



Chinese-owned fishing vessels in Mozambique

IUU FISHING AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS **THE CASE OF THE CHINA'S DISTANT-WATER FISHING FLEET**

4 JUNE 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION



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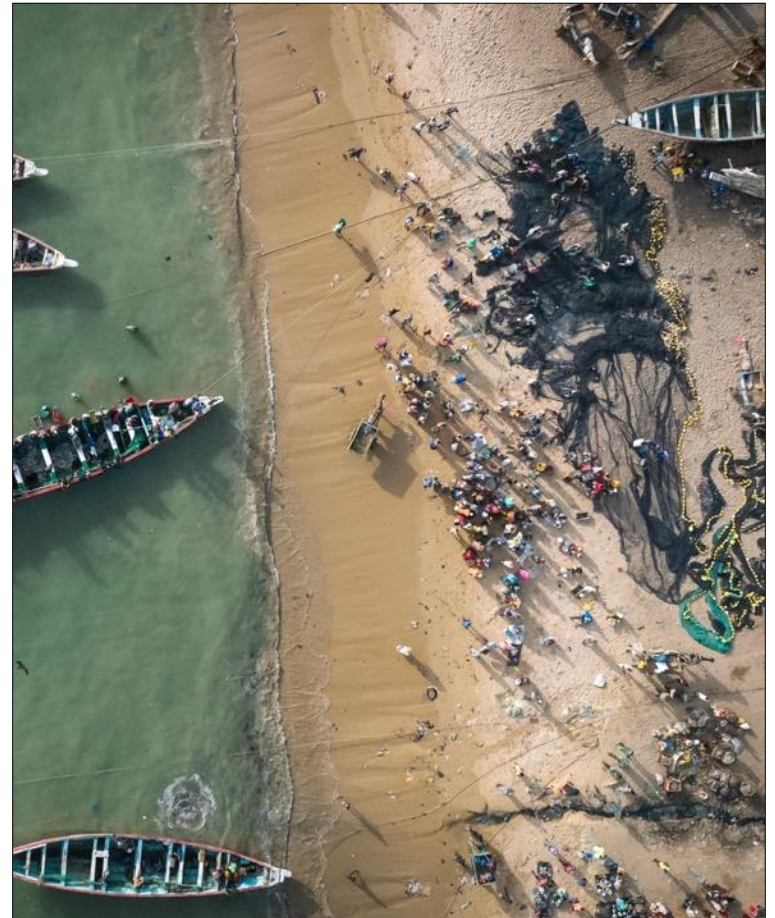


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The **Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)** exists to protect the natural world and defend our basic human right to a secure environment.

- ▷ EJF works internationally to inform policy and drive **systemic, durable reforms** to protect our environment and defend human rights.
- ▷ We **investigate and expose abuses, and support environmental defenders**, Indigenous peoples, communities and independent journalists on the frontlines of environmental injustice.
- ▷ Our campaigns aim to **secure peaceful, equitable and sustainable futures**.



Artisanal landing site in Senegal

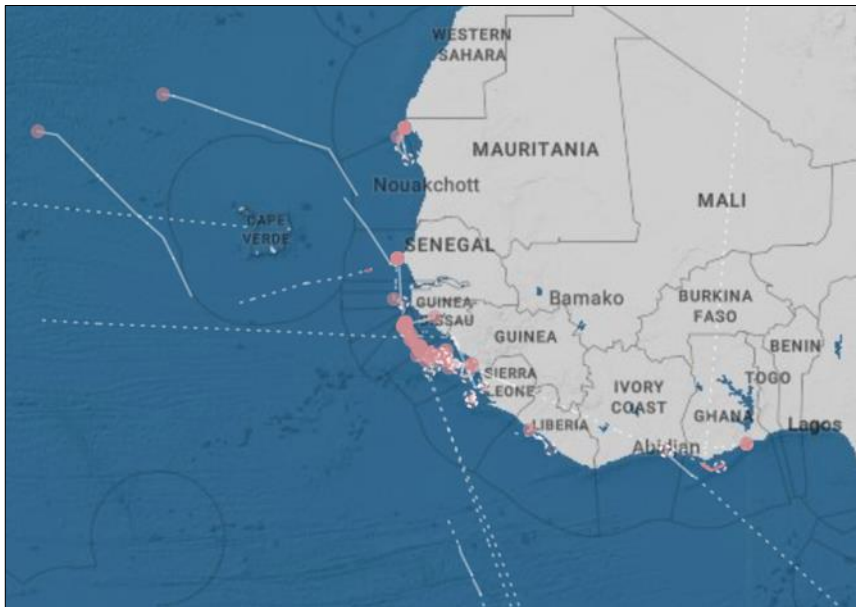


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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION OUR INVESTIGATIVE METHODS

Combination of:

- Field investigations
- Satellite monitoring
- Open-source intelligence
- Community surveillance projects
- Human intelligence



AIS data of Chinese fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean



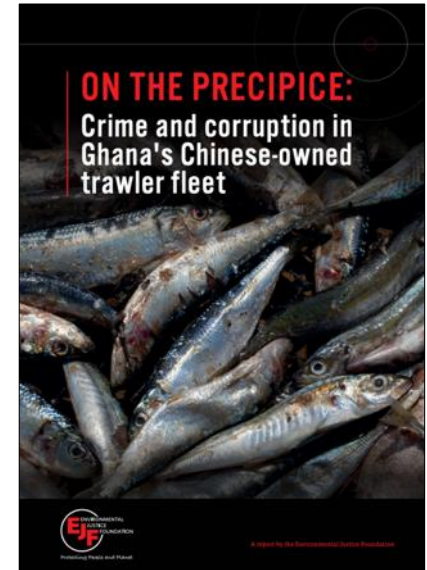
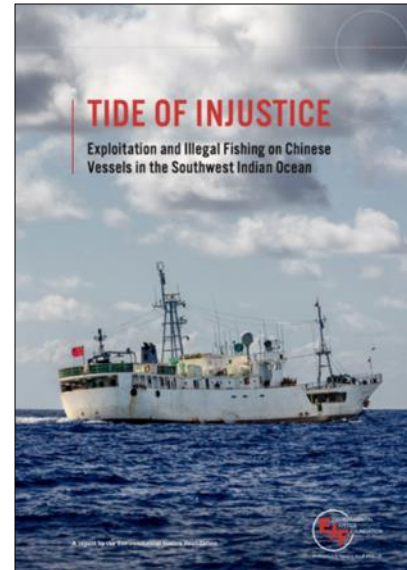
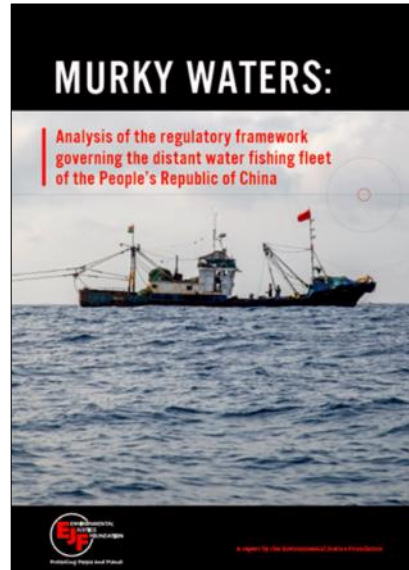
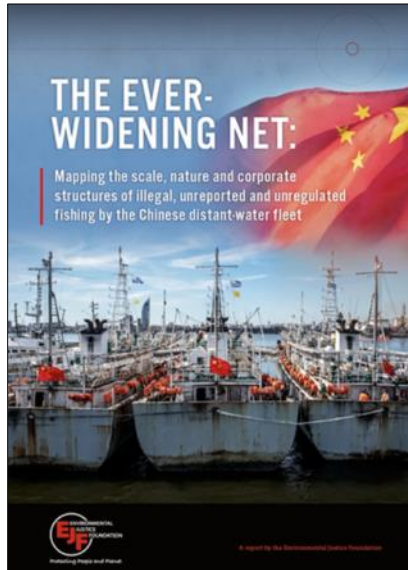
Supporting participatory surveillance in Senegal



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OUR RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS





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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION OUR WORK IN INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES

Findings from the “Ever-Widening Net”:

- **116 crew interviews** analysed
- **99%** experienced or witnessed **wages being deducted or withheld**
- **97%** experienced some form of **debt bondage/confiscation of guarantee money and documents**
- **95%** had seen **shark finning**
- **89%** have worked **excessive overtime**
- **85%** reported **abusive working and living conditions**
- **80%** experienced **intimidation and threats**
- **58%** have seen or experienced **physical violence**
- **554** cases of **suspected IUU fishing and human rights abuses** (2015-2019)



Dolphin caught on board a Chinese longliner and photo from a crew interview



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OUR WORK IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Main findings:

- China is **monopolising the trawl sector** in the region (e.g., Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, etc.)
- **High prevalence of illegal fishing** activities within its fleet with **widespread and harmful consequences** (economic, environmental, and human)
- **58 crew interviews** analysed (Ghana and Senegal)
- In Ghana (2022 data, 36 crew):
 - **100%** reported **inadequate food**
 - **97%** reported working **excessive hours**
 - **92%** witnessed **illegal dumping of fish**
 - **81%** witnessed/experienced **violence**
 - **81%** witnessed **fishing in closed areas**



Chinese-owned trawlers in the port of Dakar, Senegal



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OUR WORK IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

Main findings:

- **Longliner fleet**
 - **44 crew interviews** analysed
 - **100%** reported **abusive working and living conditions**
 - **96%** excessive overtime
 - **80%** reported **shark finning**
 - **59%** the **deliberate capture/injury of vulnerable marine megafauna**
 - **55%** physical violence
 - **4 deaths** reported (2017-2023)
 - Involvement of **North Koreans as workers**



Chinese longliner in the Indian Ocean



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OUR WORK IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

Main findings:

- ***Coastal fleet in Mozambique***
 - **16 crew interviews** analysed
 - **88%** reported **intimidation and threats**
 - **81%** **physical abuse**
 - **69%** **abusive working and living conditions**
 - **56%** reported **illegal incursions** in closed areas
 - **50%** the **deliberate capture/injury** of **vulnerable marine megafauna**



Chinese fishing vessel in Mozambique



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ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF ILLEGAL FISHING, OVERFISHING AND ABUSES





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ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES RECOMMENDATIONS

EJF's recommendations to the European Union:

Cooperation with China and other nations

- **Step up its engagement with China** aiming to achieve similar sustainability and transparency standards to drive positive changes all along the supply chain
- **Promote the adoption of transparency measures** by third countries where the Chinese fleet operates to shed light on its practices
- Work with other like-minded countries to **align approaches to addressing IUU fishing and human rights abuses** in the Chinese fleet

Trade-related measures

- **Enhance scrutiny over imports** of fisheries products originating from China's distant-water fishing fleet by utilising all available tools, including the EU IUU Regulation and the forthcoming Forced Labour Regulation
- Where there is documented evidence of noncompliance with applicable laws and management measures, **close their markets to the products**

Port State measures

- **Rigorously enforce the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures** on Chinese-flagged vessels visiting European ports or those of its Member States, especially those in overseas territories



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THANK YOU
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