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Joint Initiative Commends the Inclusion of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Safeguards in Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

October 5, 2015 (Washington, D.C.)— As Co-Chairs of The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, we applaud the Obama Administration’s efforts to include commitments to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing that would require states to implement port state measures. These provisions directly address one of the most significant global threats to sustainable management and stewardship of global fishery resources and make important progress in implementing the recent [Presidential Task Force](#) recommendations.

“The Administration has taken a strong step toward combating the problem of IUU fishing by including language on requiring port state measures,” stated Norm Mineta, Co-Chair for the Joint Initiative Leadership Council. “This will help ensure that illegally harvested fish do not enter international commerce, which has significant adverse impacts on the U.S. fishing industry and U.S. fishermen by depleting global fish stocks and introducing unfair competition on the global seafood market.”

The Joint Initiative has been an active supporter of the Administration’s efforts to address IUU fishing and played a [vocal role](#) in championing the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), which was ratified by the Senate in 2014. In order for the U.S. to fulfill its commitments under that Agreement, the Joint Initiative [encourages](#) the Congress to promptly enact legislation to implement the PSMA. The House of Representatives advanced this critical implementing legislation (H.R.774), and the Joint Initiative strongly supports expeditious Senate passage of S.1334, the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

“We have always been strong supporters of efforts to curtail illegal fishing and are pleased by the Administration’s announcement,” said Bill Ruckelshaus, Co-Chair of the Joint Initiative Leadership Council. “Proper management of our ocean resources requires an international framework that applies across all nations, and we applaud the steps taken to include a provision that advances those goals.”

The IUU provisions and prohibitions on fisheries subsidies that contribute to overfishing and unsustainable global fisheries in the TPP represent a significant accomplishment, and the Joint Initiative looks forward to supporting the Administration and Congress as they finalize and implement the policy mechanisms to advance international efforts to protect sustainable ocean resources.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission. The primary goal of the Joint Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.