

**Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America  
and the Government of the Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics on Mutual Fisheries Relations  
(Basic Instrument For The U.S.-Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee -- ICC)**

**Basic Instrument**

Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1988, as amended (TIAS 11442, the U.S.-Soviet Comprehensive Fisheries Agreement). Note: The obligations of the former Soviet Union under this agreement have devolved on the Russian Federation.

**Implementing Legislation**

Public Law 100-629 (An untitled Act that implemented the Comprehensive Fisheries Agreement. Enacted November 7, 1988).

**Member Nations**

The United States and the Russian Federation.

**Meetings**

The ICC meets alternately in the United States and Russia, on an annual basis, at the discretion of the heads of delegation.

**U.S. Representation**

Under the Rules of Procedure established for the ICC, the United States and Russia are to designate a Representative and an Alternate Representative. The current U.S. Representative is Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries Affairs. The United States has not identified an Alternate Representative.

Pursuant to Section 5 of Public Law 100-629, a 12-member "North Pacific and Bering Sea Fisheries Advisory Body" was established to advise the U.S. Representative to the ICC. This body consists of the following individuals:

- (A) The Director of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of the State of Washington;
- (B) The Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game of the State of Alaska;
- (C) Five members appointed by the Secretary of State from a list of ten nominees provided by the Governor of Alaska; and,
- (D) Five members appointed by the Secretary of State from a list of ten nominees provided by the Governor of Washington.

The current North Pacific and Bering Sea Advisory Body Representatives are:

**Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Representative**

William Tweit, Distant Waters and Columbia River Policy Lead  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington  
*tweitwmt@dfw.wa.gov*

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game Representative**

Earl E. Krygier, Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, Alaska  
*earl\_krygier@fishgame.state.ak.us*

## Alaska

Alvin Burch, Executive Director, Alaska Draggers Association, Kodiak, Alaska  
*alaska@ptialaska.net*

Richard Lauber, Fishing Industry Consultant  
Juneau, Alaska, *RickLauber@aol.com*

Henry Mitchell, Fishing Industry Consultant, Anchorage, Alaska  
*mitchellak@aol.com*

Hazel Nelson, President, Becharof Corporation  
Anchorage, Alaska, *becharof@gci.net*

## Washington State

David Benson, Trident Seafoods Corporation, Seattle, Washington  
*daveb@TridentSeafoods.com*

Terry Leitzell, General Counsel  
Icicle Seafoods, Seattle, Washington  
*terryl@icicleseafoods.com*

Paul MacGregor  
Partner, Law Firm of Mundt, MacGregor, Happel, Falconer, Zulauf, and Hall  
Seattle, Washington, *pmacgregor@mundtmac.com*

Brent Paine, Executive Director, United Catcher Boats, Seattle Washington  
*BPaine@ucba.org*

Thorn Smith, Executive Director, North Pacific Longline Association, Seattle, Washington  
*thorndog@worldnet.att.net*

## Description

The United States and the Russian Federation maintain the bilateral ICC fisheries forum pursuant to the U.S.-Soviet Comprehensive Fisheries Agreement, signed on May 31, 1988. The ICC is responsible for furthering the objectives of the Comprehensive Fisheries Agreement. These objectives include maintaining a mutually beneficial and equitable fisheries relationship through (1) cooperative scientific research and exchanges; (2) reciprocal allocation of surplus fish resources in the respective national 200-mile zones, consistent with each nation's laws and regulations; (3) cooperation in the establishment of fishery joint ventures; (4) general consultations on fisheries matters of mutual concern; and, (5) cooperation to address illegal or unregulated fishing activities on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. The agreement expires on December 31, 2008.

In recent years, the ICC also has served as the forum in which the United States and Russia have been negotiating a bilateral fisheries management agreement for the Northern Bering Sea, which would enter into force upon entry into force of the 1990 U.S.-Russia maritime boundary agreement.

## Current Status

Pursuant to Article XIV of the 1988 Agreement on Mutual Fisheries Relations, representatives of Russia and the United States conducted the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICC on Fisheries in La Jolla, California, on September 19-21, 2007. The Russian delegation was led by Mr. Sergey Podolyan, Deputy Director, Federal Fisheries Agency, and the U.S. delegation, which consisted of representatives of the North Pacific and Bering Sea Advisory Body, the State Department, NOAA, and the U.S. Coast Guard, was led by Ambassador David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries.

At the 2007 meeting in La Jolla, Russia and the United States exchanged information on the status of pollock, seabird, and marine mammal stocks in the Russian and U.S. 200-mile zones. NOAA representatives briefed the Russian delegation on updates to U.S. fisheries legislation designed to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and to reduce the bycatch of living marine resources. Enforcement agencies from both countries presented information on fisheries enforcement violations and activities. 2007 was a year of relatively active fishing on both sides of the U.S.-Russia maritime boundary line, and the United States requested further information from Russia on the status of one Russian vessel sighted on the U.S. side of the line. The two sides agreed to continue discussions at future meetings on cooperation regarding illegal crab trade, Arctic fisheries issues, negotiations to regulate high seas bottom fisheries in the South and Northwestern Pacific Ocean, and negotiations to develop a multilateral agreement on port state controls.

Negotiations to develop a comprehensive fisheries agreement for the Northern Bering Sea continued in La Jolla. Russia has long pressed for an agreement under which cross-border fishing would be allowed, but the U.S. fishing industry and Congress remain opposed to Russian vessels fishing in U.S. waters. In La Jolla, U.S. industry representatives responded to a Russian document describing the economic foundation for allowing cross-border fishing in a limited area of the Bering Sea by contending that such cross-border fishing would not be economically advantageous to the U.S. industry. The U.S. side reiterated its position that the new dialogue structure that would be established by the latest version of the comprehensive agreement could be used to explore mutually-beneficial fishing regimes in the future. Following the negotiations in La Jolla, only three provisions of the comprehensive agreement remain unresolved. Russia agreed to provide possible text for resolving those provisions in advance of the next ICC meeting. U.S. and Russian enforcement agencies also agreed to continue negotiations on a joint enforcement agreement that would apply to the entire North Pacific Ocean and allow for the exchange of shipriders from one Party on enforcement vessels of the other Party.

Time and Place of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the ICC: Russia offered to host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual ICC Meeting in Russia in September 2008. In advance of the next meeting, the United States will continue to urge various ministries of the Russian Government to conclude the comprehensive fisheries and enforcement agreements, and to bring into force the 1990 US-Russia Maritime Boundary Agreement. The United States will also seek to extend for an additional five years the 1988 US-Russia Agreement on Mutual Fisheries Relations.

### **Staff Contacts**

#### *NOAA Fisheries:*

Paul Niemeier  
International Fisheries Affairs Division (F/IA1)  
Office of International Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 12752  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 713-2276 x 189  
Fax: (301) 713-2313  
E-mail: paul.niemeier@noaa.gov

#### *Department of State:*

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