Illegal fishing is a massive worldwide problem as it highly contributes to the depletion of fish stocks especially in the coastal waters of developing countries. The most aggrieved parties are small coastal communities as the illegal activities not only cause environmental, but also economic and social harm to the society.

FISH-i Africa is a partnership of eight East African countries, regional organisations and international experts that gathers, analyses, shares and strategically uses information to take action against illegal fishing operators. It has shown that enforcement against those operators can happen, even if capacity is low and the ocean areas to monitor are vast. Key factors have been access to timely and relevant information, effective information sharing and close regional cooperation.

Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania joined forces to tackle illegal fishing through an innovative approach. The countries work as the FISH-i Africa Task Force through national fisheries enforcement officers who collect and share information, and take actions against those identified as illegal fishing operators. FISH-i Africa has already worked on more than twenty concrete cases.

In 2015, the concept of FISH-i Africa was adapted for replication in a partnership of West African countries, funded by Norway. The development of a Task Force is also being discussed in Central Africa and the concept has received much interest in East Asia and in Latin America. FISH-i Africa and its Task Force have been presented at various fora including at the UN FAO, the African Union and the Our Ocean Conference of the U.S. Department of State.

This solution is being implemented by the FISH-i Africa members and Stop Illegal Fishing in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Nordenfjeldske Development Services (NFDS) and Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT), and supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts.