



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

International Affairs &  
Seafood Inspection

# HMS Advisory Panel

## International Affairs and Seafood Inspection Update

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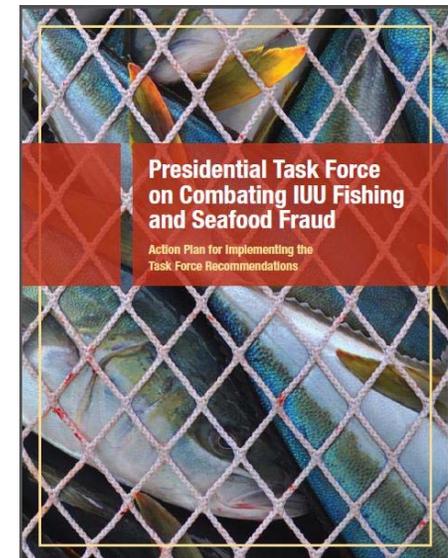
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection

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# Action Plan

The Presidential Task Force's action plan outlines 15 recommendations that are broad in scope and calls on agencies to take concrete and specific actions to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud throughout the seafood supply chain through:

- International governance: combating IUU fishing and seafood fraud at the international level
- Enforcement: strengthening enforcement and enhancing enforcement tools
- Partnerships: creating and expanding partnerships with non-federal entities to identify and eliminate seafood fraud and the sale of IUU seafood products in U.S. commerce
- Traceability: increasing information available on seafood products through additional traceability requirements

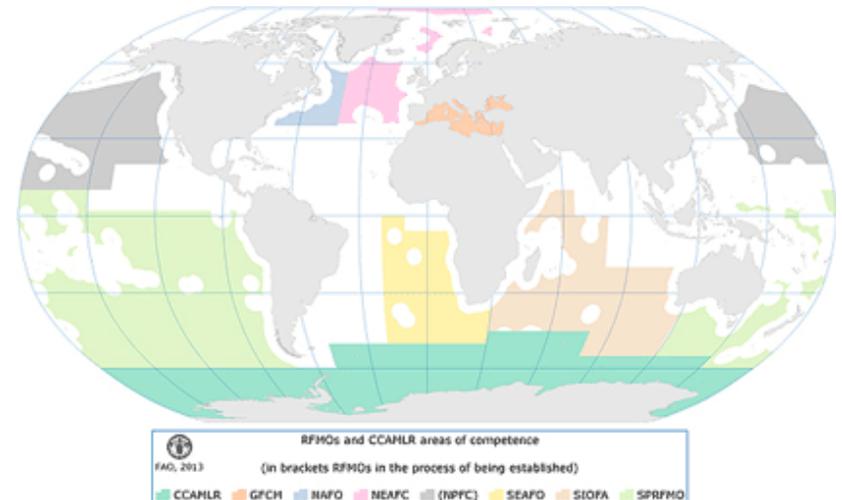


More details at: <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ia/iuu/taskforce.html>

# RFMO Coordination

## Implementing Best Practices (Recommendation 2):

- Direct the Task Force to develop best practices for catch documentation and data tracking; high seas boarding and inspection; monitoring, control, and surveillance); port State control; and compliance monitoring and promote their adoption in each of the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) of which the United States is a member.
- ✓ Convened interagency group to evaluate existing RFMO measures
- ❑ Develop best practices to form basis of RFMO measures
- ❑ Advance proposals to RFMOs to adopt new, or update existing measures, based on these best practices
- ❑ Expand work to include multilateral catch documentation schemes



# Capacity Building

## Capacity Building (Recommendation 6):

- Direct Task Force to coordinate with donors, multilateral institutions, and foreign governments and prioritize building capacity to sustainably manage fisheries and combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud.
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- ✓ Convened interagency working group to prioritize capacity building efforts across agencies
  - ❑ Define priority geographies and species presenting the most pressing problems with IUU/seafood fraud
  - ❑ Create an ongoing inventory of activities



# Collaboration

## Creating Collaboration through Partnerships (Recommendation 13):

- Direct the Task Force to establish a regular forum with harvesters, importers, dealers, retailers, processors, and non-governmental organizations to enhance collaboration in combating IUU fishing and seafood fraud and to improve understanding of the levels and nature of IUU fishing and seafood fraud and related criminal activities.
- ✓ Hold interagency meetings to exchange information on Task Force recommendations
- ❑ Develop a public web portal to facilitate work of the forum
- ❑ Hold in-person and virtual meetings with stakeholders to discuss IUU fishing and seafood fraud

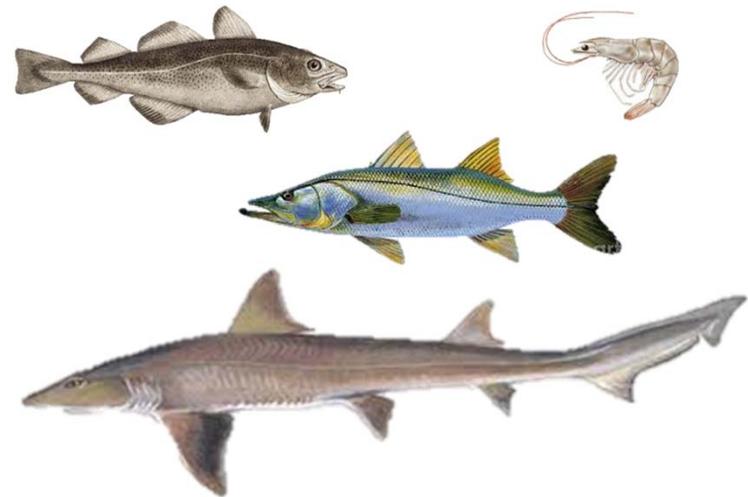


# Traceability Components & Timeline

## Traceability Program (Recommendations 14 & 15):

- Direct the Task Force, with input from U.S. industry and other stakeholders, to identify and develop within six months a list of the types of information and operational standards needed for an effective seafood traceability program to combat seafood fraud and IUU seafood in U.S. commerce.
- Direct the Task Force to establish, within 18 months, the first phase of a **risk-based traceability program to track seafood from point of harvest to entry into U.S. commerce.**

- ✓ Principles for identifying at-risk species
- Draft and final list of at-risk species
- ✓ Minimum standards and necessary data
- International Trade Data System (ITDS)
- Species name and codes (Rec. 10)
- Traceability rulemaking
- Information sharing
- Trusted Trader program
- Evaluation and expansion



# Draft List of At-Risk Species

- Abalone
- Atlantic Cod
- Blue Crab
- Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi)
- Grouper
- King Crab
- Pacific Cod
- Red Snapper
- Sea Cucumber
- Sharks
- Shrimp
- Swordfish
- Tunas (albacore, bigeye, bluefin, skipjack, and yellowfin)



# Beyond 2016

- Traceability rule published by **August 2016** in order to be effective by **September 2016**
- **December 2016 Report:**
  - Program evaluation and recommendations for expansion
  - If unable to expand program, why?
  - Timeframe to advance objective of expansion
  - Update list of at-risk species
  - Identify additional authorities to improve implementation
  - Recommendations for providing traceability information to the consumer



# Implementing Import Provisions of the MMPA



# Overview

- MMPA contains provisions to address the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in both domestic and foreign commercial fisheries
- NOAA released proposed rule on August 11, 2015 to address this issue
- Designed to implement aspects of the MMPA to reduce marine mammal bycatch associated with foreign commercial fishing operations
- Intended to help foreign fisheries support a healthy and diverse marine ecosystem and level the playing field for U.S. fishermen



# Proposed Rule

- Requires nations to demonstrate they have a regulatory program for reducing marine mammal incidental mortality and serious injury that is comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. program
- Provides 5 year grace period for foreign nations to develop regulatory programs
- NOAA and DOS will engage in a capacity building program to assist with monitoring and assessing marine mammals stocks and bycatch
- Levels the playing field for U.S. fishermen and will not impact U.S. industry



# Next Steps

- Comment deadline is November 9, 2015
- NOAA will evaluate comments and revise proposed rule as necessary
- Final rule to be published in 2016
- NOAA to conduct outreach to stakeholders following the publishing of final rule



# Mexico Certification Decision



# High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

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



# Mexico's Bycatch Certification

- Identified for bycatch of North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles in 2013 Biennial Report
- Certification determination delayed in 2015 Biennial Report
- Mexico published regulations on April 10, 2015
- Comparability analysis resulted in a negative certification



# Certification Decision and Next Steps

- First negative certification issued by NOAA
- A negative certification:
  - Indicates that a country has not implemented regulations that are *comparable in effectiveness* to the U.S.
  - Results in U.S. port access denial for some Mexican flagged fishing vessels
  - Potential import restrictions on fish and fish products
- NOAA is working with interagency partners to finalize these measures
- NOAA will consult closely with its Mexican partners throughout this process
- Positive certification can be issued as soon as comparable measures are in place





# Questions?



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