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# International Fisheries Updates

Presentation to the CCC

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# Outline



- Indo-Pacific Strategy
- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework
- Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ)
- MMPA Import Provisions
- Moratorium Protection Act
- Maritime SAFE Act
- WECAFC
- WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

# Indo-Pacific Strategy

- White House issued Indo-Pacific Strategy in February 2022
- It articulates a policy to pursue an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient
- The Action Plan to implement the Strategy includes partnering to build resilience in the Pacific Islands, including cooperation to improve maritime security to safeguard fisheries and build MDA



# Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

- Effort to expand U.S. economic leadership in the region
- 13 countries, account for approximately 40 percent of global economy
- 4 Pillars
  - Connected Economy
  - Resilient Economy
  - Clean Economy
  - Fair Economy



# BBNJ



- The 5th IGC took place August 15-26, 2022
- Unable to finalize the negotiations and resumed 5th session will be scheduled as soon as possible
- On ABMTs, including MPAs, discussions included:
  - roles of IFBs and BBNJ in establishing ABMTs,
  - consultations with stakeholders, including IFBs
  - role of the Science and Technology Body
  - decision making mechanisms, including possible objection provisions
- State Dept. plans to hold stakeholder engagement meetings prior to the resumed session, highly encourage participation



# MMPA Import Provisions

- Prohibit importation of fish and fish products from nations with unsustainable levels of marine mammal bycatch
- Deadline for nations to apply for Comparability Findings was November 30, 2021
- NMFS is currently evaluating Comparability finding applications for 130+ nations and 2,500+ fisheries and will publish results in the Federal Register
- Comparability Findings are required for each harvesting fishery for its seafood to import into the U.S.



# High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

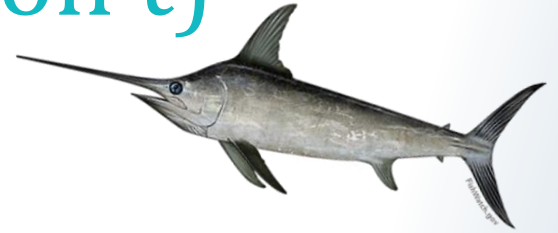


- In August 2021, NMFS released the *2021 Report to Congress on Improving International Fisheries Management*

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international/international-affairs/report-iuu-fishing-bycatch-and-shark-catch>

- NMFS negatively certified Mexico for illegal fishing in U.S. waters, implemented port restrictions
- NMFS identified 7 nations and entities for IUU fishing and 29 for bycatch of protected species (sea turtles); 5 nations identified for both

# Moratorium Protection Act (con't)



- Productive bilateral consultations to date
- Certification determinations made in 2023 report
- NOAA Fisheries is seeking info on nations/entities whose vessels are engaged in IUU fishing, or have protected species bycatch or shark catch on the high seas for the 2023 report

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/14/2022-07944/identification-of-nations-or-entities-engaged-in-illegal-unreported-or-unregulated-fishing-bycatch>





# Maritime SAFE Act

- Whole-of-government approach to counter IUU fishing and related threats to maritime security
- **Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing** has identified priority regions and priority flag states, and engagements with stakeholders
- 5-year Strategic Plan



# WECAFC Updates

IATC staff presented on outcomes of WECAFC18 and invited input from the Councils in advance of the first meeting of the Flyingfish-Dolphinfish Working Group (tentatively scheduled for 2023)

- CFMC Meeting: 11-12 August 2022
- GFMC Meeting: 14-17 August 2022
- SAFMC Seminar: 21 September 2022



IATC will continue to provide WECAFC updates and seek input from the Councils on issues of interest to U.S. stakeholders in coordination with NMFS SERO staff

# WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

- Concluded in June
- Prohibits the provision of subsidies:
  - to vessels or operators engaged in IUU fishing;
  - to fishing or fishing-related activities regarding an overfished stock; and
  - to fishing or fishing related activities on the unregulated high seas
- Agreement will come into force upon ratification by two-thirds of WTO Members



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# Thank you

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