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
  o Connected Economy
  o Resilient Economy
  o Clean Economy
  o Fair Economy
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

- 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
• 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

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
Thank you

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