



# *the* **TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP** Protecting Our Oceans

Covering three quarters of the planet, the ocean is the world's largest and greatest shared resource. Over 2.5 billion people rely on fish and seafood as their primary source of protein and millions depend on the ocean's bounty for their livelihoods. Unfortunately, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing is growing as an environmental threat to the oceans and all that depend on them.

Estimated to drive global economic losses in the billions each year, IUU fishing undermines efforts to sustainably manage fish stocks and treasured marine species, like endangered sea turtles. It also hurts legitimate fishers and businesses. Billions of dollars in subsidies to international fishing fleets exacerbate this problem, encouraging overfishing and further depleting global fishery resources. Together, these practices are a grave threat to ocean resources and the livelihoods of fishers and their communities. Coordinated regional and global action to safeguard the ocean is

essential—no single nation claims sole right to its use, or responsibility for its protection. The TPP Agreement—being negotiated with 11 other Asia Pacific countries—provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put in place vital protections in this effort. All of these commitments will be subject to dispute settlement and the application of trade sanctions in the event of a violation. TPP partners account for one-quarter of global marine catch and seafood exports and are among the world's top fishing nations (most notably Vietnam, Chile, Peru, and Japan).

The TPP Agreement is currently on track to include commitments to:

- **Eliminate some of the most harmful subsidies for fishing**, including those that contribute to overfishing. These are the kinds of subsidy disciplines that countries have been trying to negotiate, without success, in the World Trade Organization for over a decade.
- **Combat IUU fishing, including through implementation of "port state measures"**—which are controls at port, such as inspections and seizures—and support for monitoring and enforcement systems in order to deter trade in pirated fish.
- **Promote the long-term conservation** of at-risk and endangered marine species, including marine mammals—like whales and dolphins—and some of the world's oldest creatures—sea turtles, sea birds, and sharks.
- **Promote sustainable fisheries management systems** based on the best scientific information and internationally recognized best practices.
- **Implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.** CITES provides a vital international framework for marine species that are often highly-migratory and cross national boundaries.

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## The Bottom Line

**TPP commitments to promote sustainable fisheries management, eliminate some of the most harmful fisheries subsidies, and combat illegal fishing are groundbreaking and can make a significant contribution to global efforts to conserve oceans and protect fisheries, while ensuring a level playing field for legitimate fishing operations and trade.**