JOINT STATEMENT

BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ON EFFORTS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND
UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

We, Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Dr.
Jane Lubchenco, the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator, recognize the
importance of combating IUU fishing and our mutual interest in strengthening our
cooperation for this purpose.

IUU fishing constitutes one of the most serious threats to the conservation and sustainable
exploitation of marine biological resources in the world's oceans. The European Union and
the United States each play a key role in the commercial exploitation of fishery products
globally, both as flag States and market States. This conveys a vast responsibility on both
sides for the protection of the oceans' vital food and marine biological resources.

IUU fishing is a global phenomenon with devastating environmental and socio-economic
consequences, particularly for coastal communities in developing countries who rely on
fisheries for their livelihood or for protein.

IUU fishing is best prevented through international cooperation. The European Commission
and the United States Government appreciate the progress made in Regional Fisheries
Management Organizations and international organizations, such as the United Nations, in
this area through the adoption of measures to combat IUU fishing. The European
Commission and the United States Government fully recognize our responsibility to ensure
the adoption and implementation of effective tools for combating IUU fishing, including
through, control, monitoring and enforcement.

To this end, both sides acknowledge the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations (FAO) International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal,
Unreported and Unregulated Fishing as well as other instruments adopted at the global level
to combat IUU fishing, in particular the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent,
Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (Port State Measures
Agreement).

Both the United States and the European Union have already put in place legal instruments to
combat IUU fishing, in particular the U.S. High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection
Act and the EU IUU Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 respectively. The European Commission
and the United States Government recognize that voluntary cooperation and sharing of
information on IUU fishing will maximize the effectiveness of these and other instruments in
the global fight against IUU fishing.
As a result, we intend to cooperate to:

**Promote** the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources;

**Support** the adoption of effective tools in regional and international organizations which are designed to combat IUU fishing;

**Encourage** the strengthening of, control, monitoring and enforcement of management measures in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations through compliance committees;

**Recognize** that effective tools are required to prevent IUU operators from benefiting from their illegal activities;

**Stress** the importance of international cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing;

**Strengthen** and reinforce our bilateral cooperation in the fight against IUU fishing, both at the technical, operational and political level;

**Consider** a system for the exchange of information on suspected or confirmed IUU activities;

**Encourage** the ratification and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement;

**Work** together toward the improvement and expansion, as appropriate and warranted based on risk, of multilateral catch documentation and certification requirements, including electronic schemes.

Washington, 7 September 2011

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Maria Damanaki
European Commissioner
for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

FOR THE UNITED STATES
Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere