

## IUU fishing vessels *Red*, *Caribe*, *Brites* and *Aveirense* Fact File

Four vessels with a history of pirate fishing are currently docked in the port of Aveiro, Portugal. All four ships have repeatedly broken international fishing regulations and all are owned by the same company, the Portuguese Grupo Silva Vieira (GSV). Breaches include fishing without a flag, fishing without a legal quota, using illegal fishing gear, fishing on protected species, carrying multiple identities and failing to fill out catch diaries.

The only effective way of ensuring that these vessels do not continue to break international laws and do not continue to contribute to the further demise of already depleted and vulnerable fish stocks is by decommissioning these vessels and prosecuting the owner. Greenpeace is calling on the Portuguese authorities to scrap these pirates.

All of the vessels, as well as Grupo Silva Vieira (GSV), are listed on the Greenpeace 'IUU blacklist', an international online database of vessels involved in pirate fishing, and the companies that own them. One of the vessels is also on the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission's (NEAFC) and EU blacklists.

### Brief Profile of the Vessels

#### Red

- Formerly known as *Joana*, *Kabou* and *Lootus*.
- The vessel is blacklisted by the NEAFC and hence by the EU
- Current flag: Panama (Previous Flags: Guinea, Togo and possibly now carrying an Afghani flag)
- In June 2006 when operating under the name *Joana*, the trawler was flagless and had no legal quota. It was arrested by the Norwegian authorities and fined for illegal fishing for cod in the Barents Sea<sup>1</sup>. The vessel also used illegal gear.
- Subsequently the ship was renamed *Kabou* and the owner produced documentation stating that the ship had been flagged to Guinea since 2005. The *Kabou* returned to Portugal (Aveiro) with its illegal catch.
- Additional, documented breaches of international regulations include failure to complete catch diaries, using too small mesh size and during official inspections officers found multiple identities onboard (documents, flags, call signs, etc.)
- The vessel was added to the NEAFC and EU blacklists after the events in the Barents Sea, but under the wrong IMO number up until October 2008. Since 2006 it cannot be ruled out that she has been fishing illegally in other regions. The vessel has since been renamed *Red* and has also been repainted (previously green, now red), indicating that she is set to sail again.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mil.no/start/aktuelt/pressemeldinger/article.jhtml?articleID=123912>

### Caribe

- Formerly known as *Kerguelen*
- Previously listed by the NEAFC as *Kerguelen* and hence the EU. It has recently been taken off the NEAFC blacklist. Due to the vessel's long history of IUU fishing, Greenpeace has asked for clarification for the delisting, with no official response yet.
- Current flag: Cuba (Previous flags: Togo, Mauritius, French Southern Territories)
- On 20 September, 2005, Greenpeace confronted the high seas bottom trawler *Kerguelen* fishing illegally in the international waters of the Barents Sea known as the 'Loophole'. At the time, available information indicated that the vessel was flagged to Togo, despite contradictory statements by its master and in the ship's paperwork. The vessel is known to have operated under several different flags in recent years. It has been blacklisted as a vessel engaged in IUU fishing since 2005 by NEAFC and the EU, and by Iceland since 2006. The *Kerguelen's* master admitted to Greenpeace that he was knowingly bottom trawling for deep-sea fish with no legal quota and therefore engaged in IUU fishing.
- In December 2005, Greenpeace learned that the *Kerguelen* had docked in the Portuguese port of Aveiro on 10 October, 2005. Information obtained from Portuguese sources at this time indicated that the owner of the *Kerguelen* is Antonio Silva Vieira, owner of the Grupo Silva Vieira (GSV).
- The *Kerguelen* has been in port since at least 2006 and has changed colour from green to red and name to *Caribe*, suggesting that she will set sail to fish again soon.

### Brites

- Not on an official blacklist, but listed by Greenpeace
- Current flag: Portugal
- The Canadian fisheries inspectors boarded the *Brites* on 4 May, 2004. Rotting cod, American plaice and red fish - all species under moratoria - were found poking through its nets. When the net was eventually retrieved, its mesh was 107 millimetres wide. To protect threatened species, the smallest mesh width allowed on nets is 130 millimetres wide. Despite clear evidence indicating a violation of international fishing regulations, the *Brites* was not prosecuted. Consultations between the Portuguese government and the EU resulted in an order for the *Brites* to return to Portugal to undergo inspection. A fisheries inspector from the EU remained on board for the trip home. The decision to send the boat home was supposed to demonstrate the EU's commitment to conservation.
- Recent movements: The last report on the *Brites* was a port call in St John's, Newfoundland on 6 November, 2007.
- Given the history of this vessel and its notorious owner, Greenpeace has every reason to believe that the *Brites* will continue breaching national and international laws.

## **Aveirense**

- Not on an official blacklist, but listed by Greenpeace.
- Current flag: Portugal
- In May 2004, upon approach of the Canadian patrol vessel, the *Aveirense* started retrieving its trawl. The master was directed not to retrieve the net. The master agreed verbally to this direction but actually retrieved and dumped the catch prior to the boarding.

Inspectors observed small American plaice/witch on the deck area and in the factory (species under moratoria).

There was evidence of flounder species (American plaice/witch) around the net, over the deck (approx 600 kg), below in the ramp (approximately 300kg) and in the discard chutes. A crew member was observed shovelling flounder out through the discard chute.

It is not known how much of the catch in the current tow was discarded overboard by the crew.

Other crewmembers were observed moving pans of processed American plaice/witch to the crew area. In one room away from the factory, there were 19 pans of American plaice (22 kg/pan). The fish in the pans would have been from previous tows.

In addition to the 19 pans of fresh American plaice found near the crew quarters, there were 2 pans of fresh American plaice and 3 of other species in the factory area and 44 pans of American plaice, 17 of witch and 10 of other species found in the plate freezers.

The total weight of fish (live weight) found in the general factory area was 3,242.8kgs: 57% American plaice, 15% witch, and 28% of other species. (Fishing for American plaice has been banned for more than a decade because the stock is so weak under the regional RMFO rules.)

- Two citations were issued to the *Aveirense*:
  - i. Failure to wait 30 minutes before retrieving fishing gear after being advised by inspectors that they were coming on board; and
  - ii. Directed (intentional) fishing for species under moratoria.
- Given the record of this ship and its notorious owner, Greenpeace has every reason to believe that this vessel will continue beaching national and international laws.

## **What is IUU / 'Pirate' Fishing'?**

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing - often referred to as "pirate fishing" - is a multi-billion dollar business that seriously undermines all efforts to protect and manage fish stocks, and has a devastating effect on the biodiversity of marine ecosystems already under severe threat by massive global overfishing. Pirates steal valuable resources and threaten long-term sustainability of the world's fisheries. They exploit depleted resources, fish in restricted areas, ignore required authorisations, waste fish caught by accident, use banned fishing gear and destroy vital fisheries. They run from authority when challenged, destroy evidence and endanger those in pursuit. The pirate fishing industry is a complex web of deceit and disguise and it is in their interests to keep it so.

## **What is the NEAFC?**

The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is the body responsible for the management of fishing activities in the North East Atlantic. It has its own database of vessels from non contracting parties that have been observed engaging in IUU activities:

<http://neafc.org/measures/iuu-a-list> and <http://neafc.org/measures/iuu-b>

## **What is the Greenpeace IUU blacklist?**

[blacklist.greenpeace.org](http://blacklist.greenpeace.org).

The Greenpeace IUU blacklist, published by Greenpeace International, is the first one-stop independent record of fishing vessels, support vessels and companies involved in pirate fishing. The database includes independent observations from the legal fishing industry, government authorities, and first-hand evidence from Greenpeace and other NGOs that have recorded the activities of these vessels and companies at sea and in ports around the world.