



North Atlantic
Fisheries
Intelligence Group

North Atlantic Fisheries Intelligence Group (NA-FIG)

Inter-agency and international co-operation

in the fight against crimes in the fisheries sector

Case on economic crime in fisheries

Head NA-FIG Secretariat

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Background NA-FIG

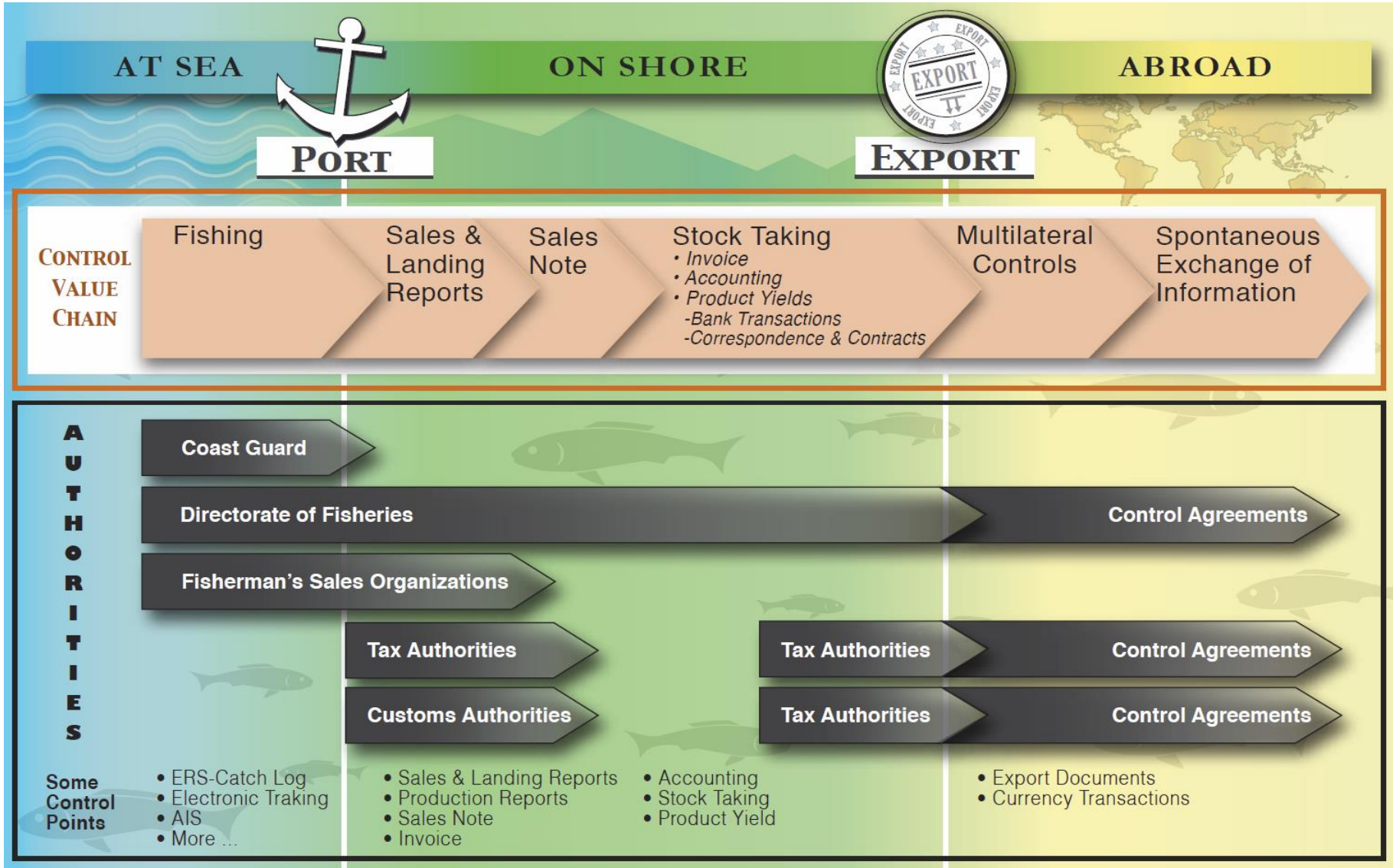
- Cases within the fisheries are extremely complex, and we often see international oriented transactions.
- We found agencies' individual lack of means to handle the situation and solve cases, and the need for «A Whole of Governmental Approach»
- Change of perspective
 - From Environmental crimes to financial crimes
 - From catch documentation to the full range of book keeping

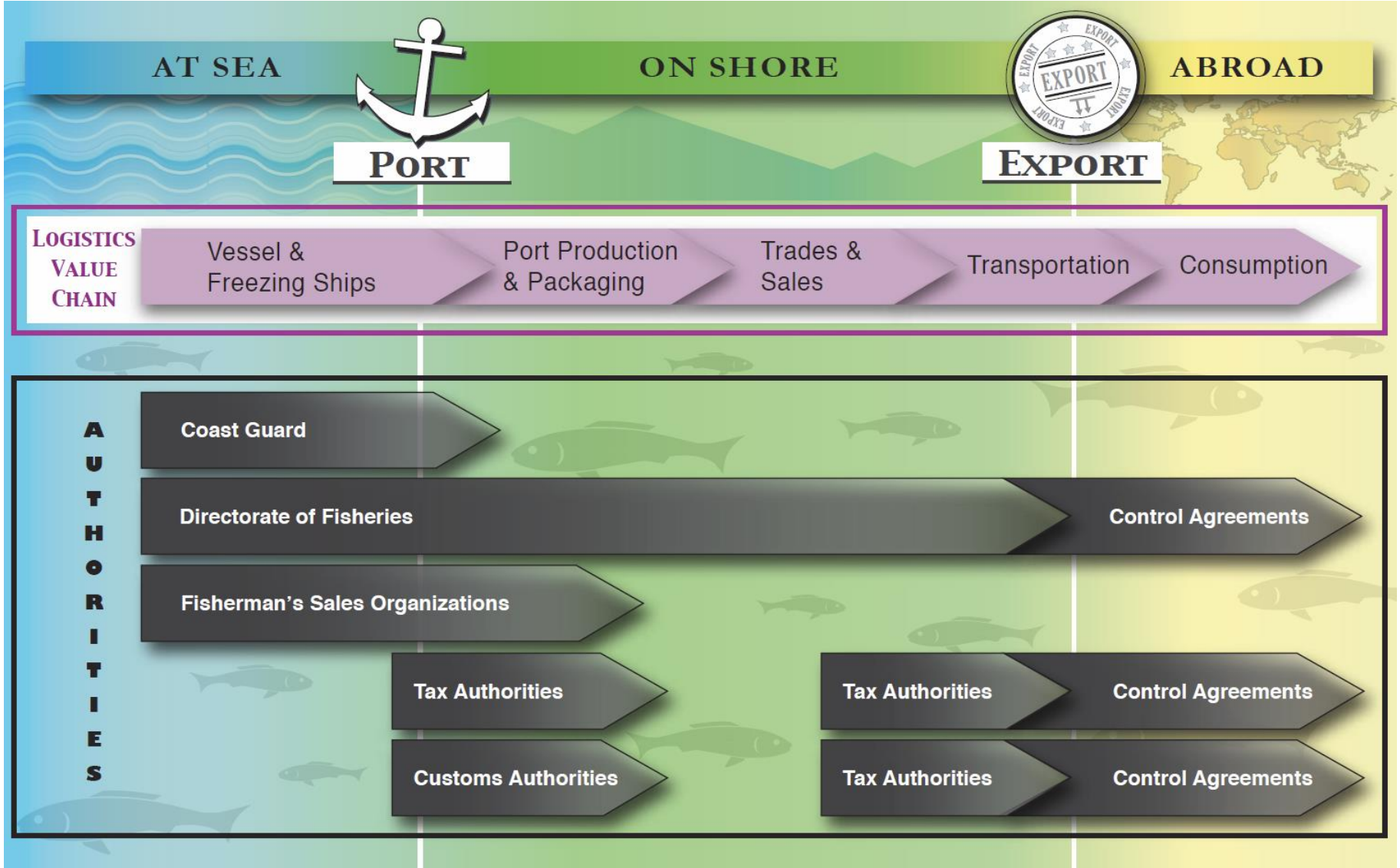
Evading the Net report OECD/TFTC
Task Force on Tax Crime and other crimes





How the fisheries sector works







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The Case on economic crime in fisheries

- Close Inter Agency cooperation
- “Paint the whole picture”

Joint operation; Police, Tax and Food Safety
Authorities



Different “eyes” and tools:

- **Tax Authorities:** analysis Bank Accounts, false Invoices, lack of book keeping, tax evasion, VAT fraud – finding the financial and fiscal crimes
 - Computer forensics; Mirror the electronic data, computers and telephones – text messages as evidence



Different “eyes” and tools:

- **Food Safety Authorities**

Sales ban was initiated, and warning made through Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) due to lack of traceability - back to the producer of the fish.

- Recall of **14 different** transshipments all in all **266 tonnes of fish** exported by 3 Norwegian licensed exporters to **10 different buyers in Brazil, Switzerland, Argentina, UK, Portugal and France.**

***Strong tools – had strong impact on the market –
Immediate action!***

Most of the fish was bought from unknown fishermen from the Northern part of Norway and handled by foreign truck drivers operating in Norway under cabotage. Most cash payment

Some of the fish was proved stolen by an ex employee and sold/exported.



Numbers in the case;

Amount of fish 386.024 kilos

Total value NOK 11.660.812

Big values, organized, not reported, ongoing illegal activity over a long period of time





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VERDICTS:

SUSPECT A - CONVICTED FOR CRIMES RELATED TO REPORTING FAILURES, VAT RELATED CRIMES , BOOK KEEPING- AND ACCOUNTING CRIMES – ALL CLASSICS FOR TAX INSPECTORS AND ALSO CRIMES RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY AND OTHER CRIMES RELATED TO UNLICENSED AND UNDOCUMENTED EXPORTS OF FOOD – THE LACK OF TRACEABILITY ALSO FENCING AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, AS POLICE CLASSIC AND THE ORGANIZED CRIMES ASPECT IS COVERED (BUT THE ATTORNEYS COULD HAVE CONSIDERED MONEY LAUNDERING AS WELL!)

FIVE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT



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VERDICTS:

**SUSPECT B AND C WERE CONVICTED FOR FACTITIOUS INVOICING,
VAT FRAUD, THEFT, FENCING AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS
AND FOOD SAFETY CRIMES.**

B TWO AND A HALF YEAR, AND C ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT

INTER AGENCY COOPERATION WAS CRUCIAL!

Realizing it is all about money!



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Thank you for your attention !

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