A complex web of activity lies behind an illegal fish. Untangling that web to explore what drives the illegal fish trade is part of the work of Stop Illegal Fishing.

Stop Illegal Fishing is committed to ending the devastating impacts of illegal fishing across all African fisheries. It is only through the eradication of illegal fishing that African nations and their people will enjoy the full benefits of stable and increased revenues from their fishery resources. Join us, and put an end to the crime of illegal fishing.

1 out of every 4 fish in Africa is caught illegally
Global decline in fish stocks, the increasing demand for fish and seafood and the low chance of detection for illegal activity has fuelled a thriving illegal fishing in fishery products.

One out of every four fish in Africa is caught illegally – this illegal activity helps me to stop. It threatens the sustainability of the resource that is the foundation of the local economy. The illegal activity is fuelled by the lack of enforcement and the lack of awareness about the impacts of illegal fishing.

Illegal fishing is a complex web of actions and marketing of fish and fishery products. The illegal activity has fuelled illegal harvesting of fish and fishery products. The illegal fishing fleet that roams the oceans, breaking international laws and harming local fisheries in danger; has become so good at finding and selling its catch that it leaves the behind, apart from wasted fishery and damaged ecosystems. The true extent of the losses is not known, but estimates place the value of stolen fish for Africa alone at over a billion dollars a year, depriving families of food, income and opportunities.

However, illegal fishing is not only taking place in the commercial fisheries, but also in small-scale and subsistence fisheries. The illegal activity is typically seen in the fishery breaking a law or regulation established to protect the fishery such as using illegal nets, dynamite fishing in a closed or protected area, and illegal fishing in a closed or protected area.

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Stop Illegal Fishing focuses on illegal fishing in Africa, but this is just one aspect of overcoming the fisheries crisis.

Stop Illegal Fishing is a Working Group of the Partnership for African Fisheries, an initiative led by the African Union’s implementation programme, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), is working to drive policy reform to improve the overall sustainability of fisheries for African countries and their people. Stop Illegal Fishing is a Working Group of this partnership.

Launched in mid-2007 to assist Southern African Ministers responsible for marine fisheries to respond to the plague of illegal fishing, Stop Illegal Fishing – through a mix of facilitation, campaigning, empowerment and support for ongoing and new initiatives – is increasing the necessary interest and commitment to change.

Our strategy focuses on five areas – our Working Group outputs – that are all essential to protect the fishery, such as using illegal nets, dynamite fishing in a closed or protected area, and illegal fishing in a closed or protected area.

Stop Illegal Fishing intends to make an impact.

Our commitment is that Stop Illegal fishing will build knowledge and understanding on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing issues, as well as its drivers and its impacts, among a wide network of players in order to define where change is needed and how it could be achieved.

At Stop Illegal Fishing we know there is no silver bullet, and there are no easy answers – but through a well co-ordinated approach that intertwines the elements of robust policy making with building capacity, tools and mechanisms to implement change – Stop Illegal Fishing intends to make an impact.

Stop Illegal Fishing receives core funding from the UK government through the Partnership for African Fisheries programme. We have many partners drawn from government and intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, fishing community organisations, African and international governments as well as research institutes, the fishing industry, fishery-related programmes, the private sector and regional organisations.

Working Group of this partnership.

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