

The scale, form, and impacts of distant water fleets on national fisheries and fisherfolk: Asia & the Pacific



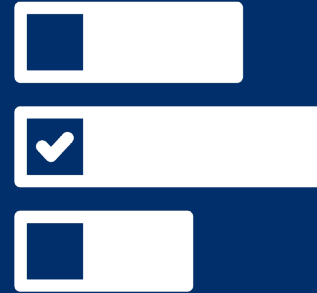
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Flow of the webinar



...but first
let's look at the
POLL RESULTS

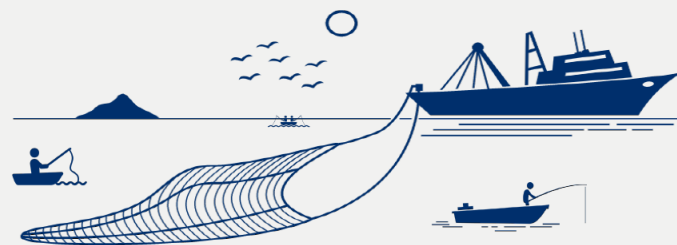


Understand the impact of
distant water fleets
on national fishery resources
and fisherfolk to inform USAID
Mission programming



DRIVERS AND IMPACTS OF
DISTANT WATER FLEETS
ON NATIONAL FISHERIES AND FISHERFOLK
IN PRIORITY USAID GEOGRAPHIES:

A research agenda to support responsive action



[Research Agenda Link](#)

Today's webinar

DWF Research Agenda

RQ 4 Alliances

Responding to disparities in power, information, and capacity

RQ 2 National & Regional Enforcement

Responding to
illegal catch



RQ 3 Transparency in Licensing & Supply Chains

Responding to
unsustainable or unfair
resource allocations



RQ 1 Characterization

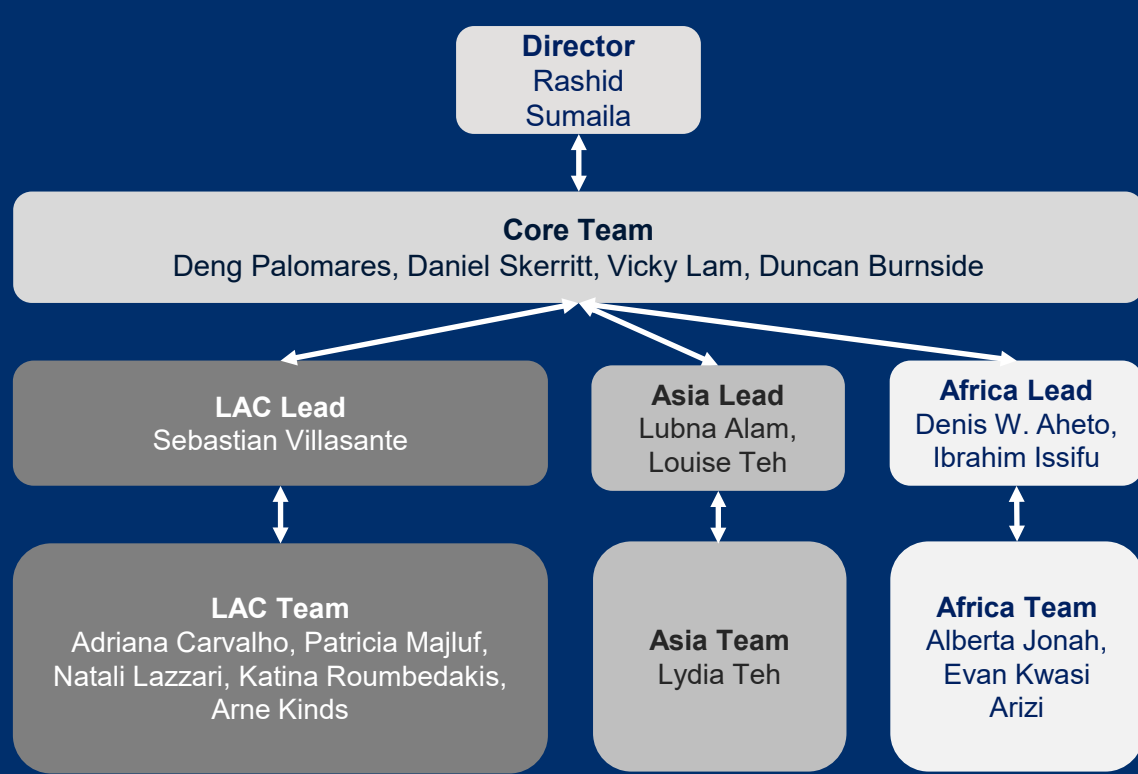
Understanding the scale, form & impacts
of distant water fleets (DWFs)



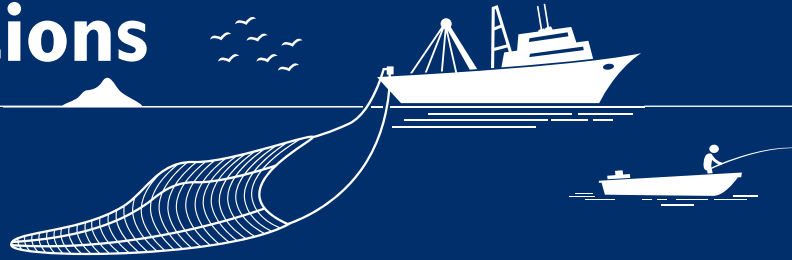
**Systematic characterization
led by the University of
British Columbia's Fisheries
Economics Research Unit**

*See Annex A for prioritization of questions by
country*

University of British Columbia, Fisheries Economic Resource Unit and regional partners (presented by Rashid Sumaila et al.)



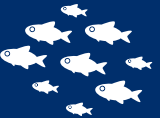
Research Questions



What are the impacts of distant water fleets on domestic fisheries & fisherfolk?

Where there is competition:

- What is the level and nature of competition & conflict?
- What species are affected?
- How wide spread is spatial competition?
- What are the management implications from these interactions.






Research Methods



Research Methods

Under each of the questions assessed we have a number of indicators that were evaluated.

	High	If all or a majority of the indicators evaluated scored High and none scored Low.
	Medium	If a majority of the indicators evaluated scored Medium with a few High and Low scores.
	Low	If a majority of the indicators evaluated scored Low with a few Medium scores.

Topline Findings *[from across all geographies]*

What is the level and nature of competition & conflict?

Both empirical data and qualitative evidences show the overall threat to domestic fisheries from DWFs in all the regions range from medium to high;

Decline in fish stocks in the region can be partially attributed to the fishing activities of DWF and have a negative impact on the livelihood nutritional and food security of coastal communities in Asia and the Pacific;

What species are affected?

Several species are targeted by DWF in competition with national and regional fishing fleets.

Topline Findings *[from across all geographies]*

How wide spread is spatial competition?

GIS mapping of SAU data indicates that there is significant spatial competition between DWF and domestic fleets.

What are the management implications from these interactions?

A range of management recommendations are provided for each country and region in our study.



Asia

Asia Key Finding

- **With high confidence we find that DWF are a high threat to domestic and regional fishing fleets and fish stocks:**
- The 0.77 million tonnes caught by DWF are of taxa also targeted by domestic and regional fleets.
- Unreported catches by all fleets make up 30% of the regions total catch. The volume of unreported catch by the DWF and regional fleets suggests a high incidence of IUU fishing.

Asia Key Finding

- **With high confidence we find that DWF are a high threat to domestic and regional fishing fleets and fish stocks:**
- China's role in IUU via beneficial ownership needs to be further illuminated.
- An estimated 18 species are targeted by domestic, regional and DWF. For some of these species, e.g., akiame shrimp, skipjack, bigeye tuna and DWF catches up to between 12 - 83% of the total catch.

Asia Key Finding

The Philippines

- **With medium confidence we find that DWF are a high threat to domestic fishing fleets and fish stocks:**
- About 40% of the West Philippine Sea; ~50% of the Sulu Sea, ~90% of the Celebes Sea and ~10% of the Southeastern Philippine Sea;
- Note that DWF catch is only 5% of the 9.7 million metric tons;
- Hence, the overall threat posed by DWF to domestic fleets was thought to be low;
- Note that Chinese fishing vessels have been illegally operating in the western Philippine waters observed at least since 2012.

Asia Key Finding

The Philippines

- **With high confidence we find that DWF are a medium threat to domestic fishing fleets and fish stocks:**
- The Pacific chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*): With an average annual catch of 8,000 metric tons, 72% by DWF and 28% by domestic fleets.
- Note that No MSY data is available for the fish stocks of the Philippines.

Asia Key Finding

The Philippines

- **With high confidence we find that DWF are a high spatial competitor to domestic fishing fleets:**
- DWF and regional fleets operate in at least 30% of the Philippine EEZ, including in the very productive archipelagic waters of the Sulu and Celebes Seas. Reports of foreign vessels;
- Chinese and Vietnamese fleets are known to be encroaching in the EEZ of the Philippines particularly in the disputed areas of the West Philippine Sea are confirmed by local experts.

Some of the recommendations

- Strengthen the regulation on Automatic Identification System (AIS);
- Increase the public accessibility of Fisheries and Landing Data;
- Mandate seafood traceability systems as a requirement for market access;
- Eliminate fishing subsidies that boost vessel capacity;
- Substantial initiative aimed at reducing the IUU index score.



The Pacific Region Findings

The Pacific Key Finding

- Domestic fleet catch 41% caught by regional fleets while 59% is taken by DWFs;
- The high proportion of DWF catches suggests high threat to domestic fleets;
- 18 of the 85 species caught in the region are targeted by both regional and DWFs.
- The most caught species in the region are, viz.: albacore of which 62% are taken by DWFs;
- skipjack tuna 11% DWFs; and yellowfin tuna 47% DWFs.

The Pacific Key Finding

- **With high confidence we find that DWF are a high spatial competitor to domestic fishing fleets:**
- DWFs operating in the region come from 13 flag states reporting their industrial catches to the WCPFC including South Korea, Japan, the USA, Taiwan and the Philippines;
- Hence, here is a high overlap between DWF and regional fleet operations.

Some of the recommendations

- Improve national and regional fisheries policies and legislation;
- Harmonize and enforce laws and codes of practice regarding DWF, illegal and illicit trade in fish and fish products across the region;
- Enhance national, regional and international cooperation. The old news is that the Pacific region is used to collaborating. So, what the countries need to do is to strengthen existing collaborative arrangements among Pacific countries, not weaken it;
- Pacific countries need to pull together resources at national and regional levels, to fix DWF challenges and tackle illegal and unreported fishing.