

United States-European Union High Level Fisheries Consultation

Basic Instrument

There is no formal instrument.

Implementing Legislation

None.

Members

The United States and the European Union (EU).

Meetings

The United States and the EU meet on an annual basis, alternating between the United States and the EU.

U.S. Representation

The Consultation 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 United States and the EU first met in 1997 to promote cooperation in the field of fisheries and fisheries research. Since then, they have held annual consultations to review fishery issues of mutual concern.

Recent Activities

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Department of State (DOS) representatives met with representatives of the European Commission's Directorate-General (D-G) for Fisheries and Marine Affairs on July 12, 2007, in Brussels, Belgium, for the 10th U.S.-EU High Level Fisheries Consultations. Dr. Fokian Fotiadis, Director General, EU Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, led the EU side and Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, U.S. Department of State, and Dr. William Hogarth, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, co-led the U.S. delegation.

The agenda addressed various issues of concern, including: RFMO performance reviews, IUU fishing, capacity, destructive fishing practices, NAFO, IATTC, the South Pacific non-tuna RFMO, sea turtles, and CITES. ICCAT topics discussed included the bluefin tuna recovery plan, working group on capacity, and the working group on MCS issues.

Next Meeting

The United States will host the 11th session of the U.S.-EU High Level Fisheries Consultations in summer 2008.

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