Organized Crimes and Impacts Associated with IUU Fishing

**Drug Trafficking**
Smuggling cocaine loads in artisanal fishing vessels, often with the help of satellite-tracked buoys known as “fish aggregating devices” (FADs).

**Wildlife Trafficking**
Bringing intentionally caught protected marine wildlife into port, such as shark fin, sea cucumber or fish maw.

**Human Trafficking**
Operating with underpaid or unpaid foreign workers whose labor rights are systematically abused.

**Fuel Smuggling**
Fishers running and selling gasoline, which is often state subsidized, to domestic or foreign fishing vessels at sea.

**Fraud**
Underreporting catch to evade taxes, illegitimately obtaining a permit, using transshipment to launder illegally caught fish.

**Illegal Fishing**
Using banned gear, surpassing catch quotas, 'high-grading', fishing in prohibited areas or targeting undersized or protected species.

**Economic**
Loss in tax revenue (for exports, licensing, ports), undercutting of legal prices, likely reduction in future catch profits.

**Environmental**
Damage or destruction of marine habitats, fall in species numbers, fall in species' reproductive rates, plastic pollution through the discarding of nets.

**Political**
Reduced trust in government, and public dissatisfaction with the influence of special interests, including both domestic and foreign industrial fishing fleets.

**Social**
Food insecurity within coastal communities, unemployment or forced turn to illegal activities for fishers and ensuing labor migration.

Sources: Field Investigations

American University and InSight Crime, 2022