



# How Illegal Fishing Threatens the Safety of Crews

The financial drivers behind illegal fishing can lead to poor safety and labor conditions for vessel crews. When stocks are overfished, fishers' catch and income are reduced.

## Legitimate Fishing

Authorized and **legitimate fishing vessels** operate with decent working conditions and **adequate equipment**. Stocks are fished at a sustainable rate. **Profits increase**.



## Illegal Fishing

- ① In an effort to **maximize profits**, unscrupulous operators look for ways to exploit fish stocks and management loopholes by **fishing illegally** or under-reporting catch.
- ② **Overcapacity** leads to a decline in stocks, which is exacerbated by illegal fishing.
- ③ **Fewer profits** mean less money to invest in maintenance, repairs, and safety equipment, making **vessels unsafe** and conditions unacceptable.
- ④ Crews are then forced to work in **hazardous conditions** for longer hours and less pay to minimize operators' costs.
- ⑤ Fish stocks are **exploited** to unsustainable levels, **undermining** legitimate fishing operations and **food security**.



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**For further information, please visit:**

[pewtrusts.org/endillegalfishing](https://pewtrusts.org/endillegalfishing)

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