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Marine Policy Seminar Abstract  
November 3, 2011

**High Seas Boarding and Agreements:**

**A necessary part of Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMO) efforts to combat IUU Fishing.**

This presentation will explore the legal basis for RFMO's to enforce their management measures by conducting boardings on the high seas. UNCLOS III, The FAO Compliance Agreement (1992) and The UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995) all provide a legal framework for High Seas Boardings. The non-binding IPOA (2001) and International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing (1995) also provide guidance and encourage the creation of High Seas Boarding Agreements.

The presentation will also look at how high seas boardings can help reduce IUU fishing by closing some of the loopholes and weaknesses with Port and Flag State Measures. However, it also addresses the fact that high seas boarding agreements are currently under utilized, mainly due to lack of coordination and resources.

The hypothesis is; if implemented properly, in conjunction with port and flag state measures, High Seas Boarding Agreements can reduce IUU fishing practices. The presentation will highlight current agreements and the specific elements that make high seas boarding agreements effective. Finally, it will review a recent case where an IUU vessel was apprehended through effective (MCS) and international coordination.