

## 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 normally meet on an annual basis, alternating venues 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, although no meetings were held 2008-2011.

### **Recent Activities**

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Department of State (DOS), and U.S. Coast Guard representatives met with representatives of the European Commission's Directorate-General (D-G) for Fisheries and Marine Affairs on March 13-14, 2013 in Washington D.C., for the 12<sup>th</sup> U.S.-EU High Level Fisheries Consultations. Mr. Stefaan Depypere, Director of International Affairs and Markets, European Commission, 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 Russell Smith, NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, co-led the U.S. delegation.

The agenda addressed various issues of common interest, including: IUU fishing, science, capacity management, bycatch, the UN General Assembly and Food and Agriculture Organization, and cooperative outreach to other States, as well as the large number of RFMOs in which the United States and the EU both participate. The delegations also discussed follow-up actions to the US-EU Joint Statement on IUU fishing signed by EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs Maria Damanaki and NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco September 7, 2011.

### **Next Meeting**

The date and venue of the next (13<sup>th</sup>) session of the U.S.-EU High Level Fisheries Consultations remains to be determined, but it is projected to be early in 2013 in Brussels, Belgium.

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