



U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Leveling the Playing Field

NOAA's plan to combat illegal fishing in 2012



# Introduction

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is committed to promoting the sustainable management of fish stocks and supporting the economic health of U.S. fishing communities. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, also known as pirate fishing, threatens both of these objectives. IUU products often come from fisheries lacking the strong and effective conservation and management measures to which U.S. fishermen are subject. IUU fishing can limit legitimate fishing opportunities for U.S. fishermen. Furthermore, trade in IUU fishery products results in unfair competition in the marketplace. Actions have been taken by NOAA over the years to help ensure fairness for U.S. fishermen on the fishing grounds and in the marketplace, but more effort is needed to comprehensively address the threats posed by IUU fishing.

The U.S. priority to combat pirate fishing in 2011 was demonstrated by

- United States and the European Union (EU) signing a Joint Statement on IUU fishing.
- U.S. Senate introducing the Pirate Fishing Elimination Act.
- Apprehension of a Stateless vessel fishing in contravention of the United Nations moratorium on large-scale high seas driftnet fishing.
- Several seizures of illegal fisheries imports.

These actions to reduce IUU fishing globally helps to level the playing field for U.S. fishermen. In 2012, NOAA will continue to engage in significant and high-level efforts to combat the IUU threat. This plan outlines major activities that NOAA will undertake to build upon these accomplishments and increase efforts to combat pirate fishing, including many actions arising from the U.S.-EU Joint Statement on IUU fishing.

Working in partnership with other U.S. Federal and non-Federal Government agencies, foreign governments and entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private sector entities is crucial to combating IUU fishing effectively. The actions included in the will be undertaken by NOAA in close collaboration with these partners. NOAA will also work with interested constituent groups to keep them engaged in these ongoing efforts.

It should be noted that this plan is not exhaustive. Select major activities are highlighted in the body of the plan, and a more comprehensive list of NOAA's activities to combat IUU fishing is contained in Appendix 1.

# 1. Identify and certify countries whose vessels are engaged in IUU fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Act

NMFS Office of International Affairs, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Office of General Counsel

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 directs the Secretary of Commerce to identify nations whose vessels have engaged in IUU fishing, initiate consultations with each of these nations, and certify to Congress whether these nations have taken appropriate corrective action to address the IUU fishing activity. For identified nations that are not certified as having taken appropriate corrective actions, fishing vessels of such nations would be subject to denial of entry into U.S. ports and certain fisheries products of the identified nations could be subject to U.S. import prohibitions. Every 2 years, NOAA must produce a report for Congress describing progress in implementing these provisions, including a list of newly identified nations and certification decisions on previously identified nations.

In January 2009, NOAA identified six nations whose vessels were engaged in IUU fishing during 2007 and/or 2008. All of these nations took appropriate corrective action to address the activities for which they were identified and ultimately received positive certifications. In January 2011, NOAA again identified six countries for IUU fishing: two that had been previously identified and four new nations. The U.S. Government is in consultations with the identified nations to encourage them to take corrective action to address the IUU fishing activities by their vessels. In January 2013, NOAA will issue new identifications as well as certification decisions for the nations identified in 2011. These identification and certifications are listed in NOAA's biennial report to Congress.

Additionally, NOAA is in the process of drafting a rule that would clarify and expand the definition of IUU fishing to enhance NOAA's efforts to address IUU fishing. This rule would also implement the international provisions of the Shark Conservation Act, which promotes the sustainable harvest and management of sharks and the adoption of international measures for the conservation and management of sharks that are comparable to those in the United States.

**Partners:** U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, inter-governmental organizations, stakeholders, and foreign governments.

**Outputs:** In 2012, NOAA will continue to prepare for the 2013 round of identification and certifications through data collection and consultations with nations.

**Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:** In January 2013, through a Report to Congress, NOAA will identify countries whose vessels are engaging in IUU fishing, bycatch of protected living marine resources, and/or shark catch on the high seas and make decisions on how to certify the six countries identified in the 2011 Report to Congress. In 2013 and 2014, NOAA will consult with countries that have been identified in the 2013 Report to Congress to encourage them to take necessary actions to receive a positive certification.

## 2. Investigate and prosecute specific cases of IUU fishing

### NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section

The NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) partners with various law enforcement and international organizations to protect and conserve global living marine resources. OLE enforces laws implementing U.S. obligations under various treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, such as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), and has expertise in criminal and civil investigations of illegal harvesting and trafficking of fish. For example,

- In 2011, the U.S. Coast Guard seized the *F/V BANGUN PERKASA*, a vessel without nationality, for violating the U.S. prohibition against large-scale high seas driftnet fishing. Subsequently, the U.S. Coast Guard turned the vessel over to OLE for further investigation of the vessel's illegal activities and of those individuals who benefitted financially from the vessel's IUU activities. On March 29, 2012, the Federal District Court for the District of Alaska issued an Order forfeiting *the F/V BANGUN PERKASA* to the United States and extinguishing any claim of interest by any other party.
- The U.S. subsidiary of Pescanova, a large multinational seafood company, was convicted for illegally importing 96,984 kg of Patagonian toothfish. The company was fined \$10,000 and the fish, worth \$1.2 million, were forfeited to the government.
- OLE worked closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Russian enforcement officials to seize 112 metric tons of Russian-origin king crab that was illegally harvested in the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone and imported into the United States. The importer, Harbor Seafood, Inc., entered into a consent judgment under which the U.S. Government will forfeit and retain approximately \$2.1 million of the \$2.5 million in proceeds from the sale of the illegally imported product. Harbor Seafood, Inc., has also agreed to undertake a compliance review and provide remedial training to its employees concerning the laws that govern the importation of seafood products.

Prosecuting cases that enforce U.S. laws against IUU fishing or related activities will remain a priority for NOAA in 2012.

**Partners:** U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security (in particular Customs and Border Protection), U.S. Department of State, other federal and state law enforcement agencies, foreign governments.

**Outputs:** During 2012, OLE will continue to gather information on potential IUU activities and investigate appropriate cases, including those related to international and domestic catch and trade tracking programs.

**Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:** Successful prosecution of those responsible for IUU fishing and reduction of IUU fish entering U.S. markets.

### 3. Build capacity worldwide to combat IUU fishing

NMFS Office of International Affairs, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, NMFS Regional Offices, NOAA Office of General Counsel

NOAA, in collaboration with international partners, works with developing nations to support and improve the management of their fisheries resources. NOAA's capacity-building efforts are conducted at the invitation of host countries. In doing this work, NOAA seeks, where possible, to build upon existing projects to ensure the greatest possible impact. NOAA is currently engaged in three regions because of the high levels of IUU in these areas: West Africa, the wider Caribbean and Latin America, and the Coral Triangle.<sup>1</sup> As the situation in each region is unique, each capacity-building program is designed to fit the specific needs of the targeted area.

In 2012, NOAA's efforts will focus on three capacity building activities, one in each of the priority regions:

- Coral Triangle: Assessment of IUU fishing with follow-on trainings that strengthen the monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities in addition to building regional science and management capacities through joint trainings with local governments.
- West Africa: Fisheries management training, focusing on improving data collection and legal authorities.
- Central America: Assistance in implementing regional capacity for fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance. NOAA, in partnership with OSPESCA, the regional organization for fisheries and aquaculture, has successfully established a mechanism for regional collaboration of all countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic on fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance.

**Partners:** U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, Organization of Fishing and Aquaculture in Central America, Coral Triangle Support Partnership, FAO/Asia Pacific Fishery Commission, World Bank and other intergovernmental organizations, Development of Commerce's Commercial Law Development Program, NGOs, relevant foreign governments.

#### **Outputs:**

- Coral Triangle: NOAA will complete an assessment of IUU fishing and monitoring, control, and surveillance capabilities for each of the six Coral Triangle countries.
- West Africa: NOAA will seek additional resources to conduct a Port State Measures workshop, legal and prosecution training, and technical assistance missions to be carried out in 2012-2013.

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<sup>1</sup> The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) 2009-2013 is a multilateral partnership of six countries, partnered with The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and Conservation International with NOAA as the lead for technical assistance, to address the urgent threats facing the coastal and marine resources of one of the most biologically diverse and ecologically rich regions on earth. The CTI countries are Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

- Central America: NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement will participate in regional workshops to improve regulations and enforcement related to sharks and increase uses of technology in combating IUU fishing.

***Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:*** Improvement in the capacity of nations to collect fisheries data, assess their resources, and monitor and control their fisheries. These efforts will strengthen science and ecosystem-based decision making, support sustainable fisheries, and reduce the level of pirate fishing activity and the amount of IUU fish product on the global market.

## 4. Improve measures to combat IUU fishing in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

NMFS Office of International Affairs, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Office of General Counsel

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) are the primary governance bodies for fishing in international waters. The United States is a member of several RFMOs, including three tuna RFMOs in Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and two straddling and discrete fish stocks RFMOs in the northwest Atlantic and Southern Oceans. Additionally, the United States is actively participating in the establishment of two new RFMOs in the north and south Pacific Ocean. Although Parties to each of these RFMOs have recognized the need to strengthen measures to reduce pirate fishing, much work remains.

At the U.S.-hosted June 2011 meeting of the five tuna RFMOs ("Kobe III"), participants adopted several recommendations on actions that should be taken by the tuna RFMOs to address IUU fishing. Recommendations include:

- Consolidation of lists of authorized vessels and implementation of a system to uniquely identify vessels in coordination with the FAO Global Record.
- Development of procedures for cross-listing of IUU vessels on the respective IUU vessel lists for each tuna RFMO and mechanisms to share information on IUU listing decisions.
- Acceleration of work to support the implementation of port State measures and catch documentation systems.
- Review and improvement of other monitoring, control, and surveillance measures.

Although these recommendations were drafted specifically for tuna RFMOs, the opportunity exists for similar actions to be taken in the non-tuna RFMOs.

NOAA will work with the U.S. Department of State and other government agencies to improve IUU measures in RFMOs in which the United States is a member, including exploring ways to implement the recommendations listed above. In particular, the United States will seek to improve the monitoring, control, and surveillance schemes at each of the three tuna RFMOs in which it is a member and at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in the Southern Ocean.

**Partners:** U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Commissioners to the RFMOs, and U.S. advisory committees

**Outputs:** NOAA will work with U.S. agency partners to achieve these objectives as soon as possible, with the goal to advance relevant measures during the 2012 annual meeting of each of the RFMOs identified above.

***Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:*** Adoption of measures in several RFMOs to improve global capacity to combat IUU fishing. To that end, the United States will continue to support efforts to improve compliance systems—including monitoring, control, and surveillance measures—at all RFMOs.



## 5. Enhance collaboration with the European Union to combat IUU fishing

NMFS Office of International Affairs, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, NMFS Regional Offices, NOAA Office of General Counsel

In an effort to encourage cooperation between the U.S. and the EU on IUU fishing, NOAA Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, signed a Joint Statement on Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing on September 7, 2011. The Joint Statement laid out broad commitments for the U.S. and the EU to address pirate fishing. NOAA is supporting the initiative by enhancing cooperation and coordination with the EU at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and on enforcement practices and capacity building initiatives.

NOAA and the European Commission have formed a bilateral working group to coordinate efforts in promoting effective measures against IUU, including increased cooperation on enforcement and capacity building in support of the U.S.-EU Joint Statement. The working group, comprised of staff from U.S. agencies and EU Services responsible for work on these issues, has identified a series of actions and deliverables where cooperation will be most effective, including improvement of monitoring, control, and surveillance networks, sharing of best practices in enforcement, expansion of multilateral electronic catch documentation and certification requirements, , as appropriate, and exercising leadership through example at international fisheries fora, particularly at RFMOs.

The United States and the European Union share membership in three of the five RFMOs responsible for managing tuna and other highly migratory species and two of the four RFMOs responsible for management of straddling and discrete fishing stocks. Both the United States and the European Union are strong advocates for tangible and progressive actions within RFMOs to reduce IUU fishing. NOAA, as part of U.S. delegations to RFMO meetings, will work to strengthen coordination with the European Commission to ensure adoption and implementation of conservation and management measures to address IUU fishing activities.

**Partners:** European Commission, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, NGOs, governmental partners in various countries.

### **Outputs:**

- ➔ By May 2012, the United States and European Union will finalize the "Terms of Reference" for the Working Group and agree on the scope of cooperation in the fight against IUU as well as on a first set of short-term deliverables.
- ➔ During 2012, NOAA and the European Commission will continue to explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation, including the organization of visits to share best practices between U.S. fisheries enforcement officials and the European Fisheries Control Agency. These visits will establish an enforcement relationship between the United States and the European Union, including a better understanding of capabilities, areas of expertise, and limitations.

These visits will enable NOAA and the European Commission to identify how the United States and the European Union can best work together on enforcement issues.

- By December 2012, in conjunction with U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. State Department, NOAA will work with the European Commission to explore possible collaborative projects to strengthen West Africa's capacity to address IUU fishing.

***Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:*** The U.S.-EU working group will develop action agendas for collaboration in priority areas with a target production date of June 2012. This action agenda should include objectives the working group will seek to achieve by December 2013.

## 6. Extend bilateral and multilateral cooperation on combating IUU fishing

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Office of General Counsel, NMFS Office of International Affairs, NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries

The purpose of the U.S.-Russia Information Sharing Agreement<sup>2</sup> is to enhance the ability of the United States and the Russian Federation to cooperate in countering IUU fishing, at sea and throughout the supply chain. The agreement enables the sharing of investigative information, consistent with domestic law, on suspected pirate fishing activities and the individuals, groups, and organizations involved in such activities. The agreement also supports bilateral cooperation to detect, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing and related activities, including:

- Joint at-sea inspections of suspect vessels.
- Joint monitoring and patrol programs.
- Monitoring of the transshipment and trade of products derived from IUU fishing.
- Identifying trends in IUU fishing in order to prevent its occurrence.

In 2012, NOAA intends to work with the State Department and other agencies to explore additional opportunities for expanding international cooperation on combating IUU fishing, including through arrangements with other nations, similar to the U.S.-EU Joint Statement or the U.S.-Russia information sharing agreement.

**Partners:** U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, Government of the Russian Federation, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Office of the Trade Representative, U.S. Customs and Border Control.

**Outputs:** NOAA will work with the State Department, which leads the negotiations for the United States, to complete and implement the U.S.-Russia Information sharing agreement as soon as possible. During 2012, NOAA will work with the State Department and other involved U.S. agencies to request meetings with key nations interested in developing bilateral arrangements on combating IUU.

**Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:** Implementation of the U.S.-Russia information sharing agreement will result in detection and reduction of IUU product from Russia before it enters the United States, and the successful prosecution of those engaged in IUU fishing and the trafficking of IUU fish. Additional bilateral arrangements with other nations on combating pirate fishing will result in increased international attention to the need to combat IUU.

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<sup>2</sup> The full name of the Agreement is the “*Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning Interaction and Cooperation in Detecting, Deterring, and Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.*”

## 7. Support passage of the International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act, including implementing legislation for the Port State Measures Agreement

NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section, NMFS Office of International Affairs

Domestic legislation and regulations are the foundation of NOAA's efforts to combat IUU fishing. In 2011, the Obama Administration sent the Port State Measures Agreement to the Senate, introduced in the Senate as the *Pirate Fishing Elimination Act* (S. 1980), for advice and consent, and also sent draft implementing legislation to both the House and the Senate. The Port State Agreement would prevent IUU vessels from entering U.S. ports. The *Pirate Fishing Elimination Act* complements other legislation currently being considered by Congress, including the *International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act* (IFSEA)(S. 52), which would, among other things, target illegal product entering the United States and the people who traffic it. IFSEA would also strengthen NOAA's enforcement authority, create an International Fisheries Enforcement Program, and improve NOAA's ability to share fisheries data, where appropriate, with flag States, enforcement authorities, and RFMOs. A similar bill, the *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2011* (H.R. 4100), was introduced in the House in February.

Together, ratification of the Port State Measures Agreement and passage of the aforementioned bills will contribute significantly toward ending IUU fishing by eliminating the ability for illegal fish products to enter U.S. markets, therefore eliminating the ability for those products to unfairly compete against legal products harvested by U.S. fishermen. In 2012, NOAA will continue to work with Congress to improve the legal tools available to fight IUU fishing.

**Partners:** Congress, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, representatives of the U.S. commercial fishing industry, and non-governmental organizations.

**Outputs:** NOAA has provided briefings, information, and technical drafting assistance to relevant Congressional staff throughout the development of these bills and will continue to do so, as requested.

**Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:** NOAA hopes for speedy passage of the *Pirate Fishing Elimination Act* and the *International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act*. Upon enactment, NOAA will work to implement both pieces of legislation, including through the development of regulations. NOAA will also continue to provide technical assistance to international partners to assist in their implementation the Port State Measures Agreement.

## 8. Evaluate progress on commitments made in the U.S. National Plan of Action on IUU fishing

### NMFS Office of International Affairs

In 2001, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA), a voluntary plan based on international law. The IPOA calls upon all States to develop and adopt national plans of action (NPOA), which the United States did in 2004. The U.S. NPOA was last reviewed in 2007. This activity, to be undertaken by NOAA and the U.S. Department of State, will review the actions recommended under the NPOA, assess U.S. progress in implementing them, and update the NPOA as needed.

**Partners:** U.S. Department of State, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Customs and Border Protection (Department of Homeland Security).

**Outputs:** NOAA and the Department of State will initiate a process to review and, as needed, update the NPOA.

**Anticipated outcomes in 2012 and beyond:** The review and any necessary revisions of the NPOA will be completed by December 2012, and NOAA will make the results available on its website.

# Appendix 1: Broad list of NOAA activities to combat IUU fishing

Ongoing activities	NOAA lead office	Major Partners	Summary
Port State Measures Agreement Implementing Legislation	Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of General Counsel	U.S. Department of State (DOS), United States Coast Guard (USCG)	The Agreement seeks to combat IUU fishing by eliminating ports of convenience, thereby preventing IUU fish from entering the stream of commerce. Passage of implementing legislation, which is necessary for US ratification of the Agreement, will enable the US to continue to push for broad ratification.
Rollout of IUU rule- proposed rule and final rulemaking	NMFS International Affairs (NMFS IA), Office of General Counsel		The rule will clarify and expand the definition of IUU fishing to help ensure that fishing activities of concern can be addressed under procedures to identify and certify nations whose vessels engaged in IUU fishing.
Proposed rule regarding import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act	NMFS IA		This rule would level the playing field for U.S. fishermen by establishing comparable standards that exporting nations must meet to assess and reduce marine mammal bycatch in order to export fish and fish products to the United States.
International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act	NMFS IA, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Office of General Counsel	USCG, DOS, U.S. Congress	This legislation would strengthen and enhance NOAA's enforcement authority, improve our ability to target illegal product entering the United States, create an International Fisheries Enforcement Program, and improve NOAA's ability to share fisheries data, where appropriate, with flag States, enforcement authorities and RFMOs.
Identification and certification of countries for IUU under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006	NMFS IA, Office of General Counsel	DOS	This activity allows the United States to work with identified nations to remedy IUU issues, ultimately leading to increased global compliance of conservation and management measures.
Support to International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network	OLE	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	The International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network is a non-profit and informal network of members, not bound by treaty, established to facilitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat IUU fishing and associated activities.
International Trade Data System (ITDS)	NMFS	U.S. Customs and Border Patrol	ITDS will support Customs and Border Patrol from denying illegal products from entering U.S. markets
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Intersessional on Integrated Monitoring Measures	NMFS IA, Office of General Counsel	DOS, USCG	Proposals related to port inspection, Vessel Monitoring Systems, at-sea transshipment, and a catch certification scheme for yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye were developed at the IMM Intersessional and will be considered at the 2012 ICCAT annual meeting.
High Level Policy Dialogue with the EU	NOAA Deputy Secretary for International Affairs, NMFS IA	DOS (lead)	A working group will continue to plan and steer joint U.S. and EU efforts to combat IUU fishing. This working group will support more sustainable, science-based, ecosystem-oriented conservation and management regimes.

Ongoing activities	NOAA lead office	Major Partners	Summary
Enforcement cases with IUU fishing nexus	OLE, General Counsel Enforcement Section	U.S. Department of Justice	OLE enforces laws implementing U.S. obligations under various treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, such as RFMOs, and has expertise in criminal and civil investigations of violations involving the harvesting and trafficking of fish.
U.S./Russia Information Sharing Agreement for Fisheries Enforcement	OLE, NMFS IA, General Counsel Enforcement Section	DOS (lead)	This Agreement will enhance the ability of the United States and Russia to cooperate to counter IUU fishing and trade in IUU fish products, and to share information concerning activities, individuals, groups, and organizations involved in IUU fishing.
Increased awareness/cooperation on IUU with INTERPOL	OLE	Interpol	NOAA OLE supported the creation of an ad hoc working group to INTERPOL on IUU fishing and is working with this working group to develop operational enforcement plans aimed at trafficking in IUU fish and fish product.
Support continued implementation by FAO of a Global Record of Fishing and Support Vessels	NMFS IA	FAO	The Global Record would enumerate the world's fishing vessels and the vessels that support them, making it harder for IUU fishing vessels to hide.
Negotiation under FAO auspices of an instrument to assess Flag State Performance	NMFS IA, Office of General Counsel	FAO, DOS	IUU fishing occurs because of flag State under-performance. This initiative is building a tool to measure such performance.
The Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)/Capacity building: focusing on the enhancement of enforcement practices and the strengthening of fisheries management and science	NMFS IA, OLE	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	Strengthening science and management capacities through bilateral and regional trainings with NOAA experts and national scientists and managers.
Asia-Pacific: strengthening management through science	NMFS IA	Navy, World Bank, Foreign Gov'ts, NGOs and FAO	NOAA funds non-CTI projects that directly contribute to the enhancement of partner's ability to ensure sustainability through science to management and the application of good MCS practices
West Africa: focus on fisheries observers and legal training	NMFS IA, OLE, NMFS Office of Science and Technology, Office of General Counsel	Navy, World Bank, Foreign Gov'ts, NGOs	NOAA will continue to collaborate with international partners to improve fisheries management in West Africa.
Central America: Support for regional collaboration of all countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic on fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance	NMFS IA, OLE	OSPESCA, USCG, USAID, NGOs	Working with local government agencies to improve MCS in Central America.
High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement/Shiprider Program	OLE	USAID	The United States will continue to enforce Public Law 102-582, the High Seas Driftnet Fisheries Enforcement Act, and UNGA Resolution 46/215, which called for a worldwide driftnet moratorium