

# ILLEGAL FISHING OF FOREIGN VESSELS IN ROMANIAN WATERS DURING 2002-2012



# **Illegal fishing activities identified in 2002**

**On 18 April 2002, patrol vessels of the Coast Guard seized and detained 7 Turkish seiner vessels fishing illegally in the Romanian EEZ, in a sector 40 Nm east of Tuzla.**

**As a follow-up of the technical-scientific expertise carried-out aboard the arrested vessels, bottom trawl fishing gear for turbot and dogfish was identified, showing evidence of having recently been used for fishing activities. No turbot gillnets or fish catches were found aboard the vessels, as they had been discarded and abandoned when the vessels were located by the Coast Guard.**

**Following the investigations performed in the sector where the Turkish vessels were apprehended, the Coast Guard, in collaboration with the research vessels “Steaua de Mare 1“, found and recovered 38 km of turbot gillnets, mesh size 280 - 360 mm and wire diameter 0.65 - 0.85 mm. Romanian legislation requires for turbot fishing a minimum mesh size of 400 mm and wire diameter 0.50 mm.**

**In the recovered gillnets, the following fish species catches were recorded:**

- turbot - 2,627 kg;**
- dogfish - 160 kg;**
- common stingray - 80 kg;**

**and also dolphin by-catches of the species *Phocoena phocoena* - 35 individuals.**







**Also in 2002, on 3 May, 4 Bulgarian vessels were apprehended 35 Nm east of Midia, in the Romanian EEZ, performing illegal fishing with longlines, for the target species dogfish.**

**50 longlines with 100 hooks each and an amount of 1,023 kg of dogfish were identified aboard the vessels.**



**Both the Turkish and Bulgarian vessels had been performing illegal fishing, monitored by the Romanian authorities, during a time of the year when fishing for these species was prohibited, as stipulated in national legislation.**

# Illegal fishing activities identified in 2006

On 18 March 2006, Coast Guard vessels identified a Turkish vessel under Romanian flag fishing illegally for turbot, approximately 27 Nm abreast the Mamaia Resort.

From the location where the vessels was apprehended fishing, the Coast Guard vessels recovered 400 gillnets (approx. 26 km), mesh size 360 - 400 mm (mostly a = 360 mm) and wire diameter 0.65 - 0.85 mm, when national legislation stipulates a minimum mesh size of 400 mm and wire diameter 0.5 mm.

421 turbot (total weight 1,280 kg), of which 77 individuals below the legal size, and 5 dolphins, of the species *Phocoena phocoena*, were recovered .

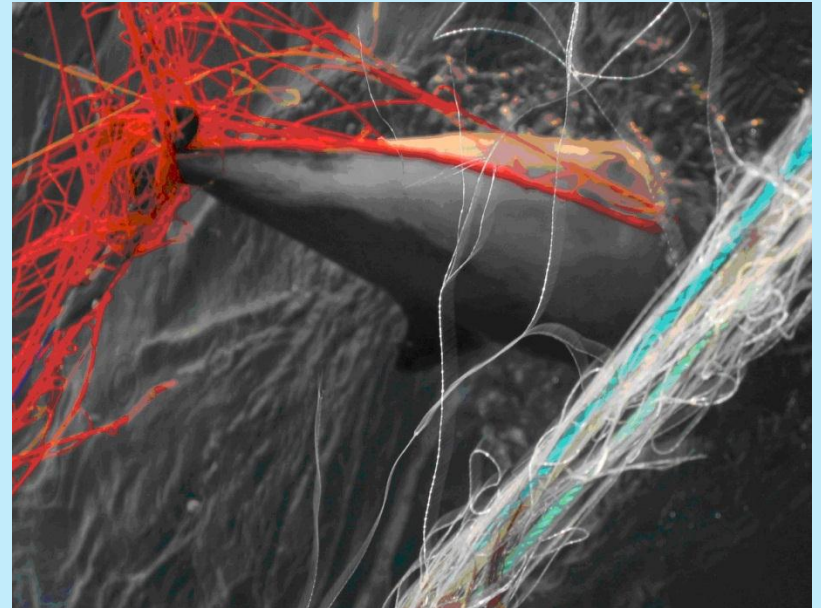
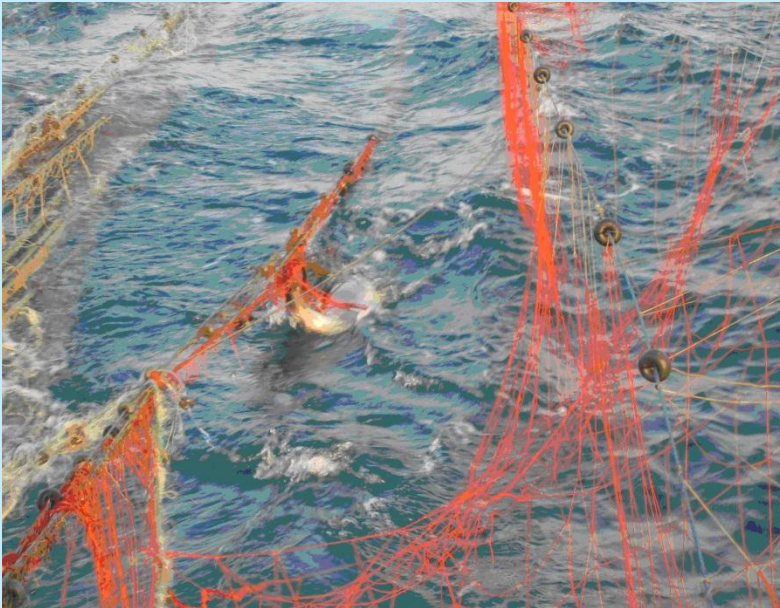




# Illegal fishing activities identified in 2007

On 3 July 2007, as a follow-up of a mission in the Vama Veche - Constanta sector, the Coast Guard vessels located and recovered Turkish turbot gillnets, set abreast of Constanta, at 68 m depth.

Turbot individuals (67 specimens) and dolphins (27 specimens of the species *Phocoena phocoena*), mostly severely decayed, were recovered. The total length of the recovered nets was 5 km, mesh size 320 - 360 mm and wire diameter 0.7 mm (not complying with legal sizes imposed by national legislation).



# Illegal fishing activities identified in 2010

On 3 and 4 April 2010, 3 Turkish seiners, performing illegal fishing during prohibition in the Romanian Black Sea sector (EEZ), were detained abreast of Sf. Gheorghe, at 70 - 80 m depth. Aboard the 3 vessels, 5 bottom trawls for turbot and dogfish fishing and 425 multi-wire nylon gillnets, mesh size 340 mm (below the minimum size imposed by national legislation) and wire diameter 0,6 mm, were found. The catches identified aboard these vessels were mainly represented by: 18 dogfish individuals (all pregnant females), 11 common stingrays and 7 thornback rays.





# Illegal fishing activities identified in 2011

On 27 June 2011, Coast Guard vessels apprehended, 71 Nm east of Cape Tuzla, a Turkish vessel performing unauthorized fishing with turbot gillnets.

From the location where the Turkish vessel was apprehended fishing illegally, the Coast Guard vessels recovered 582 multi-wire nylon gillnets, total length 46 km, mesh size 280 - 360 mm and wire diameter 0.6 mm. 87 turbot (229 kg) and 33 dolphins of the species *Phocoena phocoena* were found entangled and hooked.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

