



The Marine Mammal Commission and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) invite you to a Congressional briefing focused on [marine mammal bycatch](#). The goal of this event is to increase awareness of the threat to marine mammals from bycatch in fisheries around the world, and to discuss potential solutions to mitigate such impacts in the United States and abroad.

Bycatch is the number one source of direct human-caused mortality and serious injury to marine mammals, estimated at over 650,000 individual animals each year worldwide. As a major market for globally-sourced seafood, the United States is in a unique position to help address marine mammal bycatch globally. This topic is now more pressing than ever, as we may see another marine mammal (the vaquita) go extinct in the next few years because of bycatch resulting from inadequate regulatory measures to protect the species.

Agenda

- **Welcoming remarks:** Yolanda Kakabadse, President, WWF-International and the honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- **Panel discussion:** Moderated by Frances M.D. Gulland, Vet MB, PhD (Commissioner, Marine Mammal Commission)
 1. **Introduction to Bycatch:** global estimates of bycatch, gear types and bycatch species of greatest concern. Panelist: Andrew J. Read, PhD (Director, Duke University Marine Lab)
 2. **U.S. Approach to Marine Mammal Bycatch and Fisheries:** Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) amendments to establish Take Reduction Teams. Review of overall effectiveness of U.S. programs and key elements for success. Panelist: Sharon B. Young (Marine Issues Field Director, The Humane Society of the U.S.)
 3. **Addressing Marine Mammal Bycatch Globally:** taking a multilateral approach, monitoring and potentially restricting U.S. seafood imports under MMPA and Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions. Panelist: Russell F. Smith III (Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, NOAA)
 4. **Fishing Industry Perspectives:** challenges U.S. fishermen experience related to marine mammal bycatch and associated regulatory measures, and with competing in a global seafood market. Panelist: Scott Taylor (Co-Founder, Day Boat Fisheries, LLC)
- **Closing Remarks:** The honorable Congressman Jared Huffman (CA)



Please RSVP to: JMalek@mmc.gov

