

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions: Applications for Comparability Finding

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection

December 2020

## Objectives



Photo: [REDACTED] NOAA, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

- Reduce marine mammal bycatch associated with international commercial fishing operations,
- Establish procedures for nations to obtain an authorization to import fish and fish products into the United States,
- Establish criteria and procedures for evaluating a nation's regulatory program for reducing marine mammal bycatch.

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# The List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF)



2020 LOFF is comprised of 131 nations and 2,805 fisheries:  
953 Exempt and 1852 Export

## List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF)

**Exempt Fisheries** have a remote likelihood of or no known marine mammal bycatch

- Hand line, hook & line, dip net, cast net, diving gear

**Export Fisheries** have more than a remote likelihood of marine mammal bycatch

- Gillnet, longline, trawl, purse seine gear

## Other Fishery Lists

**Intermediary** are for processors and transshipment

- Separate from harvesters

## **Rule Does Not Apply**

- Inland, freshwater aquaculture

## Timeline

2019

**Reviewed  
Progress Reports**

Evaluated  
submissions

**Tech Consults**  
with nations

2020

**2020 List of  
Foreign Fisheries**

Final Published  
October 2020

Next

**Comparability  
Findings**

Applications Open  
[November 30, 2020](#)

**Deadline**  
[November 30, 2021](#)

**Exemption Period  
Ends**  
[January 1, 2023](#)

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## What's new in 2021?

### Applications for Comparability Findings

1. *To receive a comparability finding for an exempt or export fishery [...], the harvesting nation must demonstrate it has prohibited the intentional mortality or serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations in the fishery [...] or that it has procedures to reliably certify that exports of fish and fish products to the United States are not the product of an intentional killing or serious injury of a marine mammal.*
2. *The harvesting nation must also demonstrate that it has adopted and implemented, with respect to an export fishery, a regulatory program governing the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations in its export fishery that is comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. regulatory program.*


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# 2021 Application for Comparability Finding

## Parts and Key Provisions:

- A. Fisheries information – Exempt fisheries
- B. Updates to fishery information – All fisheries
  - Estimation of bycatch
  - Mitigation of bycatch
- C. Updates to marine mammal population and bycatch limit information
  - Abundance estimates
  - Calculation of bycatch limits
- D. Domestic marine mammal conservation and management program questions
- E. Domestic general fisheries management questions
  - Authorization of fishing activity

# NOAA Fisheries International Affairs Information Capture and Reporting System



International Affairs  
Information Capture and Reporting  
System

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service is responsible for implementing congressionally mandated programs related to certain protected species and bycatch.

These programs include the Marine Mammal Protection Act import provisions, the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act, and the Shark Conservation Act.

The International Affairs Information Capture and Reporting System (IAICRS) supports information and data collection regarding protected species in international fisheries.

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# Web Portal: International Affairs Information Capture and Reporting System (IAICRS)



International Affairs  
Information Capture and Reporting System

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## International Affairs Information Capture and Reporting System

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FOR COMPARABILITY FINDING IS 11:59PM EST on NOVEMBER 26, 2021.  
Early submissions for early review are welcome and encouraged. Contact [IAICRS@noaa.gov](#) for details.

### Comparability Finding Application

Submit your 2021 Comparability Finding Application

### Progress Reports

View and download your responses to the last Progress Report



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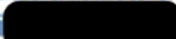
## Resources & Contact Information

### Support Line:

@noaa.gov

Email for compliance and technical questions

### Technical Consultations:

Schedule a remote or in-person consultation by email: @noaa.gov

### MMPA Import Provisions Website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foreign/marine-mammal-protection/noaa-fisheries-establishes-international-marine-mammal-bycatch-criteria-us-imports>

Compliance Guide, Fact Sheet, IACRS User Guide, Translated Materials



Photo: NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources