



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
International
Affairs

International Issues - New Council Member Training

Dr. Jean-Pierre Ple
Deputy Director

October 24, 2013

What Drives International Living Marine Resource Engagement

- International law gives all nations the right to fish on the high seas, commensurate with a duty to cooperate
- Conservation needs of endangered species and marine mammals
- Catches are down, demand continues to increase
- Scarcity leads to competition and conflict, leading to Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
- Global trade of seafood and use of trade measures

Overview of World's Fisheries

- Overall, worsening internationally
- Status of exploitation of the world's fish stocks:

	1974	1984	1994	2004	2009
Non-fully	39%	31%	30%	23%	13%
Fully	51%	52%	45%	52%	58%
Over	10%	18%	27%	25%	30%

- Among 7 principal tuna stocks:
 - 33% over-exploited
 - 37.5% fully exploited
 - 29% non-fully exploited

NOAA Fisheries' International Role

- Promote international collaboration
- Implement international provisions of U.S. law
- Represent the U.S. at regional fisheries management organizations and other international bodies, and secure equitable access for the United States to shared fish resources
- With over 90% of the U.S. seafood supply from imports (about \$31 Billion), responsibility to ensure the seafood is safe and not the result of IUU fishing
- Improve the stewardship capabilities of developing countries

Authorities Behind Our Engagement

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Implementing legislation for treaties and agreements:
 - e.g., Pacific Salmon Treaty Act, Atlantic Tuna Convention Act, International Dolphin Conservation Program Act, and more
- Bilateral agreements with other governments

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

- Councils currently involved in:
 - Atlantic: NASCO, ICCAT, NAFO
 - Pacific: PSC, IPHC, NPAFC, WCPFC, IATTC
 - Once U.S. becomes party and implementing legislation adopted, new RFMOs for North and South Pacific
- Summary tables provides:
 - Implementing legislation
 - Species managed
 - Parties to the RFMO
 - Council(s) and relevant FMPs
 - Top U.S. objectives

International Role of the Councils

- Provide representation on Advisory Committees
- Provide recommendations for U.S. Commissioner appointments
- Share information
- Assist the implementation of U.S. law
- Harmonize domestic and international regulations, as appropriate

High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, as amended by the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act

- Contains provisions designed to:
 - Address international overfishing
 - Combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing
 - Reduce bycatch of protected living marine resources (PLMRs)

IUU Fishing/Bycatch of PLMRs: Identification – Certification Process

- Identify nations whose vessels engage in IUU fishing contrary to RFMO conservation and management measures and fishing activities where no RFMO exists
- Engage in consultations with nations to encourage corrective actions
- Certify nations (positive or negative) in biennial report
- Negative certifications can result in denial of port privileges; trade measures may be imposed

Identifications - Certifications: 2009-2013

(as reported in biennial reports to Congress)

- **2009**
 - Six nations identified for engaging in IUU fishing
- **2011**
 - The six identified in 2009 all received positive certifications
 - Six new identifications for engaging in IUU fishing
- **2013**
 - The six identified in 2011 all received positive certifications
 - 10 new identifications for engaging in IUU fishing
 - 1 (the first) identification for bycatch of PLMRs

Other International Provisions of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

- Promote improved monitoring and compliance of international fisheries
- Seek to improve the effectiveness of RFMOs to address IUU fishing
- Support efforts to build capacity in other countries for fisheries management and enforcement

Looking Ahead

- Proposed Rule to revise the monitoring and permitting of high seas fishing vessels
- Proposed Rule to implement MMPA Sections 101 (a)(2)(A) and 102 (c) (3) regarding bycatch associated with fish imports
- Proposed Rule to improve monitoring of imports of fisheries products IAW Safe Ports Act

Summary

- International fisheries issues, especially combating IUU fishing continue to grow in significance
- Councils play an important role in international fisheries management
- We cannot do it alone

Questions?

