

IMPLEMENTING A VALUE CHAIN APPROACH TO FISHERIES CRIME

1 Why take a value chain approach to fisheries crime?

- * Fisheries value chains can span up to six stages within a country: preparation, fishing, landing, processing, transport, and sale
- * Each stage involves distinct activities, actors, regulatory requirements, documentation, and compliance controls
- * Mapping the chain helps authorities undertake targeted risk assessments, identify crime vulnerabilities, and pinpoint regulatory and enforcement interventions
- * Alongside illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, value-chain analysis can help identify instances of fraud, document forgery, labour exploitation, tax and tariff evasion, and illegal product substitution
- * Sanctions for these crimes are often higher than those for IUU fishing

2 What are the challenges?

- * Value chains are often complex, non-linear, species- or fishery-specific, and seasonal, making them difficult to map accurately
- * Multinational corporate structures can obscure ownership, enable value manipulation, and conceal indicators of fisheries crime
- * Many value chains are transnational, requiring aligned risk assessments and comparable capacities across multiple jurisdictions

3 What are potential strategies to mitigate these challenges?

- * Even hypothetical or modelled value chains can highlight common crime risks and enforcement opportunities
- * Continuous information gathering (e.g. from trade associations and port authorities) helps investigators understand normal patterns and detect anomalies
- * An expanding range of open-source information—such as vessel-tracking data, corporate registries, and trade databases—can complement official sources
- * Multi-agency and cross-border cooperation is essential for effective risk assessments and coherent enforcement actions