

## **Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 of December 20, 1991**

### **Basic Instrument**

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution (UNGA) 46/215 of December 20, 1991. The MOU was first signed in Washington, D.C., on December 3, 1993.

### **Implementing Legislation**

None.

### **Member Nations**

The United States and the People's Republic of China (China).

### **Meetings**

Representatives meet periodically in the United States or China.

### **Description**

For over two decades, the U.S. Coast Guard, in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, has embarked members of China's Fisheries Law Enforcement Command (FLEC) on Coast Guard assets patrolling the highest threat areas in the North Pacific Ocean for high seas driftnet fishing pursuant to the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Effective Cooperation and Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215 of December 20, 1991*, signed in Washington, DC, on December 3, 1993. These patrols support the global large-scale high seas driftnet moratorium called for by UNGA Resolution 46/215 and provisions of the *Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean*. They also enable China to more effectively enforce its domestic laws that prohibit high seas driftnet fishing by Chinese-flagged vessels in the North Pacific. The current Memorandum of Understanding (also known as the U.S.-China Shiprider Agreement) expires on December 31, 2014.

### **Recent Activities**

The United States and China continued joint operations in the North Pacific Ocean in 2013 pursuant to the terms of MOU. The MOU established boarding procedures for law enforcement officials of either country to board and inspect U.S. or Chinese-flagged vessels suspected of high seas driftnet fishing. The MOU also established a "shiprider" program, which allows Chinese enforcement officials to embark on USCG vessels or aircraft. The USCG has had a strong working relationship with China's FLEC for 20 years. This working relationship increases opportunities for cooperation on both high seas fisheries enforcement efforts and training. China has provided a total of 87 enforcement officials to the USCG since the MOU first entered into force in 1993. This cooperation has led to 18 interdictions and enforcement actions against vessels engaged in large-scale high seas driftnet fishing activity.

The USCG Cutter MUNRO hosted six Chinese FLEC officials during its patrol in 2013. These officials are generally instrumental in facilitating communications between the USCG and China's FLEC, as well as with Chinese fishing vessels encountered on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The services of the FLEC officials were not utilized in 2013 as in previous years. Nevertheless, having Chinese FLEC shipriders onboard USCG patrol vessels effectively expands the jurisdictional reach of both enforcement agencies

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