

United States-Japan Consultative Committee on Fisheries

Basic Instrument

There is no formal instrument per se. The two countries agreed to the Consultative Committee via an exchange of diplomatic notes on January 27, 1992.

Implementing Legislation

None.

Member Nations

The United States and Japan.

Meetings

The Committee meets periodically, in the United States or Japan. The venue for the Committee is decided prior to each meeting.

U.S. Representation

The Committee consists of one representative from each Government, as well as support staff and advisors. The current U.S. Representative is Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries, Department of State.

Description

The U.S.-Japan Consultative Committee on Fisheries was formed to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries and fisheries research. It replaced the more formal Governing International Fisheries Agreement (GIFA) between the United States and Japan that expired on December 31, 1991. The Consultative Committee holds periodic high-level bilateral consultations on fishery issues of mutual concern.

Recent Activities

Representatives of the United States and Japan held the 9th Meeting of the Consultative Committee on Fisheries in Tokyo, Japan, on January 19-20, 2004. The U.S. delegation was led by Mr. David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries, and the Japanese side was led by the Director-General of the Fisheries Agency of Japan, Mr. Fumio Tahara. Dr. Rebecca Lent, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, represented NOAA Fisheries at the meeting.

The two delegations exchanged views on the most important fisheries issues in the U.S.-Japan fisheries relationship. Prominent on the agenda were issues related to cooperation between the two countries at regional fisheries management organizations, and in particular the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC), and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). The two countries discussed a number of FAO issues--the FAO Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2004; fishing capacity and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; fishing subsidies; and shark conservation and management. Other issues on the agenda included CITES, the Interim Scientific Committee (ISC) for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Fisheries Working Group, and fishing on sea mounts. The delegations of both countries reaffirmed the value of maintaining and further strengthening the long-standing cooperation between the United States and Japan on these and other fisheries issues.

Next Meeting

The United States and Japan have not held a comprehensive fisheries bilateral meeting since the 2004 meeting in Tokyo. However, the two countries have met bilaterally on specific fishery issues, as necessary, each year since 2004. The United States will host the next comprehensive Consultative Committee meeting at a time and place to be mutually determined.

Staff Contacts

NOAA Fisheries:

Paul E. Niemeier
International Fisheries Affairs Division (F/IA1)
Office of International Affairs
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
1315 East-West Highway, Room 12752
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: (301) 713-2276
Fax: (301) 713-2313
E-mail: paul.niemeier@noaa.gov

Department of State:

Amanda Johnson-Miller
Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC)
Department of State
2201 C Street, Room 2758
Washington, D.C. 20520-7818
Telephone: (202) 647-2335
Fax: (202) 736-7350
E-mail: JohnsonMillerAX@state.gov