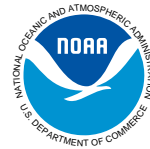


INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The NOAA Strategic Plan recognizes international leadership in marine science and ecosystem management as a priority. A world with rapidly shifting political, cultural, and economic dynamics requires federal agencies to cultivate fresh approaches and new services to maintain U.S. leadership.

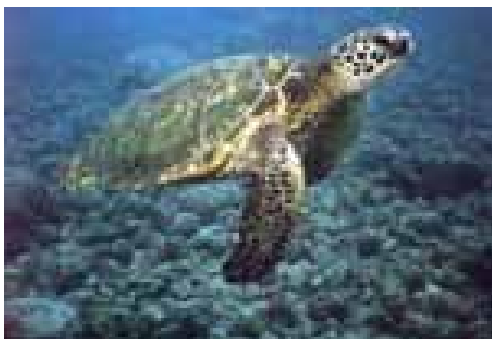
The vision of NOAA's Fisheries Service Office of International Affairs is that all people benefit from healthy and diverse marine ecosystems. The office concentrates on the stewardship of transboundary living marine resources and their ecosystems, through its leadership and participation in domestic and international activities.

The Office of International Affairs works with a variety of domestic and international partners to accomplish the following goals and objectives in support of its mission and vision:

- Promote ecosystem-based fisheries management
- Control fishing capacity
- Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Strengthen multi-nation fisheries management organizations
- Secure equitable access for U.S. fishers to shared living marine resources
- Assist developing states to improve their capability as stewards of marine living resources
- Ensure food security

The office accomplishes its mission by:

- Participating in bilateral and international fisheries management organizations and other multilateral fisheries, wildlife protection, trade, and other organizations
- Building expert and technical capacity in other nations to conserve living marine resources.



Green turtle

- Participating in free trade negotiations
- Conducting workshops on living marine resource issues
- Building partnerships to improve marine conservation

The Office of International Affairs holds consultations with a number of countries and fishing entities on a regular basis to exchange views and enlist support for U.S. fisheries trade, conservation and management initiatives.

U.S. commitment to combat global illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and bycatch

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 calls for increased U.S. effort to strengthen international fishery management organizations and address IUU fishing activities and bycatch of other nations. IUU fishing may include reflagging of fishing vessels to evade controls, fishing in another nation's waters without authorization, failure to report catch, and the transshipment of illegally caught fish. This type of rogue fishing can undermine the benefits of fisheries management, contributes to overfishing, and can lead to the collapse of fish stocks. Bycatch is the unintentional catch of living marine resources in a fishery. Excessive bycatch can also undermine the benefits of fisheries management and lead to overfishing. The bycatch of protected marine resources such as turtles or dolphins can deplete species that are in need of national and international protection if they are to remain an integral part of a healthy marine ecosystem.

Under the amended Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA will submit a biennial report to Congress that will identify those foreign nations whose fishing vessels are engaged in IUU fishing or fishery activities that result in bycatch of protected living marine resources. NOAA's Fisheries Service will certify whether fishing nations are working to curb and eliminate IUU fishing and bycatch. Nations found not in compliance could face sanctions by the United States. NOAA also will provide recommendations to the State Department and Congress on ending overfishing throughout the world. The Office of International Affairs is committed to establishing comprehensive, transparent and understandable rules to implement the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to address IUU fishing and bycatch in global fisheries. 🌐