Fisheries trade data analysis – a tool in tackling illegal fishing and related trade

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TRAFFIC East Southern Africa
Key Objectives of this session

• Explain how trade data analysis can assist in tackling illegal fishing – using examples
• Provide an overview of TRAFFIC’s trade data analysis user’s guide.
What is trade data?

- Observers
- Gear restrictions
- Size restrictions
- VMS
- Catch document
- Invoices
- Permit
- Routine Inspections
- Permit
- Routine Inspections
- Invoices
- Routine inspections

Sea Landing Buyer Processor Trader Import & Export Retail and restaurant Consumer Plate

Monitors
Shore-based compliance officials

Permit
Invoices
Routine inspections

Import & Export

Customs export/import permits/controls
EU Reg catch certificates
RFMO trade document: CDS and SDP
CITES documents

Voluntary compliance through purchase of certified product
What data do we need for fisheries trade data analysis?

Data collected and held by National Customs and Statistical Agencies
For EU IUU Reg, catch certificate data is held by Fisheries agencies and Customs

Fish Catches Country A
Export of fish products Country A
Border
Import of fish products Country B

Data collected and held by National Fisheries Agencies

2 separate documents that are not compared: An export document and an import document
Trade Codes

• In international trade, codes are used to identify, classify, and record data for every product.

• Though there are many international trade coding systems, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (otherwise known as the Harmonized System, HS, or HTS) is generally the most applicable and available for fish/seafood trade. Eg: 030378

• While the system specifies that only the first six digits will be internationally standardized, countries wanting to track product trade more accurately can add further digits to create codes of eight or ten digits.

• HS codes are updated every 5 years. Most recent changes came into effect in 2012, including many new codes for fish products
How do we get the data?

• **Trade data**: Is almost all free and easily available over the internet! Some data has to be purchased but this is only the case for a few countries and costs are generally very reasonable.

• **Catch data**: Depends on how good systems are for recording catch data. **NB**: Where there is no or poor catch data, good quality import data can provide a very useful proxy figure. Trade analysis can provide an indication of catch volumes (legal and illegal) – for that proportion of catch that is exported.
Key advantages to trade data analysis

- Relatively inexpensive – largely desk-based, most data are available on the internet at no cost.
- Depending on the fish product, one can get a good understanding of trade dynamics in a short space of time.
- Web-sites are increasingly user-friendly and facilitate sourcing and extraction.
- Once baseline data has been sourced and extracted, updating is very quick and can become integrated into routine monitoring activities.
- Builds relationships with other State agencies that can assist with different set of tools, strategies and resources. E.g. Customs and ‘Inland Revenue’. 
How can trade data analysis assist efforts to combat IUU fishing?

• **Increase the understanding** of the nature, scope and extent of IUU fishing activity.

• **Provide independent verification** of the extent of a known IUU fishing problem.

• **Assess the effectiveness** of an existing trade- and/or market-related measure.

• **Demonstrate that a problem exists** that may not have been previously documented.
TRADE DATA

VMS, OBSERVER DATA

CATCH, LANDING DATA

SEIZURES
WHAT USEFUL INFORMATION CAN BE DERIVED FROM TRADE ANALYSES?
Abalone poaching and illegal trade

- The African species that is traded (Haliotis midae) is found only in South Africa. No other commercially harvested or traded species out of the region (1 small H.midae farm in Namibia). Close to 100% exported to Asia.
- Commercially harvested through a wild capture fishery and from a number of mariculture operations. (Fishery closed in 2008)
- High value product, easy to access and found along an extensive area of the South African coastline.
- Syndicated criminal networks involved, links to drug trade.
- Illegal harvest and trade far greater than legal harvest and trade.
- Massive loss of revenue to South Africa – unknown, but estimates range from ZAR500 million to ZAR1 billion (USD 70 -140 million) per annum.
TRAFFIC examined customs import data for key importing States - Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, China and Singapore. Looked at imports not only from South Africa but also for other East and Southern African countries.

South African Customs trade captured at inadequate level of resolution to identify abalone in trade, therefore comparison done with legal harvest, mariculture and export of confiscated abalone (almost all abalone harvested and farmed is exported).
How trade data analysis can assist in determining volumes of IUU poached product: Abalone imports into Asian countries from Southern Africa

![Graph showing IUU Abalone trade data from 2000 to 2010. The graph compares legal exports from SA, imports from SA, and imports from all countries. The data indicates a significant increase in IUU Abalone poaching over the years.]
Identifying routes for the disposal of IUU product

• Provide evidence of the trade routes used in getting IUU fish products from the point of landing to final market destinations,

• Identify ‘hot-spots’ (such as porous borders) through which illegally obtained product passes and,

• Provide information on the role of other States in illicit trade as a step towards securing their co-operation.
## Identifying trade routes for IUU product

### Dried abalone imports into Hong Kong from East and Southern Africa, 2000 -2008

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<td>Hong Kong ex <strong>South Africa</strong></td>
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<td>19,617</td>
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<td>4,810</td>
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</table>
Imports of abalone into Hong Kong and Taiwan from East and Southern African countries, excluding South Africa; 2000 - 2010

Volume (Kg)

- Zimbabwe
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Swaziland
- Kenya

Year:
- 2000
- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
Analysing ports data (part of Customs data) to focus compliance efforts

Quantities of shark fin exported through the ports of South Africa, and the total value of exports

Source: South African Revenue Services

* Data not complete for 2011
Ground-truthing estimates of illegal harvest

Comparing Hong Kong imported data and that of confiscated number of abalone as whole mass (kg)

- Total imports
- Calculated poached mass
### Live, fresh or chilled abalone

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### Frozen abalone

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<td>18,150</td>
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<td>184,304</td>
<td>83,669</td>
<td>49,229</td>
<td>58,021</td>
<td>44,600</td>
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<td>229</td>
<td>676</td>
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<td>298,199</td>
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<td><strong>X3 to get to whole mass</strong></td>
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<td>563,511</td>
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<td>334,323</td>
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### Dried abalone

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<td><strong>Hong Kong ex NA</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>5,586</td>
<td>10,023</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>25,364</td>
<td>15,731</td>
<td>5,105</td>
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<td><strong>Hong Kong ex KE</strong></td>
<td>32,097</td>
<td>62,503</td>
<td>44,131</td>
<td>21,348</td>
<td>8,316</td>
<td>12,820</td>
<td>8,626</td>
<td>72,233</td>
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<td><strong>China ex ZA</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>11,398</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>83,596</td>
<td>134,341</td>
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<td>267,352</td>
<td>183,396</td>
<td>189,127</td>
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<td>835,960</td>
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<td>1,160,090</td>
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<td>1,833,960</td>
<td>1,891,270</td>
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### Canned abalone

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<td>114,154</td>
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<td>123,420</td>
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<td><strong>Singapore ex ZA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>113,198</td>
<td>100,120</td>
<td>115,560</td>
<td>100,697</td>
<td>101,210</td>
<td>129,285</td>
<td>189,043</td>
<td>205,452</td>
<td>209,214</td>
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<td>452,792</td>
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<td>402,788</td>
<td>404,840</td>
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Creating Increased awareness of trade dynamics by fisheries management agencies where fisheries and related trade are not closely monitored

Exports of shark products from South Africa to Australia 2001 to 2005

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HS Description</th>
<th>Mass (kg)</th>
<th>Value (USD)</th>
<th>USD/kg</th>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Dogfish, shark, other</td>
<td>37 133</td>
<td>44 868</td>
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<td>97 307</td>
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<td>79 552</td>
<td>405 449</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Dogfish, shark, other</td>
<td>50 217</td>
<td>145 015</td>
<td>2.89</td>
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Australian imports of shark products from South Africa 2001 to 2005

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HS Classification</th>
<th>Mass (kg)</th>
<th>Value AU$'000</th>
<th>AU$ per kg</th>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Dogfish and other sharks, fresh or chilled</td>
<td>23 265</td>
<td>207.25</td>
<td>7.02</td>
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<td>Dogfish and other sharks, frozen</td>
<td>124 523</td>
<td>698.21</td>
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<td>9 203</td>
<td>32.20</td>
<td>2.76</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Dogfish and other sharks, frozen</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Dogfish and other sharks, frozen</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Dogfish and other sharks, frozen</td>
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Identifying discrepancies requiring further investigation

Squid landings vs. Exports (tonnes) 2003-2009
The best set of circumstances for trade data analysis

- **Export of a product or products associated with a species or taxa, where the exports are not comprised of numerous heavily processed products.** Export volumes need to be worked back (with conversion ratios) to a whole mass to be able to compare with landing data and the more processing that takes place, the harder this becomes.

- **Export of products where either the exporting country or the importing countries use trade codes that provide a sufficiently accurate description of the product.** If much, or all of the trade, falls into a generic catch-all category like ‘frozen fish, other’ then the analysis becomes almost impossible to do.

- **Ability to consult with industry:** There are sometimes legitimate reasons for import and export discrepancies or trade and catch discrepancies and consultation with industry and government can reveal this so optimally one wants to do the analyses with the capacity to be able to have these discussions.

- **Export of a product where there is limited domestic consumption**
Frozen Sharks: Trade balance - South Africa recorded exports and global recorded imports from SA: 1995 - 2008
A few more reasons why you should carry out fisheries trade analysis ...

- IUU fishing activity is often very dynamic, moving areas of operation, points of landing and transit countries, and levels of at-sea transshipment in response to management interventions. Therefore the trade routes for a product may change considerably with little warning. However the markets for product are less likely to vary in the short-term, particularly high value species (often the target of IUU fishing) which often have limited or specialist market niches. Unless the product is landed directly into the consumer country after being caught there will be import data that will then enable identification of the exporting State.

- Despite the importance of trade as a driver for harvest, including by IUU operators, there is usually poor understanding of the dynamics of trade demand for fisheries products by fisheries management agencies, with efforts commonly directed at managing the resource from the time of harvest to the point of landing. This is partly due to the fact that fisheries management at the national level is almost always undertaken by a separate agency to that which manages national exports, imports and Re-exports, with limited communication between the two.

- Increased awareness of the trade and market dynamics for products from a fishery can assist national authorities in better targeting management resources and may result in the identification of areas where complementary trade-related measures can add value to existing management efforts.
Limitations of trade analysis

- Trade data analysis does not capture information on fisheries products that have mistakenly or intentionally been misdeclared, or where fisheries products are captured under a basket or catch-all non specific category e.g. ‘fish, frozen, other’.
- Can only provide data on the valued and retained component of the catch. Impact of IUU fishing on non-target species and the broader marine environment can not be directly assessed through trade and market data.
- Trade data does not indicate where catch was taken and so sheds little light on, e.g.: particular stocks that may be subject to greater IUU fishing.
- It is important to combine trade or market data with good information about the fishery from which the product has been derived, otherwise there is significant potential to misinterpret that data. Such factors as the dynamics of the industry, levels of catch, transshipment and processing practices, and the management measures will all potentially effect interpretation of trade and market data.
TRAFFIC’S GUIDE TO SOURCING AND ANALYSING FISHERIES TRADE DATA

• Overview of why one should analyse fisheries trade data and an explanation of the information that can be derived from such analyses.
• Explanation of how to analyse fisheries trade data.
• Definitions and acronyms + scroll over pop ups of many terms and acronyms.
• Links to country sites for 24 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Australasia
• Short tables providing a snapshot of the data that can be found at each site.
• Detailed ‘click by click’ explanations for accessing and extracting data for each site (for those less experienced in web-browsing and data extraction)
• Links to 6 meta-data sites containing trade data for various economic regions or in some cases all countries reporting trade (e.g.: FAO, Eurostat)
• Development of manual and training funded by Defra.
Using the Guide

• Guide has been developed in an html format and will accordingly open in your chosen web browser.
• You will need to switch between the guide and the sites that you are accessing to carry out your data searches. Different users will have their own preferences for making this process use-friendly. Options include:
  – Toggling between the guide and the websites you are searching.
  – Splitting your screen so that you can see both the guide and the website.
  – Using two separate screens – e.g. your laptop or PC screen and a separate monitor. This is probably the most user-friendly option.
  – Printing out the relevant pages of the Guide. Note that each section of the guide has a print icon in the top right hand corner.
Summary Tables

• In order to provide users with a summary of the information they can expect from a particular website, a table is provided for each website, which contains a breakdown of the information that can be found at that website.

• Users can quickly determine whether that website provides the data they are interested in.

• Note that not all categories are filled in, in all of the tables.
SOURCING AND ANALYSING FISHERIES TRADE DATA - A USER’S GUIDE

This guide is intended to assist in the analysis of trade data for fish and fish products in international trade. It explains how such analyses can be used, provides comprehensive advice on the sourcing and extraction of data and gives guidance on data analysis. To start using the guide click here.
# Summary Tables

## United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Home Page


Under 'browse by Subject' select 'Market and Trade Data' and click on 'Statistical Market Information'. Under 'Import & Export Data' click on the 'U.S Trade Reports' link.

### Direct link to Database-specific Searches


Under 'Import & Export Data' click on the 'U.S Trade Reports' link.

### Direct link to U.S Trade Reports


### Source of Data

Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics.

### Classification of Goods

Depending on your search criteria, results are provided in HS-2, HS-4, HS-6 or HS-10. BICO, FAS or FATUS.

### Time Period covered

1989 onwards.

According to the release calendar, there appears to be an approximate two and a half month delay from a particular month's trade to the date of release of that particular month's trade data, e.g. December 2008 data scheduled to be released in mid February 2009.

### Value

US$ or thousands of US$, depending on your search criteria.

### Volume

Kilogrammes.

### Value Basis

- **Exports - FAS**: Export Value (Excluding Exports to Canada)
- **Imports - Customs Value**: Imports (Website, TIPS)

### Import/Export Re-exports

Import, Export or Re-export figures are available. Re-exports are not included in Export figures and can be searched separately.

### Result Format

Table.

### Constraints


### Relevant terms/definitions
Web-sites that don’t open

• Website development is an on-going process and most of the departments or companies hosting trade data websites are continuously going through a process of improvement and enhancement. This means that the URL or web address for a site may change at some point in the future and clicking on a hyperlink in the Guide will bring up an ‘error’ or ‘site not found’ message. What is more likely is that you will see a message noting that the website address has changed and you will be directed to a new site.

• Should you not be directed to the new website, use your preferred search engine (e.g. Google) and type in the name of the site as used in the Guide (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).
Definitions of acronyms, words and terms

• The Guide contains definitions of a number of the acronyms, terms and words used in the Guide. These can be accessed through the ‘Introduction’ section of the Guide and they are also included as ‘pop-ups’ throughout the Guide, wherever they are used. The relevant acronym or word will appear underlined, in blue font and will have a small speech bubble icon next to it.

• For example: Re-export

• Clicking on the word or the icon will bring up the definition, which can be closed by clicking on the ‘x’ in the top right hand corner of the definition.
Getting the guide to work!

• The Guide has an auto-run function. This means it should automatically start when you insert the CD in your laptop or PC.
• If that doesn’t happen, go to ‘My computer’ and click on the CD drive folder.
• Once all of the files and folders are displayed, double click on ‘index.html’
**TRAFFIC’s Guide to Sourcing and Analysing Fisheries Trade Data**

### New Zealand

#### Statistics New Zealand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Category</strong></th>
<th><strong>Details</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source of Data</td>
<td>New Zealand Customs Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Subscription</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classification of Goods</td>
<td>HS-2, HS-4, HS-6, or HS-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period covered</td>
<td>Monthly, quarterly or annual statistics from January 1988 onwards. Data is released between three to five weeks following the month of collection. A release calendar can be downloaded at:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>NZ$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume</td>
<td>Kilogrammes in most cases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Basis</td>
<td>Imports: CIF or FOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exports: FOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import/Export/Re-exports</td>
<td>Figures for Import, Export, Re-exports are available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result Format</td>
<td>Table, with the option of saving the table in other formats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constraints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant terms/definitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have accessed the direct link to Infoshare at [http://www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/](http://www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/), expand the Imports and exports folder by clicking on the ‘+’ to the left of the folder. Select “Exports – Commodities by country”, the following page will be displayed.

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TRAFFIC’s Guide to Sourcing and Analysing Fisheries Trade Data

Once you have selected this search option, the following will be displayed:

SELECT CODE
Use the scroll bar to locate the relevant HS-6 commodity you wish to search. Click on the commodity and then click on submit. Note – you are only able to search one commodity at a time.

Result:

(29.6) Detailed monthly Export/Import on 5 digit base [Direct link: http://www.dg-gov.ae/econ/db/report/prodbase.asp]

Provides data for a selected month in a particular year (from January 2000 onwards), for the Imports or Exports of a selected commodity (HS-2, HS-4, HS-6 or HS-8). Results are provided for the relevant countries applicable to your search in value (US$/ton) and in volume (in hundreds of kilograms).

Once you have selected this search option, the following will be displayed:

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Trade analysis exercise

• **The scenario:** You’ve been reading about the Hout Bay fishing case and want to look at exports of rock lobster to the US for the period 1999 onwards.

• **Step 1:** Obtain data from one of the US websites that shows rock lobster **imports** from South Africa into the US for the period 1999 - 2009. See if you can get both volume and value data. Extract the data to a MS Excel spreadsheet.

• **Step 2:** Obtain data from a South African website that shows rock lobster **exports** from South Africa to the US for the same period (1999 - 2009). Again, try and obtain both volume and value data. Extract the data to your MS Excel spreadsheet.

• **Step 3:** Compare the two data sets
Web address for the user’s guide

http://www.fisheries-trade-data.org/