



Protecting People and Planet

**ILLEGAL FISHING AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA'S FLEET**  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MARKET ADVISORY COUNCIL  
23 MAY 2022

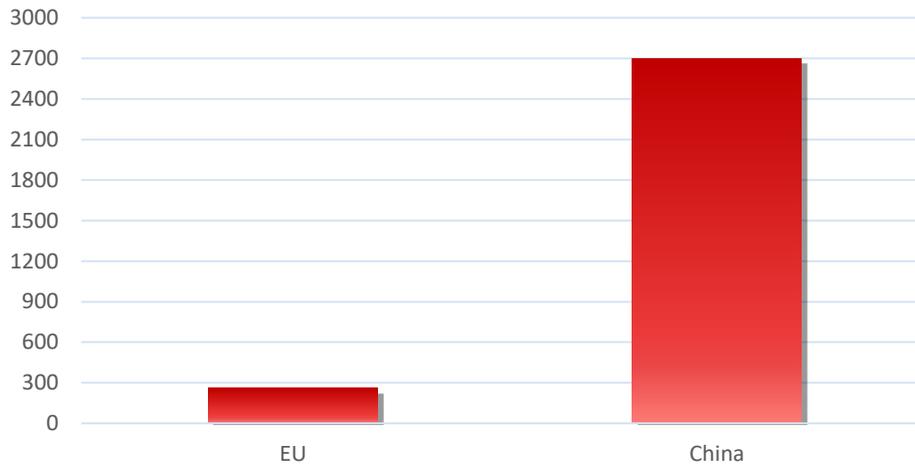
**SEAN PARRAMORE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION**



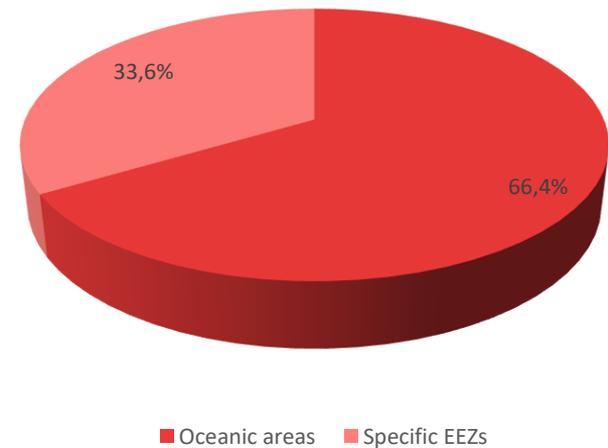
Protecting People and Planet

# GLOBAL FOOTPRINT CHINA'S DISTANT-WATER FISHING FLEET

### # Authorised vessels



### Areas of operation



## Main takeaways:

- While exact **size uncertain...**
- China's distant-water fishing fleet world's **biggest...**
- ... and operates **globally**



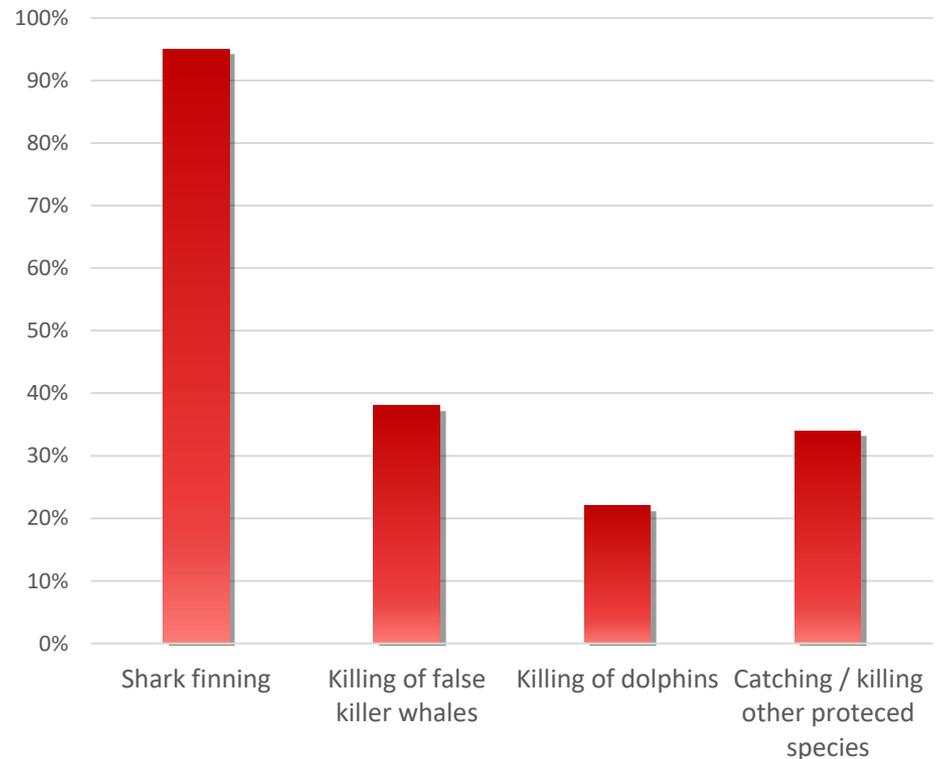
Protecting People and Planet

# IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES BY THE FLEET

## Possible illegal activities 2015 - 2019

Offence	Count	Percentage of total
Fishing without licence/authorisation	237	42.7
Other fisheries violation	181	32.6
Use of prohibited gear	64	11.5
Fishing for prohibited species	57	10.3
Violations relating to documentation, identity, markings and flaggings	50	9.0
Other (e.g. drugs)	39	7.0
Failure to report/declare catch	38	6.8
Shark finning	37	6.7
Fishing in IEZ/prohibited areas	18	3.2
Failure to report AIS/Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	17	3.1
Human rights abuses	16	2.9

## Findings interviews with 116 crewmembers (Experienced and / or witnessed)

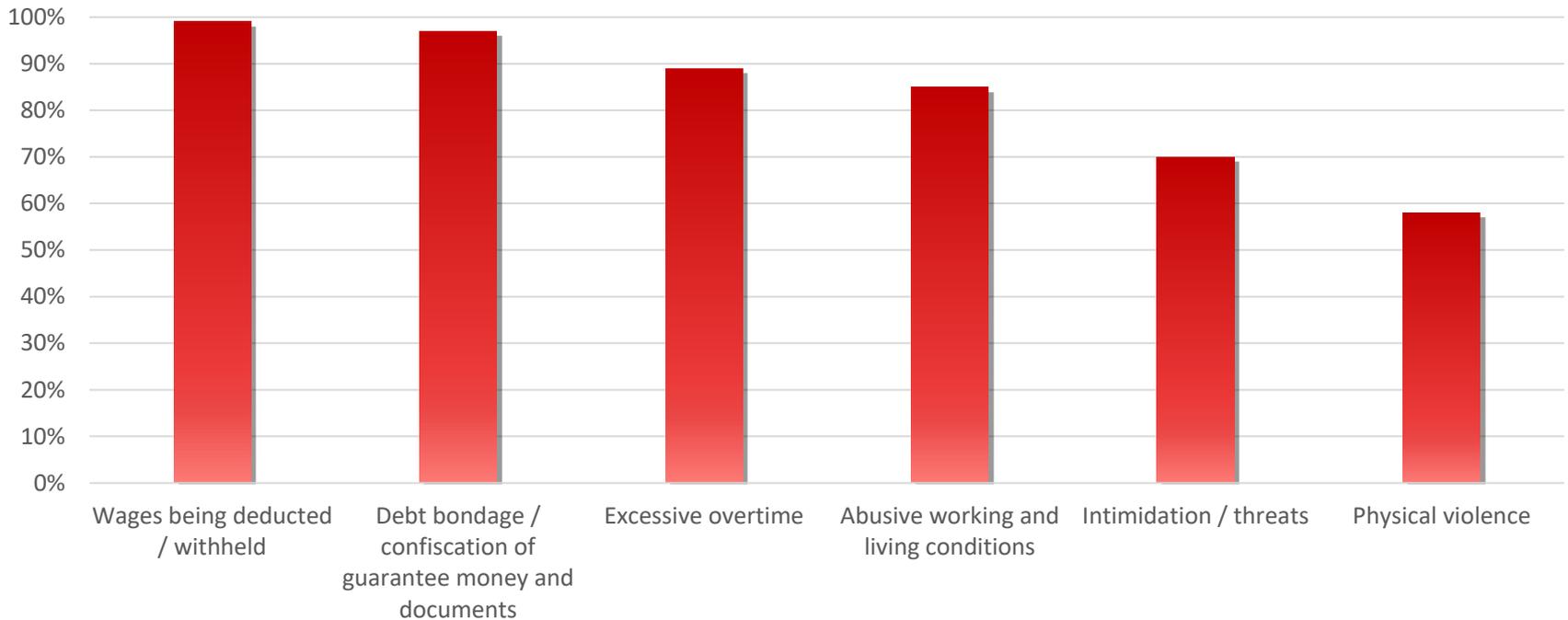




Protecting People and Planet

# HUMAN RIGHT ABUSES BY THE FLEET

**Findings interviews by EJF with 116 crewmembers**  
(Experienced and / or witnessed)

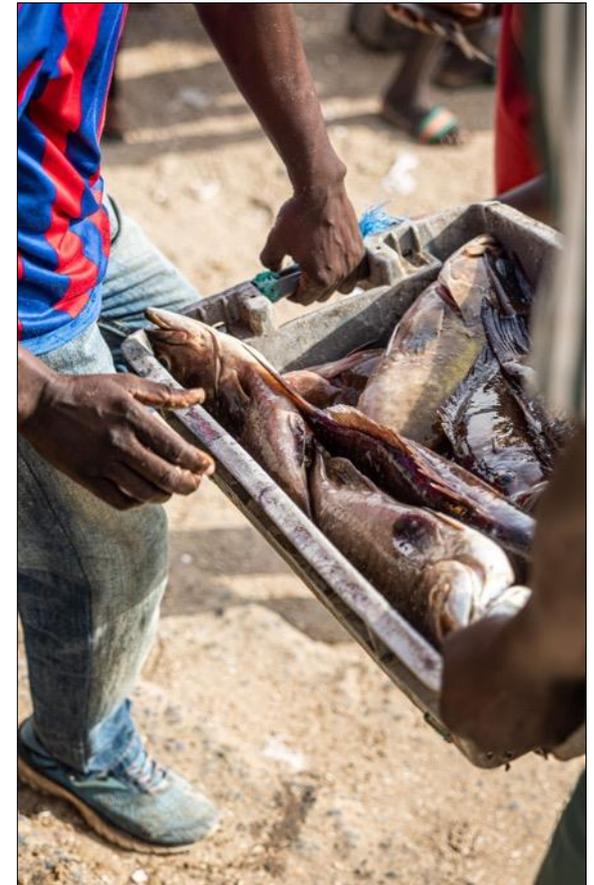




*Protecting People and Planet*

## THE CONSEQUENCES EXTENT AND BEHAVIOURS OF THE FLEET

- **Depletion of resources** and destruction of ecosystems
- **Increasing precarity of coastal livelihoods** in countries and regions dependent on marine and coastal ecosystems
- **Uneven level playing field** negatively affecting legal fishers and actors along the supply chain
- Key takeaway: **Harmful environmental, economic & human consequences widespread**





Protecting People and Planet

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU

**Step up its engagement with China aiming at similar sustainability and transparency being applied to drive positive changes all along the supply chain**

- **Strengthen import controls** over products stemming from the fleet and **operate the EU “carding system” at pace**
- Strive to achieve effective implementation of the transparency and non-discrimination clauses by coastal partner countries
- Increase coordination of multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms, trade-based measures and on global fisheries transparency policies
- Increase efforts to further promote decent work and strengthen import control to protect the market from imported seafood produced through forced labour and other human rights abuses
- Tackle and support efforts to tackle the enabling factors of IUU fishing and human rights abuses such as corruption



Protecting People and Planet

**THANK YOU**  
[WWW.EJFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.EJFOUNDATION.ORG)