

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing



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What is IUU Fishing?

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) Fishing generally refers to fishing conducted in violation of national laws or internationally agreed conservation and management measures in effect in fishery areas (inland and marine) around the world.

IUU fishing in small scale inland capture fisheries has serious negative implications (biological, economic, environmental) for the continued availability of fish to support the communities and populations which are critically dependent on fishing and related activities.

IUU fishing undermines national and regional efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks and, as a consequence, inhibits progress towards achieving the goals of long-term sustainability and responsibility. Moreover, IUU fishing greatly disadvantages and discriminates against those fishers that act responsibly, honestly and in accordance with the laws.

What are some examples of IUU Fishing activities?

IUU Fishing can include among others;

- Fishing without a license.
- Failing to report catches or making false reports.
- Fishing undersized fish or fish that are otherwise protected by regulations.
- Fishing in closed areas or during closed seasons, and using prohibited fishing gear.

Effects of IUU:

Fishing without a license

- a. Deprives the government of revenue that is used to provide services to the public
- b. Leads to uncontrolled entry in the fishery putting more pressure on the fishery.
- c. Creates planning and management problems as the fishers' population will not be known

Failing to report catches or making false reports. e.g. failure to submit Kapenta catch returns

- a. Management cannot make well informed decision on sustaining the fishery
- b. Criminal activities such as illegal buying of Kapenta from other rigs may not be detected
- c. The productivity of a fishery will be difficult to determine/understand

Fishing in fish breeding Areas

- a. Prevents fish to breed normally
- b. Low replenishment rate of catchable stock in the fishing grounds
- c. Distraction of nesting sites and habitats
- d. Disturbs fish growth
- e. Some fish species may be depleted or leading to complete loss

Fishing during closed seasons/ fishing ban

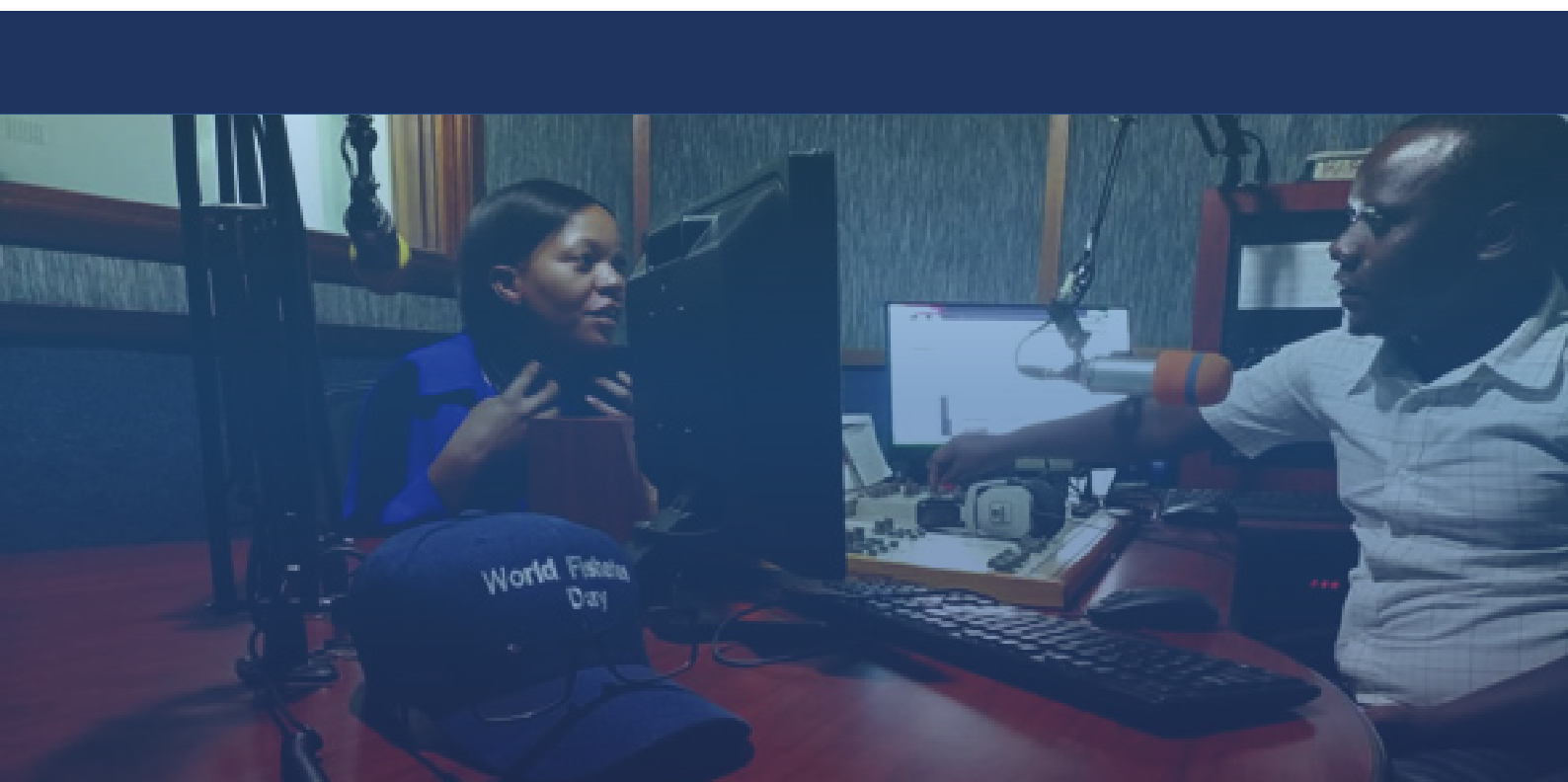
- a. Disrupts normal fish breeding
- b. Poor replenishment of catchable fish stocks

Fishing using prohibited fishing gear

- a. Leads to overfishing
- b. Indiscriminatory fishing including capture of juvenile fish
- c. Poor recruitment of fish

Fishing with unnumbered (unregistered) vessels

- a. Increases criminal activities as the boat cannot be identified
- b. Perpetuate fishing without a license



IUU Fishing activities have led to:

- a. Depleting of some fish species
- b. Reduced catch per unit effort
- c. Fishing in restricted and foreign fishing grounds leading abrogation of transboundary laws
- d. Low household fish-based income.
- e. High debts resulting from borrowing to meet household needs
- f. Fishers' migration running from debts owed to fish traders
- g. Loss of capital by fish traders owed by the run-away fishers
- h. Increase in time taken by fish traders at the fishery
- i. Increase in illegal marriages between the fishers and women fish-traders
- j. Increase in illicit sex for fish



What should be done?

- a. All the natural resources conservation organizations to work together to conduct law enforcement activities.
- b. Government to government management of international shared fisheries.
- c. To mark the restricted fishing with mark-buoys
- d. Establish Fishing Village Management Committees (FVMCs) and Fisheries Management Committees (FMC) to support efforts of other law enforcement institutions.
- e. Social support institutions to provide capacity building in alternative livelihood activities.
- f. Involving the traditional authority in managing the fishing communities.
- g. To put in place stern penalties for all fisheries offences
- Food and nutrition security due to good fisheries resources management

1. Invest in aquaculture



2. Labeled fishing vessels



5. Provide extension services



6. Engage community leadership

4. Collaboration with cooperating partners to develop extension provision manuals



3. Seize vessels used in committing fisheries offences



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