

The illegal trade in fish products and the challenges in tackling fisheries crime

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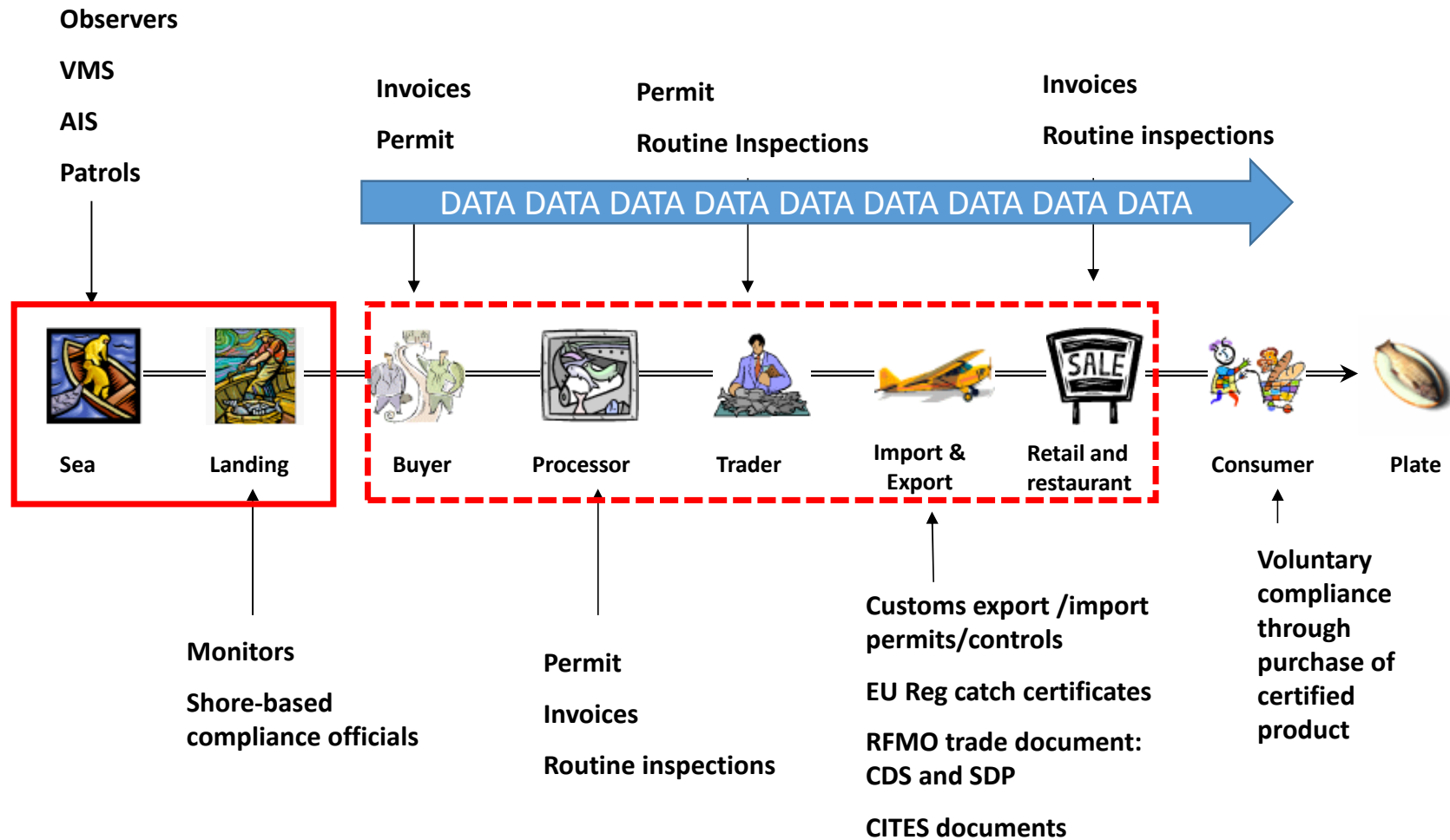
TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa



Presentation summary

- Challenges faced in tackling trade in products sourced from illegal fishing operations – focus on international trade
- Drawing predominantly on examples from South Africa.
- Possible solutions in addressing these challenges

Fish catch and trade chain – compliance controls



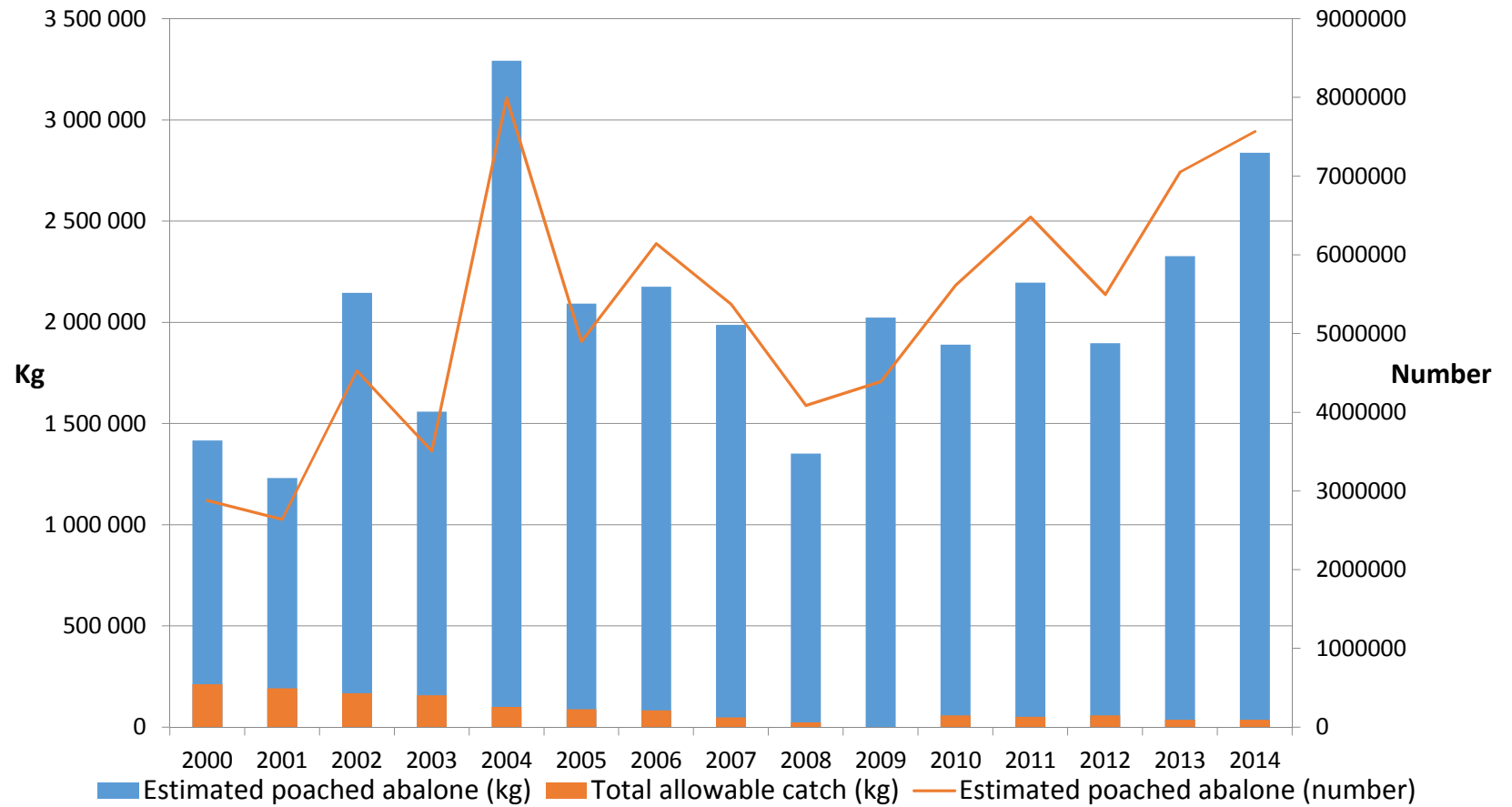
Sharks in trade in the UAE

Big-eye thresher
catch prohibited by
IOTC for IOTC
Members and CNCP's

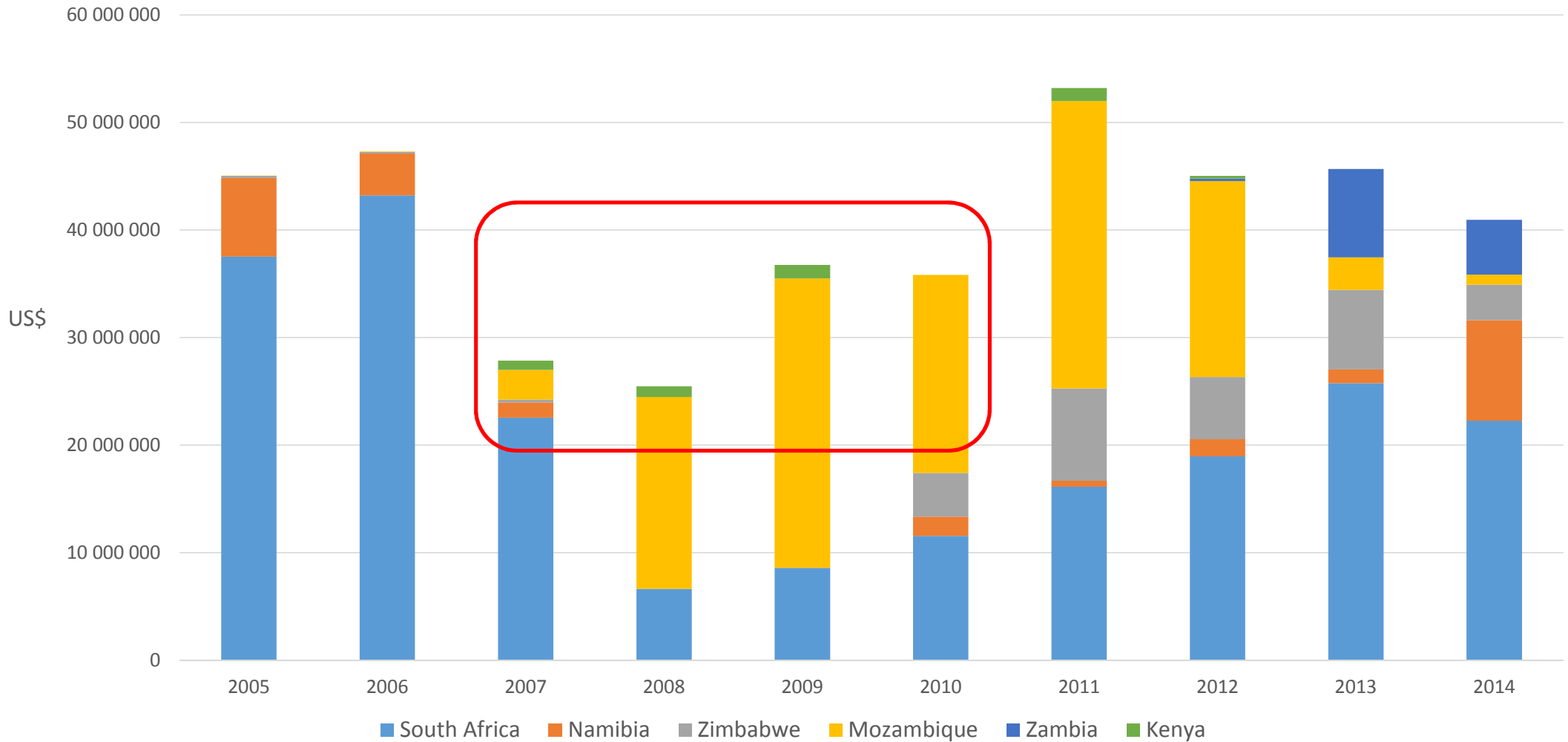
Smooth hammerhead,
now listed on CITES
Appendix II. Trade
requires CITES
documentation



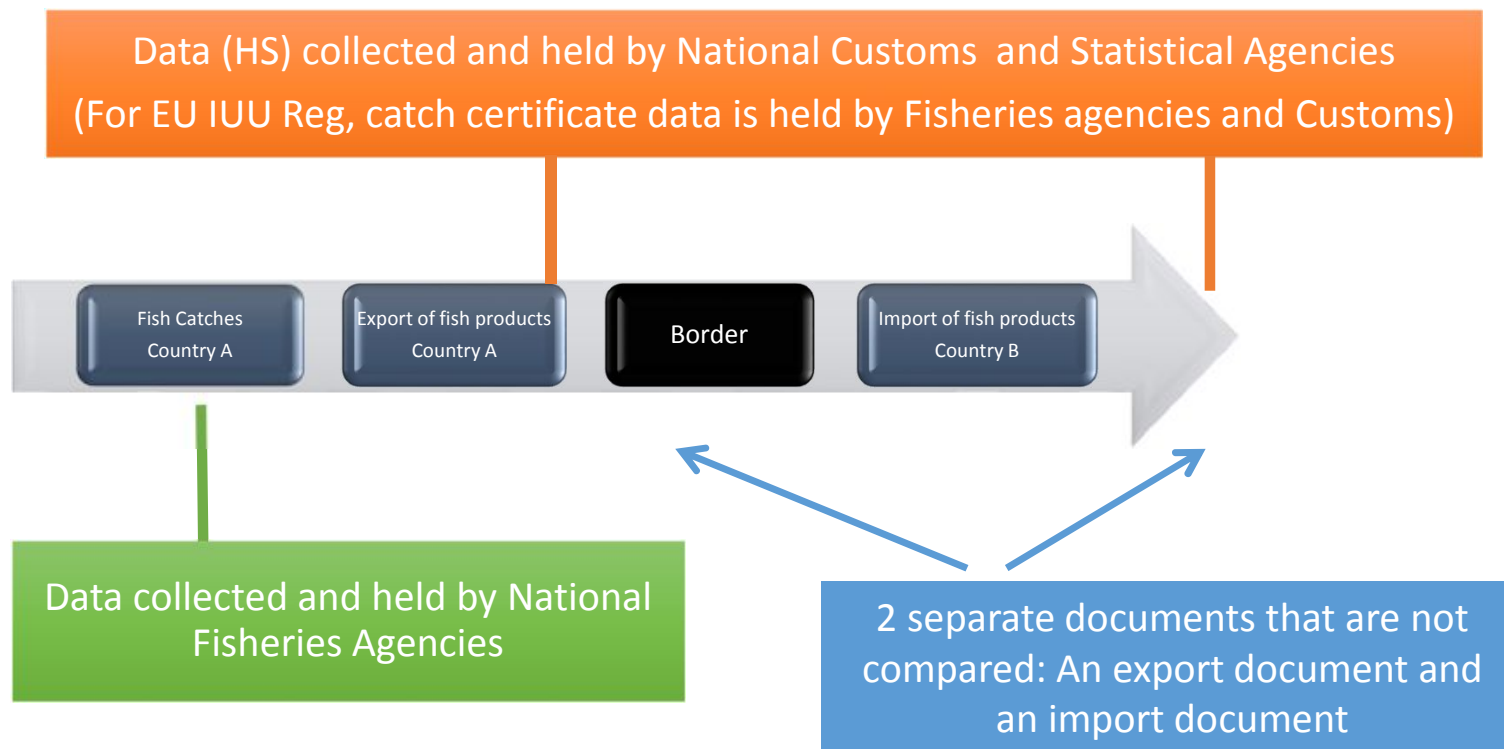
Abalone (*Haliotis midae*) – estimated poaching and legal catch



Hong Kong reported value (US\$) of dried abalone imports from South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe



Who collects the data and what documents are used?

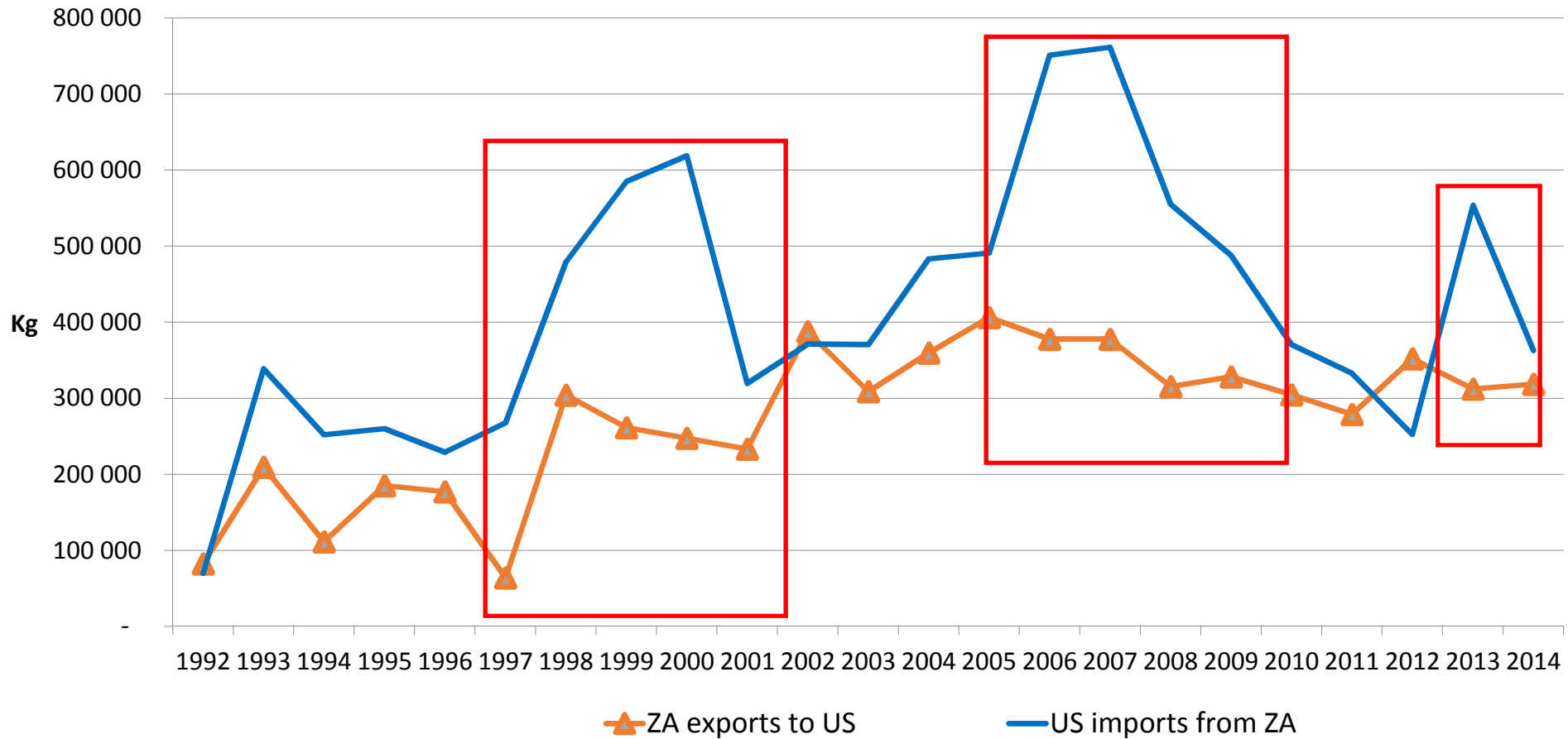




ABALONE

SARDINES

Rock lobster trade: Imports by the US compared to Exports from South Africa to the US, 1992 -2014



Challenges

- International trade system (import and export permits) makes it too easy to launder illegally caught fish. Very difficult to change the system.
- HS system doesn't contain sufficient detail for many fish products to allow for adequate monitoring of trade.
- Insufficient inter-agency co-operation – especially between Customs and Fisheries (both within a country and cross-border collaboration)
- Capacity to deal with massive volume of fish products in international trade makes inspection very challenging.
- Numerous trade documents - knowledge of requirements, ability to validate.
- Identification of fish products in trade – especially processed products.
- Corruption

Solutions

- **Analyse trade data** – take advantage of access to data combined with applications for dealing with big data. There is a huge amount of trade related data that is not being analysed, cross-referenced, compared with catch data. This can help in risk assessment.
- Explore possibility of **changing the international trade practices** with regard to separate import and export documents
- **Build inter-agency collaboration** – especially between fisheries and customs agencies.
- Actively engage with international institutions such as **WCO, UNODC, INTERPOL, CITES** to build capacity, obtain and share information and facilitate collaboration.

Solutions

- Tackle **corruption**
- Build knowledge and capacity on **trade document** requirements, assessment and validation
- Build capacity for **species identification** of products in international trade – make use of online resources