Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing: a Threat to Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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# 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
• To contribute to the academic debate on the significance of fisheries as a source of food and income
• Dearth of academic research that seeks to explore the threat of IUU fishing
• To contribute to the academic debate on the human vs. national security discourse
• To contribute to academic debate on state (in) effectiveness and securitization
Security theory:
  - Maritime/National security – Traditional security ideas
  - Human security (UNDP 1994 Human development report)
- State (in) effectiveness theory
- Securitization (Copenhagen school – Waever, Buzan and Jaap de Wilde)
1. Do human security threats associated with IUU fishing pose a significant threat to the national security of countries in the Gulf of Guinea?
   i. How does the fishing community define security?
   ii. How do they react to threats to their perception of security?
   iii. Does such response present any direct threat to the national security?
   iv. Does the Nigerian government have the capacity to safeguard its maritime domain?
1. Bonny, Rivers State in the Niger Delta area
   - Focused groups discussions and interviews with fisher folks
2. Abuja/Lagos/Ibadan/Port-Harcourt
   - Interviews with elites
3. Unpublished materials from ECOWAS and AU projects
   - PESCAO TOR (AU-IBAR, EU funded project)
Bye catch composition,
January – December 2004
Bye-Catch Shrimps
1,497,864 385,883.8

80% 20%
Number of commercial fishing/shrimping vessels registered in Nigeria

- 250 in 2008
- 147 in 2016
- Zero Tuna vessel
- Zero Fishing Partnership Agreement with Distant Water Fishing Nations

**Nigeria’s Earning from Shrimp Exports**

- $68 Million in 2008
- $29 Million in 2015
State of Fisheries Resources and Management in Nigeria

- Lack of investment in the sector (no designated landing site)
- Lack of an effective Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) system
- Untrained personnel
- Corrupt officials (open registry)
- Lack of interest (Tuna resources unexploited/outdated fisheries regulation)
SOCIAL REALITY FROM BONNY
Diagrammatical representation of the people’s response to IUU fishing

- IUU fishing by commercial/foreign vessels
- Illegal Migration/Migration
- State ineffectiveness
- IUU fishing by fisherfolks
- Prostitution
- Armed robbery at sea
- Pipeline vandalism
IUU fishing = Reduced catch

- No end to poverty (SDG 1)
- Marine conservation undermined (SDG 14)
- No end to hunger (SDG 2)
- Poor economic growth (SDG 8)
- Nutrition reduced (SDG 3)
- Quality of education undermined (SDG 4)
WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

- Buzan’s securitization
- Regional cooperation (financial commitment)
- International collaborations
While the argument continues about the suitability of human security in defining security or the invalidity of the securitization argument, this research found that IUU fishing threatens the human and national security of Nigeria, as fisheries play a significant role in food and economic security of the country.