



# PROTECTING THE ARCTIC: INDUSTRIAL FISHING



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For the last two years Oceana and others—including some members of the fishing industry—have come to realize that something dramatic, and possibly tragic, is happening in the Arctic. Climate change is having severe impacts, especially the incredible loss of sea ice seen in recent years, and many have come to realize that we must look at how to protect, rather than recklessly exploit, Arctic Ocean ecosystems.

This has met with remarkable success. In recent years, Oceana joined with the fishing industry, policy makers, scientists and the public to protect more than 550,000 square miles of the Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea from destructive bottom trawling. This protects extraordinary coral gardens and essential habitat for countless species while having a negligible economic impact.

We are now looking to expand that same precautionary approach into the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is poised to put in place an Arctic Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that closes the Arctic to any expansion of industrial fishing until more is known about the potential impacts on Arctic communities, animals and ecosystems. The next step would be federal regulations to implement this plan.

Closing the U.S. Arctic to industrial fishing will provide important protections for the Arctic and is an example of the science-based and precautionary measures necessary for our oceans. This action, when implemented, would go hand-in-hand with Senate Joint Resolution 17, which established a policy calling for the U.S. to engage other nations on establishing sustainable fishing throughout the Arctic.

## THE APPROACH

### Science

- Habitat Protection
- Sustainable Fishing
- Pollution Reduction and Prevention
- Precautionary Management
- Controlled Development
- Forage Species Protection

### Public

### Law

Oceana is an international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's oceans through science, law, and public education.

At the heart of this approach is advocating for a comprehensive, science-based, precautionary approach to managing our oceans.

This reflects the recommendations made by the Pew Oceans Commission, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and a growing number of scientists, policymakers and ocean advocates.

Only through a comprehensive, science-based and precautionary approach will we be able to provide future generations with the tools and pathways for a sustainable way of living on the Earth.

Visit us at [www.protecttheartic.org](http://www.protecttheartic.org) for more information.