

PESCADOLUS FISHERIES CRIME RESEARCH WORKSHOP

3rd INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CRIME SYMPOSIUM: FishCRIME 2017

**25-27 September 2017
Vienna, Austria**

The first PescaDOLUS Fisheries Crime Research Workshop will be held on 27 September 2017 following the 3rd International Fisheries Crime Symposium (FishCRIME 2017), taking place on 25-26 September at the Vienna International Centre Vienna, Austria. The Workshop will be held in collaboration with the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, the North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group (NA-FIG), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Introduction

The health of the world's oceans is once again in the international spotlight, as highlighted by the recent global UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, New York. Never before has the need to curb illegal fishing to halt the decline of global fish stocks and destruction of marine biodiversity in the face of exponential global population growth and rising food insecurity been so urgent. The added layer of associated serious criminal activity in the fisheries sector has resulted in a complex international problem the causes, patterns and implications of which require urgent attention. The knowledge and expertise required to engage with these questions extends well beyond the traditional realm of fisheries management into areas as diverse as economic crime, human rights, sociology, transnational organised crime, criminal law, public international law, policing and security.

PescadOLUS, an independent international policy and research initiative formed in 2014, provides the platform to bring together such experts to exchange ideas, identify research questions and seek innovative inter-disciplinary solutions around criminal activities in fisheries.

In cooperation with:

Background

The marine fisheries sector is one of the most critical industries worldwide with international trade in fish and fish products reaching USD 148 billion in 2014, representing about half of the total value of traded commodities in some developing countries (FAO 2014).

The sector also plays a critical role in global food security (World Bank 2013) and is an important generator of employment throughout the fisheries value chain, providing employment to over 58.3 million people worldwide.

Yet the sector is under increasing threat. It is estimated that annually as much as USD 23.5 billion is lost to illegal fishing globally (Agnew et al 2009) and despite international efforts to stem the problem there is little sign of improvement. At an international level it is recognised that large-scale illegal fishing is a maritime security threat and that there is a link between illegal fishing and transnational organised crime (United Nations Oceans 2008; General Assembly resolution 67/79). Furthermore, an estimated 58.1 % of the world's commercial fish stocks are fully fished (FAO 2016). This makes fish a highly valuable commodity. There are substantial law enforcement challenges associated with at-sea surveillance of vessel movements and the complex lattice of laws regulating activities in the fishing sector give rise to legal loopholes and jurisdictional uncertainty. Combined, these characteristics render the commercial fishing sector vulnerable to multiple crimes, particularly organised crime (UNODC 2011). Cases highlight that the forms these 'multi-crimes' take extend from illegal fishing practices to a variety of other offences both at sea and on land. These offences include fraudulent vessel registration and licencing, corruptly obtained fishing quotas and permits, large-scale tax evasion and economic crime, money-laundering and human rights abuses onboard vessels. This 'fisheries crime' is underpinned by illicit flows of goods, finances and transactions and, due to its global reach, is frequently transnational.

The scope and complexity of fisheries crime gives rise to a myriad of cross-cutting research questions and areas of potential study across numerous disciplines. This type of research is, however, currently under-represented internationally. There is thus scope for experts globally in their various relevant fields, ranging from criminology, social science to economics to law, to engage cooperatively in research towards a better understanding of fisheries crime and solutions towards addressing it.

The first International Symposium on Fisheries Crime (FishCRIME 2015), held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2015, co-hosted by PescaDOLUS, the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, the South African Department of Forestry and Fisheries and Stop Illegal Fishing, was a first step towards initiating a global dialogue amongst diverse experts, academics and governments on fisheries crime. The momentum of this international conversation was carried forward at the FishCRIME 2016 Symposium in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Outcome Document of the 2016 symposium, supported by the Government of Norway, UNODC, Indonesia and PescaDOLUS, expressly highlighted the role of research, expressing the need to:

...stimulate cross-disciplinary research on transnational organised fisheries crime and to encourage academia and governmental institutions to do so in order to

assist governments develop effective strategies and legal frameworks nationally and internationally.

The upcoming FishCRIME 2017 Symposium at UNODC, Vienna, Austria, focuses on the policy, law enforcement and criminal justice challenges associated with the international and inter-continental nature of fisheries crime. Expert input and research outputs emanating from different disciplines and varying nationalities globally will make a valuable contribution to understanding the nature of these challenges and seeking solutions thereto.

Workshop aims

The first Fisheries Crime Research Workshop aims to bring together experts and researchers from multiple disciplines to share and integrate knowledge, tools and ways of thinking around the international challenge of fisheries crime and to stimulate relevant research and innovative solutions in this sphere.

Specific key aims are:

- To foster cooperation on fisheries crime research between institutions and researchers within the Nordic region
- To strengthen North-South dialogue around fisheries crime research and solutions drawing on the Nordic experience,
- To identify possible areas of mutual interest of joint research issues and projects that can form the basis for future cooperative research work.

An outcome document from the workshop will be produced in the form of a report. The report will identify further possible future research and policy-driven collaboration around fisheries crime between Nordic academic institutions and academic institutions from the South represented at the Workshop.

Participation

The Workshop participants will comprise academics, researchers and experts drawn from Nordic countries on the one hand and countries in the South on the other. Participants will represent a range of disciplines and expertise relevant to fisheries crime including sociology, criminology, economics, law and policing.

Participants will be requested to provide **critical comment** and discussion points from their respective fields of expertise on a research report that will be launched at the FishCRIME Symposium and circulated to workshop attendees in advance.

The objective is to identify issues arising from and aspects of the reports that are appropriate for or necessitate further dedicated research.

Examples of suggested discussion points might include:

- the nexus between tax and economic crime and illegal fishing
- the nexus between human rights violations and fisheries crime
- the nexus between domestic and international fisheries crime,
- typologies of transnational organized criminal groups,

- double layers of secrecy,
- use of tax havens,
- supplier/consumer links,
- the prevalence of fraud in fisheries,
- perceptions of fisheries crime,
- the interface between legal and illegal activities,
- jurisdictional challenges,
- impunity

Venue

Vienna International Centre, Wagramer Str. 5, 1400, Vienna

Date

All Workshop participants are invited to attend the 3rd International Symposium on Fisheries Crime (FishCRIME 2017) on 25 and 26 September at the Vienna International Centre, in Vienna. The Workshop will follow immediately thereafter on 27 September at the same venue. Please register as soon as possible for FishCRIME 2017 on <http://fishcrime.com>.

Attendance

Confirmation of participation in the PescaDOLUS Workshop to be notified to Emma Witbooi at emmavdingle@gmail.com by 31 July 2017 at the latest.

All travel and accommodation to be arranged with Emma Witbooi at the same address.

Contact

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