



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
International
Affairs

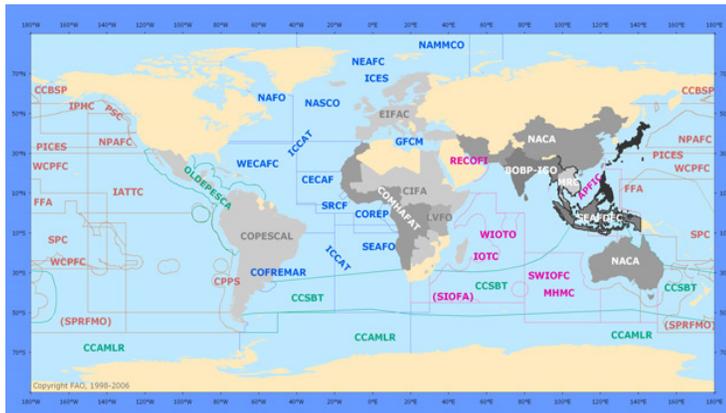
International Issues - New Council Member Training

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Our Message...

- We engage internationally to achieve NMFS' mission
- We cannot do it alone
- We seek to level the playing field



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

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

- **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
- **January 2015 - next report to Congress**

Looking Ahead

- United States to join two new RFMOs for the:
 - North Pacific
 - South Pacific
- 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?

