

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway

Basic Instrument

The basic instrument establishing U.S.-Norway cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture is the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation on Fisheries Issues Between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway*. The MOU became effective October 1, 2008, and will expire on September 30, 2013.

Members

The United States and Norway.

Meetings

The Parties agreed that their designated representatives will meet annually, or as needed, alternating between the United States and Norway.

U.S. Representation

Pursuant to Article 2 of the MOU, the Parties established a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee consists of one Representative and advisors from each Party. The Representative for NOAA will be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs or his designee, as appropriate. The Representative for the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs will be the Secretary General, or his designee, as appropriate.

Description

The general purpose of the MOU is to strengthen and encourage cooperation between the United States and Norway on fisheries and other living marine resources, and ecosystem matters. Norway belongs to a number of international organizations to which the United States is also a member, including the International Whaling Commission, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Thus, there are many areas of joint interest and concern regarding living marine resources.

Recent Activities

Representatives of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs met in Silver Spring, Maryland, on September 21-22, 2011, pursuant to the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Fisheries issues between NOAA and the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs* signed in September 2008. Representatives of the U.S. Department of State, the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), and the Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C., also participated in the meeting. Dr. Rebecca Lent, Director of the Office of International Affairs for NMFS, co-chaired the meeting with Mr. Vidar Landmark, Director General, Department of Marine Resources and Coastal Management. Mr. Paul Niemeier, NMFS Office of International Affairs, and Mr. Richard Pedersen, Royal Embassy of Norway in the United States, were meeting Co-Facilitators.

In the course of the meeting, a number of fisheries topics of mutual interest to the two countries were discussed. These included cooperation in regional fisheries management organizations, the Arctic Ocean, marine mammal bycatch, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, flag state performance, fisheries trade and aquaculture, catch certification, and fisheries research. NOAA representatives also presented policy updates on coastal and marine spatial planning, catch shares, the status of the National Ocean Policy, and lessons learned from the Deep Horizon oil spill.

Addendum to the Fisheries Cooperation MOU: On February 16, 2012, NMFS and IMR representatives signed the *First Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding Between NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, USA, and the Institute of Marine Research, Norway, on Cooperation in Marine Ecosystem Research and Assessment*. The addendum encourages and supports cooperation in the areas of:

1. Joint sponsorship of workshops or symposia on the assessment and management of living marine resources of the northern hemisphere and aquaculture.
2. Exchange of scientific expertise and information.
3. Extended visits of scientists.
4. Cooperative research on common scientific issues and methodological problems.
5. Coordination and planning of cooperative activities.

The Addendum also encourages participation by scientists at universities and other research institutions linked closely to activities at NMFS and IMR. The first science meeting pursuant to the Addendum is tentatively scheduled for September 2012 in Norway.

Future Meetings: The Norway will host the 4th Joint Committee Meeting in 2012. The date and location of the meeting has not yet been determined.

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