

Polices to combat IUU Fishing in the Asia-Pacific Region



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Sustainable Fisheries Management

Background



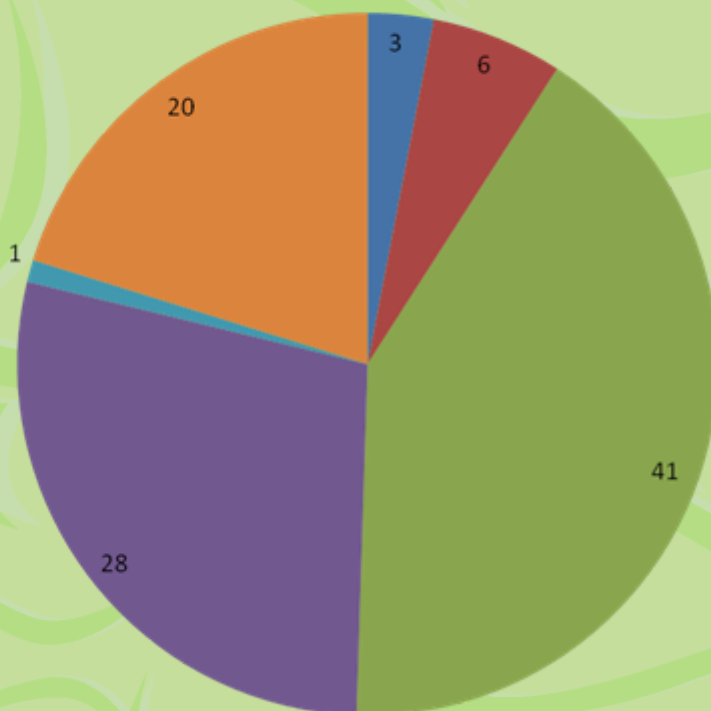
- Global IUU problem
 - UNGA, FAO, HSTF, EC and US
- High priority of APEC
 - Bali Plan of Action
- Increasing concern of Western and Central Pacific
- In 2005, 53m tonnes of fish taken in the Pacific.
 - 56% of the reported global fisheries catch
 - IUU estimated at around US\$7b/year for the region as a whole



Catch by FAO Region



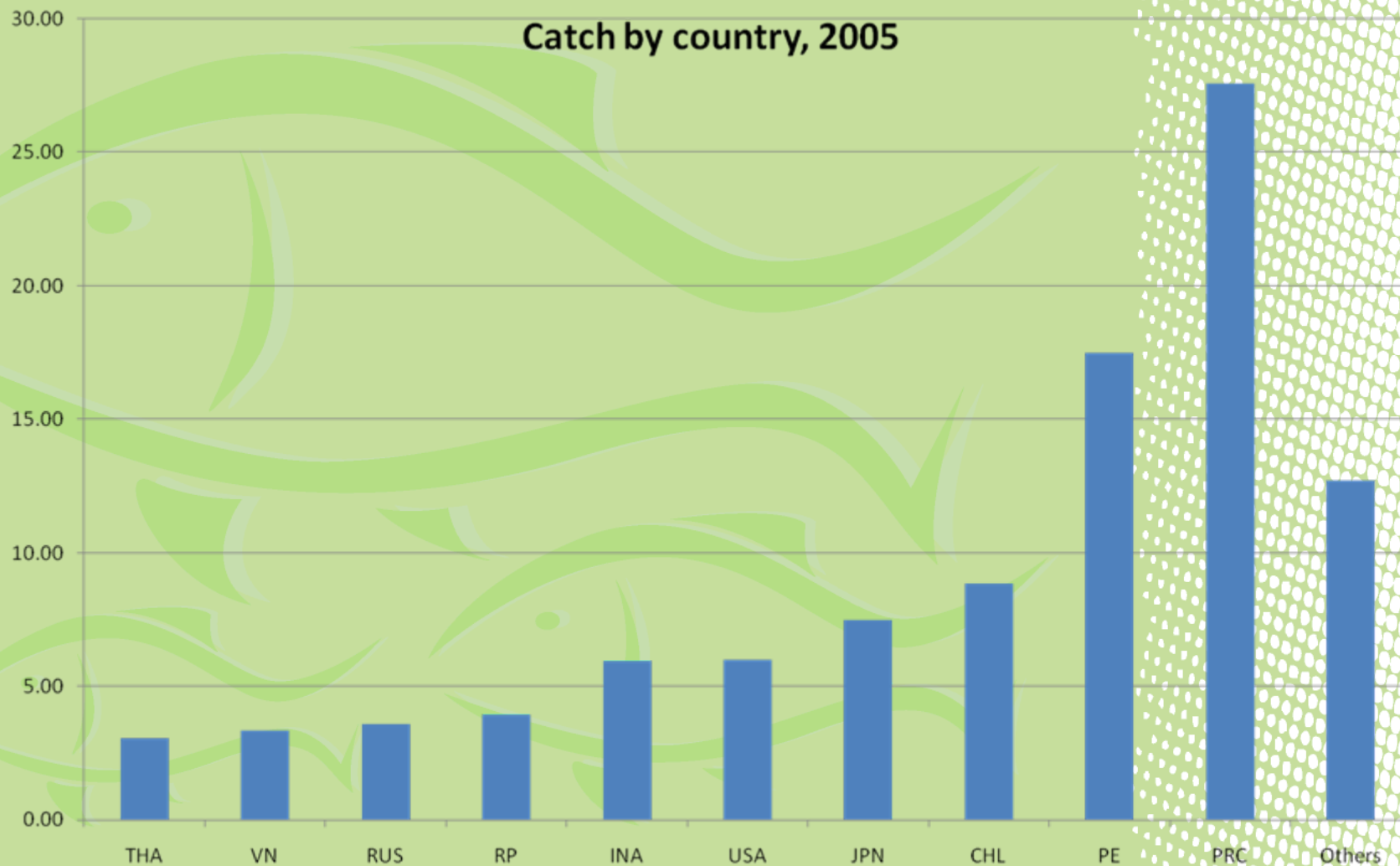
Catch by region, 2005(%)



- Eastern Central
- Central
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Western Central



Catch by country



Stock Status



- **39 stocks of marine species in the Pacific classified as fully exploited, overexploited or depleted, including**
 - 5 of the 10 species that contribute most to Pacific Ocean catch
 - high value species of tunas & some stocks of prawns, salmon and squid
- The status of many species is unknown
- Significant overfishing in the waters of countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam
- Limited opportunity to expand production

The Nature of IUU Fishing

No consistent pattern of IUU fishing

- The drivers vary across the region
- Best considered on a subregional basis
- The species involved vary across the region
- Identifiable IUU fishing 'hot spots'

IUU fishing a significant threat

- Depleted status of many stocks
- but the relative abundance of Pacific stocks compared to other global fishing grounds

Where is IUU fishing occurring?



Most economies in the region (in waters under their jurisdiction)

On the high seas

Hot spots

- Eastern Pacific
- Northwest Pacific
- Southeast Asia
- Pacific Islands

Who are the IUU fishers?



Vessels from countries in the region
Often vessels from neighboring countries
Few instances of vessels from outside the region
Vessels flagged in the region are also involved in IUU fishing in other regions eg West Africa

Forms of IUU Fishing



- By domestic & foreign vessels in domestic waters
- On the high seas
- Illegal
 - Unlicensed vessels
 - In contravention of conditions on the authorization
 - Use of illegal destructive fishing methods
- Unreported
 - Underreporting or misreported catch, especially by foreign vessels operating under access agreements
- Unregulated
 - On the high seas



Main IUU species



- Abalone
- Alaska pollock
- Crabs
- Reef fish
- Salmon
- Sea cucumber
- Sea urchins
- Sharks
- Squid
- Tunas

Drivers and facilitators of IUU fishing



- Lack of resources and capacity for management and MCS
- Corruption
- Subsidies
- Lack of alternative livelihoods
- Disputed and/or undelimited maritime boundaries



- Poor governance
- Excess capacity and overfishing of domestic waters
 - Production targets
- Incentive for IUU fishing
- Lack of effective, regionally coordinated action

Data Gaps



Many estimates are anecdotal

Few economies/RFMOs have developed methodologies to estimate IUU catch

Few observer programs to validate catch data

Trade data are inadequate as a basis for estimation of IUU catch

Trade, rather than catch, documentation schemes used

Combating IUU Fishing



The capacity to address IUU fishing

- varies across the region
- linked to
 - the nature and strength of economic development
 - the resourcing and sophistication of management and MCS
 - engagement in and implementation of regional and international agreements

IUU fishing remains a challenging problem for all economies that have a significant domestic and/or high seas fishing industry

Current Responses



Relatively poor participation by economies in key treaties and agreements

- UNCLOS
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement
- FAO Compliance Agreement
- Poor take up of NPOA-IUU fishing
- Fairly high participation in relevant RFMOs!

Implementation of obligations

Lack of political will

What is needed?



Domestic management arrangements

Additional MCS resources

Regional MCS initiatives

Methodologies to estimate IUU fishing

Catch documentation schemes

Stronger port and market state measures

Increased bilateral and multilateral agreements

Programs to foster alternative livelihoods

Programs to increasing political and public awareness