



CNA EXPERTISE SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO CONTROL IUU FISHING



THE PROBLEM

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a top maritime security concern for dozens of countries, threatening their food supplies, economies, and security. These risks transcend national boundaries to endanger global fish stocks, the law of the sea, and maritime security. The US government has taken notice, forming the US Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing, which launched a national strategy for IUU fishing in late 2022. Despite these and other international efforts, the problem of IUU fishing persists.



“IUU fishing has replaced piracy as the leading global maritime security threat.”

*Admiral Karl Schultz,
26th Commandant of the US Coast Guard*



HOW CNA CAN HELP

CNA offers a unique combination of maritime operational experience and policy expertise not found in any other organization working on the IUU fishing problem.

CNA'S EXPERTISE

REGIONAL EXPERTISE: CNA's [China Studies Program](#) is Washington's largest non-governmental research group on Asian security, complemented by experts on maritime issues in the Indo-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa.



We have a deep understanding of regional military, political, economic, cultural, and language dynamics that influence China's as well as other countries' decision-making surrounding IUU fishing.

WARGAMING: The nation's premier [wargaming program](#) developed a professionally facilitated IUU fishing workshop game, "At Any Cost." It has been played by representatives from the US Coast Guard, NOAA, WWF, US Navy, and many others.



We bring diverse stakeholders together through realistic IUU scenarios to collaborate on identifying novel approaches and policies.

MDA TECHNICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS: Studies of maritime domain awareness in Asia and Africa have drawn on CNA expertise in naval intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, as well as maritime partners and allies.



We develop technical, tactical, and training solutions to help partner nations and regions counter IUU fishing.

NAVAL OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE: The [Center for Naval Analyses](#) is the independent, nonprofit research and analysis center for the Department of the Navy, studying operations at sea since 1942.



We find actionable solutions to IUU fishing based on operational realism and deep Navy and maritime relationships.

LAW OF THE SEA EXPERTISE: CNA analyses of operational and legal issues pertaining to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea have been downloaded thousands of times.



Our solutions are grounded in deep understanding of national and international maritime legal and policy considerations.

CNA EXPERIENCE IN IUU FISHING ISSUES



CHINA'S DISTANT WATER FISHING FLEET VIOLATIONS

Research teams at CNA have repeatedly analyzed cases and patterns of [IUU activity by People's Republic of China](#) (PRC) vessels. Country-level analysis finds that pervasive PRC IUU fishing in foreign waters is limited to countries where the PRC has existing disputes or coastal enforcement is weak. Analysis of violations and their consequences is available in [six locally relevant languages](#). CNA has also detailed how Beijing thinks about, governs, and uses its distant water fishing fleet for economic, foreign policy, and national security initiatives.



MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS

CNA has studied methods for improving maritime domain awareness (MDA) in widespread regions. One assessment of MDA needs in Southeast Asia identified barriers to effective information sharing among regional and external actors. CNA has also assessed how the US can work more closely with [India](#), France, and Australia to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean and enable counter-IUU activities. One of several studies on US MDA assistance in Africa collated lessons learned from US investments in partner MDA capacity, concluding that sustaining existing investments would require about \$50 million from the US government over a decade.



ALLIES AND PARTNERS

CNA studies have assessed the impact of IUU activities on allies and partners, identifying the most effective means for the US and partner states to address illicit behaviors. CNA's recommendations have often focused on opportunities to build regional capacity, given the transnational character of IUU fishing, particularly in Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, and the Gulf of Guinea.



15+ CNA STUDIES
ON IUU FISHING



17+ CNA ANALYSTS
WITH IUU FISHING STUDY EXPERIENCE



FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT ANALYSIS FOR USCG SINCE 1975



80+ YEARS
ANALYSIS FOR US NAVAL AND MARITIME SERVICES

ABOUT CNA

CNA is a nonprofit research and analysis organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses—the federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) of the Department of the Navy—as well as the Institute for Public Research. CNA develops actionable solutions to complex problems of national importance. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts, and professional staff, CNA takes a real-world approach to gathering data. Its unique Field Program places analysts on aircraft carriers and military bases, in squad rooms and crisis centers, working side by side with operators and decision-makers around the world. CNA supports naval operations, fleet readiness, and strategic competition. Its non-defense research portfolio includes criminal justice, homeland security, and data management.

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