



NOAA
FISHERIES

High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

Amendments and Information Collection

Presenter: Kristin Rusello,
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection

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Today we will cover:

- Purpose of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act
- Components of the Report
- Amendments to the Act
- Information requirements for identification
- Deadline for information submission

Purpose of Moratorium Protection Act

- Contains provisions to:
 - Address international overfishing
 - Combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing
 - Reduce bycatch of protected living marine resources (PLMRs)
 - Improve shark conservation
 - Provide international cooperation and assistance
- Strengthens Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
- Results in biennial report to Congress identifying nations

Identification/certification process

Identification: Nations engaged in IUU fishing, and/or bycatch of protected resources, or shark catches on the high seas identified in the Report to Congress.



Consultation: United States works collaboratively with identified nations on actions to address the activities for which they were identified.



Certification: Certification decisions issued based on the actions of the nations.

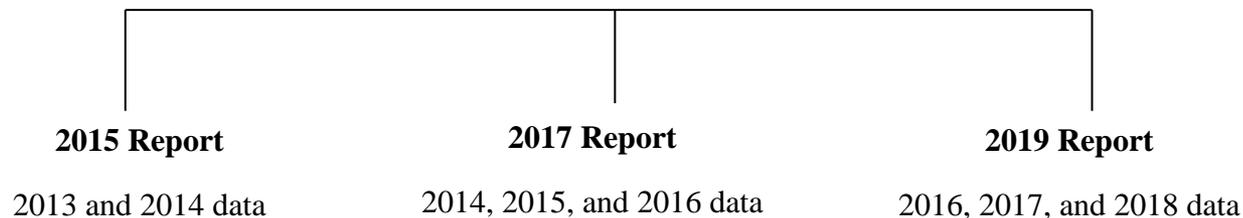
Report to Congress

- Produced every two years
- Includes:
 - Identifications and certifications
 - Status of international living marine resources (ILMRs)
 - Efforts of RFMOs to:
 - End IUU fishing
 - Protect PLMRs
 - Adopt shark conservation measures
- Next Report publishes in 2017



Amendments

- The Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015 amended the Moratorium Protection Act
 - Allows consideration of 3 years of data for IUU fishing, bycatch
 - Provides for identification of entities
 - Authorizes trade sanctions solely for identified nations that received a negative certification



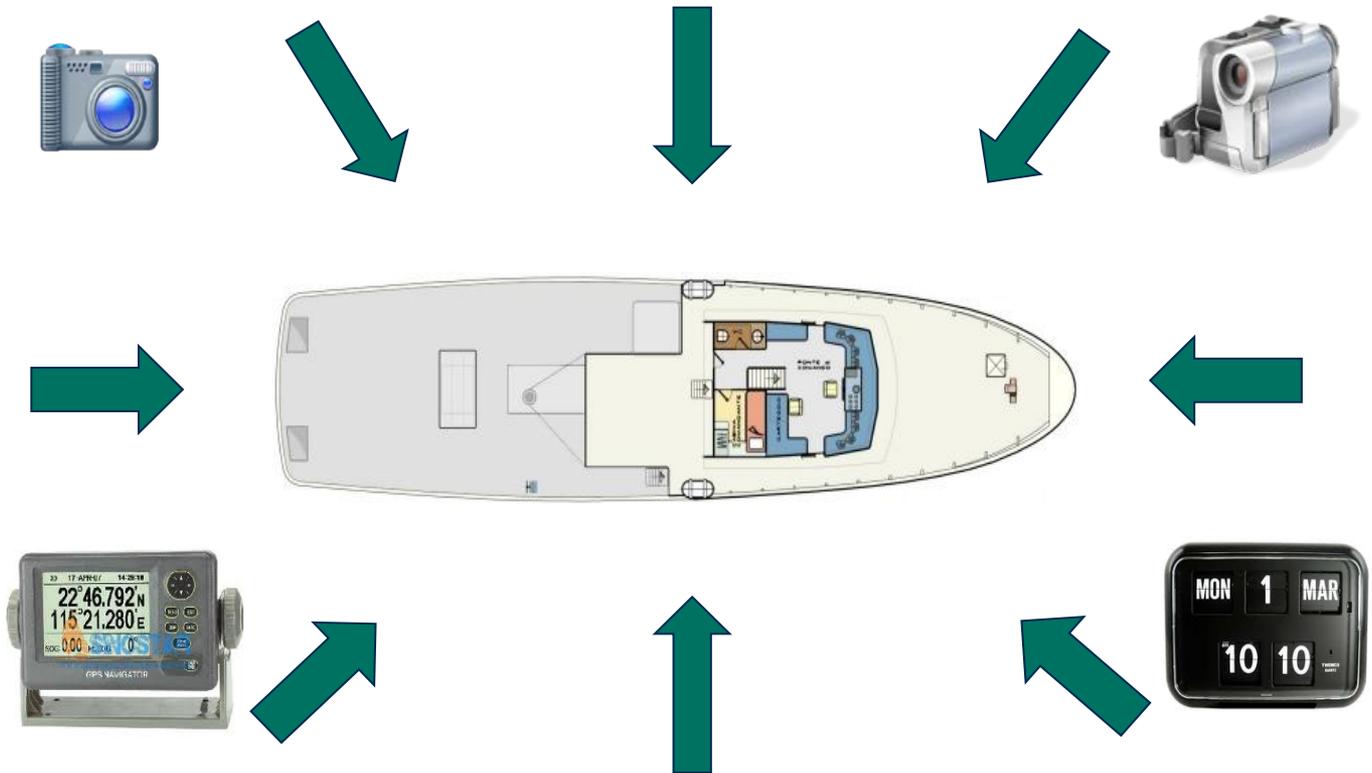
IUU fishing identification

- Nations can be identified for IUU fishing if vessels of a nation engage in:
 - Violations of RFMO conservation and management measures (CMMs)
 - Overfishing of fish stocks shared by the United States
 - Bottom fishing that impacts VMEs beyond national jurisdiction
 - Fishing activities in U.S. waters without authorization
- Fishing must take place in the 3 years preceding the Report

Documenting Suspected IUU Vessel Activity

Vessel Identification

- 1) Multiple Camera Angles
- 2) Location
- 3) Date and Time



Note: Video showing GPS coordinates that then pans over to view of subject vessel is ideal

Documenting Suspected IUU Vessel Activity

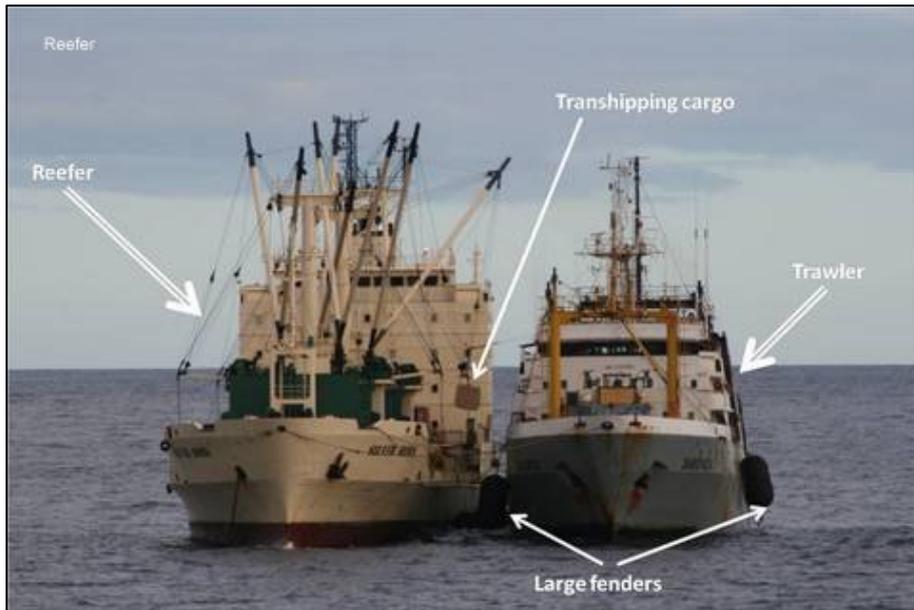
Catch Volume/Composition



Video/pictures of gear haul-back with locations, dates, times

Documenting Suspected IUU Vessel Activity

Transshipment and Port Calls



Video/pictures of transshipment or port calls with locations, dates, times

Bycatch Identification

- Nations can be identified for bycatch of PLMRs:
- 1) in waters beyond national jurisdiction, or
- 2) beyond the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and is shared with the United States, if:
 - the RFMO failed to implement effective measures to end or reduce the bycatch, and
 - the nation has not adopted a regulatory program to end or reduce bycatch of the PLMR that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions
- Fishing must take place in the 3 years preceding the Report

Shark Catch on the High Seas Identification

- Nations can be identified for shark catch if fishing vessels of a nation have been engaged in fishing in waters beyond any national jurisdiction that target or incidentally catch sharks if the nation has not adopted a regulatory program for the conservation of sharks that is comparable to that of the United States, taking into account different conditions
- Fishing must be in the 1 year preceding the Report



Federal Register Notice

- Requests information that may be used to identify nations under the Moratorium Protection Act
- Open until May 31, 2016
- Submit information to: IUU.PLMR.Sharks@noaa.gov.

Questions and Comments? Contact:

Kristin Rusello

National Marine Fisheries Service,
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection
US Department of Commerce,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

kristin.rusello@noaa.gov

301-427-8376