

## What is illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and how is the U.S. combating it?



### Dr. Katheryn Patterson

Dr. Katheryn Patterson is a Foreign Affairs Specialist with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement whose work focuses on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing through management and enforcement efforts, international engagement, and technical and capacity building assistance. Dr. Patterson is also an accomplished marine ecologist whose previous research has focused on topics related to coral reef disease mitigation, marine protected areas, ecosystems management, sustainable fisheries and marine tourism.

Dr. Patterson first became interested in marine policy while representing a nongovernmental organization during her first stakeholder meeting on a proposed marine protected area in Belize. Four years later, the Belizean Government passed legislation that established the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve. Knowing that her scientific findings influenced a policy was incredibly exciting and was a driving force for her desire to be involved in effecting change. While Dr. Patterson realized the importance of and necessity for scientists to understand policy early in her career, it was not until she started working in fisheries law enforcement that she understood how important the integration of sound science, strong policies, and *effective enforcement* is for the conservation of our marine resources and protected species.

Dr. Patterson is a 2016 Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow alumnae and holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from George Mason University.