



SPEAKERS AT GRAND THEFT OCEANS (15:00 TO 15:30)

- Ben Bradshaw:** Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) www.defra.gov.uk
- Gareth Thomas:** Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for International Development (DFID) www.dfid.gov.uk
- HE George M Liswaniso:** The Namibian High Commissioner namibia.embassyhomepage.com
- Cliff Morrison:** Chairman, Seafood Group, Food and Drink Federation (FDF) www.fdf.org.uk
Vice-President, European Fish Processors and Traders Association

RELEVANT FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Chatham House 8/9 May 2007:** Update and Consultation on IUU Fishing www.illegal-fishing.info
- Chatham House Nov 2007:** Growth and Control of International Environmental Crime www.chathamhouse.org.uk
- Windhoek, Namibia Feb 2008:** African Ministerial Conference on IUU Fishing

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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GRAND THEFT OCEANS

Tackling illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing

An event at Portcullis House, House of Commons, Westminster
30 April 2007 at 14:30



NET LOSSES

Illegal fishing is a global problem which has a massive impact on the livelihoods of some of the poorest people in the world and which taints global markets for fish products. It cuts down the numbers of fish available to legitimate fishermen and the money they can earn. It undermines measures to help to manage and conserve fisheries. It endangers a healthy processing industry and sustainable supplies to consumers by retailers. Illegal fishers abuse the marine environment as well as their crews, which may be virtually enslaved labour.

WHO PAYS?

The real victims of illegal fishing are developing countries. Each year, illegal fishing takes catches worth about \$1 billion from the waters of sub-Saharan Africa. Aside from significant impacts on their national economies, legitimate small scale fishers can face violence from illegal operators, threatening both their food supplies and their livelihoods.

HOW DOES ILLEGAL FISH GET IN TO THE UK?

The EU accounts for one third of the global trade in fish and 19% (800,000 tonnes) of fish consumed in the EU are imported from Africa. Illegally caught fish can enter the EU (and the UK by virtue of the single market) through a number of routes:

- Landed directly from fishing vessels.
- Landed at poorly controlled EU ports.
- Transhipped at sea to cargo vessels and landed in the EU or directly in the UK.
- Imported from outside the EU.

Furthermore, illegally and legally caught fish may be mixed at any stage in the complex supply chains. Fish may be processed and exported to other countries such as China, before arriving back into the EU in a different form. All of which makes it difficult to identify illegally caught fish in the marketplace.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Governments and industry must work together at both ends of the supply chain. Large profits are made by illegal fishing, but only when the fish are traded. The UK is working closely both with producing countries and its industry partners so that the profits for this illegal trade dry up.

STOPPING ILLEGAL FISH GETTING INTO THE SUPPLY CHAIN

With industry and in concert with the European Commission's new initiative on illegal fishing, we will develop new ways of ensuring that illegal produce cannot enter our markets. For example:

- UK and European companies are **improving ways to trace and document fish through the supply chain to make sure they are legally sourced**. This means consumers can be reassured that they are buying products that meet both legal and ethical standards.
- The UK is working with European partners to **make sure that imports into UK or European ports from fishing or cargo vessels can be certified as legally caught**.

- By new legislation, the UK plans to strengthen its laws so that **UK citizens engaged in illegal fishing activities will be prosecuted**. This includes those importing and trading in illegal product and those on vessels operating under a foreign flag.

WORKING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Developing countries are the most vulnerable to predatory illegal fishing. They often lack the capacity to increase the wealth of their fisheries through good management and proper enforcement.

The UK is responding to this problem in several ways:

- **We will support a Namibian initiative to tackle illegal fishing in Africa**. A new programme to be taken forward by Namibia and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), will assess the problem, build awareness and help strengthen political resolve to deal with it.
- **We will work with Sierra Leone in developing detailed proposals for supporting more productive fisheries**. In partnership with legitimate business, government and civil society in this country, a particular focus will be to find ways of reducing and eventually eliminating illegal fishing which currently threatens traditional food supplies, livelihoods and revenues.

These initiatives will translate into concrete action to benefit developing country fisheries, delivering stronger management systems, stronger supply chains and active engagement with the wider international actions described below.

WORKING INTERNATIONALLY TO STOP IUU FISHING

The UK strongly supports the drive to implement internationally recognised guidelines on IUU fishing, including those of the Ministerial High Seas Task Force and the United Nations. DFID and Defra work together on activities, including:

- Helping to develop with other partners, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's proposed **Global Record of fishing vessels**. This will provide users, including developing countries, with significant help in identifying vessels likely to have fished illegally.
- Supporting the further development of the international voluntary **'MCS network'** which currently supports and trains fisheries enforcement officers, including improving participation by, and training for, members from African states.
- Supporting an **International Network for Monitoring IUU fishing** which will help identify risks to specific fisheries.
- Helping to bring unregulated high seas fisheries under effective governance through facilitating the development of a model for improved governance by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).