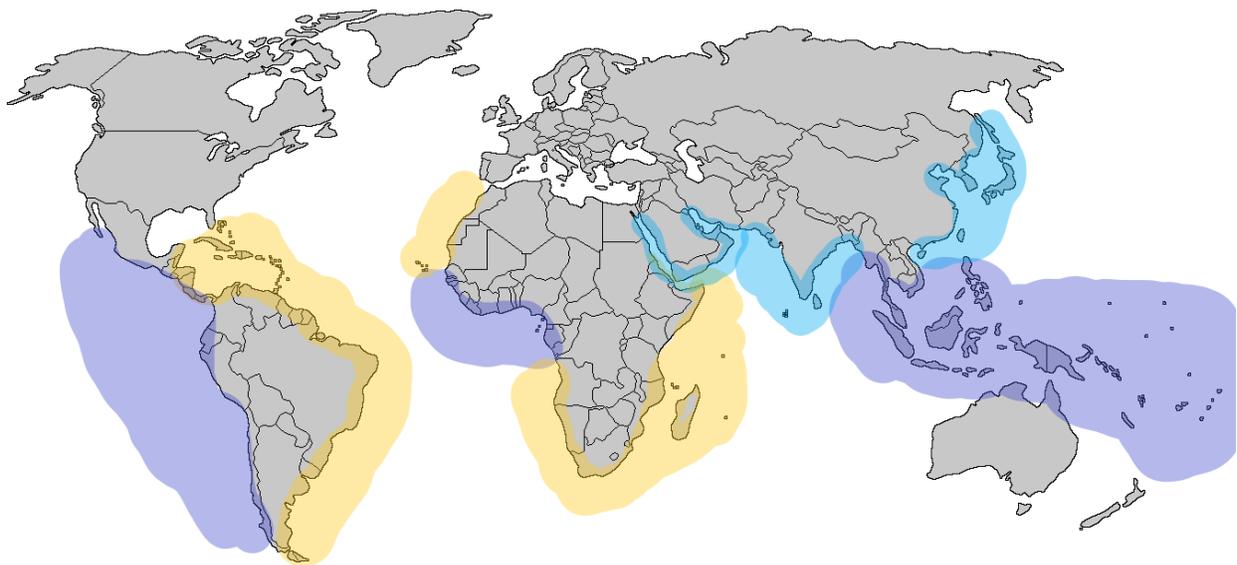# Maritime SAFE Act Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing
Priority Regions

Section 3552 (b) of the Act charges the Maritime SAFE Act Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing with developing a list of priority regions at risk for IUU fishing. The work is intended to help focus and prioritize work through the Department of State's overseas Missions to support capacity building, training, and information-sharing to combat IUU fishing, as well as a wide range of activities by all of the Maritime SAFE Act Working Group agencies and the equities they represent.

The Maritime SAFE Act defines "priority regions" as "at high risk for IUU fishing activity or the entry of illegally caught seafood into the markets of countries in the region; and in which countries lack the capacity to fully address the illegal activity."

The Interagency Working Group assessed different regions through a framework that evaluated information about recent or egregious cases of IUU fishing in each region, the diverse coastal countries' institutional and operational capacity to deal with IUU fishing, and how the countries within the region participate in the seafood supply chain and global markets.

Based on this analysis, the Working Group developed the following list of priority regions, along with an illustrative list of the countries, territories, and entities with coastlines in or near each region, tiered to help prioritize U.S. activities to address the risks of IUU fishing. Regions are not ranked within each tier.

Tier One
South and Central America (Pacific Ocean)
Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru.

Gulf of Guinea

Benin, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, São Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Togo.

Southeast Asia (Gulf of Thailand, Java Sea, Banda Sea, Celebes Sea)

Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam.

South Pacific

Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

Tier Two

Central America and Caribbean (Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea)

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint Martin, French Guiana), Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kingdom of the Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands), Venezuela.

South America (Atlantic Ocean)

Argentina, Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Uruguay.

Northwest Africa (Atlantic Ocean)

The Gambia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal.

Southern and Central Africa (Atlantic and Indian Ocean)

Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa.

East Africa (Indian Ocean)

Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania.

Tier Three

Middle East and Gulf States (Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea)

Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

South Asia (Bay of Bengal)

Bangladesh, Burma, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

East Asia Pacific (East China Sea, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk)

China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, North Korea, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Taiwan.