

**§ 5601. Representation of United States under Convention**

**(a) Commissioners**

**(1) Appointments, generally**

The Secretary shall appoint not more than 3 individuals to serve as the representatives of the United States on the General Council and the Fisheries Commission, who shall each—

(A) be known as a “United States Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization”; and

(B) serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

**(2) Requirements for appointments**

(A) The Secretary shall ensure that of the individuals serving as Commissioners—

(i) at least 1 is appointed from among representatives of the commercial fishing industry;

(ii) 1 (but no more than 1) is an official of the Government; and

(iii) 1, other than the individual appointed under clause (ii), is a voting member of the New England Fishery Management Council.

(B) The Secretary may not appoint as a Commissioner an individual unless the individual is knowledgeable and experienced concerning the fishery resources to which the Convention applies.

**(3) Terms**

(A) The term of an individual appointed as a Commissioner—

(i) shall be specified by the Secretary at the time of appointment; and

(ii) may not exceed 4 years.

(B) An individual who is not a Government official may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms as a Commissioner.

**(b) Alternate Commissioners**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary may, for any anticipated absence of a duly appointed Commissioner at a meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission, designate an individual to serve as an Alternate Commissioner.

**(2) Functions**

An Alternate Commissioner may exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Commissioner for whom the Alternate Commissioner is designated, at any meeting of the General Council or the Fisheries Commission for which the Alternate Commissioner is designated.

**(c) Representatives**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary shall appoint not more than 3 individuals to serve as the representatives of the United States on the Scientific Council, who shall each be known as a “United States Representative to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Scientific Council”.

**(2) Eligibility for appointment**

(A) The Secretary may not appoint an individual as a Representative unless the individual is knowledgeable and experienced concerning the scientific issues dealt with by the Scientific Council.

(B) The Secretary shall appoint as a Representative at least 1 individual who is an official of the Government.

**(3) Term**

An individual appointed as a Representative—

(A) shall serve for a term of not to exceed 4 years, as specified by the Secretary at the time of appointment;

(B) may be reappointed; and

(C) shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

**(d) Alternate Representatives**

**(1) Appointment**

The Secretary may, for any anticipated absence of a duly appointed Representative at a meeting of the Scientific Council, designate an individual to serve as an Alternate Representative.

**(2) Functions**

An Alternate Representative may exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Representative for whom the Alternate Representative is designated, at any meeting of the Scientific Council for which the Alternate Representative is designated.

**(e) Experts and advisers**

The Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, Representatives, and Alternate Representatives may be accompanied at meetings of the Organization by experts and advisers.

**(f) Coordination and consultation**

**(1) In general**

In carrying out their functions under the Convention, Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, Representatives, and Alternate Representatives shall—

(A) coordinate with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils established by section 1852 of this title; and

(B) consult with the committee established under section 5607 of this title.

**(2) Relationship to other law**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coordination and consultations under this subsection.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §202, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 377.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §201, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 377, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995.’”

**§ 5602. Requests for scientific advice**

**(a) Restriction**

The Representatives may not make a request or specification described in subsection (b)(1) or (2) of this section, respectively, unless the Representatives have first—

(1) consulted with the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils; and

(2) received the consent of the Commissioners for that action.

**(b) Requests and terms of reference described**

The requests and specifications referred to in subsection (a) of this section are, respectively—

(1) any request, under Article VII(1) of the Convention, that the Scientific Council consider and report on a question pertaining to the scientific basis for the management and conservation of fishery resources in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States within the Convention Area; and

(2) any specification, under Article VIII(2) of the Convention, of the terms of reference for the consideration of a question referred to the Scientific Council pursuant to Article VII(1) of the Convention.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §203, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 378.)

**§ 5603. Authorities of Secretary of State with respect to Convention**

The Secretary of State may, on behalf of the Government of the United States—

(1) receive and transmit reports, requests, recommendations, proposals, and other communications of and to the Organization and its subsidiary organs;

(2) object, or withdraw an objection, to the proposal of the Fisheries Commission;

(3) give or withdraw notice of intent not to be bound by a measure of the Fisheries Commission;

(4) object or withdraw an objection to an amendment to the Convention; and

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

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §204, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 379.)

**§ 5604. Interagency cooperation**

**(a) Authorities of Secretary**

In carrying out the provisions of the Convention and this chapter, the Secretary may arrange for cooperation with other agencies of the United States, the States, the New England and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and private institutions and organizations.

**(b) Other agencies**

The head of any Federal agency may—

(1) cooperate in the conduct of scientific and other programs, and furnish facilities and personnel, for the purposes of assisting the Organization in carrying out its duties under the Convention; and

(2) accept reimbursement from the Organization for providing such services, facilities, and personnel.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §205, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 379.)

**§ 5605. Rulemaking**

The Secretary shall promulgate regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and

objectives of the Convention and this chapter. Any such regulation may be made applicable, as necessary, to all persons and all vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, wherever located.

(Pub. L. 104-43, title II, §206, Nov. 3, 1995, 109 Stat. 379.)

**§ 5606. Prohibited acts and penalties**

**(a) Prohibition**

It is unlawful for any person or vessel that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States—

(1) to violate any regulation issued under this chapter or any measure that is legally binding on the United States under the Convention;

(2) to refuse to permit any authorized enforcement officer to board a fishing vessel that is subject to the person's control for purposes of conducting any search or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this chapter, any regulation issued under this chapter, or any measure that is legally binding on the United States under the Convention;

(3) forcibly to assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any authorized enforcement officer in the conduct of any search or inspection described in paragraph (2);

(4) to resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this section;

(5) to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of, any fish taken or retained in violation of this section; or

(6) to interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that the other person has committed an act prohibited by this section.

**(b) Civil penalty**

Any person who commits any act that is unlawful under subsection (a) of this section shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty, or may be subject to a permit sanction, under section 1858 of this title.

**(c) Criminal penalty**

Any person who commits an act that is unlawful under paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (6) of subsection (a) of this section shall be guilty of an offense punishable under section 1859(b) of this title.

**(d) Civil forfeitures**

**(1) In general**

Any vessel (including its gear, furniture, apertenances, stores, and cargo) used in the commission of an act that is unlawful under subsection (a) of this section, and any fish (or the fair market value thereof) taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the commission of any act that is unlawful under subsection (a) of this section, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture as provided in section 1860 of this title.

**(2) Disposal of fish**

Any fish seized pursuant to this chapter may be disposed of pursuant to the order of a court