

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

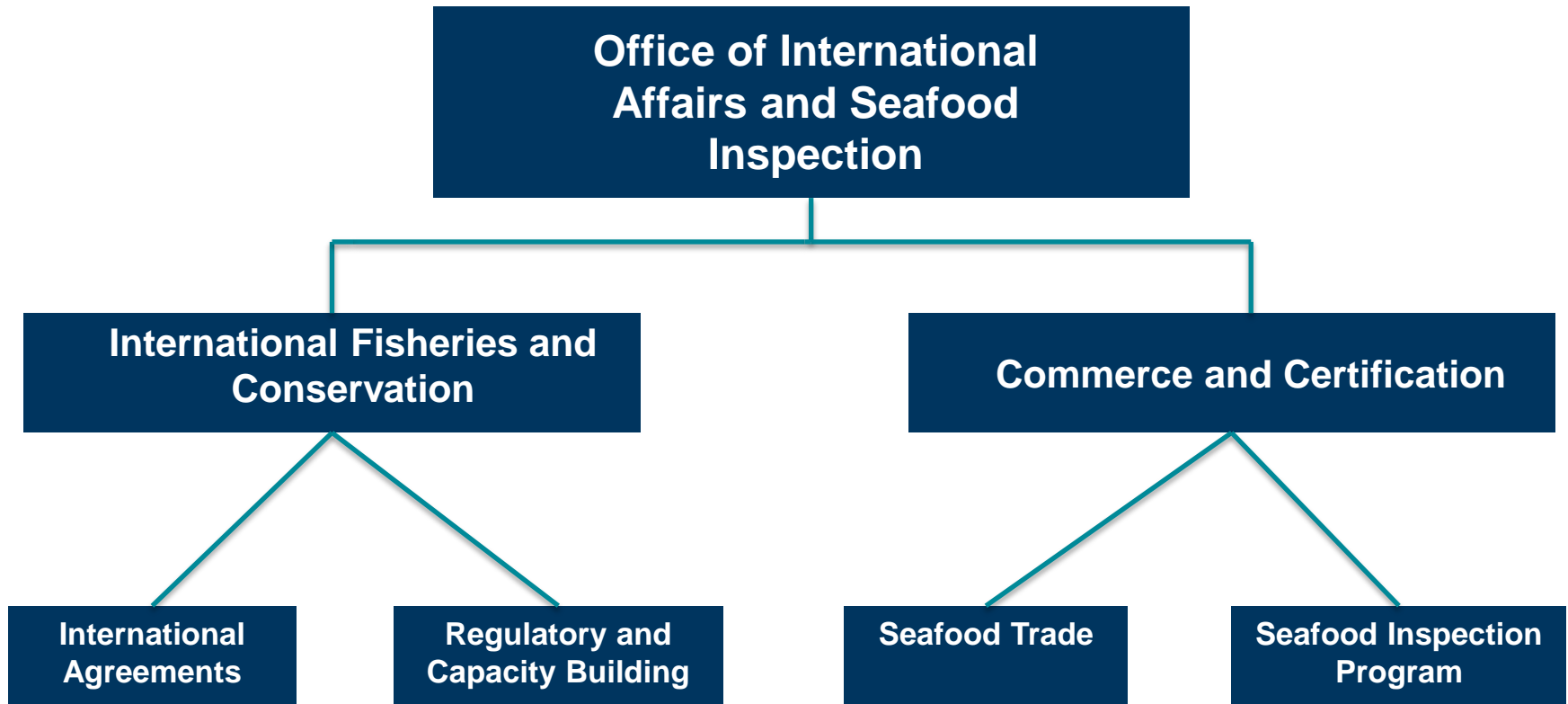
Office of  
International Affairs  
and Seafood  
Inspection

# International Issues - New Council Member Training

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# Office Structure & Priorities



# Mission

- U.S. fishery and conservation interests within RFMO, multi-lateral conservation agreement, and bilateral processes
- Strong, fair, and efficient global seafood markets for U.S. producers
- International seafood and trade, science, and management forums
- Coordinated and comprehensive approach to address NOAA's domestic and international stewardship mission
- Global capacity for sustainable fisheries management
- Level management and market playing fields for U.S. fishermen and the U.S seafood industry



# Authorities Behind Our Engagement

- MSFMCA
- High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Implementing legislation for treaties and agreements:
  - e.g., Pacific Salmon Treaty Act, Atlantic Tuna Convention Act, International Dolphin Conservation Program Act, and more
- Bilateral agreements with other governments

# Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

- Councils currently involved in:
  - Atlantic: NASCO, ICCAT, NAFO
  - Pacific: PSC, IPHC, NPAFC, WCPFC, IATTC
  - Once U.S. becomes party and implementing legislation adopted, new RFMOs for North and South Pacific
- Summary tables provides:
  - Implementing legislation
  - Species managed
  - Parties to the RFMO
  - Council(s) and relevant FMPs
  - Top U.S. objectives

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/agreements/international\\_agreements.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/agreements/international_agreements.html)

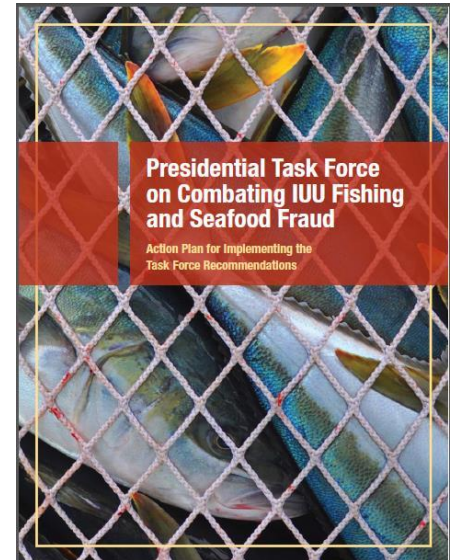
# International Role of the Councils

- Provide representation on Advisory Committees
- Provide recommendations for U.S. Commissioner appointments
- Information sharing
- Support harmonization of domestic and international regulations, as appropriate

# IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud 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>

# 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)





# MMPA Import Restriction PR

- 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



# 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



# 2015 Identifications

- Columbia – Violations of IATTC conservation measures
- Ecuador – Violations of IATTC conservation resolutions
- Mexico – Gulf of Mexico EEZ *lancha* incursions
- Nicaragua – Violations of IATTC conservation measures
- Nigeria – Undermining CCAMLR conservation measures
- Portugal – Violations of NAFO conservation measures





# Questions?

