

Environmental Security Sub-Directorate

Combating IUU Fishing: An International Operational Approach

13 November 2025

Cindy BUCKLEY, Criminal Intelligence Officer



INTERPOL Fisheries Unit: Externally Funded



- Capacity Building
- Interagency Cooperation
- International Cooperation

Supported by:





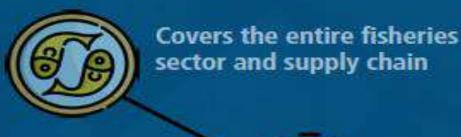
based on a decision of the German Bundestag

- Capabilities
- Intelligence
- Operations



INTERPOL RESPONSE: THE KEY FACTS









Identifies and tracks HRVs

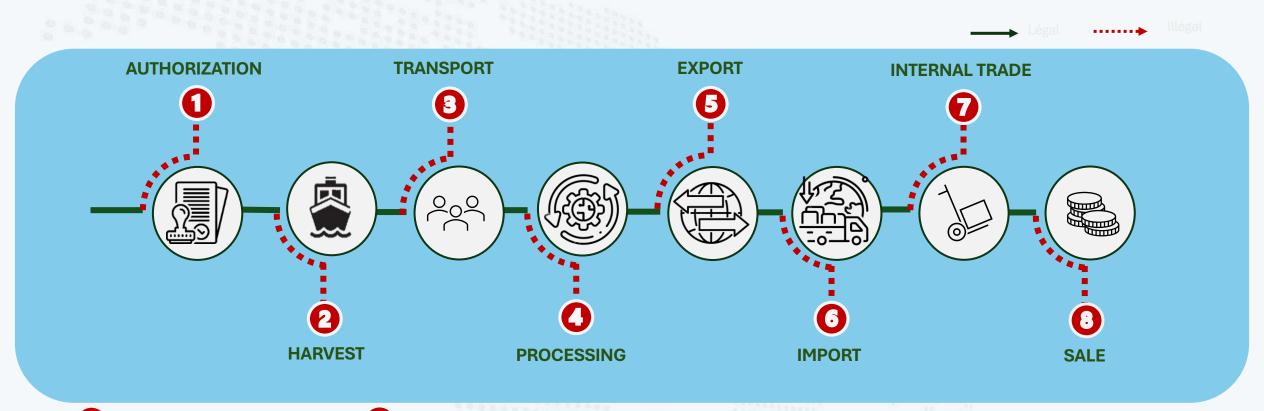


Disrupts the trade of protected marine species

Supports cooperation between port states, flag states, coastal states, market states and the states of nationals including the jurisdictions where their companies are based



Illegal activities in the fisheries supply chain



- A fishing permit/a license can be obtained illegally through fraud, corruption, etc.
- Declaration of false fish specimens to avoid taxes, lack of CITES certificates, or falsification or reuse of previous permits.
- Fishing in protected areas without authorization or exceeding allocated quotas.
- False declaration of origin, species, and quantities of fishery products, lack of certificates and licenses, absence of proper authorizations or required due diligence.
- Without authorization, reusing a permit for different types of fish or corrupting officials to pass checkpoints illegal transshipment.
- Exploiting loopholes and gaps in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), and other national and international legislative texts.
- Laundering fish by mixing legal and illegal catches, misdeclaring the product entering the processing plant or its yield.
- Finished products are marketed without accompanying documents or with falsified certificates of origin and compliance, altered or counterfeit declarations of provenance and product type, etc.

ILLEGAL FISHING

ENABLING
CRIMES
Document Fraud

Identity Fraud

Registry Abuse

Tax Evasion

Modern Slavery

Money Laundering

CORRUPTION

ASSOCIATED CRIMES

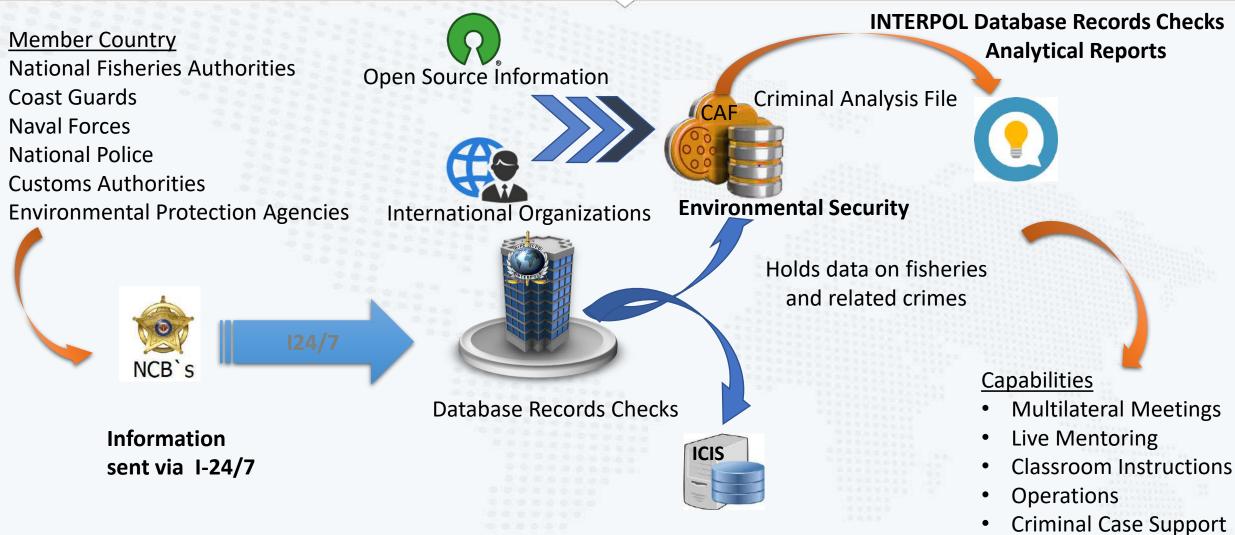
Drug Trafficking

Arms Trafficking

Human Smuggling



International Cooperation Cycle of Information



INTERPOL Criminal Information System



Replicating Operational Success Under the Jeddah Framework

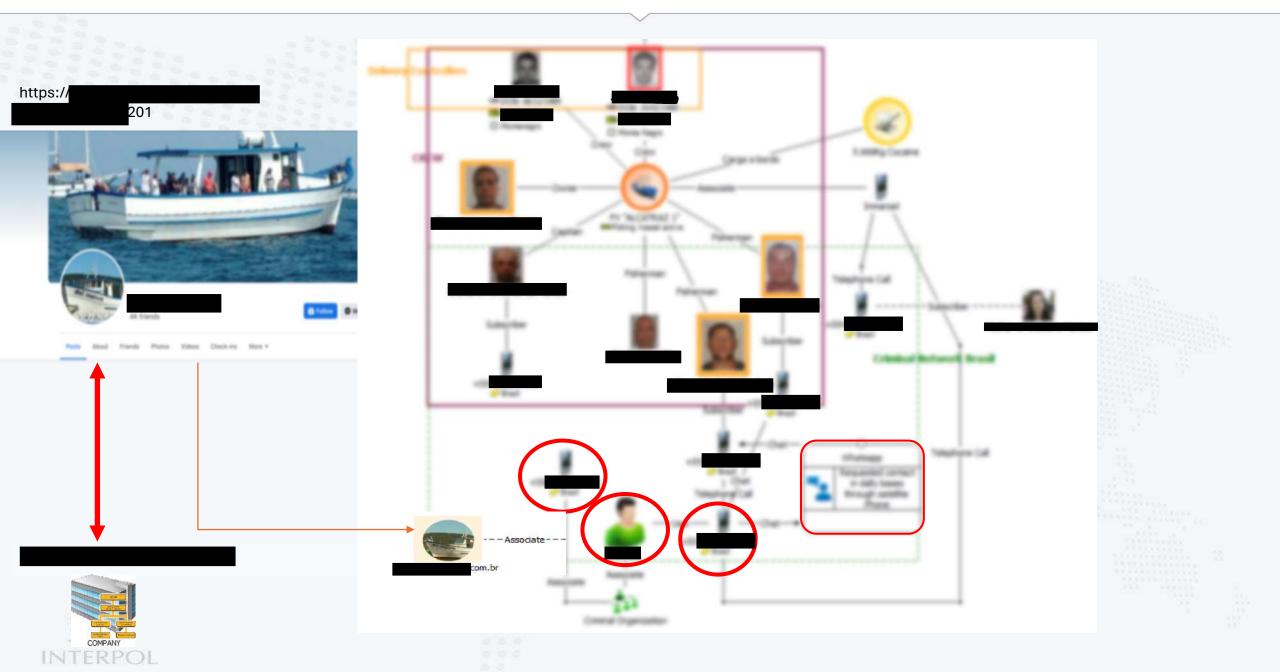
- Maritime Patrol Asset
- Security
- Enforcement Authority & Jurisdiction
- INTERPOL Technical Support & Live Mentoring

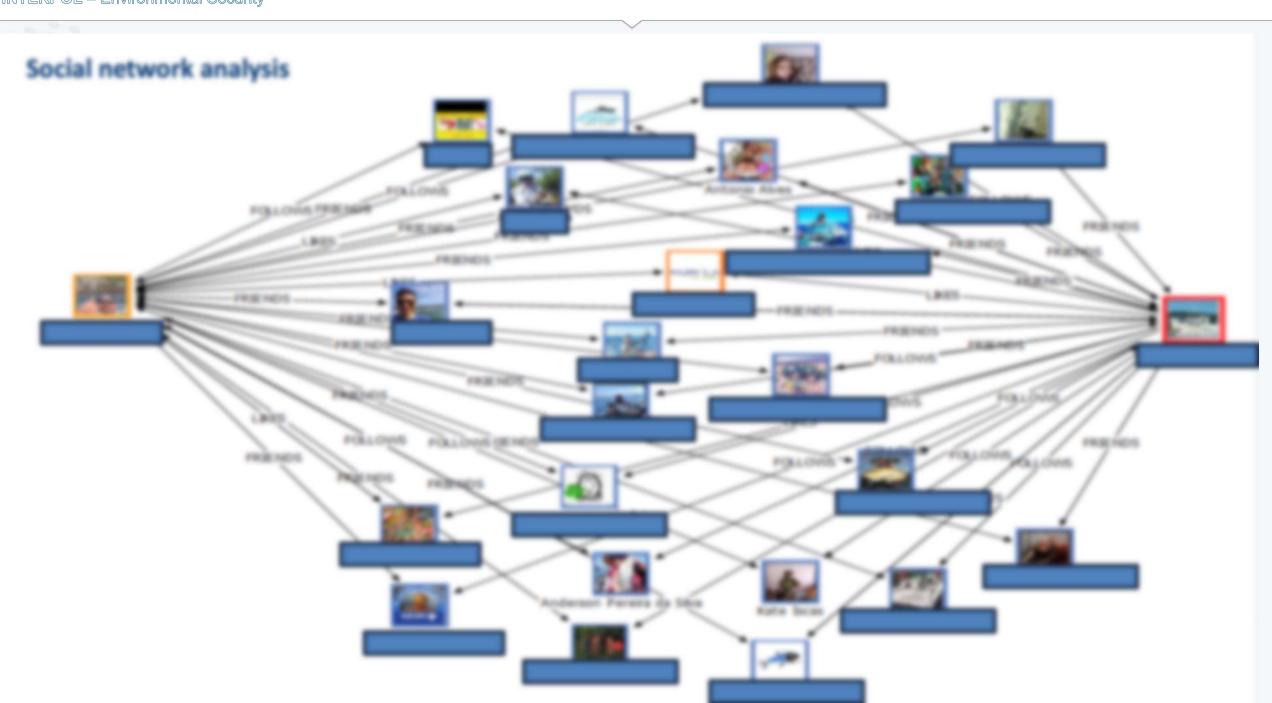


















Fishing Equipment



VESSEL CARGO

















13 Violations

Undocumented Crew

Fraudulent Documentation

Lack of Documentation

Lack of Safety Equipmen

Lack of Safety Standards

			- 1				
			LOC	OF			
From Local Howe to Mark Date To 16							Date Tens 16
	100	DISTANCE	COURSE	WIND DIRECTION AND PORCE	BAROMETEL.	LEEWAY	REMARKS
91	299.3	5.0	156	5W.F5-6	29.9	N.L	HEAVEY SEAS BOLL
7.2	245	5.7	156	5.WF 5 6	29.9	N.C.	One well and are an
7 3	308	3 0	756	SW. 5-6	39.9	MIL	Which correspond
4	311	3.0	7.53	SW. 5-6	29.9	NIL	20 Knob of Breaky
5	319.5	8.5	756	5w 5.6	29.9	NIL	Very proconfulbell
6	330	2.5	756	SW 8	299	NIL	decks. "
7	3374	7.4	7.56	SW 7	29.95	NIL	SEAS MEANY FUEL
8	344 8	7.4	7.56	5W 9	29.93	NIL	
	30 4	6.4	716	6 W and	29.95	NIL	30 T SWELLS CROWN
•	357.4	641	756	5W 7	29.95	DVIL	
	204.4	20	756	SN 7	29.95	NL	
12	37/-2	6.8	156	5047	29.95	NIL-	
31	376 9		750	SW 56	29.9	NIC	SEAS MECEDING
2	387.11	3 11	756	S.Wes	29.9	NIL	2 270
3	387.7	50	T 56	. 8 5, 6	29.9	NIL	
-5	100	5.0	156	SES 6	299	Nil-	
2.5	371.1	58	756	3650	3995	NIC	
16	401-1	54	156	5E56	30.0	NIL	VERY WEDRLY
7	410	90	756	SES 6	30.1	NIC	HER MARIEDIUM
	419	9.0	736	SF5 6	30-1	NIL	THIS IS 1-150 DEST
	428	9.0	156	SE5-6	301	NIC	SAICING WITH
-	445.2	77	1.56	5 = 6	301	NIC	MISH-1 101- 15FOM
11	4457.6	7.3	736	556	30-1	NIC	THE HOUR
132 1			17 38	01-6	30-1	MIC	MODERATE SEA
LATITUDE LONGITUDE							ENGINE USED.
					140.	2 Nautical	PUEL-IN CO.

INTERPOL - Environmental Security







Capacity Building

- Identifying High Risk Fishing Vessels
- Criminal intelligence analysis
- Analytical tools
- Open Source Intelligence
- Interviews
- Crime scene processing
- Evidence Collection

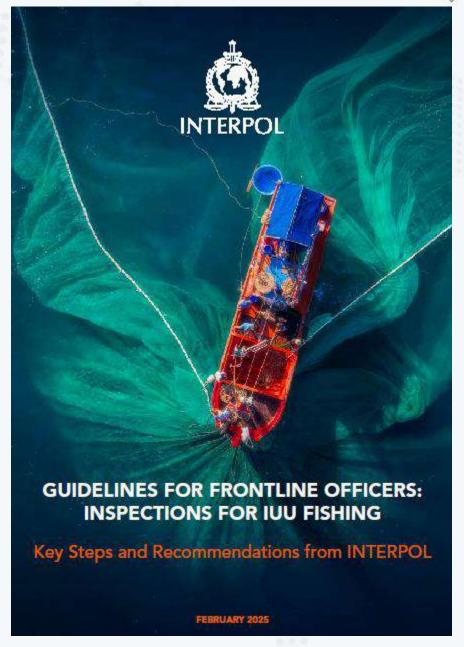






Table of contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Key Steps for Vessel Inspections	4
2.1 2.2 2.3	Prior to Boarding Onboard Inspection Documentation and Reporting	4 6 7
3.	Evidence Collection	8
3.1 3.2 3.3	Photographic Evidence Seizing Digital Equipment Collecting DNA Samples from Seized Fish Cargo	8 8 9
4.	Preserving the Chain of Custody	12
5.	Practical Tips	13
6.	Acknowledgments	14

