FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 1999
- Produced and adopted an International Plan of Action – IUU in 2001 which contains a definition

IUU Fishing:

Illegal

Unreported

Unregulated

Illegal Fishing

IUU Fishing:

Illegal

Unreported

Unregulated

- Fishing activities conducted without permission or in contravention of:
 - National laws and regulations
 - International law and obligations
 - Conservation and management measures of an RFMO

Unreported Fishing

IUU Fishing:

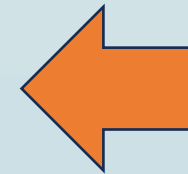
Illegal

Unreported

Unregulated

- Fishing activities which have not been reported or misreported (in contravention of laws/regulations/procedures) to:

- The relevant national authority
- The relevant RFMOs



Unregulated Fishing

IUU Fishing:

Illegal

Unreported

Unregulated

- Fishing activities undertaken:
 - On the high seas, by vessels which are stateless, or whose flag is outside RFMO structure (or otherwise not compliant)
 - In national waters, but contrary to international law and not regulated by the State

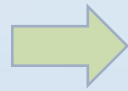
Opinions on the Importance of IUU Fishing

(Questions 1-3)

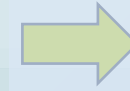


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Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing

David J. Agnew^{1*}, John Pearce², Ganapathiraju Pramod³, Tom Peatman², Reg Watson³, John R. Beddington^{1,4}, Tony J. Pitcher³

¹ Division of Biology, Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom, ²IMRAG Ltd, London, United Kingdom, ³Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, ⁴United Kingdom Government Office for Science, London, United Kingdom

Abstract

Illegal and unreported fishing contributes to overexploitation of fish stocks and is a hindrance to the recovery of fish populations and ecosystems. This study is the first to undertake a world-wide analysis of illegal and unreported fishing. Reviewing the situation in 54 countries and on the high seas, we estimate that lower and upper estimates of the total value of current illegal and unreported fishing losses worldwide are between \$10 bn and \$23.5 bn annually, representing between 11 and 26 million tonnes. Our data are of sufficient resolution to detect regional differences in the level and trend of illegal fishing over the last 20 years, and we can report a significant correlation between governance and the level of illegal fishing. Developing countries are most at risk from illegal fishing, with total estimated catches in West Africa being 40% higher than reported catches. Such levels of exploitation severely hamper the sustainable management of marine ecosystems. Although there have been some successes in reducing the level of illegal fishing in some areas, these developments are relatively recent and follow growing international focus on the problem. This paper provides the baseline against which successful action to curb illegal fishing can be judged.

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ARTICLE

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Catch reconstructions reveal that global marine fisheries catches are higher than reported and declining

David Pauly¹ & Dirk Zeller¹

Fisheries data assembled by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) suggest that global marine fisheries catches increased to 86 million tonnes in 1996, then slightly declined. Here, using a decade-long multinational 'catch reconstruction' project covering the Exclusive Economic Zones of the world's maritime countries and the High Seas from 1950 to 2010, and accounting for all fisheries, we identify catch trajectories, differing considerably from the national data submitted to the FAO. We suggest that catch actually peaked at 130 million tonnes, and has been declining much more strongly since. This decline in reconstructed catches reflects declines in industrial catches and to a smaller extent declining discards, despite industrial fishing having expanded from industrialized countries to the waters of developing countries. The differing trajectories documented here suggest a need for improved monitoring of all fisheries, including often neglected small-scale fisheries, and illegal and other problematic fisheries, as well as discarded bycatch.

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

Illicit trade in marine fish catch and its effects on ecosystems and people worldwide

U. R. Sumaila^{1*}, D. Zeller², L. Hood², M. L. D. Palomares², Y. Li³, D. Pauly¹

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is widespread; it is therefore likely that illicit trade in marine fish catch is also common worldwide. We combine ecological-economic databases to estimate the magnitude of illicit trade in marine fish catch and its impacts on people. Globally, between 8 and 14 million metric tons of unreported catches are potentially traded illicitly yearly, suggesting gross revenues of US\$9 to US\$17 billion associated with these catches. Estimated loss in annual economic impact due to the diversion of fish from the legitimate trade system is US\$26 to US\$50 billion, while losses to countries' tax revenues are between US\$2 and US\$4 billion. Country-by-country estimates of these losses are provided in the Supplementary Materials. We find substantial likely economic effects of illicit trade in marine fish catch, suggesting that bold policies and actions by both public and private actors are needed to curb this illicit trade.

INTRODUCTION

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) (1) fishing is global in nature, but more widespread in certain regions (2–3). This implies that IUU fishing is an important negative driver that needs to be tackled by both the global community and individual countries if we wish to secure sustainable and inclusive benefits from renewable marine resources (4). In the absence of truly effective national, regional, and international institutions, policies, and actions, and in the presence of international noncooperation, IUU fishing is undermining the ability of coastal countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations that the world has agreed upon (5). IUU fishing has the potential to exacerbate the detrimental effects (6) and losses that global illicit trade in marine catch has on individuals, societies, and governments, as well as nature. The Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum defines illicit trade as trade that “involves money, goods or value gained from illegal and generally unethical activity. It encompasses a wide

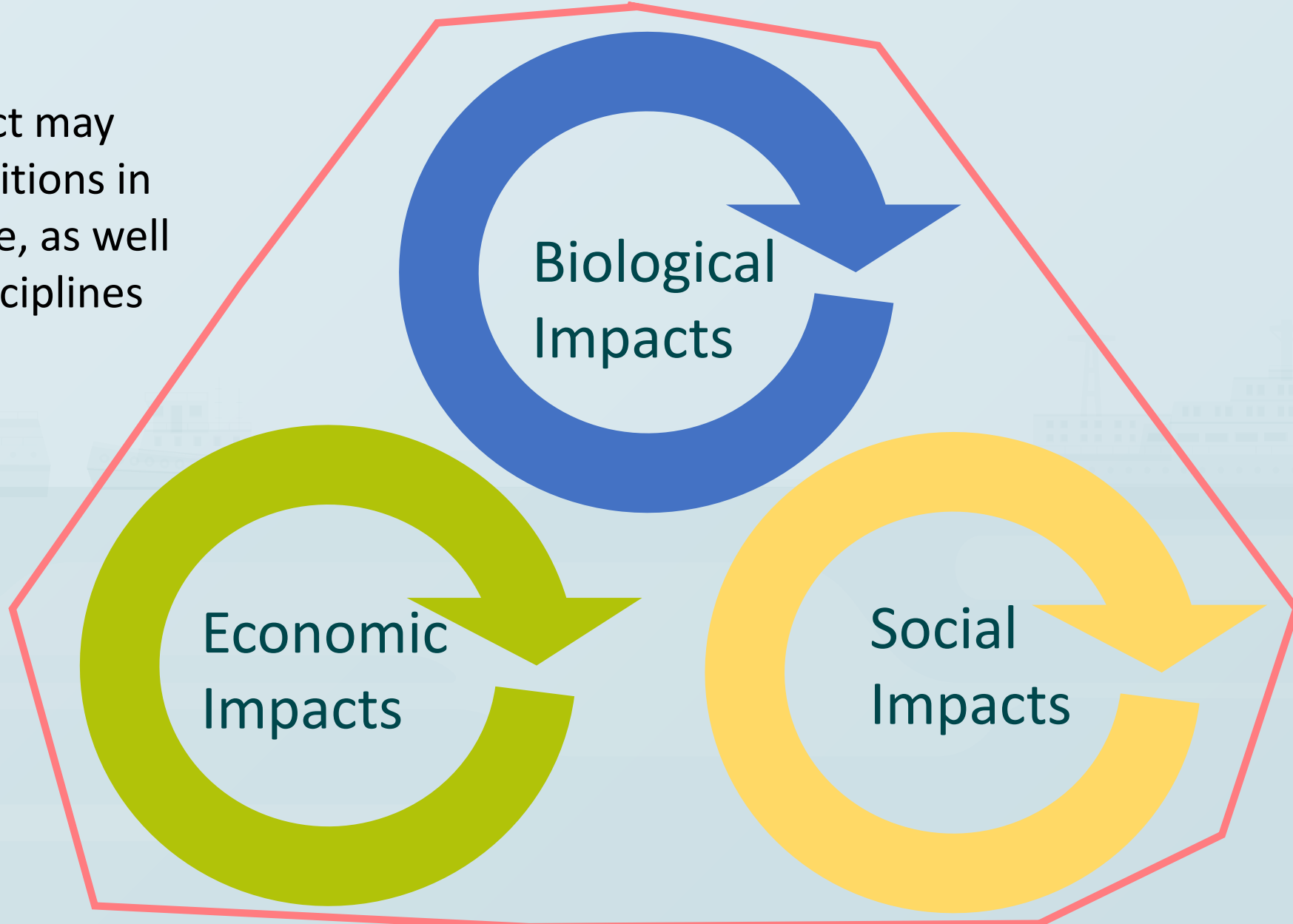
transshipments, which involves offloading catches from multiple fishing boats onto large freezer and processing ships at sea. This makes proper and transparent accounting of the origin and legality of catches very difficult or even impossible to achieve. For example, transshipment activities account for about 10% of fish exported from West African waters, and about 35 transshipment vessels were seen in West African waters in 2013 (2). Most of these were likely operating under flags of convenience (7), making accountability and transparency even more challenging. The second practice that enables illicit trade in seafood relates to how fish is transported for exports (3). It is estimated that about 84% of fish exported out of West Africa are transported in large refrigerated containers that are generally subjected to far less stringent reporting and inspection requirements (8). A third mechanism for illicit trade, in addition to the two mentioned above, is transport of illegally caught seafood in local and regional markets to satisfy domestic demand in countries that are export-dominated. These three pathways are direct conduits

Dimensions of IUU Fishing

- First estimates focused on the period 2000-2003 and included illegal and unreported fishing only
- Although estimates are highly uncertain they suggest tens of million tonnes of catch and tens of billion USD of revenue are lost to IUU fishing each year (seafood industry worth 135 billion USD)
- A more recent study found that diversion of I&U catches from the market reduced gross revenues by USD 9-17 billion with additional losses of USD 34-67 billion due to secondary economic impacts

IUU Fishing impacts are more than just fish

Each impact may worsen conditions in each discipline, as well as across disciplines



Consequences of IUU Fishing From an Economic Perspective

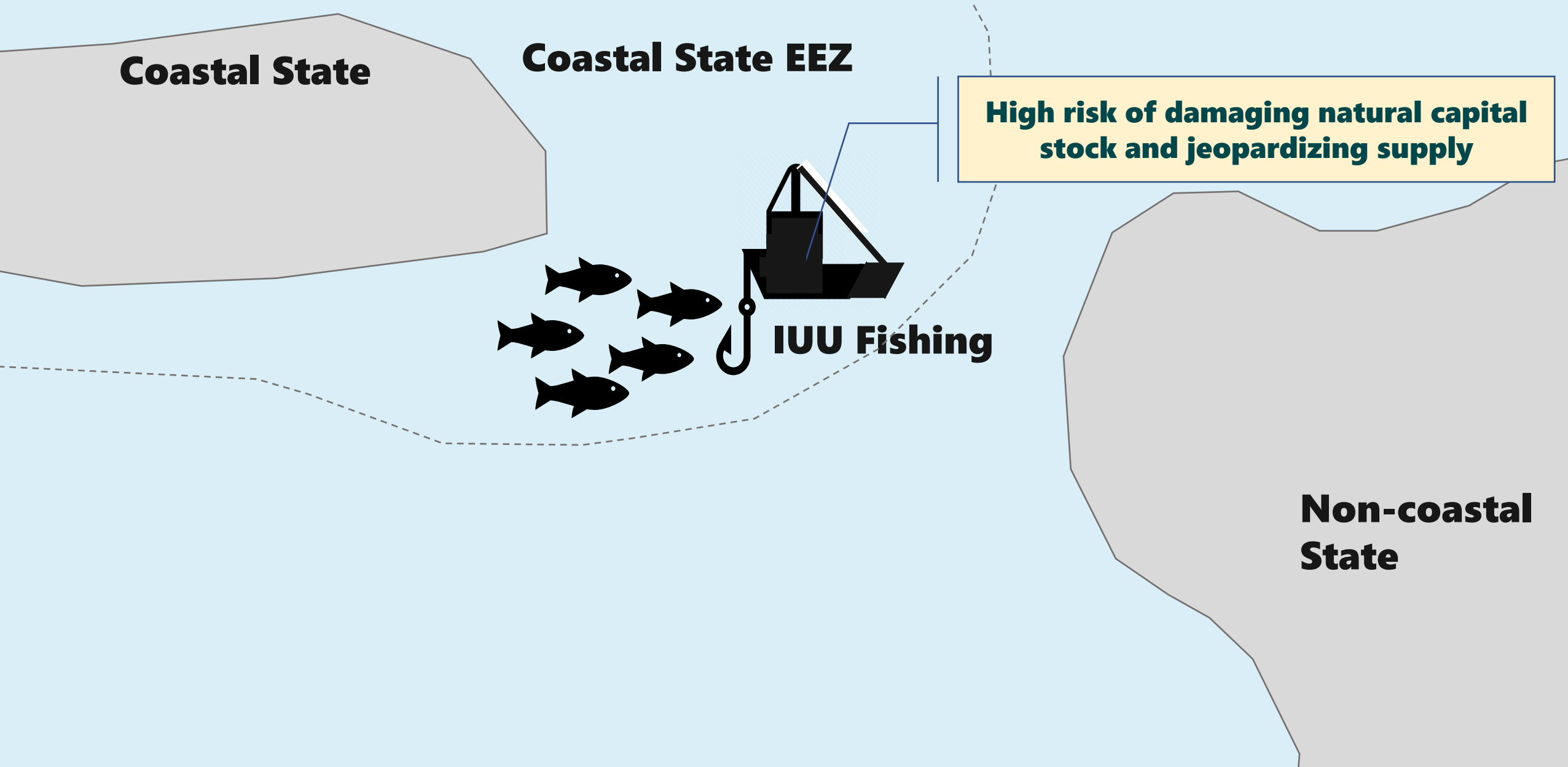
Damage to Natural Capital Stock

- IUU fishing outside the legitimate fisheries management system, “borrows” from the natural asset, reducing yields
- Higher risk to food security in the long-term (returns fall below a minimum level)
- Higher risk of ecosystem degradation (system collapse)

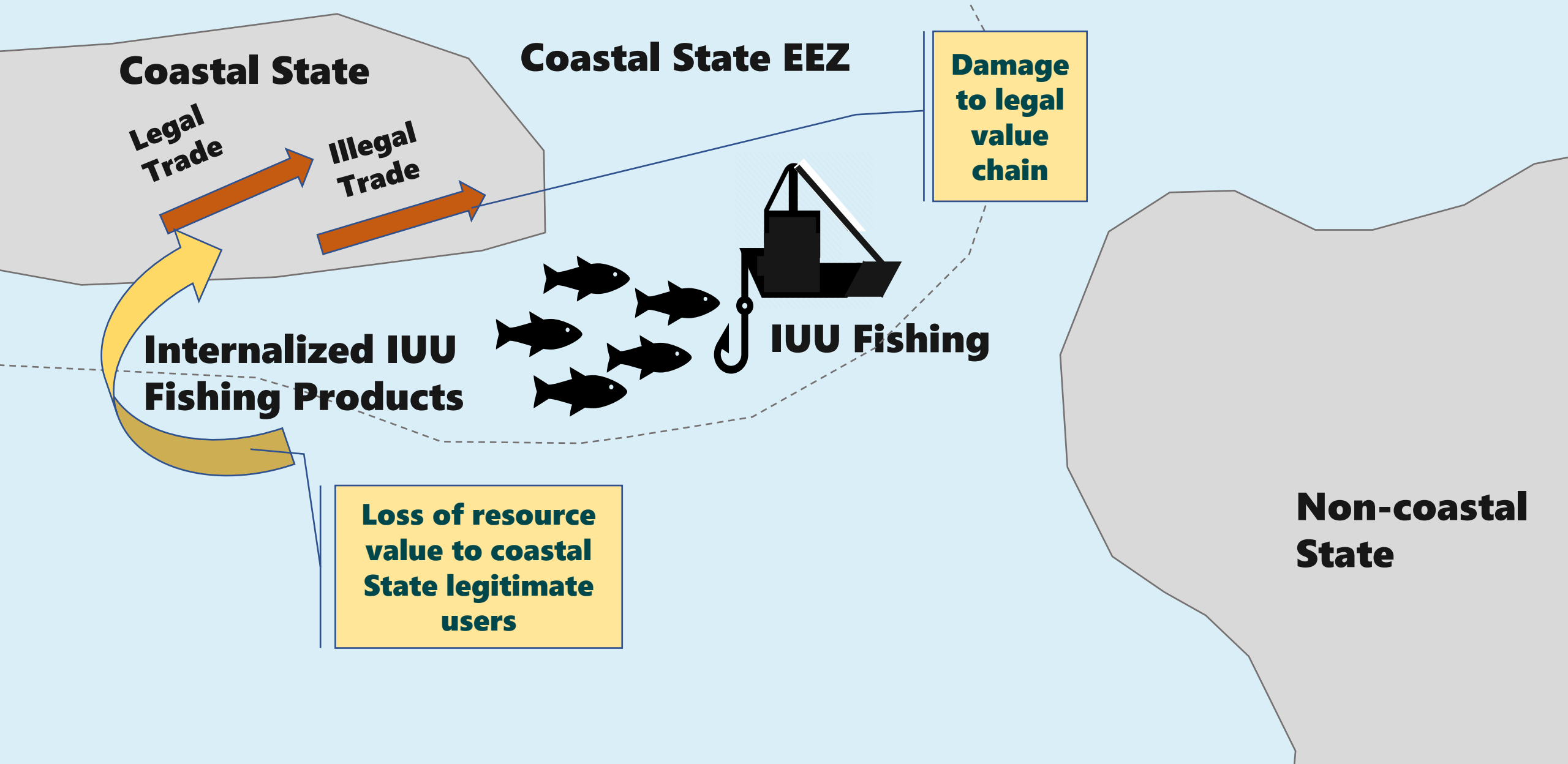
Damage to the Value Chain

- Losses to direct and indirect actors in the value chain (processing, storage, transport, sales)
- Disruption to food supplies (competition, inefficiency)
- Potential to bypass food safety systems

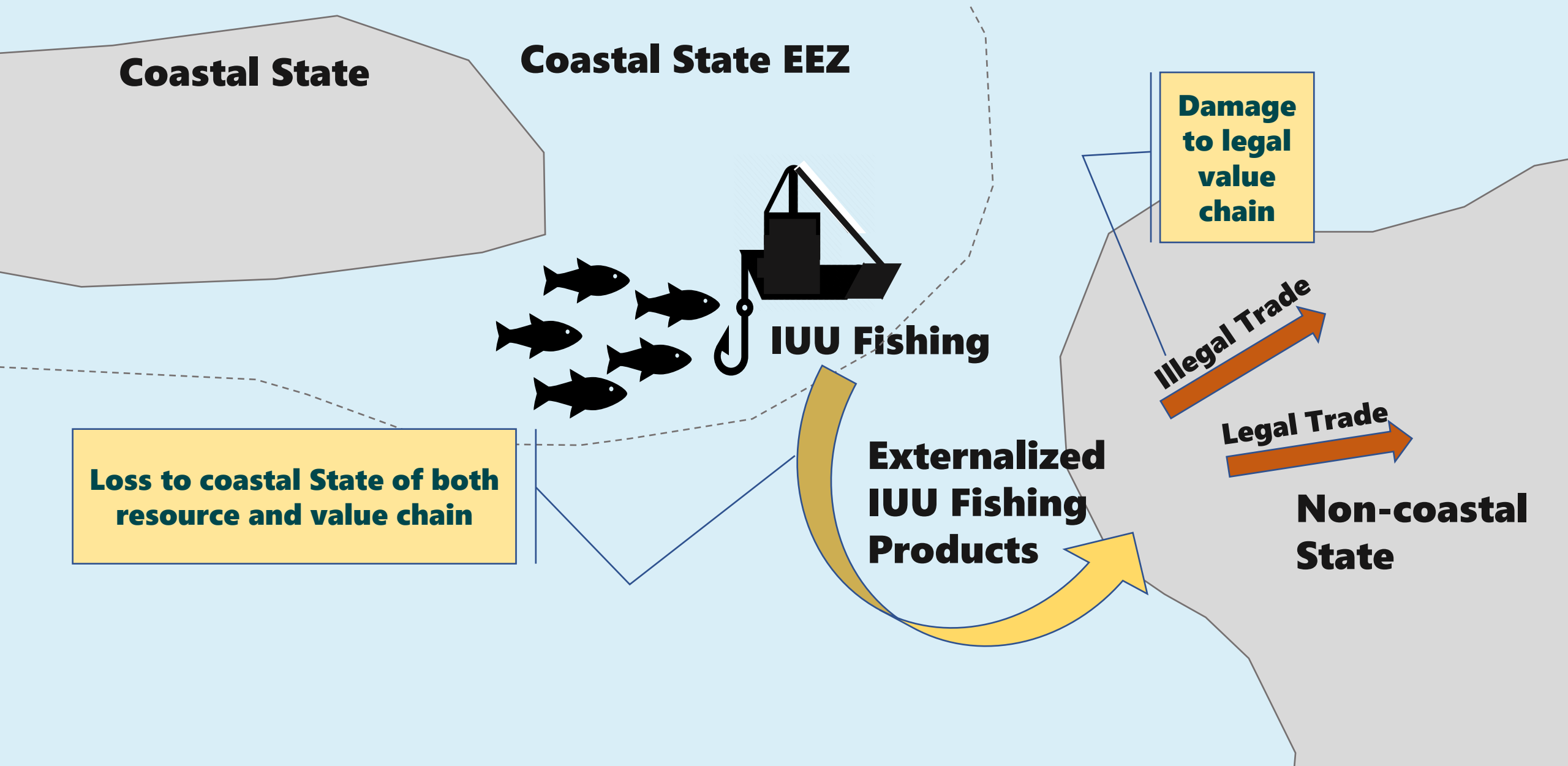
Economic Consequences of IUU Fishing



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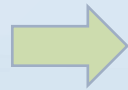


Concerns about the consequences of IUU Fishing (Question 4)

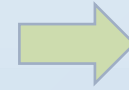


Introduction and Overview

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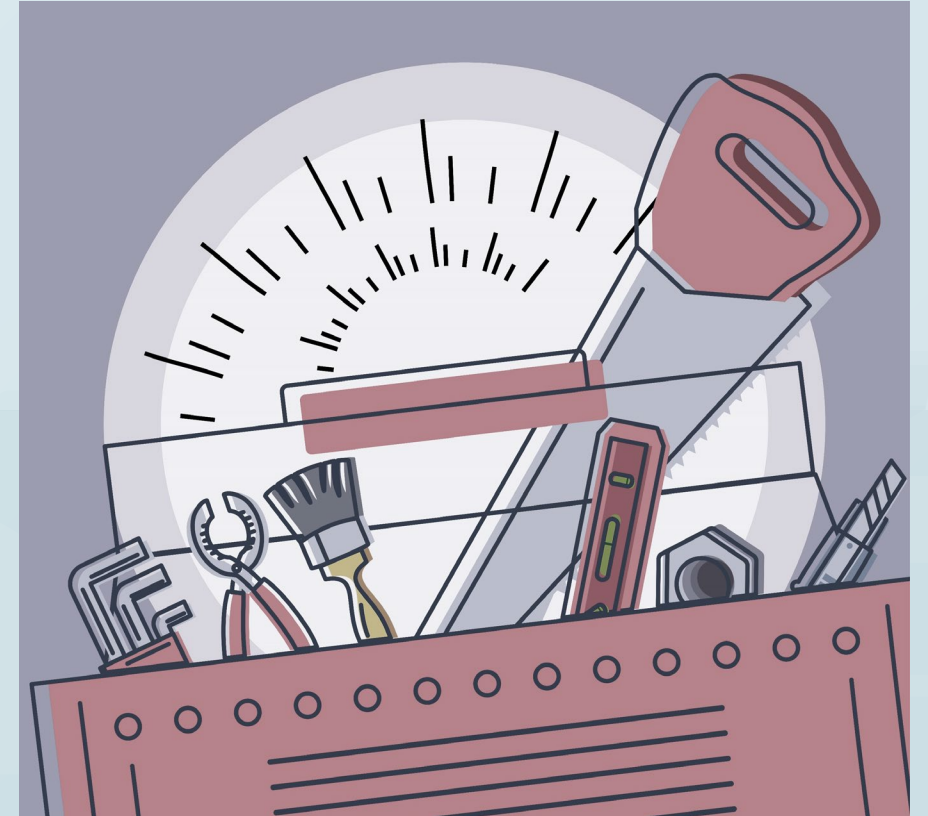
Upstream and downstream impacts of IUU fishing



What market-related tools fight IUU fishing and what are the implications for trade?

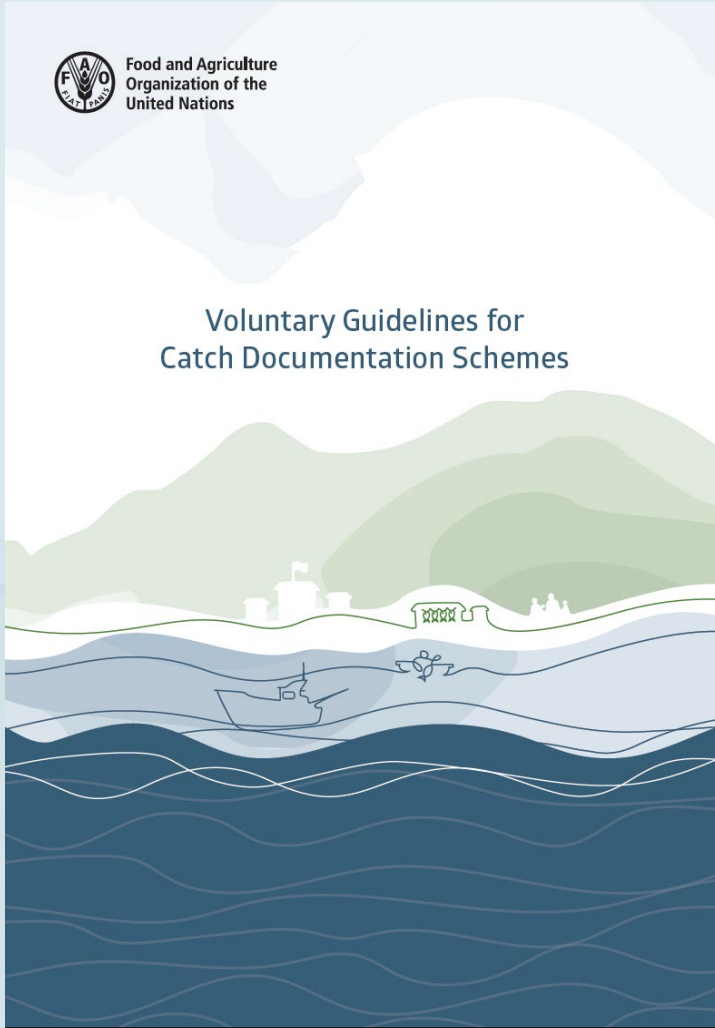
Market-related Tools for Combating IUU Fishing

1. Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)
2. Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (VGT)
3. Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)



Source: vecteezy.com

What is a Catch Documentation Scheme?



2017



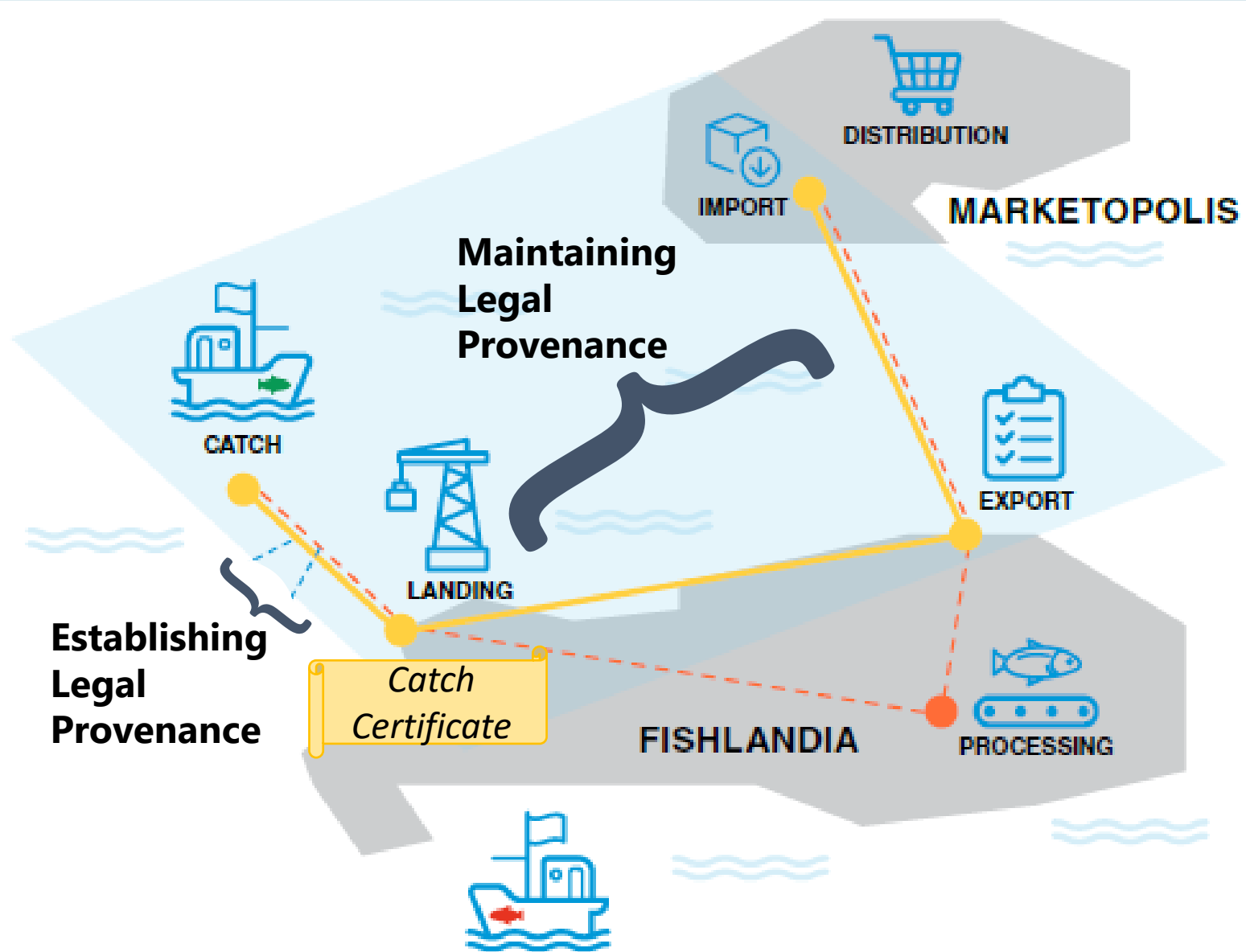
2022

- Catch certificates document whether catches are legally fished (“legal provenance”)

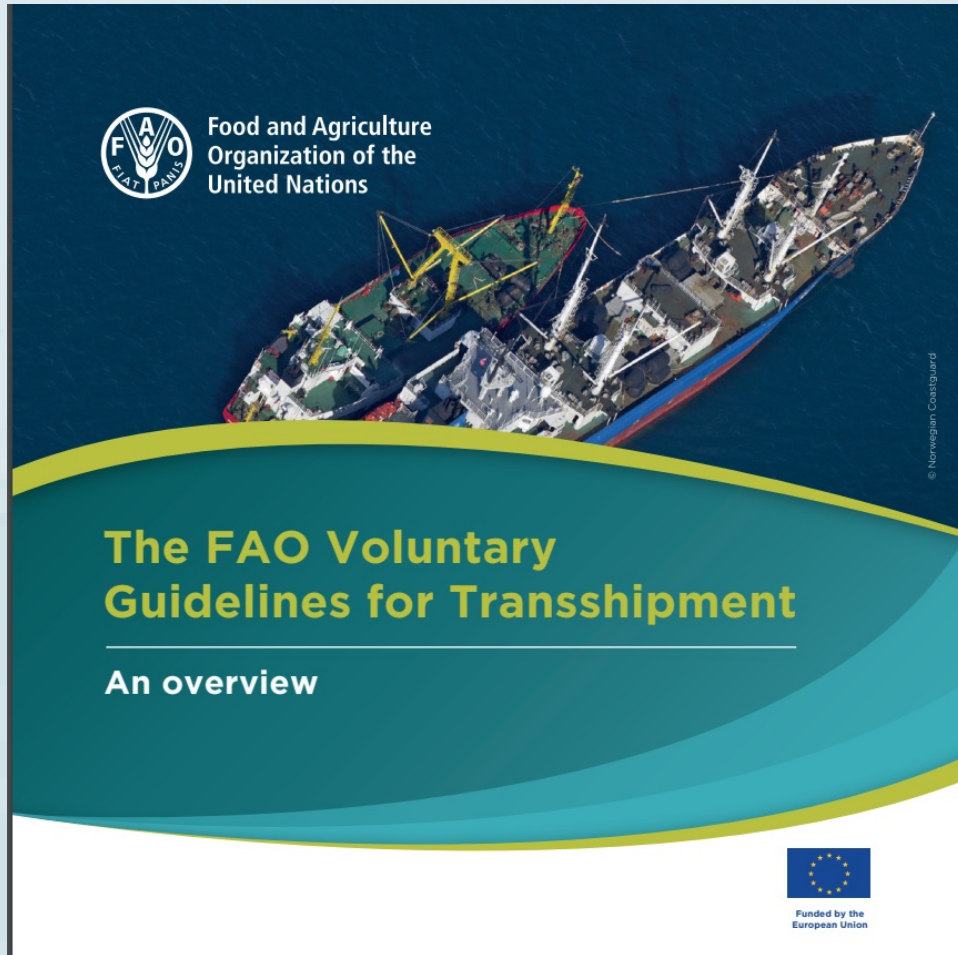
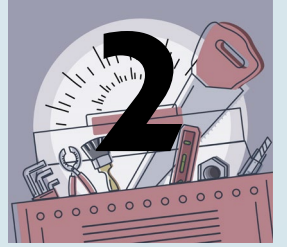
—AND—

- Allow that information to be shared between trading partners

CDS as a Tool for Showing Legal Provenance



What are the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment?



- Minimum international standards to regulate, monitor and control transshipments of fish
- Provides the basis for regional and national regulations
- Offers clarity on separating “transshipment” and “landing”

2022

VG-Transshipment Requirements



Due Diligence

Monitoring & Documentation

Reporting

No longer any loophole for “in transit”, “containerization”, etc.



Before

- VMS/IMO
- Global Record / RFMO authorized lists
- Under an observer programme
- Flagged by a Party or Cooperating non-party of RFMO



During

- Prenotification to relevant actors
- Authorized by relevant actors
- Follow operational procedures



After

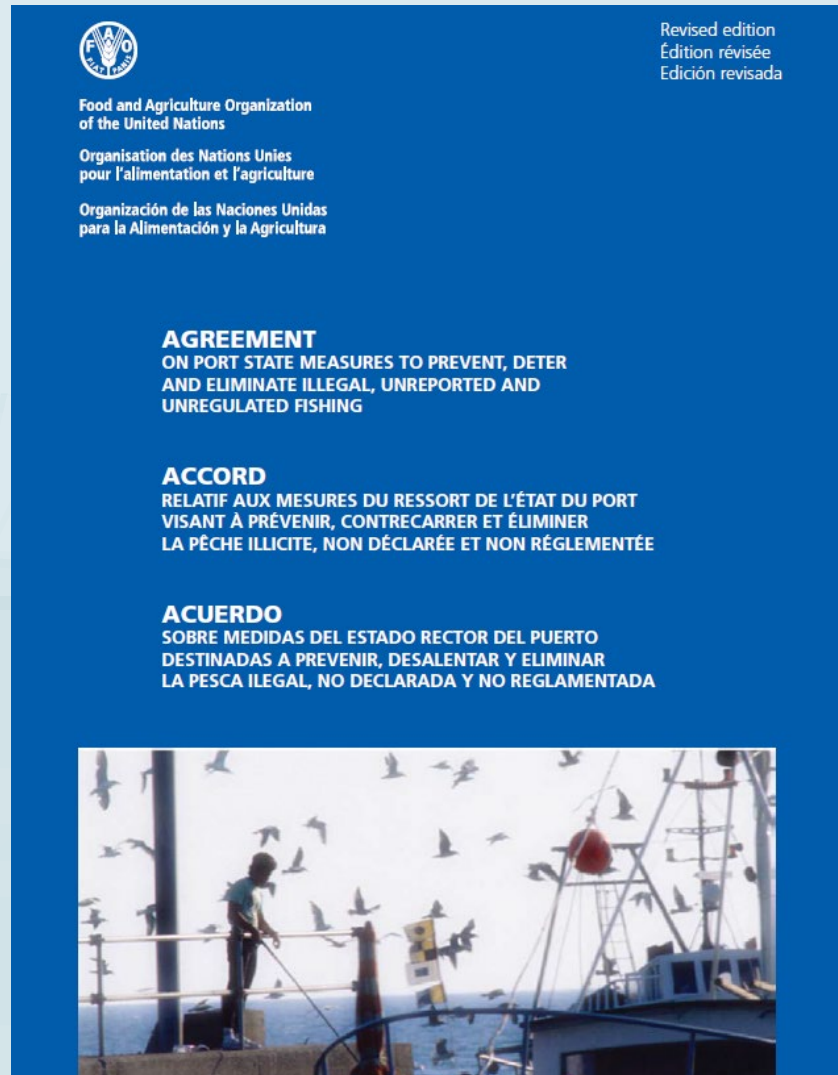
- Provide a transshipment declaration
- Deliver the declaration to relevant actors



If not a Transshipment

- Provide a landing declaration
- Deliver the declaration to relevant actors

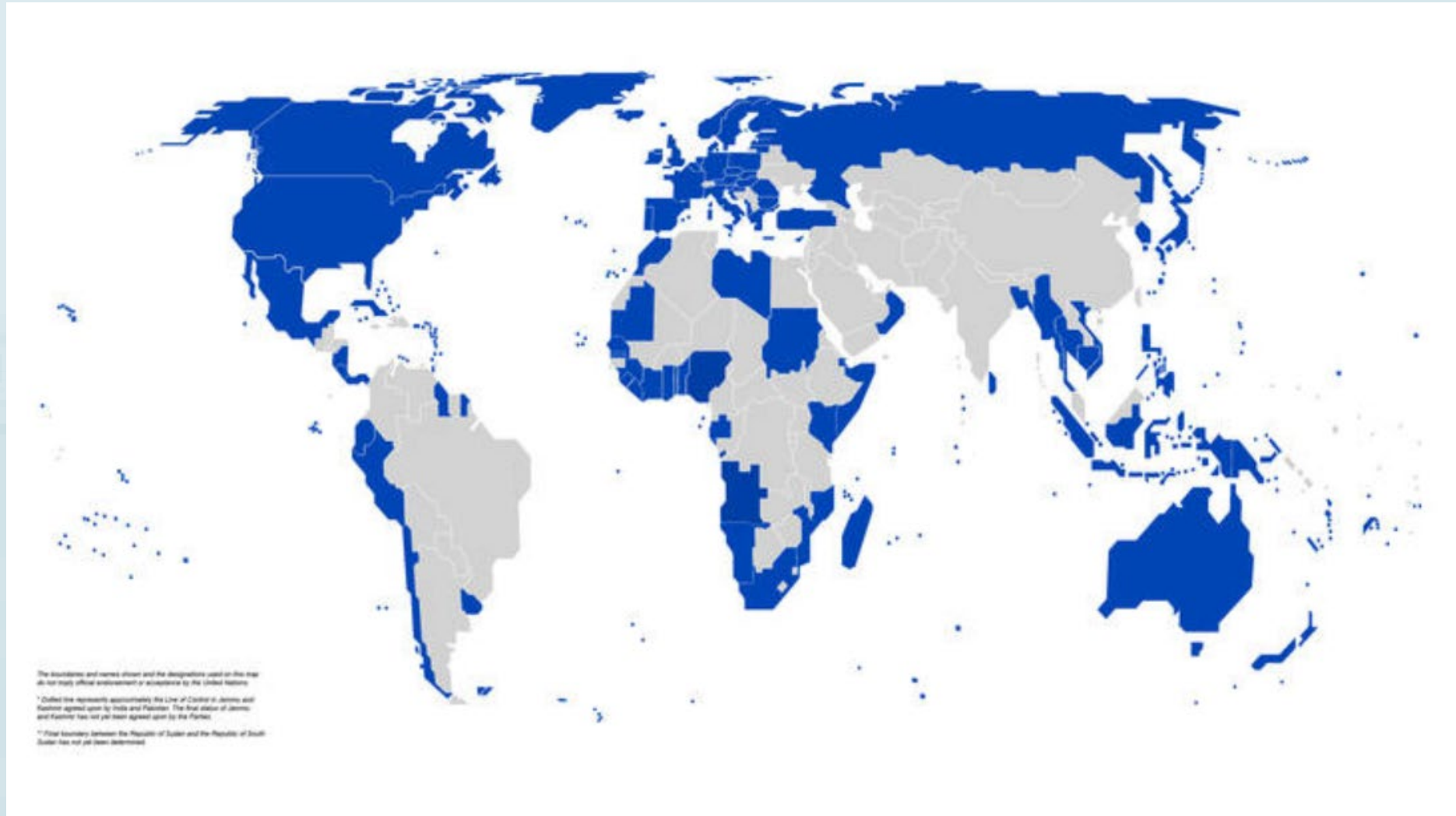
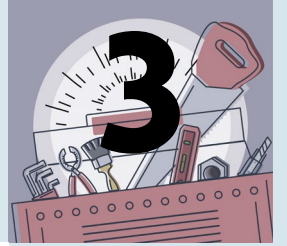
What is the Port State Measures Agreement?



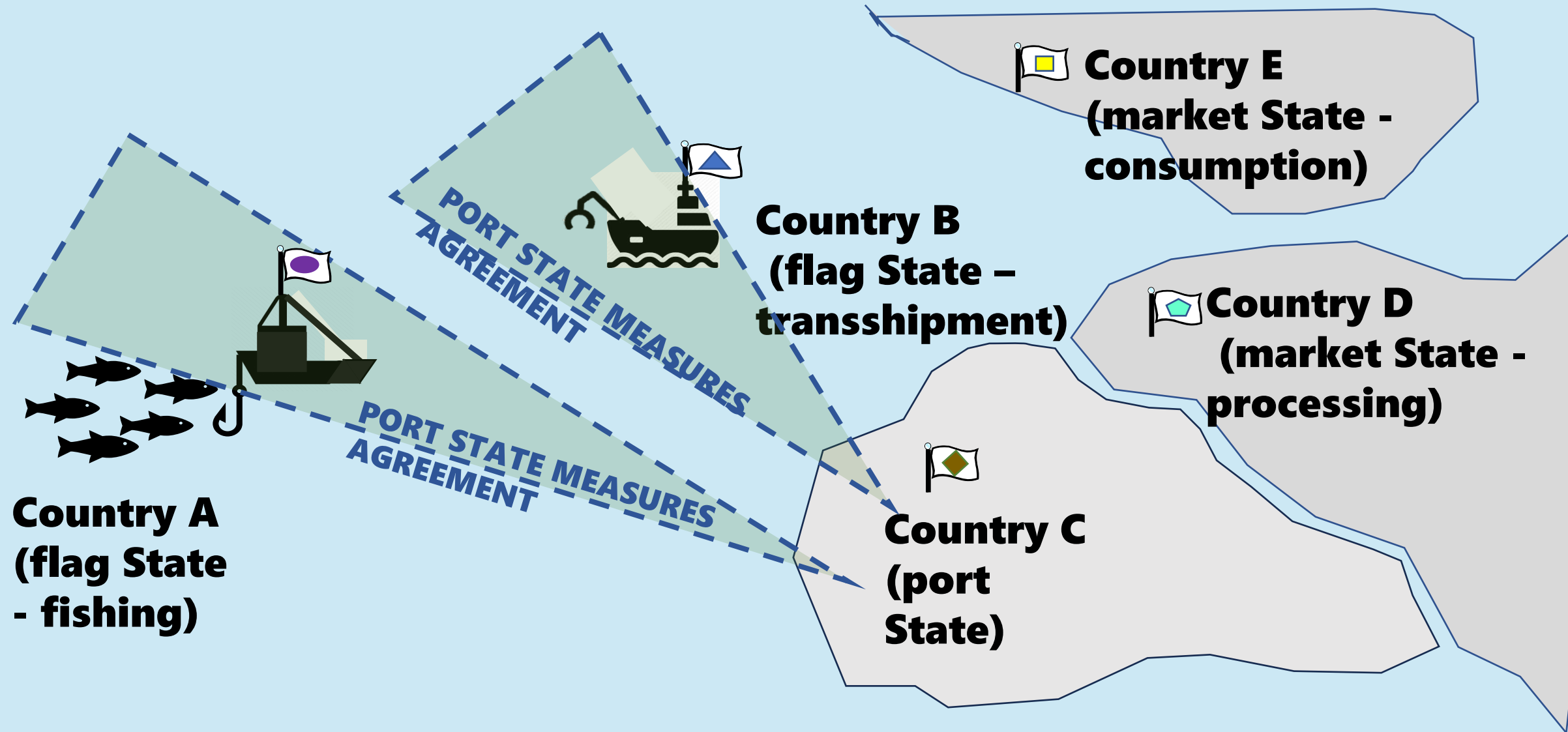
- Designed to prevent vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches
- Serves as the first line of defense for markets and value chains
- Requires designated ports, advance notice, inspections, information exchange (GIES)

2016

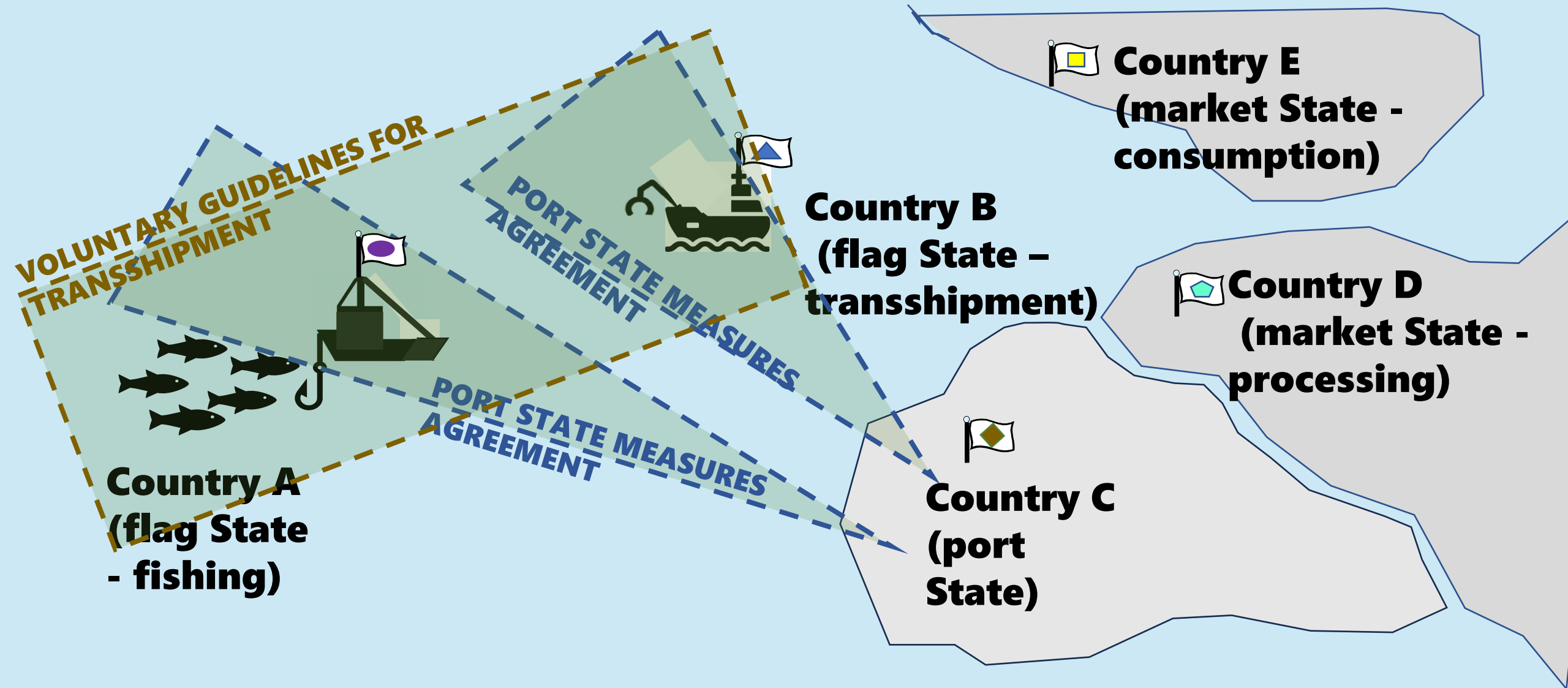
79 Current Parties to the PSMA



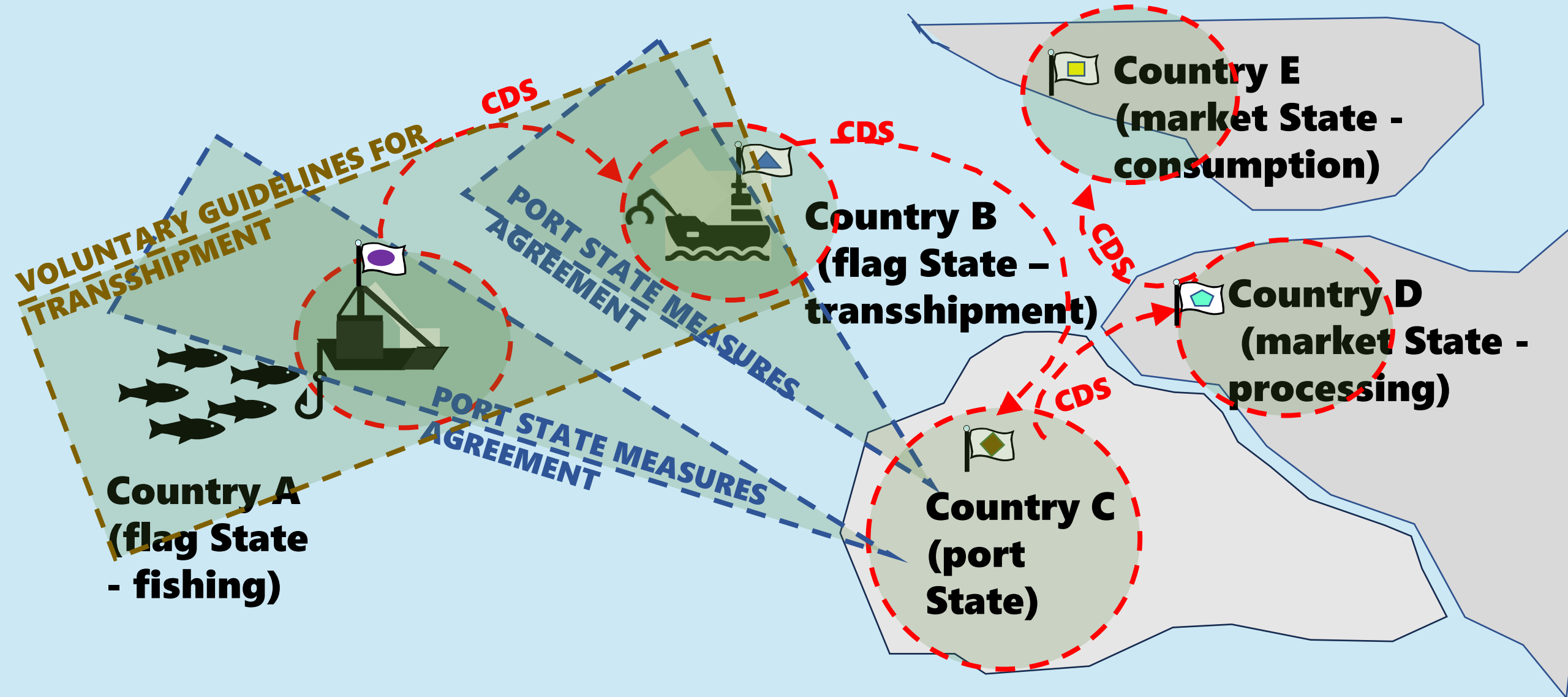
These tools work together:



These tools work together:



These tools work together:



Implications for Trade

- All of these tools designed to fight IUU fishing can affect trade...
- **Negative** consequences of improper implementation:
 - Economic losses and decrease in market share for industry
 - Closing down of related hubs and logistics services
 - Reputational damage to future investment



Implications for Trade

- On the other hand, applying these tools properly can have major benefits...
- **Positive** consequences of proper implementation:
 - Maximize value by allowing entry to any market without delay
 - Enhance national reputation as a trading partner
 - Reinforce the benefits of sustainable fisheries



Impacts of IUU Fishing on Markets

(Questions 5-7)



Summary and Main Messages

- IUU fishing is more than simply illegal fishing – unreported and unregulated catches are also a problem
- IUU fishing damages stocks, legitimate stakeholders and markets – losses are large and wide-ranging
- National and international controls on catch documentation, transshipment and landing are tightening – for suppliers and buyers
- **States should ensure that a) fish caught or handled by vessels flying their flag have legal provenance, and b) the products of IUU fishing, whether by domestic or foreign-flagged vessels, are identified and prevented from entering markets**
- This maximizes the value of trade, avoids disruptions and reinforces sustainability



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