



Protecting People and Planet

A close-up photograph of a young girl with dark skin and braided hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a purple and white patterned shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor market scene with many people and stalls.

IMPACT REPORT 2016



Protecting People and Planet

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)

is a charity registered in England and Wales (No 1088128).

1 Amwell Street, London, EC1R 1UL
United Kingdom
www.ejfoundation.org

With a global staff of around 30 people, our headquarters are in the UK, with offices and teams based in Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea, Ghana and Liberia.

EJF's work is overseen and governed by a Board of Trustees in the UK. EJF continues to be led by the Founding Directors, Steve Trent and Juliette Williams.

EJF Patrons:

Benedict Allen, Lily Cole, Emilia Fox, Sir Antony Gormley OBE RA, Katharine Hamnett CBE, Tony Juniper, Rachel Whiteread CBE

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Letter from the Executive Director

2016 was a year of political upheaval. In Europe we saw the UK take the decision to leave the European Union, while the election of Donald Trump to the US Presidency sent ripples across the world, warning of a global rise in populism and adding even greater uncertainty to an already unclear future. Just what these political decisions could mean for our environment is only beginning to come to light, but one thing is certain: globally the risks to our shared planet remain far-reaching and pose a profound threat to all life on earth.

It has never been more urgent to take a stand for our shared world and at EJF we continue to tackle these threats head on, combating environmental injustice and working to protect people and planet.

With a small team working across three continents, we are nimble, dynamic, influential and effective, working from the grassroots right through to the major negotiating tables and businesses around the world. Our investigations and films exposing injustice inspire and act as a catalyst for local and global action. We fight for real, lasting, positive change to protect our oceans, our climate and the natural world that we all depend upon for our basic human rights, wherever we may live.

Important progress has been made on our campaigns to secure sustainable fisheries, eradicate pirate fishing and combat seafood slavery. We have expanded our work across Europe, West Africa and Asia and this report highlights some of the key achievements that have been made possible thanks to your help. In 2017 we will expand this work, and strengthen our campaign to help tackle one of the greatest threats we collectively face today: climate change.

Despite the massive challenges ahead, the strength of our community makes us feel optimistic for the future. For every threat that faces our shared planet, there is a movement of people who are ready and willing to take a stand for the natural environments they love and depend on. EJF will continue to be part of that movement, and we hope you will continue to be part of our own community of supporters. To all of you who have helped sustain our ambition and collaborated with us over the last year, we say a huge thank you. Your support is invaluable.

We have a long way to go, but together we can drive change to protect our natural world and create a fairer, more sustainable future for all. Thank you for sharing in our vision.

Steve Trent, Founder & Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To Protect People and Planet

EJF's vision is for a world where natural habitats and environments can sustain, and be sustained by, the communities that depend upon them for their basic needs and livelihoods.

EJF strives to:

- Protect the natural environment and the people and wildlife that depend upon it by linking environmental security, human rights and social need.
- Create and implement solutions where they are needed most – training local people and communities who are directly affected to investigate, expose and combat environmental degradation and associated human rights abuses.
- Provide training in the latest video technologies, research and advocacy skills to document both the problems and solutions, working through the media to create public and political platforms for constructive change.
- Raise international awareness of the issues our partners are working locally to resolve.

OUR VALUES

Human rights and environmental security

We believe environmental security is a human right and that the health, security and effective conservation of our natural world is essential to the well-being of all humankind. We believe in the equality of all people and in their equal and inalienable rights as described in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Effectiveness and efficiency

We believe in focusing on outcomes rather than processes and strive to ensure that our work is appropriate, highly cost-effective and efficient.

Innovation

We are dedicated to exploring innovative, inspirational and creative solutions to our goals.

Independence

We are committed to independence and freedom from any political or religious affiliations, or any support that seeks to compromise our independence, aims, objectives or integrity.

Responsiveness

We are streamlined and focused, enabling us to respond quickly to needs and opportunities.

Transparency

We believe in transparency and accountability in our working practices. We take account of and value diversity and are committed to non-discrimination.

Equity, non-discrimination & inclusiveness

We believe in equity and justice and a need to respect, protect and engage disempowered and marginalised communities most at risk from environmental degradation. We respect diverse cultures and beliefs.

Non-violence

We believe in and will always adhere to the principles of non-violence.

INVESTIGATIONS AND FILM-MAKING



We uncover environmental and human rights injustices. Our filmed investigations and the evidence that we have brought to international attention have led to changes in laws and enforcement, business policies and consumer action.

COLLABORATIONS



We believe in the power of collective action. We work across and with all sectors of society, building collaborations that unite us and strengthen the call for a fairer, safer, greener world for all.

DYNAMISM



We work on issues and in places that are 'under the radar', responding to greatest need and empowering grassroots communities to combat the injustices they face. We work where others don't; we act fast and achieve durable results.

SAVE THE SEA: Campaigning to protect our blue planet from illegal fishing

Our oceans cover 70% of the planet. They are a primary source of food for 3.5 billion people around the world.

West Africa's rich coastal waters host some of the world's most productive fisheries, but it is the most vulnerable region to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing with around US\$1 billion stolen from coastal nations each year.

An estimated 90% of global fisheries are now classified as over- or fully exploited. Similarly, 90% of the world's large species - such as halibut, cod and swordfish - have been lost since the 1950s.

Competition between fishing fleets for dwindling but lucrative fish stocks has caused a rapid growth in illegal 'pirate' fishing, now estimated to be worth US\$11-23 billion annually; representing around one-third of the global catch.

'Pirate' fleets ignore laws and regulations: they operate in areas where fishing is banned or restricted and ignore 'closed seasons' designed to allow fish stocks to replenish. They may target protected species or use illegal and harmful fishing gears including banned driftnets. Operating beyond any monitoring or controls, pirate vessels are linked to massive damage to marine habitats, biodiversity and fish stocks. Foreign fleets in particular use complex strategies - including shell companies and 'flags of convenience' - to avoid detection and sanctions for illegal fishing.

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Since 2006, EJF has investigated and exposed illegal fishing. By holding vessels, fishing corporations and governments to account, we have secured effective measures to build good governance and transparency in global fisheries.



An estimated 90% of global fisheries are now classified as over- or fully exploited.



PIRATE FISHING: Supporting the fight against illegal fishing in West Africa

Our goal is to reduce illegal fishing and build fair and sustainable fisheries.

In West Africa, small-scale fishers struggle against the Asian and European fishing vessels that are draining their oceans. Over the past decade, EJF has built an effective programme gathering evidence and convincing governments to act, whilst empowering coastal communities to protect the natural resources they depend upon.

What we do

Using the power of a camera and a mobile phone, our community monitoring programme, known as the Fisheries Information Network (FIN), is helping people take back control of their oceans. Together with evidence from our own investigations, information is verified against licence lists and satellite vessel data, and presented to governments and the EU, leading to action against vessels, companies and governments, and to the EU Commission, whose pioneering 'IUU Regulation' provides strong incentives for countries to cooperate and eradicate illegal fishing.



Industrial trawlers – many of them foreign-owned – enter fishing grounds that are reserved for local artisanal fishermen, who cannot compete with these commercial vessels.

Many illegal fishing vessels send stolen African fish to Asia: 90% of the illegal vessels we witnessed in Sierra Leone were Korean-owned, and a growing number of fishing vessels in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are owned by Chinese companies. So we took the campaign to Asia too, knowing that we needed to leverage attention in the markets and ministries if we were to secure real success.

Our approach has prompted arrests and fines against law-breakers, and in the longer-term: new laws and enforcement efforts, and better traceability in supply chains.

Our work supports transparency and good governance in fisheries; it has shone a spotlight on the 'pirates' and reduced illegal fishing.



EJF investigated two South Korean trawlers fishing illegally in West Africa; our evidence enabled the Korean Fisheries Ministry to prohibit illegally caught fish from being sold to consumers in Korea.

Our impact in 2016

We gathered evidence on 26 vessels operating illegally in West Africa and passed these 'alerts' to decision makers in 11 countries and to the EU's DG Mare (the department tasked with enforcing the EU's illegal fishing regulation). EJF's Liberia staff in Grand Cess spotted a Ghanaian vessel flagged to Côte d'Ivoire fishing illegally in Liberian waters. When the crew came ashore for supplies, they were arrested and fined by the authorities. An EJF alert detailed 13 Chinese vessels fishing in Guinean waters that were broadcasting false location coordinates, so that they appeared to be operating off the Mexican coast. Making vessels visible and accountable is essential if illegal fishing is to end.

EJF's work prompted the Korean Government to adopt a 'catch certificate scheme' for what are known as 'high-risk species' from West Africa. This pioneering scheme will help ensure that fish can be identified, tracked and eliminated from markets.

New laws now being discussed will penalise the sellers of illegal fish: two years' imprisonment or fines of up to US\$20,000 can be imposed, serving as a tough deterrent to the trade.

In November, together with the government, EJF co-hosted a major conference in Seoul that brought together decision makers from across the region, prompting dialogue and cooperation between Asian states on IUU fishing.

Our campaign expanded into Côte d'Ivoire, helping to secure the creation of a Fisheries Enforcement Unit, which will now patrol Ivorian waters. A new Fisheries Act was also approved, which will roll out the mandatory use of vessel monitoring systems to reduce the opportunities for pirates to avoid detection.

Following local reports of the problems facing fisheries as a result of the proliferation in the number of Chinese fishing boats in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, our research in 2016 reveals that:

- **122 industrial vessels** are flagged to **Ghana** but controlled by Chinese operators; **97% of the fleet**.
- **64 industrial vessels** are flagged to **Côte d'Ivoire** but operated by Chinese owners; **86% of the fleet**.
- **85% of the vessels known to have been apprehended in Côte d'Ivoire** (Nov 2014 to Oct 2016) **were Chinese-owned**.
- **92% of the industrial vessels arrested in Ghana** (Jan 2007 to March 2016) **were Chinese-owned**.

A growing problem is 'flag-hopping' by Chinese companies: seven trawlers from the Chinese company, Rong Chang, have reflagged from Sierra Leone, to Guinea Conakry to Côte d'Ivoire and have now fled to Congo. This abuse makes it extremely difficult for enforcement to be effective, with vessels hiding their identity and escaping apprehension.

In Europe, EJF continued to engage industry and together with WWF and major retailer Carrefour, we presented a guide to highlight measures that industry can take to eliminate illegal fish from their supply chains.

Across the EU, an Oceans 5 coalition coordinated by EJF and including WWF, Pew and Oceana has pressed for even stronger efforts to control illegal fishing, focusing our work on strengthening the EU IUU Regulation. In 2016, we convinced the EU to require International Maritime Organization numbers (as unique, unchangeable vessel identities) on EU-flagged vessels operating outside of EU waters and helped prompt greater use of digital technologies to monitor and control EU fisheries.

What's next?

We will expand the programme into Ghana, with a new three-year grant from EuropeAid to support efforts to create legal, equitable and sustainable fisheries. We will continue to find new ways to empower local fishers by building resilience, knowledge-sharing, including from the use of new smartphones and apps to enable more effective gathering and sharing of evidence. We'll expand FIN and ensure that the results of our investigations in West Africa can be used to leverage attention and positive action by the EU and within Asian markets.



EJF is using investigations in West Africa to leverage positive action in the EU and Asia.



EJF is expanding its fisheries protecting programme in Ghana.

SLAVERY AT SEA: Combating abuses in Thailand's fisheries

Our goal is to end illegal fishing and slavery in Thailand's fisheries.

In Thailand, unsustainable fishing has robbed the sea of fish. Dwindling profits and ever-greater competition has not only taken a massive toll on the natural environment, but on human rights too: migrant workers have been illegally trafficked onto fishing vessels and forced to labour in arduous conditions for months or even years at sea for little or no pay. Objections have been met with brutality and even murder. Modern day slavery has become the foundation of a multi-billion dollar export industry.

90% of workers on fishing boats are migrants.

40% of workers interviewed had witnessed a murder on board their vessel.

Thailand has over 38,800 fishing boats, far too many to maintain sustainable fishing levels.

What we do

EJF's undercover at-sea investigations and grassroots partnerships have exposed pirate fishing, slavery and human rights violations. Our reports and briefings reflect the growing body of evidence and led to the EU Commission giving Thailand a 'yellow card' warning of sanctions in 2015 and enabled us to present a series of legal and technical recommendations that together will help create a more sustainable and fair industry.

As a result of our engagement with the Thai Government, we have unprecedented access to decision makers and to the enforcement teams working at sea to end human trafficking and illegal fishing.

Dwindling profits and ever-greater competition has not only taken a massive toll on the natural environment, but on human rights too.



The abuse of migrant workers on Thai fishing vessels is well-documented.

Our impact in 2016

In April, EJF's Executive Director and senior staff were invited to a private meeting with Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan, ministers and naval chiefs to discuss our evidence and recommendations to build good governance in fisheries. Unprecedented access to such high-level policy makers has enabled us to drive home our message that the Royal Thai Government must reform labour laws and adopt key International Labour Organization Conventions to protect workers' rights.

EJF was invited to work with the Thai Command Centre for Combating Illegal Fishing, Royal Thai Navy and Department of Fisheries. In 2016, we provided training sessions on effective vessel monitoring and taught inspectors 'soft skills' for identifying human trafficking victims.

The Thai Government amended its 2008 anti-trafficking laws and other laws related to forced labour in the fishing and seafood industry, increasing penalties for traffickers and allowing the closure of businesses involved in forced labour, whilst providing legal protection for whistleblowers.

EJF engaged with the international community, both as a founding member of the Sustainable Seafood Taskforce, and through high-profile events such as a panel discussion involving the Thai Minister of Labour at a major seafood summit. Our evidence was used to inform the implementation of the UK Modern Slavery Act, and presented to the UK Parliament's Joint Human Rights Committee as it reviewed the effectiveness of measures to hold businesses to account.

Our evidence contributed to two objectives: the EU's maintenance of the 'yellow card' for Thailand as a result of its failures to curb illegal fishing, and the 2016 US State Department J-TIP Report maintaining Thailand on what is known as a 'Tier 2 Watchlist' for its failures to end human trafficking.

What's next

We will continue to investigate illegal fishing and 'seafood slavery' in Thailand's fishing fleet; we will present new evidence that shows the loopholes that are allowing Thai fishing boats to offload their fish in newly-established ports in Cambodia. We will bring our technical and legal recommendations to the attention of the highest levels of the government to ensure that improvements are effective and durable over time. Our findings will demonstrate the need for greater traceability and governance in not just Thai fisheries, but across the globe.



Thailand has far too many boats to maintain sustainable fishing levels.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY: Working with communities to protect marine wildlife and habitats

Our goal is to protect marine biodiversity from illegal and unsustainable fishing and the destruction of the natural environment.

90% of all living biomass resides in our oceans. But overfishing is changing the very nature of our oceans and putting the vast and varied biodiversity at risk. West Africa's rich coastal waters are a haven for wildlife, including 'megafauna' such as marine turtles, dolphins and sharks; industrial fisheries that deprive coastal communities of the fish they need for food and income are driving illegal poaching of some of these threatened species. In turn, 'apex predators' such as sharks help maintain a fragile ecological balance in the oceans - their disappearance could spell disaster for other fish populations.

Our approach

In West Africa we are supporting a new generation of ocean defenders: we partner with coastal communities in Liberia and Ghana, providing much-needed equipment including cameras and smartphones, and support to expose threats to marine biodiversity and ensure the long-term protection of species including sharks, rays and turtles.

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**EJF is supporting a new generation
of ocean defenders.**

Our impact in 2016

Our work in Liberia was able to resume after the Ebola outbreak. Working with communities, we collect data on the number and variety of sharks and rays being landed in West Point (outside the capital, Monrovia). Liberia has no laws to manage and protect sharks and rays and, until EJF began collecting data, no-one was monitoring the catch, which includes critically endangered hammerhead sharks amongst 19 other species. Today, that community engagement has - for the first time - provided the scientific evidence that is needed to inform national action to conserve and manage sharks and rays. Alongside the monitoring, our investigations and the production of posters, radio programmes and leaflets will continue to inspire communities to become ocean defenders.

Marine turtles risk capture in fishing gear; and as the females come ashore to nesting beaches, they are vulnerable to poachers who sell their meat and eggs. EJF is working in Liberia and Ghana to help local communities understand the true value of these species, building awareness and support for their protection. Using film we are creating greater awareness of the importance of turtles and the threats to them. An event in Grand Kru, Liberia brought together fishermen, guesthouse owners, the police and wildlife department to share knowledge and inspire volunteers to get active for the turtles; two days after the event, a 1.2m long leatherback turtle was rescued and safely returned to sea by the volunteers.

What's next

EJF will continue to support ocean defenders across West Africa and use video to document the poaching and trade of sharks in Liberia, leveraging urgent government support for legal protections for these threatened species. We will call for a National Plan of Action that will outline the key concerns and solutions to the unsustainable catch of these species. We will expand our work for turtles in Ghana, complementing the programme for sustainable, equitable fisheries.

EJF will continue to leverage urgent government support for legal protections for threatened species.



© Felipe Barrio



EJF works alongside those at all stages of fisheries management.

COMMUNICATIONS: Inspiring action for environmental justice

Our planet needs a global movement; people coming together to demand action for a more just and sustainable future. EJF shares this vision and our films inspire individual and collective action.

Ground-breaking, award-winning

Our films and photos are powerful - filmed evidence from victims of trafficking and forced labour, or fishers determined to rid their waters of illegal fishing can influence decisions made thousands of miles away in the governments and board rooms of the powerful. Our films are routinely praised by audiences across the globe: Thailand's Seafood Slaves won Best Short Film at the British Documentary Film Festival amongst a number of other awards and shortlists, including the Blue Ocean Film Festival and the One World Media Awards.

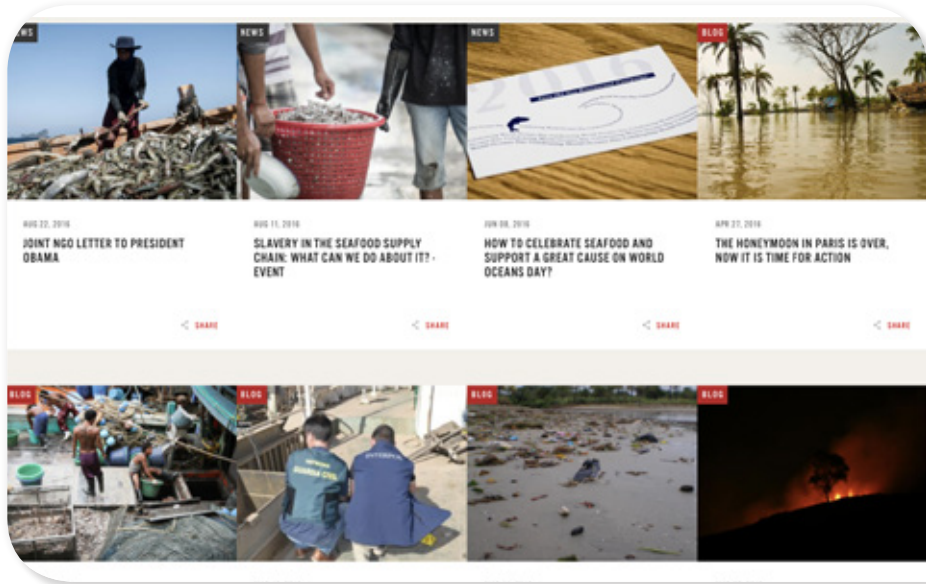
Staying one step ahead

In 2016, EJF invested in new equipment and added drones - that have literally taken our investigations to new heights - and underwater cameras to the list of campaign essentials. At sea, our hidden cameras provided irrefutable evidence of human rights abuses, and new underwater cameras revealed fish traps and illegal trawling in Cambodian waters.

Our campaign photographs featured in an exhibition at the London offices of The Guardian and weeks later, we became the Charity Partner to The Guardian's Ethical Business Awards 2016, giving our campaigns visibility at this prestigious event and enabling us to reach new target audiences and influencers.

Film and photos can and do change the world.





EJF's stream of stories and in-depth reports keep our campaigns at the heart of the global agenda.



In 2016 EJF invested in new equipment including drones.



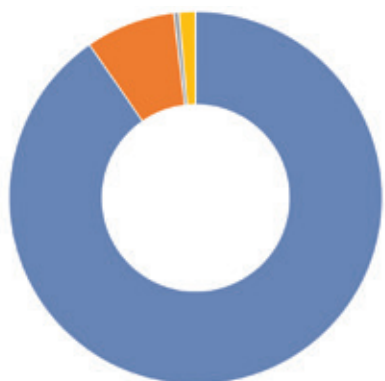
Underwater cameras also joined our list of campaign essentials.



Our films and photos are helping to rid the waters of illegal fishing.

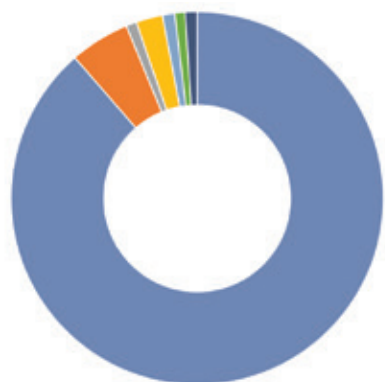
Income and expenditure 2016

Income - £2,268,743



■ Grants and donations – restricted	£2,049,929
■ Grants and donations – unrestricted	£175,918
■ Charitable activities	£10,394
■ T-shirt and film sales – unrestricted	£31,718
■ Investments – unrestricted	£784
Total	£2,268,743

Expenditures - £1,960,933



■ Oceans campaign	£1,737,302
■ Seafood slavery project	£101,888
■ Climate campaign	£17,690
■ Communications project	£45,543
■ Other campaigns/projects	£20,737
■ Governance	£17,562
■ Fundraising	£20,211
Total	£1,960,933

Our thanks to all our wonderful supporters and funders who share our vision for environmental justice:

- Adessium Foundation
 - Arcadia Fund
 - Esmee Fairbairn
 - Humanity United
 - MAVA
 - Oak Foundation
 - Oceans 5
 - Revolution in Kindness
 - Rufford Foundation
 - Samworth Foundation
 - Shark Conservation Fund
 - Waterloo Foundation
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Accounts for the financial year 1st January - 31st December 2016 have been audited by Knox Cropper (8/9 Well Court, London, EC4M 4DN) and comply with the Charity Commission's requirements and the Charity's Trust Deed (29th June 2000). Copies of the full audited accounts are available from info@ejfoundation.org.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

2016 marked EJF's 15th year investigating environmental injustice and campaigning to protect the human rights of some of the world's most vulnerable and marginalised people. It was a big year for EJF's Oceans Campaign and for the campaign to end 'seafood slavery' – our investigations, films and direct engagement reached across Europe, Asia and West Africa, inspiring positive action.

In 2017, we will build on this impact. We will expand the Fisheries Information Network into new areas, providing equipment, training and support, including new smartphone apps that will help to collect and share evidence from grassroots to global. Building on the regional conference and new commitments from the Thai Government, we will promote regional collaboration, strengthening cooperation between governments that will help track down the 'pirates' and end their plunder of our oceans. We will continue to present evidence to the EU Commission, supporting the aims of the IUU Regulation and its goal of reducing pirate fishing.

The most profound threat to human rights comes from climate change. Rising global temperature is driving more frequent and extreme weather events that will create millions of climate refugees as lands become uninhabitable. Political and social unrest will follow and the risks of violent conflict will intensify. Climate change puts every aspect of our lives at risk and it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are being hit fastest and hardest by the world's carbon addiction. In 2017, EJF will release new films and reports demanding protection for climate refugees and for an end to our carbon addiction. We will work alongside military and security experts to show that the costs of inaction are too great for our warming world.

It has never been more important to stand up to protect our shared planet. Inspired by the positive examples of human endurance and commitment to environmental justice, we will continue our own work for the world's poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised: leveraging international attention and action and directly helping communities to protect the natural world that sustains them and upholds their most fundamental right to life.



We will grow our work for turtles in Ghana.



We will continue to work directly with local communities.



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We will keep up the fight against piracy and the plunder of our oceans.

