

## **Informal Fisheries Consultations Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada**

### **Basic Instrument**

None

### **Authorities**

Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1822(a), which authorizes the Secretary of State to negotiate international fisheries agreements, and 16 U.S.C. 1855(d), which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the Magnuson Act.

### **Member Nations**

United States and Canada.

### **Meetings**

Parties meet annually, alternating meetings between the United States and Canada. This meeting generally takes place in late July or early August.

### **Description**

The Parties have agreed that informal consultations on bilateral, multilateral and global fisheries conservation and management issues are of benefit to both Parties. These consultations are designed to provide broad coordination on issues of concern as opposed to negotiation of final agreements.

In recent years, these bilateral consultations have evolved into a two-day meeting. One day of the meeting is generally dedicated to bilateral and multilateral fisheries management issues of mutual interest. Discussions on bilateral issues generally focus on improving communication and coordination with regard to conservation and management of shared stocks (such as Pacific albacore, Pacific hake, and species of mutual concern in the Gulf of Maine). In many cases, separate negotiations are underway on these species, and this meeting allows officials on both sides to discuss avenues for future progress. Discussions on multilateral issues have recently focused on issues of mutual interest within the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and broader issues associated with tuna RFMOs.

The second meeting day is devoted to global fisheries/policy issues. These discussions tend to touch on international fisheries agreements and initiatives (such as the FAO International Plans of Action for Seabirds, Sharks, Capacity and IUU Fishing, other relevant FAO initiatives, implementation of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and development of the UN General Assembly Fisheries Resolution. The consultations are used to trade information on the status of implementation of these instruments and initiatives, as well as to discuss ways to encourage their implementation by other countries. In addition, Parties discuss fisheries- and oceans-related developments in economic organizations such as APEC, the OECD Committee on Fisheries and the FAO Subcommittee on Fish trade. Finally, these consultations are used for discussion of species of mutual concern at the global level, such as sea turtles, sea birds and sharks.

### **Recent Activities**

The most recent Informal Fisheries Consultations Between the United States and Canada were on August 2-3, 2007, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The next informal consultation will take place in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, during July 2008.

### **Staff Contacts**

#### *NOAA Fisheries:*

Patrick E. Moran  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF4)  
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 713-2276  
Fax: (301) 713-2313  
E-mail: pat.moran@noaa.gov

#### *Department of State:*

Deirdre Warner-Kramer  
Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC)  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW, Room 5806  
Washington, D.C. 20520-7818  
Telephone: (202) 647-2883  
Fax: (202) 736-7350  
E-mail: Warner-KramerDM@state.gov