

**IUU fishing, working conditions and the
Spanish seafood industry**

The importance of supply chain due diligence

November 2022



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IUU Risks in the Spanish market

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Background

- **The EU is one of the world's largest seafood markets and Spain is one of the largest importers of seafood products from non-EU countries (including carded countries)**
- **This report investigated the risks of IUU fishing products entering the Spanish seafood trade supply chain**
 - **Inform industry on the risks posed by IUU fishing in its supply chains by identifying high risk species – *High Risk Trade Flows (countries carded under the EU carding system)***



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Key Findings

- **Spain is one of the best countries implementing the EU IUU Regulation**
- **Seafood Supply Chains remain exposed to risk of IUU caught fish**
- **Evidence suggests workers on IUU fishing vessels face greater exposure to poor labour conditions and human rights abuses**
- **Companies need a robust risk assessment and due diligence process**



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
















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Key Findings: High Risk Trade Flows

- Spain imports large quantities of seafood from countries assessed as high risk of conducting IUU fishing
- High risk trade flows with carded countries
- Key species where problems may exist include
 - Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (some Illegal activity)
 - Squid (some unregulated activity)
 - Swordfish (some unreported activity)

Carded Countries

Table 1 – Total seafood imports into Spain in tonnes* and number of catch certificates validated** from carded countries over the 2018/19 period.

Carded Country***	Cards received ⁶⁵	Carded from	Card removed / delisted	No. of catch certificates (2018)	2018 Imports (Tonnes)	No. of catch certificates (2019)	2019 Imports (Tonnes)
Cambodia†	 	November 2012	-	0	0	0	0
Comoros†	 	October 2015	-	0	0	0	0
Ecuador		October 2019	-	1,375	96,906.38	1,765	113,919.80
Kiribati		April 2016	December 2020	0	0	0	0
Liberia†		May 2017	-	0	0	0	0
Panama		December 2019	-	278	8,364.80	325	10,816.54
Sierra Leone†		April 2016	-	0	0	0	0
St Kitts and Nevis†		December 2014	-	0	0	0	0
St Vincent and the Grenadines†	 	December 2014	-	0	0	0	0
Taiwan		October 2015	June 2019	107	971.98	118	2,414.14
Thailand		April 2015	January 2019	77	2,086.40	77	2,604.68
Trinidad and Tobago†		April 2016	-	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu†		December 2014	July 2018	0	0	0	0
Vietnam		October 2017	-	252	23,211.49	212	29,121.54



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High Risk IUU countries

Table 2 – Seafood imports in tonnes* and number of catch certificates validated from countries with the highest IUU fishing risk over the 2018/19 period according to the IUU fishing Index.**

Country***	IUU Fishing Risk ⁷⁰	No. of catch certificates (2018)	2018 Imports (Tonnes)	No. of catch certificates (2019)	2019 Imports (Tonnes)
China	3.93	3,586	103,512.90	3,348	105,957.30
Taiwan ^{71,72}	3.34	107	971.98	118	2,414.14
Cambodia† ⁷³	3.23	0	0	0	0
Russia ⁷⁴	3.16	431	10,152.65	523	10,638.74
Vietnam ⁷⁵	3.16	252	23,211.49	212	29,121.54



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Key Findings: High Risk Species



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Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

SOME ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

- **High risks evidenced by illegal trade flows identified from Operation Tarantelo**
- **Entering EU market through Malta and re-exported to Spain and other countries**
 - Intra-EU IUU trade risk



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Squid

- **Unregulated activity – outside of competence of some RFMOs**
 - Southeastern Pacific Ocean
 - Northwestern Indian Ocean
 - Southwestern Atlantic Ocean
- **Deactivation of AIS by Chinese and Spanish Fleets**

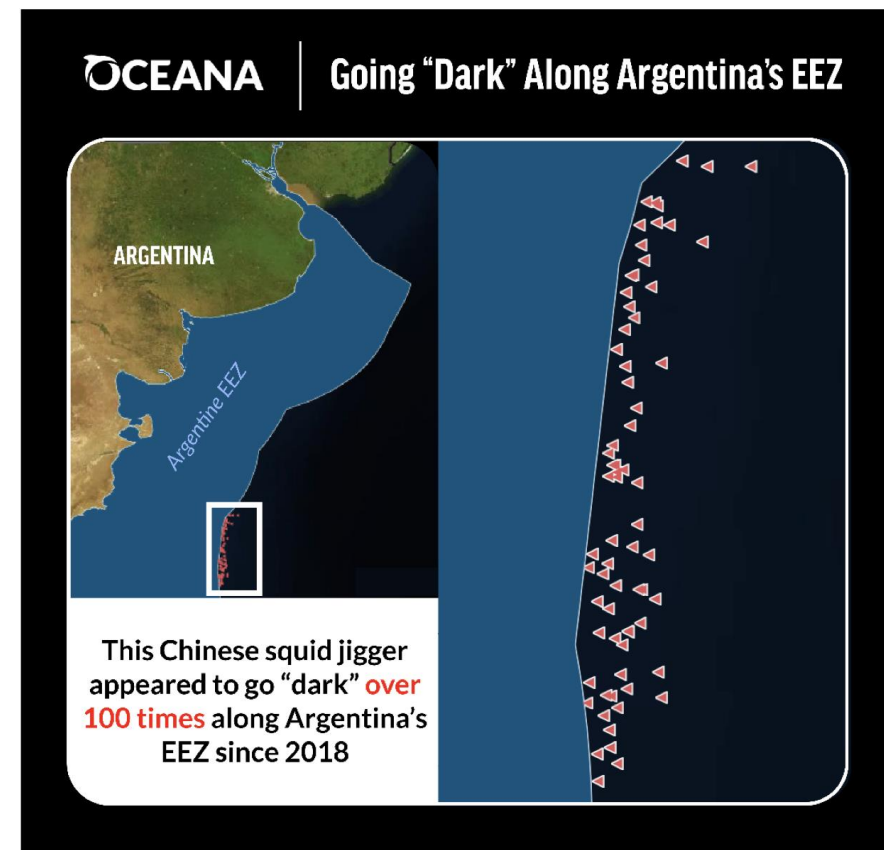


Figure 2. A subset of one Chinese squid jigger's gap events. This vessel appeared to go "dark" over 100 times along Argentina's EEZ between January 2018 and April 2021. Red arrows indicate locations where this vessel's AIS tracking signal disappeared.



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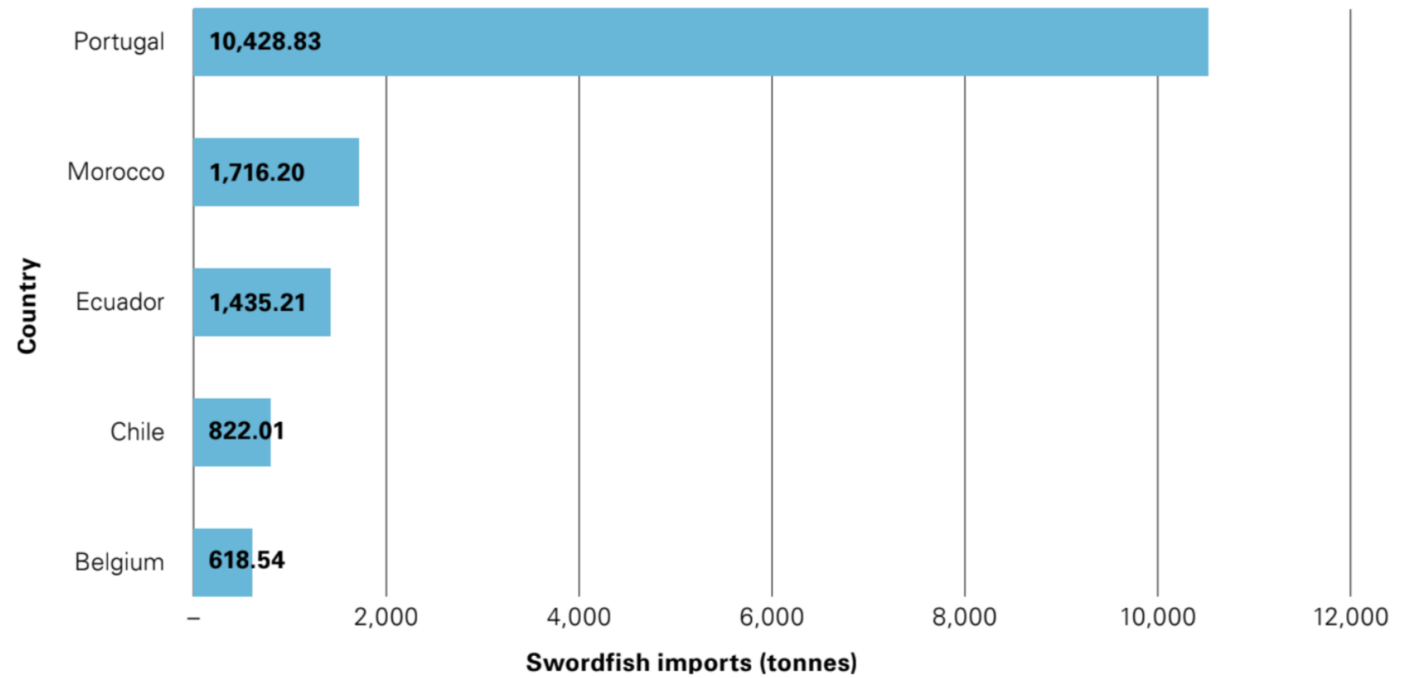
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Swordfish

- Unreported activity
- Imports from carded countries



Figure 6: Top 5 exporters of Swordfish to Spain (2019)



Source: Eurostat (2022)¹⁴²



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Mitigation/Recommendations

- Companies should consider I, U and U in their due diligence procedures
- Companies should map out their supply chains (particularly for higher risk species)
- Companies should use existing voluntary tools such as PAS 1550 to help due diligence
- Companies should also apply the voluntary tools to combat human rights abuses in their supply chains



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THANK YOU

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