

Illegal fishing: the Costs to EU Member States

Country Profiles

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Costs of IUU fishing until 2020						
Member State	Landing value modelled	Stock value in € million	Annual value of landings		Employment 2008–2020	
			In € million	%	In real terms	%
Belgium	62%	90	9	23%	174	20%
Denmark	76%	1334	117	26%	2,415	54%
Estonia	91%	177	8	10%	636	8%
Finland	91%	102	5	10%	367	8%
France	46%	1092	130	17%	2,988	16%
Germany	70%	430	38	22%	900	21%
Greece	13%	175	9	3%	403	2%
Ireland	47%	404	50	17%	1,097	17%
Italy	13%	504	26	3%	1,162	3%
Latvia	91%	189	8	10%	683	17%
Lithuania	90%	25	1	10%	88	3%
Netherlands	64%	863	85	26%	1,526	44%
Poland	91%	140	6	10%	506	8%
Portugal	46%	207	24	14%	3,238	15%
Slovenia	13%	1	0	3%	3	1%
Spain	34%	693	73	11%	6,800	12%
Sweden	81%	482	36	21%	1,119	58%
UK	60%	1,948	200	24%	3,715	32%
EU	46%	8,855	827	16%	27,818	13%

Belgium

Of the Belgian fisheries modeled – representing 62% of Belgium’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Belgium an additional annual landing worth €9 million and more than 170 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €9 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 62 per cent of the total Belgian landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Belgium would increase by €9 million and create more than 170 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €90 million to Belgium

Denmark

Of the Danish fisheries modeled – representing 76% of Denmark’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Denmark an additional annual landing worth €117 million and more than 2,400 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €117 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 76 per cent of the total Danish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Denmark would increase by €117 million and create more than 2,400 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €117 million to Denmark.

Finland

Of the Finnish fisheries modeled – representing 91% of Finland’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Finland an additional annual landing worth €5 million and more than 360 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €102 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 91 per cent of the total Finnish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Finland would increase by €5 million and create more than 360 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €102 million to Finland.

France

Of the French fisheries modeled – representing 46% of France’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies France an additional annual landing worth €130 million and about 3,000 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €1 billion until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 46 per cent of the total French landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in France would increase by €130 million and create more than 3,000 new jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €1 billion to France.

Germany:

Of the fisheries modeled for Germany – representing 70% of total landing value - cessation of IUU would increase landing values by up to 22% or €38 million per annum, resulting in an estimated increase in employment in the fisheries sector of 21% or 900 additional jobs. Maintaining current levels of IUU fishing will also prevent the stock value of the fisheries from increasing by €430 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 70 per cent of the total German landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Germany would increase by €38 million and create more than 900 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €430 million to Germany.

Greece

Of the Greek fisheries modeled – representing 13% of Greece’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Greece an additional annual landing worth €9 million and more than 400 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €175 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 13 per cent of the total Greek landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Greece would increase by €9 million and create more than 400 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €175 million to Greece.

Ireland

Of the Irish fisheries modeled – representing 47% of Ireland’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Ireland an additional annual landing worth €50 million and more than 1,000 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €404 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 47 per cent of the total Irish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Ireland would increase by €50 million and create more than 1,000 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €404 million to Ireland.

Italy:

The landings modeled in Italy resulted in the following conclusions: Eradicating IUU in the Blue fin tuna and swordfish fisheries alone would provide Italy with an additional annual landing worth €26 million with more than 1,000 additional jobs. In addition, the value of the fish stocks would increase until by €504 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 13 per cent of the total Italian landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Italy would increase by €26 million and create more than 1,000 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €504 million to Italy.

Latvia

Of the Latvian fisheries modeled – representing 90% of Latvia’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Latvia an additional annual landing worth €8 million and more than 680 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €189 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 90 per cent of the total Latvian landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Latvia would increase by €1 million and create more than 680 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €189 million to Latvia.

Lithuania

Of the Lithuanian fisheries modeled – representing 90% of Lithuania’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Lithuania an additional annual landing worth €1 million and more than 80 additional jobs in the fisheries sector.

Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €25 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 90 per cent of the total Lithuanian landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Lithuania would increase by €1 million and create more than 80 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €25 million to Lithuania.

Netherlands

Of the Dutch fisheries modeled – representing 64% of the Netherlands’ total landing value - IUU fishing denies the Netherlands an additional annual landing worth €85 million and more than 1,500 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €863 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 64 per cent of the total Dutch landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in the Netherlands would increase by €85 million and create more than 1,500 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €863 million to the Netherlands.

Poland

Of the Polish fisheries modeled – representing 91% of Poland’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Poland an additional annual landing worth €6 million and more than 500 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €140 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 91 per cent of the total Polish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Poland would increase by €6 million and create more than 500 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €140 million to Poland

Portugal

Of the Portuguese fisheries modeled – representing 46% of Portugal’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Portugal an additional annual landing worth €24 million and more than 3,200 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €207 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 46 per cent of the total Portuguese landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Portugal would increase by €24 million and create more than 3,200 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €207 million to Portugal.

Spain:

Of the fisheries modeled for Spain – representing 34% of total landing value - cessation of IUU would increase overall landing values by up to 11% or €73 million per annum, resulting in an estimated increase in employment in the fisheries sector of 12% or 6,800 additional jobs. Maintaining current levels of IUU fishing will also prevent the stock value of the fisheries from increasing by €693 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 34 per cent of the total Spanish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Spain would increase by €73 million and create more than 6,800 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €693 million to Spain.

Sweden

Of the Swedish fisheries modeled – representing 81% of Sweden’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies Sweden an additional annual landing worth €36 million and more than 1,100 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €482 million until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 81 per cent of the total Swedish landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in Sweden would increase by €36 million and create more than 1,100 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €482 million to Sweden.

The UK:

Of the UK fisheries modeled – representing 60% of the UK’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies the UK an additional annual landing worth €200 million and more than 3,700 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €1.9 billion until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 60 per cent of the total UK landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in the UK would increase by €200 million and create more than 3,700 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modeled by a value of €1.9 billion to the UK.

EU

Of the EU fisheries modeled – representing 46% of the EU’s total landing value - IUU fishing denies the EU an additional annual landing worth €827 million and almost 30,000 additional jobs in the fisheries sector. Ending IUU would not only lead to increased catches and jobs, but also to a higher stock value of approximately €8.8 billion until 2020.

We modeled selected fish stocks representing 46 per cent of the total EU landings. Based on this modeling the research found that if IUU fishing was eliminated today, the average annual value of landings of these stocks in the EU would increase by €827 million and create almost 30,000 additional jobs. Furthermore, it would result in an increase of the fish stock modelled by a value of €8.8 billion to the EU.

These cost estimates, large as they are, do not represent the full cost of IUU fishing as the analysis did only include selected costs that were easier to quantify, key stocks with clear evidence of IUU and only looked at a relatively short time frame. The true costs of IUU fishing are therefore likely to be substantially higher.