

Joint Statement between the Fisheries Agency of Japan and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States on Cooperation to Promote Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Fisheries Resources

We, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, on behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States and Mr. Kazuo Sato, Director General, on behalf of the Fisheries Agency of Japan:

ARE COMMITTED to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources while protecting the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur;

STRESS the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources for sustainable development, including through their contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security, and creation of sustainable livelihoods, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the potential impacts of climate change;

ACKNOWLEDGE the importance of developing and utilizing the best scientific evidence available to make decisions concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources;

RECOGNIZE the importance of taking an ecosystem approach to the management of marine fisheries resources, applying the precautionary approach widely--a lack of scientific information cannot be a reason for inaction by the international community if it is to ensure the sustainability of marine fisheries resources and their ecosystems--and reducing bycatch while sustainably managing fisheries;

ACKNOWLEDGE that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing constitutes one of the most serious threats to the conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources in the world's oceans;

RECALL the 1995 *United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*; the 1993 *FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas*; the 1995 *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*; the 2001 *FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*; the 2009 *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, and other relevant international instruments;

RECOGNIZE that the United States and Japan each play a key role in the commercial exploitation of fishery products globally, both as flag States and as market States;

FURTHER RECOGNIZE the significant cooperation between our two nations on marine fisheries resources issues, both bilaterally and within relevant regional and global fisheries organizations;

ENDEVOUR to strengthen, promote, and further develop cooperation in the above-described areas, and to provide a basis for discussion and exchange of information on all issues of relevance to marine fisheries resources, and their ecosystems;

In furtherance of which, *THE FISHERIES AGENCY OF JAPAN AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION INTEND TO STRENGTHEN THEIR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN ORDER TO:*

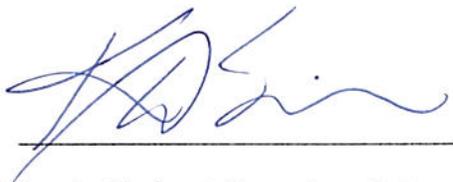
Promote the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources, while protecting and restoring the health, productivity and resilience of the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur;

Continue to advance scientific understanding of global marine fisheries resources and use the best scientific evidence available, and ecosystem and precautionary approaches, to ensure their long term conservation and sustainable use;

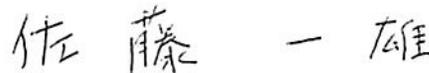
Establish effective measures to fight IUU fishing both at global and regional levels, including the strengthening of control, monitoring and enforcement of management measures in regional fisheries management organizations; and to adopt and implement port state measures;

Support initiatives that enhance our understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change on marine coastal ecosystems and resources and their mitigation; and

Promote mutual cooperation on any matter related to marine fisheries resources and their ecosystems, and meet as necessary to discuss any bilateral or multilateral issues relevant to such matters.



For the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration of the United States of America



For the Fisheries Agency of Japan