



APPENDIX G – USCG IUU-NPOA Implementation Plan

The United States and other members of the international community have experienced a growing incidence of fishing activity that does not respect applicable laws and regulations, including fishing rules adopted at the national and international levels. Examples of such activity include re-flagging of fishing vessels to evade controls, fishing in areas of national jurisdiction without authorization by the coastal State, and failure to report (or misreporting) catches. Such irresponsible fishing activity directly undermines efforts to manage fisheries properly and impedes progress toward the goal of sustainable fisheries. The term “illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” – or IUU fishing – has emerged to describe a wide range of such activity. IUU fishing poses a direct and significant threat to effective conservation and management of fish stocks, causing multiple adverse consequences for fisheries and for the people who depend on them in the pursuit of their legitimate livelihoods. Left unchecked, IUU fishing can significantly diminish the benefits of effective fisheries management.

Under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a concerted effort was undertaken to develop a comprehensive “toolbox” of measures that States could take, both individually and collectively, to address the problems of IUU fishing. This effort culminated with the adoption in 2001 of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA).

The U.S. National Plan of Action was adopted in 2003 and is organized along the lines of the International Plan of Action. The United States intends to review the implementation of the National Plan of Action at least every four years after its adoption. The following Coast Guard action plan was developed from the recommendations in the U.S. National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing:

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Investigate co-locating NOAA Fisheries special agents at the U.S. Coast Guard regional fishery training centers to improve fisheries training.

Status: Ongoing. NOAA Fisheries special agents co-located at the North Pacific and Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center have been moved due to NOAA resource constraints. Continue to pursue co-location at all Regional Fisheries Training Centers.

Responsibility: District Commanders.

Pursue shiprider agreements and/or enforcement officer exchanges with critical fishing nations.



Status: Ongoing. The Coast Guard is directly engaged with enforcement agencies of other fishing nations to promote sustainability through compliance with regulations and management regimes. Efforts include enforcement Memoranda of Agreement, fisheries enforcement workshops, ship rider agreements, joint operations, and boarding officer training. The Coast Guard has established several agreements with other fishing nations such as People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Canada; and is actively pursuing additional agreements with Russia and Mexico

Responsibility: Commandant (G-O).

Fully participate in the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network to support NPOA objectives.

Status: Not started. NOAA has taken the lead for U.S. enforcement participation in the International MCS network. Since its beginning in 2000, the MCS Network has grown to include 16 nations. The Coast Guard will participate International MCS Network and attend MCS meetings where appropriate.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-O).

Develop routine contact lists of law enforcement personnel authorized to exchange MCS Network information.

Status: Not started. Coordinate with Areas to develop list and process for annual updates, and update the MCS Network.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-O), Atlantic Area and Pacific Area

Publicize the results of IUU fishing cases

Status: Ongoing, as cases develop.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-OPL/G-ICA) implements on the national level. Area/District Commanders implement regionally.

Examine the possibility of linkages between the U.S. Coast Guard's registration process and NMFS's fishery permit process.

Status: Ongoing. This project remains feasible, however, current technical difficulties within the Vessel Documentation System (VDS) section of the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) System have limited the opportunity for change at this time.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-O, G-M)



Consider withholding issuance of documentation, registration and/or fishing permits to vessels that have a history of IUU fishing, unless change in ownership and control of the vessel has been verified.

Status: Completed. There currently is no statutory authority to do this. Under the guidance in 46 USC 12104, documentation statutes are directives not discretionary.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-M)

Consider establishment of a national registration process for small fishing vessels, less than five tons.

Status: Ongoing. The initial attempt to combine state and federal databases to capture registration information on all vessels failed due to technological difficulties. A second attempt is ongoing.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-M)

Consider establishing a database of photographs for documented fishing vessels.

Status: Ongoing. Ability to capture photographic documentation of commercial fishing vessels in the United States is being assessed, utilizing existing inspection and documentation processes. Many photographs are available through SeaLink at the National Maritime Intelligence Center. It is expected that required photographs would be obtained through the voluntary commercial fishing vessel inspection program. The assessment is ongoing and policy will be developed after completion of the study.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-M)

Consider consolidating information on state-registered fishing vessels into a national database.

Status: On going. Current requirement for states to share information on vessel registry is voluntary. NOAA has proposed to make state participation mandatory. In the interim the cost of participation, combined with the non-mandatory requirement has limited the involvement by the states.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-M)

Pursue a fisheries enforcement agreement with Mexico.

Status: Ongoing. Draft MOA on fisheries enforcement has been completed and being cleared by the Departments of State and Justice, and NOAA. This MOA is



modeled after the fisheries enforcement agreement with Canada. Efforts continue to complete interagency clearance and present text to Mexico.

Responsibility: Commandant (G-O).

Consider expanding advance notice of arrival requirements to foreign fishing vessels seeking access to U.S. ports.

Status: Currently all vessels over 300 gross tons are required to provide advance notice of arrival. Amendment of the existing Advanced Notice of Arrival (ANOVA) regulations is on-going. There is consideration to including foreign fishing vessels in this amendment. No decisions have been finalized.

Responsibility: Headquarters (G-M).