



Fisheries Sustainability and local innovations.

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Vulnerabilities in Public Oversight

The Global Fishing Watch AIS dataset of fishing vessel activity includes >3.7 billion AIS messages from fishing vessels (2017-2019).

>55,000 suspected intentional disabling events in waters >50 nm from shore.

>40% of fishing vessels in these waters had suspected disabling events, obscuring up to 6% (>4.9 M hours) of fishing vessel activity

Source: Welch et al., *Sci. Adv.* 8, eabq2109 (2022)

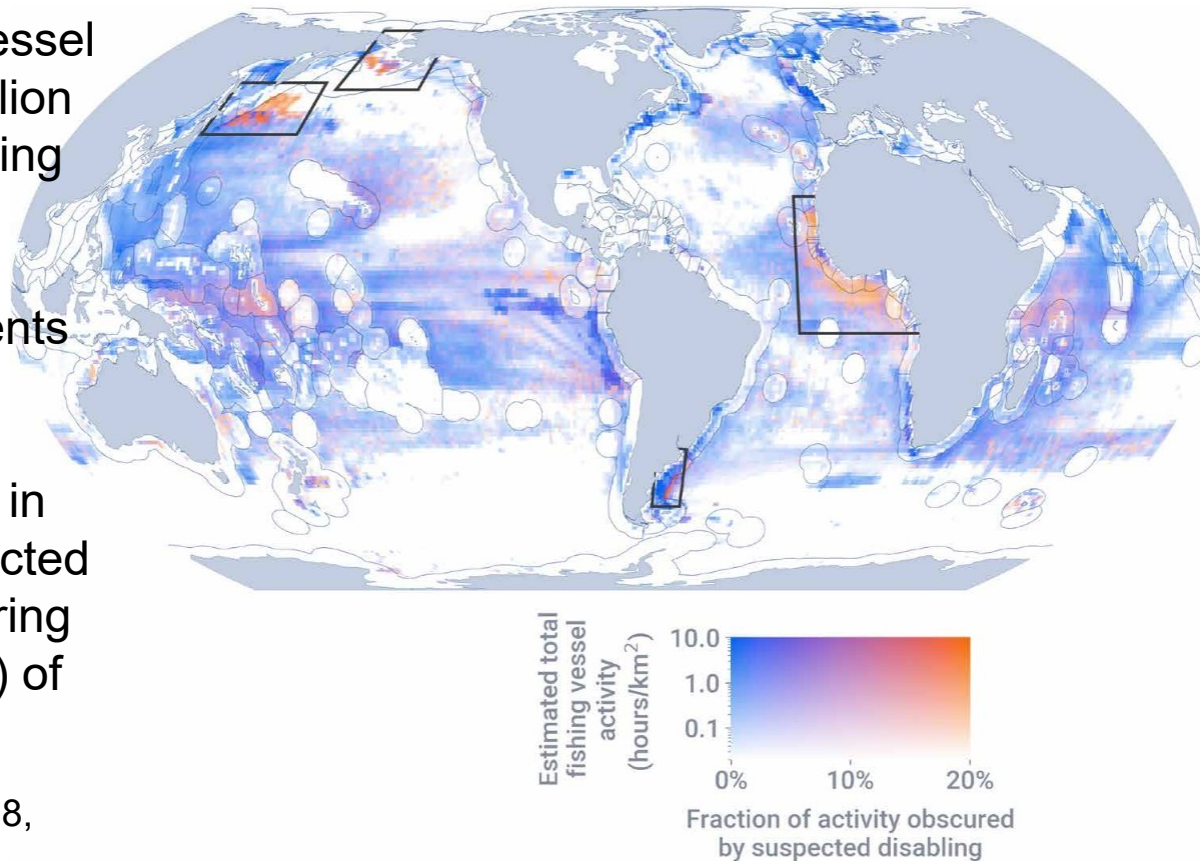


Fig. 1. Estimated total fishing vessel activity and the fraction of this activity obscured by suspected disabling events in areas with sufficient satellite reception quality (>10 positions/day). Areas with the highest fishing vessel activity and the highest fraction of activity obscured by disabling occur in three regions of IUU concern: near Argentina and West Africa and in the Northwest Pacific (black boxes). In contrast, fisheries in waters near Alaska, USA are some of the most intensively managed in the world.

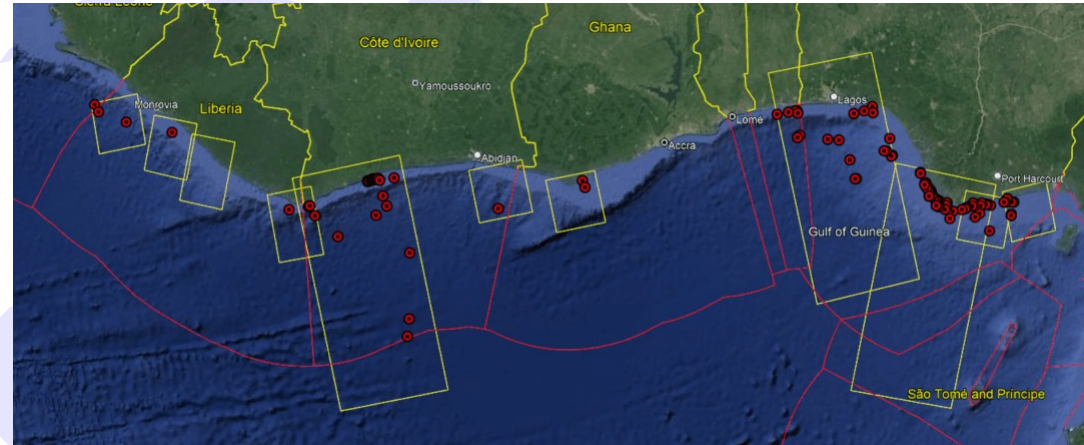


Improving Public Oversight

The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRP: NW African countries) announced a partnership with Global Fishing Watch at the 'Our Ocean' Conference in Athens, April 2024.

The Gulf of Guinea Regional Fisheries Commission (**COREP**) signed a similar agreement in Gabon, June 2024.

COREP receives analytical support for vessel monitoring efforts, training on the use of Global Fishing Watch tools to enable more robust marine management, and technical assistance in reviewing and revising IUU fishing policies and regulations



Source: Global Fishing Watch reflecting on the Support to the Joint Analytical Cell.

The red dots represent vessels detected using SAR that could not be matched to AIS or VMS data. This analysis was conducted jointly by the FCWC Regional MCS Centre (RMCSC) and the JAC during Operation African Nemo 23.04 in the week of October 30th, 2023.



Challenges remain

Concerns have been voiced that the new Nigerian Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in the drive to innovate port infrastructure and enhance the maritime industrial capacities has not paid comparable attention to the plight of small-scale coastal fishers and women traders suffering from frequent attacks.

<https://ng.headtopics.com/news/nigeria-s-fishers-face-deadly-attacks-and-government-neglect-75700803>

The gaps between the 'modern' industrial approaches and many 'traditional' livelihoods remain stark.

Addressing them and building bridges to develop pathways for improvements for the excluded opens great social and economic opportunities.





More benefits from eliminating ambiguities

The extension of the exclusive zone for SSF from 6 to 12 nm announced by HE Minister Arthur at the UN Conference in June 2025 in Nice raised many hopes for improved conditions for canoe fishers.

Act 1146 has meanwhile established a 12 nm inshore exclusion zone. It will only come into effect when gazetted. So far, the new act repealing the old one has eliminated the exclusive zone, but defining who's allowed to do what and the exact delimitations needs further consultation and gazetting the results.

The benefits for SSF and resource regeneration will only accrue then.





Inclusive governance

These few highlights indicate the advances underway, but also how much work and cooperation within countries and across the region are still needed.

Such cooperation must go well beyond partnerships between governments and private enterprises, foreign and domestic, but must engage citizens, civil society organisations, scientists, and youth to build stronger innovative solutions based on equitable benefit sharing.

Small-scale fishers, men and women, seafood traders and directly affected coastal and indigenous communities must be central to marine and coastal governance.



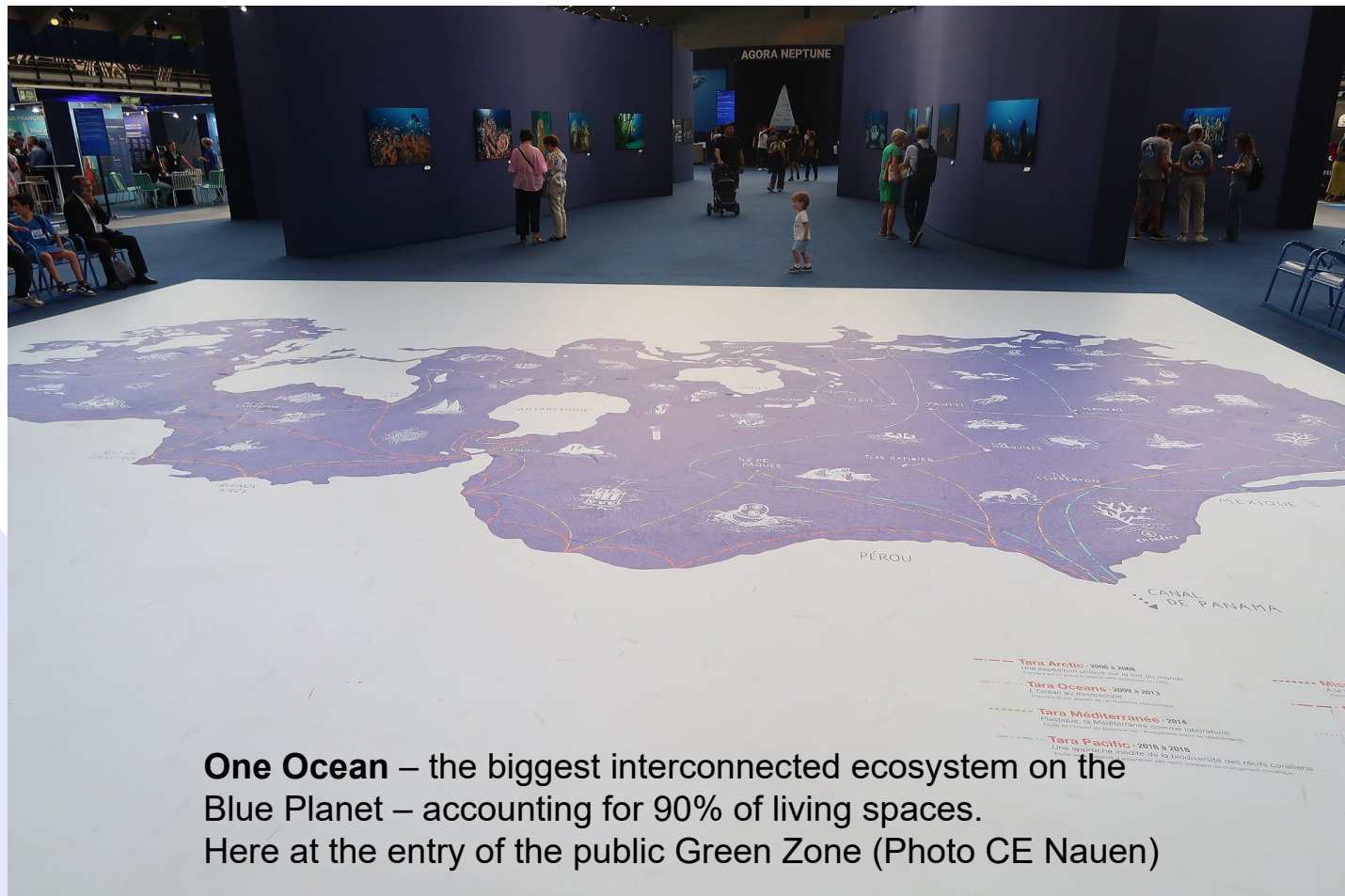
Messan Edoh on Pixabay



The UN Ocean Conference - Expectations

Mundus maris contributed with many others to information and public engagement for healing the ocean, its battered ecosystems and joint efforts to safety and prosperity of coastal communities.

Together we promoted the BBNJ Treaty, a stop to harmful subsidies, a moratorium of deep sea mining, inclusive governance, curbing IUU fishing, ocean literacy and fair benefit sharing.



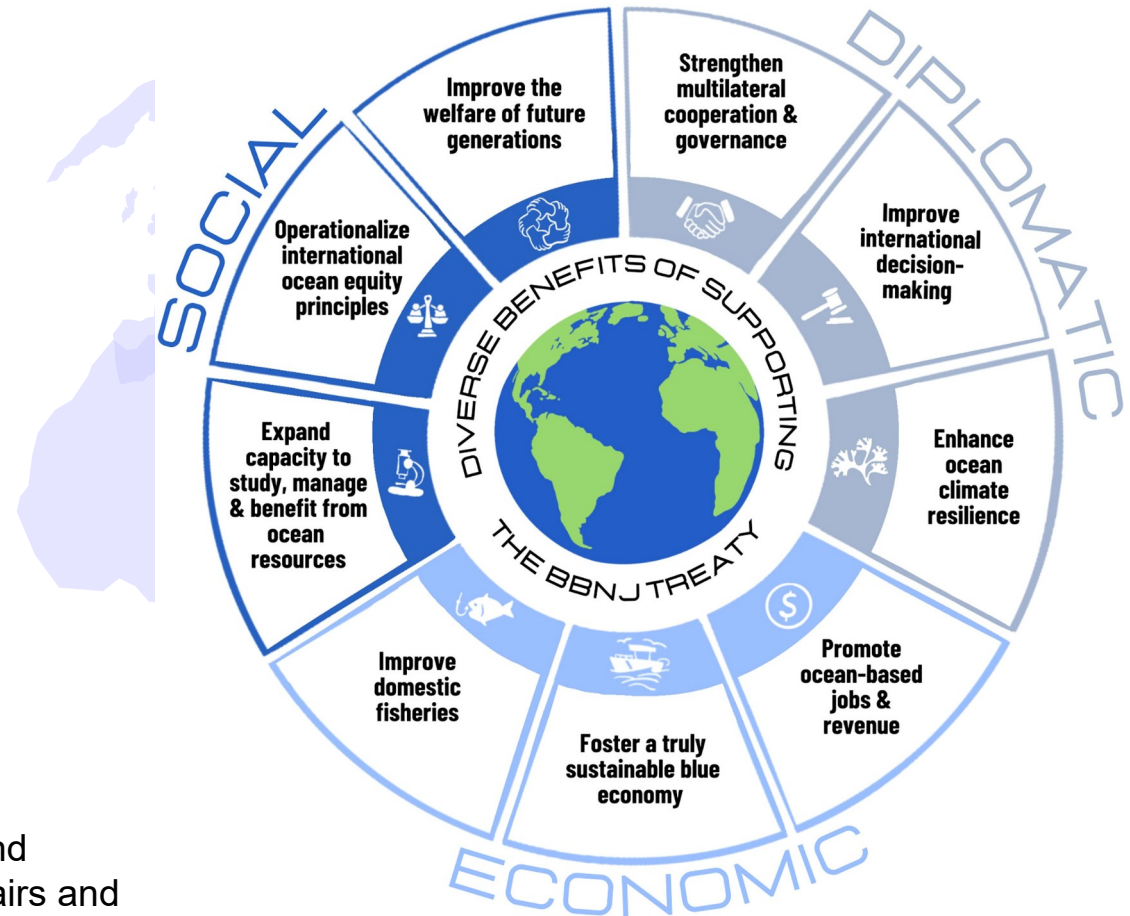


From International Agreements...

Governments have agreed on a treaty under the Law of the Sea for protecting biodiversity in waters beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). It subjects these waters, among others, to measures to fully protect 30% for biodiversity recovery.

The admirable consensus-forming international negotiation processes harbour many lessons for advancing maritime security, especially when local communities are participating in governance affecting their futures.

Santos, B.S., *et al.* (2022). The diverse benefits of biodiversity conservation in global ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction. *Front. Mar. Sci.*, Sec. Marine Affairs and Policy, Vol. 9 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.1001240>





...to implementation 'on the ground' (1)

At UNOC 3 *Mundus maris*,
with several partners,
organised side events around
4 participatory Q/A Notebooks

Q1: How can we recognize
the ocean as an essential part
of all humanity and ensure its
protection?

Our partners:



Bundesministerium
für Umwelt, Naturschutz
und Reaktorsicherheit



DAM
DEUTSCHE ALLIANZ
MEERESFORSCHUNG

 **SEAS AT RISK**

 **Deutsche
Meeresstiftung**
German Ocean Foundation

**Terra
curanda**



UNA POR LOS
Océanos
2024 - 2025





...to implementation 'on the ground' (2)

Q4: How can we ensure the ocean remains a shared resource for all?

Our event at the UNESCO pavilion attracted massive participation, many discussions and useful proposals what to do next.

<https://www.mundusmaris.org/activities/un-ocean-conference/>

Our partners:



Bundesministerium
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UNA Océanos
POR LOS
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...to implementation 'on the ground' (3)

In Europe, small-scale fishers and civil society supporters like *Mundus maris* demand to restore resources to brake the vicious circle of unselective and excessive fishing. Allocate fishing quota according to social, environmental and economic criteria. No harmful subsidies. Support women and youth. **Make Fishing Fair!** Event with EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans Costas Kadiis, Brussels, 5 Nov. 2025 by LIFE & Blue Ventures



<https://www.mundusmaris.org/small-scale-fisheries-academy/make-fishing-fair/>



...to implementation 'on the ground' (4)

Human security needs **participation in governance with economic and life perspectives for young people** to stay in the countries and not take high risk journeys across the sea or the desert in pursuit of dreams that have already ended in death or bad delusions for many.

Implementation of WTO Fish 1

Entered into force on 15 Sept. 2025 after 2/3 of WTO members ratified. *Mundus maris* is part of the CSO support to lay foundations to institutional reform for making fisheries sustainable by stopping harmful subsidies mostly to industrial fisheries at the expense of local SSF and food security.

Global webinar:
Strengthening Small-Scale Fisheries Engagement
in WTO (World Trade Organisation) Fisheries
Subsidy Agreement Implementation
6 November 2025
15:00 - 16:30 Dakar Time (GMT)

Register here:
www.tinyurl.com/SSFwebinar25
Interpretation in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese



Introduction by
Sivaja Nair, RISE UP

Moderated by
Ngagne Mbao, CFFA

Panelists

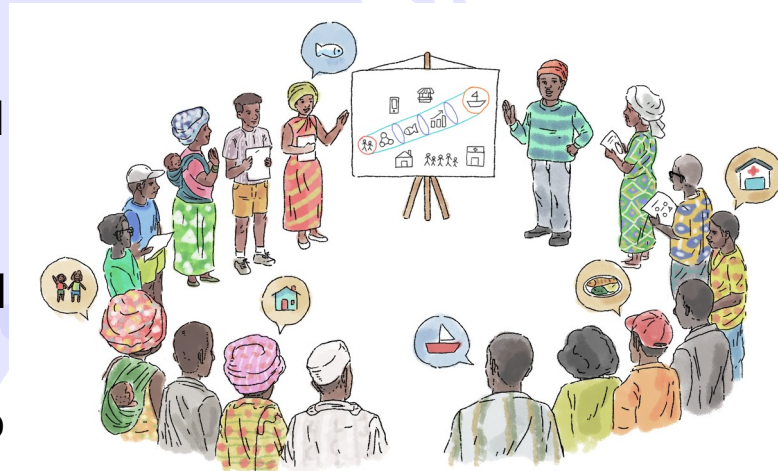
 Florescia Saemiento, IISD	 Tristen Irschlinger, IISD	 Sebastian Mathew, SSF Independent Advisor
 Dawda Foday Saine, CAOPA	 Jonathan Werner, Manager, WTO Fish Fund	 Djalikatu Chérif Haïdara, CAOPA





Transparency and accountability

- Invest in people, **strengthen coastal communities and collective action – SSF are the future of fishing**
- Strengthen respectful links of communities with regional and national governments to create spaces for **innovative solutions not based exclusively on resource extraction and export** – local food first. Hold governments accountable for keeping citizens out of harm's way, rebuild resources and **implement** the Voluntary **Guidelines for Ensuring Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries** adopted by FAO-COFI in 2014!
- Build **broad coalitions**, incl. with local businesses, to support institutional reforms to break vicious circles towards rights-based inclusive governance approaches. **Tenure rights for SSF!**





Call to more action

- Women must have **access to social services and professional support** – build networks and trust, not cheap factory labour
- Strengthen local organisational and technical capacities; respect and emphasise **cultural heritage** for buy-in
- **Connect** international agreements to local experience to enhance agency, confidence and fairness.
- Listening, respectful and inclusive dialogue and encouragement of **collaboration** are key
- **Intensify action against IUU fishing and harmful fisheries subsidies**



Women deserve better futures than this

Pauly, D., Nauen, C.E., Le Manach, F. et al. (2025). From science to conscience: the plunder of Senegal's fisheries resources, or Europe's role in the making of a migration crisis. *Proc. of the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15833918>



Small selection of literature

- Bennett N.J. (2022). Mainstreaming Equity and Justice in the Ocean. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, Vol. 9 DOI 10.3389/fmars.2022.873572
- Bodin Ö., Baird J., Armitage D., Schultz L., Plummer R. (2020). The impacts of trust, cost and risk on collaboration in environmental governance. *People Nat.* 2, 734–749. doi: 10.1002/pan3.10097
- Crona B., Bodin Ö. (2010). Power asymmetries in small-scale Fisheries : a barrier to governance transformability? *Ecol. Soc.* 15 (4), 16. doi: 10.5751/ES-03710-150432
- Nauen C.E. (2023). Bridging the Implementation Gap in International Agreements on Marine Protection and Sustainable Use. *Examines Mar Biol Oceanogr.* 6(3). EIMBO. 000636. 2023. DOI: 10.31031/EIMBO.2023.06.000636
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- Pauly, D., C.E. Nauen, F. Le Manach et al. (2025). From science to conscience: the plunder of Senegal's fisheries resources, or Europe's role in the making of a migration crisis. *Proc. of the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15833918>
- Williams, S. (2021). How IUU Fishing impacts small-scale fishers' lives. Presentation at the SWAIMS Webinar "Curbing Maritime Insecurity in the Niger Delta", March 31, 2021
- Williams, S.B., A.-M. Hochet-Kibongui, C.E. Nauen (eds.), 2005. Gender in fisheries and aquaculture. Social capital and knowledge for the transition towards sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems. / Genre, pêche et aquaculture: Capital social et connaissances pour la transition vers l'utilisation durable des écosystèmes aquatiques. Brussels, Bruxelles, *ACP-EU Fish.Res.Rep.*, (16):128 p. ISSN 1025-3971



Thanks for your attention

***Mundus maris* looks for collaboration**

More Info:

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