

CENTER FOR  
LATIN  
AMERICAN  
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STUDIES

Western  
Hemisphere  
Regional Illegal,  
Unreported, and  
Unregulated  
Fishing  
Assessment



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

## CUBA INITIATIVE

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a potentially enduring threat to the security and well-being of the United States and its neighbors across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The region suffers several negative impacts from IUU fishing, including billions of dollars in economic losses and environmental costs due to over-fishing. In addition, IUU fishing is associated with a number of other illicit criminal activities. The fishing industry has long been known for ties to human trafficking, especially forced labor by migrant workers, exorbitant recruitment and repatriation fees, onerous and unsafe living and working conditions, and other forms of abuse. Countries across the region struggle to combat IUU fishing due to limited capacity to defend their exclusive economic zones and fisheries, including a lack of the intelligence and mapping capabilities needed to monitor IUU fishing operations in their waters.

This project examines the scope of IUU fishing-related legislation and local law enforcement capacity to interdict IUU fishing across the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. It also assesses the extent and scope of crimes associated with IUU fishing activities and collects local anecdotes on the adverse impacts of IUU fishing in the region. Outcomes of this project include a CLALS Working Paper, five thematic reports, and a September 9, 2022



public workshop at AU, numerous graphs and maps, and print and media journalism, in formats designed to inform policy decision makers. This project is a collaboration between

CLALS and InSight Crime. This initiative is led by AU School of International Service Associate Professor, Matthew Taylor, and InSight Crime Co-Director, Steven Dudley.

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