









# ANNUAL ERPORT &









# our vision and mission

Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) is working to ensure that fish are caught, traded and processed legally so that African nations and their people can enjoy the full benefits of their fishery resources and blue growth.

We work in partnership with governments, civil society, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, fishing communities and the fishing industry to harness international support and African commitment to achieve change.

#### We achieve this by:

- Facilitating improved information and intelligence exchange to improve the effectiveness and timeliness of States' responses to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Building, developing and assisting with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms and processes to curb IUU fishing;
- Providing capacity building to support the fight against IUU fishing;

- Growing and supporting a network of professionals, experts and champions to lead the African campaign against IUU fishing;
- Providing evidence based advice to feed into policy reform and improved decision making to fight IUU fishing in African waters;
- Coordinating an African Voice to influence international fishery policy processes; and
- Facilitating communications and education to create awareness and advocacy for compliant fisheries.

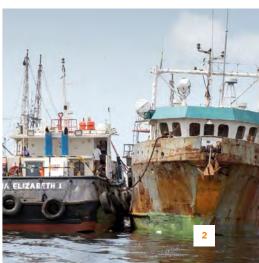
# table of contents

Our vision and mission	1
Letter from the chair	3
Pioneering cooperation	6
Focus on Fish-i Africa	7
Exposing crime and illegalities	8
Tackling crime and illegalities	11
Supporting enforcement	12
Increasing understanding	13
Creating change	15
Securing a sustainable future	17
Future priorities	19
Executive committee	21
Our awards and honours	23
Financial summary	25
Acronyms	26

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## letter from the chair

The urgent need to act to end illegal fishing has been highlighted by the inclusion of the target to end IUU fishing by 2020 as a key element of Sustainable Development Goal number 14 that concerns life under water. The timing of the deadline reflects the serious and long-term consequences of illegal fishing, which damages the ocean environment, endangers species, undermines the sustainable management of fisheries and contributes to poverty and hunger in the developing world.

2017 marks the tenth anniversary of Stop Illegal Fishing, in this time we have made a substantial contribution to efforts to end illegal fishing, through developing strong networks and partnerships, providing support to policy change, developing evidence based resources, and offering practical on the ground support to frontline enforcement officers.

Through supporting the establishment of the two regional task forces of coastal States, FISH-i Africa and the West Africa Task Force, we have demonstrated an effective and low cost model for identifying and deterring illegal fishing. Recognition of the success of FISH-i has continued this year and we were very proud to be awarded the 2017 Seafood Champion Award for Innovation, for sharing information and taking collective enforcement action to combat large-scale illegal fishing.

We have also been able to share the story of FISH-i and support the establishment of similar task forces in other regions.

This year we have seen new solutions to stop illegal fishing coming out of FISH-i, a result of our analysis of the substantial evidence compiled from over 35 investigations. The common theme has been the illegality that is linked directly to the fishing vessel, whether through document forgery or identity fraud. If we can rout out these vessels, through our planned programme of VIGILANCE, the systematic checking of fishing vessels that are active in the Western Indian Ocean, we will make real and significant progress.





FISH-i began life as an informal network of fisheries enforcement officers, it is gratifying that the Southern African Development Community are now looking to incorporate FISH-i into their Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre. Not only will this ensure the sustainability of the tools, mechanisms and processes developed by FISH-i, it will also provide a new authority and see the expansion of the task force to more coastal countries and the model and lessons can be shared where applicable to tackle illegal fishing in inland waters.

We look forward to the year ahead with a real sense of excitement as the growing interest in the work of Stop Illegal Fishing is resulting in continuing support from our longstanding partners and additional support from new partners. In 2018, we will begin projects to support the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and work to improve communication and information exchange with the major distant water flag States.

We welcome your interest in our activities, we have used this Annual Report to focus on the key approaches and elements of our work and include links to reports and publications that will provide you with further insight into the issues we work and deal with.

Elsa Patria Chair, Stop Illegal Fishing



# pioneering cooperation

Stop Illegal Fishing works to grow and support a network to lead the African campaign against illegal fishing. We build, develop and assist with practical and effective cooperation tools, mechanisms and processes to curb illegal fishing. Illegal fishing demands an organised and collaborative response.

SIF has been operating effectively since 2007 when it was founded as a network to combat illegal fishing for the countries of southern Africa. By working in partnership with governments, civil society, monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) practitioners, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), universities, intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), the global fishing industry and interested individuals, the SIF network adds real value to efforts to tackle illegal fishing.



As a not for profit SIF continue to play a leading role in fighting illegal fishing in Africa, as:

- Coordinator of FISH-i Africa, the regional task force fighting illegality in the fisheries sector of the Western Indian Ocean;
- A founding partner in the development of the West Africa Task Force;
- Coordinator of the African Union Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group;
- A facilitator of the 'African Voice' initiative, which strengthens the impact of African countries in international fora; and
- An international technical partner in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) IUU Fishing Task Force.

## focus on FISH-i Africa

The FISH-i model is a sustainable and low-cost solution developed to identify illegal fishing without the need for high cost patrol and surveillance activity. FISH-i has proven itself as an affordable, effective solution with many regions around the world now looking to replicate its success.

FISH-i Africa brings together eight coastal member countries, regional organisations and international experts. At the core of its effectiveness is the trust and communication that has been built through the work and activities of the task force.

The FISH-i model has been presented and discussed at many events during the course of 2017, including the 10th International Forum on IUU Fishing at Chatham House, the 1st meeting of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) Regional Working Group on IUU Fishing, the US Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Environment, Science, Technology and Health Workshop, the SeaWeb Seafood Summit 2017, Safe Ocean

Network, 5th meeting of the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Ministers for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Our Ocean 2017 and the SADC Ministerial and Technical meetings for fisheries. We have been able to share the story of the success that FISH-i Africa has had in fighting illegal fishing and provide support to regions looking to adapt or replicate the regional coastal States task force.

The end of 2017 saw the SADC Ministers responsible for fisheries task the SADC Secretariat to explore closer cooperation with the SIF Secretariat by exploring incorporation of FISH-i Africa into the SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) currently under development in Mozambique.

# exposing crime and illegalities

Working with countries and partners on investigations and cases has enabled SIF to develop a deep understanding of the nature and scale of the illegalities that are taking place in the fisheries sector around Africa.

The evidence amassed shows that illegal fishing in the industrial fisheries sector is rarely an isolated, opportunistic offence, but is very often linked to a range of enabling crimes. These are systematically and deliberately undertaken by the vessel owner to increase profit, while causing loss and destruction in the ocean where they operate and for the countries that border it.

The lack of national enforcement capacity and effective sanctions for offenders coupled with a significant proportion of foreign-owners focused on short-term profit rather than long-term sustainability have all contributed to the shocking levels of crime and illegality.

Analysis of the activities of three fishing vessels, reported during 2017, demonstrate the significant challenges that coastal State enforcement officers face to act against the perpetrators.

Continued overleaf...









### JIN SHYANG YIH 668

The JIN SHYANG YIH 668 was identified in 2014 through routine automatic identification system monitoring of FISH-i countries' exclusive economic zones as a fishing vessel that appeared to be hiding its true identity in order to fish without a licence. Under detention in Seychelles in 2015, investigations indicated that JIN SHYANG YIH 668 had engaged extensively in unauthorized fishing in the Indian Ocean and had probably illegally transhipped its catch whilst at sea. Enforcement action by flag State Thailand, led to the vessel absconding and despite international attention is now on the run with a suspected new identity.







## GREKO 1

The Belize-registered trawler **GREKO 1** was known to be active in Somali waters for several years, but it was not until 2016 when a European Union navy patrol started to provide Somalia with sightings of fishing vessels in their exclusive economic zone that this vessel's operations were analysed. A port inspection of the vessel in Mogadishu established that illegal fishing had taken place throughout 2016, and a USD 65 000 fine was paid. Investigations into the GREKO 1 and her sister ship the GREKO 2 revealed that both vessels were listed as 'scrapped', and for this the owners had received EUR 1.4 million under a European Union capacity reduction scheme. Ongoing investigations are yet to verify the true identity of the 'scrapped' vessels and the identity of the GREKO 1 that was fishing illegally in Somalia.

## ATLANTIC WIND

The notorious toothfish poaching vessel ATLANTIC **WIND** was prevented from resuming fishing operations when Zanzibar Maritime Authority, based on due diligence information provided by FISH-i Africa, removed the vessel from the Tanzanian register of vessels. Whilst operating as the YONGDING the ATLANTIC WIND had been arrested in Cape Verde in 2015. The vessel had been the subject of an INTERPOL Purple Notice and listed as an IUU fishing vessel by several international organisations. The ATLANTIC WIND had been part of a wider group suspected to have operated in partnership for many years, nicknamed the 'Bandit 6', all of which were linked to Vidal Armadores in Spain. The vessels all had a history of multiple name changes and of hopping between flag States, hallmarks of fishing vessels trying to operate outside of the regulatory system. The ATLANTIC WIND has been known by 15 names since it was constructed, with 11 of these being used in the last 10 years. During this time, it has been flagged to at least 12 different registers.

# tackling crime and illegalities

The vessel identity issues, use of flags of non-compliance, document forgery and avoidance of penalties seen in the cases detailed are all common methods and techniques employed by illegal operators, and are described in detail in FISH-i Africa's report 'Illegal Fishing? Evidence and Analysis'. Fifteen investigations of illegal fishing have also been documented by FISH-i Africa and are available to download at https://fish-i-africa.org/what-we-do/fish-i-investigations/.



## To tackle these issues, Stop Illegal Fishing calls for:

- Mandatory unique vessel identifiers, e.g. IMO numbers, to make it more difficult for vessels to hide their identity;
- Wider compulsory use of automatic identification systems on all commercial fishing vessels to enable vessels to be located and actively monitored;
- Physical measures to prevent vessels absconding when under investigation, or when detained in port;

- Photographs of fishing vessels to be made accessible and publicly available;
- Industry engagement to help provide information about those operating illegally and provide eyes in port and at sea, e.g. to help locate absconded vessels;
- Mechanisms to prosecute beneficial owners that are not citizens of the flag State of the fishing vessel and have operated illegally; and
- Flagging practices that prevent flag hopping and make sure illegal operators are denied registration.

# supporting enforcement



Stop Illegal Fishing supports enforcement by sharing intelligence and information with relevant enforcement agents internationally. We also work to build capacity to enable better handling of the complex cases that result from the multi-jurisdictional nature of fisheries violations and fisheries crimes.

The SIF Investigative Unit, a team of fisheries specialists with legal, analytical and technical expertise, has been able to support investigations, enforcement action and undercover operations related to illegal fishing during 2017.

SIF supports the development of various information-sharing platforms, equipping fisheries officers and policy makers in Africa with timely information, enabling targeted and prompt responses to IUU fishing as they occur. Due diligence in flagging and licensing processes has become a fundamental part of our work. Helping to identify high-risk and blatant illegal vessels and operators has helped national authorities to make better-informed decisions.

Developing human capacity enables better handling of the complex cases that result from the multi-jurisdictional nature of fisheries violations and crimes. Well-trained, engaged fisheries professionals are vital to ensuring an end to illegal fishing. Working at the frontline, often under difficult circumstances, fisheries inspectors and MCS officers play a crucial role in increasing compliance in the fishery sector.

Building human and institutional capacity has been a core part of SIF's activities since its establishment and we continue to support the development of FishFORCE, a Norwegian funded Fisheries Crime Law Enforcement Academy housed at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The evidence, successes and lessons learned by SIF will contribute to shaping the academy.



# increasing understanding

Stop Illegal Fishing brings global attention to the issue of illegal fishing, and the work that is being done to stop it. We highlight issues and challenges as well as promote the many innovative ways that we are making change happen. Our publications, online presence and participation at international meetings all create greater understanding of the African experience of stopping illegal fishing.



## Our 2017 event participation included the following:

International fora — Our experiences from Africa were shared through presentations and participation at international events such as the Chatham House IUU Forum, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Ministers meeting, FishCRIME 2017 and Our Ocean.

International days — SIF celebrated 25 years of World Oceans Day with a reminder of how and why this is still relevant, and the Day of the Seafarer with reflection on the issue of human trafficking in industrial fishing operations.

Regional events — SIF has been able to contribute to a range of regional meetings within Africa and beyond. These include meetings organised for the FISH-i and West Africa Task Forces, SADC, South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) meetings.

Our newsletter, social media accounts and the SIF website are go-to resources for anyone wanting to know more about illegal fishing in Africa.

2017 reports include:



Illegal Fishing? Evidence and Analysis, launched at Chatham House, London in March 2017, provides a systematic examination of 15 investigations conducted by FISH-i Africa.



FISH-i Africa: Our Future, focuses attention on the actions and cooperation that are still needed to tackle illegal fishing in the Western Indian Ocean.



A Ghost Vessel in Somali waters: GREKO 1. The latest in the SIF Case Studies series. These are a critical resource, defining best practice by analysing practical examples of different approaches in the fight against IUU fishing.



Squid capture in the Northwest Indian Ocean: unregulated fishing on the high seas reports on the activity of a Chinese squid fleet operating in the Northwest Indian Ocean, exposed by FISH-i Africa.



West Africa Task Force:
Cooperation, Collaboration,
Communication, provides an
assessment of the success of the
West Africa Task Force initiative to
date and is available in English and
French language versions.

# creating

Stopping illegal fishing requires change at both policy and practical levels. Engagement by flag, coastal, port and market States is needed to ensure that illegal operators can no longer 'get away with it' and are left with no option but to comply.

### Port State Measures Agreement

SIF is a key supporter of international processes and continues work to ensure the that more States join and implement the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA) that entered into force in July 2016.

In 2017, SIF continued to cooperate with the FAO to provide legal advice and support to build capacity in implementing PSMA through practical material, capacity building and legal drafting. We also celebrated Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia and Senegal becoming members of the PSMA. SIF encourages more African States to join the PSMA family, and in late 2017, they co-organised a stakeholder consultation in the United Republic of Tanzania with WWF to bring together government officials and civil society to consider the next steps towards becoming party to the Agreement.

### Cape Town Agreement

The 2012 Cape Town Agreement has been identified as an effective means of increasing port State controls, tackling modern slavery on board fishing vessels, improving the overall levels of safety within the fisheries industry and helping to end illegal fishing. In October, several Southern African countries and SIF members participated in an International Maritime Organization (IMO) seminar in Cape Town, South Africa to discuss the Agreement and the benefits that this Agreement may offer to the region. The Agreement seeks to address safety at sea for fishing vessels that often fall between the gaps of international law.



#### **VIGILANCE**

Vessel identity fraud has been shown to be a key enabling crime facilitating illegal fishing. Efforts to establish mandatory unique vessel identifiers, such as the IMO number, through regulation by licensing and flagging authorities have continued and in 2017 we celebrated the introduction of mandatory IMO numbers by Nigeria.

At Our Ocean 2017, SIF committed to undertake a programme of 'VIGILANCE' for all the industrial fishing vessels operating in the FISH-i region in response to the systematic illegalities and criminal offences identified by FISH-i Africa investigations. VIGILANCE involves a robust assessment of all industrial fishing vessels operating in the region to assess the legality of their identity, history, ownership and management. This commitment will cover around 500 fishing vessels and will be completed by 2022.

Nicholas Ntheketha, Chair of FISH-i Africa welcomed the announcement, "This programme of VIGILANCE gives the region a real chance to identify those who are not abiding by the regulations and laws that are in place to protect our fisheries and our economies."





## **SUSTAINABLE** DEVELOPMENT GALS securing a sustainable future

Stop Illegal Fishing is committed to actively supporting the United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals (SDGs), through our activities. We contribute at a national, regional and global level to achieving the SDGs, through contributing to:





Which has a specific aim to end IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020. Although this is a big ask, SIF considers that it is within grasp if partners work together and international best practices are applied across the ocean. This goal is at the heart of SIF's work and mission.







Reducing losses from illegal fishing, through, for example stopping illegal discarding of fish and destructive fishing methods, will improve the sustainability of the fish stocks. This will increase production of fish for food and nutrition and for social-economic wellbeing. Fisheries provide some of the only protein for some of the most vulnerable, isolated and poor communities in Africa.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Awareness on pertinent issues and crimes connected to IUU fishing, such as human trafficking and modern slavery form part of our multiagency approach to implementing laws, due diligence checking, enforcement support and awareness campaign, with the aim to spur actions to be taken against those operating in this illegal business.





Managing fish stocks responsibly is key and ensuring that illegal fish are stopped from entering the value chain is vital if consumers are to be secure in their food choices.

## 16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SIF's work through the Africa Voice, empowers participation in the institutions of global governance, such as the United Nations to provide insight into African realities and needs and to shine a light on what is required to strengthen global implementation.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SIF continues to support the development of networks of relevant government institutions, NGOs, IGOs, academia, and experts, and contribute to multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South cooperation as promoted in SDG 17.





# future priorities

In moving forward SIF will continue to focus our work on: supporting the coastal and port States of Africa, linking them to the flag and market States spread around the world; exploring and sharing practical lessons between marine and inland fisheries and with other countries; developing our investigative network; and analysing our findings and sharing our African lessons globally to influence debate and policy change.



#### Strengthening our investigative unit

On-the-ground investigations has become an essential element of SIFs ability to help countries crack cases and put illegal operators behind bars or out of business. Our investigative team and the network of people we cooperate with is growing, and we will continue to grow it in the coming year. Strategic coordination, flexibility to adapt and smart and fast thinking is leading to the uncovering of information that is resulting in an unprecedented number of arrests, fines, prosecutions - this work is underpinning a real change in the behaviour of illegal operators and governments alike.

#### **Growing successful Task Forces**

The impact of FISH-i has been wide ranging and has opened our eyes to the real impact regional cooperation can have. SIF will continue to develop the network and provide support as FISH-i looks to find a sustainable. long term home in the SADC Regional MCSCC. This exciting next-step will involve the expansion to include more coastal States and the adoption of the model to tackle the challenges faced by inland fisheries. SIF will continue to support the Fisheries Committee of the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) led West Africa Task Force and work to develop a wider pan-African network of Task Forces. Interest from regions such as ASEAN offers potential for growing this network globally.

## Building links and cooperation with flag, market and crew States

Working together with flag, market and crew States is essential to improve compliance. Focusing where systematic illegalities have been identified, such as by the Asian longline vessels operating in the Western Indian Ocean where around 200 Taiwan and 50 Chinese flagged longliners operate (out of a total of almost 400). We want to set up a more systematic way of exchanging information with these flag States to support due diligence checks on their vessels, starting with verifying their documents and later building on this for understanding the value chain, trade flow, human abuse/slavery etc. This will facilitate timely exchange of information to ensure investigations can be conducted effectively.

## Supporting our port States to become powerful global actors

Stopping illegal fish getting to markets requires port, fisheries and maritime authorities to cooperate. Implementing the PSMA offers an opportunity for African port States to unite to work towards overcoming the challenges implementation presents and finding the required support to find solutions. We will initially focus on support to Ghana and Madagascar in 2018, to gain experiences that

will offer valuable insight into the costs and benefits of implementation relative to the value of having a legally operating fisheries sector to underpin sustainable development and blue growth.

## Implementing practical tools and processes to enable the game change we want

The high levels of deliberate illegal fishing evidenced by investigations has led SIF to rethink the traditional approach to compliance risk assessment where high-risk, deliberate offenders are characterised as the few. This requires a shift in approach to how we assess risk and will involve more systematic approaches to remove these deliberate offenders. At Our Ocean 2017 SIF committed to undertake a systematic, multi-agency approach to this, called VIGILANCE.

#### Getting the message out there

SIF has always pioneered ways to use publications and the media to increase awareness, instigate action, and encourage engagement, this will continue to be a priority in 2018. The solutions to our African challenges of illegality within the fisheries sector cannot be found at home alone, we need to take our messages around the world, so that others can support our work and play their part in the solution.







# executive committee

The executive committee is comprised of up to eight members elected at the annual general meeting.

The duties of the executive committee include overseeing the activities of the society; supervising the secretariat; reviewing and approving work plans, reports and budgets; making, amending or repealing by-laws or regulations for the society and settling any disputes and problems that may arise.

#### Our 2017 executive committee were:

- 1 Chair Elsa Patria
- Vice Chair
  Nicholas Ntheketha
- Vice Chair
  Markus Burgener

- 4 Secretary
  Per Erik Bergh
- Vice Secretary
  Mark Ssemakula
- 6 Treasurer Sandy Davie

- Executive Committee Member
  Victor Kargbo
- 8 Executive Committee Member Zahor El Kharousy



# our awards and honours

Stop Illegal Fishing has received the following awards for our work:



#### 2017

FISH-i Africa received the 2017 Seafood Champion Award for Innovation The annual Seafood Champion Awards recognise individuals and organisations for excellence in promoting ocean health and environmentally responsible seafood. FISH-i Africa earned the top award in the innovation category for sharing information and taking collective enforcement action to combat large-scale illegal fishing. Its string of investigations and prosecutions has created a strong deterrence to illegal activity and promoted legitimate operators.

### 2017

Honoured amongst 'FCWC pioneers of fisheries cooperation' Stop Illegal Fishing was recognized for its role as one of the significant organisations to have contributed to the successful establishment of the FCWC as a regional fisheries organisation during its first ten vears of existence.

#### 2015

Awarded the Margarita Lizárraga Medal 2014-2015 Awarded biennially by the FAO, the award recognizes those who have served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. SIF's achievements were described as 'outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable as well as catalytic' by the FAO.

#### 2014

Third place in the IMCS Network's Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest Stop Illegal Fishing was acknowledged as being effective in coordinating approaches, influencing policies, building capacity and providing tools and strategies required to tackle illegal fishing at national, regional and international levels.













Per Erik Bergh, FAO, Margarita Lizárraga Medal 2014-2015



Award winners, 2017 Seafood





Elsa Patria receives the FCWC, Pioneers of Fisheries Cooperation award from Minister Quave



Nicholas Ntheketha, 2017 Seafood Champion Award for Innovation

# financial summary



The work of SIF requires resources to ensure its continuation and growth. Over the past decade SIF has received financial and in-kind support from governments, IGOs, NGOs, private sector and individuals.

Financial commitments are generally linked to specific outputs or activities that are managed by the SIF secretariat or by other partners on-behalf of SIF.

#### **2017 Funding of SIF**

Activities managed by SIF	Actual USD
West Africa Task Force	120,000
Legal advice to the IOTC	25,000
Drafting of an FAO PSMA publication	25,000
Preparation of an FAO Flag State publication	n 5,700

175,700

110,000

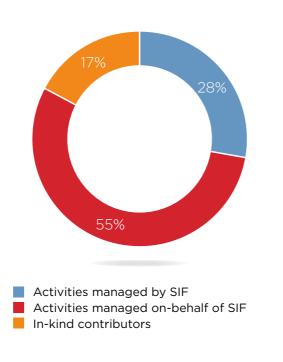
Activities managed on-behalf of SIF

FISH-i Africa Task Force	350,000
	350,000

In-kind contributions	Estimate USD
Executive Committee members	20,000
SIF members	20,000
Secretariat	70,000

Total estimated funding of SIF activities 635,700 USD

In 2017, SIF managed projects to a value of USD 175,700 to implement activities and USD 350,000 was managed by SIF partners on-behalf of the work of SIF. The executive committee, SIF members and the secretariat generously provided their time to support the work of SIF in 2017, this had an estimated monetary value of USD 110,000.



## acronyms

**ASEAN** Association of Southeast Asian Nations

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of

the United Nations

**FCWC** Fisheries Committee of the West

Central Gulf of Guinea

**IGO** Intergovernmental organisation

IMCS International Monitoring, Control,

and Surveillance Network

IMO International Maritime Organization

IOTC Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

IUU Illegal, unreported and

unregulated fishing

MCS Monitoring, control, and surveillance

MCSCC Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Coordination Centre

NGO Non-governmental organization

**PSMA** Port State Measures Agreement

**SADC** Southern Africa Development

Community

**SDG** Sustainable Development Goals

SIF Stop Illegal Fishing

**SWIOFC** South West Indian Ocean

Fisheries Commission

**UN** United Nations

**USD** United States dollar

**WECAFC** Western Central Atlantic

Fishery Commission

WWF World Wildlife Fund





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Find out more about the work of Stop Illegal Fishing, get regular updates and get involved at:

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