

# IUU fishing impacts: a systematic review of evidence and proposed future agenda

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# What is IUU?

- **Illegal**
  - Fishing without permission from that State or in contravention of the State's regulations
- **Unreported**
  - Fishing that has not been reported, or has been reported incorrectly, to the State
- **Unregulated**
- Operationalising “unregulated” can be a bit tricky in an EEZ context

# Problem statement

- Global phenomenon
  - Illegal: **US\$10-24 billion, 11-26 million tonnes** (2009)
  - Unreported: **US\$41 billion, 28 million tonnes** (2015)
- Environmental, economic, social and taxpayer costs
  - Undermines management
  - Lost income, jobs, taxes
  - Labour abuses
  - Hurts communities
- UK post-Brexit
  - 1st January 2021: UK no longer subject EU's CFP
  - Opportunity for reform



# Aim

## Long term aim

- UK a global leader in the control of IUU fishing

## Vision

- Opportunity for reforms
- Benefit the fishing industry and the marine environment

## Premise

- Understanding IUU in the UK key to effective management

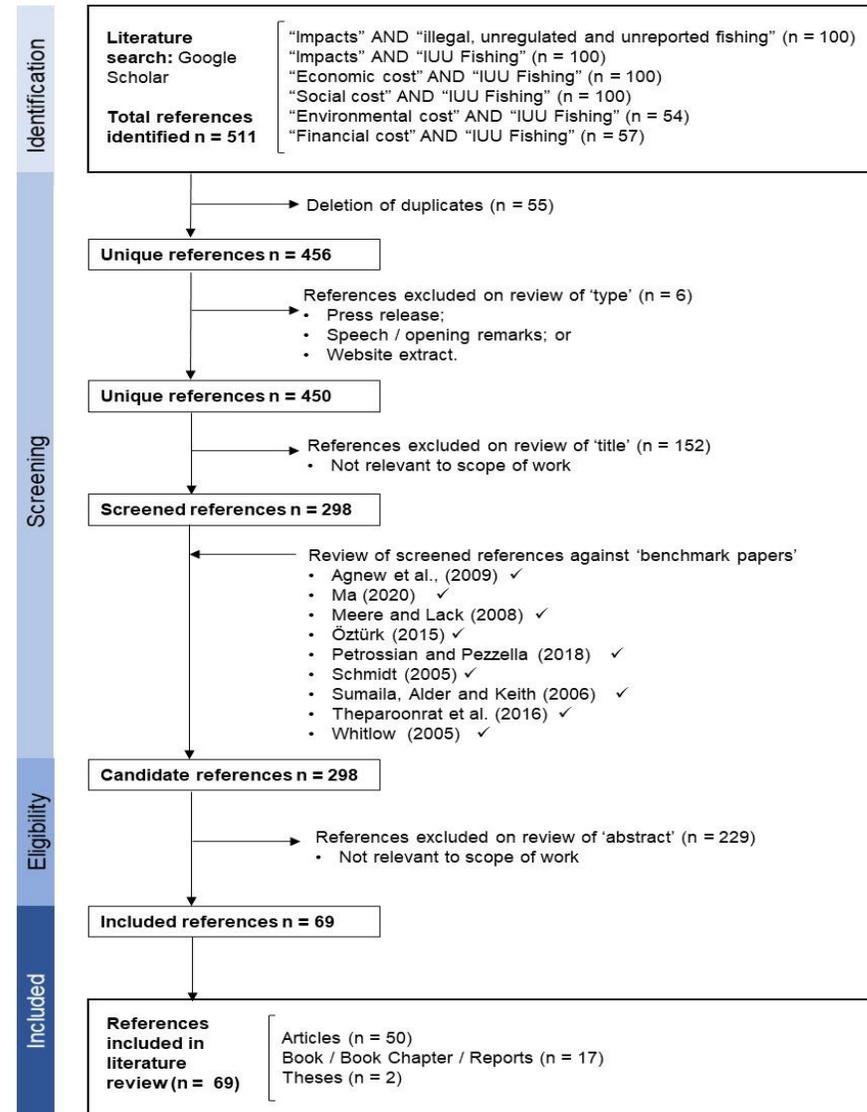
## Questions

- What do/don't we know of IUU activity in the UK waters?
- What should be the future priorities for UK?



# Method

- Systematic review
  - International
  - Europe/North East Atlantic
  - UK
- Data from Sea Around Us database
- Discussions with FAO
  - Data needs and methods for IUU estimation
- Discussions with MMO & Defra
  - Enforcement and taxpayer costs



# Results

- Illegal estimates Northeast Atlantic (2009)
  - ~ **364–842 thousand tonnes**
  - ~ **US\$328-758 million**
- National estimates on unreported (2015)
  - ~ **27 thousand tonnes** by UK fleet
  - ~ **US\$72 million** (approx. £55 million)
- At least 10 other States believed to conduct unreported fishing in UK waters
  - ~ **75 thousand tonnes**
  - ~ **US\$197 million**
- Social impacts poorly understood
  - Possible job losses of **3-4 thousand**



# Discussion – UK vessels

- Estimates exist for IUU from UK vessels
  - Likely inaccurate
  - Out of date
- Information at fishery, species, geographic levels unavailable
  - Key for targeted measures
- Limits ability to target and apply appropriate enforcement measures

**27,000 tonnes**

**US\$72,000,000**

# Discussion – Foreign Vessels

- Not just UK vessels committing IUU offences in UK waters
- Foreign fleets large contributors
  - Netherlands = **39 thousand tonnes, US\$92 million**
  - France = **11.4 thousand tonnes, US\$33 million**
  - Germany = **10.1 thousand tonnes, US\$30 million**
- Changes in fisheries dynamics post-Brexit a key focus
- Potential for imported IUU goods poorly understood

**75,000 tonnes**

**US\$197,000,000**

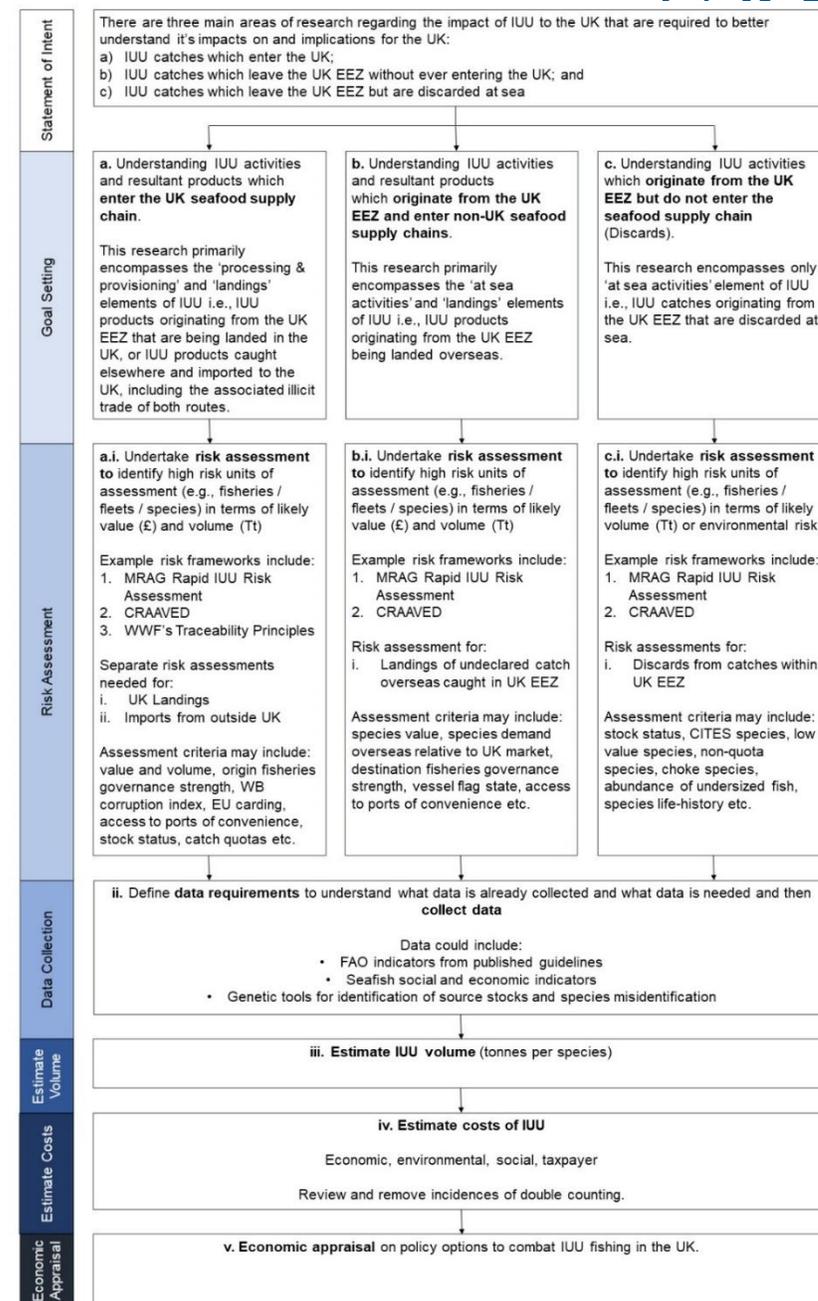
# Discussion

- **Social** costs difficult to quantify
  - “Unrealised opportunities” e.g. jobs
  - Labour abuses
  - Likely much lower than in low-governance regions
- **Environmental** costs difficult to quantify
  - Impacts ecosystem structure and function
  - Undermines fisheries stock assessment
  - Undermines management



# Conclusion

- UK data low resolution
- Need to maximise effectiveness of funds in combating IUU
  - **Higher resolution** understanding key
- **Triage** approach, **prioritising high risk fisheries**
  - Identify
  - Prioritise
  - Estimate
  - Action



# Next Steps

- Working with Defra on higher-resolution estimates the costs of IUU in UK waters
  - Economic, Environmental, Social and Taxpayer
  - Within UK EEZ
  - Imported IUU
  - Breakdown by species, fleets
- Iterative estimation with **stakeholder** engagement and inputs
  - Stakeholders can see and help adjust estimates
  - Interested parties please be in touch
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- Thank you

