SERIOUS OFFENCES IN THE FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN

DOCUMENT FORGERY
With a high reliance on documentation and few avenues for verification, the fisheries sector is particularly vulnerable to document forgeries.

REGISTRATION OR IDENTITY FRAUD
With primary law enforcement jurisdiction entrusted to flag states, organised criminals can cover their tracks and confound investigators by re-flagging vessels or dupliciting vessel identities and licences.

FOOD FRAUD
Fraudulent import/export, food, health or sanitation documents are used to disguise the catch origin, the species, the catch volume or the lack of a valid fishing licence to catch the fish.

DOCUMENT FRAUD
Documents with a high cash value for example vessel registration documents and fish licenses are used in the fisheries value chain. Investigations have exposed high rates of document fraud, often facilitated by corruption.

INSURANCE FRAUD
Fishing vessels used to fish illegally are scuttled and sunk when caught, with the owners claiming insurance payouts from the vessel insurers.

MONEY LAUNDERING
Illicit profits are reinvested in, for instance, property and further fishing expeditions behind walls of anonymously owned companies and vessels in secrecy jurisdictions.

TAX CRIME
With vessels owned by anonymously controlled companies and the catch exported and sold via use of forged documents, the fisheries sector is at high risk of committing tax crime and customs infringements.

CORRUPTION & BRIBERY FRAUD
Corruption and bribery are the lubricants of criminal enterprises. Corruption and bribery occur along the entire fisheries value chain.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
Migrant labourers can find themselves vulnerable to excessive exploitation and abuse amounting to human trafficking for forced labour.

SMUGGLING
Using well-known loopholes in international law, fishing vessels are exempted from inspection on the high seas where such laws and sea surveillance does not exist.

ILLEGAL FISHING
With fish becoming ever more profitable as stocks run low and global consumption increases, criminal enterprises take advantage of the porous legal framework and inadequate sea surveillance.

FULL FORCE OF THE LAW

FISHERIES CRIME | ECONOMIC CRIMES | TRAFFICKING | SMUGGLING | ILLEGAL FISHING

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