

**2025 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:  
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable  
development (UNOC3)**

**Intervention from Floor: Ocean Action Panel 5 – Fostering Sustainable Fisheries Management,  
including Supporting Small Scale Fishers**

Delivered by Theos Badege, Acting Director of INTERPOL IFCACC

11 June 2025 (Wednesday) | Plenary Room | 10:00 AM – 13:00 PM

*(3 min duration – need to press button to request the floor)*

Thank you, Chair.

INTERPOL fully agrees with the serious threat that IUU fishing poses.

IUU fishing threatens national, regional and global fisheries management. But beyond the damage to marine ecosystems, it also **harms communities** by enabling unsafe working conditions, labor abuse, and modern slavery.

As we work towards more sustainable fisheries, we must also **confront the criminal networks that profit from these crimes**. Here, we need more than policy. We need **law enforcement** and **international cooperation**.

INTERPOL supports its global membership to do this, through a variety of efforts.

In particular, by translating international agreements, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Agreement on Port State Measures, into **real action**. As implementers, we enforce these frameworks by contributing intelligence sharing and assisting in transnational investigations.

Through our global network, INTERPOL **enables real-time intelligence exchange** among relevant law enforcement agencies – whether they are frontline officers, customs officials, maritime

investigators, or prosecutors. We also issue **global alerts** through our color-coded INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions system, **enabling coordinated action across borders**.

In many regions, however, countries still face capacity gaps that limit their ability to fulfil international commitments. INTERPOL offers **targeted capacity building and operational support**, and helps build effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems, so countries can monitor and track fishing activities, detect suspicious behaviour, and act quickly when violations occur.

We have also sought **strong partnerships** that drive progress forward. For example, our collaboration with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has led to joint trainings, shared risk assessments, and operational support – resulting in the successful detection and prosecution of IUU fishing cases.

Looking ahead,

- We aim to build more of these partnerships, and invite all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to work with INTERPOL, so we can **align and scale up our efforts** across all regions;
- We also aim to **strengthen our technical assistance efforts to address the criminality that often hides behind IUU fishing**. This includes forged documentation, abuse of flags of convenience, shell companies and frontmen, and even forced labor and modern slavery aboard vessels.

In conclusion, to **truly achieve** sustainable fisheries, we must treat IUU fishing not just as an environmental concern – but also as a serious criminal threat.

**This means putting law enforcement at the center of our collective response:**

- Strengthening monitoring and inspections at ports;
- Investigating the financial and organized crime links;
- Building capacity where it is most needed;
- And connecting frontline agencies across borders.

**Coordinated action** is essential to prevent, detect, investigate, and prosecute IUU fishing. As the world's only international police organization, INTERPOL stands ready to support our countries and partners in this regard.

Thank you.