

(this is a generous estimate, given that a multi-day boat may average less than 3 tonnes of catch per trip). Thus, capacity wise, the eight Chinese vessels are equivalent to at least 22% of the total fleet of multi-day boats operating during a nine-month period. Under-reportage (at a staggering rate of 93%) amongst these eight vessels would have a significant impact on the overall assessment of Sri Lanka's compliance with EC regulations.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF UNREPORTED FISHING CONTINUES TO

There are no formal estimates on the precise percentages of under-reportage by Sri Lankan multi-day boats. Therefore, possible scenarios are considered where under-reportage is 15%, 25% and 35%. Exhibit 2 shows how Sri Lanka's quantity of Unreported fishing escalates under each of these scenarios as a result of the introduction of the eight Chinese vessels.

Based on the above calculations, it is clear that the overall impact of the eight Chinese vessels on compliance levels was quite drastic. In fact, the more

compliant Sri Lanka was before the introduction of the eight vessels, the more non-compliant it would have appeared after their introduction. It is crucial to note that Sri Lanka was given a 'yellow card' warning prior to the introduction of the Chinese vessels. The 'red card' or the ban came after the vessels were introduced. Anything above a 30% increase in Unreported fishing after the yellow card would have been just too severe for the EC to ignore, thereby prompting the ban.

SOLUTION: REPORT THE CATCH AND ALIASES

This analysis suggests that the movement from 'yellow card' status to a ban resulted from the introduction of these eight Chinese vessels and their huge quantity of Unreported fishing. The solution is then quite straightforward: the government needs to act swiftly to ensure these eight vessels report their actual catch in future, penalise them for past infractions and take legal action against the directors of the BOI entities that deployed these vessels. It's important to reel in the big fish.

There is a strong economic case for deterrent punitive action by the government against private entities that jeopardise Sri Lanka's international credibility and undermine its economy. In a context of increasing opportunities, when there is inadequate deterrent action against rogue behaviour, such behaviour tends to multiply and gradually strangle the whole economy. Partial actions and cover-ups undermine Sri Lanka's economic future.

Exhibit 2: Increase in under-reportage due to the introduction of Chinese-Sri Lanka vessels

32,400	15%	7,200	6,690	138%
32,400	25%	7,200	6,690	83%
32,400	35%	7,200	6,690	59%