



USAID | GHANA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

POLICY NOTES

Competence-Based Approaches for Fisheries Enforcement Officers



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Friends of the Nation

Importance of Fisheries

- About **10 %** of Ghana's population is dependent on the Fisheries sector - direct employment & support services
- Fish is a cheap source of protein – providing **60%** of animal protein to Ghanaians
- High fish per capita consumption of Ghana - **23-25 kg/person/yr** against the world average of 13 kg
- **Multi-million \$\$ value** of fish exports to the EU market

Urgently need to protect the resources to prevent a total collapse of the fisheries

Major Issues in the Fisheries

- **Overcapitalization and open access**
 - Increasing numbers of fishing fleet
 - No licensing in the artisanal sector
 - Subsidy on fishing inputs for artisanal fishers
- **Use of unapproved methods of fishing**
 - Undersized mesh & monofilament nets
 - Chemical and explosives fishing
 - Light fishing
- **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU)fishing**
 - Fishing for undersized/juvenile fish & marine protected species
 - Unsupervised transshipment at sea
 - Discard of fish at sea (as by catch)

Common Offenses by Fleets

Industrial Sector

Trawling in the IEZ

Tampering with the VMS equipment

Use of undersized mesh nets

Use of top-side chafers

Transshipment

Failure to log operations

Semi-industrial/Inshore

Use of light/FADs

Fishing without licenses

Mesh size problems

Building new boats without authorization

Artisanal Sector

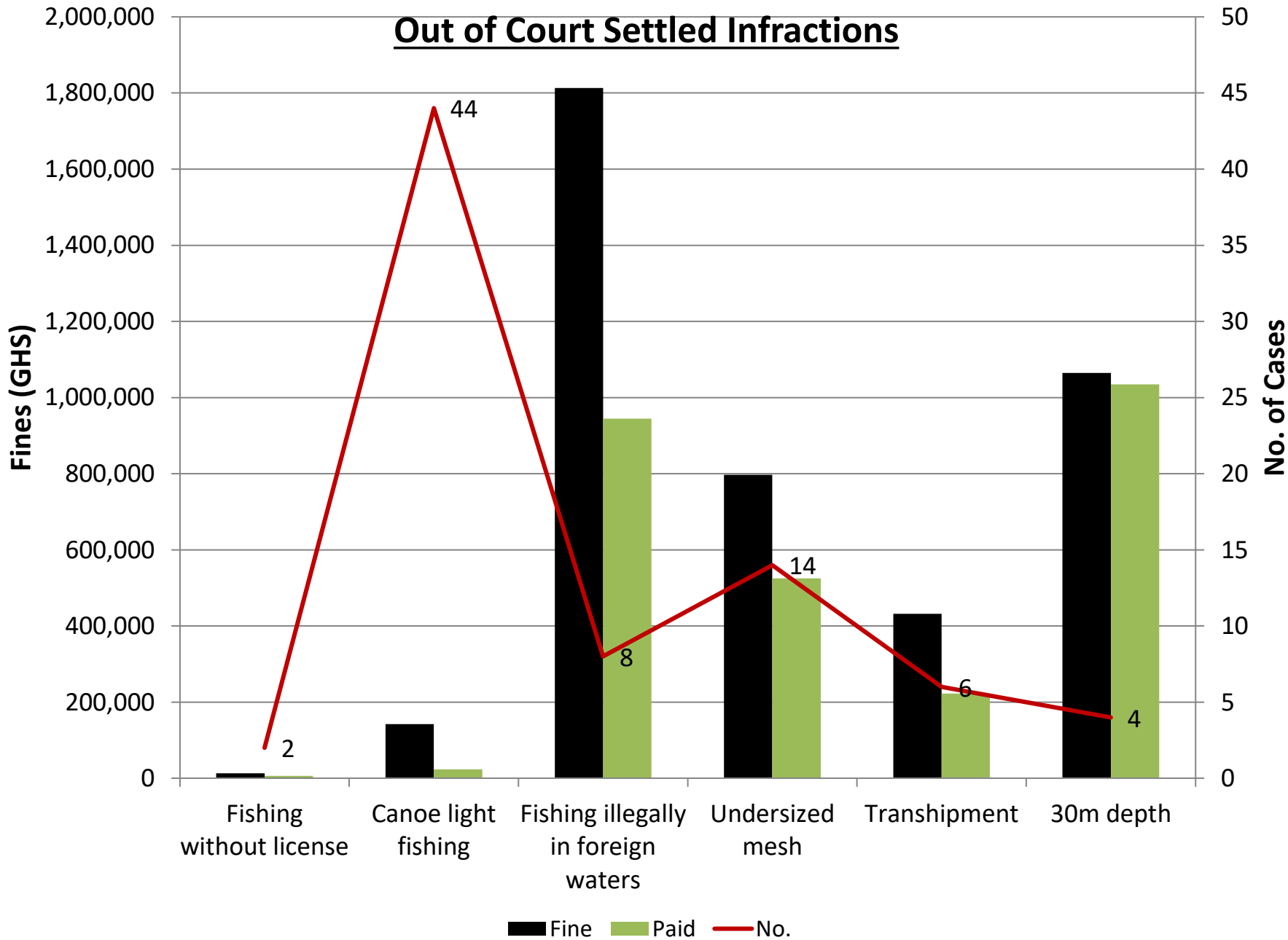
Use of unapproved gears

Use of light /FADs

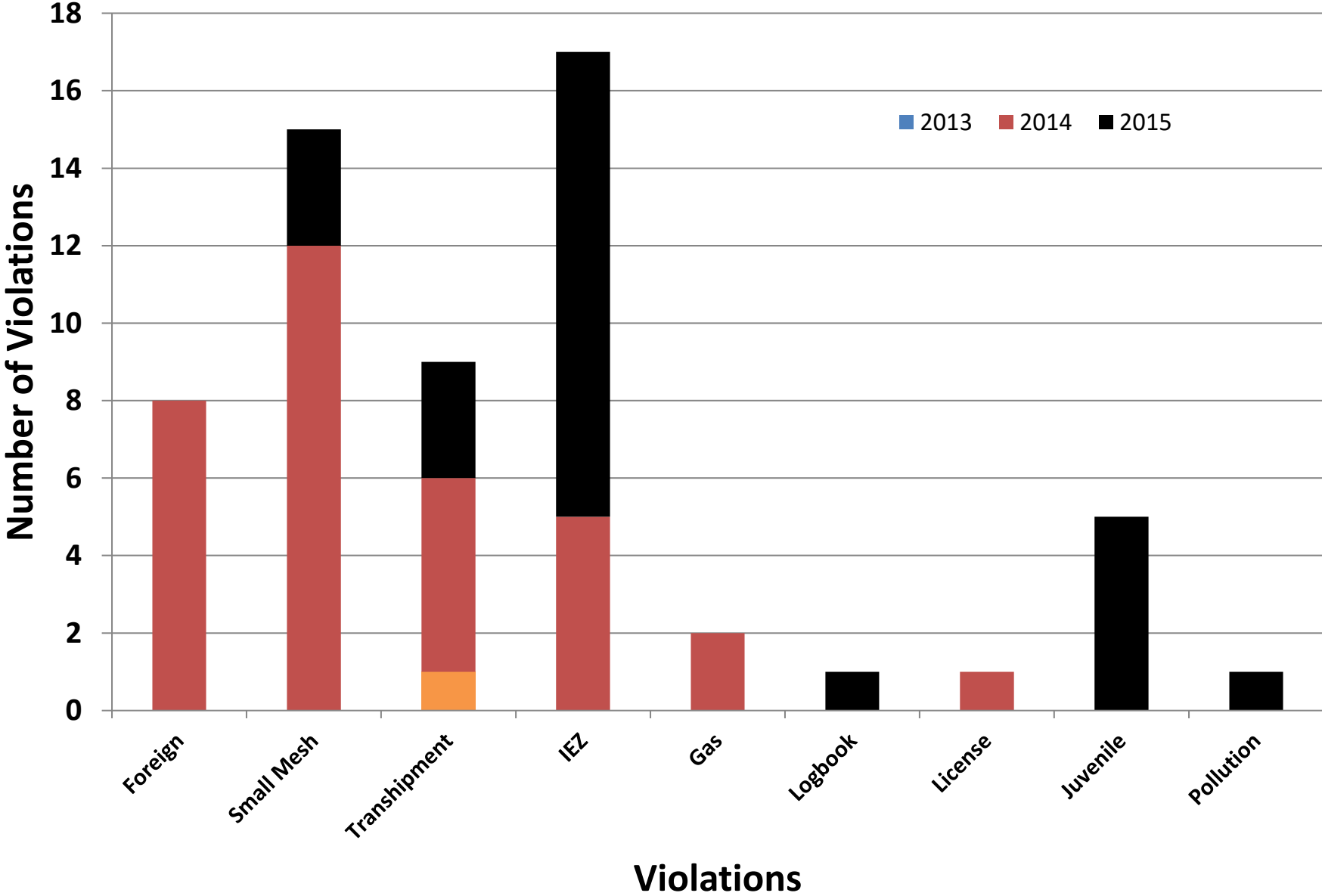
Use of explosives

Use of noxious substances

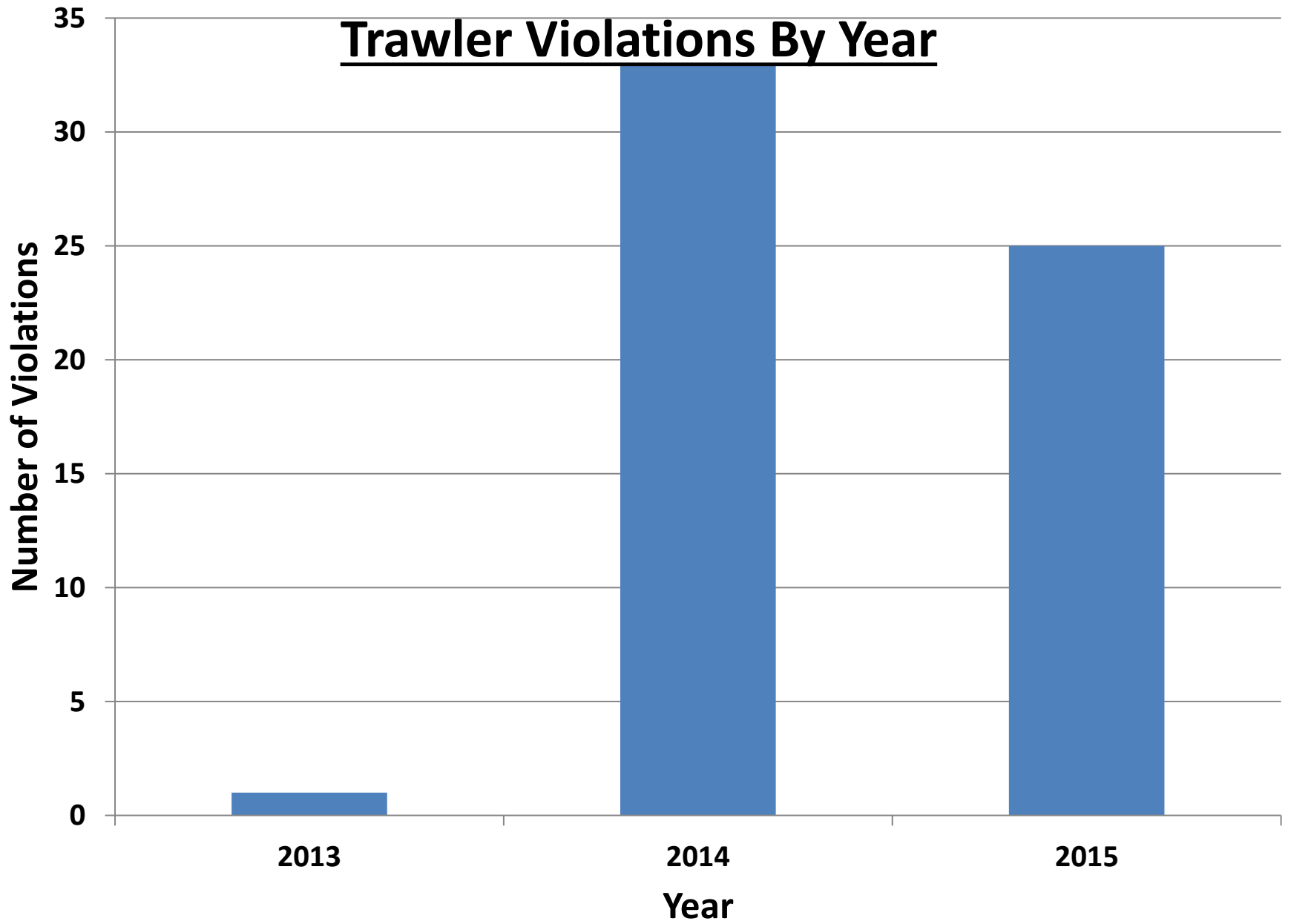
Out of Court Settled Infractions



Particular Trawler Violations Per Year

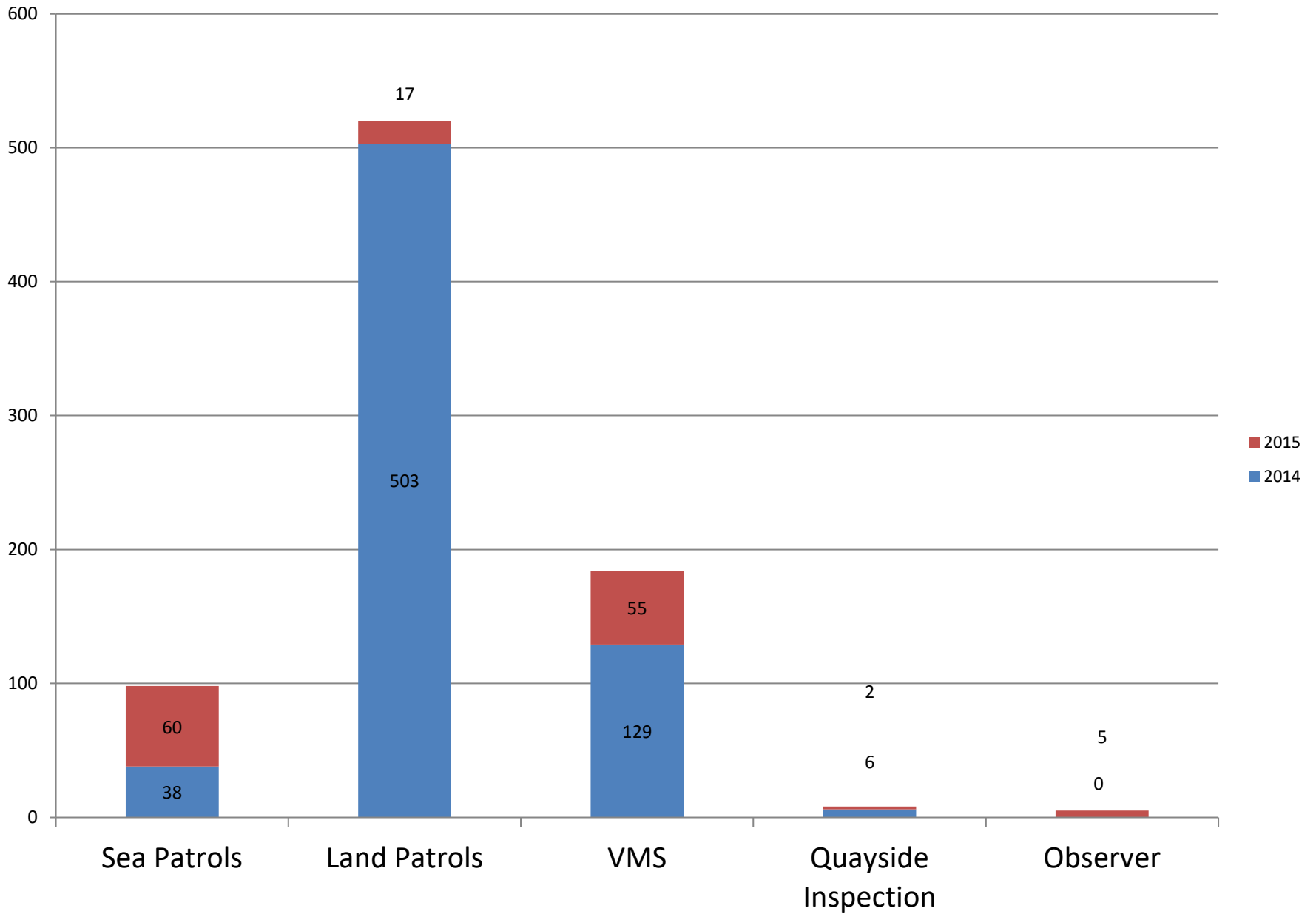


Trawler Violations By Year



Activities of the MCS/FEU

- Quayside inspections
- Reconnaissance surveys
- Beach combing
- Sea patrols
- Education and sensitization
 - Community engagement
 - Radio programmes



Summary of Arrests and Prosecutions (ctd)

After inauguration of the Fisheries Enforcement Unit (FEU) in Sept 2013, other accomplishments include carrying out more than **120** quayside and land patrols which resulted in:

- Confiscation of **74** generators, with
- 113** lighting equipment (tripod, bulb and cables),
and
- Over **200** bundles of monofilament net

Challenges with Enforcement

- Cost of enforcement is expensive
- Inadequate financial and budgetary support
 - Little motivation for personnel
 - Inadequate logistics
- Weak institutional coordination
- Wide spread of landing sites from each other
- Low appreciation of the fisheries legal and regulatory framework
- Slow prosecution systems, which tends to discourage arresting officers
- Inadequate political commitment towards prosecution of offenders
- Community attacks

GOAL of the USAID/Ghana SFMP

Rebuild marine fisheries stocks and increase production through the adoption of **Responsible Fishing**.

1. Promoting **Voluntary** Compliance
2. Promoting effective **Deterrence** through **strengthened law enforcement**



Capacity
Strengthening for
Fisheries
Enforcement:-
Training Support,
Vehicles, etc.

Support to Fisheries
Prosecution: Tracking
prosecution cases,
identifying challenges,
etc.

Competence-
based
Approach to
Staff Capacity
Development

Addressing the peculiar situation in Ghana's fisheries governance require the application of two main cardinal principles; Voluntary Compliance and Deterrence.

Voluntary Compliance; includes the effort to secure the active support of resource users and their willingness to comply with the necessary legal and regulatory framework and management plans. A key component of voluntary compliance involves carrying along the users of the resource in every step in the decision making and law implementation process.

Deterrence: Involves the coercive power of the state to enforce its laws and regulations. It includes the power of arrest, prosecution, adjudication and imposition of sanctions when the laws are violated. To support effective deterrence, there is the need for adequate legal and regulatory framework to address all the forms of infractions. The sanctions should be punitive enough to law breakers such that benefits accrued from breaking the law would not be attractive.

For the achievement of effective results, selective enforcement sometimes called targeted enforcement should be avoided if possible, because communities' perception of biases is amplified as they see themselves as victims but not perpetrators or breakers of the law.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Core Competence Areas (KSA) Identified for Marine Police Unit (MPU).

Fisheries Law and Compliance
Marine & Coastal Ecosystems
Fishing Sector (gear, boats, fishery system, people, culture, terminology, trends)
Communication & Stakeholder Engagement
Marine Enforcement Operations & Protocols
Leadership, Ethics and Innovation

2. SoP Drafted to Ensure improvement in Enforcement Operations & Protocols

Functional Job Roles at MPU	Example of Common MPU Titles
Fisheries Field Operations	Constable
In Charge Field Officer	NCO's (corporal, sargent, inspector)
MPU Investigator/Prosecutor	NCO's and above

ACHIEVEMENTS...

3. Comprehensive Training Curriculum on Fisheries Enforcement completed.

4. A total of 105 Marine Police and FUE personnel have been trained in fisheries enforcement for the first time. ToT scheduled for April and May 2017 for 40 identified MPU personnel (copies of relevant laws provided for them, Mentoring underway, ToT scheduled this year, etc)



5. FoN under SFMP has provided Material support to Anyinase Marine Police (furniture, Computers and accessories, etc) to support workshops and training events

6. Vehicle donated to FC for Fisheries Enforcement (enhance capacity for enforcement).



KEY CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

- **Widespread IUU,**
 - **High seas illegal industrial fishing;** poaching, dumping of fish, transshipment and other illegal practices (fishing without licence, unapproved use of chafers, tampering of VMS, IEZ violations, etc)
- **local IUU practices by local Ghanaian fishers**
 - monofilament net, under-size mesh size, Beach seine in estuaries, use of explosives, chemicals, light fishing unauthorized transshipment, etc.



KEY CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

- **Spread of Landing Sites and Inadequate Enforcement.**
- **Political Interference/ Meddling .**
- **Weak Collaborative Fisheries Management.**
 - **Limited Community structures to support compliance and Enforcement actions.**
- **Inadequate Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework**
- **Weak Institutional Coordination for Fisheries Management**
- **Etc.**



The Way Forward

- Provision of adequate budgetary support for enforcement
- Re-strategize for effective enforcement
- Intensify education on the harmful effects of illegal fishing
- Paradigm shift from open access to controlled access
- Freeze on new entries into the fishery
- Completion of canoe registration and implement licensing

MOVING FORWARD

- **Align the MPU Induction to Competences through the Implementation of the SoP.**
- **Orientation for MPU In-Charge Officers through internal ToT programme**
- **Linking to Community Initiatives (Watch Pilot, IUU Committee, CO-mgt Committees, etc)**
- **Engaging Fisheries Commission in Capacity Dev. For Marine Police, etc (Introductory Module on MPU at Police Academy and GPS recruitment training, etc)**
- **Dev & Implement Self-Assessments and Personal Development Plans. (Track and Evaluate Performance, revise strategies, etc)**

However Ghana's fishery is near-crisis, recent stock assessments of small pelagics reported that these stocks are severely overfished and that overfishing continues to exacerbate beyond the level of sustainability. This is due to several factors including Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major problem in the West African Region where vessels from other countries or regions are fishing in Ghana's EEZ also domestic IUU fishing by Ghanaian fishers is a concern. Both smallholder Ghanaian fishers and high seas industrial fishing companies are involved in illegal activities, such as transshipment, under-size mesh, use of explosives, chemicals, light fishing, fishing without licence, tampering of vessels monitoring systems, etc. IUU poses major threat to the sustainability of the fishery sector in Ghana; the resulting depletion of stocks and ecosystem collapse cause livelihood deprivation for the communities who depend on them.