

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

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**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**  
**SERVICE**



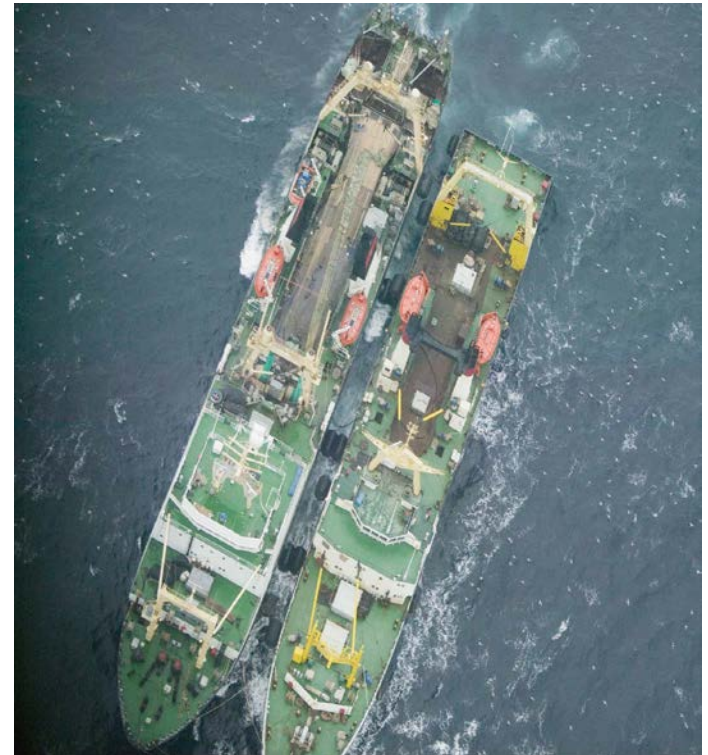
**Pacific Environmental Security Forum**  
**Nadi, Fiji 2016**





## Illegal, Unreported & Unregulated

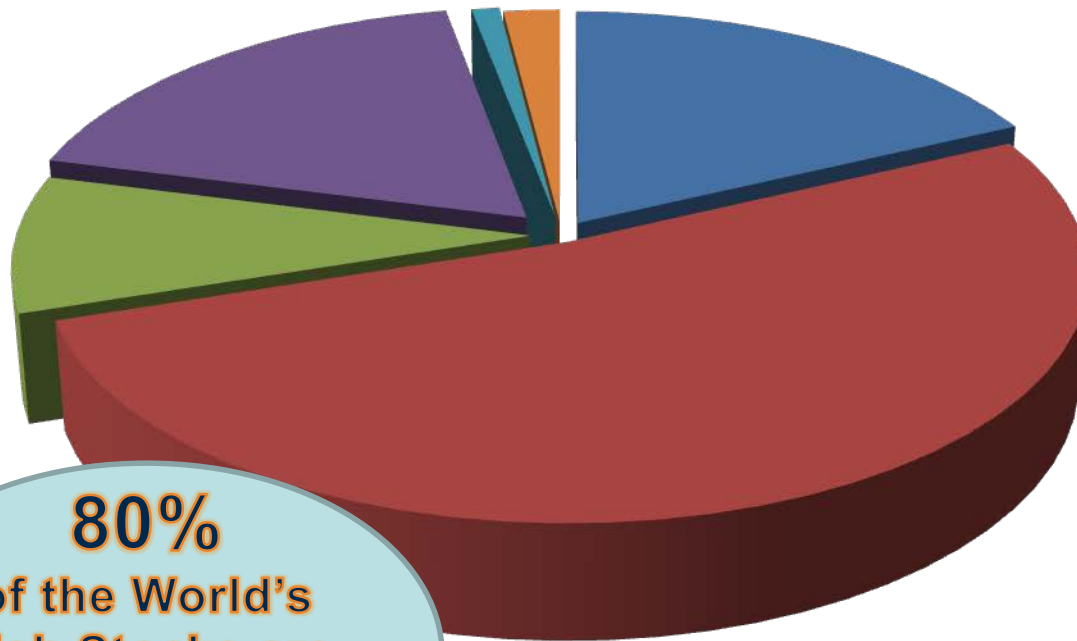
- **Illegal** (Contravening a country's laws, an international agreement, or RFMO conservation and management measures)
- **Unreported** (Not reporting or misreporting catches)
- **Unregulated** (Undermining efforts to conserve marine species and ecosystems)





## What are the Costs of IUU Fishing?

- Over Exploited
- Fully Exploited
- Depleted
- Moderately Exploited
- Recovering
- Under Exploited



**80%**  
of the World's  
Fish Stocks are  
Fully Exploited  
or Overfished  
FAO, 2010



# What are the Effects of IUU Fishing?

## Biological/Ecosystem

- Threatens sustainable fisheries management
- Harms sensitive ecosystems
- Threatens protected species

## • Social

- Jeopardizes food security
- Creates conflict between small-scale and industrial fishermen
- Presents unsafe, unfair working conditions
- Undermines the rule of law and thrives where controls are weakest

## • Economic losses estimated at USD\$10-23 billion (Globally)

- Threatens jobs, traditional livelihoods and sustainable communities
- Distorts markets for legally harvested products



# IUU in the Pacific

276,546 tons to 338,475 tons  
Estimated volume of IUU in Pacific Region

\$517.91 M to \$740.17 M (USD)  
Estimated Value of IUU in Pacific Region

## IUU Risk Categories

1. Reporting Violations (misreporting / under-reporting)
2. Non-Compliance w/other License Conditions (FAD fishing, illegal gear..)
3. Post Harvest Risks (Illegal Transshipment)
4. Unlicensed Fishing







## Leveling the Playing Field



**Illegal  
Unreported  
Unregulated  
Harvest**



**Legal  
Reported  
Regulated  
Harvest**



***Detecting and deterring IUU fishing presents many challenges***



### Vessel Specific

- Vessel Monitoring
- Flags of Convenience
- Global Record
- Owners/Operators

### Resource Mgmt

- Access Agreements
- Observer Programs
- Legal Frameworks
- Compliance Measures
- Catch Reporting
- Capacity Limits

### Supply Chain

- Import/Export Controls
- Catch Doc./Cert.
- Traceability Initiatives
- Port State Measures

**Enforcement**  
**Capacity Building**

### Market Related

- Consumer Education
- Eco-labeling
- Retailer Policies

***Four primary spheres of influence to address IUU fishing,***



## Supply Chain – Circumvention of Catch Documentation Schemes and False Labeling



***Many different approaches: important to factor resource vulnerability vs. burden to trade***





## Combating IUU Fishing



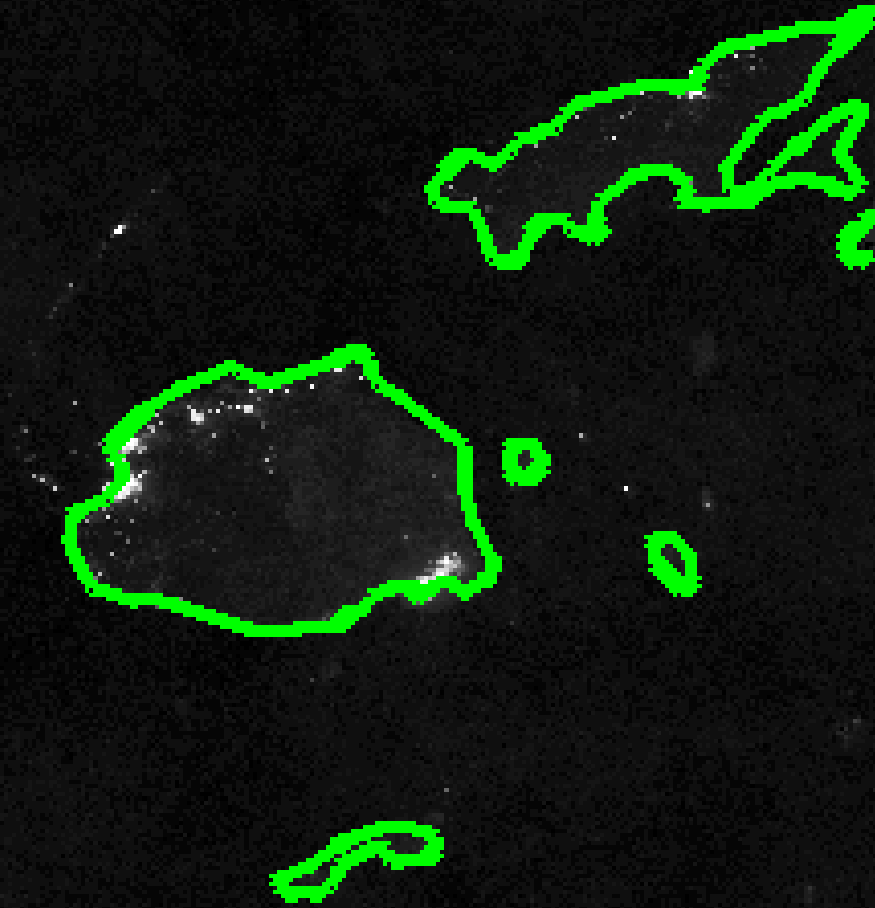
**Improve enforcement through greater collaboration**

**—Integrated Fisheries MCS through RPOA IUU and initiatives**

**Collaborate to develop a “Common Regional Framework for Legislation and Policy”**

- **Fisheries MCS Training Program**

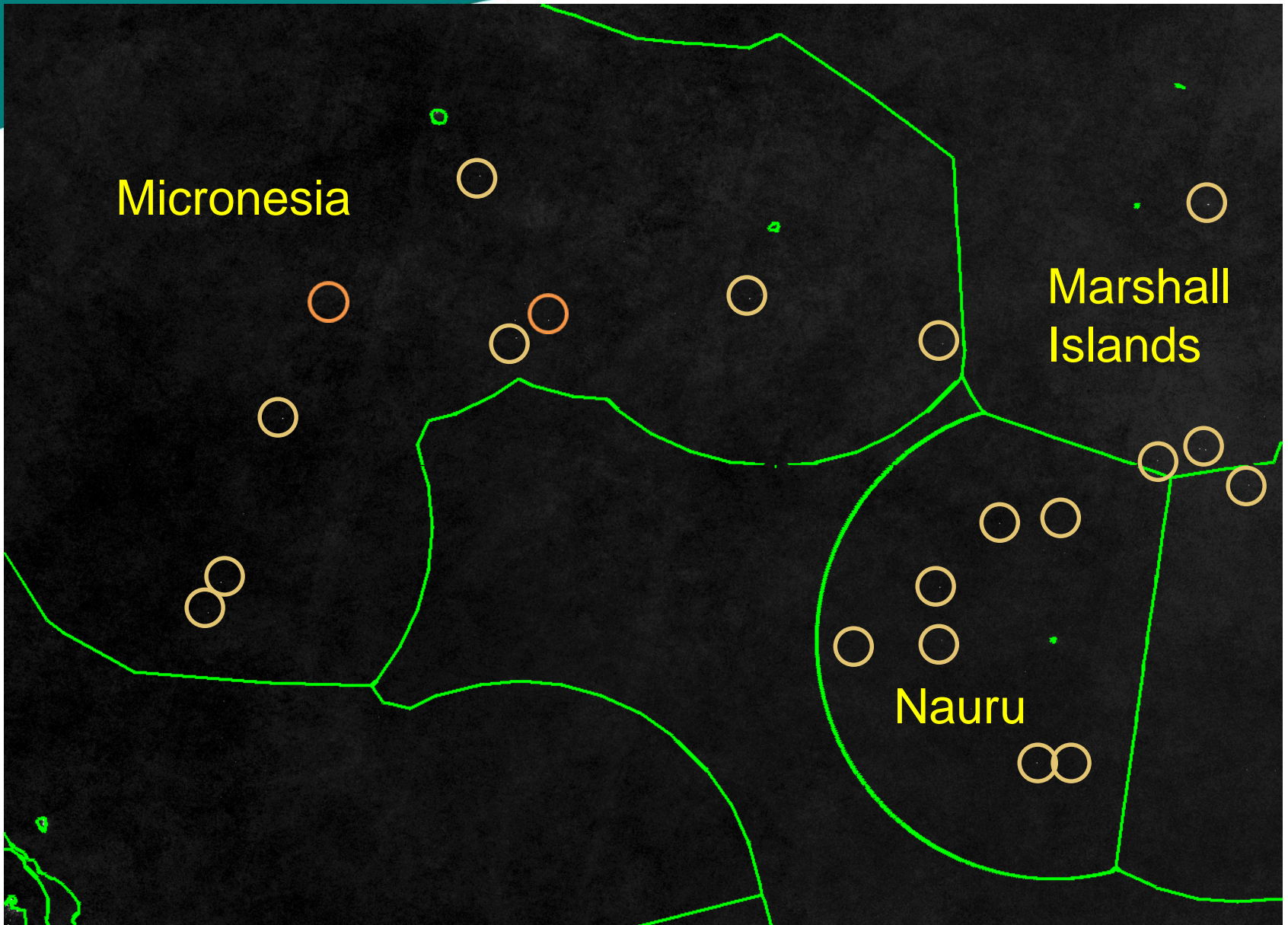
## Fiji boat detections



## Combating IUU Emerging Technologies

VIIRS

Near real time  
detections of lit  
fishing boats





## VIIRS Limitations

- It is not possible to identify specific boats by name or country of origin.
- Generally only one observation per night.
- Heavy cloud cover blocks the detection.
- Detection thresholds rise under full moon conditions, fewer small boats can be detected then.





## How can the data be used

Identification of potential EEZ transgressions, clusters of boats straddling EEZ lines.

Identification of boats not carrying VMS or AIS.

Alert services for the detection of boats inside shoreline buffers, marine protected areas, and closure areas.

NOAA EOG can provide training at user sites.



## Conclusion

**IUU fishing is a global, regional and national problem**

**IUU fishing threatens food security and poses significant economic impacts**

**Combating IUU fishing takes a coordinated and collaborative approach at each level of the process (harvest, landing, sale)**

**Inspections and investigations critical component**

**IUU fishing activity has been tied to other types of criminal activity**





## Table Top Exercise

Verbal walk through of a simulated scenario

### Goals and Objectives:

- Talk through critical functions
- Test threat response capabilities with current resources and plans
- Promote multi-agency approach to maritime security & enforcement
- Identify strengths and weaknesses for improving national preparedness





## SWOT Analysis & Key Notes

<b>SWOT Analysis</b>	<b>Helpful</b>	<b>Harmful</b>
<b>Internal Origin</b>	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>External Origin</b>	Opportunities	Threats





## Table Top Exercise

### The Scenario:

- You will be provided the initial information concerning a potential IUU vessel. Based on this information, you must discuss and decide the best course of action to take.
- There is no one right answer and may be multiple options, using the SWOT analysis discuss potential options and the strengths or weaknesses of each options.
- Each IUU incident is unique and may require slightly different approaches, based on the fact patterns.
- As the scenario progresses, your facilitator will provide injects with addition facts and challenges. Not all stages of an IUU investigation may involve you, so you may focus on those areas that may be relative to those agencies represented in your group.



## Table Top Exercise

### Expected Outcomes:

- Identify the necessary resources, training and planning needs for IUU threats.
- Provide participants with new perspectives on planning, response and decision-making for IUU incidents.
- Provide a forum for each participant to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of current plans, policies and procedures and ideas for improvement based on lessons learned.
- Encourage a whole-of-government integrated approach for planning, response and handling of IUU incidents.



## Scenario

May 24, 2016, at 1710 hours

An aircraft flying over your EEZ, as part of a regional Fisheries Forum Agency surveillance operation, reports to your primary maritime enforcement agency that an unmarked fishing vessel was observed deploying approximately 1 nautical mile of long line gear within your waters. The vessel is located approximately 100 NM from your shore. Efforts by the surveillance aircraft to identify the vessel determined that the vessel is stateless and is not registered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) for fishing within the Convention Area. Your fisheries enforcement agency has also determined that the vessel does not hold a permit to fish within your EEZ. Due to fuel restrictions, the aircraft departed the area but provided you with geographical coordinates of the vessel and deployed fishing gear.

The weather conditions are calm with 10 knot winds from the South and 1 meter swells from the Southeast.