

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

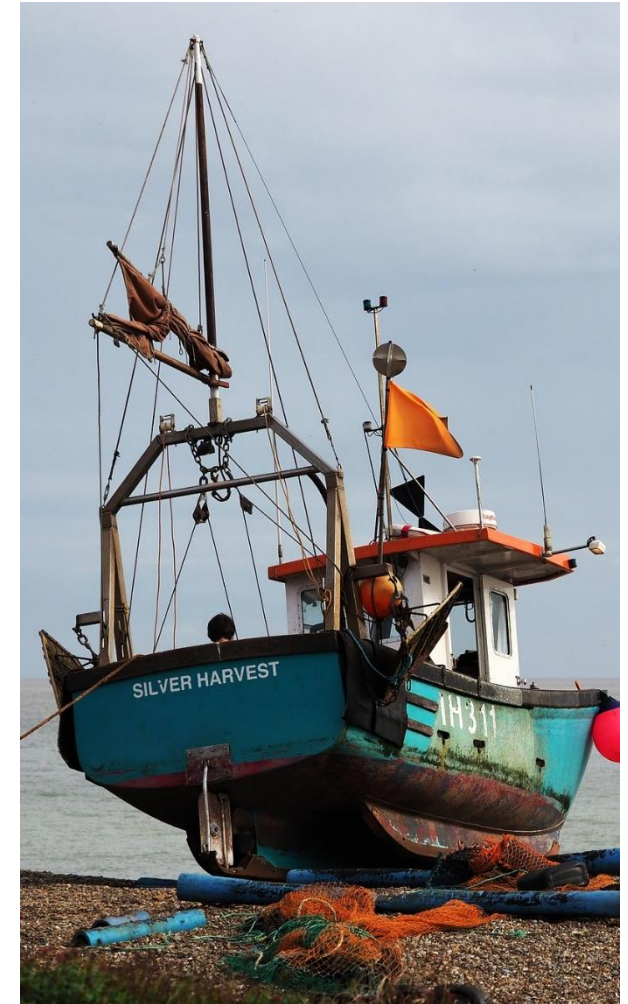
- Opportunity for reforms
- Benefit the fishing industry and the marine environment

Premise

- Understanding IUU in the UK key to effective management

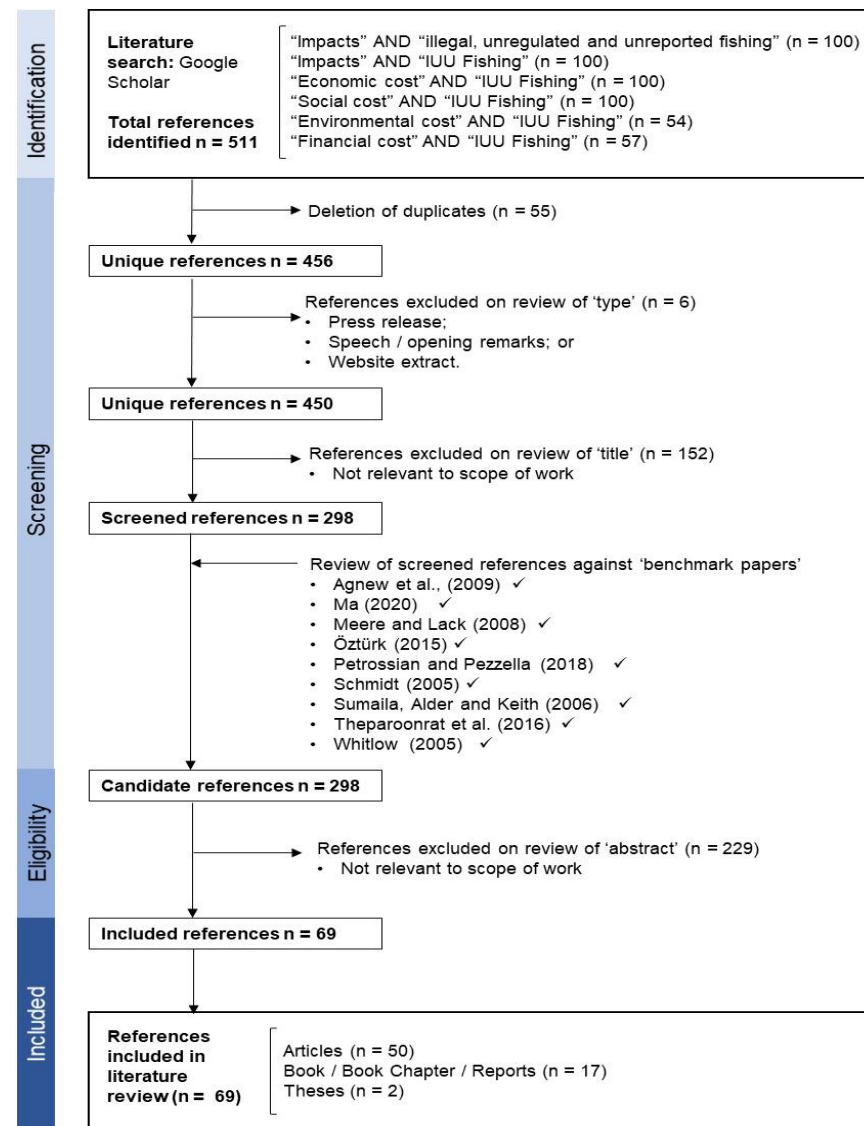
Questions

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



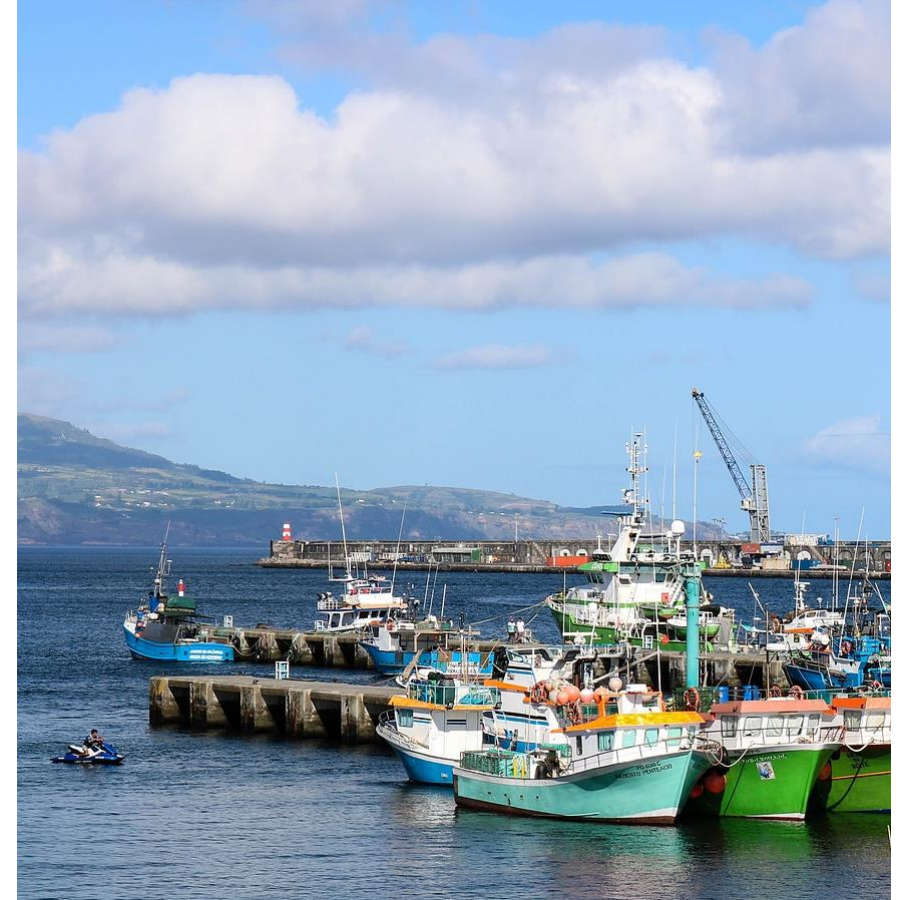
Method

- 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

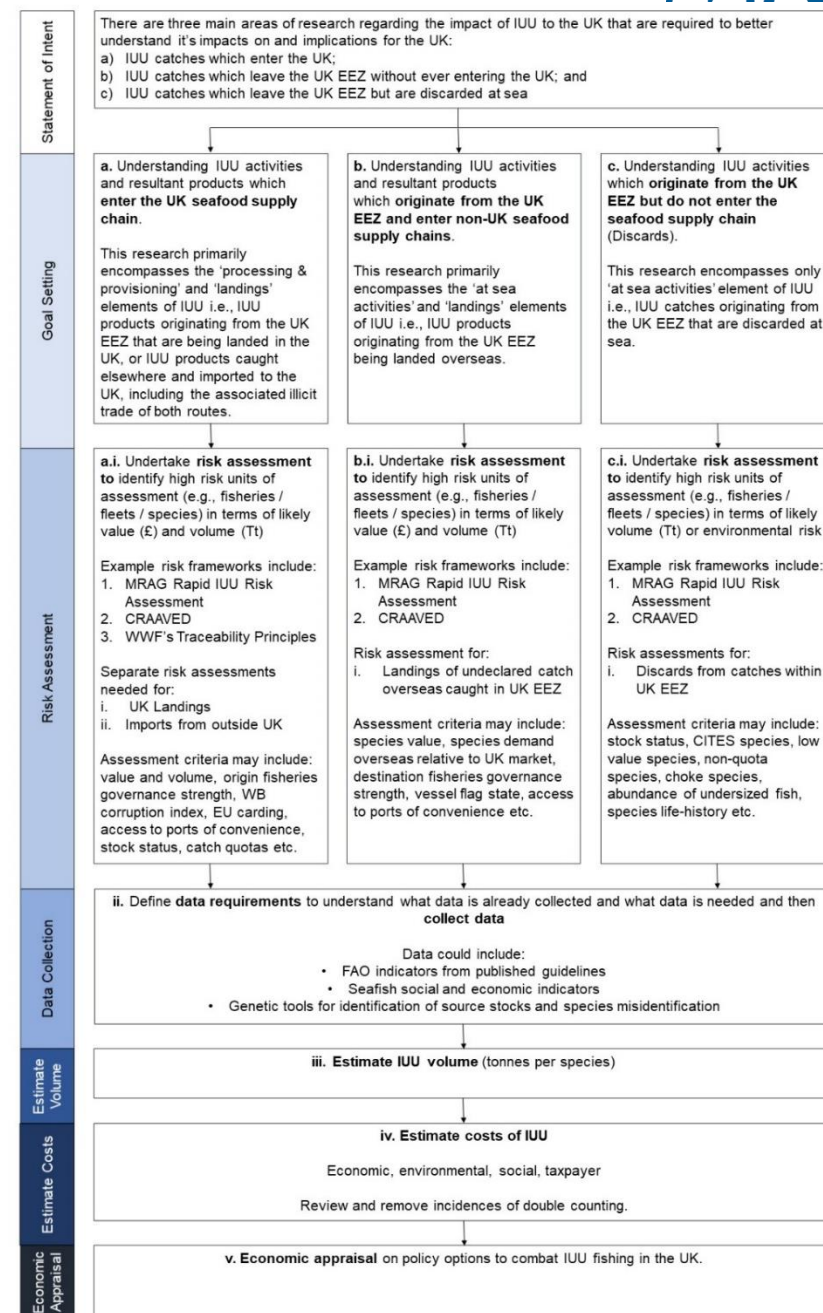
Discussion

- **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

