



MedReAct



ILLEGAL FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
THE CASE OF ITALIAN DRIFTNETS

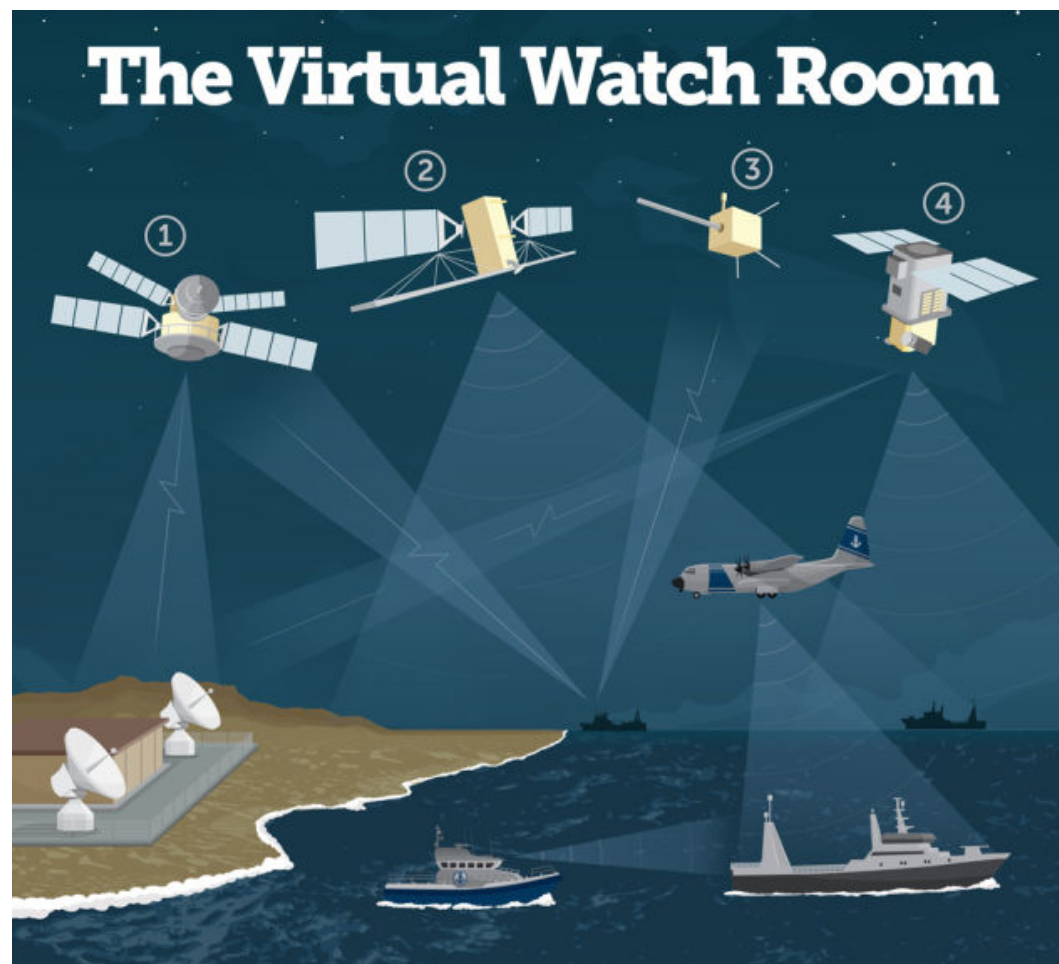
Working Group on IUU Fishing in the GFCM Area
22-24 April 2015, Marrakech



IUU FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

It is generally reported that the nature and extent of IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea is not clearly known at present, and yet.....

IUU FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN





IUU FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The EC Regulation 1224/2009 establishing a Community fisheries control system, requires that by January 2014:

“Member States shall set up and keep up to date an electronic database where they upload all inspection and surveillance reports drawn up by their officials “.



IUU FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

91% of Mediterranean assessed stock are overfished.

A fishing capacity , a management problem

compounded by

IUU fishing hijacking conservation measures

THE COSTS OF IUU

Costs of IUU activity for Mediterranean tuna/billfishes, by country fishing (values in million euros)

Source: "The cost of IUU Fishing in EU Fisheries". Eftec. 2008

Country	Share (%)	Stock value lost	Catch value lost	Jobs lost
France	2.3	30	20	69
Greece	13.5	175	118	403
Italy	38.9	504	339	1,162
Slovenia	0.1	1.3	0.9	3.0
Spain	11.8	153	103	352
EU	66.6	862	580	1,989
non-EU	33.4	432	291	998
TOTAL	100	1,294	871	2,98



THE COSTS OF IUU

A total cost to EU Member States of **lost catches from 2008 to 2020 of 10.7 billion** – this is an average cost in lost catches of 825 million per year which equates to about 15% of total fishery value and more than 30% of the value of the fisheries considered.

Over 27,800 lost job opportunities in fishing and processing industries: around 13% of total fisheries employment.

Significant stock depletion across most of the fisheries assessed: the models suggest that **IUU fishing is preventing stock recovery and keeping fisheries locked in low-value states**. It is difficult to put a number on this, but valuing lost stocks at the same value per ton as landings suggests a **total cost of almost 9 billion**.

Source: "The cost of IUU Fishing in EU Fisheries". Eftec. 2008



THE CASE OF ITALIAN DRIFTNETS

In the mid-1980s driftnets became very popular and were actively promoted by the Italian government.

The traditional harpoon swordfish fisheries was quickly replaced by the large-scale pelagic driftnet, the “spadara”

GFCM Resolution 97/1

- + No vessel flying the flag of a Contracting Party of GFCM may keep on board, or use for fishing, one or more driftnets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 kilometres;
- + Throughout the fishing referred to in paragraph 1, the net must, if it is longer than one kilometre, remain attached to the vessel. However, within the 12 mile coastal band, a vessel may detach itself from the net, provided it keeps it under constant observation.



THE CASE OF ITALIAN DRIFTNETS

Between 1998 and 2002, following the EU ban on large scale driftnets, Italian driftnet fishers were compensated with

€97 million

and given an additional permit for the small coastal driftnet "ferrettara".

Presently, Italy has **820** small scale driftnets authorizations, mostly concentrated in the its Southern regions (Sicily, Calabria, Campania). This is the highest number in the EU.

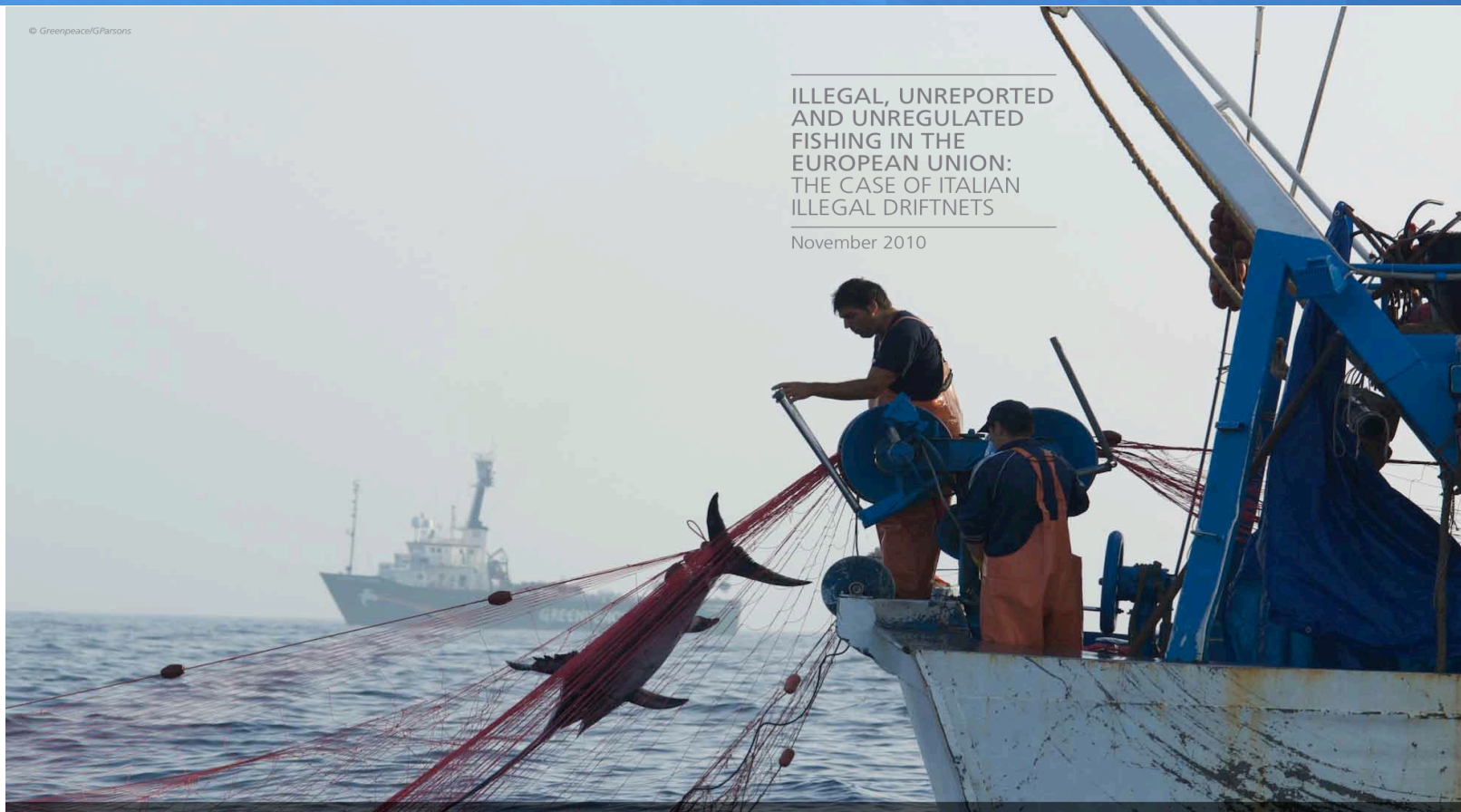


FROM TRADITIONAL TO ILLEGAL FISHING

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ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED
AND UNREGULATED
FISHING IN THE
EUROPEAN UNION:
THE CASE OF ITALIAN
ILLEGAL DRIFTNETS

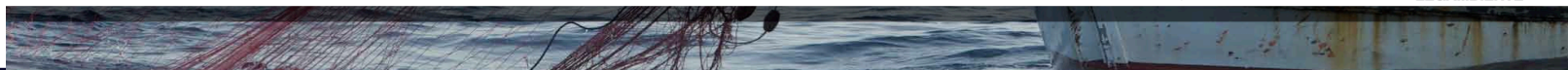
November 2010



MAREVIVO



 **LEGAMBIENTE**



2005-2014

679 reported infringements
involving
320 fishing vessels of which
100 had received
10.5 million € from the Driftnets
Reconversion Plan.



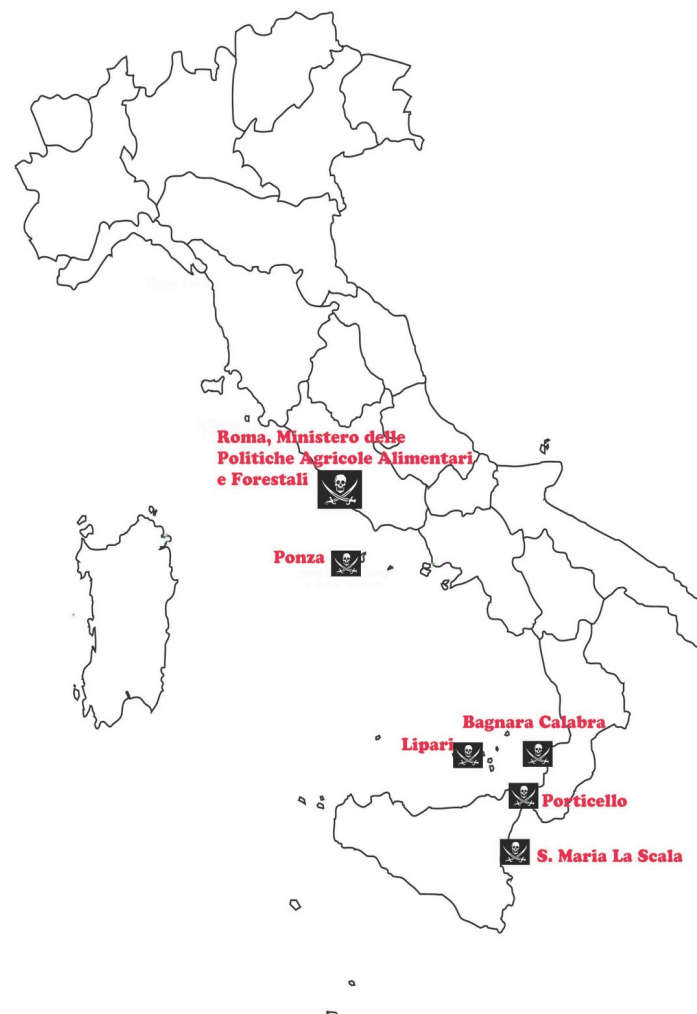
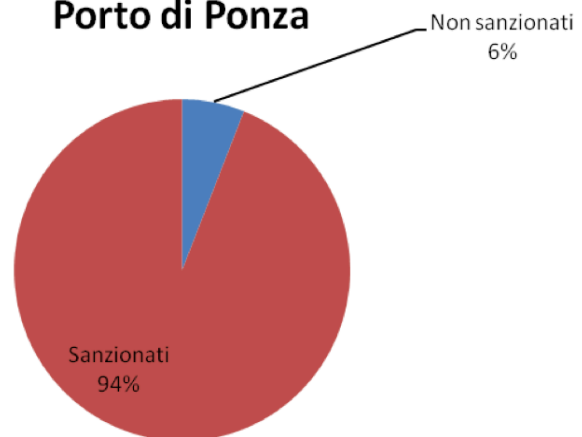
Comando Generale del Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto
Guardia Costiera
Reparto III
PIANI E OPERAZIONI



Ufficio Operazioni



Porto di Ponza





THE PORT OF BAGNARA (ITALY)

Home port to **37** of the “black listed” vessels.

In 2010 returned to the authorities **300 km** of
large scale driftnets.

In 2013 local fishermen tried to **export large scale
driftnets** to Albania



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THE PORT OF BAGNARA (ITALY)





THE FRENCH-SPANISH CONNECTION

In July 2011, a widespread Italian illegal trafficking ring was uncovered, along with evidence that bluefin tuna catch documents were regularly being falsified or withheld, allowing BFT to enter the market illegally and exported to France and Spain.

Violations worth **3.6 million €** were identified, and 70 wholesale and retail operators were investigated.

CONCLUSIONS

Illegal driftnets fishing has become a highly organized activity with ramifications in other Mediterrenan Countries (i.e Algeria, Tunisia, Albania).

Monitoring and control measures should nor longer be limited to target the single infringement but require wider coordination and integration efforts by different control authorities at regional and subregional level.

Black listing of vessels with a track record of illegal fishing should become a priority for the GFCM, particularly in view of the failure of the EU to enforce the IUU regulation on illegal driftnetters.

The GFCM resolution 97/1 should be revised and tighten in order to allow for a full ban with few strict derogations for specific small scale artisanal fisheries.

THANK YOU!



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