

Leveling the Playing Field for US Fishers: International Actions to Reduce IUU Fishing

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Overview

Combating IUU

1. What is the problem and why is it important that we address it?
2. How we are addressing it
 - a. domestic action
 - b. international cooperation
 - c. future legislation
3. Discussion of additional ideas?



“Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is one of the most serious threats to sustainable fishing and to marine biodiversity in the world’s oceans. International cooperation across oceans will help us strengthen enforcement and prevent legal fishing industries from being undermined in the global marketplace by illegal fishing.”

Dr. Jane Lubchenco



What is IUU Fishing?

By definition, IUU fishing is either an expressly illegal activity or, at a minimum, an activity undertaken with little regard for applicable standards. IUU fishers gain an unjust advantage over legitimate fishers; *i.e.* those who operate in accordance with those standards. In this sense, IUU fishers are "free riders" who benefit unfairly from the sacrifices made by others for the sake of proper fisheries conservation and management.



FAO International Plan of Action--IUU



Law Enforcement



Reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens Act

In a biennial report to Congress NOAA identifies nations with vessels engaged in IUU fishing, bycatch of protected living marine resources, or shark catch on the high seas

Three part process:

Identification

Consultation

Certification (positive or negative) – If a nation is negatively certified, its fishing vessels may be denied entry into the United States and the nation may be subject to trade sanctions



International Cooperation and Assistance

U.S. has provided bilateral and regional support to:

- Address IUU fishing and bycatch of protected species
- Strengthen international fishery management organizations
- Build strategic partnerships with other nations
- Develop capacity of other nations to achieve sustainable fisheries and responsible fisheries management



Addressing IUU in International Fora

- UN General Assembly
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
- Kobe Process
- Other Fora



Bilateral Cooperation to Reduce IUU

- U.S.-EU Joint Statement on Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing
- U.S.-Russia Information Sharing Agreement
- Bilateral discussions with Japan, China, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Mexico, Canada



Legislation to Prevent IUU: Port State Measures

Port State Measures Agreement

- Prevents IUU vessels from entering U.S. ports.
- Sent to Senate for its advice and consent and also sent draft implementing legislation to both the House and the Senate.

Pirate Fishing Elimination Act/International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act (IFSEA)

- Targets illegal product entering the U.S. and the people who traffic it.
- IFSEA would also strengthen NOAA's enforcement authority and create an International Fisheries Enforcement Program
- Under consideration by Congress



What else should we be
doing?





Thank you for your time and attention!

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