



U.S. Coast Guard's Role in Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

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IUU Fishing Statistics

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a pervasive, far-reaching security threat.

1 in 5 fish

Caught around the world is thought to have originated from IUU fishing.¹



GLOBAL IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING

3.3 billion

People, nearly half the world's population, rely on fish for 20% of their animal protein.² IUU fishing removes access to this valuable protein source, particularly to the most vulnerable coastal States.



\$401 billion

First sale value of global fish production in 2018.² IUU Fishing results in tens of billions of dollars of lost revenue to legal fishers every year.



93%

Of the world's major marine fish stocks are classified as fully exploited, overexploited, or significantly depleted.² IUU fishing undermines the sustainable management of these resources, pushing them to the limits of their capacity.



DOMESTIC IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING

80%

Of fish eaten in the U.S. are imported.¹ Without effective traceability and monitoring, illegally caught fish around the world can enter the U.S. market.



\$5.6 billion

Value of U.S. commercial fisheries in 2018. When IUU fish enter the marketplace, legal U.S. fishers are disadvantaged.³



U.S. Domestic Actions Against IUU Fishing



Identification: Nations engaged in IUU fishing identified in the Report to Congress.

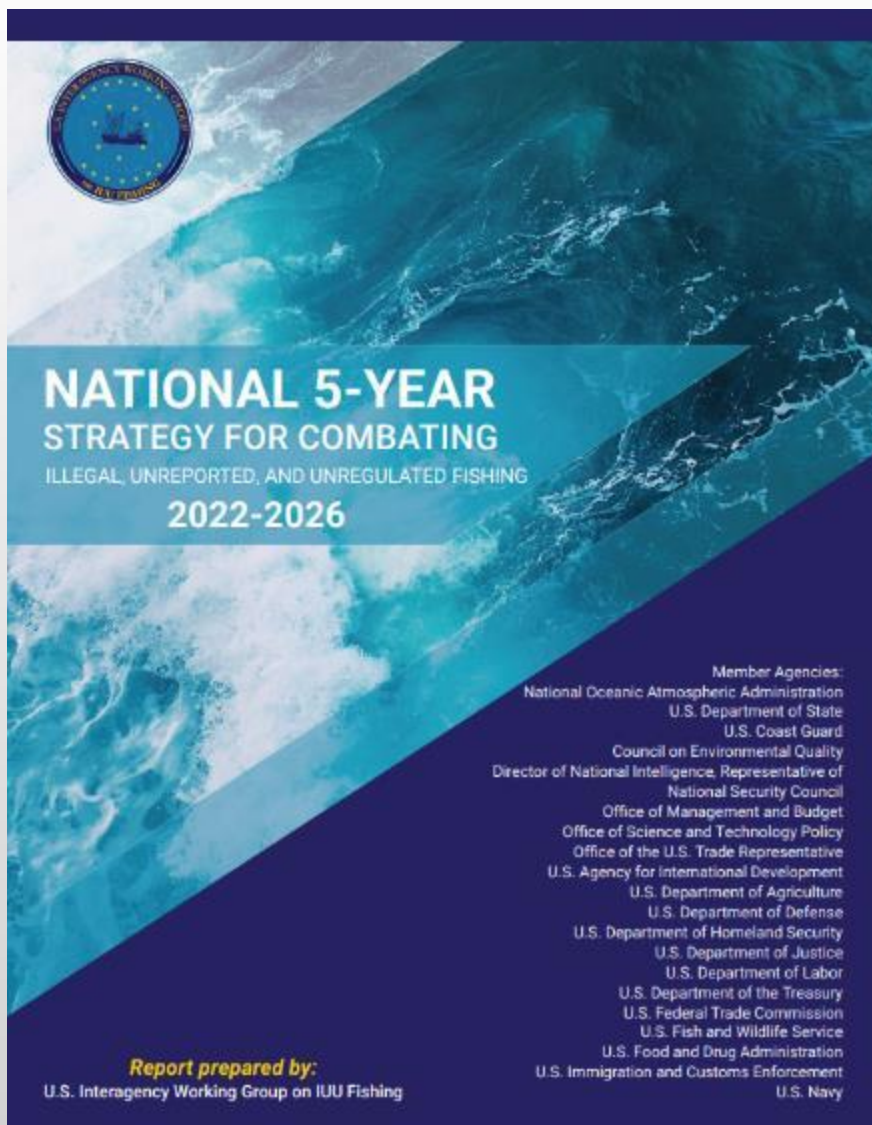
Consultation: United States works with identified nations on actions to address the activities for which they were identified.

Certification: Positive or Negative Certification decisions issued based on the actions of the nations.

Potential Consequences of Negative Certification: Port Denials in U.S. and Economic Sanctions/Seafood Bans



National 5-Year Strategy for Combatting IUU Fishing

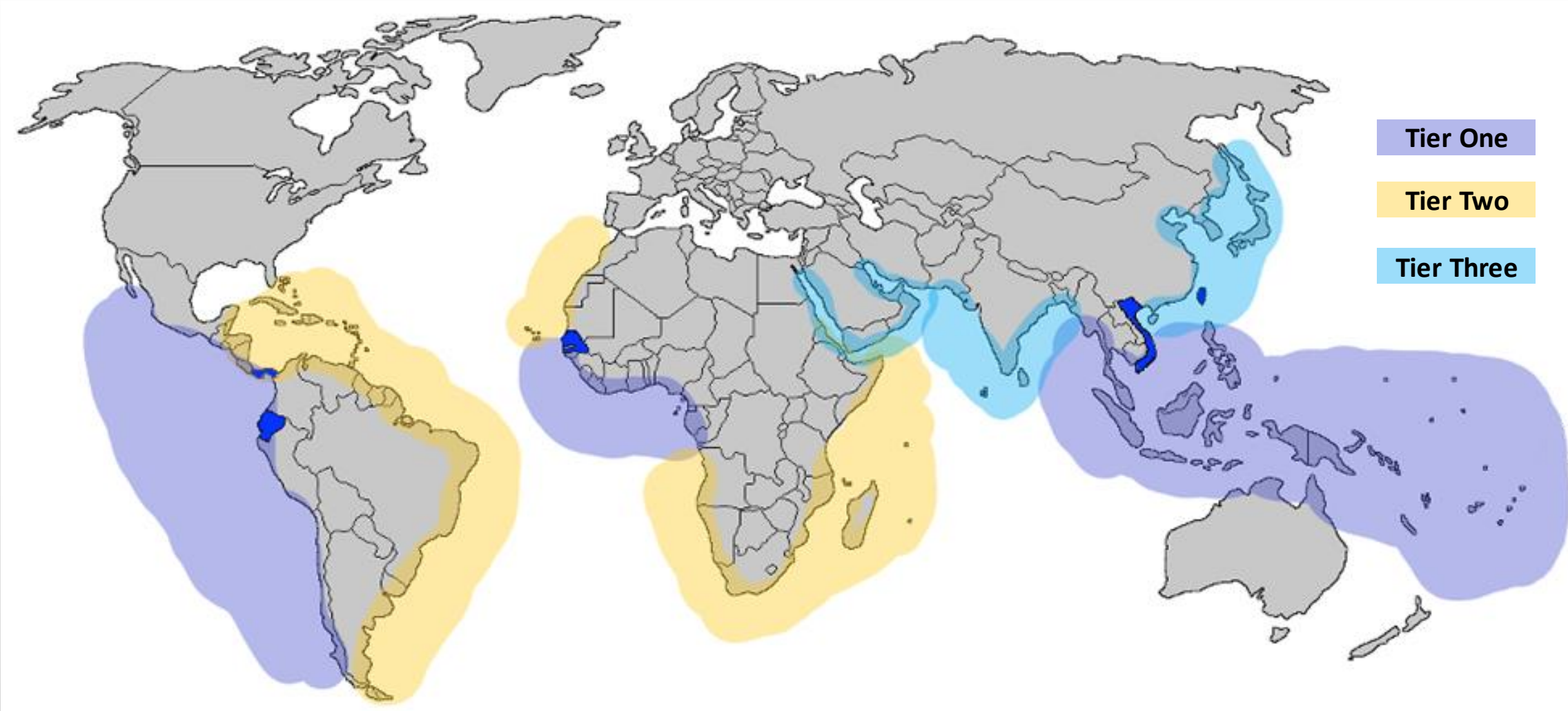


Strategic Objectives

1. Promote Sustainable Fisheries Management and Governance
2. Enhance Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) of Marine Fishing Operations
3. Ensure Only Legal, Sustainable, and Responsibly Harvested Seafood Enters Trade

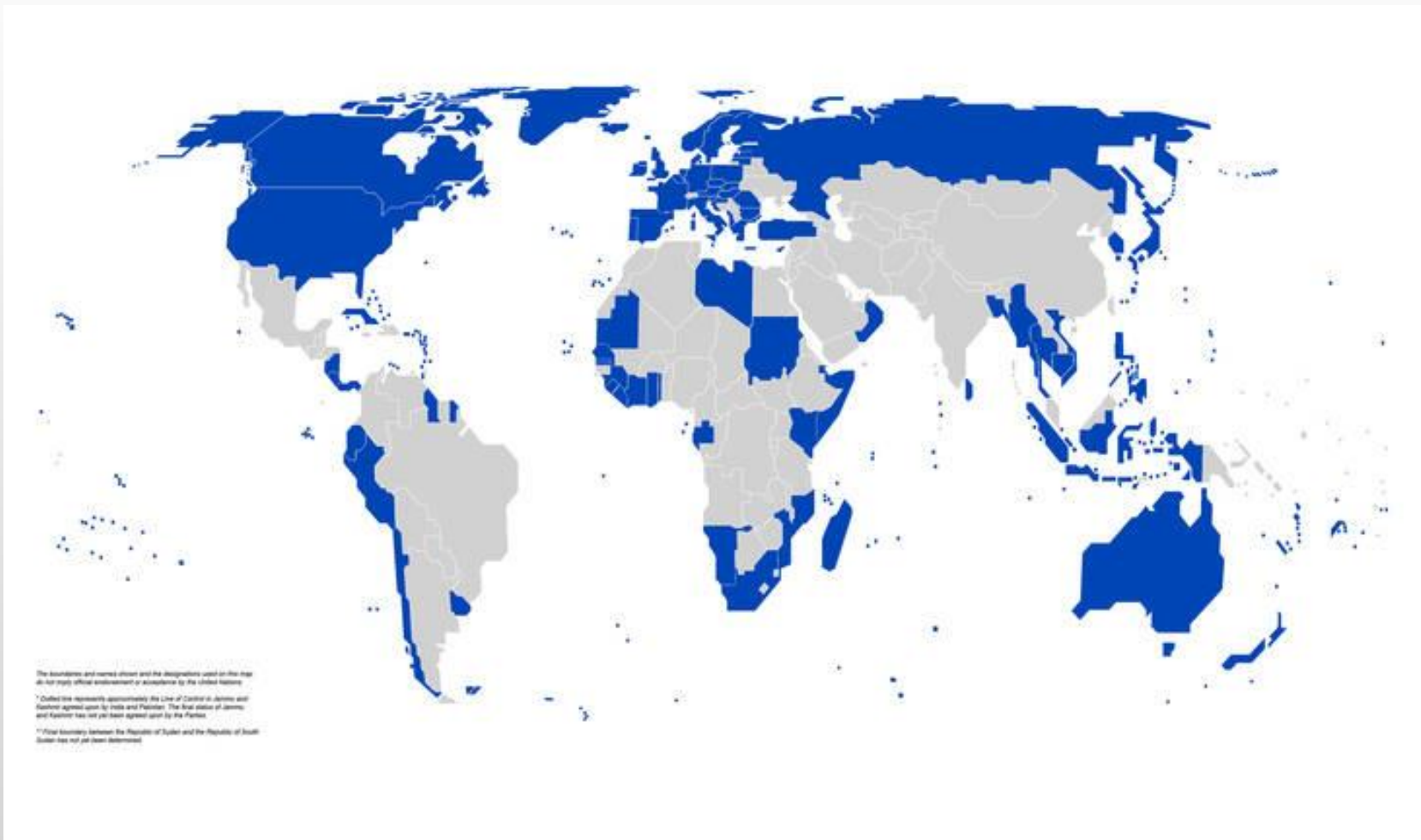


Maritime SAFE Act Priority Regions and States



Priority Flag States: Ecuador, Panama, Senegal, Taiwan, and Vietnam

Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)





U.S. Coast Guard – Appropriate At Sea Service for the Threat

USCG has the Inter-Agency, MOU, and MLE agreements in addition to Title 10, Title 14 and Title 50 Authorities that make it a unique national instrument of power





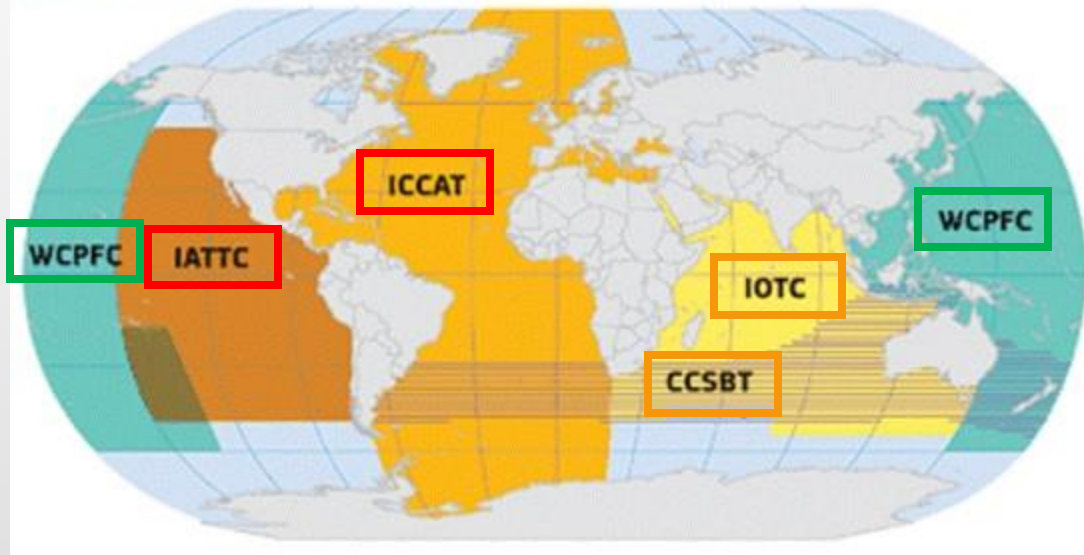
Domestic and International Challenges to Combating IUUF

- Tyranny of Distance
 - The U.S. has the largest EEZ in the World (3.4 Million Square NMs)
 - Expansion of Marine Protected Areas
 - Limited Monitoring and Surveillance Capabilities
 - Resource Constraints
- Lack of Governance on the High Seas
 - Limitations of RFMOs

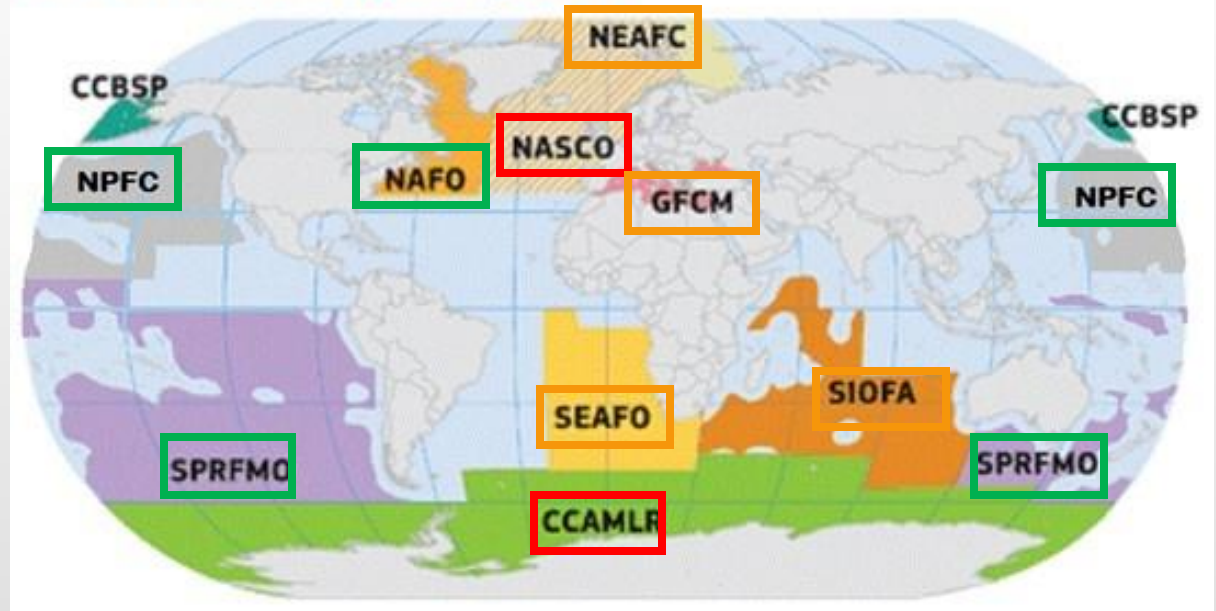
Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Related Agreements



RFMOs for highly migratory fish stocks
(tuna and associated species)



RFMOs for non-tuna species



• The U.S. is party to 15 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations RFMOs or International Treaties but only has High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) authority in four:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
- North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO)

	Boardings
	U.S. Not Party
	No Boardings



Bilateral Maritime Law Enforcement Agreements with Shiprider Provisions

Allows the Coast Guard to support other nations' marine protected resources enforcement capabilities through training and provides operational platform support for nations with limited capacity to exert their sovereignty.

12 bilateral agreements with Pacific Island Nations (PINs):

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Papua New Guinea

6 bilateral agreements with African nations:

Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Seychelles

1 bilateral agreement in the Pacific AREA in South America:

Ecuador

Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

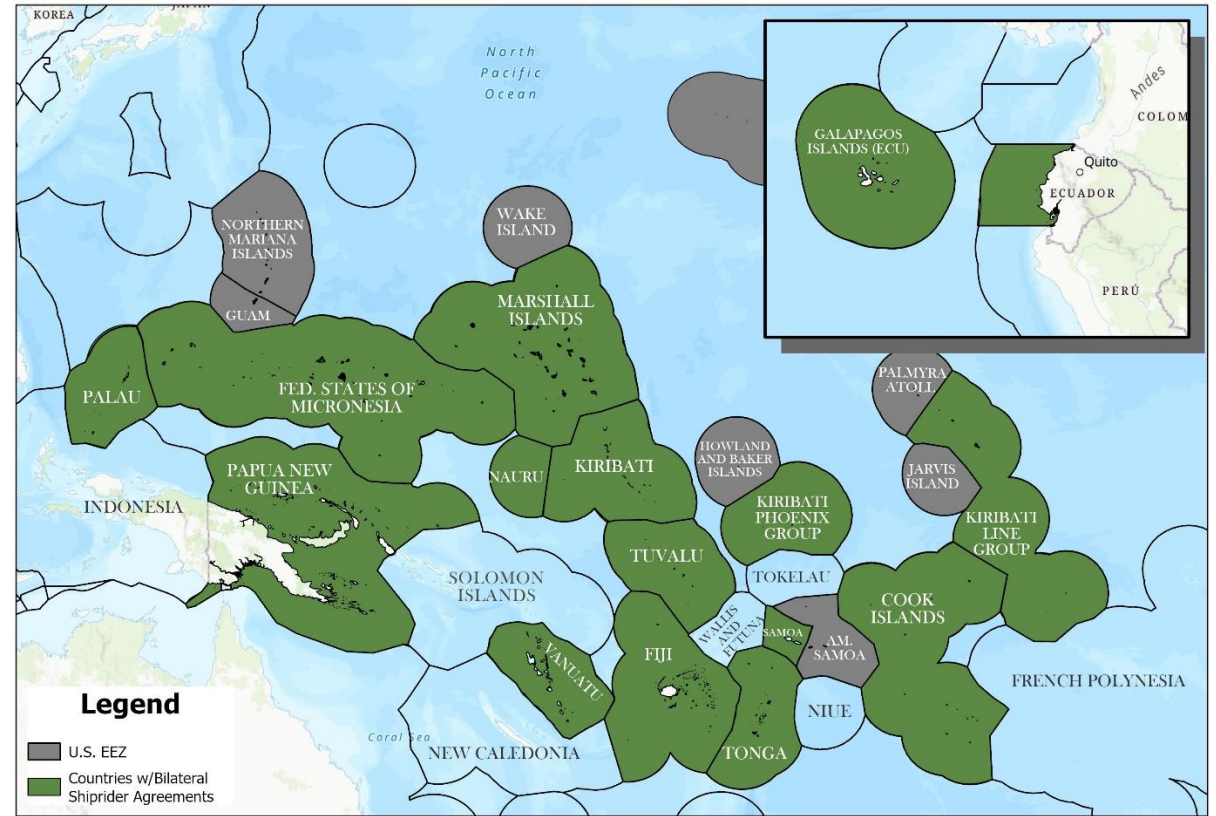
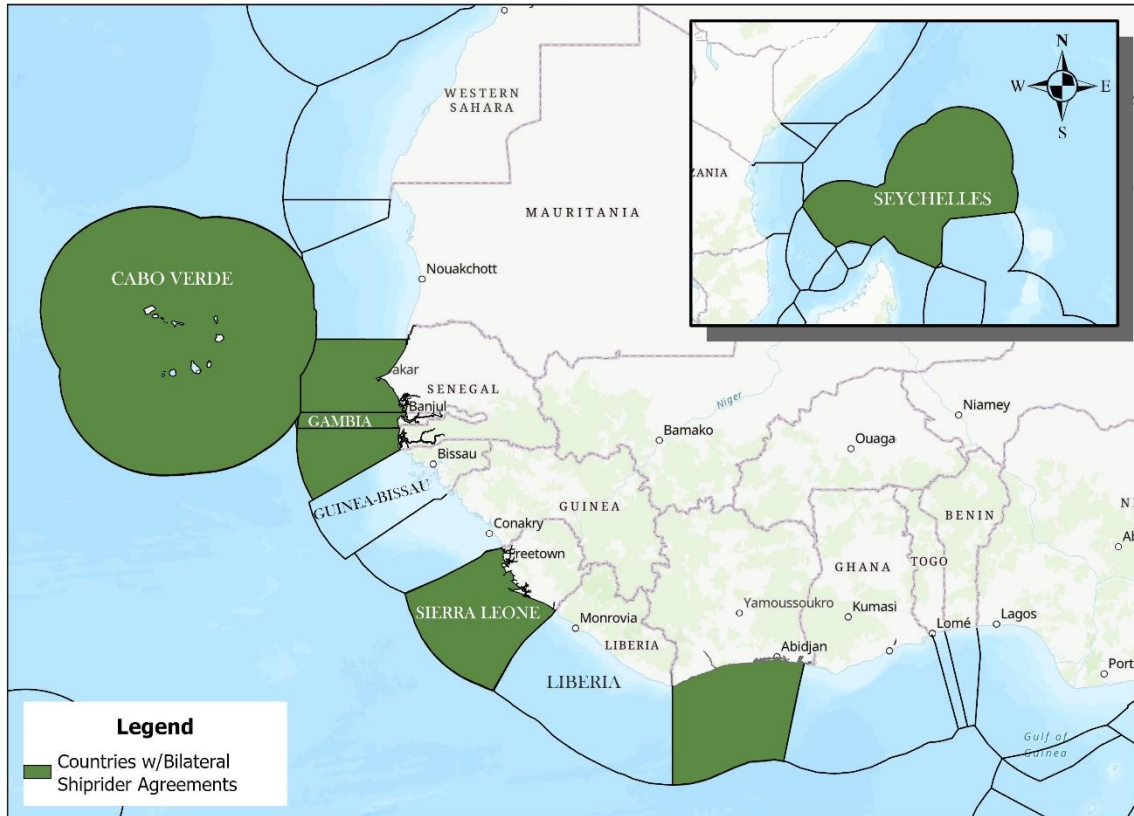


Atlantic Country Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

Pacific Country Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

Atlantic Area Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

Pacific Area Bilateral Shiprider Agreements



EEZ Data: Flanders Marine Institute (2024); MarineRegions.org. Available online at www.marineregions.org. <https://doi.org/10.25504/FAIRsharing.5164e7>

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Operation NORTH PACIFIC GUARD

- A multinational mission aimed to discover illegal high seas driftnets (IAW the U.N. ban), illegal fishing activity, and inspect fishing vessels to ensure compliance with conservation management measures (CMMs).
- Canada led the operation in 2023, with support from a USCG law enforcement detachment.
- Inspected over 400 fishing vessels to confirm compliance with CMMs in both WCPFC and NPFC. During the inspections, boarding parties found a total of 3,000 shark fins, an indication that illegal shark finning continues unabated.

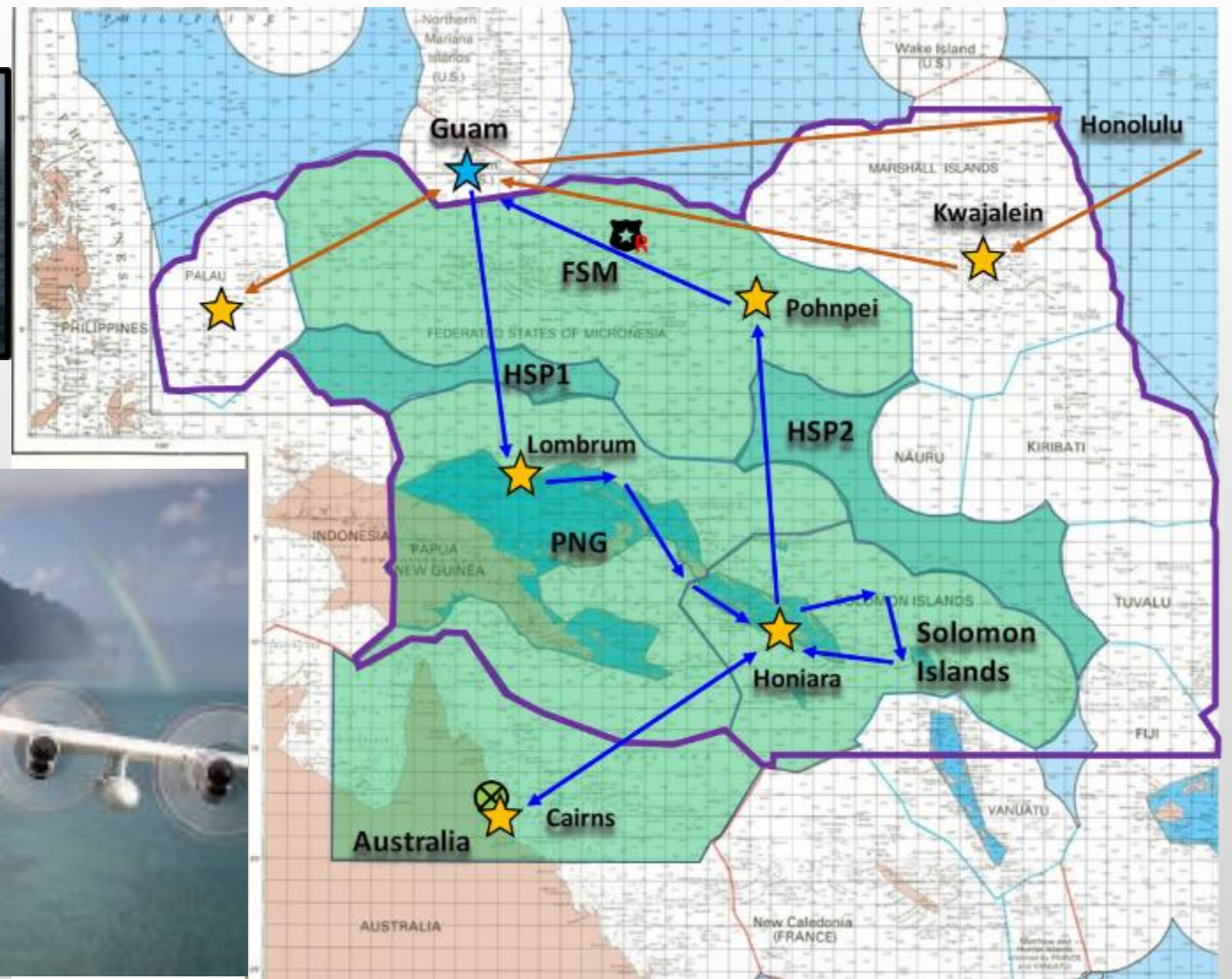




Operation BLUE PACIFIC

Multiple Iterations:

ISLAND CHIEF
KURU KURU
RAI BALANG
TUI MOANA
NASSE
AIGA





Operation *SOUTHERN SHIELD*



Summary

- SPRFMO's formal high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) conservation management measure went into effect 01 October 2023
- CGC ALDER & CGC TERRELL HORNE conducted first official HSBI in the high seas off Peru
- Total Results:
 - HSBI: 04 (3 Transshipment / 1 F/V)
 - Sighting Reports: 28
 - 18 Peruvian Observers



Operation NANOOK



In Support of NAFO

- Conducted 6 vessel inspections (3 Spanish, 2 Russian, 1 Portuguese).
- Conducted visual inspection on 2 Russian FVs.
- Participated in drone operations with EU contractor from Norway.
- Participated in NAFO drills with EU country inspectors from Lithuania, Estonia, and Portugal.
- Intergrated with EU crew by participated in shipboard drills.
- Enhanced relationships with cumulative effort and SME reps from multi-lateral country boarding team.





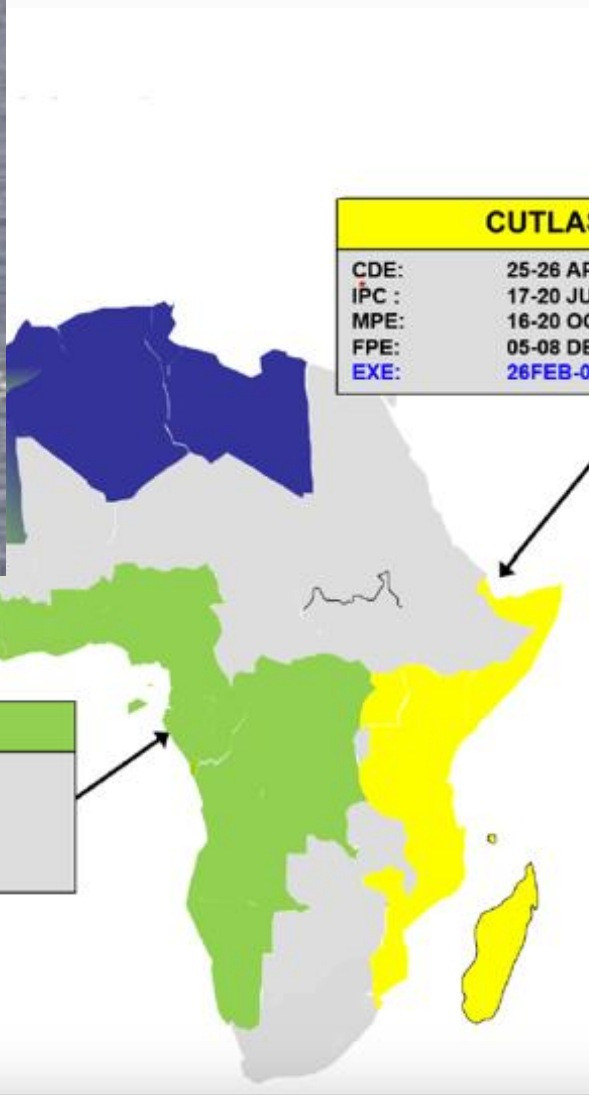
Operation *SOUTHERN CROSS*

- JAMES patrol conducting regional engagements with Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.
- JAMES will monitor the distant water squid fleet.
- JAMES will monitor and log the activities of ICCAT permitted fishing vessels.





NAVAF's Operation EXPRESS Series



CUTLASS EXPRESS 24		
CDE:	25-26 APR 23	Naples, Italy
IPC :	17-20 JUL 23	Seychelles
MPE:	16-20 OCT 23	Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
FPE:	05-08 DEC 23	Djibouti City, Djibouti
EXE:	26FEB-08MAR 24	Djibouti

OBANGAME EXPRESS 24		
CDE:	27-28 APR23	Naples, Italy
IPE:	21-23 JUN 23	Virtual
MPE:	25-29 SEP 23	Paris, FRA
FPE:	30 JAN-2 FEB	Libreville, Gabon
EXE:	6-17 0May 24	Gabon

Coast Guard routinely supports with LEDETs aboard USN partner nation ships.

Coast Guard routinely supports with major cutter presence, or LEDETs aboard USN or partner nation ships.





What is Next on the Horizon?





Questions?

