



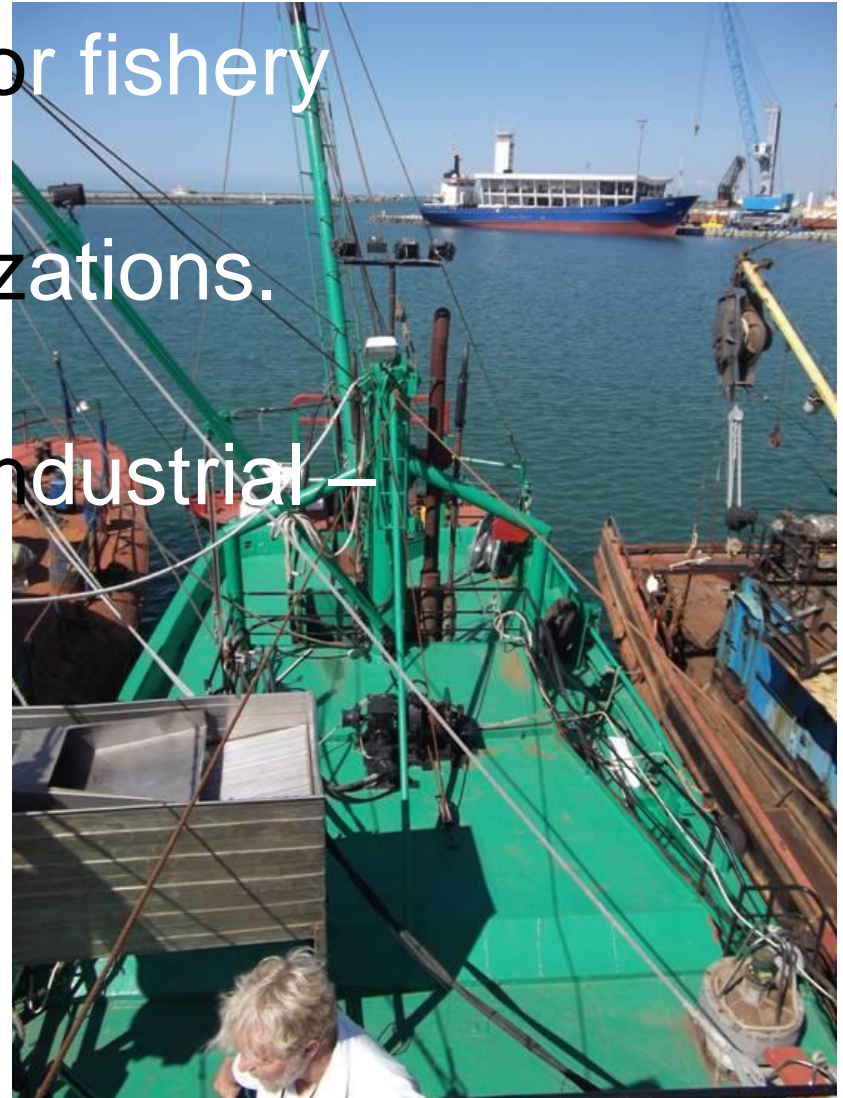
BlackSeaFish

Thomas Moth-Poulsen, FAO

- **Indications on IUU fishing in the Black Sea**

Sources of information:

1. Ministry responsible for fishery and MCS unit.
2. Environmental organizations.
3. The press
4. The fishing industry. Industrial –
Small Scale



Note on IUU in the Black Sea

- Turkey has a well run fleet with skilled captains and crew.
- Turkey is accountable for more than 90% of the catches in the Black Sea.
- If all fleets performed the same amount of Illegal fishing, one could expect that over 90% of the reported cases would involve Turkish vessels.

What does the press say?



- **Illegal Fishing 2008**

On January 14, the captain of "LIKMAR" the fishing seiner sailing under the flag of Georgia, **paid the GEL 5 000 fine and GEL 1 455** compensation for environment pollution sentenced by the Batumi Civil Court according to the Administrative Code of Georgia, **Article 86.**

LIKMAR was allowed to sail unrestricted.

"Likmar" had been detained by the border policeman from the II (west) Office of the Operative-Investigation Main Office and the Coast Guard Regional Office "Batumi" of the Border Police of Georgia together with the Black Sea Convention inspectors on the charge of illegal fishing on December 8.

Today's ZAMAN 18 February 2013 Monday

Illegal fishing threatens fish industry in Turkish seas

- Speaking to Sunday's Zaman, Ramazan Özkaya, chairman of the Ankara-based Central Union of Sea Products Cooperatives (SÜR-KOOP), stated that illegal fishing in Turkey is increasing rapidly every year. -



- Marmara Region Fishing Associations Federation head **Haydar Deniz** told Sunday's Zaman that fishermen trawling illegally throw their nets into the sea any time they choose since they have no fear of regulations. "Once these fishermen get caught by the maritime police, the fish they have are taken away, but their boats remain in place without any fines levied. Thus, those fishermen continue trawling once the police leave," said Deniz. -

Deniz mentioned that this is not the case in Greece and added: “When illegal trawlers get caught in Greece, a police helicopter hovers over them and tells them to leave the boat, and later, after the crew leaves, they destroy the boat by detonating an explosive. If this was the case in Turkey, we wouldn’t see immature fish being taken by trawlers working illegally.”



According to Özkaya, most of this illegal activity is conducted by people who engage in trawling in the coastal waters near the cities. According to Turkish law, fishermen who have a license can trawl in any Turkish sea as long as they stay three miles from shore. However, many of the trawlers in Turkey do not abide by this rule, and this causes damage to the seabed.



- Almost all fishermen across Turkey share his concern, Özkaya said, and added, “Trawling occurs in all Turkish seas but mainly in the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea.” Özkay says there is currently no deterrent in Turkey to prevent illegal trawling.



- “These people just go everywhere with their trawlers, even into the Bosphorus at night, and damage the seabed. During the auctions I could see that 60 percent of the fish that had been caught hadn’t reached maturity yet, making it an illegal catch. These fishermen who fish illegally also create unfair competition in the fishing sector. In addition, they do not pay tax as they are not registered with the tax office,” Özkay said.

Dec 3, 2012 – Commission proposes fishing opportunities for the **Black Sea** for 2013. ... warns third countries over insufficient action against **illegal fishing** ..



Turkey: Illegal Fishing on the Bosphorus Takes a Violent Turn (EURASIANet.com)

February 1, 2012 - 10:32am, by [Yigal Schleifer](#)

- As [previously reported](#) on this blog, efforts by the Turkish government to set a limit on the size of bluefish (lufer in Turkish) that can be commercially caught in the waters of the Bosphorus, in order to save the fish from being wiped out, have been met by angry protests from fishermen. But now the story has taken a more violent turn, after a gang of fisherman allegedly attacked the head of fishing cooperative who had become a vocal critic of illegal fishing on the Bosphorus. -

- The head of a fisheries association was allegedly shot by a gang of illegal fishermen in Istanbul for his stance against the illegal practice.
- Ahmet Aslan lost his left eye in an armed attack while he was sitting in a teahouse in Istanbul's Rumelikavağı neighborhood, broadcaster NTV reported on its website.
- "There is a gang with trawlers, and we are under constant threat," Aslan was quoted as saying. -

- Defne Koryürek, an activist who has been campaigning against trawler fishing for some time, said it was “horrifying” that illegal fishers were now bold enough to try and assassinate people.
- Koryürek said the number of illegal fishing boats in Istanbul had increased from around 50 in the last year to nearly 300 this year.
- *Globally, IUU fishing deprives honest fishermen and coastal communities of up to \$23 billion worth of seafood and seafood products annually. IUU fishing also threatens sustainability of fish stocks.*



What does the industry say?

Situation in Abkhazia Sep. 2011:

ANCHOVY

- In Abkhazia, there are Russian vessels (official) and Turkish vessels (unofficial).
- Abkhazia has 2 new fish meal factories (second factory was built 2011).
- Last season: The factories processed 17,000 tons of fresh fish. Further, Abkhazia is exporting frozen fish to Turkey (additional 25,000 tons).
- The Turkish boats land the illegally caught anchovy as caught in Turkish waters -

- There are about 11-12 Ukrainian vessels (anchovy illegally declared as caught in Ukrainian waters*), about 35-45 Turkish vessels, including transport vessels and xx Russian vessels (with license, from the town Novorossiysk).
- Turkish business men have tried to sue those Turkish vessels who fish illegally in Abkhazia.

** today there is probably no Ukrainian vessels operating in Abkhazia anymore*



More recent industry gossip:

- The amount of IUU fishing by Ukrainian vessels is considerable, but seems now to be restricted to domestic waters.
- Transshipment of turbot from domestic vessels to Turkish vessels is occurring.
- Mussel, rapa-whelk and turbot rather than anchovy and sprats are the target for illegal fishing here. -

- Turkish gillnetters fish illegally in Ukrainian waters for turbot.
- Other nations does not violate the fishery here.



IUU in EU countries

- In Romania: More than 90% of violations from foreign vessels is gillnetters targeting turbot and dogfish.
- Majority Turkish and some Bulgarian vessels.



Conclusion:

- IUU fishing seems to be a serious problem in the Black Sea.
- Cooperation is needed (and wanted) by the Black Sea countries to prevent collapse of several stocks.
- Fishermen, who have their daily work at sea are an important source of information.



Thank You!