



# **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.<sup>1</sup>



### GLOBAL IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING

**3.3 billion**

People, nearly half the world's population, rely on fish for 20% of their animal protein.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>



# *U.S. Domestic Actions Against IUU Fishing*



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

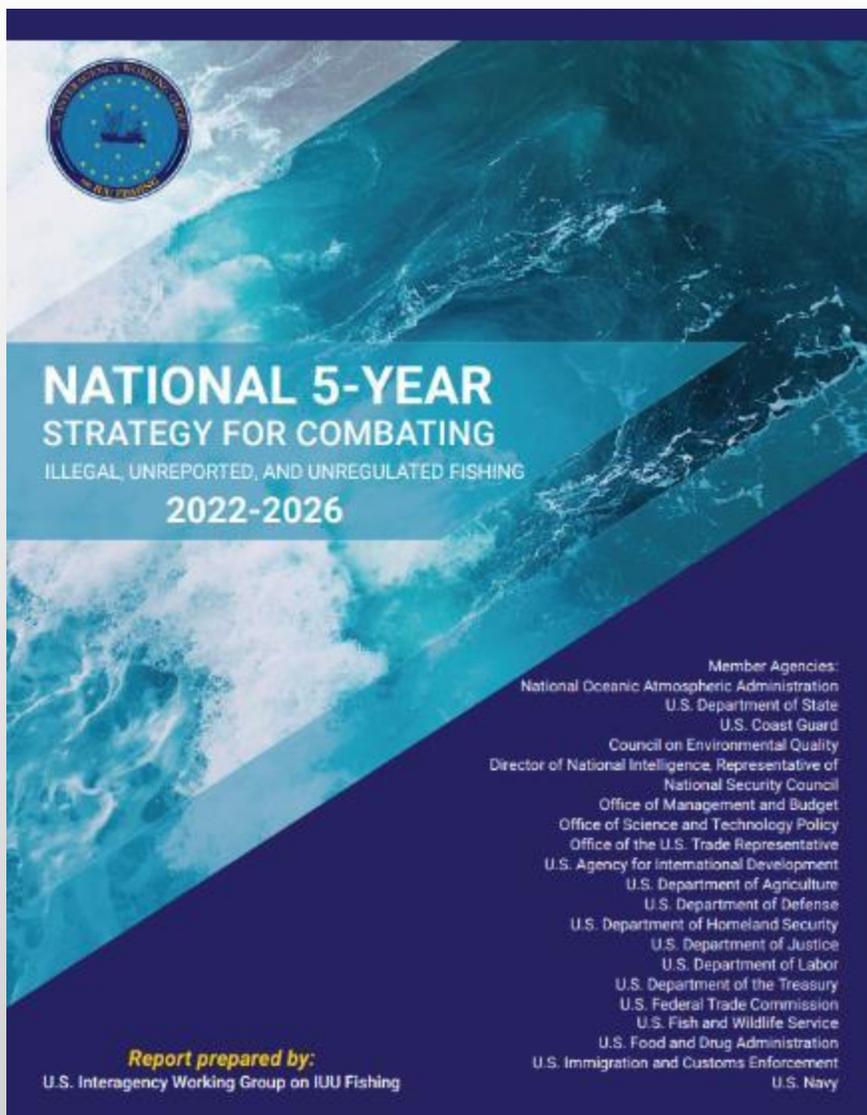
**Consultation: United States works with identified nations on actions to address the activities for which they were identified.**

**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*

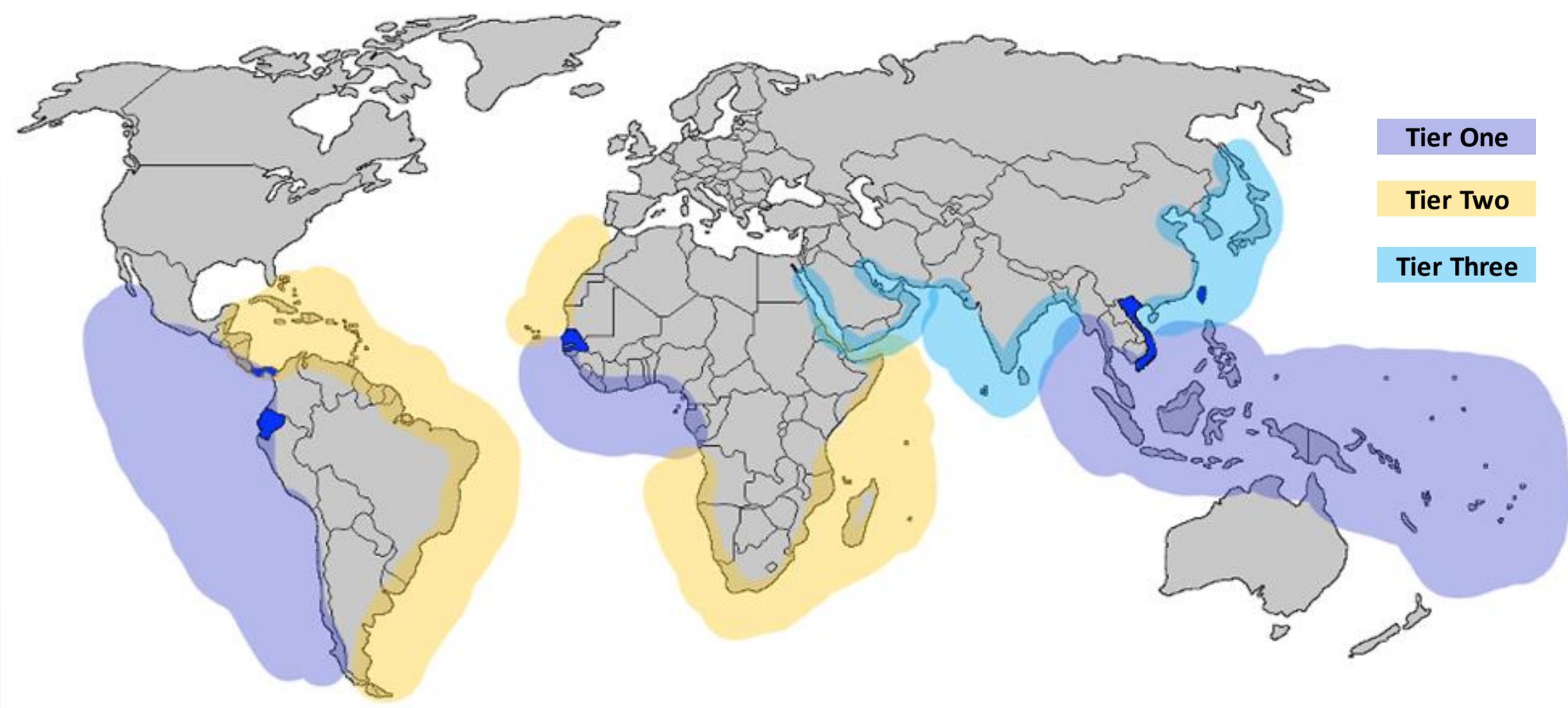


## *Strategic Objectives*

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



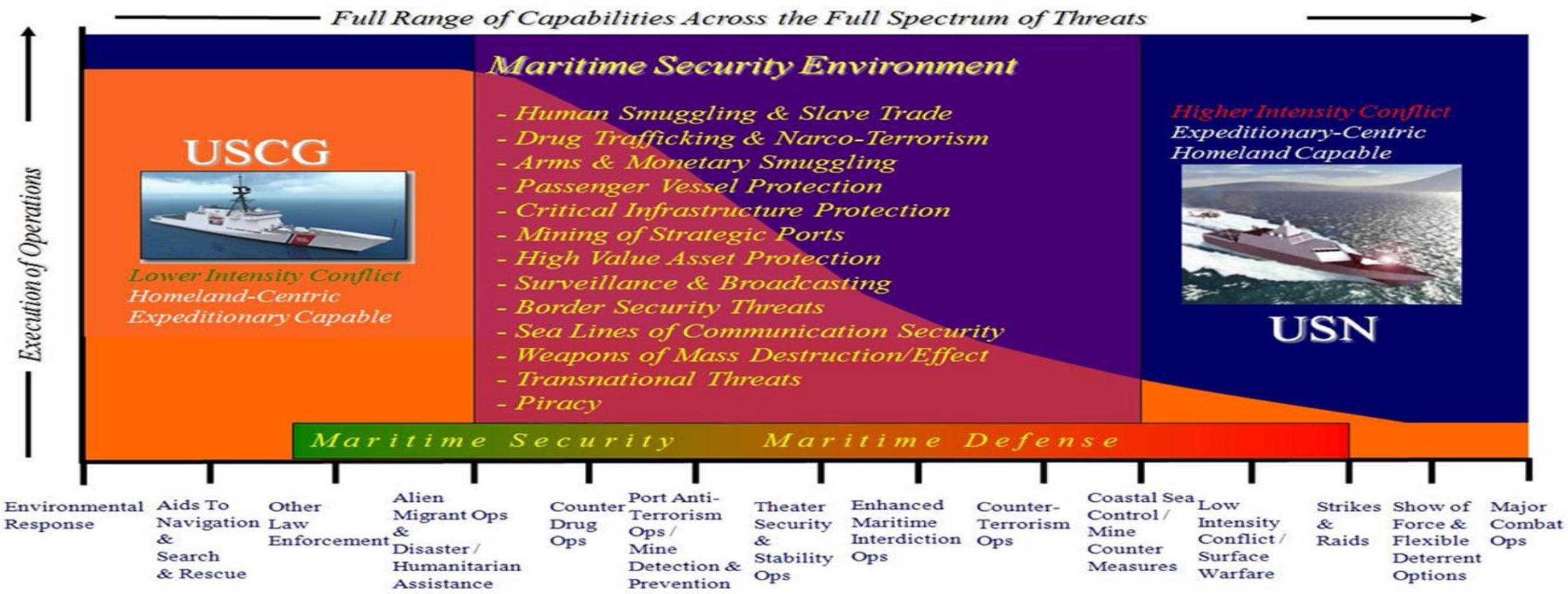
**Priority Flag States: Ecuador, Panama, Senegal, Taiwan, and Vietnam**





# 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





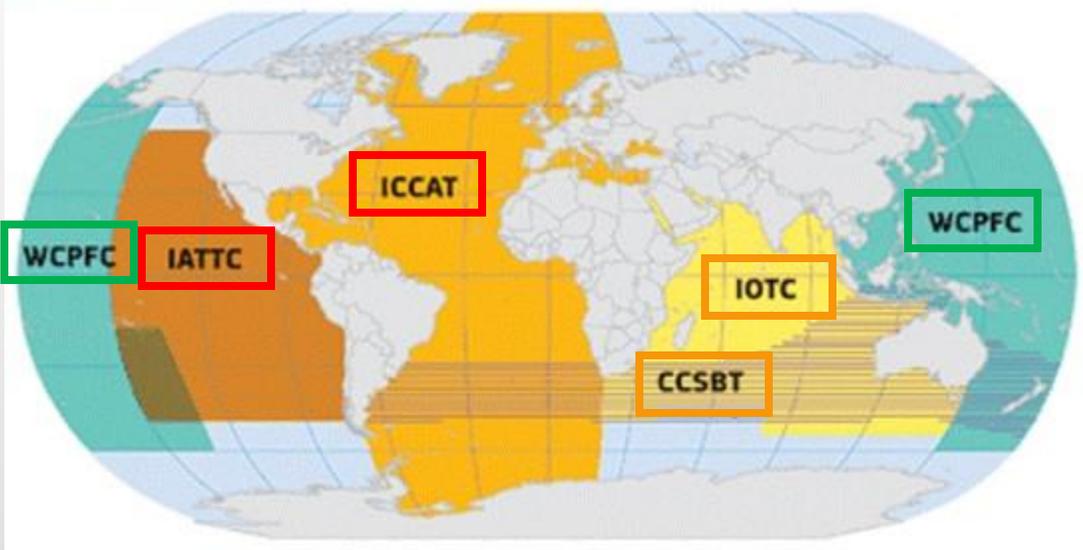
## *Domestic and International Challenges to Combating IUUF*

- 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

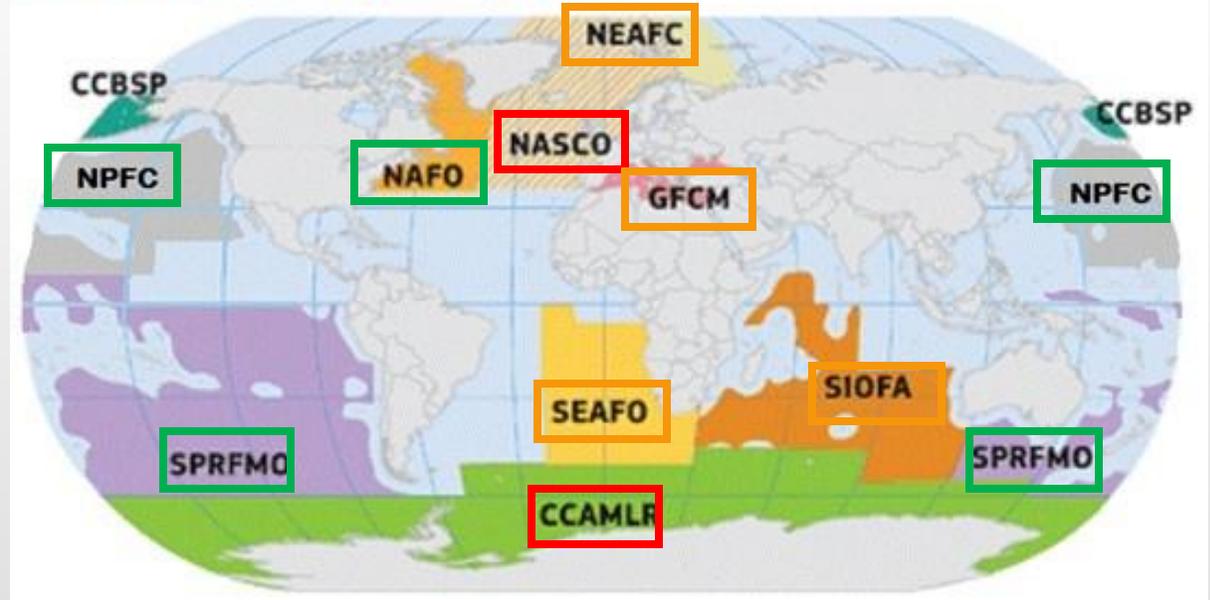
# Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Related Agreements



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:**

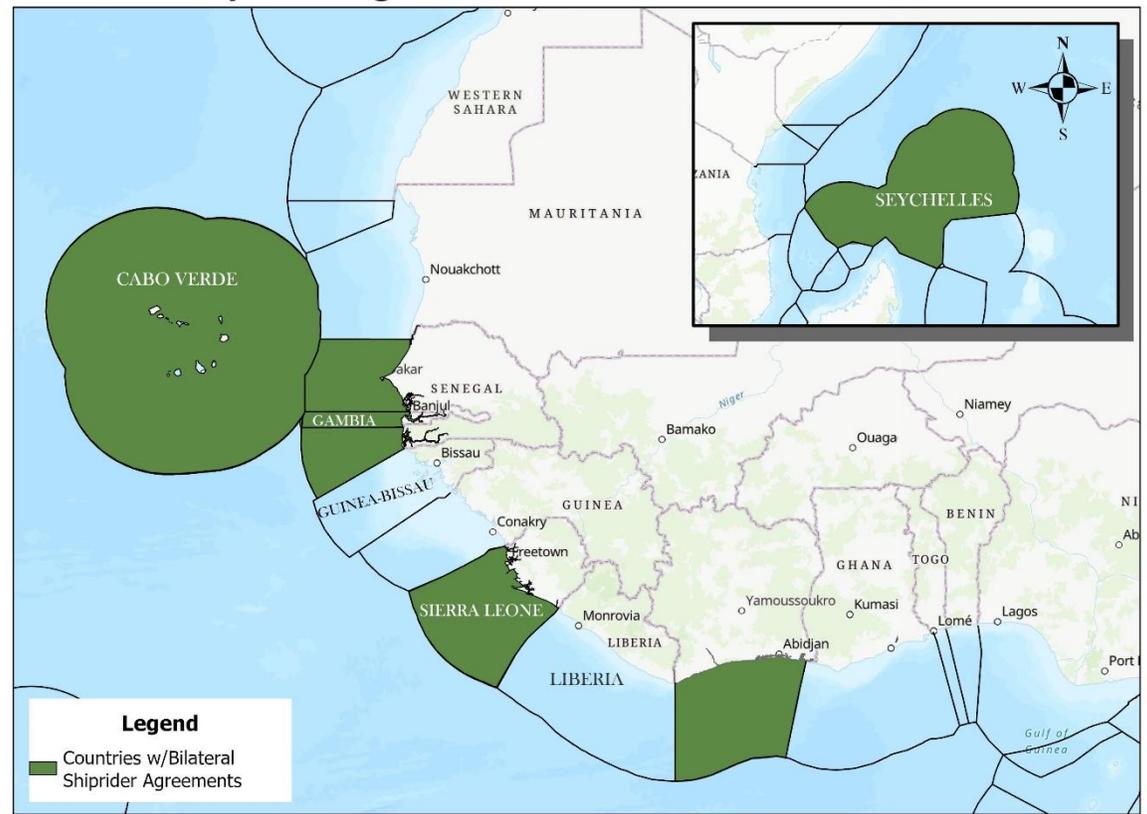
Ecuador

# Bilateral Shiprider Agreements



## Atlantic Country Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

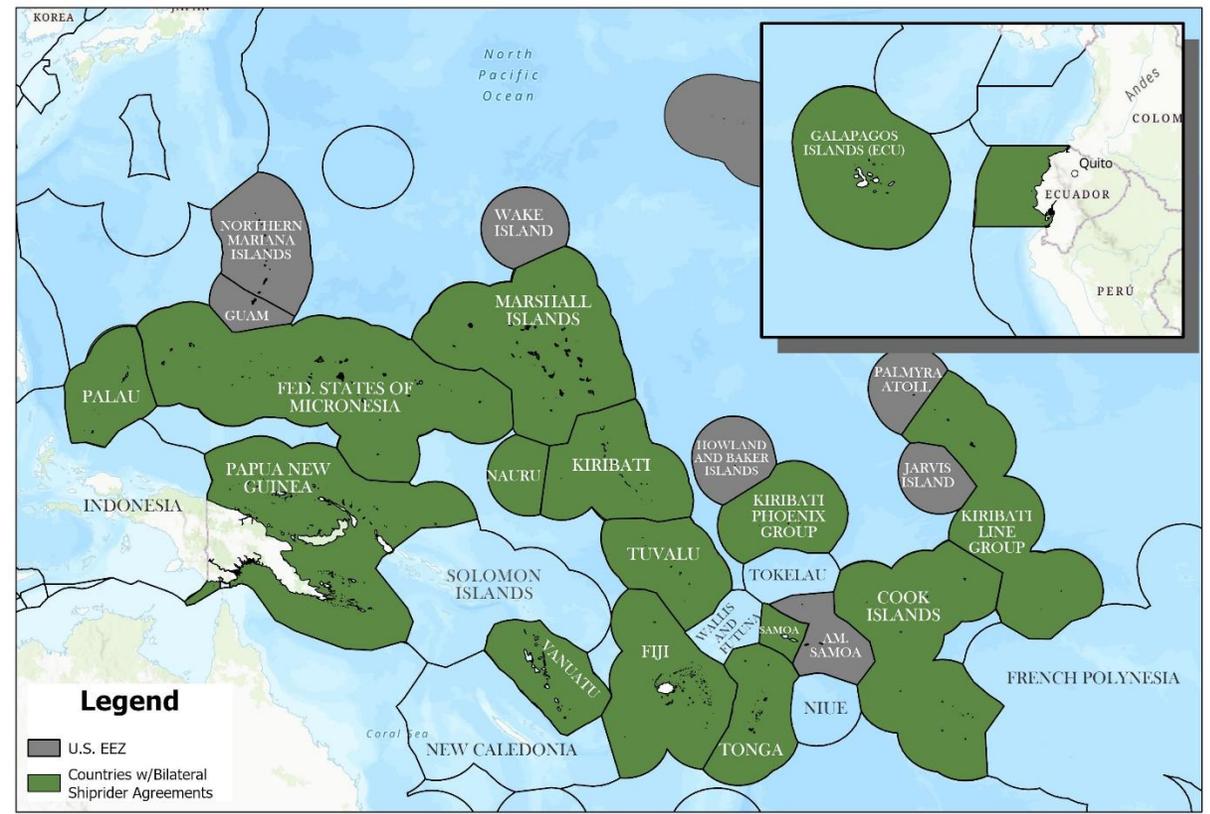
### Atlantic Area Bilateral Shiprider Agreements



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

## Pacific Country Bilateral Shiprider Agreements

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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.

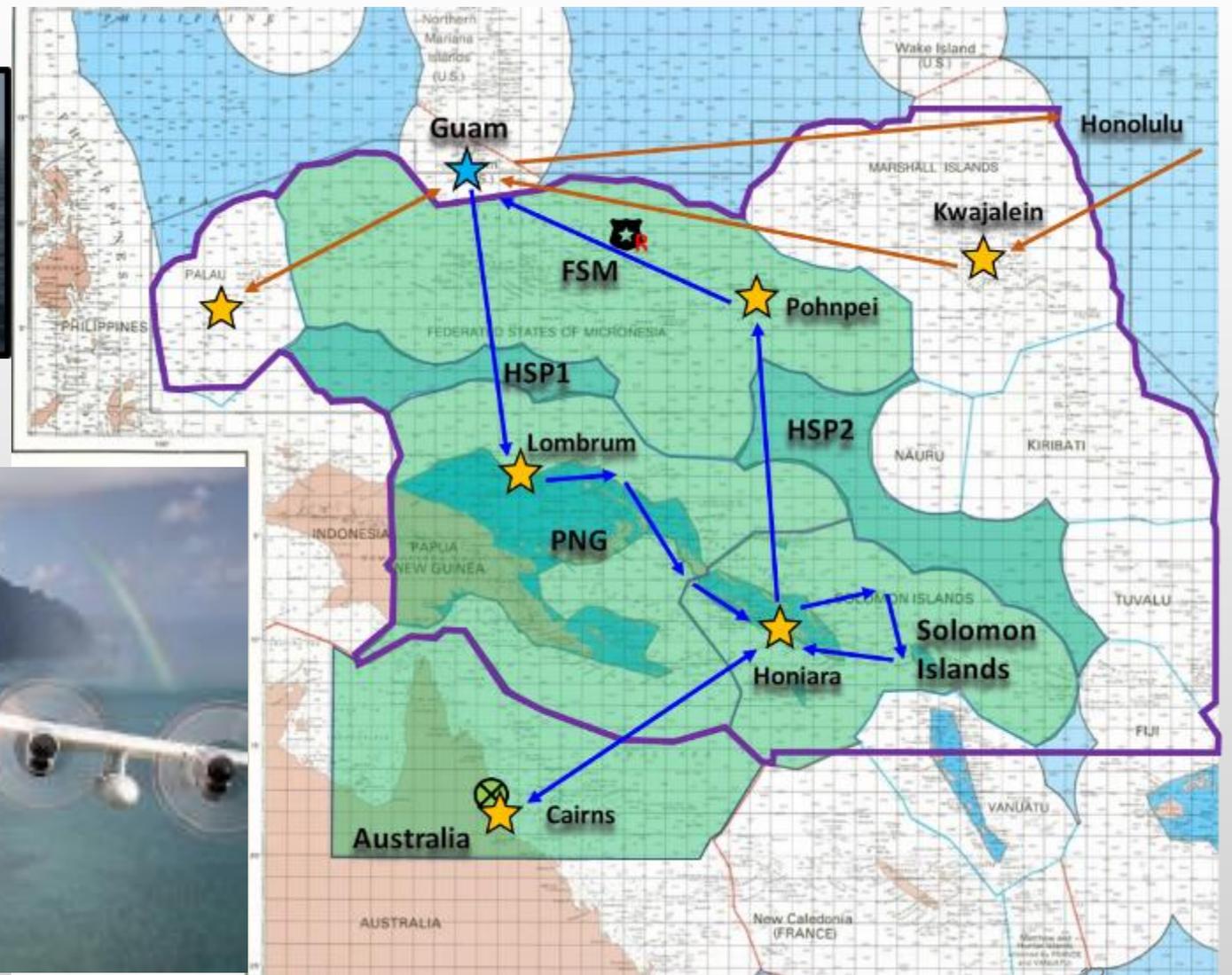




# Operation BLUE PACIFIC

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.





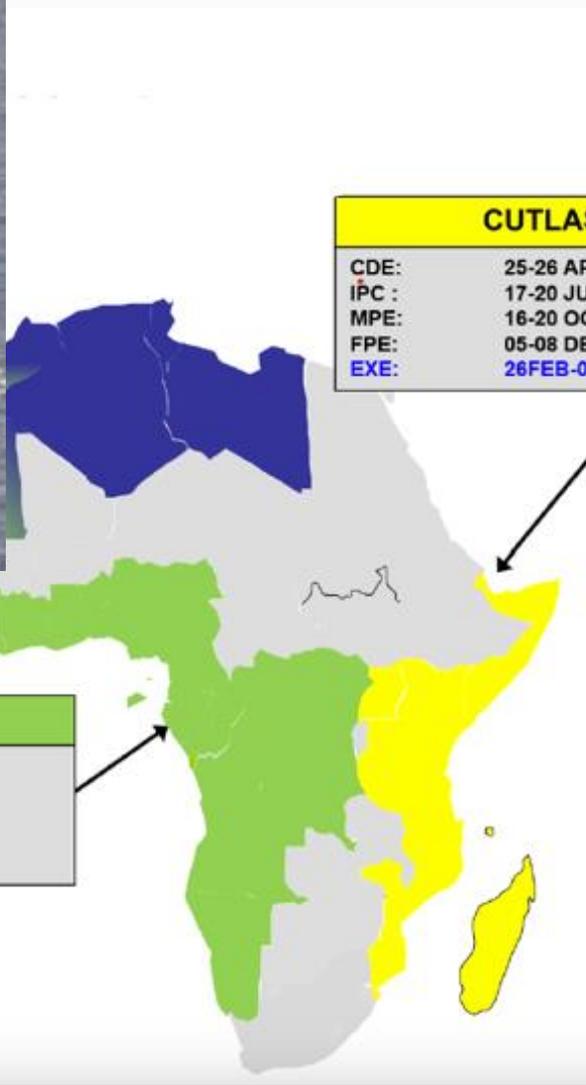
# Operation *SOUTHERN CROSS*

- 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?

