

Global Fishing Watch — AI-Powered Satellite Tracking Catches Illegal Fishing in Kiribati's Phoenix Islands Protected Area

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Kiribati

Quality score: 73/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

In 2015, Kiribati's fisheries enforcers used Global Fishing Watch's AI vessel-tracking platform to prove a foreign purse seiner was fishing illegally inside the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, leading the vessel's owners to pay Kiribati \$2 million in fines and goodwill funds.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Kiribati Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development, using Global Fishing Watch technology](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Oceana USA: Global Fishing Watch Put to the Test](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Scientific American: Activists Open an Online Window onto the Global Fishing Fleet](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

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