



SAFE OCEAN NETWORK

# Building a Global Community to Better Combat Illegal Fishing

“Today, various nations are working hard to track and address illegal fishing, but the fact is no nation is currently capable of policing the entire range of the oceans.”

—Secretary of State John Kerry



## Illegal fishing causes billions, possibly tens of billions of dollars of economic losses in the fishing industry every year.

It undermines fisheries management efforts, jeopardizes the sustainability of fish stocks, and threatens coastal nations’ stability. Networks involved in illegal fishing have been linked to transnational crime, drug trafficking, human rights abuses, tax evasion, and other criminal activity.

3.1 billion people rely on food from the ocean as a significant source of animal protein. Healthy fish stocks play a vital role in global food security. Tackling this problem is so important that the world agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals to a target of ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing by 2020.

The Safe Ocean Network was launched by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in 2015 to build a global community to better detect, enforce against, and prosecute those engaged in illegal fishing and other associated criminal activities.

“...its goal is to enhance coordination, information sharing, and capacity building from pole to pole and across the equator.” -Secretary of State John Kerry

**SeaVision:** The U.S. government’s SeaVision is an internet-based mapping tool that helps countries detect vessels that may be illegally fishing.

**Eyes on the Seas:** Supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Eyes on the Seas combines satellite monitoring of the oceans with other information such as fishing-vessel and oceanographic data to help detect suspicious fishing activity often in near-real time.

**Supply Unchained and Turning the Tide - Human Trafficking in the Fishing Sector:** The United States will launch a suite of programs to tackle the root causes of forced labor in the fishing and seafood sector with a geographic focus in south east Asia.

**Illegal fishing cannot be stopped by any single country or organization acting alone. More than 40 partners have joined the Safe Ocean Network, and more than 40 Safe Ocean Network projects are being undertaken around the world. These projects come in many forms - from simple apps in the hands of fishermen, to advanced satellite technology, to assistance on drafting and implementing better laws.**

**Port State Measures Agreement:** The United States will fund training and capacity building by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) to support implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement which entered into force in June 2016.

**Western Central Pacific Front Line Fisheries Genetic Testing Initiative:** New Zealand will undertake genetic testing of tuna entering the market place to detect mis-reporting of fish species that takes place amongst commercial tuna longline vessels operating in the southern albacore fishery.

**Global Fishing Watch:** Oceana, SkyTruth and Google are partnering to develop an extensive data technology platform to generate the first freely available and comprehensive global view of commercial fishing.