

of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

(3) Commission

The term “Commission” means the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean established in accordance with this Convention.

(4) Convention area

The term “convention area” means all waters of the Pacific Ocean bounded to the south and to the east by the following line: From the south coast of Australia due south along the 141th meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55th parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150th meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150th meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60th parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130th meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130th meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4th parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4th parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150th meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150th meridian of west longitude.

(5) Exclusive economic zone

The term “exclusive economic zone” means the zone established by Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030 of March 10, 1983.

(6) Fishing

The term “fishing” means—

(A) searching for, catching, taking, or harvesting fish;

(B) attempting to search for, catch, take, or harvest fish;

(C) engaging in any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fish for any purpose;

(D) placing, searching for, or recovering fish aggregating devices or associated electronic equipment such as radio beacons;

(E) any operations at sea directly in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), including transshipment; and

(F) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft, for any activity described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) except for emergencies involving the health and safety of the crew or the safety of a vessel.

(7) Fishing vessel

The term “fishing vessel” means any vessel used or intended for use for the purpose of fishing, including support ships, carrier vessels, and any other vessel directly involved in such fishing operations.

(8) Highly migratory fish stocks

The term “highly migratory fish stocks” means all fish stocks of the species listed in

Annex 1 of the 1982 Convention, except sauries, occurring in the Convention Area,¹ and such other species of fish as the Commission may determine.

(9) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(10) State

The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(11) Transshipment

The term “transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel either at sea or in port.

(12) WCPFC Convention; Western and Central Pacific Convention

The terms “WCPFC Convention” and “Western and Central Pacific Convention” means the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, (including any annexes, amendments, or protocols which are in force, or have come into force, for the United States) which was adopted at Honolulu, Hawaii, on September 5, 2000, by the Multilateral High Level Conference on the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §502, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3635.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Presidential Proclamation Numbered 5030, referred to in par. (5), is Proc. No. 5030, Mar. 10, 1983, 48 F.R. 10605, which is set out as a note under section 1453 of this title.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-479, title V, §501, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3635, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act.’”

§ 6902. Appointment of United States Commissioners

(a) In general

The United States shall be represented on the Commission by 5 United States Commissioners. The President shall appoint individuals to serve on the Commission at the pleasure of the President. In making the appointments, the President shall select Commissioners from among individuals who are knowledgeable or experienced concerning highly migratory fish stocks and commercial fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, one of whom shall be an officer or employee of the Department of Commerce, and

¹ So in original. Probably should not be capitalized.

one of whom shall be the chairman or a member of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, and one of whom shall be the chairman or a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The Commissioners shall be entitled to adopt such rules of procedures as they find necessary and to select a chairman from among members who are officers or employees of the United States Government.

(b) Alternate Commissioners

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary, may designate from time to time and for periods of time deemed appropriate Alternate United States Commissioners to the Commission. Any Alternate United States Commissioner may exercise at any meeting of the Commission, Council, any Panel, or the advisory committee established pursuant to subsection (d), all powers and duties of a United States Commissioner in the absence of any Commissioner appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for whatever reason. The number of such Alternate United States Commissioners that may be designated for any such meeting shall be limited to the number of United States Commissioners appointed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section who will not be present at such meeting.

(c) Administrative matters

(1) Employment status

Individuals serving as such Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.

(2) Compensation

The United States Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners, although officers of the United States while so serving, shall receive no compensation for their services as such Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners.

(3) Travel expenses

(A) The Secretary of State shall pay the necessary travel expenses of United States Commissioners and Alternate United States Commissioners in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations and sections 5701, 5702, 5704 through 5708, and 5731 of title 5.

(B) The Secretary may reimburse the Secretary of State for amounts expended by the Secretary of State under this subsection.

(d) Advisory committees

(1) Establishment of permanent advisory committee

(A) Membership

There is established an advisory committee which shall be composed of—

- (i) not less than 15 nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the Secretary of Commerce in consultation with the United States Commissioners, who shall select such individuals from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the WCPFC Convention, providing, to the maximum extent practicable, an equitable balance among such groups;

- (ii) the chair of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's Advisory Committee or the chair's designee; and

- (iii) officials of the fisheries management authorities of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (or their designees).

(B) Terms and privileges

Each member of the advisory committee appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. The advisory committee shall be invited to attend all non-executive meetings of the United States Commissioners and at such meetings shall be given opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the Commission.

(C) Procedures

The advisory committee established by subparagraph (A) shall determine its organization, and prescribe its practices and procedures for carrying out its functions under this chapter,¹ the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and the WCPFC Convention. The advisory committee shall publish and make available to the public a statement of its organization, practices, and procedures. A majority of the members of the advisory committee shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the advisory committee, except when in executive session, shall be open to the public, and prior notice of meetings shall be made public in a timely fashion,² and the advisory committee shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5.

(D) Provision of information

The Secretary and the Secretary of State shall furnish the advisory committee with relevant information concerning fisheries and international fishery agreements.

(E) Agenda recommendations

No later than 30 days before each annual meeting of the Commission, the Advisory Committee shall transmit to the United States Commissioners recommendations relating to the agenda of the annual meeting. The recommendations must be agreed to by a majority of the Advisory Committee members. The United States Commissioners shall consider such recommendations, along with additional views transmitted by Advisory Committee members, in the formulation of the United States position for the Commission meeting and during the negotiations at that meeting.

(2) Administrative matters

(A) Support services

The Secretary shall provide to advisory committees in a timely manner such administrative and technical support services as are necessary for their effective functioning.

¹ See References in Text note below.

² So in original. The period probably should be a comma.

(B) Compensation; status; expenses

Individuals appointed to serve as a member of an advisory committee—

(i) shall serve without pay, but while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the advisory committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5; and

(ii) shall not be considered Federal employees except for the purposes of injury compensation or tort claims liability as provided in chapter 81 of title 5 and chapter 171 of title 28.

(f)³ Memorandum of understanding

For highly migratory species in the Pacific, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall develop a memorandum of understanding with the Western Pacific, Pacific, and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils, that clarifies the role of the relevant Council or Councils with respect to—

(1) participation in United States delegations to international fishery organizations in the Pacific Ocean, including government-to-government consultations;

(2) providing formal recommendations to the Secretary and the Secretary of State regarding necessary measures for both domestic and foreign vessels fishing for these species;

(3) coordinating positions with the United States delegation for presentation to the appropriate international fishery organization; and

(4) recommending those domestic fishing regulations that are consistent with the actions of the international fishery organization, for approval and implementation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, § 503, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3636; Pub. L. 111-348, title III, § 301, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3672; Pub. L. 114-327, title III, § 301(a)(1), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1993; Pub. L. 117-286, § 4(a)(133), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4320.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(C), probably should have been “this title” in the original, meaning title V of Pub. L. 109-479 which enacted this chapter.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, referred to in subsecs. (d)(1)(C) and (f)(4), is Pub. L. 94-265, Apr. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 331, which is classified principally to chapter 38 (§ 1801 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1801 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (d)(1)(C). Pub. L. 117-286 substituted “chapter 10 of title 5.” for “the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).”

2016—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-327, § 301(a)(1)(A), inserted “and commercial fishing” after “fish stocks”.

³ So in original. No subsec. (e) has been enacted.

Subsec. (d)(1)(E). Pub. L. 114-327, § 301(a)(1)(B), added subpar. (E).

2011—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-348, § 301(1), substituted “Management Council, and one of whom shall be the chairman or a member of” for “Management Council and”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 111-348, § 301(2), added par. (1) and struck out former par. (1). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Individuals serving as such Commissioners, other than officers or employees of the United States Government, shall be considered to be Federal employees while performing such service, only for purposes of—

“(A) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5;

“(B) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts of interest, and corruption as provided under title 18; and

“(C) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees.”

Subsec. (d)(2)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 111-348, § 301(3), added cl. (ii) and struck out former cl. (ii) which read as follows: “shall be considered Federal employees while performing service as members of an advisory committee only for purposes of—

“(I) injury compensation under chapter 81 of title 5;

“(II) requirements concerning ethics, conflicts-of-interest, and corruption, as provided by title 18; and

“(III) any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees in their capacity as Federal employees.”

§ 6903. Authority and responsibility of the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State may—

(1) receive and transmit, on behalf of the United States, reports, requests, recommendations, proposals, decisions, and other communications of and to the Commission;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary approve, disapprove, object to, or withdraw objections to bylaws and rules, or amendments thereof, adopted by the WCPFC Commission, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary to approve or disapprove the general annual program of the WCPFC Commission with respect to conservation and management measures and other measures proposed or adopted in accordance with the WCPFC Convention; and

(3) act upon, or refer to other appropriate authority, any communication referred to in paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 109-479, title V, § 504, Jan. 12, 2007, 120 Stat. 3639.)

§ 6904. Rulemaking authority of the Secretary of Commerce**(a) Promulgation of regulations**

The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and, with respect to enforcement measures, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, is authorized to promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the United States international obligations under the WCPFC Convention and this chapter, including recommendations and decisions adopted by the Commission. In cases where the Secretary has discretion in the implementation of one or more measures adopted by the Commission that would govern fisheries under the authority of a Regional Fishery Management Council, the Secretary may, to the extent practicable within the implementa-