



INTERPOL



Photo: Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection

PROJECT SCALE

An INTERPOL initiative to enable member countries to identify, deter and disrupt transnational fisheries crime

INTERPOL Project Scale supports police, fisheries enforcement, navies and coastguards, customs, port authorities and tax authorities to advance and coordinate internationally their enforcement and investigative objectives.

An important component of this endeavor is cooperation with the national ministries of the enforcement agencies as they engage with regional and international bodies, with the common objective of addressing fisheries related crime.

Situation

Fraud and lack of traceability in the supply chain are primary means of enabling the laundering of illegal marine products. By examining the entire business including fleet operations and from catch through processing to consumer, Project Scale works to ensure the traceability and legality of the product and that the proceeds of large-scale commercial fishing are not used to finance criminal activity.

Response

In its activities, INTERPOL looks at all types of illegal and criminal activity which facilitate or accompany illegal fishing, but reach beyond the traditional definition of illegal fishing. These associated administrative violations and criminal activities may include fraud, avoidance of taxes, handling of stolen goods, corruption, money laundering, document falsification, the use of fishing vessels to traffic drugs and weapons, and forced labour in the fishing industry.

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Activities

- **Facilitate transnational law enforcement responses** enabling prosecution of criminal activity.
- **Enhance information and intelligence sharing** among investigators and intelligence services, and optimize entry of information into INTERPOL databases.
- **Provide analytical support on vessel movements, supply chains, and financier and ownership associations.** This may include criminal intelligence analysis, forensic analysis of electronic equipment through support from the INTERPOL Digital Forensics Laboratory, and expert examination of fishing material, equipment and documentation.
- **Provide case-specific investigative and technical guidance** through the deployment of specialized Investigative Support Teams composed of INTERPOL and national experts.
- **Support institutionalized cooperation among national agencies and international partners,** such as by establishing National Environmental Security Task Forces.
- **Organise national and regional training** on the identification and inspection of highest-risk vessels, and on vessel documentation, evidence collection, chain-of-custody and operational planning.
- **Convene regional investigative and analytical case meetings** to facilitate the exchange of investigative information and provide a setting for countries to collectively examine ongoing transnational cases and prepare joint enforcement actions.
- **Issue international notices and alerts** on behalf of member countries to request information on, and warn of, the movements and activities of people and vessels.
- **Assist member countries to identify individuals, companies, recruitment agencies, vessels and organized criminal groups** facilitating human trafficking into the fisheries sector.
- **Further the activities of the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group** and support its two projects on intelligence and capacity building.



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